

SAINT MARY'S BUTTSBURY NEWSLETTER



Services – DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY WINTER 2015/16

All services are BCP unless otherwise stated

6	December	8.45am	Holy Communion
13	..	11.15am	Matins
20	..	3.00pm	Family Crib Service
25	..	8.45am	Holy Communion
27	..	3.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
3	January	8.45am	Holy Communion
10	..	11.15am	Plough Sunday service
17	..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
24	..	3.30pm	Evensong
31	..	9.30am	Benefice service at St Giles
7	February	8.45am	Holy Communion
14	..	11.15am	Matins
21	..	3.30pm	Evensong with Communion
28	..	3.30pm	Evensong

INGATESTONE & FRYERNING CHURCHES TOGETHER

On **New Years Eve** there will be a service in Ingatestone Parish Church at 6pm to which all are welcome. Afterwards, at 7.15pm, 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 17 January at 4pm in Ingatestone Parish Church.

A **Lent study course** on the Psalms by Bishop Steven Cotterall will be held in Ingatestone Parish church for five weeks commencing Tuesday 16 February at 7.45 for 8pm. All are welcome. Attendance at all is not necessary although desirable.

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

Our thanks go to Margaret, Trevor and Bryan who between them raised £200 for the Friends of Essex Churches on 13th September. Half of the money raised comes to Buttsbury. Thanks too to the sponsors and to those of our congregation who provided refreshments for those riders who visited our church.

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

EMMANUEL

Christmas is coming but somehow this year it seems to have a different feel about it. I am sure we would all agree that we live in a dangerous and troubled world; even the food adverts on the TV which have dominated the run up to Christmas over the last few years seem to have lost their appeal. After all can we really eat all that food and not think for a moment that half the world is starving. Can we really drink all that alcohol when half the world longs for a cup of clean water? Can we really decorate our homes inside and out with pretty coloured lights when so much of the world appears to be enveloped in darkness. Can we really spend more than we can afford on those expensive gifts and overlook the greatest free gift ever given?

Where at this Christmas time may we find the love, hope, joy and peace that I am sure we all so desire? These things are to be found in the simple stable and manger of that first Christmas night for it is there that Emmanuel – God with us is to be found in the gift of the Christ child. May we all in the stable of our lives and the mangers of our hearts receive afresh this Christmas time the one born to be King of Kings, Lord of Lords and Prince of Peace our Lord Jesus Christ.
Christmas joy and peace to you all

Revd Celia

MASS DIAL

One of our many visitors has kindly written the following in our visitors book for which we are very grateful. He wrote it on 5 September 2015.

" I came to find the Mass Dial/Scratch dial. This sundial (I think) is a small circle on the left side of the doorway. A gnomon (stick) was placed in the centre hole and shadows cast on the radiating lines told the time of the Masses. This dial is the smallest in Essex. *Patrick Arnold*
p.s. The porch was built much later."

The dial is there. Have a look next time you come to church.

OUR WAR MEMORIAL

Do you know how unusual is our memorial? Most memorials list those who fell in the wars. Our memorial lists not only those who fell in the 1914-18 war but also those who served. The outside panels list all those who served and the centre panel lists those who did not return. The numbers against the outside panels are the numbers of the family who went to war. Those who fell are recorded on both centre and side panels.

THE STORY OF CHRISTINGLE

The idea of Christingle began in Marienborn, Germany on 20th December 1747. At a children's service, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus.

He decided to give the children a symbol to do this. This was a lighted candle wrapped in a red ribbon. At the end of the service, whilst the children held their candles, the bishop said the prayer, 'Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like thine become.'

In 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society adapted Christingle and introduced it to the Church of England. This involved children decorating an orange with a red ribbon, dried fruits, sweets and a candle to create an updated symbol and services featuring the lighting of the candles to celebrate Christ, the light of the word.

Over the past 47 years, Christingles have become a vibrant and hugely popular event for churches and schools throughout the UK. Importantly, they have also raised millions of pounds to help The Children's Society change the stories of disadvantaged children.

The Christingle Service has now become an important event in the Buttsbury Christmas Service with young people playing an active part in the service. This year's service is on Sunday 20th December at 3pm. Do come along and enjoy a magical and meaningful start to Christmas.

SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

There is a crib service including a Christingle element on Sunday 21 December at **3.00pm** (not 3.30pm) in place of Evensong. It will be a great occasion for all but particularly for children and their parents and grandparents. The collection at the crib 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 27 December 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 AND JOYFUL
CHRISTMAS**

