



Mary Ward Service

**An Ecumenical Celebration of the
Life and Legacy of Mary Ward**

26th January 2025, St Thomas's Church, Osbaldwick

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our annual Mary Ward service.

Please note that this service is live-streamed and will be recorded and made available afterwards on the church website:

<https://www.osbaldwickandmurtonchurches.org.uk/>

If you are joining us at home, please light a candle in unison with those who gather in St Thomas's church.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

TODAY'S COLLECTION

The congregation of St Thomas's church is privileged to be the custodians of important historic heritage – not least the gravestone of Mary Ward.

Our church is open every day of the year. On Sundays, hymns and prayers echo between these walls, on Wednesday mornings children's laughter fills the place, and on Thursdays the friendly chatter of our coffee drop-in brings joy to those who seek friendship and company. We like to think Mary Ward would approve!

To future-proof our church building for the next generation, we are fundraising to carry out substantial repair and restoration works. This



includes upgrading the lighting and heating system, as well as much-needed replastering and decoration work. Please help us care for this special place by giving generously. The QR code and the link below will take you to our online giving page.

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/28c7ff9f-f4e0-497d-9890-1bfcd866c491>

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*'It is written that no sparrow falls to the ground
without God knowing;
and for me it is true, and is the easiest way to virtue,
if we accept everything from the hand of God,
be it ever so little.'*
(Mary Ward)

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will light a light
in the name of the Maker
who lit the world
and breathed the breath of life for me.

The first candle is lit

I will light a light
in the name of the Son
who saved the world
and stretched out his hand to me.

The second candle is lit

I will light a light
in the name of the Spirit
who encompasses the world
and blesses my soul.

The third candle is lit

All **We light three lights for the Trinity of Love:
God above us, God beside us, God beneath us;
the beginning, the end, the everlasting One. Amen.**

Stand **HYMN**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
all ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:
hast thou not seen how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680), translation by Catherine Winkworth (1827- 1878). Music: 'Lobe den Herren', anonymous tune published in 1665.

Sit **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

Because God is good,
and has intended us to share that goodness,
we open ourselves to his loving mercy
as together we say:

All **Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal
have mercy on us.**

For the right roads we avoided travelling,
and the kindly words we refused to share;
for the false gods who received our worship
and the true selves we have starved of love

All God, by your grace,
forgive us.

For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly,
and the promises which we never kept;
for the careless use of our time and money
and the lame excuses we should never have made,

All God, by your grace,
forgive us.

A period of silence

For all we should be, and all we can amend;
God in your love,

All **renew us.**

For all you have in store for us, and all you may demand of us;
God in your love,

All **prepare us.**

For the life of the world, and the love of its people;
God, in your love,

All **commit us.**

Hear and believe these words of Jesus:
Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace. Come and follow me.

Glory to the Creator, who gives us life,
Glory to Jesus, whose love remakes us.
Glory to the Spirit, companion on our journey.

All **Glory be to God. Amen.**

PSALMODY (Psalm 121)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

All **² My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.

All **⁴ Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

All **⁶ So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.**

⁷ The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul.

All **⁸ The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

*“I will find in God, whatever consoles
and gladdens me, and hasten to Him for
help, in all sufferings and necessities.”*

(Mary Ward)

SCRIPTURE READING

Listen for the voice of God within the words of Scripture.

A reading from the prophet Micah, chapter 6, verses 2 - 8

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

For the Word of the Lord;

All **Thanks be to God.**

Stand HYMN

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt true faith in you.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
In giving to all men that we receive;
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Words: Anonymous (commonly, but erroneously, attributed to St Francis of Assisi); Music: Sebastian Temple (1928-1997)

*“Cherish God’s vocation in you.
Let it be constant, efficacious and loving.”
(Mary Ward, on her death bed)*

Sit

SCRIPTURE READING

Listen for the voice of God within the words of Scripture.

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew, chapter 22, verses 34 – 40.

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him.

³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

For the Word of the Lord;

All

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

A reflection by Mrs Jane Beever, Headteacher of the Loreto Grammar School in Altrincham, Cheshire.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us say a prayer for those who need to be remembered tonight.

Those who have made the news headlines today
because of what they have done or said:

All will be well, all will be well

All

and all manner of things will be well.

Those who have been brought to our attention
through a meeting or conversation:

All All will be well, all will be well
and all manner of things will be well.

Those who are in hospital, in care,
or in a place which is strange to them:

All will be well...

Those in whose family, marriage or close relationship,
there is stress or a break-up:

All will be well...

Those who are waiting for a birth or a death,
or news which will affect their lives:

All will be well...

Those who need to forget the God they do not believe in,
and meet the God who believes in them:

All will be well...

Those whose pain or potential we should not forget
to share with God tonight:

All will be well...

Lord, we believe that you hear our prayer,
and will be faithful to your promise to answer us.

When our eyes open again, may they do so,
not to end our devotions,
but to see your Kingdom come,
for Jesus' sake.

All **Amen**

“God is rich enough for us all.” (Mary Ward)

COLLECT FOR UNITY

Creator of the universe,
who made us different from one another
in myriad ways we can see
and in more ways we shall never know,
yet made us all in your image;
fill our hearts with your love and
our minds with your wisdom,
that we may truly be brothers and sisters of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORDS PRAYER

We join our prayers into one,
with the words that Jesus taught us:

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Stand HYMN

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee.

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render, O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908) Music: St Denio, trad Welsh tune

BLESSING

On our heads and our houses
All **The blessing of God.**

In our coming and going
All **The peace of God.**

In our life believing
All **The love of God.**

At our end and new beginning
All **The arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. Amen.**