

# ***SAINT MARY'S BUTTSBURY***

## ***NEWSLETTER***



### **Services – AUTUMN 2015**

#### **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER**

*All services are BCP unless otherwise stated.*

6 September	8.45am	Holy Communion
13 ..	11.15am	Matins
20 ..	3.30pm	Evensong
27 ..	3.30pm	Harvest Festival
4 October	8.45am	Holy Communion
11 ..	11.15am	Matins
18 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
25 ..	3.30pm	Evensong
1 November	8.45am	Holy Communion
8 ..	3.30pm	REMEMBRANCE Service
15 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
22 ..	3.30pm	Evensong
29 ..	10.00am	Benefice service Margaretting

### **CYCLE RIDE**

The annual cycle ride (or walk if you prefer) in support of the Friends of Essex Churches will take place on Saturday 12 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.

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Sunday 27th September - tea in church afterwards

### **BENEFICE SERVICE**

There is no service in Buttsbury on Sunday 29 November. Instead there is a Benefice service in St Margaret's Margaretting at 10.00am.

### **OPEN AFTERNOON**

The Open Afternoon at Buttsbury on 13 June was a success. It was a good social occasion and successful financially too. Takings after expenses were £477. Our grateful thanks go to all those who helped in any way and to those who came to support us.

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Associate Priest	Rev'd Celia Parkes	Tel: 07842151387
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	John Bishop Arline Leaves & Christine Makings	
Pianists	Jean Bourne	Tel: 840466
	Mary Cole	Tel: 840485
	Frank Hatch	Tel: 658186

## HIGH AND DRY

The Old Ship Pub at Maldon has wonderful views over the Blackwater River just the place for a quiet summer evening drink. That is just where I found myself last week and looking at the view in front of me I realised that something was missing. Where had all the water gone? The tide was out and an abundance of mud was to be seen everywhere. So many boats high and dry just sitting on the mud waiting for the tide to come back in. In many ways this could be a picture of life the tide seems to have gone out with all the busyness, problems and rush of life leaving us high and dry. What is needed is for the tide to come back in and re float us. Our Lord Jesus Christ came to give us life in all its fullness His love is like the river that comes in and re floats us. This river of love sustains us through all that life may throw at us and keeps us afloat.

Every Blessing

Revd Celia

## SERVING WITH ACCOUNTABILITY

In a joint letter the Archdeacons of the Diocese write "The 'Transforming Presence' vision makes spirituality and evangelism two clear priorities in the life of the church, along with the need to re-imagine ministry. However there needs to be some means whereby this is joined together. How do we serve *with accountability*?"

"From Transforming Presence the following questions are raised, which form the criteria for each church being seen to be part of the whole Body of Christ:

### 1. **Worship**

What are you doing to make worship the central focus of the life of the Church?

### 2. **Spirituality**

What are you doing to teach people to pray?

### 3. **Nurture**

What are you doing to teach people the faith and help them in their discipleship?

### 4. **Evangelism**

What are you doing to share faith with others and what have the results been in the past year? Does your Church have a place of nurture?

### 5. **Vocation**

What are you doing to nurture and develop the ministry of the whole people of God including enabling people to come forward for authorised lay and ordained ministry?

### 6. **Service**

How is your Church a blessing to the community you serve? And how is it witnessing to God's kingdom of justice and peace?

### 7. **Hospitality**

What are you doing to ensure that your church is a place of safety and welcome for all ages and for people of all backgrounds?

### 8. **Interdependence**

How are you working in partnership with other Christian communities in your locality and at diocesan, national and global levels.

### 9. **Generosity**

What are you doing to ensure that your Church is showing signs of generosity towards the wider church and community as well as becoming financially secure?

All of these criteria can be discerned from the New Testament and most can be identified in Acts 2:42-47.

Just as worship is expressed in a huge variety of ways, so these ministries will also be expressed differently according to the circumstances, context, personality and ethos of each community - and we certainly don't want to develop a tick box exercise or some form of ecclesiastical OFSTED! However, some form of self evaluation, taking into account the particular circumstances of each parish, seems an appropriate way in which a church can remain accountable to those it serves. The hope is that the exercise will work both ways - with parishes holding Archdeacons accountable in the way we can offer help and support."

The Archdeacons invite each PCC to consider these matters and to let them know the result of their discussions. Your PCC will be discussing them at their next meeting on 8 September. If you have something you would like to contribute to the discussions, please let one of the members know.

