



Bulletin

The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger and Farnham
Sunday 18th February 2018 - First Sunday of 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

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.

THE HARMONAIRES CHOIR CONCERT

'WIDE OPEN SPACES'

Saturday 3rd March at 7pm at St John's Church.

A fundraising concert for St John's Church Hall, please support it.

There will be a bar and raffle.

Tickets at £10 (£6 students) are available from the Church Office (815243), on the door or from *Liz Jennings*.

CTS LENT COURSE 'FEAST OR FAMINE?'

This is five week 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, please contact me.

Kathy West (816293/ kewest@btinternet.com).

BIRCHANGER SPECIAL

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

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

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	Coffee	£0.30
Chicken casserole	£1.83	Nibbles	£0.23
Prawn cocktail	£0.97	A brandy	£0.47
Wine (half bottle)	£3.50	A pudding	£0.85
Gin&Tonic	£0.82	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*

REQUEST FOR RAFFLE PRIZES

Ann Conroy and June Winter have kindly agreed to run the raffle at the Harmonaires fundraising concert. If you have any suitable prizes (unwanted Christmas presents?) could they please let Ann or June have them or bring to church. Thank you. *Liz Jennings*

18th FEBRUARY - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Hymns: 202, 43, 169, 558, 36

Anthem: 'Comfort O Lord' Crotch

Bible Readings:

Reading: Genesis 9.8-17

Reader: Alastair Bone

Gospel: Mark 1.9-15

Interceder: Stella Skingle

Traditional Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ did fast forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to thy Spirit;
and, as thou knowest our weakness,
so may we know thy power to save;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

25th FEBRUARY – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Bible Readings:

Reading: Romans 4.13-25

Reader: John Jaques

Gospel: Mark 8.31-38

Interceder: Elizabeth Jennings

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 **Norman Charles Proctor, Ivan Charles Mascall and Tony Butcher**, for their friends and families, and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.*

*In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we are asked to **pray for the success of the Bishop's Lent Appeal this year, that people may be moved to give generously.***

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 23rd February**. Anything coming after this time will be forwarded to the next week. Thank you.

Bible Readings for the Week Ahead

Mon 19 th Feb	Psalms 11 Genesis 41.25-45
Tue 20 th Feb	Psalms 44 Genesis 41.46-42.5
Wed 21 st Feb	Psalms 6 Genesis 42.6-17
Thu 22 nd Feb	Psalms 42 Genesis 42.18-28
Fri 23 rd Feb	Psalms 22 Genesis 42.29-end
Sat 24 th Feb	Psalms 63 Genesis 43.1-15

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 Stansted

Mon to Thurs & Sat 5pm - Evening Prayers

Tuesday 9.15am - St John's Tots

Wednesday 9am - Morning Prayers

10am - Holy Communion

Thursday 10.30am - Coffee Pot

Saturday 10am - 'Meet the Bible'

Sunday 8am - Holy Communion

9.30am - Sung Eucharist

St Mary's Birchanger

Sunday 11.15am - Holy Communion

St Mary's Farnham

Sunday 11am - Matins

Rector: Revd Paul Wilkin

stansted.rector@googlemail.com / 01276 812203

Director of Music: Anne Brooks

anne.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