

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

November 2018 Newsletter

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 4th November All Saints

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion
NT Revelation 21: 1-6a
Gospel John 11: 32-44
4.00pm All Souls' Memorial

Sunday 11th November Remembrance

8.00am Holy Communion
NT Hebrews 9: 24-end
Gospel Mark 1: 14-20
10.15am Family Parade Service

Sunday 18th November 2nd before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Communion with Soul Kids
NT Hebrews 10: 11-14, 19-25
Gospel Mark 13: 1-8
1.00pm Holy Baptism
2.00pm Holy Baptism

Sunday 25th November Christ the King

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Communion with Baptism
NT Revelation 1: 4b-8
Gospel John 18: 33-37

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Tuesday 6th November

9.30am Tuesday Toast & Prayers

Wednesday 7th November

9.15am Family School Worship

Tuesday 13th November

9.30am Tuesday Toast & prayers

Tuesday 20th November

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 27th November

9.30am Tuesday Toast & Prayers

From John our Team Vicar:

Doing stuff well is really very important! It can seem sometimes that just doing stuff is what matters... 'something must be done...' is often cited as is 'you can't do nothing...' Institutions, if they are not careful, simply end up compiling lists of what has to be done and from time to time report that some of the things on the list have 'been done'.

Technological advances have increased the number of things that can 'be done' in a given time frame. Rather than creating more space, technology at times has reduced it, making for chronic levels of anxiety.

Jesus speaks directly into the so-called busyness of society when he speaks of the Kingdom of God. Many people, in the time of Jesus, were anticipating a kingdom which would inaugurate God's justice on the earth. Jesus plainly rejected this meaning – 'My kingdom is not of this world'. But neither is God's Kingdom a place where you go when you die for Jesus directly tells his followers 'the kingdom of heaven is within you'. So, what are we to make of this Kingdom? How does this impact our culture where 'something must always be done'.

In Jesus' conversations with the Pharisees and his followers, conversations full of pictures and metaphors, Jesus states, over and over again, it is the quality of your consciousness which is of primary importance, not the fulfilment of tasks as perhaps listed in countless job descriptions or interminable planning documents. Jesus would remind the Pharisees in those lively altercations that it is the strength of the heart which counts – 'how can a bad tree bear good fruit...? If our consciousness is in good order, then the actions will always be good and more than enough for any given situation.

We think, speak and do from our consciousness. If there is anxiety, resentment, impatience in our consciousness then our actions – although seemingly 'right' – will always miss the mark. This is why Jesus taught us 'do not judge', 'do not worry'. When we judge our consciousness is infected with a joylessness which infiltrates every part of our being, when we worry, again our consciousness is profoundly impacted ensuring it does not enjoy clarity – it simply gets very muddled!

But when our consciousness (where all our thinking, feeling and doing comes from) is shaped and stretched into patience, kindness and gentleness, well the actions and life that proceeds will be something blessed and altogether good.

The month of November is known as the 'Kingdom Season' in the calendar of the church. We give our consciousness particular attention, recognising it impacts deeply the way we remember, the relationships we make and the quality of the life we live.

Yes, doing stuff well is really important! So, because this is so, we give attention every day to those things in our life which shape our consciousness where all the stuff we do comes from – conversations with loved ones, walks in the forest, poems read and recited, hymns sung, bible verses learned by heart, living in the moment whenever, wherever we can – as we do these things so the Kingdom of heaven becomes big in us. It can only spill out of us then – in what we say, do and who we are. This is how we learn that when Jesus speaks about the kingdom, he is speaking not about what we do but about where we come from in order to 'do' our lives. This really is very important!

Please remember in your prayers during the month...

- For John, our Team Vicar, in his pastoral ministry across the two parishes with bereaved families in the organisation and leading of funeral services
- Please pray for the Palestinian people as they harvest their olives – often having to get to their fields through check points and having opposition from settlers who compromise the livelihoods of the farmers accessing their lands. Pray for respect for Muslims and Christians as they go about their daily activities on the West Bank, and for people of all faiths in the Holy Land who seek to live together in peace.
- For all those who are sick, anxious and have asked for our prayers (please see prayer list in church)
- For all those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death occurs this month; Wendy Darke(9th), Keith Daly(17th), Dorothy Vick (24th)- 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 2018. 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.

