

SAINT MARY'S BUTTSBURY

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2017

Services – March/April/May

All services are BCP unless otherwise stated

	5 March	8.45am	Holy Communion
	12 ..	11.15am	Matins
	19 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
26 ..		3.30pm	Evensong
	2 April	8.45am	Holy Communion
	9 ..	11.15am	Matins
	16 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
	23 ..	3.30pm	Evensong and APCM
	30	3.30pm	Benefice Evensong with Communion
	7 May	8.45am	Holy Communion
	14 ..	11.15am	Matins
	21 ..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
28 ..		3.30pm	Rogation procession

EVENSONG

As an experiment, Evensong for most of 2016 during British Summer Time was held at 5pm. This did not result in the hoped for increase in its congregation. The PCC at its last meeting decided to revert to having Evensong at 3.30pm throughout the Summer.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT THE OTHER BENEFICE CHURCHES

Maundy Thursday – 13 April

There will be an Evening Eucharist in St Giles, Mountnessing at 7.30pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be an open **afternoon** at the church on **Saturday 22 July** from 2pm to 4.30pm – flowers in church – cream teas

The Vesper Singers led by Bruce Pennick will sing Evensong at the Service to be held in Buttsbury church at 3.30pm on **Sunday 23 July**.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Associate Priest	Rev'd Celia Parkes	Tel: 0782151387
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
	Frank Hatch	Tel: 658186

FINDING FREEDOM

One of the most puzzling things about the Harry Potter series, for me, was the furor caused by the decision of Ms Rowling to kill off a main character. Parents were making loud complaints about introducing children to the idea of death at such a young age.

This puzzled me because the idea of death was implied by the opening chapter of the first book - *The Boy Who Lived*. It also puzzled me because a character had died at the end of the fourth book. Death was nothing new in the Potterverse.

By the time of the seventh book, people had stopped complaining, and another main character had died. But what really intrigued me, then, was Ms Rowling's use of 1 Corinthians 15:26 (The last enemy to be destroyed is death) as a recurring quotation in the book. Voldemort's quest to avoid death, to become immortal, had left a trail of destruction, murder, and war in the Potterverse.

There can be fewer stark contrasts between Voldemort's quest to overcome death, and what Jesus did. Voldemort was, ultimately, terrified of death and what he thought followed it. But Jesus gave Himself to die in order to defeat death - the very point the Apostle Paul is making in 1 Corinthians 15! Voldemort destroyed others to make himself immortal. Jesus embraced death in order to defeat it.

Voldemort's quest relied on intimidation and subjugation. He ruled by terror, and the overt uses of fascist, even Nazi, ideas and themes to characterize Voldemort's regime can hardly be accidental.

Jesus' death freed us in every way imaginable. Freedom from sin. Freedom from the fear of death. Freedom to love - as it says in the new Potter book, the only 'magic' Voldemort never understood.

Jesus' death makes us free. Why not come along and find out more about what that means? We'd love to see you.

Derek McClean

INGATESTONE CHURCHES TOGETHER

Good Friday - 14 April

There is the usual three hour devotion in Ingatestone commencing with stations of the cross in the Catholic Church at 12 noon followed by a procession of Witness, pausing at the Elim and United Reformed Churches for short acts of worship, to arrive at the Parish Church by 1.00pm where there will first be a Family Service followed by a more formal act of worship for the last hour. All are welcome to all or just part of the devotion.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The Annual Meetings will be held on **Sunday 23 April** in the church immediately following Evensong. Tea and biscuits will be served. The meetings are important in the life of the church as not only are Reports and Accounts of the past year presented but the meetings also have the responsibility of electing Churchwardens, Sidesmen and Parochial Church Councillors for the ensuing year.

LIFE'S DRAMA

Strange! life to some, should be all sunshine,
And to others, shade and gloom!--
Hard toil and cares, and bitter tears,
That expedite an early tomb!

True, we are each in "*Life*" an actor,
But our "*parts*" are not the same;
For some are glad, and others sad: -
And "*Fortune*" often bears the blame.

What is the purpose of "*Life's Drama*?"
Who has solved its mystery?
Upon Earth's stage, age after age,
Man weaves the woof of history.

Oh! for a glimpse beyond the present
Wond'rous, but mysterious play!
Oh! for a view of Life that's *true*,
Where doubts and fears have lost their sway.

Not till we pass behind Death's curtain,
Shall we see Life's purpose right:-
We wonder *here*; but wonder *there*
Will vanish in Eternal Light.

So, on the stage of this fair planet,-
One small world in God's design;
Each human heart must act a part,
And further God's Vast Plan Divine.

James Shepherd