

# St Matthew's Church, Netley Marsh. Part of the Totton Team Ministry



Loving God and Serving our Local Community in the Name of Jesus.  
Rev'd John Reeve Team Vicar Tel: (023) 80663267 [johnreeve6@aol.com](mailto:johnreeve6@aol.com)

## March 2019 Newsletter

### SUNDAY SERVICES

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Holy Communion  
NT 2 Corin. 3: 12-4:2  
Gospel Luke 9: 28-36

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March Lent 1

8.00am Holy Communion  
OT Deuteronomy 26: 1-11  
Gospel Luke 4: 1-13  
11.00am Morning Worship  
12.45pm Holy Baptism

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March Lent 2

8.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Family Communion with Soul Kids  
OT Genesis 15: 1-12.17-18  
Gospel Luke 13: 31-end

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March Lent 3

8.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Holy Communion with Baptism  
OT Isaiah 55:1-9  
Gospel Luke 13: 1-9

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March Mothering Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Family Communion  
OT Exodus 2: 1-10  
Gospel John 19: 25b-27

### MIDWEEK SERVICES

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Tuesday Toast & Prayers

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March Ash Wednesday

9.15am Family School Worship  
12.15pm Holy Communion with  
imposition of ash

#### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Tuesday Toast & prayers

#### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Tuesday Toast & prayers  
**Holy Communion at:**  
1.30pm at Tendring Rest Home  
2.00pm at Woodlands Ridge Nursing Home  
2.30pm at Woodlands House Rest Home

#### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Tuesday Toast & Prayers

## **From John our Team Vicar:**

At the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer we always begin with the responses; The Lord be with you, **and also with you**; Lift up your hearts, **we lift them up to the Lord**; Let us give thanks to the Lord our God, **it is right to give thanks and praise...**

We are invited, called and encouraged to live life in the knowledge that God walks with us, to know this with our hearts and to give thanks and praise at every turn. This is discipleship, this is following in the way of Jesus, this is living in His Spirit – and being blessed and being a blessing to life.

The third element in the response – giving thanks and praise – is a really simple, practical place to start in our following of Jesus each new day - when our eyes open, no matter how sleepily, on the new day... to give thanks and praise, when we draw the curtains... to give thanks and praise - when we turn the taps in the wash-room... to give thanks and praise.

The decision to give thanks and praise is entirely our own decision. Within our Christian tradition the invitation to give thanks and praise is not dependent on life events – we don't wait for things to go our way... we don't even have to wait for the warm breezes or the blue skies to appear – the invitation is to give thanks and praise now... whatever the moment. So, the Christian disciple makes this his/hers first decision of the day. And when this decision is taken day after day after day... in all the seasons of the year... it becomes our habit. And what a habit this is!

Integral to the decision to give thanks and praise is the action of looking for what is good in the moment. This requires we really look – we see the trauma, the uncertainty, the colour, the opportunity... and we keep looking with a 'hunger' for what is good. The word 'hunger' is drawn from the beatitudes where Jesus says 'blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled'. In our western lives we generally have enough food (although not always) – so the word 'hungry' can suggest a 'hunger' for what feeds the spirit... for what is good. In Matthew's account of the beatitudes Jesus is reported as saying 'blessed are you who hunger and thirst for righteousness' – in other words who hunger and thirst for what is vibrantly good (the righteousness of God).

And the word 'hunger' suggests a discomfort in this, an ache as we look - a longing and a yearning as we look for the righteousness, the vibrant goodness of the moment. The discomfort is there because we know that if we forget, and we make no decision to give thanks and praise, we remain empty, not filled, unblessed.

When we remain unfilled – believing this to be just how it is - we are then incredibly vulnerable to the toxic pollutants of our culture – allowing our minds to drift into autopilot so anxiety, frustration, weariness becomes the habit. This is not blessed! These are the 'woes' Jesus speaks of.