The weekly Team Alpha Course, running at Totton Football Club, is going well – the venue is excellent, the food luscious and the conversation stimulating – there is a great warmth in the room as people share in so many ways every Thursday evening. Please pray for the guests, and their Team hosts, especially on November 10th as they share a day together at the Rectory. This is a promising start for the relationship between St Winfrid's and the Football Club which will become the new home for the St Winfrid's congregation from November, and on through the winter. Our Team Curate Graeme and the FC Chaplain Simon have some exciting plans, overseen by the Team Rector Chris Steed, which the Team Council are backing and we all wish them well in this new venture

Church and Community Events

November

2nd Tools for Self Reliance workshop

Join our November Craft 2 Craft workshop making a pretty little hanging Christmas tree over a foundation of milk bottle tops. Thursday 15 November, 2-4pm
Course cost £10, including all materials, tea and homemade cake,
Booking is essential, please email info@tfsr.org or call 02380 869697
All funds raised will help us to support our work delivering vocational training projects and tools in the five African countries we work in.

4th All Souls' Memorial Service 4pm

During this service we remember loved ones who have died by name. If you would like to remember a loved one at this service then please print their name clearly on the list at the back of church. Thank you!

8th 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 on Thursday 8th November, and then performing at Bartley CEC Junior School (date to be confirmed) and at Copythorne Infants (9.45am) and Netley Marsh Infants (11.00am) on Thursday 22nd November - 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.

13th The Team Social Group outing.

This month's outing will be to the *Thistlydonicely Coffee Shop* in Totton on Tuesday 13th November - 2-3.30pm. Please come along with a fellow member of the congregation, who might not otherwise get out with friends, or bring a neighbour along, for home-made cakes at a reasonable price in this cosy setting.

The usual **Team Christmas Lunch** is booked at Carlos restaurant and Ice Cream Parlour for thirty people on Monday 10th December at 12.30pm. Deposits of £5 per person will be collected by Fran and numbers confirmed after our November meet up in Totton (see above). There is an opportunity to sign up on the list at the back of church if you are interested in attending and menus are available for you to make your choices asap. We will provide transport where possible.

17th Christmas Fayre

This year's Christmas fayre will be held in St Matthews' church hall on Saturday November 17th from 2-4pm. There will be a Christmas stall, as well as other stalls. Refreshments will be on sale as well a raffle. Good saleable items are required as well as cakes. Please help if you can. Proceeds will be shared between the church and restoration funds. For further information please contact either Deana on 02380 292157 or Ros on 02380 292637.

PLEASE GIVE DONATIONS OF BOTTLES FOR THE FAYRE.



LEAVE IN THE CHURCH ROOM. THANK YOU.

20th The Middle East Matters Group

The Middle East Matters Group has a meeting provisionally booked for Tuesday 20th November, from 2.30pm at Fran`s home, but are also attending an evening at Sarum College, Salisbury, run by SCIP (Sarum Concern for Israel/Palestine) on the evening of the 22nd. This lively group have some good speakers and topics which they have the facilities and ability to share with those in the area who have an interest in human rights, peace and justice in the Holy Land, so our group attend when practicable. Please ask Fran for more details if you would like to come along or require a lift.

The new priest at St Philip`s, Jamil Monir Khadir, is settling well and a group from another part of the UK has just paid a visit to Nablus and been active within the church services. We have received pictures of the children harvesting olives with him and the teachers at the Kindergarden, and have ourselves sent pictures of our MEM flower festival display in which Deana focused on the olives too.

20th Holy Communion services at our Rest/Nursing Homes

Every month (this month on Tuesday 16th October) 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 20-25 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.

22nd ‘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 sessions scheduled for Netley Marsh Infant School are: **Thursday 8th November (FULLY BOOKED) and 22nd November – starting at 8.00pm and concluding at 9.15pm.** Contact John to book your place on johnreeve6@aol.com or 023 80663267.

