

St Mary's News

Sunday 31 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

All Saints

Paul's Farewell Service

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

Readings:

Isaiah 25:6-9

John 11:32-44



The Collect for All Saints

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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 forever. **Amen**

Next week

3rd Sunday before Advent

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Parish Eucharist
2pm Service in Memory of Joan
Mitchell & Rob Wratten

Readings:

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

Mark 1: 14-20



Prayers for the Week

We pray today for all who work in the Parish Council, Hadlow School and the Health Centre.

And from our Book of Remembrance, we pray for

Margaret Beeching (1st Nov)

Marjorie Green (4th)

Elizabeth Langstaff Skelton (5th)

Edward Albert Hart (5th)

We offer our love and best wishes to Paul, Vivienne, Henry and Annabelle as they begin a new stage of their life in Rye.

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 Food Bank

Friday

10.30-12.30 Seniors' Coffee
Morning

7.15pm Choir practice.

Saturday

After-Service Coffee

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

Saturday Coffee

will be starting up again on 13 November and on the second Saturday every month 10am–12 downstairs in church. We would welcome any donations of home-made cakes and produce.

Licensing in Rye

My licensing service has now been confirmed as being at 6pm on Thursday 25 Nov at St Mary's in Rye, and I would love to see you there. Whether or not I see you on the 25th just a reminder that you are always welcome to come and say hello if you are ever visiting. Our address there is:

The Rectory

Gungarden

Rye

TN31 7HH

pauljohnwhite@gmail.com

07970072757

Service to Remember

Joan Mitchell & Rob Wratten

7 November at 2pm. All welcome to this service which will be led by Rev'd Sonya Wratten.

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 or. email the office with these details. Stay for tea and cakes afterwards. Donations of cakes welcome.

Everything you always wanted to know about Church

When I started this series of ramblings through the liturgy I had no idea either how many weeks it would take or when I would be leaving St Mary's. And yet, here we are, having reached the end of the liturgy in my final week. It is almost as if God knows the timings, even when we don't!

But before we come to the final prayers, blessing and dismissal it is worth mentioning silence. Everything we have done so far has been about words in one form or another. But, when we return to our seats having taken communion I urge you to take some time of silence with God, and even to revel in it. If you are worried or bored by silence then know that it won't be long before some more words will be along but, just for a moment, spend some quiet time with God giving thanks that the Holy Spirit who dwells within you has led you to communion, that God the Son now dwells within you in the sacrament and that both seek to lift you up to God the Father. It is a holy moment.

[Silence].

And then we give thanks, out loud, for this time of union with God and one another. First the priest says a 'prayer after communion' which changes each week and then we give thanks together. Our most commonly used prayer asks God to make us into 'living sacrifices' and that we should be sent out to live and work to his praise and glory. We shall come to the dismissal in a moment but even this prayer reminds us that this

time of communion which we have shared is not intended to be a purely private matter between us and God and which changes nothing about our lives outside the hour or so of each Sunday morning. On the contrary we are being prepared, equipped and transformed to be the people of God in our day to day lives. Each of us is still called to live as Christians in the world in the 6 days and 23 hours when we are not in church.

Then the priest pronounces God's blessing upon the congregation. The words of the blessing may change with the seasons but the intention is always the same: to convey and to remind everyone that the God we know and love as Father, Son and Holy Spirit loves us right back, that God dwells amongst us and within us, that we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. In a world which so often lacks love, belonging and togetherness, we are told, loud and clear, that we are deeply loved and blessed by the creator and upholder of all things. I usually make the sign of the cross during the blessing, which is a reminder both of the cross of Christ and of the trinitarian name in which we are blessed, and many choose to sign themselves with the cross in response. Again, there is nothing 'magical' about this but I would say that it is 'sacramental' in the sense of being an outward sign of that inner grace.

Finally, we reach the words of the dismissal, which may be said either by the priest or by another minister – next week they will be said by Kelly as our liturgical deacon. "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." We are reminded of the peace which we shared before

communion – that laying aside of enmity as a precursor of coming into God's presence. That peace is not meant to end as we exit the church. On the contrary we should extend our peace not just to those with whom we are in communion, but to all those around us. Christians should be known as people of peace. And we are going out not simply to return to our normal lives as if nothing had happened this morning – but we are sent out to love and serve the Lord. What does that look like for you? It doesn't have to mean working harder or taking on more commitments or rotas, but it does mean asking ourselves whether how we are living our lives is loving and serving the Lord. Take it to him in prayer and ask constantly to what you are called.

And we do it all in the name of Christ. Jesus, God the Son who stepped into creation and took on human form in order both to teach us what God looks like to us and also to show us the way back to God the Father. When we follow Christ, when we act in his name, we are all called into a future which is not guaranteed to be easy or pain-free but which is guaranteed to be the right way.

With that we all step into a future which is both unknown, and therefore slightly scary, but in which we also know that we are blessed by God, that we have entered into communion with him and that, whatever our circumstances, we are sent into the world by him and for him and in his name. That is something to hold onto!

Rev'd Paul

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.