

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



### **Services – DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY WINTER 2016/17**

*All services are BCP unless otherwise stated*

4	December	8.45am	Holy Communion
11	..	11.15am	Matins
18	..	<b>3.00pm</b>	Family Crib Service
25	..	8.45am	Holy Communion
1	January.	<b>3.00pm</b>	Carols by Candlelight
8	..	11.15am	Plough Sunday service
15	..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
22	..	3.30pm	Evensong
29	..	9.30am	Benefice at Margaretting
5	February	8.45am	Holy Communion
9	..	11.15am	Matins
16	..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
23	..	3.30pm	Evensong

### **CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS**

**Donations of the following may be left in the church on Sunday 4 and Sunday 11 December; Food** (use by date beyond 31 January) tinned soup, baked beans, tinned fruit, tinned fish, ham or chicken, instant coffee (no decaf please) tins of assorted biscuits, chocolate bars, soft drinks (cans or bottles, but no glass) **Toiletries** soap, razors, tooth brushes & small tubes of tooth paste, new or freshly laundered bath and hand towels & Roll on Deodorant (non aerosol) **Arts & crafts** paint brushes, crayons, felt tip pens and sketch books **Sports & Games** chess sets, board games, DVD's Bingo tickets

### **INGATESTONE & FRYERNING CHURCHES TOGETHER**

On **New Year's Eve** there will be a service in Ingatestone Parish Church at 6pm to which all are welcome. Afterwards, at 7pm, there will be a display of fireworks in the field next the Church.

A service for the week of **Prayer for Christian Unity** will be held on Sunday 22nd January at 4pm in Ingatestone Parish Church.

A **Lent study course** called "Pilgrim" will be held in Ingatestone Parish church for six weeks commencing Friday 3rd March from 9.30-10.30am. An evening course will commence at the Elim church on Wednesday 8th March from 7.30 - 9pm. All are welcome. Attendance at all is not necessary although desirable.

### **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	Arline Leaves, Christine Makings	
Pianists	Jean Bourne	Tel: 840466
	Mary Cole	Tel: 840485

## A FATHER'S LOVE

Planet Earth 2 what a gem of a programme you have all been watching. Spider Monkeys in the jungle, father curled up on the branch apparently sleeping while some of the youngsters play around him. This all takes place high up in the canopy of the trees and there is no safety net, a fall would most certainly result in death. They jump from branch to branch using their tails to hold them in place, the smallest of the group is curious and so she launches herself to places that no baby Spider monkey should go. Father's not watching, so I am off, then the realisation that the branches have become slender twigs, baby jumps and is stuck when suddenly father appears, in tender love he sweeps the baby in to his arms and forms a bridge with his body, she is rescued by such tender love.

Christmas approaches and as we wait through the season of Advent may we too be reminded of the Father's love. His great rescue plan for all humanity stuck in a place where certain death would result. Our Heavenly Father watching over us, he sweeps up humanity in to his loving arms and gives us the gift of his Son Jesus Christ. The one who will then form a bridge with his body on the cross at Easter. Such a rescue plan, such Devine love.

Christmas blessings may you all know the love, joy and peace of the Christ Child.

**Revd Celia**

## THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

It seems to me that we live in an age where there is great change and uncertainty. Whether in international relations, the threat of terrorism, financial austerity, or scientific advance, we are presented with problems and issues which are beyond the imagination of our forebears.

We have computing power beyond imagination, yet it can be difficult to work out right from wrong sometimes. We know the price of everything defined by E-Bay, Amazon all the rest, and yet we know the value of nothing. With Pokemon Go (if you don't have children or grandchildren you may have no idea what I'm talking about) we can find the location of so much, and yet some seem to have entirely lost our way in our present day society.

I don't do 'social media' as it's called, but I read recently of a blog on Facebook which said....'People were created to be loved. Things were created

to be used. The reason the world is in chaos is because things are being loved and people are being used.' Think about it - there is more than a grain of truth in it.

And so what are we to do, what is the answer? How do we make the right choices? What should guide us? There's no spiritual sat nav which gives absolute directions, for nowhere is there a guidebook spelling out the correct answer to every one of our 21st century complex problems. However, our actions, our discipleship, our lives and our decisions should be, and must be, consonant with the Gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ. And what is the Gospel message? -to quote from the letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, it's about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Those qualities can be squeezed out by the pursuit of profit, or by the pressure under which people live their lives, but as a Church we can stand for something different. Our churches speak of the timelessness of faith, and of love and of sacrifice. Faith has stood the test of time, through good times and bad, through war and peace, prosperity and poverty. As a Church we perhaps have the ultimate 'staying power' with our church buildings shining as beacons of God's presence in our villages, towns and cities.

The Facebook quotation above says it's all about people, and the future role of the Church reflects that, but it does so with some hard questions.....What must we do individually to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ? What are we actually prepared to do? What are we prepared to let go? What can we do even though we may never have done it this way before?

**Steven Betts, Archdeacon of Norfolk**

## SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

The Christingle Service for families will be on Sunday 18th December at 3pm; featuring the decoration of the Christmas tree, the presentations to the crib and the special Christingle oranges and candles. All by candlelight. The collection at the service will be given to The Children's Society.

Christmas is celebrated at Buttsbury with Holy Communion at 8.45am on 25 December to welcome the Christ child into our hearts and on Sunday 1st January at our Carols by Candlelight service to express our joy at His coming. Shenfield Parish Church choir is joining us and so that they may more easily read their music the service will start at **3.00pm** (not 3.30pm).

**We Wish all our readers a blessed Christmas**