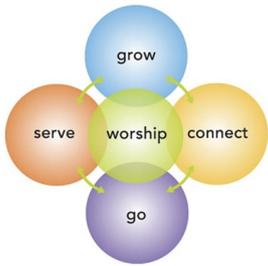


The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY 24th April AD 2016



Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

We are disciples, followers of Christ, but how many of us would pass the test that Christ himself lays down for deciding who are his true followers? The word "charity" unfortunately has come to have a very restricted meaning in our present-day vocabulary. It signifies giving an alms, a gift of money to a needy person. This is but a very small part of the true charity, true love of neighbour which Christ made the distinguishing mark of the true Christian. Those who truly love their neighbour must be interested, first and foremost, in those things which concern that neighbour's most important purpose in life, their eternal salvation.

Here is where so many good Christians fail in true charity. Effective interest in missionary activity is a case in point. Practical help in parochial matters, taking part in the various societies which are intended to build up and strengthen the faith and the devotion of the members of the parish is another obligation of true charity. So many seem to think it is no concern of theirs but it is. Advising and encouraging, with true Christian kindness, a neighbour who is beginning to grow lax in his attendance to his Christian duties, or who is forming habits or alliances which, if unchecked, will bring misery and suffering to his family, and scandal to the neighbourhood, and even the possibility of his own eternal destruction, is also an exercise of real Christian charity.

There are thousands of broken homes today which would not be broken if there was true charity in those homes not only in the heart of the offender but in the hearts of the offended. There are thousands in jails and in hospitals of rehabilitation today who would not be there if their families and neighbours fulfilled their obligation of Christian charity. There are many, far too many, lapsed Christians in the world today, who would not have lapsed had true charity been practised by their relatives and neighbours. And, last but not least, there are millions of people who have remained outside the Church of Christ because the hall-mark of charity which Christ said was its distinguishing mark was tarnished or invisible. Each one of us could, with great profit, spend a few moments today looking into ourselves and comparing our thoughts and our words and our actions with the thoughts, words and actions of love which Christ expects from his followers.



It is never too late to mend. Begin today to take a true Christian interest in the spiritual fate of your family, neighbours andyourself. Where words have already failed perhaps, try prayer and example. The grace of God will cooperate with your sincere, charitable effort.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY:
 9:30am
 11:00am
 1:00pm
 Pray for:

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 Holy Baptisms (of cousins) at SMSG
 Our Parish

Monday:
 9:30am
 8:00pm
 Pray for:

St Mark, Evangelist
 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
 Bell Ringing Practice
 The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday:
 10:30am
 2:30pm
 7:00pm
 Pray for:

Feria
Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'
 Marriage Rite at St Mary & St Giles
 Meeting of School Trustees
 Those preparing for Christian Marriage

Wednesday
 8:00am
 6:00pm
 6:30pm
 7:15pm
7:30pm
 Pray for:

Feria
 Parents Consultation at SMSG School
 Rector in the Parish Office
 Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
 The Band - Practice at SMSG School
Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 All local Schools

Thursday:
 10:30am
 3:00pm
 Pray for:

Feria
Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Parents Consultation at SMSG School
 AllParish Priests

Friday:
 8:00am
 7:30pm
 Pray for:

St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor
Mass at St Mary & St Giles School
 Parish Singers Rehearsal
 Commitment to Prayer

Saturday:
 8:00am
 4:00pm
 4:30pm
 6:00pm
 7:30pm
 Pray for:

St Pius V, Pope
Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Confessions in St Mary & St Giles
 Evening Prayer in St Mary & St Giles
 Organ DVD Presentation in Hall
 Organ Recital at SMSG
 Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 9:30am

PONTIFICAL PARISH MASS
 & Blessing of Willis Pipe Organ
 by the Bishop of Ebbw Vale
 at St Mary & St Giles
Evensong at All Saints
 Our Parish

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY 6th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
 Psalm: 22 (part)
 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11
 Gospel: Luke 22:14 - 23:56

Sidesmen	Team 4	Altar Servers	Team 4
Offertory	May Jacques		
Cleaning	Team 4	Gardening	Team 4
Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 142			

INFORMATION



The Order of Mass is on the laminated card. The references to the Scripture Readings, which may be either listened to or followed in the Bibles provided, along with the Psalm and the Prayer of the Faithful are also included in this Sheet. Hymns are unannounced but are indicated on the boards towards the front of the Nave.

