



Bulletin

The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger and Farnham
Sunday 11th February 2018 - Sunday next before Lent

'MEET THE BIBLE' AT ST JOHN'S - SATURDAY 24TH

FEBRUARY AT 10am TO NOON (REFRESHMENTS FROM 9.30am)

Our rector is going to be running this one-off introduction to the Bible, to which everyone is invited. Those people attending 'Mark on Monday' and 'Acts in the Afternoon', Bible study sessions have been inspired by Paul's knowledge (and love) of the Bible, and here is your chance to hear Paul talk about this amazing Book.

To make it even more exciting, we are serving bacon rolls and tea/coffee beforehand! Looking forward to seeing you. It would be helpful, but not essential, to let Kathy know if you are planning to come (just to make sure we have enough bacon butties). Kathy (816293/kewest@btinternet.com)

ELECTORAL ROLL

It is that time of year when the Electoral Roll is updated for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which this year will be on Monday 12th March. If you would like to be included on, the Electoral Roll application forms can be found on the Sidesmen table or obtained from Ann Conroy. Please return the completed form by the 18th Feb to Ann Conroy, Electoral Roll Officer (812457)

THE HARMONAIRES CHOIR CONCERT AT ST JOHN'S

'THE WIDE OPEN SPACES'

Saturday 3rd March at 7pm.

A fundraising concert for St John's Church Hall – so please support it. **There will be a bar and raffle.** Tickets at £10 (£6 students) are available from the Church Office (815243) or on the door.

HELLO FROM CONNECT 120!

This term sees our volunteers really starting to find their feet. We are about to start a lunch club in one primary school, playing board games with Year 3. I'm going to have to control my competitive nature! We are entering the last phase of an after school club in Stansted, where Rev Paul Wilkin and I have been working with a group of Year 2 pupils who are learning about the Christian faith. In Dunmow two volunteers have taken part in Year 9 lessons, answering questions on the local church and also in Dunmow, plans are underway for the two primary schools to make Remembrance Day quilts commemorating the 100 years since the end of the First World War. We're starting to get busy, which is great. If you have any ideas of ways that Connect 120 can help in your community, or you would like offer your time and expertise as a volunteer, please contact us on tara@connect120.org.uk. Our aim is to encourage people to be active members of the community, resulting in everyone feeling that they belong and are supported.

Tara Russell (School and Community Missioner)

DEANERY WALKS 2018

This year's theme is '**Suffer the children to come unto me**'. The walks will highlight schools & buildings that were once schools, nurseries, playgrounds and areas where children are much in evidence. The first walk of the 2018 season will be this **Saturday 17th February at 9am** at St Mary the Virgin, Lindsell CM6 3QR. As always after the walk light refreshments will be available and a short prayer said for the church. The walks do go across fields and open countryside so please stress that suitable footwear should be worn. Dogs on leads are very welcome. *Belle Beszant*

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

A local and vocal member of our Church said once that opportunity to eat together would be a good thing, for all sorts of reasons. This stuck in my mind even though it was during the Lent course about 5 years ago! So how's about this for a suggestion? Form a Dining Group called '**SIX FOR DINNER**' (for want of a better title). One person buys, cooks and presents a meal to five guests. Next time, one of the guests hosts the event, and so on. So how does this raise funds? Well we all like to eat out, but the cost can be very high. So if we all (six) pay a modest £25 (for a spread that might cost £45 commercially) and the cost is only £10 then there's a contribution of £15 to Church funds; that's £90 per table of six. And if 2 people host the event (in the same location) that's £180 for 2 tables and £270 if three people host it! That's fundraising!! So, who's kidding who, where do we get a spread for £10? Have a look at this costing, all based on ALDI prices today:

Cheese and biscuits £0.30, Chicken casserole £1.83, Coffee £0.30, Prawn cocktail £0.97, Nibbles £0.23, Wine (half bottle) £3.50, A brandy £0.47, Gin&Tonic £0.82, A pudding £0.85. **Total £9.27** Of course there are problems and difficulties: Our house isn't big enough for 6 let alone 12 or more people. So perhaps we use the Hall. I'm not smart enough to cook. OK so team up with someone who is. We haven't got enough furniture. Perhaps we can use the Hall furniture. I don't want a brandy. There's some who will enjoy two. I don't want all that food/drink. We'll make portions smaller. I don't like prawns. Tough! etc etc. But these are to be overcome in the greater interest of having a jolly good night out in pleasant company. Any one up for this or a similar bash. The menu is only a suggestion. Liz thinks it's such a good idea, I can run the first one and she won't be late! *Ray Smith*

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Keep the day free! On Friday 2nd March the WWDP service will take place at St Theresa's Church, Stansted at 1.30pm. Everyone welcome to join us. Refreshments afterwards. Do come along.

