Newsletter - Sunday 20th January 2019



Today we welcome Victor and Amy and their family and friends for their daughter Elizabeth's Baptism

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Zion's New Name

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory, you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendour in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you, as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

Second Reading: John 2:1-11

Jesus changes water into wine

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'

'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.'

His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Pray for our Leaders

There have been more reminders this week of the sad reality of what our leaders, of all political persuasions, suffer all too often. Alongside the verbal abuse hurled at Anna Soubry MP during a television interview, last year MP Jacob Rees-Mogg and his family were harassed outside their home, and of course we remember the murder of politician Jo Cox in 2016. Whether they face taunting on their way to work, receive threats through email or social media, or even face the fear of physical harm, what is evident is that our leaders are constantly being bombarded by messages of hate.

As Christians we are called to love our neighbours (Mark 12:31), which includes people who we do not agree with. We are also called to "show proper respect to everyone", including those in authority (Peter 2:17). While we all accept that robust and passionate disagreement is part and parcel of political conversation, the tenor of current debate is far from what any of us would expect, especially when it becomes personalised.

Pray for them

Paul explicitly instructs us to pray for our leaders in 1 Timothy 2:1-2: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority." This week Christians are encourages all around the country to pray for our leaders.

Katrina writes....

To all at St Mary's,

Just a quick note to say thank you so much for the gorgeous gifts we were given upon our leaving – the picture is hung in our dining room, and the Waterstones vouchers are earmarked for a set of commentaries!

We will send a proper update in due course, but we want to say thank you again for the love, support and friendship we received over our time at St Mary's.

We hold you in our prayers and look forward to visiting in the Summer.

With our love and prayers, Katrina, Andy, Alex and Lucy x

Bishop Martin Visit

Bishop Martin is visiting Rotherfield Deanery 11th and 12th February. As part of that visitation, he will be visiting all the Benefices in the Deanery. He has asked to see the buildings work at Hartfield. This will take place on Monday 11th February at 12 noon in Hartfield, after a Parish Mid Week Eucharist (said). Everyone is welcome to come from across the parishes

To find God is to seek him unceasingly,

Here, indeed, to seek is not one thing and to find.

another.

The reward of the search is to go on searching.

The soul's desire is fulfilled by the very fact of its remaining unsatisfied,

For really to see God is never to have had one's fill

Of desiring him.



Gregory of Nyssa c 395



New Wine '19 – 27th July to 2nd August
Further to the details given out last week,
you don't have to camp if you would rather
not as there are plenty of B&B's near the
site. Please contact Julie and Trevor for more
information.

revjuliesear1@gmail.com

Holy Trinity Away Morning 26th January 2019 - 9.30am to 12.30pm in Trinity Hall

If you are able to come on the 26th January. Please could you let Rev'd Julie know.

Prayer for the Week:

Loving Lord,
You make all things new.
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this new year
And for all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us a mighty flame,
So that in our time, many will see the
wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your
glorious name.
Amen

Heather Hilliard

The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Heather Hilliard will take place at St Mary's Church on Thursday 7th Feb at 2.30pm. Followed by tea at the Ashdown Golf Club.



Year of Vocation

Following on from the Year of the Bible and the Year of Prayer, today we join the Diocese in marking the start of the Year of Vocation. We are very much looking forward to finding out more about what this means for us all.

St Mary's PTFA School Jumble Sale

Saturday 26th January 2019

Please note that the Jumble Sale will take place between 11am and 12pm and not as previously advised in the Chronicle. Thank you.

Churches Information

Rector:

The Reverend Julie Sear 01892 770436

reviuliesear1@gmail.com

Day off for Rector is a Monday

Licensed Lay Reader:

Donna Dewar 01342 326424

dewardonna@gmail.com

Administrator: admsmhc@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer:

Andrea McGlew 01342 850992

PCC Treasurer:

Tim Jackson 01342 850902

Church Wardens for St Mary's:

Kathy Green 01892 770208

Linda Graham 01892 770487

Hon.Secretary & Church Electoral Roll Officer:

lan Burns 01892 771014

Church Wardens for Holy Trinity:

John Van Maurik 01892 770273

Paul Double

Hon. Secretary:

CJ Payne <u>cjpayne@hotmail.com</u>

Hon. Treasurer:

Donald Clarke drc.scc1897@gmail.com

Church Services

27th January:

St Mary's 8.00 Holy Communion BCP

St Mary's 9.30 Café Church

Holy Trinity 11.00 Holy Communion BCP

3rd February

St Mary's 9.30 Holy Communion

Holy Trinity 11.00 Sunday Praise

Holy Trinity 18.30 Choral Evensong

10th February

St Mary's 8.00 Holy Communion BCP

St Mary's 9.30 Church Family Praise

Holy Trinity 11.00 Holy Communion BCP

17th February

St Mary's 9.30 Holy Communion

Holy Trinity 11.00 Matins

24th February

St Mary's 8.00 Holy Communion BCP

St Mary's 9.30 Café Church

Holy Trinity 11.00 Holy Communion BCP

3rd March

St Mary's 9.30 Holy Communion

Holy Trinity 11.00 Sunday Praise

Holy Trinity 18.30 Choral Evensong

6th March – Ash Wednesday