AA Large Print Orders of Service are available at St Mary & St Giles. Please ask a Sidesman or Sideswoman for a copy.



A Loop System is in operation at St Mary & St Giles - please set hearing aids to the "T" position.



Access for the Disabled at St Mary & St Giles is via the path on the north side of the church. **At All Saints** it is via the South Porch.



Gluten-Free Hosts: if you are on a Gluten-Free diet and would like a Gluten-Free Host when you receive Holy Communion please mention this before Mass to one of the Sidesmen or women who will arrange this for you. Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest so that he is aware of your need.



Collections: for the continuing mission of Christ are taken while the altar and gifts of bread and wine are being prepared. If you are a visitor and a taxpayer and would like to make a donation please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided at the end of each row - please fill in your details. This enables us to reclaim, from the Inland Revenue, 25p for each £1 donated.



We observe a period of quiet prayer and reflection before the celebration of Mass, between the end of the Organ Voluntary and the Sacristy Bell being rung, in order that we may be better prepared to worship almighty God.



Please join us at the back of church for tea or coffee after Mass. A priest will be near the main door shortly after the end of Mass should you need to talk with one.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you and use as part of your devotions during the week.

FUTURE DIARY DATES

Saturday 30th April

6:30pm First showing of the DVD Presentation on our Willis Organ in the Parish Hall
Followed, at 7:30pm, by an Organ Recital with Jonathan Kingston

Sunday 1st May

9:30am Pontifical Mass with the Bishop followed by a reception at St Mary & St Giles
6:00pm Evensong at All Saints

Thursday 5th May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

7:30pm Parish Mass followed by a Bring & Share Supper at SMSG

Saturday 7th May

10:00am Coffee Morning at SMSG in aid of the Restoration Fund

Saturday 14th May

12:00noon Lunch to raise funds for the Flower Festival in the Parish Hall

Sunday 15th May

THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

9:30am Parish Mass at SMSG
11:00am Family Mass at All Saints

Wednesday 18th May

2:00pm The Fellowship Quiz Afternoon in the Parish Hall

Thursday 19th May

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at SMSG
7:30pm Parochial Church Council at All Saints

Saturday 21st May

7:30pm 'Polymnia' Concert at SMSG

Thursday 26th May CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI

7:30pm Parish Mass at SMSG

Sunday 29th May

3:00pm Family Organ Recital at St Mary & St Giles

Thursday 2nd June

7:30pm Milton Keynes Deanery Synod

Our Church School - News: The Local Authority has asked our school if we are prepared to merge with Queen Eleanor primary School and run St. Mary & St. Giles School on both sites. This is potentially the biggest change in our school for many years and the Governing Body has agreed for this to go forward for consultation.

The consultation started on Monday and lasts for 6 weeks. MK Council is keen to hear from anyone who would like to read the consultation and complete the feedback form available at:

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/369>

Why is the Authority proposing this change? Queen Eleanor Primary School is currently an improving school and St. Mary & St. Giles is judged to be outstanding by Ofsted. There is much to be proud of in both these schools and the Authority believes that it would strengthen local provision if they were brought under one leadership and management.

Kieran has stated that he is very excited by this proposal as he believes it to be in the best long-term interests of pupils and staff. SMSG will continue to work in partnership with Russell Street School. He would encourage every member of the parish to read the consultation document and respond to Milton Keynes Council. If you have any questions please talk to Fr. Ross, Kieran or any of the Governors.

'Barnabas Fund' Boxes: It would really help the Treasurer if, before you return your box, any Gift Aid envelope could be enclosed within it with the necessary details filled in and a note upon it of the amount of monies contained in your box. Please could all boxes be returned by the end of April. Thank you.

