

SAINT MARY'S BUTTSBURY ***NEWSLETTER***



SUMMER 2017

Services – JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

All services are BCP unless otherwise stated

4 June	8.30am	Holy Communion
11 ..	11.15am	Matins
18 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
25 ..	3.30pm	Evensong
2 July	8.30am	Holy Communion
9 ..	11.15am	Matins
16 ..	3.30 pm	Evensong with Communion
23 ..	3.30 pm	Evensong
30 ..	9.30am	Common Worship Benefice service at Mountnessing
6 August	8.30am	Holy Communion
13 ..	11.15am	Matins
20 ..	3.30 pm	Evensong with Communion
27 ..	3.30 pm	Evensong

FIRST SUNDAY TIME CHANGE

In order to allow sufficient time for the clergy to get from one service in the Benefice to another without unseemly haste the time of the Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of the month has been brought forward from 8.45 to 8.30am.

CHURCH OPEN AFTERNOON Saturday 22nd July

This year the Open Day will again be a half day - from 2.00 - 4.30pm. There will be cream teas served by Alison Hayward and others, some stalls, a raffle, activities for children of all ages and of course the flower decorations are sure to be as beautiful as ever.

BENEFICE SERVICE

The Benefice service on 30th July will be Common Worship Communion at St Giles Mountnessing at 9.30am. There will be no service in Buttsbury that day.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Priest-in-Charge	Rev'd Patrick Sherring	Tel: 352562
Churchwarden	Christopher Hayward	Tel: 356836
Deputy Churchwarden	Trevor Reeves	Tel: 07595826300
Flower Rota	Christine Makings	Tel: 840615
PCC Secretary	Vacancy	

REV'D CELIA PARKES

We give thanks for the ministry of Rev'd Celia Parkes in our community. She has a new post in a different diocese and we wish her many blessings in the future.

Rev'd Patrick Sherring

THE TEACHINGS OF THE REFORMATION

The key teachings of the Reformation are summarised in five statements. these are: Scripture Alone; Faith Alone; Grace Alone; Christ Alone; and the Glory of God Alone.

Both individually, and together, they explain what the Reformers thought was being taught incorrectly in the Mediaeval period, and why the Church needed to Reform (or correct) it's teachings.

'**Scripture Alone**' means that it is the Bible, and the Bible alone, which must be the ultimate authority in deciding what the Church believes. Over the centuries teachings had come in which weren't supported by the Bible, and were enforced by Synods and Councils. Ironically these Councils could quite easily disagree with one another. But this wasn't admitted. So the Reformers made it a rule that whatever could not be supported by the Bible is a belief which no Christian could be required to hold, and that the Bible alone contains all that it is necessary to know to be saved from sin, and be able to follow the teachings of Jesus.

I have often heard it quoted that 'God helps those who help themselves'. Surprisingly this is a summary of what the Mediaeval Church had allowed to become official teaching. The Reformers rejected this completely. Instead they insisted that it is **Christ Alone**, and what He did for us on the Cross, that enables us to be saved.

We contribute nothing. Martin Luther was particularly insistent on this. He often reflected on how much he had tried to do to please God - all for nothing, because he could never be certain that he had pleased God. It was only when he reached the understanding that Jesus did it all and that we don't need to do anything, that he finally had peace in following Jesus, and no longer saw a stern, judgemental God.

This understanding was further developed in the teaching of '**Grace Alone**'. Grace literally means gift. Salvation is God's gift to us through Jesus dying for our sins on the Cross. We cannot earn it, but it is ours for the asking if we turn to God and say sorry for all that we do wrong - our sins - and God forgives us, and gives us salvation.

Alongside this, is the understanding that **Faith Alone** (our faith in trusting what Jesus did for us) is all that is needed. Through this faith, we know God's forgiveness. Faith, and nothing else, is sufficient to let us know that we are right with God. This is true no matter how we feel or what our circumstances may make us feel.

Finally, everything we do is for the **Glory of God alone**. Not for our glory, or anyone else's. One of the greatest understandings of the Bible is that the glory of God is shown most completely in what happened on the Cross on that first Good Friday. All that we do in this life, in response to God, is to say a big thank you, and all that we do is an expression of that thank you.

These, then, are the core principles and teachings of the Reformation. These are also the core principles of the Church of England, as taught in the Book of Common Prayer, and the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion.

Rev'd Derek McClean

Rector St Remigius Hethersett

THE EASTER GARDEN

For some years we have had the pleasure of an Easter garden created by our flower ladies in the porch. Each year it gets better and better and this year was no exception. Our thanks are due in particular to Christine and Alison.

WILD FLOWERS

Thanks to Margaret Giles there were many more wild flowers in the churchyard this Spring. It is truly a labour of love for which we are most grateful.

NOT TO BE MISSED

The Vesper Singers led by Bruce Pennick will sing Evensong in Buttsbury church at 3.30pm on Sunday 23rd July.