



Bulletin



The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger and Farnham ***Sunday 18th March 2018 – Fifth Sunday of Lent***

CTS LENT COURSE – FEAST OR FAMINE

The final session '*Cutting or Investing?*' is on this Tuesday 20th March at 7.30pm in St Therese's Church Hall and it will be led by our Rector Paul. Please feel free to come even if you haven't been before - each session stands alone.

TRAIDCRAFT EASTER EGGS – PLEASE SUPPORT US

This year Easter falls on 1st April. I have ordered some Fairtrade Easter eggs. The milk chocolate eggs are £3.99 each - same as last year (incl. Easter story leaflet & a bag of chocolate buttons). By purchasing these eggs you will help the small-scale farmers and producers to trade their way out of poverty. *Jean Newson*

GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTION, ST JOHN'S

It has become a Good Friday tradition for the Choir of St John's to lead a meditation in words and music on the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. This year's service is entitled *Lift High The Cross* and is based upon words from St John's Gospel. The service will include hymns for congregation, readings, and choir anthems. Everyone is welcome to come at 6pm in St John's Church on Good Friday, 30th March. *Kathy West*

WWDP

Sadly we had to cancel the Women's World Day of Prayer service last Friday because of bad weather conditions. This means that there will be no donations to send to the WWDP. If you would like to make a contribution there are envelopes available. Many thanks. *Stella Skingle*

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COLLECTING BOXES

It is time for me to empty and count the contents of the collecting boxes. Could you please either bring them to church over the next couple of weeks or drop them off at my house. If you would prefer me to collect them from you let me know. *Katy Dockerill (812997)*

NOTE FROM RAY SMITH

There was the most awful clash of bookings in the Hall last Wednesday between Tony Butchers wake and the regular Wendy Mitchell's afternoon Ballet class. Fortunately the wake happened without disruption but the ballet class was completely disrupted. It is imperative that any changes are properly advised to the Hall Bookings Administrator so that appropriate steps can be organised in good time. Changes happen, it's a fact of life but good communication can accommodate this. *Ray Smith*

ACTS IN THE AFTERNOON

Please note 'The Acts' this Monday are back to normal at Kathy's house (21 Park Rd, Stansted, CM24 8PB). *KW*

BIRCHANGER SPECIAL

TODAY - Sunday 18th March

Our APCM after the morning service.
Church wardens and PCC will be elected.
This is your chance to have a say about our church.

Monday 19th March at 10:30-12noon

Open church, tea, coffee and company,
all welcome.

Saturday 21st April

Courtyard Quartet will perform
a Juke box of music in the church hall
with a fish/chicken/veg chip supper.
£15 / ticket, raffle and drinks available.

Tickets: *Sue 01279-815427 or Elaine 01279-813474.*

FOOD BANK

We are in particular need of tins/packs of soup, long life fruit juice and small bags of sugar. Please leave anything you can provide at the back of church behind the sidesmen's table. Other items running low: Long life milk, Jam, Small jars coffee, Tins of peas and sweetcorn, Tinned spaghetti, Pasta, Rice, Tinned meat (corned beef / ham / frankfurters / pies), Tins of potatoes (or dried / mashed). Your help is as always greatly appreciated. *Katy Dockerill*

GOOD FRIDAY MESSY CHURCH - FOOD REQUEST

The next Messy Church will be in St John's Hall and the Church on Good Friday. Tea will be much simpler than usual and we're asked to provide just hot cross buns and cake. Please sign up on the list at the back of church if you are able to donate food. Thank you. *Katy Dockerill*

ST JOHN'S PCC

At the Annual General Meeting held in church on Monday, Cheryl McGreal was appointed Church Warden to replace Mike Howes who has served us for six years, and is now taking a well-earned break. We are very pleased that St John's is in the very safe hands of our two Wardens, Gary West and Cheryl, particularly at a time when Paul is going to be away from the Parish for three months. Ann Conroy completed six years as a member of the PCC, and, in accordance with our rules, has stepped down for a period of at least one year. The good news is that she will continue in her role as Electoral Roll Officer, for which we are very grateful. A full list of members of the new PCC is on the blue notice board at the back of church.
Kathy West (PCC Secretary)

18TH MARCH - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**Hymns:** 437, 820, 571, 317, 729**Anthem:** 'God so loved the world' Stainer**Bible Readings:**

Reading: Hebrews 5.5-10

Reader: Sandy Wood

Gospel: John 12.20-33

Interceder: Roland Pelly

Traditional Collect

Most merciful God,
 who by the death and resurrection
 of thy Son Jesus Christ
 hast delivered and saved the world:
 grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
 we may triumph in the power of his victory;
 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 MARCH - PALM SUNDAY**Bible Readings:**

Reading: Philippians 2.5-11

Reader: Peter Jones

Gospel: Mark 14.1 - 15.47

Interceder: Ray Smith

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

* **Ava Mary Rapkin** being baptised today in St John's Church and for her family and godparents to help her understand how to live her life in the Christian way.

* Those who are sick, especially **Eddie Laird, Lily Suckling and Tricia Walters from Stansted, baby Tilly 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 **Geoffrey Ensor and Sharen Horne from Birchanger and Peter Crisp, Joanne Welsh and Tony Butcher from Stansted**, for their friends and families, and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

Father, help us to be like Christ your Son, who loved the world and died for our salvation. Inspire us by his love, and guide us by his example. Amen.

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

Bible Readings for the Week Ahead

Mon 19 Mar Joseph of Nazareth	Psalm 25 Isaiah 11.1-10
Tue 20 Mar	Psalm 35 Exodus 8.20-end
Wed 21 Mar	Psalm 55 Exodus 9.1-12
Thu 22 Mar	Psalm 40 Exodus 9.13-end
Fri 23 Mar	Psalm 22 Exodus 10
Sat 24 Mar	Psalm 23 Exodus 11

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****Thursday 11.30am** - Thanksgiving Service for the life of Sharen Ann Horne**Sunday 11.15am** - Holy Communion**St Mary's Farnham****Sunday 11am** - Matins**Rector:**

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Church Office & Church Hall Administrator:

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