

Useful Contacts

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| Priest in Charge | The Revd. Jes Salt (819377) priestincharge@stmarysbuckden.org.uk |
| Secretary | Philip Mowat (811254) secretary@stmarysbuckden.org.uk |
| Churchwardens | |
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| Find us online: | |
| St Mary's | www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk Twitter: @A1ChurchBuckden Facebook: St Mary's Buckden |
| All Saints | allsaintsoffordcluny.wordpress.com Facebook: All Saints Offord Cluny |
| Friends in Deed | 07810 006598 |

Items for the pew sheet should be sent to the Priest in Charge or secretary by 9am on the previous Tuesday

FURTHER NOTICES

St Mary's chosen charity for November and December is Brain Tumour Research

<https://www.braintumourresearch.org/>

Brain tumours are indiscriminate; they can affect anyone at any age. They kill more children and adults under 40 than any other cancer. Brain Tumour Research is determined to change this. This is the only national charity in the UK that is dedicated to raising funds for continuous and sustainable scientific research. To donate please use this link. Thanks for your support.
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StMarysBuckden>

Godmanchester Foodbank is an ongoing project and support during these extraordinary times is needed more than ever. More information at -

<https://godmanchester.foodbank.org.uk/>

St Mary's is both a collection point and a voucher holder for the bank throughout the year. If you need help contact Rev Jes Salt on 819377. Cash donations also welcome via the foodbank website. All non-perishable food gratefully received. Collection points - on the doorstep of the vicarage, please ring the bell then step back - Nisa Buckden as well as Budgens Offord Cluny.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal is still going ahead. Subject, of course, to lockdown restrictions being eased, Buckden Methodist Church now plan to be open from 2-4.30pm on Mondays 7 & 14 and Friday 11 December to drop off completed and empty boxes as well as donations of items and money. **Please however, look at the Methodist Church noticeboard for updated information as and when news occurs.** Full details from Carol Swepstone (810053)

December and Christmas 2020 – Subject to the current lockdown ending our next scheduled services will be on Sunday 6 December, which is the Second Sunday of Advent at 9.30am in All Saints' (All Age Family Service) and at 11am in St Mary's (Family Communion). This year we will be unable to run our large regular events, Carols by Candlelight in St Peter's, Christingle, Buckden Village Carol and Crib Services. **Subject to the current temporary lockdown ending we also still hope to be celebrating Communion on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning but a reminder that pre booking for these services will be essential.** (More notices overleaf)

The Benefice of Buckden & the Offords

Sunday 15 November 2020

(Second Sunday before Advent)

Dear Friends

I am delighted that Miles is once again preaching at our online service today. As you will hear he is speaking on the parable of the talents. One of his points is that we all have gifts and abilities we can use in God's services. One of the most important of those gifts is the ability to pray. I am sure that many of us are concerned by the rate of Covid spread as well as many other aspects of our world that need our prayer. As most of you will know the Archbishops have asked us to dedicate this period of lockdown as a time of prayer. With thanks to Richard and Fiona I attach a booklet headed 'Thy Kingdom Come' which I hope may provide us with some helpful prayer pointers. More material is available on the Church of England website.

Many blessings and enjoy today's service.

Jes

A prayer about the corona virus

Father God, as people and nations of the world, help us to realise our dependence upon one another. We pray for healing among the sick, wisdom among our leaders, protection and effectiveness for health workers, and responsible behaviour by each of us as individuals. Most of all, Lord, we pray that you dispel our fears, for you 'did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline' (2 Tim 1:7). For Jesus's sake. Amen.

Prayer of the week (collect)

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after communion

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Gospel Reflection

Today's gospel makes it very clear that far more is expected of us. We are expected to make an active and positive contribution to the work of the Kingdom and to the Christian community as the Body of Christ. In practice, that might mean taking an active part in our Church, in our parish, volunteering for social justice initiatives etc. So, it is important for us to spend some time reflecting on what are my unique 'talents' or gifts or abilities and then to ask to what end I am using them?

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| Prayer Corner  | Please pray in Offord for: Farming communities around the village. | and in Buckden for: Mayfield, Springfield Close, The Osiers, Stirtloe |
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NOTICES

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS COVID-19 – In order to comply please note that all scheduled services and events (other than virtual on-line) are now **cancelled until the beginning of December.**

During Lockdown 2 we will be distributing by email the pewsheets every week and assure you that we will also continue with our weekly online service. Please follow the links from the St Mary's and All Saints' websites if you wish to view our on-line service each Sunday.

We are delighted to advise you that St Mary's is now open for private prayer on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am until 4.00pm. Please follow the usual social distancing guidelines and always wear a face mask.

Saturday 14 November from 11.00am-11.40am - Virtual Saturday coffee – Also Saturday 21 November. Please note the Zoom meeting details- ID: 798 1012 3003 Password: 6WMstJ. Repeats weekly until 28 November or further notice.

Need someone to talk to? Friends in Deed provide support & friendship (by telephone only for the moment) **and is still running.** Just call 07810 006598 to speak to our friends' co-ordinator.

Daily Zoom proposal - As we now enter a second period of lockdown, we are investigating the potential for a daily Zoom meeting that would be open to all church members, whether they wanted to actively participate or just watch and make the occasional comment. The initial suggestion is that each session would start at 7.00 pm and last the 40 minutes that the free version of Zoom allows. Each session would always end with a few minutes of closing prayer led by Jes. The bulk of each session could cover any subject of general interest (study of bible passages, cookery, social issues etc) and be led by anybody wanting to take on the task; perhaps there could be a different topic each day. We would be grateful if you could feed any thoughts back to David Pickavance on whether or not you think you might like to join in and whether you would like to lead a topic of your choice one evening each week. Help with using Zoom will be available for anybody who needs it.

(Further notices Overleaf)

This Sunday's Readings

Please note that each reader has the freedom to choose their preferred version so the following may not match 'word for word'.

1 Thess. 5.1-11 - Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,¹ you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved,⁵ are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁶for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁷So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁸for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁹But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ¹⁰For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹¹who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹²Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. (NRSV)

Matthew 25. 14-30 - ¹⁴ 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents,¹⁶ to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁷The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁸In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁹But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ²⁰After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²¹Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²²His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²³And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²⁴His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁵Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁶so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁷But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁸Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁹So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ³⁰For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³¹As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (NRSV)