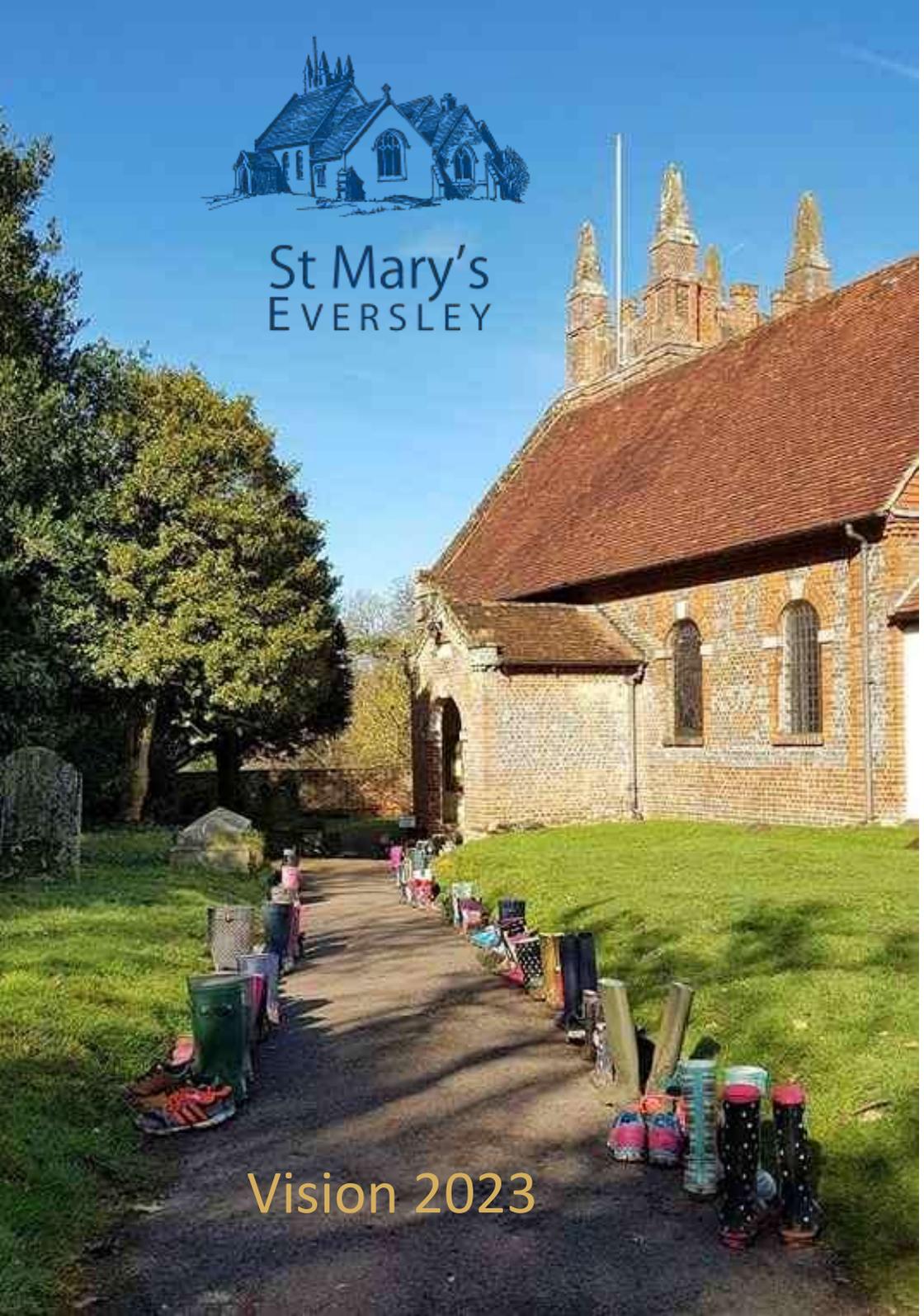




St Mary's EVERSLEY



Vision 2023

Our Journey

Most photographs you see of St Mary's involve a view down the long pathway into the church from the lychgate. On a dark night when the wind is howling, this can seem like a daunting path to walk down with looming trees on either side. And yet on a clear day, with the sun shining you will often find a photographer standing on the pathway taking a shot of the beautiful vista before them. Many people over many hundreds of years have walked down the path to St Mary's and found a place of strength, serenity and security in God's arms here.

St. Mary was called by God to carry Jesus. Her journey of faith involved letting go and placing herself firmly into God's hands. Her response to the angel shows her willingness to serve and give of herself for the sake of others:

'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered.

***'May your word to me be fulfilled.'* (Luke 1:38)**

She said yes to God and set out on a journey to show God's love to the world in the most amazing way. The challenge for us is to walk in her shoes (boots), asking what God wants us to do as his people who live in or are connected to Eversley and Bramshill today.

From our prayerful conversations with the wider community over the last year, we have identified three areas to prioritise:

Unity in Diversity

We will look at all the ways people worship God, from the traditional to the contemporary, and invest in creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to meet with God.

We will survey our community to find out what will help people find and grow in their faith. This could include amongst other things:

- Mid-week services
- Sunday services
- Traditional services
- Holy Communion in different forms
- Cafe church
- Diddy Disciples
- Messy Church
- Church in different places e.g. Eversley Village Hall and Bramshill Mission Chapel or outside
- Small groups

We will listen to the answers and to God, and act upon what we hear.

A Visible Presence

We will work to better integrate church and village life to help people see the relevance of church today, aiming to meet the diverse needs of our community. We will do this by:

- Working more closely with other organisations which form part of our community, e.g. Charles Kingsley School, Eversley Village Hall, Eversley Parish District Councils, Eversley Sports Association and the pre-school.
- Looking to continue working with smaller groups, businesses, pubs and charities.
- Being open to partnerships with groups from outside the village, to have a positive impact on the village community, e.g. Vision 4 Youth, the Men Shed, Yelabus, Foodbank, Rural Transport group and others.
- Creating opportunities to bring different generations together.

Building a Sustainable Future

We will enhance our community and buildings for future generations, securing the best of the past to serve the needs of the future. Part of this work will include:

- Restoring and renewing our Grade 1 listed building
- Enhancing the welcome and hospitality of our worship facilities
- Developing our hall facilities for wider community use
- Using the Eco-church framework to help us manage and utilise our green spaces and other resources
- Building a sustainable financial future for the church.

So how can we get involved...

- Please **pray**, with us and in your daily life.
- **Get involved.** What excites you? We are looking for passionate people to put their boots on and walk with God and us on this journey.
- **Give**, to the best of your ability, in time, talents and money. The church relies on regular giving in these three areas to provide for all of its running costs and to reach out into the community.
- **Pray again.** That we would all listen to God and do his will. Psalm 127 says:

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain.”