

# EVERYONE

Coming alive in Christ

**Welcome** – Tonight and 21 Jan are one presentation – you need both for full picture of why (tonight) and what we are doing (next Tuesday). Access online if not able to come.

**Thank you church family** – you are amazing at serving, teamwork and joining in with God.

- 2019 has been a ‘multiplication year’ for us (disciples, leaders and churches). Moving focus from addition to multiplication.
  - Sending people for the St Michael’s church graft and us being recommissioned
  - Nearly 80 people have completed Leading Together – lots more training
  - Multiplied Life Groups, ignite, Living Hope, Café Hope and in other ways too.
- Alongside encouragements, we all face the pressures of life and that can feel really hard. It is healthy to be honest about the challenges and seek to cultivate wholeness.

**Worship – surrendering our lives so we are closer to Jesus than ever before.**

As Vicar of St Mary’s I feel so passionate about St Mary’s and the gospel transforming Epping Forest. We need the Holy Spirit to come make us more alive in 2020 than ever before.

**We are a multiplying and resource church preparing for revival.**

*God is calling everybody! St Mary’s is called to plant the gospel throughout Epping Forest and beyond, and we are all involved. Our vision is for us all to play our part in sending, resourcing, multiplying, and ultimately revival!*



EVERY PERSON,  
EVERY PLACE,  
SATURATED  
WITH **GOD**

This is what we believe it could look like, by God’s grace, in 2020-2022:

- **Deepening our relationship with God** - Build up the prayer and worship life of St Mary’s as we worship and seek God in the power of the Spirit. Knowing Jesus each day!
- **Planting the gospel and multiplying congregations** – planting a new 4pm congregation in 2020 and becoming more mission shaped in Life Groups.
- **Making disciples and growing leaders** - we want to share the gospel in the power of the Spirit and raise up confident, caring and multiplying leaders.

**This is an amazing challenge and won’t be easy, but NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD**

- This flows naturally with what we already do and is aligned with the way the national church is going with a new emphasis on multiplication and planting.
- It will be sacrificial to multiply, resource, send and prepare for revival, yet it is a privilege and what our wider community needs. We may need to simplify to multiply. Our priorities may need to shift. We may need to think differently as everyone takes responsibility for playing their part in planting the gospel across Epping Forest.
- Perhaps we may feel afraid or inadequate - we all do sometimes. That is why we need to support one another, pray, build friendship, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Everyone coming alive in Christ** – this is a key to multiplication and revival.

- We want to come more alive in Christ than we have ever been before – there is always more for us in Christ and such God-given potential in our amazing church family. God is calling everybody to be all we can be in Christ for the sake of our community.
- Emphasis on encouragement and a sense of “well done” as we are already alive in so many ways, and yet everyone could come more alive than we have ever been, which does not mean doing more things, but everyone moving forward with God in some way.
- *What might this mean?* 1) praying for people to come to Christ 2) more confidence in using gifts 3) trusting God more in everyday ways 4) serving in what God wants me to do 5) sharing the gospel with others 6) being more loving 7) taking more risks for God.

### **Why multiply?**

This is our story – who we are! It is what scripture teaches us to do and has been our journey and DNA over some years – make disciples who make disciples and multiply God’s kingdom!

- Interview with Sam Pollard, Lydia Petitt & Steve Opie – celebrate and learn together!

Bishop Peter has designated St Mary’s as a **Resource Church** (part of national CofE strategy) Resource churches are:

- Part of a strategy to evangelise across the region by sending leaders with a team and funding to plant a new church or revitalise a struggling church in an area of need – and do this again and again as the Holy Spirit leads.
- Develop a pipeline of leaders and a proactive strategy for further regional planting.
- Provide mission resources for the region.

In 2014, there were 6 Resource Churches nationally. In October 2019, we become the 84<sup>th</sup> Resource Church in the Church of England.

Our challenge is this: How deep and wide within St Mary’s is there a.....?

- Commitment being ‘sent’ and reach out to people with the gospel
- Desire to give away with extravagant generosity (people, resources and finances)
- Excitement about church planting (for everyone, not just for the ‘special few’)
- Active and committed lay involvement and leadership
- Willingness to change for the sake of the gospel, to experiment and take risks

### **Vision to multiply a new 4pm congregation in St Mary’s**

This is a big focus for 2020. We are also working now on identifying places of need for future planting and multiplying. We would like to plant again by 2022.

- Started with prophetic word, leaders with a vision and taking a risk to reach out!
- Developing as we go – similar mindset to the graft last year.
- Ashley and Hannah share their story and core vision. Do you sense God’s nudge to join with them and multiply a new congregation? Start after Easter or early summer?
- More info next Tuesday with time for Q & A.

### **Time for reflection and discussion**

1. What is my part in this adventure of His kingdom? How is God calling me?
2. Where might God be calling us next to plant the gospel and a church?

