

SAINT MARY'S BUTTSBURY NEWSLETTER



Services – AUTUMN 2017 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

All services are BCP unless otherwise stated.

3 September	8.30am	Holy Communion
10 ..	11.15am	Matins
17 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
24 ..	3.30pm	Harvest Festival
1 October	8.30am	Holy Communion
8 ..	11.15am	Matins
15 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
22 ..	3.30pm	Evensong
29 ..	11.15am	Benefice service St Margaret's
5 November	8.30am	Holy Communion
12 ..	3.30pm	REMEMBRANCE Service
19 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
26 ..	3.30pm	Evensong

CYCLE RIDE

The annual cycle ride (or walk if you prefer) in support of the Friends of Essex Churches will take place on Saturday 9 September. One half of the money raised goes to the church nominated by the participants and the other half to the Friends of Essex Churches from whom Buttsbury Church has had a number of generous grants. Sponsorship forms may be obtained from Daphne Bishop 01245 442441 or on the Friends web site.

BENEFICE SERVICE

There is no service in Buttsbury on Sunday 29 October. Instead there is a Benefice service of Common Worship Holy Communion in St Margaret's Margaretting at 11.15am.

OPEN AFTERNOON

The Open Afternoon at Buttsbury on 22 July was a success. It was a good social occasion and successful financially too. A profit of over £400 was made. Our grateful thanks go to all those who helped in any way and to those who came to support us.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Priest -in-Charge	Rev'd Patrick Sherring	Tel: 352562
Churchwarden	Christopher Hayward	Tel: 356836
Deputy Churchwarden	Trevor Reeves	Tel: 07595826300
Secretary	Vacancy	
Treasurer	Bryan Shedel	Tel: 352213
Flower Rota	Christine Makings	Tel: 840615
Sidesmen	Arline Leaves & Christine Makings	
Pianists	Jean Bourne	Tel: 840466
	Mary Cole	Tel: 840485

CHANGE IN BUTTSBURY

At the last PCC meeting held on 8 August there was a wide ranging discussion on the services in the five churches of the two benefices and the difficulty in staffing them particularly as Patrick is now on his own. There would be no replacement for Celia for at least 12 months. The appointment of a curate to replace Andy must be in doubt. More would have to be done by the laity by leading services etc. As Ingatestone has by far the largest congregation and population Patrick's efforts must be concentrated there. Margaretting was on its way to becoming a festival church, Mountnessing had a sustainable congregation drawn to a large extent from Billericay and Fryerning was already having some of its services taken by its laity. Realistically Buttsbury will not be able to call upon Patrick's services on a regular basis other than for the 8.30am Communion on the first Sunday. It seems that there are curates who would welcome taking BCP services and it has been suggested that we should explore this by seeking out curates within a reasonable distance from Buttsbury. This is currently being researched. It has also been suggested that we should see Buttsbury as a speciality church with its BCP services, country services, unique situation, unadorned simplicity and candlelight. At times during the year it is also used by the Roman Catholic and URC churches. Perhaps we could build on this. Another suggestion is that we could try a Common Worship morning prayer service at say 10am on the second Sunday instead of Matins at 11.15 and perhaps a regular songs of praise service with groups of hymns interlaced with readings.

The PCC agreed that for the present the timing and content of services should be left as they are now but that it should consult with the congregation to ascertain their views before introducing any change. Where a minister is unavailable, services will be led by one of the laity.

What are your views? The members of the PCC are the Rev'd Patrick Sherring, Trevor Reeves, Chris and Alison Hayward, Margaret Giles and Bryan Shedel. Please let them have your views either by talking or writing to any one or all of them.

BEATING THE BOUNDS

The fifth Sunday after Easter is known as Rogation Sunday, from the Latin verb 'rogare' - to ask. The 'Major Rogation' on the 25th April was a Christianization of the pagan observance of the 'Robigalia' which took the form of processions through the cornfields to pray for the preservation of the crops from mildew.

The 'Minor Rogations' on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day, derived from the processional litanies ordered by St Mamertus of Vienne (c.470) when his diocese was troubled by volcanic eruptions; the custom spread through Gaul and elsewhere.

In medieval England it became the practice on Rogation Sundays and the following three Rogation days to process into the fields singing litanies and to ask for God's blessing on the growing crops.

With the development of the parochial system it became necessary for every parishioner to know the boundaries of his parish and so the Rogationtide processions became associated with a perambulation (a 'walking-round') of the boundaries of every parish. Stops were made at the boundary marks, which were solemnly beaten with willow rods by the boys. In some places the boys themselves were beaten, or they were held upside-down and bumped on the ground, to impress the boundaries on their memories.

Beating the bounds was ordered by the Injunctions of Queen Elizabeth I: "The curate (i.e. rector or Vicar) at certain and convenient places shall admonish the people to give thanks to God, in the beholding of God's benefits, for the increase and abundance of His fruits, saying the 103rd psalm and certain prayers."

Some parishes had trees called 'Gospel trees', because the Gospel was read under their shade by the priest as they went round. The Book of Common Prayer (1662) still orders the three Rogation days to be observed as days of fasting or abstinence. It was the custom for the ceremony to be organized by the Rector and Churchwardens, with the other parish officials, and for notice thereof to be posted on the Church door the previous Sunday.

Buttsbury had its Rogation procession this year on 28th May. Tea and cake was served in the church afterwards. No boys were beaten or bumped!