

St Mary's News

Sunday 17 October 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

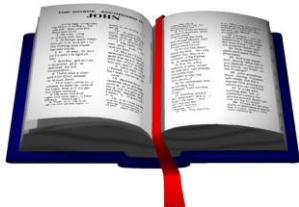
20th Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Eucharist in church
and via Zoom

Readings:

Isaiah 53: 4-end

Mark 10: 35-45



The Collect for the

20th Sunday after Trinity

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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

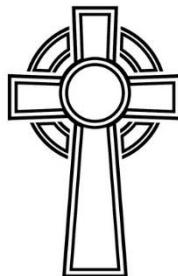
21st Sunday after Trinity (Stewardship Sunday)

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Eucharist in church
and via Zoom

Readings:

Jeremiah 31: 7-9

Mark 10: 46-end



Prayers for the Week

We pray today for all who work in shops and pubs in the parish.

And from our Book of Remembrance, we pray for

Fred Greenwood (17th)

Dorrie Young (19th)

Adelline Rose McNamara (20th)

Frances Wood (20th)

Charlotte Livett (21st)

This Week at a glance

Monday

Tuesday

5.30pm Yoga

Wednesday

9.30am_Holy Communion.

10.30am Coffee Pots & Tiny Tots

7.30pm Bell ringing practice.

Thursday

10am Singing Mamas

10.30am-12.30pm Church open
and Food Bank

Friday

7.15pm Choir practice.

Saturday

Harvest

A massive 'thank you' to all who contributed to the harvest collection – everything given will go to help those in need in Hadlow and via the Community Storehouse in Paddock Wood.

Stewardship Sunday

Next week 24 October

We look forward to welcoming Liz Mullins from Rochester Diocese who will be talking to us about Stewardship in our church. Hope that you can join us that morning.

Paul's Leaving Service

Sunday 31 October

Although this day is 'All Hallows Eve' we shall be keeping it as All Hallows or All Saints Day. I hope that you will be able to come along to the 10am service to say goodbye. I hope to be using the full length of the church, and it will be a delight to be back at the High Altar before I depart. I shall miss you all terribly, but I shall say more about that later. *Rev'd Paul*

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

I had rather hoped to get a few more obscure questions to tackle in this column! If you have any burning issues that you would like to see addressed, do let me know and I shall try and answer them before my final issue.

Someone asked me today, quite reasonably, whether the Church of England is Protestant or Catholic. I answered that it is complicated!

The Church of England arose at roughly the same time as Protestant reformation was sweeping across Europe, Martin Luther protesting against the sale of indulgences etc. However, the reasons for the Church of England breaking from Rome were never purely theological, but were as much motivated by Henry VIII's desire to be free from the political control of the Pope. Although Henry VIII had his reasons for this (mostly marital!) he was not a Protestant at heart. In 1539 he

published the Six Articles which confirmed the Church of England as part of the Catholic church and Protestants who denied the Catholic faith were persecuted and burned. His son, Edward VI, was much more Protestant, the English language Book of Common prayer was published, priests were allowed to marry (hoorah!) and it was the turn of Catholics to be persecuted. Then, under Mary I the Pope was restored as head of the Church of England, the Latin mass was restored and the Prayer Book banned. About 300 Protestants were burned to death. Finally, under Elizabeth I, the monarch became 'Supreme Governor' of the Church of England (not the Pope) but many elements of Catholic worship were restored. This 'balance' between Protestant and Catholic theologies was known as the 'Elizabethan Settlement' and it set the tone for much of the 450 years which followed. During that time there have been both Protestant and Catholic 'revivals' within the Church of England and different dioceses, parishes and priests would identify as more or less Protestant or Catholic. The reality of the current Church of England is that we all exist along a spectrum. We are all 'reformed Catholics' and, even as someone who loves incense from time to time, I am also a married priest who can't speak Latin so there can be no doubt that I am as much a product of the slightly complicated Church of England as anyone! But, as I have said many times, my deepest prayer is that these divisions and wounds within the body of Christ will heal and that the whole body will be reunited in worship.

In relation to the journey through our liturgy, we now come to the invitation to communion:

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Interestingly even this invitation touches upon the whole 'Catholic / Protestant' question because of the language used about the body and blood of Christ. In terms of the Elizabethan Settlement and the complicated nature of the Church of England, it is interesting that even this short invitation uses language which both emphasises the realness of the body and blood of Christ in the elements of bread and wine, but also talks about 'remembrance'. It makes it clear that what we are doing here is all motivated by 'faith' – we both draw near with faith and feed on him with faith. We don't see Christ in the Eucharist with the eyes of science. Of course, if you put the bread and wine under a microscope it would still physically be the same bread and wine which existed prior to consecration. But, by faith, they have become something different for us as both a community of faith and as individuals of faith. In whatever way we believe, our community prayer life and the Holy Spirit have made these things into Christ and we are called to consume the Christ who is broken and shared amongst us and to feed on him with 'thanksgiving' - which, as we know, can be rendered in Greek as Eucharist

Rev'd Paul

Memorial Service

Sunday 14 November at 3pm
Rev'd Nicky Harvey will be leading this service to remember, by name, those who have died. All welcome. If you would like a loved one to be remembered, please add their name to the list at the back of church and indicate whether you will be attending. Alternatively, you could email the office with these details.

Saturday Coffee

will be starting up again on 13 November and on the second Saturday every month 10am–12 downstairs in church. Come along for a chat and buy home-made cakes and produce.

After-Service Coffee

In November we will also re-start serving coffee after the 10am service. Please let Janice know if you will be willing to take part in the coffee rota.

Singing Mamas!

Women's singing group on Thursdays, 10am–11.30am in the upper room at church. For mothers, sisters, grandmothers (and of course babies, toddlers and home-ed children). More details from hello@lauralamn.com

Who's Who at St Mary's?

Vicar

The Reverend Paul White
01732 850238
Pauljohnwhite@gmail.com

Anna Chaplain

Jenny Hopkins (01732 852386)

Church Wardens

Michael Payne (01732 852187)
michael@stmaryshadlow.org.uk
John Speed (07725 691518)
john@stmaryshadlow.org.uk

Honorary Treasurer

Martin Massy (01732 851519)
mhmassy@btinternet.com

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; Barry Wheeler & Mike Harvey (Deanery Synod reps.); Cathy Brill, Melissa Crawshay-Williams; Kirsty Finch; Jenny Hopkins; Richard Hopkinson; Janice Massy; Katerina Nixon; Lisa Porritt and other members.

PCC Secretary:

Martin Massy
mhmassy@btinternet.com

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