



Bulletin



The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger and Farnham

Sunday 4th March 2018 – Third Sunday of Lent

**ST JOHN'S MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

These meetings will take place in the church

at 8pm on Monday, 12th March.

Church wardens and PCC members will be elected.

This is also your chance to have your say about matters relating to our church, so please do come. Everyone is welcome, although only electoral roll members may vote.

Kathy West, PCC Secretary, St John's Church

TRAIDCRAFT EASTER EGGS

This year Easter falls on 1st April. I have ordered some Fairtrade Easter eggs. The milk chocolate eggs are £3.99 each, which is the same as last year. Each egg contains an Easter story leaflet and a bag of chocolate buttons. Please support Traidcraft by purchasing these eggs as it will help the small-scale farmers and producers to trade their way out of poverty. *Jean Newson*

ACTS IN THE AFTERNOON – AT THE RECTORY

Please note "Acts in the Afternoon" (Bible Study house group usually held at my house on Mondays 1.30-3.00pm) will be held at the Rectory tomorrow, Monday 5th March just for one week. Everyone will be most welcome – even if you haven't been before. Bring your Bible. *Kathy West*

MUSIC@STANSTED

7.30pm Saturday 10th March at St John's Church

Chenyin Li (piano)

Rachmaninov * Beethoven * Stravinsky

Tickets: adults £15 / over 60's & students £12, available on the door or from *Sonia Levy (815282)*

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the February draw:

£100 No: 236 Elaine Ballard

£50 No: 53 Nicola Ward

£25 No: 55 Matt Cope

The next draw will be on Sunday 25th March following the 9.30am service. Numbers are still available for anyone who may wish to join at a cost of £2 per month per number. Please contact me for an application form if you would like to be in with a chance of winning whilst helping to support the work of St John's Church. *Ann Lee (813310)*

FUNDRAISING EVENT for the Stroke Association

10.30am-4.30pm Saturday 17th March

at 49 St John's Road, Stansted (Keith and Sandra's House)

Entrance £1 including Tea/Coffee

Raffle – Tombola – Craft Stall

Bric-a-Brac – Homemade cakes and Jams

Our Son David is running the London Marathon. Please support him. Thank you. *Keith & Sandra Ayres (814471)*

BIRCHANGER SPECIAL

*We have our APCM on the **18th March** after the morning service. Church wardens and PCC will be elected. This is your chance to have a say about our church.

***19th March at 10:30-12noon** open church, coffee and company, tea and a natter all welcome.

*Date for the diary Courtyard Quartet will perform a Juke box of music in the church hall with a fish / chicken / veg chip supper **21st April** more info to follow in the next few weeks.

'SIX FOR DINNER' FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

This Fundraising initiative seems to be moving forward. Just to remind you, I suggested forming a Dining Group called 'SIX FOR DINNER' (for want of a better title). One person buys ingredients, then cooks and presents a meal to five guests. Each guest pays £25. I reckon that with a bit of careful shopping, a very acceptable three course meal with wine can be provided for £10 a head, with the balance going to church funds. Of course, I realise that not everyone has a talent for cooking, but most of us enjoy eating.

So I have left a list at the back of church for you to sign up to say if you would like to be a host (and cook) or a guest (and eat) or both of course! As soon as we get enough people we can start grouping people together for the first round of meals. And it doesn't have to be in the evening – maybe some people might prefer a lunchtime event. *Ray S.*

CTS LENT COURSE – FEAST OR FAMINE

The second session (Hunger or Satisfaction?) of our 5-week Lent Course took place on Tuesday. This was led by Howard and Ros Page from the Family Church. The next session on 6th March (Health or Wealth) will be led by the Free Church and will take place at St Therese's Church Centre at 7.30pm (come a bit earlier if you would like a cup of tea/coffee). The last two sessions will be led by the Catholics (13th March) and last, but by no means least, our Rector Paul will take the final session on 20th March. Please feel free to come to any of the sessions - each one stands alone, so don't worry if you are only able to make one or two of them. *Kathy West*

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

4TH MARCH - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**Hymns:** 362, 549, 382, 224, 19**Bible Readings:**

Reading: Exodus 20.1-17

Reader: Anthony Minshull

Gospel: John 2.13-22

Interceder: Peter Jones

Traditional Collect

Almighty God,
 whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he
 suffered pain,
 and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
 mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the
 cross,
 may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
 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.**

11TH MARCH - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**Bible Readings:**

Reading: Numbers 21.4-9

Reader: Margaret Chastney

Gospel: John 19.25-27

Interceder: Janet Wilkin

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

*Those who are sick, especially **Eddie Laird, Lily Suckling and Tricia Walters from Stansted, Alfie Jones, Tilly Murphy from Birchanger and Crystal Cock from Farnham**, 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 **Joanne Welsh, Barbara Wilson, and Tony Butcher from Stansted, and Geoffrey Ensor and Sharon Horne from Birchanger**, for their friends and families, and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, especially **Inga Shervigton, Robert William Foster and John Newby**.*

*In the Anglican cycle of prayer we are asked to **pray that we will daily continue to look and listen for God in our lives during this holy season of Lent.***

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 9th March**. Anything coming after this time will be forwarded to the next week. Thank you.

**Bible Readings
for the Week Ahead**

Mon 05 Mar	Psalm 5 Genesis 47.1-27
Tue 06 Mar	Psalm 9 Genesis 47.28-48.end
Wed 07 Mar	Psalm 38 Genesis 49.1-32
Thu 08 Mar	Psalm 56 Genesis 49.33-50.end
Fri 09 Mar	Psalm 22 Exodus 1.1-14
Sat 10 Mar	Psalm 31 Exodus 1.22-2.10

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**Sunday 8am** - Holy Communion**9.30am** - Sung Eucharist**St Mary's Birchanger****Sunday 11.15am** - Holy Communion**St Mary's Farnham****Sunday 4pm** - Family Service**Rector:** Revd Paul Wilkin 01279 812203stansted.rector@googlemail.com**Director of Music:** Anne Brooks 01279 504062anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk**Church Office:** Barbora Dragoskova 01279 815243

(Parish & Church Hall Administrator)

st.johns.church@btinternet.comstjohns.hallbookings@gmail.com

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