



St. Mary's Church
Chiddingfold

Lent 2017 NEWSLETTER



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The daylight is creeping through our bedroom windows a little earlier, the birds are eyeing up desirable residences for their new families, bulbs are poking through in the garden – Spring is definitely on its way. What an exciting time this is. February is a month when nature hints at what is to come as the darkness of January, a month which always seems the longest of the year, lifts. This month also hints at opportunities to rediscover and reconnect with familiar things in the new light which increases every day. Maybe take a few moments to pause and look at the some of the classic views of the church we all take for granted, now that the roof works are complete, and rediscover the beauty of its place in our village landscape. The church website has also been part of a major redevelopment project and if it's a while since you visited www.stmaryschurchchidd.org.uk please do rediscover it on your laptop, tablet or mobile – we would be grateful for any feedback you may have. There are many events, including our Lent programme, which offer amongst other things an opportunity for us to look again most importantly at our faith and our covenant with God so please get your still very new and neat diary and make a note of everything you would like to engage with over the next few months and don't forget to extend the offer to friends and neighbours join you

...Lent & Holy Week Focus

Lent Course – Starts Monday 27th February, 7.30 and 9.00 pm in St Mary's Church

We are delighted to welcome The Right Reverend Michael Baughen, retired Bishop of Chester, to lead our Lent Course this year entitled 'Centred on Christ'. The 6 week course will be shared with our fellow churches in the village. It would be great if you could make every session however this accessible course means you can dip in and out so come when you can.

Shrove Tuesday, 28th Feb, 4.00 – 5.30 pm

Pancake Party in the Church Room for all pre and primary school age children

Ash Wednesday, 1st March - 9.30 am and 7.00 pm

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

'I wonder @ Easter' – 20th March onwards

Opportunity for families to travel around the church exploring prayer spaces and asking those big 'I wonder...' questions

Pub Lunch and Walk – Saturday 25th March

The ever popular pub lunch and walk of 3 miles (or just come for lunch) at a reasonably local venue to be revealed nearer the time! Look out for list to sign in church or register interest with Tony Ward (683939 gandt@homewiththewards.freeserve.co.uk).

Church Explorers Outing – Thursday, 23rd March

The visit will be to our local Cathedral starting with a talk by the chief guide at 10.30am. A chance to learn more about a place we all take for granted as it's so close to home. There will then be an opportunity for lunch and further exploration in the afternoon. Please email Ruth if you are interested (ruthg17@live.co.uk)

Mothering Sunday - 26th March, 10am

All ages will be worshipping together at this special Family Communion service and posies will be distributed.

Holy Week Reflections – Sunday, 2nd April, 3.30pm

Geoffrey Curtis and Beverley Draper will be leading an afternoon of reflections on the journey through Holy Week. Look out for more details in the link sheet and on the website.

Palm Sunday - 9th April, 8am & 10am

Palm crosses will be blessed and distributed.

Lent Supper - Monday, 10th April- 7.30pm

Come and enjoy a free supper in the Village Hall provided by the village churches - all welcome. During this evening of fellowship Bishop Michael (leader of the Lent Course) will talk on his most recent book 'The One

Big Question: the God of love in a world of suffering'.
Sign up sheet in church.

**Stations of the Cross at St Teresa's, Tues 11th April-
7.30pm**

A traditional meditation on the stages of Jesus journey to Calvary offering a powerful focus for reflection and prayer.

Maundy Thursday - 13th April

For children – "The Story of Easter" storytelling and craft from 3.00 to 5.00 pm

For adults - a Bring and Share meal in the church room at 6.30 pm followed by Holy Communion in the church at 8.00 pm.

Good Friday - 14th April

Walk of Witness - 10.00 am meet at St Teresa's to being a walk around the village following the symbolic cross which has been signed by members of all the village churches. **The Final Hour - 2.00 pm** - readings, reflections, music and prayer.

Easter Eve – 15th April – 10.00 am to 12 noon

Crafts, storytelling, making the Easter garden, decorating the church room and finishing with an Easter Egg Hunt. For all pre and primary school children.

Easter Sunday – 16th April

Celebrate the joy of Christ's Resurrection with us!
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) and 10.00 am Parish Communion.

... read on there's lots more for the diary ...

Especially for families....

Messy Church is on Sunday 12th March – 4-6 pm, at the Village Hall.

Half Term Madness – 16th February – 10.00–12.30 pm

Pop into the Church room for a relaxed morning of creativity, challenges and games to keep the family busy. Feel free to drop in and out but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Family Fun – 11th March – 2.00 – 4.00 pm

A half termly afternoon of faith and fun. Exploring a bible story, asking BIG questions and sharing our lives together. This is an event for ALL the family. See the Family Flyer or website for more details.



Coffee, craft and play - 18th March 10.00 – 12.00

Something for all families in the church room organised by the Baptism Team with information for anyone who is interested in christenings at St Mary's.

Other events coming soon...

Fish and Chips Quiz night - 31st March

Come with a team of 8 to the Village Hall. Tickets £15 from Rosemary Gorringer (683518) or any of The Friends committee.

and to the **10.00 am Service on 2nd April** when we will be celebrating the work of the Friends of St Mary's. Giving thanks for the work of all those who support our Church building and heritage.

Hearing Aid Clinic – 21st Feb and 21st March

Come to the Church Room between 10am and 12 noon for free hearing aid adjustment and service. Stay to enjoy tea, cake and good company.

Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday, 3rd March

At short service (approximately half hour) service at 10.30 am to which women, babies and young children welcome to pray together as part of a worldwide event.

Churchyard Working Party – 4th March and 1st April

There will be lots to do with Spring in the air and to continue to improve our 'front of house' appearance following the roof works. Bacon butties & coffee!

A new or renewed faith? - 21st March (2nd session)

What do we believe? with Rev Geoffrey Curtis
God, the Three-in-One, revisited. Who is God?
Could the language be clearer? How do we approach the Creeds? 8-9 pm in the Church Room – see website for more about this course.

Spring Quintessentially English Sale – 8th April, 10.30 – 3.30pm Come to this popular event to buy vintage and artisan gifts and crafts.

Annual Church Meeting - 9th April – 11.30 am

All members invited to hear a review of our life together as a church, our plans for the future, and to elect churchwardens and new PCC members.

In other news

Now the roof project is complete the next phase of improvements to our church building will be new lighting, followed by redecoration. Look out for more details very soon.

This newsletter is compiled by Jane Bell and any feedback, comments or suggestions are most welcome - jane.bell@btinternet.com)