CTS LENT COURSE 'FEAST OR FAMINE?'

This is a 5week Lent course that considers the practical issues of economic austerity vs plenty in modern Britain & beyond. How can we understand the inequalities of today in light of core Gospel themes, and how can Christians respond? There is a book accompanying the course which those attending are invited to purchase at Amazon for £5.99. The course will start on 20th February and will run from 7.30-9pm on five Tuesdays in Lent in St Theresa's Church Centre. Each week the leader will be from a different church. The weekly themes are:

- Spending or Saving? (20th February)
- Hunger or Satisfaction? (27th February)
- Health or Wealth? (6th March)
- Security or Insecurity? (13th March)
- Cutting or Investing? (20th March)

If you would like a cup of tea or coffee, get there a bit earlier. If you need a lift, contact Kathy West (816293/kewest@btinternet.com).

BIRCHANGER SPECIAL:

*Coffee Morning at Morswood **Tuesday 13th February at 10.30am**

*We will be undertaking a special service on the **18th Feb at 7pm** for those who are interested in meditation, prayer & mindfulness.

*AGM - **Sunday 18th of March** immediately after the service.

11th FEBRUARY - SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**Hymns:** 544, 690, 463, 600, 479**Anthem:** Jesus the very thought**Bible Readings:**

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4.3-6

Reader: Malcolm Lloyd

Gospel: Mark 9.2-9

Interceder: Roland Pelly

Traditional Collect

Almighty Father,
 whose Son was revealed in majesty
 before he suffered death upon the cross:
 give us grace to perceive his glory,
 that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
 and be changed into his likeness, from glory to
 glory; who liveth and reigneth with thee,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amen.

14th FEBRUARY - ASH WEDNESDAY**Hymns:** 27, 465, Back of folders, 237, 643**Anthem:** Drop drop slow tears

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Reader: Derek Honour

Gospel: Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

18th FEBRUARY - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**Bible Readings:**

Reading: Genesis 9.8-17

Reader: Alastair Bone

Gospel: Mark 1.9-15

Interceder: Stella Skingle

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who are sick, especially Lily Suckling, Tricia Walters, Alfie Jones, Baby Tilly, that they will have God's healing and peace as they need it and that their families and friends will know God's strength as they support them.

Those who have recently died, especially Ivan Charles Mascall and Tony Butcher, for their friends and families, and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

Today is 'Racial Justice Sunday'. Today is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of racial justice, to give thanks for human diversity, and pray for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice, Pray too for the work of the Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Group.

Please send any material to be shared in the next bulletin or requests for the prayer list to the Parish Administrator by 9am on Friday 16th February. Anything coming after this time will be forwarded to the next week. Thank you.

**Bible Readings
for the Week Ahead**

Mon 12 th Feb	Psalm 30 Genesis 37.1-11
Tue 13 th Feb	Psalm 36 Genesis 37.12-end
Wed 14 th Feb Ash Wednesday	Psalm 38 Daniel 9.3-6,17-19
Thu 15 th Feb	Psalm 77 Genesis 39
Fri 16 th Feb	Psalm 3 Genesis 40
Sat 17 th Feb	Psalm 71 Genesis 41.1-24

Thoughts to accompany these readings are published as "Reflections for Daily Prayer" available as a book or smartphone app. If you have problems obtaining a copy the Rector would be glad to help.

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**St John's****Mon to Thurs & Sat 5pm** - Evening Prayers**Tuesday 9.15am** - St John's Tots**Wednesday 9am** - Morning Prayers**10am** - Holy Communion**8pm** - Ash Wednesday Service**Thursday 10.30am** - Coffee Pot**Sunday 8am** - Holy Communion**9.30am** - Sung Eucharist**St Mary's Birchanger****Sunday 11.15am** - Family Service**St Mary's Farnham****Sunday 11am** - Holy Communion**Rector:** Revd Paul Wilkinstansted.rector@googlemail.com / 01276 812203**Director of Music:** Anne Brooksanne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk / 01279 504062**Parish Administrator - Church Office:**

Barbora Dragoskova

st.johns.church@btinternet.com / 01279 815243

(Office Hours: Mon, Weds, Fri 9am-12noon)

Church Hall (Bookings and Administration):stjohns.hallbookings@gmail.com / 07582 856689