

SAINT MARY'S BUTTSBURY NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2014 Services – March/April/May

All services are BCP unless otherwise stated

2	March	8.45am	Holy Communion
9	..	11.15am	Matins
16	..	3.30pm	Evensong with Holy Communion
23	..	3.30pm	Evensong
30	..	9.30am	Benefice Mothering Sunday service at St Giles
6	April	8.45am	Holy Communion
13	..	11.15am	Matins and the APCM
20	..	8.45am	Easter Holy Communion
27	..	3.30pm	Evensong
4	May	8.45am	Holy Communion
11	..	11.15am	Matins
18	..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
25	..	3.30pm	Evensong

SPECIAL SERVICES AT THE OTHER BENEFICE CHURCHES

Ash Wednesday – 5 March

There will be a service in St Margaret's Margareting at 8pm

Maundy Thursday – 17 April

There will be an Evening Eucharist in St Giles, Mountnessing at 8pm.

Good Friday – 18 April

There will be "The Passion Gospel with hymns" in St Margaret's, Margareting at 10am and in St Giles, Mountnessing at 2pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be a **Gift afternoon** at the church on **Saturday 14 June** from 2pm to 4pm – flowers in church – **cream teas** – games for children of all ages.

The Vesper Singers led by Bruce Pennick will sing Evensong at the Benefice Service to be held in Buttsbury church at 3.30pm on **Sunday 29 June**.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Priest-in-Charge	Vacancy	
Churchwarden	Daphne Bishop	Tel: 01245 400136
Deputy Churchwarden	Trevor Reeves	Tel: 07595826300
Secretary	Arline Leaves	Tel: 653604
Treasurer	Bryan Shedel	Tel: 352213
Flower Rota	Christine Makings	Tel: 840615
Sidesmen	Frances Baggott John Bishop	Arline Leaves
	Christine Makings & Betty Weavers	
Pianists	Jean Bourne	Tel: 840466
	Mary Cole	Tel: 840485
	Frank Hatch	Tel: 658186

EASTER

There are some who would say that what we celebrate at Easter is very odd. Odd because we're marking something that took place so long ago and saying it's of significance for us today. We live in a culture which delights in the present moment. Last year is long gone. What matters is living to the full in each day as if there had been no yesterday and no shaping of today from previous years.

It's odd because we're celebrating something that defies aspects of contemporary scientific thinking. There are those who will say that we live in a world in which everything has a rational explanation. There is no longer mystery, only puzzles which are on their way to being solved. It is a dilemma of our age that nothing is allowed to stay as a mystery. People's lives need to be unpacked or unpeeled, until like the onion, there's nothing left but a pile of layers.

But the mystery of Easter is one which points us to awe rather than analysis. Mary wanted to hold on to the risen Lord, to pin him down, to keep him with her. But Jesus said that this wasn't possible – that he had to go to be with the Father.

It is a great temptation to want to hold on to things, to make sure life is pinned down, to want to keep our faith in ways that fit within our limited understanding.

The mystery of the Resurrection calls for awe and wonder at the God who has given the victory over death itself and who comes again and again in surprising ways to a broken and hurting world.

Our Lord was not *resuscitated* after death. He did not come back exactly as he had been Jesus the man. Mary and others failed to recognise him at first in the resurrection appearances. *Resurrection* which we celebrate at Easter is about new life. Resurrection involves moving on.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The Annual Meetings will be held on **Sunday 13 April** in the church immediately following Matins. Tea and biscuits will be served. The meeting is important in the life of the church as not only are Reports and Accounts of the past year presented but the meeting also has the responsibility of electing Churchwardens, Sidesmen and Parochial Church Councillors for the ensuing year. If you feel able to fill any of these posts please speak with Daphne.

CHURCH FINANCES

The February edition of the Month contained on page 5 an article by Don Cardy on the costs of running a parish church. How, we might ask, does Buttsbury fit into this picture? The amount of voluntary giving recorded by PCC accounts in the Chelmsford Diocese in 2012 was £9.23 per member per week. On the same basis, in Buttsbury the figure was £9.30. Parish Share payments were £7.02 per member per week; in Buttsbury the figure was £9.30. The average running costs, lighting heating insurance and repairs etc in 2012 were £7.02. Buttsbury was £4.37 per week.

These figures demonstrate that our voluntary giving just about covers the parish share payments to the Diocese leaving the income from burial etc fees and activities such as the open day and cycle ride to pay for all other expenses.

As can be seen from the Buttsbury PCC Accounts the church has very little in reserve; virtually all the reserves were spent following the last quinquennial survey when the oak cladding to the tower was replaced. In 2013 our reserves were further depleted by an excess of expenditure over income of £460. There is an increasing need to do something about this.

Are we ourselves giving enough? That is for us to decide individually. It has been suggested that one should tithe one's income, that is to give one tenth of one's income. But a tenth of what? A tenth perhaps of one's income after deduction of items such as taxes, council tax, necessary household expenditure such as lighting, heating and insurance etc. To whom should one give? One suggestion is to give one half to the church and the other half to charities for children, the poor and the needy.

How should we give? A regular monthly income helps to budget one's outgoings and it is the same for the church. Some pledge a weekly or monthly amount and are given a supply of envelopes so that they can be put in the collection. Others pay by bank standing order. If the payer pays income tax their contributions can be enhanced by completing a gift aid declaration which enables tax to be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue. These forms and envelopes are available through the Treasurer.

When did we last think about our giving? It is something we should all do from time to time and when better than now?