

PCC & Ministry News: PCC last met on 16th January 2019

The date for the APCM has been set as **Sunday 14th April at 12:15pm and will be followed by a bring & share lunch.**

Christmas services were reviewed and were generally considered to have been very successful. Next year, the Christingle service will be moved back to Saturday and start it a bit later so that it is dark enough to enhance the candlelight; the Christmas Day service will be revised to be lighter in tone & more accessible to occasional attendees.

Outreach. The Youth Club has re-started after Christmas and is going well. Membership of the John Lewis token scheme should raise some money towards the purchase of table tennis and table football tables. This month we have another Holidays at Home day and church members are being particularly encouraged to bring a friend.

Friends-in-Deed are looking for volunteer drivers to transport people to hospital appointments and around the village. All you need is a driving licence, car, and a little spare time. Please contact Andy Scott (811468). The Winter Tea Party and Community Café both take place on 13th February.

Alpha course. We are starting to investigate the potential for running an Alpha course to bring new people to Jesus. It would be probably start in the autumn and any support from church members would be welcome.

Building. The Parish Council are repairing the church paths this month. A faculty has been granted to install new lighting in the porch and the work should hopefully begin in March. The open area at the back of church will be carpeted to make it more welcoming and child-friendly. No action will be taken on chairs as yet. We are actively pursuing the provision of wi-fi in the church which offers potential for IT mentoring & electronic donation. Possible options for the vestry wall are still being investigated.

Charities:

Our chosen charity for January-February is MAGPAS www.magpas.org.uk

Magpas Air Ambulance brings crucial lifesaving care by land and air to patients in life-threatening emergencies. Based in Cambridgeshire, their enhanced medical team receives advanced training which allows them to offer procedures and treatments at the scene. They support the ambulance service and give medical care when time is of the essence. This means that the frontline care the team delivers doesn't just save lives, it helps seriously ill and injured people to return to a good quality of life. Magpas Air Ambulance is not a state-funded service & relies on generous public donations to continue saving lives. Thank you in advance for your generosity. **If you have any books that you would like to donate to a bookstall in aid of MAGPAS, please leave them under the Magpas charity display.**

FAIRTRADE STALL in church on Sunday Feb 24th & Sunday March 3rd. Coffee, chocolate, biscuits & much more. Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love.

St Mary's, The Parish Church of Buckden Newsletter : February 2019

Dear Friends,

Almost all the letters written by St Paul start with thanks to God for the churches to which he is writing. Even those churches he will later criticize are warmly commended, often for their love for God and care for each other.

At the start of 2019, I find myself in a similar position to St Paul. Not in the sense of wanting to be critical. But with a sense of thankfulness for our communities both at St Mary's and All Saints. As I look around our church each Sunday I 'thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you', as Paul wrote to the church in Rome. We know we are not perfect, but the desire to worship and serve and the care we have for each other, including the Priest in Charge, is humbling. Thank you and may we go still deeper in 2019.

Life never stands still and as a church we know we need to change if we are to continue to flourish. We have started a discussion to explore how we can be more relevant to our community. This can be both scary and exciting but is necessary, so please do let myself, Anne, David or any member of the PCC know if you have any ideas or insights as to how we can more effectively worship and serve.

Yours in Christ, *Jes*

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray:-

For our government and parliament, that wise decisions may be made about Brexit.

For 'Holidays at Home', that many will come, particularly from outside the church.

For our friends at All Saints, as they continue the preliminary work necessary for the repairs to the roof and refurbishment of the church.

For the PCC, as they seek to lead and serve the church in a way that honours God.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday June 8th Open Gardens & Fun Day.

Help please –

We need jars of homemade jam, marmalade and chutney, plants, books, toys and games in good condition for our stalls. If you wish to donate now, please see Jane Salt.