December

4th Tools For Self Reliance Quiz Night

Christmas Quiz Night on Tuesday 4th December at Colbury Memorial Hall, 19:30 start. Come and join us with your team of up to six people for our festive quiz night! Tickets are £10 per person and include a delicious chilli supper. Please visit our website for ticket information www.tfsr.org/support/events

2019

Monday 14 January 11am-1pm .**Quiet Spaces** The Vicarage, Cooks Lane, Calmore

On Monday 20 May 11am-1pm 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

Harvest Flower Festival What a wonderful week-end! Deana as the Event Co-Ordinator, with Maureen and Derek and the Fund Raising Team organised and put on a remarkable display of creativity, imagination and a real splash of style! Our thanks go to all the flower arrangers both within our own church community and those from community and church groups in our locality (including all the generations), to everyone who contributed cakes and refreshments and those who welcomed people at the door. At the time of going to press a magnificent total of £1704 has been raised towards our New Floor Fund!

Harvest Celebrations – on Sunday 14 October we held our Harvest celebrations – all in the midst of our fantastic Harvest Flower Festival. We were inundated with produce – both fresh and packet and tinned goods. These were all taken to the Society of St. James homeless centre in Southampton Street in the centre of Southampton by Vicky and Tom. A big thank you for everybody's generosity in this.

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.

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.

Supporting the Church Hall ministry

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 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.

New Developments in the Totton Team

You will remember at a Team Council meeting in March 2018 it was agreed overwhelmingly (12 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) to proceed with a diocesan loan for the roof works at St. Winfrid's – upto £150K – with a further unspecified loan to cover essential electrical works. The loan is conditional on the Team Council agreeing to a Resource Team (which the Team Council have relinquished any say on direction, personnel and operation of this team) being appointed at St. Winfrid's to re-energise and re-develop the worshipping community based at St. Winfrid's.

During November the Bishop's Council will be meeting to make a decision as to how the repayment of this loan will be arranged – it is very clear that the present financial income of the Totton Team Parish is in no position to take on board the repayment schedules for the loan and its accompanying extra requirements (from the necessary electrical works). When the loan was agreed by the Team Council in March it was on condition attempts were to be made for the in-coming Resource Team at St. Winfrid's to pick up liability for the loan. The wording of the Resolution in March could only lay down that this would be 'pursued' – there are no guarantees. So at present the Totton Team parish hold liability for any agreed loan arrangement. Bishop Jonathan attended the Team Council meeting on 26th September where he underlined that Totton was a top priority for the diocese for receiving a Resource Church project. He also described how there are active negotiations on-going to ensure the £150K plus loan is taken on by a separate legal entity based in St. Winfrid's Totton. This will potentially have significant impact on how the rest of the Team churches operate and to whom and with whom they minister with in the generations to come. It will be important that St. Matthew's unique ministry to the people of Totton through our church facility, the school community and the community provision located in our church hall is understood by Totton Team members and diocesan officers. Bishop Jonathan stressed that nothing definite could be communicated at the Team Council on 26 September as it is the Bishop's Council which has authority in making decisions in such situations.

Each month we make payments, along with each of the Totton Team churches to Winchester to cover essential costs in the operation of ministry (the Common Mission Fund previously known as Parish Share) – in 2018 the Common Mission Fund payments are scheduled as follows : St. Anne's Calmore to provide £19,251K, St. Mary's Eling £16,812K, St. Matthew's Netley Marsh £26,136K and St. Winfrid's Testwood £27,801K. The two congregational churches in the Totton Team at Calmore and Testwood rely largely on the regular giving to the church through voluntary donations, at Eling and Netley Marsh (where there is a significant parish church element to ministry) use both the voluntary donations and the fees from the funerals and wedding services.

The monies we raise for the St. Matthew's Floor Fund within the Restoration Fund is strictly ringfenced and cannot be used for the Common Mission Fund.

If you wish any further information do not hesitate to speak further with our Team Council members (Malcolm & Angela Bonning, Mel Bradshaw, David Rigby, Terry and Fran Stanfield and John) as the detail and implications begin to unfold.

Items for December and January Newsletters

Please send items for the newsletter to Jane Scholfield: wjscholfield@hotmail.com or at 171 Woodlands Road, Woodlands in a marked envelope 'newsletter. Deadline date is Friday, 23rd November for the December newsletter. Please feel free to send items for January to beat the Christmas rush!