

PCC & Ministry News:

The PCC met on June 9th and July 13th 2021.

The next meeting will be on 7th September 2021.

Ministry:

We welcome our new priest-in-charge, Revd David Sheppard, who will be licensed on the 27th July. Our regular services will continue at 9.30 am each Wednesday and 11.00 am each Sunday but, with effect from 19th July, you will no longer need to book to attend the Sunday service, all pews will be available for use and we will return to singing. However, out of respect for the nervousness of some of our members, we will continue to ask that all attendees wear face masks, even when singing, and hand sanitiser will continue to be available. We will continue to review this policy and we are developing our thoughts on how best to re-introduce refreshments on Saturday mornings, after Wednesday and Sunday services, and for the Friends-in-Deed Community Cafe. We will keep you posted.

Building:

Work on the vestry is progressing well.

Safeguarding:

DBS renewals are moving from 5 years to 3 years. This means an increased workload towards the end of the year as both 3 and 5 year renewals (and anything in between) will need to be processed.

Giving:

We have not been passing round the collection plates during the period of COVID restrictions and some of our church membership, who don't already use our regular giving scheme, have asked how they can give. Please contact either of the churchwardens (Vas Mowat or David Pickavance) our Treasurer (Peter Mount) or our Planned Giving secretary (Ian Carter) for advice.

Charity nominations:

If you would like to nominate a charity (and provide advertising / support) for the forthcoming cycle, please contact any PCC member or email

PCC@stmarysbuckden.org.uk During the summer, we will continue to support the Godmanchester Foodbank. There is a box by the font for any food donations.

Pastoral Care:

If you or anybody you know wants someone to talk to or share an issue with in the strictest confidence, please contact our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator Marilyn Rolin at pastoralcare@stmarysbuckden.org.uk or telephone on 07719 087215.

St Mary's The Parish Church of Buckden Newsletter: July - August 2021

Dear Friends

We are now entering a phase in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic which will bring mixed emotions. Some people will welcome the freedom to be gained with the removal of legal limitations while others will be very nervous about the potential impact on their health and that of friends and family. It is clear from watching the news that even our trusted experts are unsure of exactly how the rates of infection, hospitalization and death will develop, and you will see the resulting caution in our approach. Therefore, please continue to thank God for all that he has done for us through our medical and scientific communities and pray for wisdom for our leaders that they might make the right decisions for the health and welfare of our nation and communities.

We will formally welcome our new Priest-in-Charge, Revd David Sheppard, at his licensing ceremony in St Mary's on 27th July, led by Bishop Stephen. All members of the St Mary's and All Saints churches have the opportunity to join Deanery, Diocesan and local guests along with David's family, friends and former colleagues from Ware at this service. Once licensed, we look forward to David's ministry and leadership of our church community, and the development of even closer ties with our school and wider community. Finally, although Christian Aid week is now over, envelopes are still available in the church.

Yours in Christ, *Vas & David*



PRAYER CORNER PLEASE PRAY....

For our school. For rest and relaxation for the staff and pupils after an extremely stressful and taxing year; that they may return next term refreshed and ready to develop the youth into our thriving community of the future.

For Revd David Sheppard as he helps us to grow in faith and to serve our community

For our planet. For guidance on how our whole community can work together to protect and heal this precious Earth that God created for us to care for, and Jesus came to save along with us who inhabit it.

For our world nations. As we struggle to understand why and how so many parts of our world are in such turmoil, we ask for God's guidance to see what small contribution we can make to help ease suffering and pain, to make a difference.

St Mary's Church Buckden: contact information The Vicarage, Church St, Buckden, St Neots, PE19 5TL

Priest-in Charge

Rev David Sheppard 01480 819377 priestincharge@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Churchwardens

David Pickavance 07902 867603 david.pickavance@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Vas Mowat 07535 922829 vas.mowat@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

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

Safeguarding: Sammy Riley 07720 244255 safeguarding@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Friends in Deed: Angie Bruce 07810 006598

Church Opening arrangements

St Mary's is currently open at the following times:-

Sunday 11am Family Service

Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion

Days and times may change, and numbers are limited, so please check before visiting. Please comply with the safety measures in place and always wear a mask / face-covering in church.

Virtual worship, prayer and support continues

During the pandemic, we found many ways to be together (virtually) and give support and encouragement to one another. These activities are continuing alongside the services that we hold in church.

Phone, message and email your individual friends, neighbours and family members.

Explore our Website www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk

"Like" our Facebook page: St Mary's Buckden

Follow us on Twitter @A1ChurchBuckden

Subscribe to our YouTube channel: St Mary's Buckden

Join our email distribution list: If you would like to receive regular emails from us with pewsheets, newsletters, service sheets and sermons, please email your request to consent@stmarysbuckden.org.uk and we will add you to the distribution list.

Sunday Service on YouTube streamed on YouTube at 11am each Sunday and available as a recording thereafter.

Saturdays – join our Virtual Saturday Coffee Session via Zoom at 11am each Saturday. Meeting ID:798-1012-3003 Password: 6WWMstJ

If you cannot access any of our online resources, please do let us know.

Licensing Service for Revd David Sheppard

7.00 pm on 27th July

For the licensing service, we are taking advantage of the relaxation of social distancing requirements recently announced by the Government. However, we are not planning to fill the church to capacity; rather, we will spread people out a little, just not the 2 meters that we have been used to. We will still provide plenty of ventilation. Also, we will require attendees to still wear masks, other than those leading the service. We will be singing hymns but with masks on.

For those who would feel uncomfortable with those arrangements, and for people who can't be accommodated, we will be streaming the service on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-V2wN1QxhL6XLkMLHpOLg>
If you wish to attend the licensing service, and haven't already responded to David Pickavance's email, please contact him at david.pickavance1@outlook.com.



St Mary's is both a collection point and a voucher holder for Godmanchester Foodbank. If you are in need of help or support, please contact Anne Carter on 07779 651974.

Cash donations can be made online via the foodbank website

Food donations (non-perishable) can be made via the collection boxes in:-
- St Mary's (see overleaf for opening times); Nisa Buckden; Budgens Offord Cluny



There are times in our lives when we could all do with a little extra support or companionship whatever our age or circumstance.

Need someone to talk to?

Call our co-ordinator, Angie, on 07810 006598 and she connect you with one of our volunteers.

Need a lift to an appointment? Call or email our transport co-ordinator peter.mount@btconnect.com 07914 669967 giving 48 hours' notice if possible (24 hours minimum). Leave your name, number, address and details of your appointment (date, time, location).

Closing Date for the September Newsletter is Sunday 22nd August.

Items by hand to Phil Mowat or by email to secretary@stmarysbuckden.org.uk