



# Inspire

MAY 2019

Dear sisters and brothers,

Over the last few weeks I've been struck by the way the theme of **waiting** has emerged in my personal prayers and reading and also in many of our services during the Lent and Easter period. There was a prolonged sense of waiting during the forty days of Lent before the climax of Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Perhaps the most profound period of waiting is marked by the time between the events of Good Friday, culminating in the death and burial of Jesus, and the discovery of the empty tomb and encounter with the risen Jesus on Easter Day. Some Christians celebrate the resurrection on the evening of Holy Saturday; we did when I was in Waltham Abbey, but I always found it rather strange and premature. The waiting doesn't end there. When Jesus ascended to the Father, he gave his followers the command to return to Jerusalem and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I'm not someone who finds waiting easy and I sense it is also a feature of our society and culture that we want everything immediately, or as soon as possible. Waiting is a challenge to us to trust in God's timing rather than our own; what is sometimes referred to as the 'Kairos' moment. Perhaps this is why patience is regarded as one of the gifts of the Spirit; waiting for God's timing rather than for our agendas to be fulfilled. However, waiting is not to be a passive thing; the disciples continued to worship while they waited for Pentecost and we are encouraged to keep watch and pray even as we wait for God's purposes to be revealed.

As I was writing this reflection two pieces of music came to mind and both are a sort of chant. The first is a Queen song:

*I want it all, I want it all, I want it all, and I want it now  
I want it all, I want it all, I want it all, and I want it now*

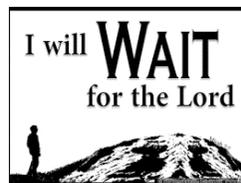
The second is a Taizé piece we sang on Ash Wednesday at St Paul's:

*Wait for the Lord, his day is near  
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart.*

As we continue to celebrate Easter and as we look forward to the Ascension and Pentecost may we follow the example and challenge of the prophet Micah who declared:

***But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me. (Micah 7:7)***

With love and prayers  
Philip



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## Mission Focus: Christian Aid 12-18 May

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### Christian Aid Week: 'All mums should live'

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.



Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live. Stand with mums.

There will be a sign-up sheet for people to offer to collect envelopes for particular roads and then return the envelopes after the collection to church. Thank you.

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## Team GB at the Races

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**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May** is the annual *Great Baddow Charity Races*, starting and finishing at the Rec. The main race begins at 11am, but there's lots going on beforehand. Last year, we got a small group together to help set up our 'Great Baddow Churches' gazebo & banner and to be around to chat and hand out chocolates before and after the race. It was such a good opportunity for us to be a visible church presence down at the races. I've chatted to one couple recently who, almost a year later, recalled our kindness and conversation.



If you're up for joining me again this year, then I'd love to hear your ideas as to how we can make our presence even more a part of the morning's pre- & post-race gathering. We simply want to bless people and hand out information about our three churches.

If you can't make it along that morning, do pray that in being down at the races - or even taking part - our witness as a Benefice Team will continue to make a real difference across our village.

Contact Phil Sheldrake [01245 269026](tel:01245269026) or [revphilsheldrake@gmail.com](mailto:revphilsheldrake@gmail.com)

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## Mid Africa Support (MAC)

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### Strawberry Tea

St Mary's will be hosting the annual MAC Strawberry Tea on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June** commencing at 2:00pm.

Peter & Liz Lunn who are currently at Kagando Hospital and involved in the C100 project hope to be able to join us at this event.



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## Messy Mornings August 2019

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# Messy Mornings

For many years St Mary's has held a very successful Holiday Club for 100 primary school aged children, supported by a large team of adults.

For 2019, due to the lack of availability of key team members for the designated week, there has been an opportunity to re-imagine our children's outreach during the summer holidays.

It is therefore proposed to hold 5 'Messy Morning' sessions on Thursdays in August for families with children aged 0 to 11, with children being accompanied by an adult (over 18)

Sessions would run from 10am to 11.30am and each week follow the same format:

10.00am to 10.50am	A range of activities and free play would be available for families to engage in, each manned by a craft/activity leader. The activities would vary each week, tailored to the bible story/theme:
10.50am to 11.05am	Refreshments
11.05am to 11.30am	Interactive Bible story, response activity & closing blessing song

Helpers would need to be available 9.15am to 12noon to set up, have briefing and time of prayer and pack up at end of session.

It is hoped that this would give opportunity to build relationships with families and encourage family time. Helpers are required to run the craft/activity on any given week and provide refreshments.

### NEXT STEP

Please speak to Sue Finch or Kirsty Houghton if you would like more information.

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# Alpha

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For all our searching – it's rare to find time to think, and talk, about the big questions of life; about faith and reason and God and meaning.

Join us here at St Mary's from **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May** 6.30-8pm for our Alpha Course.

## What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome.

It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.