You see the daily practice of giving thanks and praise shapes the whole framework of our lives – we become people who believe in the innate goodness of the day, we become people who always look now rather than living on yesterday's news or tomorrow's possibilities. We naturally become merciful and meek, our hearts naturally gravitate towards being poor and we become people who never take the goodness in front of us for granted.

Giving thanks and praise is simple, easy to understand, yet requires a determined decision that this is how I'm going to framework my one life, my only life... my blessed life

## **Please remember in your prayers during the month...**

- For John, our Team Vicar, in his ministry in the three church schools, especially for the appointment of a new executive head teacher for the Oaks Federation (which includes the Netley Marsh Infant School)
- For all those who are sick, anxious and have asked for our prayers (please see prayer list in church)
- Please pray for the priest at St Philip`s Nablus, Rev. Jamil Monir Khadir – for his regular church work and community outreach as well as his activity in the school with both children and parents.
- For all those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death occurs this month; Pamela Bethel(1<sup>st</sup>), Peter Moseley(2<sup>nd</sup>), Leon Wilson(6<sup>th</sup>), Phyllis Foderingham(7<sup>th</sup>), Bartley Reynolds(8<sup>th</sup>),Lorne Witchell(10<sup>th</sup>), AnneSellersLong(14<sup>th</sup>), Arthur Sharlan(14<sup>th</sup>), Margaret Moody(15<sup>th</sup>), David Kirk(24<sup>th</sup>),Ruth Donovan(25<sup>th</sup>), Charles Moody(29<sup>th</sup>), Fred Lock(30<sup>th</sup>)
- Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. AMEN.

**Communion at Home**: if you are unwell and you can't get to church or if you know of someone who is housebound and who would really appreciate to receive Communion at home or to have a pastoral visit then please contact John, Marina, Angela or Iris.

**Giving Regularly** : to help support the day to day life of St. Matthew's Church – we are inviting our church community to set up a **regular form of weekly or monthly financial giving** (either through a regular standing order, or using the Parish Giving Scheme or through the weekly envelopes). We require an extra £2K in our budget to meet the costs of financing church ministry here for 2019. Our many funerals and weddings provide a significant income for the church but this figure is variable from year to year (and with the publicity regarding our church floor forthcoming works this will undoubtedly have an impact on the number of weddings booked in this period). If we have an extra 30 new people to give regularly to St. Matthew's £5/month we would increase our income by £2K. So, pick up one of the green leaflets, and decide which method of giving suits you best – as little as £5/month really does make a difference. **Thank you!**

**The Parish Giving Scheme** please send your completed Parish Giving Scheme forms in to the address as directed as soon as possible- this scheme will be a significant benefit to us in making the collection of giving easier and more efficient. For any questions please see either of the churchwardens Malcolm or Mel, David our treasurer, or John.

**Supporting the Church Hall ministry as a Minute Secretary** We are blessed to have three bases for our ministry to the community – the church building and churchyard for services from christenings to weddings to burials – we have the school building with education for your young ones, and we have the church hall with a wide, varied community provision for all the generations. **If you would like to support our church hall ministry, we do need one or two extra people (especially a Minute Secretary)** who would be willing to serve on the Hall Committee which meets 6 times in the year. The Hall Committee oversees the operation of the Hall and the upkeep of the building. If you are interested please speak to either John, David Rigby or one of our churchwardens – Malcolm or Mel.

## Church and Community Events

### March

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Snail Racing at the White Horse Pub 7.00pm** – we are again organising a Snail Racing evening at the White Horse Pub (raising funds for our new church floor) – do put the date in your diary and invite friends and family- it's always a great, fun evening!

