

SAINT MARY'S BUTTSBURY NEWSLETTER



Services – AUTUMN 2018 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

All services are BCP unless otherwise stated.

2 September	8.30am	Holy Communion	
9 ..	11.15am	Matins	
16 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion	
23 ..	3.30pm	Harvest Festival	
30 ..	3.30pm	Licensing of Tim Lee at St Mountnessing	Giles
7 October	8.30am	Holy Communion	
14 ..	11.15am	Matins	
21 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion	
28 ..	3.30pm	Evensong	
4 November	8.30am	Holy Communion	
11 ..	3.30pm	REMEMBRANCE Service	
18 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion	
25 ..	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 8 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 Alison Hayward 356836 or on the Friends web site.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 23RD SEPTEMBER

Buttsbury's harvest festival will be held in the church on Sunday 23rd September at 3.30pm. We are pleased that David Tee has agreed to take the service. Tea and cake will be served in the church afterwards.

OPEN AFTERNOON

Our Open Afternoon was in competition with the Ladies final at Wimbledon, the World cup and a village event in Margaretting. Nevertheless a goodly number came to see the flowers in church, to enjoy Alison's cream teas, to play games and to buy from the various stalls all to the accompaniment of Jean and Mary playing the piano. In all £700 was raised which made the occasion not just a good social occasion but also a financial success. Our thanks 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

JOHN ROLAND BISHOP

John, who died on 6th August was well known in both Buttsbury and Stock where he had practiced as an architect for many years. He had connections with Buttsbury church for some 60 years and was a regular member of the congregation in Buttsbury until he and Daphne moved to Broomfield in July 2016. John continued to attend service at Buttsbury until June 2017 when illness prevented him.

Those of us with long memories will remember that it was John who organized, and paid for, the restoration of Buttsbury's one bell which had cracked. In 1999 the bell was taken to Cambridge for specialist welding and returned in time to be rung for the Millennium. It will be rung at John's funeral which will be at Buttsbury at 10.30 on 28th August. As was the custom in the past the nine tailors will be rung - nine strikes in groups of three followed by a strike for every year of John's life. These will be rung during the procession to the grave.

LAMMAS SUNDAY 29TH JULY

The Benefice service in Buttsbury on 29th July was a celebration of Lammas where thanks were given for the first fruits of harvest. The service was taken by the Rev'd Janet Nicholls, the Diocesan Rural Advisor and Agricultural Chaplain. It was Janet's first visit to Buttsbury and we were pleased that on leaving she said that she looked forward to coming again. During the service Chris presented a sheaf of fresh cut barley and Bryan a newly baked loaf to be placed on the altar as tokens of gratitude for the start of harvest. Tea and cake were served after the service.

BENEFICE SERVICE

There is no service in Buttsbury on Sunday 30 September. Instead there is a Benefice Licensing service for Tim Lee at St Giles Mountnessing at 3.30pm. Tim is currently the Licensed Lay Reader at Warley. For the past year he has been supporting Patrick taking services and funerals in Mountnessing and Fryerning. He will be based in St Giles but helping in all five parishes. We look forward to welcoming him to Buttsbury.

ISN'T THE BIBLE OUTDATED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY?

This is an opinion I come across quite often. In some senses it is a very valid question to ask, since the documents which make up the Bible cover a vast period of history (being written over approx. 1,600 years), with the latest dating no later than circa 90AD. But I also think that it is a bit of a 'red herring'.

Why? Well, simply because we pay attention to the writings of Plato (to choose an example), and his writings date to the same period as a significant number of the books of the Old Testament.

What is really being asked is why we should give any authority to the teachings of the Bible, and that is a very different question indeed. It is a question which asks us to think in a different way about what the Bible is and why we should use it as a guide for life.

We already do a sort of pick and mix of the Bible. Many of us would readily agree with the Golden Rule (do to others as you would have them do to you) and very few people would argue for that as being outdated. Many people admire the teachings and example of Jesus, and happily cite His love and compassion as something worth copying.

That being the case, I will ask the question: Why should I live as the Bible asks me to live? Partly, the Bible answers that itself: 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (or living as God asks us to - 2 Timothy 3 v 16). And Jesus, Himself, provides the other part of the answer; 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching' (John 14 v 23).

The God Christians say they worship is a God Who reveals Himself through the teachings of the Bible. The Bible is His gift to us. It is not an easy book to understand, and some of the stories are very difficult indeed. But, part and parcel of getting to know God, and living God's way, is to spend time with the Bible, and give it the authority it deserves in helping us to decide how to live.

The Old Testament points forward to Jesus, and the New Testament reflects on Jesus and what His life, death and resurrection mean to us. In this life there is nothing more important and relevant than Jesus.

Rev'd Derek McClean