## Food

Whether it's a group of friends gathered around a kitchen table, or a quick catch up over coffee and cake, food has a way of bringing people together. It's no different at Alpha. Most sessions start with food because it's a great way to build community and get to know each other.

## Talk

The talks are designed to engage and inspire conversation. Usually around thirty minutes long and delivered over a series of weeks, they can be given as a live talk or played as a video.

They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions from *Who is Jesus?* and *How can we have faith?* to *Why and how do I pray?* and *How does God guide us?*

## Discussion

Probably the most important part of any Alpha: the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and simply discuss it in a small group. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

## Alpha at St Mary's

Encounter will be pausing its evening services to run an Alpha course starting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and running for 8 weeks, including a Holy Spirit away day at The Orchards on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** (lunchtime onwards) All are welcome, and we invite you to pray for:

- the team,
- what you can give (prayer, financial giving, practical help) and who you can invite?

We will be providing an afternoon tea, showing the new Alpha films and discussing them in small groups.

An exciting and expectant time, if a little daunting, and we look forward to what Encounter may look like following on from the course. If you'd like to be involved in this outreach, then please do speak to Philip or Sue or one of the Encounter team.



We'd love to hear from you. More and updated information can be found on our 'Alpha at St Mary's Great Baddow' Facebook page.

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## **Tearfund – Match Giving Appeal**

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Many thanks to everyone who supports Tearfund through prayer or giving.

Our Mission Focus Sunday for Tearfund will be **Sunday 16th June.**

*Following Jesus where  
the need is greatest*

However, if you make a donation yourself to Tearfund, you might wish to bear in mind that until 17th May 2019, the Government will match whatever you give up to £3,000,000. If you gift aid your donation, it will go even further.

Tearfund is committed to following Jesus where the need is greatest. Match funding from the UK government will be used by Tearfund's partners in Pakistan and around the world to set up recycling hubs. These hubs will improve the lives of people in the poorest slum communities, whose health is at risk from the build-up of waste. The project will also create employment in these local communities.

Thank you for giving this your prayerful consideration.

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## **St Mary's Playschool**

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### **Bingo Night**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 7.30pm for 8.00pm start**

**at Galleywood Heritage Centre**

**Tickets: £8.00 per person**

**Please join us and help fundraise for St Mary's Playschool.**

**Bring your own drinks and snacks.**

**Limited number of spaces available**

**Please book via the Playschool Office tel: 01245 471683  
or contact Emma on 07557 856489**

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## Forthcoming Event for your Diary

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British Comedy Award-winning writer for *BBC's Miranda*, *Not Going Out*,  
*Top Gear*, *ITV's Royal Variety Show*, *C4's TFI Friday*,

### Paul Karsena

will be holding a comedy night at Meadgate Church, The Orchards

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm**

for a hilarious and thoughtful evening of humour.

**Tickets £10**

available from St Mary's Church Office or Amanda Robinson 07837 913218

The in-demand comic who plays comedy clubs & churches is one of the few to appear on Radio 2's 'Pause for Thought'.

LEE MACK says: "*Top comic, top writer, top bloke!*"

MILTON JONES says: "*If I was a gag-thief, I'd be shinning up Paul Karsena's drainpipe.*"

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## The Church Office

### Hours of Opening:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30am to 12:30pm, 1:45pm to 3:00pm

Wednesday & Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm

Tuesday evenings 7:00pm to 8:00pm

(wedding enquiries by appointment only)

01245 477501

Email: [stmaryschurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurchoffice@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stmarysgreatbaddow.org.uk](http://www.stmarysgreatbaddow.org.uk)



# Church Diary for May 2019

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.30pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11.00am	Funeral of Michael Robinson in Church
	<b>11:45am</b>	Church open until 2.00pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11:30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May – The Third Sunday of Easter</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion & Powerhouse
	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Songs of Praise</b>
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	7.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal in Church
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.30pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11:30am	Church Open until 2.00pm
	1.45pm	Tiny Church meet in Church Centre
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Funeral of Pat Noone in Church
	<b>12noon</b>	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
<b>Sunday 12th May – The Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Morning Praise with Mission Focus on Christian Aid
	6.30pm	Alpha course starts in Church
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	MAC pack in Bell St Hall
	7.00pm	Prayer meeting for the church & the world
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.30am	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's

Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
	7.45pm	Choir Practice in Church
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May – The Fifth Sunday after Easter</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Alpha
	6.30pm	Pathfinders in Bell St Hall
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	7.00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
	8.00pm	Mission Committee meeting in Prayer Chapel
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	7.30pm	Book Club in Church
	8.00pm	MLT meeting At Kirsty Houghton's
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
	1.45pm	Tiny Church meet at the Church Centre
	6.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal in Church
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	Wedding of Lawrence Hale & Rebecca Hobbs
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Service with baptisms
	6.30pm	Alpha
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11.30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	8.00pm	Holy Communion at St Paul's, Loftin Way
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	11.30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing Practice