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Women's World day of Prayer** This year's Women's World Day of Prayer is to be held on Friday March 1st at 10.30 in St Teresa's Catholic church, Totton. This year the service has been prepared by Christian women from Slovenia on the theme " Come - Everything is Ready". These services offer an insight into the lives of the women in the country they represent. It is a wonderful opportunity to feel at one with women gathering to pray together all over the world. The service is open to men too! Refreshments will be served after the service. Please see Ros Stollery for further information and if you would like a lift.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday** There are three services for Ash Wednesday – at 9.15am in church with the children and families from our school, at 12.15pm in church for a simple service of Holy Communion with imposition of ash, and in the evening at St. Mary's Copythorne (7.00pm) for a sung service of Holy Communion with imposition of ash. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Do mark the beginning of this season by gathering together with others and receiving the ash (symbol of our humanity and dependence on heaven).

### **Open the Book @ Netley Marsh CEC Infants**

The Open the Book Team (members mainly from St. Mary's Church Copythorne and Cadnam Methodist Church) will be rehearsing the new presentation 'The Two Sons' on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March and at Copythorne Infants (9.45am) and Netley Marsh Infants (11.00am) on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March , and then performing at Bartley CEC Junior School Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 2.30pm - we use music, mime, simple props – and we have great fun in putting together the presentation. We all really enjoy the rehearsing and the performing – as the children are such an enthusiastic audience ( they really participate in the story). We are having some great feedback from the children and staff at all three schools - if you are interested about being involved with this – please speak to John or Ros if you would like to join the Open the Book Team.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> The Team Social Group** (part of the Friendship Network) enjoyed some lovely cakes at the Hanger Farm Cafe last month. We will meet again on Monday 11th March at Spot in the Woods, Woodlands Rd, from 2.00p.m.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Tools For Self Reliance Haberdashery Sale 10am-12**

They will be selling fabric, sewing machines and haberdashery items that are unsuitable to be sent to their vocational training projects in Africa. All funds raised will help to support their work delivering vocational training projects and tools in the five African countries they work in. Free entry and free parking

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion services at our Rest/Nursing Homes**

Every month (this month on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March) John leads simple services of Holy Communion – using the Reserved Sacrament from our Sunday worship – at the three Rest/Nursing homes in our district. The homes services take place in are Tendring, Woodlands Ridge and Woodlands House. If you would like to join John in these services you will be more than welcome! Each month the sacrament is given to 25-30 people in these homes – this is a really important part of our ministry and one which is much appreciated. Do speak to John if you are interested in joining him.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Craft 2 Craft workshop** Join the friendly Craft 2 Craft group for their monthly workshop held at Tools for Self Reliance workshops, Netley Marsh, SO40 7GY. Come along and learn how to make pretty fabric tulips – lovely to decorate your home and gift at Easter time. 2-4pm at Tools for Self Reliance Workshops Only £10 per person and includes all materials, tuition, a cuppa and homemade cake. Booking is essential, please call them on 02380 869697 or email [info@tfsr.org](mailto:info@tfsr.org) to secure your place.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> ‘M-Spa’ – Meditation made simple!** These popular sessions are led by John. The sessions are very practical and active – maybe very different from what you might expect! Below are the next scheduled sessions (all the sessions take place in Netley Marsh CEC Infant School)...booking is essential – if the session is fully booked a waiting list is then in operation...

The next two sessions – 21 March and 4 April are fully booked - a waiting list is in operation for each of these sessions. If you would like to book for future sessions contact John on [johnreeve6@aol.com](mailto:johnreeve6@aol.com) or 023 80663267.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Tools For Self Reliance Tool Sale 10am – 12 noon**

All funds raised will help to support their work delivering vocational training projects and tools in the five African countries they work in. Free entry and free parking

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> The Middle East Matters Group** are going in full strength to Salisbury Methodist Church, on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March for an evening with the new Palestinian Ambassador to the UK. This meeting has been organised by Sarum Concern for Israel/Palestine and starts at 7.00p.m. We have heard from Baroness Cox`s PA that she is travelling to Canada and then Burma between now and Easter but hopes to meet with us at the House of Lords sometime after then. We have our Network Rail Cards at the ready! We have received some pictures of the children at St Philip`s Church Kindergarden recently and the children have been making orange juice, and then cakes, after squeezing their own oranges and weighing out and mixing ingredients. Normal early years activities are enjoyed here even though there is unrest and difficulty for their parents and the community because of the occupation. They need our prayers and to know they are not forgotten.

