

SPRING 2024

ST MARY'S
calling Islington home

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter for Spring 2024. In this, the first edition of our new quarterly newsletter, we take a moment to reflect on the last three months and look forward with hope and anticipation for the opportunities that lie ahead with the blessing of ordinary time after Easter.

We are grateful to look back at a busy and successful Christmas when we welcomed thousands of people through our doors. It's been a pleasure to see the thousand spring bulbs that were planted last year now in bloom and covering the north side of the Church Gardens with bright and vibrant colours.

Rev James Hughesdon

FREE FRIDAY LUNCHTIME RECITALS

In January this year we launched our 'Free Friday Lunchtime Recitals' concert series. We are inviting people to St Mary's on the third Friday of every month, at 1.15pm, to enjoy high quality classical performances in the church.

The concerts are free and you do not need a ticket. Free hot drinks and cake served from 12.45pm.

Dates for the next few concerts are: Friday 19 April, 17 May and 21 June. This concert series has been made possible by a legacy gift from Denise Antenen.



WWW.STMARYISLINGTON.ORG

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CELEBRATE EASTER AT ST MARY'S

Holy week online reflections: 25, 26 and 27 March from 9am daily

Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, 28 March, 7.30pm

Good Friday Children and Families' service, 29 March, 10-11am

Good Friday service of meditations, 29 March, noon-3pm

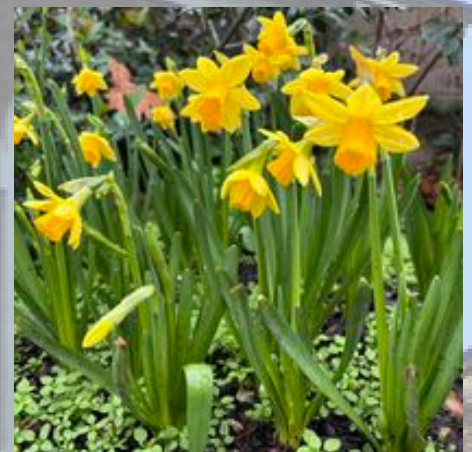
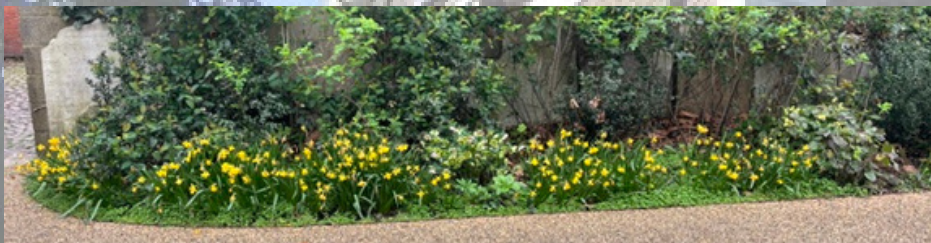
Holy Communion on Easter Day, Sunday 31 March, 9am and 11am

SPRING BULBS

In October last year St Mary's celebrated its first 'Bulb Sunday' with the planting of almost 1000 spring bulbs in the North Gardens of St Mary's churchyard. The North Gardens were reorganised as part of St Mary's Heart of Islington project and are well used by the local community and visitors to St Mary's as a place to gather and find peace. The bulbs are now in full bloom and a real joy for everyone who visits the Church Gardens.

If you would like to get involved do come along to one of our gardening sessions. The St Mary's Gardens group will meet on Saturdays 6 April, 4 May and 8 June from 10am - noon. Come and join us to dig, weed and plant at the circular rose garden. Please bring stout shoes and gardening gloves if you have them. All are welcome and refreshments will be available.

The Gardening Group is part of St Mary's Islington eco church initiative. Head over to www.stmaryislington.org/events for more details.



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GRANT SUCCESS

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a £25,000 grant from Cloudesley to install secondary glazing to the crypt level windows.



We are very excited to move forward over the next few months on this project and are, as always, extremely lucky to have an organisation like Cloudesley that is so invested in the long term development of churches in Islington. This grant will help achieve some of our aims around sustainability and the environment.

LOOK BACK TO CHRISTMAS 2023

Christmas was a time of welcoming hundreds of people from the local community to hear the good news of Christ and to discover St Mary's as their home. We were delighted to see over 1000 people attend our annual Christmas Fair; as well as almost 2,000 people coming to one or more services over the Christmas period.

ST MARY'S FESTIVAL 2024

Save the date for our free, annual neighbourhood festival which kicks off this year on Saturday 14 September with our free family fun day.



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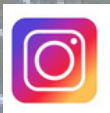
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MEET THE TEAM: SHARON ELLIS

Sharon is our Childcare Services Manager at St Mary's Preschool and play scheme. Childcare is her passion, having worked with children for 36 years, she joined our team in 2014. She is passionate about giving all children a voice and ensuring that they are heard. The community feel at St Mary's is one of them any things Sharon loves about St Mary's - seeing preschool children return for the playscheme, youth services and then with children of their own is very rewarding. Head over to stmaryislington.org for more information about our all childcare services.



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PLAYSCHEME DATES 2024

Easter holiday: Tuesday 2 April
– Friday 12 April

Summer half term: Tuesday 28
May – Friday 31 May

Summer holiday: Monday 29
July - Friday 23 August

[www.stmaryislington.org/play.
scheme](http://www.stmaryislington.org/play.scheme)

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