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL FOR 2019 - Every 6 years churches have to prepare a new electoral roll (in effect its list of members) from scratch. This year EVERYONE needs to fill in a new form. It doesn't matter whether you were on a previous electoral roll. There are forms at the back of church. Completed forms can be handed to the churchwardens or left in the box at the back of church.

DIARY Services and events in February 2019

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

Sat 2	10:00am	Cleaning Crew
Sun 3	11:00am	Family Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
Sun 10	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	11:00am	Morning Service
Weds 13	2.30pm	Community Café (LSR)
	2.30pm	Friends in Deed Winter Tea Party (Methodist Hall)
	7.30pm	M&Ms Ladies' music evening (vicarage)
	7.30pm	PCC (vicarage)
Fri 15	6.45pm	Angel Voices rehearsal (LSR)
Sun 17	11:00am	Family Communion
	6.00pm	Evensong
Fri 22	6.45pm	Angel Voices rehearsal (LSR)
Sun 24	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion
	11:00am	All-age Communion – Fairtrade stall after the service
	6:00pm	Open ministry meeting – all welcome
	7:00pm	Night Prayer
Mon 25	12.30pm	Holidays at Home (Methodist Hall)
	1:15pm	Monthly Bible Study (LSR)
Thurs 28	1:00pm	February Feast at Spiceland

Every Week - all are welcome to join us for any of these activities, just come along

Mondays	2.15pm	The Daily Office (daily prayers)
	8.15pm	Bell-ringing practice
Tuesdays	2.15pm	The Daily Office (daily prayers)
Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cup of tea & chat
	10.30am	Going Deeper - studying the book of Revelation
Thursdays	2.15pm	The Daily Office (daily prayers)
	3.15pm	Jamworkx After-School Club (Buckden School)
	7.00pm	youth@thetowers Youth Club at Buckden Towers
Fridays	2.15pm	The Daily Office (daily prayers)
Saturdays	10.30am	Coffee & Cakes til noon

There is a 9.30am Sunday service at our sister church All Saints Offord Cluny

The Closing Date for the March Newsletter is Sunday 17th February
Items by hand to Phil Mowat or to secretary@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

St Mary's Church Buckden: contact information

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

Cleaning Crew in St Mary's
 Saturday 2nd from 10am. Please come and lend a hand

Friends in Deed Winter Tea Party
 Wednesday 13th 2.30-4pm at the Methodist Church

Community Cafe
 Wednesday 13th 2.30-4pm Living Stones Room, All welcome

M&Ms Ladies Group – Design talk
 Wed 13th 7.30pm Vicarage

Open Meeting Buckden & Offords
 Sunday 24th at 6pm; ends with Night Prayer at 7pm.

Monthly Bible Study Group
 Monday 25th 1.15pm in LSR

Holidays at Home: Here we are again
 club for the retired but young at heart
 Monday 25th 12.30-4pm in the Methodist Hall. £3 entry includes soup lunch, tea & cakes. Booking forms from Church

February Feast Time at Spiceland
 Thurs 28th meet 12.45pm for 1pm. Sign-up sheet at back of church

COMING UP NEXT MONTH

Friday 1st March 11.00am at St Hugh's
World Day of Prayer: Come - Everything is Ready! from Slovenia.

Saturday 2nd March Fundraisers Auction at Buckden Village Hall. Donations 9.00 – 9.45am only. (NO clothes, books, televisions or out of date computer equipment). Viewing 10.00 – 11.00am.
Auction begins promptly at 11am.
 Details from Patsy on 810041

Saturday 9th March 7.30pm
Hinchingsbrooke Rising Stars Concert

Annual Parochial Church Meeting & Election of Churchwardens
Sunday 14th April 2019 at 12.15am followed by a BRING & SHARE LUNCH.

All are welcome to the meetings and the lunch. Those on the church or civic electoral roll may vote in the election of churchwardens. Those on the church electoral roll may vote in the PCC elections. There will be sign-up lists for the various volunteer roles; forms for electoral roll, PCC, churchwarden and Deanery Synod nominations at the back of church during March.