## **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>      Talk: The Listed Buildings of Netley Marsh**

The next meeting of the Netley Marsh Parish History Group on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March will be a talk on the listed buildings by members Yvonne and Paul Hanvey. The meeting at the community hall in Woodlands Road starts at 7.30pm. Entry is £3. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please follow our Facebook page for news about the group.

**Tuesday Toast & Prayers** – this is an informal gathering of worship, songs and plenty of toast, marmalades, jams and coffee and tea. Everybody is really welcome! Tuesday Toast takes place every Tuesday in school term time starting at 9.30am in church.

## **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May      Grave Talk 11am-1pm** at The Vicarage, Cooks Lane, Calmore.

I will be leading a GRAVE TALK session. This is open to people of all faiths and doubts and will consist of chatting informally around issues concerned with death, dying and funerals. We seldom talk about death and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and air your thoughts. It won't be morbid! Sally Marchant

## **Church and Community News**

**Thank you, Mary!** Mary Mullins has decided it's time to hang up her choir robe after many years of singing in the choir. Thank you, Mary for the support and dedication you have given to the choir over the years and latterly for hosting the practices in your house. Wishing you every blessing for the future.

**Easter Flowers** If you would like to sponsor flowers and an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, please complete the slip at the back of the church and put a donation of £2 in the envelope provided. Thank you.

**New Developments in the Totton Team** Plans will shortly be put in place for the new parish of St. Winfrid's to be formulated. This will enable the significant debt from the diocesan loan to be located within this new parish entity. Discussions are taking place currently regarding the parish boundary for the new parish – representation has been made for the people of Totton still be able to access easily the funeral, wedding and baptism ministries at Netley Marsh and Eling.

### **Helping in Netley Marsh C.E.C. Infant School**

We have three volunteer helpers from our church community going into our Infant School – this is hugely appreciated by the school and a lovely sign of our engagement with the school. If you would like to help in the school (hearing children read, helping with crafts, being an extra pair of hands) please speak to John.

### **Appointment of new Executive Head Teacher for the Oaks Federation**

The process of interviews will be taking place early in March – do pray for the right appointment as it will have such an impact on the life of the three church infant schools.

## **Team News**

An Extraordinary Team Council Meeting was called for 11th February when Team Councillors met with the Area Dean, the Rev Peter Salisbury, to hear about a consultation at the end of March to look at Mission and Ministry in Totton and the Waterside in the future. With new housing planned in this area, and reconsideration of Parish boundaries necessitated, it is imperative that the Team gets involved as we anticipate St Winfrid's becoming a separate Parish in preparation for the receipt of their loan and the eventual arrival of the `plant` from St Mary's Southampton. The Area Dean also wanted to hear from the Team Council how we envisaged the possible new arrangements. We had some good discussion and were reassured that, even after the departure of the Team Rector, necessitated by the plans for the `plant`, the clergy staffing levels will remain the same, although we will not have a curate once Graeme Dixon finds a job. It is hoped to retain positive working relationships with the new parish of central Totton and the rest of us in Netley Marsh, Eling and Calmore. There may eventually be a larger grouping of churches with some specialism in some but this is all up for discussion. The Deanery Consultation will be an open meeting held at St John's Hythe on Saturday March 30th, starting at 12.00 noon – bring your own lunch.

## **Bartley Junior School Meditation sessions.**

John leads these early morning sessions at Bartley Junior School – there is an open session on Monday morning and then a session where the children sign up in order to attend on a Wednesday morning.

**St. Matthew's Pastoral** If you would like to join the Team which comprises of John, Angela, Iris and Marina – in the provision for home visits – do speak to one of the Team.

## **DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Please send items to Jane Scholfield.  
email: wjscholfield@hotmail.com      voicemail: 02380 292083.