## **Areas of focus going forward so we can create capacity to multiply:**

### ***Focus on simply living our values***

This year, through a simple survey, we will take the spiritual temperature of the church to find out where we are at. Then find simple lifestyle ways can we adopt or increase to help us come more alive? Our church culture needs to be shaped around our values and this means we genuinely own and take responsibility for nurturing these values in our everyday lives.

-  ENCOUNTERING GOD
-  LIVING FOR THE KINGDOM
-  LOVING DEEPLY
-  SHARING JESUS

### ***Prioritise training and growing leaders***

Raising up and empowering leaders is key. Our focus is to equip people for ministry. We want to help increase confidence, care and mission in our leaders. Helping people see themselves as leaders and making our training simple and accessible. We would love to create leadership capacity to revitalise churches in Epping Forest. As a resource church, we are generous in sending leaders out. It is our sending, not seating capacity that is key!

### ***Get out more among people to share Jesus***

How do we best reach our community for Christ? There are 7,200 people in our parish, 31,000 people in Loughton and 130,000 people in Epping Forest. St Mary's has around 230 adults and 115 children and youth. Along with other churches, our mission is vast with 0.9% of people in Epping Forest coming to church (Anglican) each week. God is calling everyone to share Jesus. Our focus is on helping people of every age and stage take the next step to Jesus. Our outreach based on our relationships and community connections. At its core is Café Hope, Living Hope, ignite, Little Lambs and Life Groups. It is also about caring for the poor and bringing justice. The gospel has the power to change Epping Forest. We need to "let down nets on other side" (John 21:6) and see a big catch of people for Jesus.

### ***Awareness of the pressures of everyday life and enabling restorative pastoral care***

We all struggle at times and need to work together and support one another's emotional, physical and spiritual health. St Mary's is like an organic ecosystem that needs regeneration for sustainability. Everyone is like a seed in that can reproduce life, but also needs nurture and good soil. Life Groups are key as we aim for mature disciples and leaders who take responsibility to grow, serve and rest. St Mary's is a family where there is no pressure. We thrive when everyone takes their responsibility to share the load, regardless of how small or large. The PCC will regularly evaluate the level of busyness in the church, to try to make sure as a community that we are able to rest as well as serve. We are a family, not just a gathering of individuals.

### ***Improving how St Mary's functions to enable our mission***

Church leadership will take a fresh look at how our buildings, communications, website, database and finance can better enable our mission. We want to always be open to change how we operate for the sake of the gospel. The church leadership and PCC will take a fresh look at our leadership structures at St Mary's and whether we need a new shape of leadership to include more people. As Vicar, I want to explore how I work and how I can best empower others. As leaders, we are excited about planting churches in Epping Forest and beyond. We will carefully work on a strategic timeline for church planting that allows for our capacity, rest and also developing leaders and opportunities to plant.

***Everyone has a part to play***

God is calling everybody! How can we draw people from the edges more into the body? How can we help everyone's giftings come alive? The question for us all is, "What is my part in this adventure?" Everyone is a hope centre! The Bishop of Barking has designated St Mary's as a Resource Church, which means we all have a part to play. Coming alive will renew our commitment, compassion and calling to take the gospel to Epping Forest and the nations. Coming alive will grow cultures of ownership, gospel, generosity, discipline, confidence, multiplication & care. We all have a part to play. As church leaders, we need to take steps to help the church family at large know what the next steps are in helping everyone play their part.

***Most of all - everyone coming alive in Christ starts with me***

"I want to come more alive in Christ than ever before". God wants to do a fresh work in us. Let him start now in me. Let's be willing for a reformation of life, renewed commitment to Christ and his church, repentance and coming back to your first love – Jesus. "Send revival, start with me." For the sake of Epping Forest, start a fire in me. We don't want to miss what God has for us. There are never perfect conditions for us to go forward – we have to simply start and keep going even when conditions are unfavourable. If we can just see this dream fulfilled in our own lives first, then we will all come alive together.

**We are seeds and are meant to multiply - as a key to revival**

**John 12:23-28** (NIV) - <sup>23</sup>Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. **But if it dies, it produces many seeds.** <sup>25</sup>Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. <sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

- Significant moment – God's audible voice heard (also baptism & transfiguration)
- Jesus death multiplied and grew God's kingdom.
- Jesus rejected the easy route – dying to self is the way to multiplying.
- Multiplying is dying to self, as the kingdom way to bring new life.
  - Approach multiplying with genuine humility
  - Not controlling our own agenda
  - Send people out which may mean gaps are created in St Mary's.

**Time for prayer****Next Week: What will this look like for us in 2020?**

Tonight we have considered why we are called to multiply and come alive in Christ more than ever. Next Tuesday, we will consider what our plans for 2020 are in the light of this.

Please come next week ready to pray, ask questions, discuss, share and if you feel the Lord give you any prophetic words, please send them directly to me at [malcolm@stmarysloughton.com](mailto:malcolm@stmarysloughton.com) We really want to discern and be led by the Spirit in this privilege of mission and ministry in Epping Forest. Thank you for coming and look forward to seeing you next week.