

St Mary's News

Sunday 18 July 2021

Please switch hearing aids to "T". Large print hymn books and service sheets available

Wi-Fi : (network: TalkTalk 5A4B4E) Password QYGEK4GM

Parish website : www.stmaryshadlow.org.uk Find us on Facebook: St Mary's Hadlow

Today

7th Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Holy Communion in church and via Zoom

Readings:

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end



The Collect for the 7th Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Next week

8th Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Communion in church and via Zoom

Readings:

2 Corinthians 4: 7-15

Matthew 20: 20-28



Prayers for the Week

We pray today for all who live in Puttenden Road, Pitts Wood and High House Lane.

And from our Book of Remembrance we pray for

Robert Deckers (18th)

Kate Large (23rd)

Rosemary Carter (23rd)

This Week at a glance

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (F)

10.30am-12.30pm Church open

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

Thursday

Friday

10.30am-12.30 Church open

7.15pm Choir Practice

Saturday

(F) = available on Facebook

Home Visits

Although there is no doubt that we shall have to continue to be cautious for some time (see right) it seems to be the case that for those who are 'double jabbed', the risks of infecting one another now seem manageable.

Jenny Hopkins has been able to visit some members of our church in her capacity as our new Anna Chaplain, and I have resumed some Home Communions. If you would like a home visit from either Jenny or me, please do not hesitate to contact us. We shall seek to be as covid safe as possible, using masks, hand sanitiser and sitting outside, as you wish.

Rev'd Paul

Changes to Covid Regulations

As you know the Government has decided to lift many covid restrictions with effect from next Monday 19th. This means that our service on Sunday 25th may be different

However, as you are no doubt also aware, the picture on covid infections remains far from clear-cut and, similarly, the picture on what restrictions will continue to apply is also far from clear-cut. At the time of writing (Thursday morning) the Government has not issued its guidance on what we will and will not be able to do and, therefore, there has been no official guidance issued from the Church of England either. Frankly, it is rather chaotic, exhausting and, almost, unbelievable that this is the way that this is still being dealt with after so long.

Anyway, I hope that there will be something more official to look at by next Monday 19th and, if there is, then there will be a discussion at PCC that evening about how St Mary's will be reacting. Although I hope that we will have a full choir and some congregational singing, please do not expect a wholesale to return to 2019 'business as usual' because that looks like the least likely outcome!

Rev'd Paul

Everything you always wanted to know about Church (but were afraid to ask)

Having sung the Angelic Hymn (the Gloria) and prayed the collect, we now come to the readings from the Bible. We currently have two readings but some churches have four each week – an Old Testament, a Psalm, an Epistle (i.e. one of the letters of the New Testament) and the Gospel. When I arrived at St Mary's I was 'surprised' to learn that even though there were only two readings, the Old Testament was virtually never read at all. Yes, it can be difficult in places for lots of reasons, both to hear and to preach on, but it constitutes about four fifths of the bible and we should not exclude bits of the faith we find difficult. This is also the reason that I am committed to using the 'lectionary' to tell us what our readings are each week. The lectionary is a three-year cycle of readings (Years A, B & C) which emphasises a different Gospel writer each year, but with John sprinkled over each for good measure. Using the lectionary ensures that we don't just pick our favourite bits of the bible, but are compelled to look at the whole 'sweep' of the bible and to go into the bits we find most difficult. This prevents Christianity just becoming a local expression of what we enjoy and keeps us rooted in the whole story of which we are part.

Before covid times I would process down the aisle with the Gospel, with cross, candles and sometimes even incense. We sang the gradual hymn and then announced the gospel reading using a seasonal acclamation. Everyone stood in the presence of the Gospel and turned to face it during the reading. This not only emphasises the importance of the Gospel in our worship but is also meant to enact the word of God coming down and appearing amongst the people – it is a representation of the incarnation of Jesus! If Jesus appeared in our midst then I hope that we would stand and acclaim him! Our worship, understood and enacted properly, is meant to be so much more than just hearing the lessons and then applying them to our lives. It is about 'living out' the greatest drama of all time and we should not be shy of doing so with meaningful drama, which is part of the purpose of our liturgy.

Of course, the readings are an important way for us to learn about the story of God's interaction with the world. But even many years of just hearing the Sunday readings will not give us a joined-up picture of everything in the Bible. I would encourage everyone to engage with the Bible regularly at home, and to join that also into a regular time of personal prayer. A Sunday feast is great but we also need regular meals during the week! *Rev'd Paul*

Hadlow Scarecrow Trail

25th – 26th September

Theme: Historical Figures. If you might like to take part or for more details, contact Kirsty: hadlow.scarecrowtrail@gmail.com.

Morning & Evening Prayer on Facebook Live

Just a reminder that starting this week there will be no live streaming of Morning and Evening Prayer on Facebook. We will continue to try to live-stream Wednesday Holy Communion, but have recently experienced some problems with the broadband connection.

Prayer: Good Shepherd

"... he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd." Mark 6:34

Good Shepherd,
Teach us to follow you,
to spread compassion to those
who are far away,
to speak for those who are
voiceless,
to defend those who are
oppressed and abused,
to work for justice for those who
are exploited,
to make peace for those who
suffer violence,
to take the time to recognise our
connectedness,
and to love as you have loved us.

Who's who at St Mary's?

Vicar

The Reverend Paul White
01732 850238
Pauljohnwhite@gmail.com

Church Wardens

Michael Payne (01732 852187)
John Speed (07725 691518)

Honorary Treasurer

Martin Massy (01732 851519)
mhmassy@btinternet.com

Anna Chaplain

Jenny Hopkins (01732 852386)

Parish Administrator

Janice Massy (07570 941809)
office@stmaryshadlow.org.uk

PCC Members, any of whom can be approached for help or information:

Reverend Paul White; Michael Payne, John Speed; Martin Massy; Val Newell & Barry Wheeler (Deanery Synod reps.); Cathy Brill, Melissa Crawshay-Williams; Kirsty Finch; Mike Harvey; Jenny Hopkins; Richard Hopkinson; Janice Massy; Steve Newell; Katerina Nixon; Lisa Porritt.

PCC Secretary:

Martin Massy
mhmassy@btinternet.com

Minutes of PCC meetings are on the notice board and on St Mary's website.