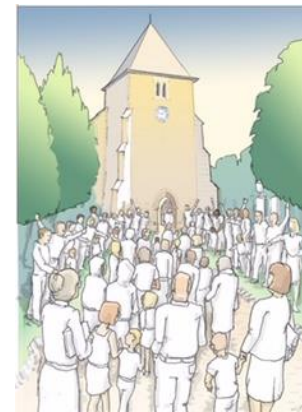


St. Mary's Weekly Newsletter



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the second weekly news sheet. I do hope that everyone is safe and well. As we continue in lockdown and isolation, I am finding the days and weeks are beginning to merge into one! The daily live-streamed services are a great way to add rhythm to the days and weeks, and I do hope you are able to access them in your own time. If you are finding these days difficult and would like to talk please do not hesitate to contact me. Do please keep looking at the church website (www.stmaryshadlow.org.uk) for news and services, and the church Facebook page. On that note, I am planning to have coffee 'virtually' between 11.00am and 12.00pm on Sunday via Zoom after the service. If you would like to join us, please contact me via email so I can send you a link.

Every blessing,

Nicky rev.nickyharvey@gmail.com 01732 852564 07919075470

Homily from Wednesday 29th April 2020 – John 6: 35 – 40

At the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak bread was in short supply. It was one of the items snapped up quickly. Why? Well bread is a wonderfully sustaining foodstuff. We could look at the individual ingredients and construct a sermon simply on those, the yeast, the salt, the grain which yields the wheat flour, the water which binds them all together - they all can have a spiritual significance which Jesus himself used in the stories that he told. But today let us look at the finished product, the bread itself, and see how we can relate that to the meaning that Jesus was inferring to the crowd. The same crowd who had so eagerly followed him all day and seen him perform a culinary miracle in feeding with a few fish and some loaves of bread in the verses preceding our reading today.

When we eat bread, it is absorbed by our bodies. It is converted into the energy we need to live, work and grow. Complex carbohydrates are broken down steadily to give us the sustenance we need as human beings. Protein builds up our strength. Vitamins and minerals ensure that our bodily organs and system function correctly. It is simple, nutritious and life-giving.

So when Jesus started talking about the 'Bread of Life' the crowd thought he was talking literally about bread, and their thoughts immediately turned to their stomachs and back to the manna that God had provided for His people when they were in exile. But no, Jesus tells them, he is not talking about the physical aspects of hunger. Yes, they had just witnessed something of a miracle when so many were fed and satisfied from the meal he provided thanks to a few small fish and a loaf or two of bread. But that wasn't about showing off his power - it wasn't some form of conjuring trick to impress. As always with Jesus there was a lesson to be learned as he says, "I am the bread of life".

Jesus wants us to understand that earthly bread has to be consumed over and over again to satisfy rumbling stomachs and hunger pangs. It always runs out and it doesn't satisfy us for long. Jesus wants us to grasp, to understand, that within Him is all the food that we will ever need. All the food to grow spiritually, real bread that satisfies our hunger forever and never runs out. Jesus truly is the bread of life. Amen

Parish News

Financial giving. Thank you to all who are continuing to give to St. Mary's at this time. Your contributions are vital. While saving money on heating, lighting and salaries the church still needs funds for ministry and ongoing costs. With the church closed we are losing income from fund-raising events and collections. If you can and would like to give on a regular basis, a standing order with your bank would be much appreciated. Equally one-off donations can be made by bank transfer too. Please contact me on mhmassy@btinternet.com or 07725 603952 for further details, or if you would like to give by cheque or have your envelopes collected. Martin Massy - Treasurer

Materials needed. Many people in the village are sewing scrubs etc. for the NHS. They require more sheets, duvet covers, elastic or tape. If you have anything to donate, please ring Rev. Nicky on 01732 852564 to arrange collection. Thank you.

The Food bank continues to operate from St. Mary's. If you would like to contribute or need some help from the food bank please contact Rev. Nicky Harvey on 01732 852564 or Barbara Smith on 01732 852174.

The Hadlow Parish Assistance Scheme is continuing to run well. If you would like to register with this scheme, then please contact Mel in the Parish Council office on 01732 851878.

Collect for the 4th Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

We pray for those living in:

Common Road and Matthews Lane.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Bill Green

Joan Ball

From our Book of Remembrance, we pray for:

Keith Edwin Vanns (5th)

Violet May Bucknall (6th)

Frederick (Fred) Donoghue (6th)

Betty Calvert (6th)

