



# Bulletin

## **The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger and Farnham Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Second Sunday of Easter**

### **PAUL'S SABBATICAL**

Today is Paul's last Sunday with us before he begins his sabbatical or, as it is officially designated, his time of *Extended Study Leave*. The dictionary definition of Sabbatical is leave taken every seven years, and as it has been fifteen years since Paul took such a break, it does seem long overdue. As Paul mentioned in his Rector's Report at the APCM, his particular focus for study during his time away from us is the theme of *Identity*. I am sure we will all hold him and Janet in our prayers during his time away from the Parish, and trust that he will return to us refreshed in body, mind and spirit.

### **ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB**

Many congratulations to the winners of the March draw:

£100	No.271	Gina Thomas
£50	No.184	Sandra Embleton
£25	No.29	Mary Greaves

The draw for April will be on Sunday the **29<sup>th</sup> of April** following the 9.30am service. The current 300 Club year will come to an end on Monday **30 April** and I would like to express our very grateful thanks to all those who have supported us. Renewal forms will be sent to everyone who paid by cheque or cash and we hope you will be prepared to sign up for another year commencing on **Tuesday 1 May**. There are still numbers available for anyone who may wish to join and be in with a chance to win one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away each year. In addition, the Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church. Numbers cost £2 each per month with a maximum of 5 numbers per household. Please contact either myself or Katy Dockerill on 812997 for an application form. Thank you. *Ann Lee (813310)*



### **BIRCHANGER SPECIAL**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 (815427) or Elaine (813474)*

### **FARNHAM BLUEBELL WALK**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 at 1.30pm**

**1 mile walk**

will start from Hazel End Farm at 1.30pm.

**5-6 mile walk**

will start from Thrifts Farm at 12noon.

**BBQ at Thrifts Farm  
from 2.30pm onwards**

**Cost:** Walk £3.00 per head or £10.00/family  
BBQ (sausages, roll, tea or coffee) £3.00/person

Parking available at both venues.

Dogs on leads welcome.

Both walks will be led through private woodland  
to support the facilities project  
of St Mary's Church Farnham.

*Contact 'B' Stubbings on 01279 776168*

### **CONNECT 120**

**This week, Connect 120 means:**

- \* *Praying for the children who took their First Holy Communion at St John's Stansted on Easter Sunday*
  - \* *Preparing for the Steering Group meeting next week by writing reports and reviewing the 2nd Term of the project*
  - \* *Planning the assemblies/Star Club/Lunch Clubs for next term*
  - \* *Writing the Church and School newsletters for the Summer term*
  - \* *Writing up training notes for the project volunteers*
- Tara Russell*

## 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Hymns: 401, 396, 392, 53, 494

Anthem: 'The strife is o'er' Lee

### Bible Readings:

Reading: Acts 4.32-35

Reader: Stella Skingle

Gospel: John 20.19-31

Interceder: Peter Jones

### Traditional Collect

Almighty Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of 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.**

## 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Bible Readings:

Reading: Acts 3.12-19

Reader: Cheryl McGreal

Gospel: Luke 24.36b-48

Interceder: Stella Skingle

## **Bible Readings for the Week Ahead**

Mon 09 Apr The Annunciation	Psalm 111 1 Samuel 2.1-10
Tue 10 Apr	Psalm 8 Exodus 15.22-16.10
Wed 11 Apr	Psalm 30 Exodus 16.11-end
Thu 12 Apr	Psalm 28 Exodus 17
Fri 13 Apr	Psalm 61 Exodus 18.1-12
Sat 14 Apr	Psalm 84 Exodus 18.13-end

*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.*

### Rector:

Revd Paul Wilkin 01279 812203  
[stansted.rector@googlemail.com](mailto:stansted.rector@googlemail.com)

### Director of Music:

Anne Brooks 01279 504062  
[anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk)

### Church Office & Hall Administrator:

Barbora Dragoskova 01279 815243  
[st.johns.church@btinternet.com](mailto:st.johns.church@btinternet.com)

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

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

\* Children being baptised in St John's Church today: **Emily Sofia** (this morning), and **Kirsteen Eve, Lexi Jo Amanda, Emma Jade, Poppy Ann Nina, Lucas James and Gracie May** (this afternoon), for their families and godparents - may they help them understand how to live their lives in the Christian way.

\* **Scott Langran & Nicola Stamenkovic** from Stansted and **Charles McKenzie Thomson & Kirsteen McGregor** from Farnham as they prepare for their weddings. May their marriages be life-giving and life-long, enriched by God's presence and strengthened by his grace; may they bring comfort and confidence to each other in faithfulness and trust.

\* 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** from Birchanger, for his friends and family, and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

\* **Our rector Paul:** Heavenly Father, as we say a temporary farewell to Paul, we entrust him into your care. We pray that you will keep him safe on his travels, and that he will find your peace wherever he goes. Give him wisdom, and guide him to the places where he will find your grace and goodness, and help him to discover the truths he is seeking. We pray that you will surround him with your love, and that you will return him safely to us, filled with the Holy Spirit and ready to continue his Ministry with us. **Amen.**

\* **Those who today still risk all to proclaim their faith in an often hostile world. Remember Arab Christians as they struggle to maintain their freedom to worship.**

## **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 9.30am** - Sung Eucharist

### St Mary's Birchanger

**Sunday 11.15am** - Family Service

### St Mary's Farnham

**Sunday 4pm** - Holy Communion

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 13<sup>th</sup> April**. Anything coming after this time will be forwarded to the next week. Thank you.