

PCC & Ministry News: The PCC last met on 17th January 2018.

The date for the APCM has been set as **Sunday 8th April at 12:15pm and will be followed by a bring & share lunch.**

St Mary's Restoration Work – The stonework and clock restoration work are complete. Initial problems with the clock were due to electrical issues which have now been addressed. The final stage of this project is to pay the bills and reclaim the grant monies and VAT.

Finance - At the end of 2016 we had a balance of £87k. We hit a high of £117k in September and ended the year at £70k. Given the amount that has been spent, that is a healthy position following a tough year. Since the end of the year we have paid out a further £33k. We are not expecting any further large bills for these works and have yet to receive the grant money and VAT refund.

In 2017 we paid 100% of the Ministry Share expected of us and have agreed for 2018 to raise our annual Ministry Share to £47,600 to accommodate the 3% requested by the Diocese.

Charitable Giving– we reviewed the donations to charity made during 2017. The total was an amazing £8,545. There is not room to include the breakdown of charities in this newsletter but there is a copy on the Charities Noticeboard at the back of church and on the website.

Ministry – we acknowledged we have much to thank God for in 2017, most recently the very good feedback from Christmas – services & attendance, market, wreath festival, Christmas tree & baubles. We may hold a summer fete – for fun rather than funds

Fundraising – After an amazing response from congregation and village alike to our fund-raising activities during 2017, we intend to have less focus on direct fund-raising during 2018. We will, however, be looking at grant possibilities for the next phases of work

Our chosen Charity for January-February is Cornerstone Pregnancy Advice Centre www.pregnancyadvice.org.uk

This is a very local charity, a pregnancy advice centre based in Huntingdon. Their vision is to reach every woman in Huntingdonshire facing an unplanned pregnancy and offer her time, space and non-directive information in order that she can make a fully informed choice and to offer her on-going support, whatever decision she makes. Please take a look at the display at the back of St Mary's and pick up at baby's bottle to fill with coins during these two months.

Sunday 26th February 6pm - Benefice Open Ministry Meeting

An opportunity for all to come along and have your say in an informal setting. On the 4th Sunday of every month. Following by Night Prayer at 7pm.

St Mary's, The Parish Church of Buckden Newsletter : February 2018

Dear Friends,

I know we seem to say it all the time, but it is amazing how quickly time flies – February already!

And there is already much to give thanks to God for; including a moving presentation by Helen on behalf of our supported charity Cornerstone, several folk from both churches who have expressed interest in being confirmed, a memorable sermon on God and suffering from Miles and the news of Roger's appointment as part-time chaplain at Hinchingbrooke Hospital (bad news for us).

Further confirmation, if we needed it, that wishes to bless our church – as we allow him – see Luke 11.

Lent will shortly be with us. Details of the Lent course are listed below. Do try to make it a priority to join one of these or the study groups as Lent is a great opportunity to 'spring clean' and deepen our relationship with God and be more open to his blessing.

Yours in Christ,

Jes

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray:-

For the many people in our community who are unwell or who are grieving, that they may know God's blessing and healing.

For those considering confirmation, that God will bless them on that journey.

For those attending the Lent Courses from all the churches in the village, that we will enjoy meeting together and learn and experience more of God's love.



2018 LENT COURSE – based on The King's Speech.

There are two options this year for those wishing to take part in this course:-

Monday lunchtimes - BDCT study lunches (with soup lunch) 12.30pm at the Methodist Hall. Mondays starting 19th February.

Thursday evenings - 8.30pm study sessions at 7 Vineyard Way Thursdays starting 22nd February

contact Rev Jes for more info

DIARY Services and events in February 2018

all events & services take place in St Mary's unless otherwise indicated.

Every Week

Mondays	2.15pm	The Daily Office (daily prayers)
Tuesdays	1.30pm	The Daily Office (daily prayers)
Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cup of tea & chat
	10.30am	Going Deeper - a look at Sunday's readings
Thursdays	1.00pm	The Daily Office (daily prayers)
Fridays	9.15am	The Daily Office (daily prayers)
Saturdays	10.30am	Coffee & Cakes til noon

Sun 4	11:00am	Family Communion
	6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 11	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	11:00am	Morning Service
Weds 14	9.30am	ASH WEDNESDAY – holy communion and ashes
	7.30pm	M & Ms (favourite books at the vicarage)
Fri 16	6.45pm	Angel Voices (LSR)
Sun 18	11:00am	Family Communion
	6.00pm	Evensong
Wed 21	2.30pm	Friends in Deed Winter Tea Party (Methodist Ch)
Wed 21	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (LSR)
Fri 23	6.45pm	Angel Voices (LSR)
Sun 25	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion
	11:00am	All-age Family Communion (Thinking Day)
	6:00pm	Open ministry meeting – all welcome
	7:00pm	Night Prayer
Mon 26	1:30pm	Monthly Bible Study (LSR)

See separate article about this year's Lent Course

All are very welcome to come to our services and events.

There is also a 9.30am Sunday service each week at our sister church, All Saints' Offord Cluny.

The Closing Date for the March Newsletter is Sunday 18th February
Items by hand to Phil Mowat or to secretary@stmarysbuckden.org.uk .

St Mary's Church Buckden: contact information

The Vicarage, Church St, Buckden, St Neots, PE19 5TL

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Website www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Facebook: St Mary's Buckden

Twitter: @A1ChurchBuckden

Bookings enquiries@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Pastoral Care: Marilyn Rolin 07719 087215 pastoralcare@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Regular Activities – all welcome

St Mary's Bell-Ringers practice on Mondays at 8.15pm, visitors welcome.

Going Deeper: Mondays 8pm (vicarage) and Wednesdays 10.30am (LSR) looking at Sunday's bible readings.

Cup of tea and a chat?

Wednesdays 10 – 10.30am (after communion).

Jamworkx After-School Club Thursday. Booking via Buckden school.

Coffee & Cakes:

Saturdays 10.30am - noon LSR.

M & M's ladies' group (vicarage)

2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm

Open Ministry Meeting An open forum at 6pm on the 4th Sunday of each month

Bible study group

1.30pm on the last Monday each month (LSR)

Ground Floor Group discuss anything and everything. Twice a month 8pm - 10pm ending with Compline. Contact Lorraine 01480 811352 for dates

Angel Voices informal all age choir. Sings at our 4th Sunday all-age service and rehearses on the previous two Fridays 6.45pm Living Stones Room. Contact Chris 01480 812777 for details.

EVENTS – all welcome

M&Ms ladies' group

Wednesday 14th Feb 7.30pm

Favourite books - at the vicarage.

Friends in Deed: WINTER TEA PARTY

Wednesday 21st February

2.30pm – 4pm at the Methodist Church

Tea/coffee/cakes and chat

Thursday 1st March – Mad March

Munchies 1pm at Spicelands (£10)

look out for details & sign-up in church

Friday 2nd March 10.30am at St Mary's

BDCT Women's World Day of Prayer

"All God's Creation is Very Good!"

Come & take part in a creative short service written by the women of Suriname, South America. The focus is on caring for our world & its resources

Saturday 3rd March

Fundraisers Auction

at Buckden Village Hall.

Donations 9.00 – 9.45am only please.

(NO clothes, books, televisions or out of date computer equipment). Viewing 10.00 – 11.00am.

Auction begins promptly at 11am.

Refreshments available.

Details from Patsy on 810041.