

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



## **SUMMER 2019**

### **Services – JUNE/JULY/AUGUST**

All services are BCP unless otherwise stated

2	June	8.30am	Holy Communion
9	..	11.15am	Matins
16	..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
23	..	3.30am	Evensong
30		3.30pm	Evensong with Song Cycle
7	July	8.30am	Holy Communion
14	..	11.15am	Matins
21	..	3.30 pm	Evensong with Communion
28	..	3.30am	Evensong
4	August	8.30am	Holy Communion
11	..	11.15am	Lammas service
18	..	3.30 pm	Evensong with Communion
25	..	3.30 pm	<b>Evensong</b>

## **CHURCH OPEN AFTERNOON Saturday 29th June**

This year the Open Day will again be a half day - from 2.00 - 4.30pm. There will be refreshments 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.

## **EVENSONG Sunday 30th June**

Evensong will be sung by Song Cycle. We are honoured that this talented quartet are coming to enhance this benefice service. Refreshments will be provided after the service.

## **LAMMAS SERVICE Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

A celebration of Lammas will take place at 11.15am on 11<sup>th</sup> August with refreshments to follow the service.

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Priest -in-Charge	Rev'd Patrick Sherring	Tel: 352562
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Matt Houghton	Tel 01245 475724
Licensed Lay Reader	Tim Lee	Tel: 216583
Churchwarden	Christopher Hayward	Tel: 356836
Deputy Churchwarden	Trevor Reeves	Tel: 07595826300
Secretary	Vicky George	Tel: 01621850730
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

## THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The annual meetings were held following Evensong on 28 April. Chris Hayward was re-elected Churchwarden. The PCC members elected were Trevor Reeves as chairman, Alison Hayward as Safeguarding Officer, Margaret Giles, Vicky George as Secretary and Bryan Shedel as Treasurer.

### CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Chris reported that we have completed a substantial amount of work to the fabric of the church. Bakers of Danbury had completed structural work to the bell turret comprising the replacement of most of the timber sole plate and some repointing of brickwork. The roof has been overhauled. Internally loose plaster on ceilings has been replaced after new lathes were put in place; and the bulging plaster at the junction of the Nave roof and Chancel has been removed with new lathes fitted and plastered. The church needs to be redecorated internally. There is also a problem with the east window as some of the glazing bars have rusted through and consequently some of the glass is no longer adequately supported. Once we have paid for the current work, we will seek estimates and discuss fundraising.

We are grateful to Betty Weavers family for donating to us the piano and we propose to record this generous gift by placing a plaque on the piano.

The churchyard continues to be looked after very ably by Margaret Giles assisted by Peter. The hedges have been kept trimmed by Bryan and myself. The care of the churchyard is much appreciated by the many visitors to the church and not only those who have family graves in the churchyard.

One of the great joys of St. Mary's are the flowers and grateful thanks go to Christine, Alison, Pam, Barbara, Mary and all the flower arrangers who help keep the church looking beautiful throughout the year. Chris also thanked our talented pianists Jean and Mary who play for us.

We are indebted to all the volunteers who every day of the year lock and unlock the church so that it is available for private prayer and quiet contemplation for all. We remain the only church in the

group of 5 churches to be open every day of the year and it is an important role that Buttsbury plays in the Church's mission in this part of Essex. Services continue to be held weekly and we are joyful that Patrick as our priest in charge has been joined during the year by Tim Lee a lay minister looking after Buttsbury, Margaretting and Mountnessing and by Matthew Houghton a curate serving throughout the five parishes. Bryan and I continue to lead Matins and Evensong if a priest is not available.

Chris went on to say the search for a House of Duty priest to replace Celia has been put on hold for the time being. The Church in Essex is facing financial problems; its expenditure is greater than its income, and the largest item is clergy salaries and pensions. Buttsbury and Margaretting do not pay their full Parish Share and until all five pay their full share it is unlikely we will be permitted by the diocese to replace Celia. To put the problem into context our average weekly congregation is 8 and our Parish Share is £8,000. Open days, weddings and funerals help but to pay our full share and have funds over to meet our running costs, at current attendance levels the contribution required from each regular member is £20 per week.

Your PCC cannot and does not expect everyone to pay such a sum and still contribute time in addition and we are aware that some give to more than one church, but there are ways to close the gap: regular giving plans, legacies; if you are remaking your Will please remember the Church (a gift to the Church is free of Inheritance Tax!), reviewing annually what you give and growing the congregation and so spreading the cost.

Chris ended his report by thanking all who have given freely of their time in supporting St Mary's and our worship. Without that support we would not be able to keep this very special church open for private prayer and worship. He also thanked all of the congregation who assist with setting up on Sundays and with clearing away at the end of services.