

# St Mary's News

Sunday 25 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](http://www.stmaryshadlow.org.uk) Find us on Facebook: St Mary's Hadlow

## Today

### 8th Sunday after Trinity / James the Apostle

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion in  
church and via Zoom

### Readings:

2 Corinthians 4: 7-15

Matthew 20: 20-28



### The Collect for James the Apostle

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; through Jesus Christ you Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## Next week

### 9th Sunday after Trinity

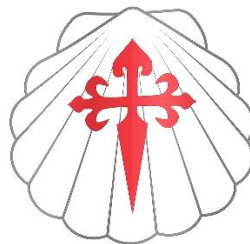
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion in  
church and via Zoom

### Readings:

Ephesians 4: 1-16

John 6: 24-35



### Prayers for the Week

We pray today for all who live in  
Common Road and Matthews  
Lane.

### **And from our Book of Remembrance we pray for**

Graham Vaughan (27<sup>th</sup>)

Alison Gibbs (28<sup>th</sup>)

Leslie Charles Wratten (29<sup>th</sup>)

Kitty Rodgers (31<sup>st</sup>)

## **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  
2pm Wedding: Joy Abnett &  
Mark Stokes  
7.15pm Choir Practice

### **Saturday**

(F) = available on Facebook

## **Covid Regulations in Church**

The PCC of St Mary's met on Monday evening to discuss how we should react to the lifting of covid-prevention regulations. However, as we all know from the news, the numbers are currently going in the wrong direction again.

The feeling among the PCC was unanimous that we should err on the side of caution. Therefore, from Sunday 25 July, there will not be any huge changes to the way we have been worshipping since Easter. The only changes will be as follows:

- There will be no limit on the numbers in the choir, although they will need to space themselves, and they will be able to sing without masks
- The congregation will be able to join in with the hymns, although we would ask everyone to remain masked and to sing without bellowing
- Signing in for the service, using hand sanitiser, social distancing and mask wearing will not be **compulsory**. However, we would request that everyone continues to do these things on a voluntary basis out of love and consideration for one another. This does not apply to those who are medically exempt from mask wearing.
- If you decide not to wear a mask when singing or not to observe social distancing in church, please ask those around you if they are comfortable with your choices. If they are not then please do not impose your choices on those who may be vulnerable or uncomfortable.
- The current arrangement for sharing the peace will continue and the chalice will not currently be offered.

Unless the situation changes dramatically for either better or worse, it is intended that these worship arrangements will continue until, at least, the next PCC meeting on 20 September. *Rev'd Paul*

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

Following the readings we come to the sermon. Interestingly priests have not always been trusted to preach in the context of the Eucharist; in the early church this would be done solely by a bishop. At the time of the Reformation (when the Church of England became separate from the Roman Catholic Church) there was a desire to ensure only the 'correct' protestant theology was preached in churches and so two "Books of Homilies" were published (in 1547 & 1571) and clergy could only preach by reading those pre-written sermons. How much simpler life could be! Those books still have certain authority in the Church of England so I suppose I could give it a try.

We are now encouraged to preach our own sermons; but this is not as straightforward as you may assume. There is an apocryphal story about a curate who showed their training incumbent their proposed sermon and asked 'Will it do?', to which the incumbent replied 'Will it do what?' This is an important question. Are sermons meant to educate, entertain, challenge, enthuse, convert, explore scripture, comment on the world or help people in their Christian journey? How long should they be? Someone I know told me that, during his curacy, if he preached over three minutes his

incumbent would simply get up and start saying the creed. Others I know think that anything less than 40 minutes is short-changing the people. Should they look at the readings line by line, perhaps exploring the Hebrew and Greek, or should they be more 'big picture'? In what context is a sermon being delivered – what is appropriate in a parish church might not be appropriate in a university chapel. Being allowed to look at the word of God in the Bible and to stand before the people of God in church and to expound how those might relate to each other and in the wider context of life is a huge responsibility and privilege. It is not always easy. Some sermons arrive almost fully formed, but others have to be dragged kicking and screaming into the world. My only constant is prayer. Before I sit down to write I pray something along these lines: "*Father, as I come to write today please just give me the words that this congregation needs to hear at this time.*" Even with experience it is impossible to know how people will react. The sermons I am most pleased with will sometimes get no reaction whereas the ones that have felt most rushed will speak to people in ways I could not envisage. Which is the point. A sermon is not merely a vicar having a soapbox – it is an integral part of worship and a means of God working with his people, perhaps just one needy soul at a time.

## Hadlow Scarecrow Trail: 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September



It's that time of year again! Covid restrictions allowing, we are hoping to run our scarecrow trail for the third time.

Please contact Kirsty: [hadlow.scarecrowtrail@gmail.com](mailto:hadlow.scarecrowtrail@gmail.com) if you think you might like to take part and want more details. The event this year is being kindly sponsored by Hadlow Pharmacy.

### Housekeeper Wanted

We need someone to order supplies for the upper room kitchen and toilets. It does not require a lot of time – just an occasional check to see that stocks do not run out. If you would be interested in helping out or would like more information, please speak to Paul or one of the churchwardens.

### Hospital Car Service

If you would like transport to a hospital or other medical appointment, please contact Mike Harvey on 01732 851881.



## Who's Who at St Mary's?

### Vicar

The Reverend Paul White  
01732 850238  
[Pauljohnwhite@gmail.com](mailto:Pauljohnwhite@gmail.com)

### Anna Chaplain

Jenny Hopkins (01732 852386)

### Church Wardens

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

### Honorary Treasurer

Martin Massy (01732 851519)  
[mhmassy@btinternet.com](mailto:mhmassy@btinternet.com)

### Parish Administrator

Janice Massy (07570 941809)  
[office@stmaryshadlow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:mhmassy@btinternet.com)

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