The Visit of the Bishop: Next Sunday 1st May the Bishop will be with us for the Parish Mass at 9:30am at which he will bless the refurbished Willis Pipe Organ at St Mary & St Giles. Following the Mass there will be a small gathering over a glass of Bucks Fizz and cake. If you are able to bake some small cakes or easily sliceable ones please let Hazel Wallis know as soon as possible.

Organ Inaugural Concerts: for choir with organ, organ solo and organ with orchestra. We are delighted to welcome The Open University choir back to St Mary & St Giles church to sing with the Willis organ on 23rd April for the first choral concert with organ, Jonathan Kingston a week later on 30th April for the first organ recital concert and MK Sinfonia on 2nd July for the first ever orchestral performance with this organ now that it is at concert pitch. There are posters and flyers about these concerts in the church and if you would like tickets then please see Anna Page soon, as they are selling quite quickly. You can read the press release about the 10 week organ restoration celebration on the Organ display board.

Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May 2016: Please sign up for the door to door collection for Christian Aid 2016. This year's donations will help the poorest communities and flood victims in Bangladesh re-build housing on earth plinths above flood level and replace lost animals and seed. Thanks Richard Hearne
richardhearne@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01908 560895

Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' Vouchers: If you shop regularly at Sainsbury's then please do collect the 'Active Kids' vouchers and hand them to Kieran or Lesley Salter as they will help our Church School obtain sports equip-

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



ment. If the person in front of you in the queue declines them...please don't be shy in speaking up and saying that you know of a school that would appreciate them and asking if they mind letting you have them. *Thank you.*

Flower Festival at St Mary & St Giles to celebrate the HM Queen's 90th Birthday

As part of the whole country's celebration for HM Queen's 90th birthday we are planning to hold a Flower Festival on Friday 10th June to Sunday 12th June 2016. To enable this exciting event to take place we are requesting your help to act as Stewards throughout the weekend, to serve and make refreshments and donate funds!!! We are estimating this could cost as much as £1,200.00. This could be either by donations, sponsorship of an arrangement and/or attending a fund raising lunch on Saturday 14th May. If you would like to make a donation please address the envelope 'Flower Festival'.

Please put these important dates in you diary and see Sue Starr or Lesley Corcoran if you are able to help with this event in anyway. Many thanks in anticipation.

STOP PRESS: Tickets for the fund raising lunch for the Flower Festival on Saturday 14th May will be £6. Tickets are available from Jill Eales

Memorial Registers: The Rector will be updating the registers in both our Parish Churches at the beginning of May. If you wish names of deceased loved ones to be added to those already included please fill in one of the forms available in both churches and then pass to the Rector by the end of April. Donations in lieu of entries will be added to the Restoration Fund of the church to which Register entry pertains.

Weekly Envelope Boxes and Gift Aid: The new envelope boxes are now available soon for you to take home. If you no longer require a box, or want a box then get in touch with Clive please.

If you are a taxpayer, SMSG can claim on your behalf, and at no additional cost to you, gift aid tax - which adds an extra 25p to our funds for every pound you donate. Last year SMSG was able to claim over £11,000 Gift Aid Tax. For SMSG to claim tax on your behalf you have to complete a Gift Aid Declaration. All contributions are highly confidential and treated as such. Please get in touch with Clive for more information on 07713 164110 or emailing clive.williams@rectanglered.com.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting News: The Churchwardens had been elected the previous week and they are: Louise Brown & Kieran Salter and St Mary & St Giles and Jane Hardy at All Saints. Diane West had decided not to seek re-election as Churchwarden at All Saints this year after many years of faithful service, assisted by Eric, and they were both duly thanked and presentations made.

At the APCM on Thursday the following were elected as members of the PCC: Grahame Brown, Richard Martin, Jane Privett, Lesley Salter, Hazel Wallis, and David Williams. The Deanery Synod Members continuing in Office are Jane Hardy and Jane Privett.

There was concern expressed at the fact that some of our teams of Sidesmen and Women are now low in numbers and indeed Team 5 only has Sister Janet in it ! The Churchwardens would, therefore, like to increase the numbers of those involved in this important ministry and the APCM has mandated the Churchwardens to cop-opt

new people. Please do give this some serious consideration.

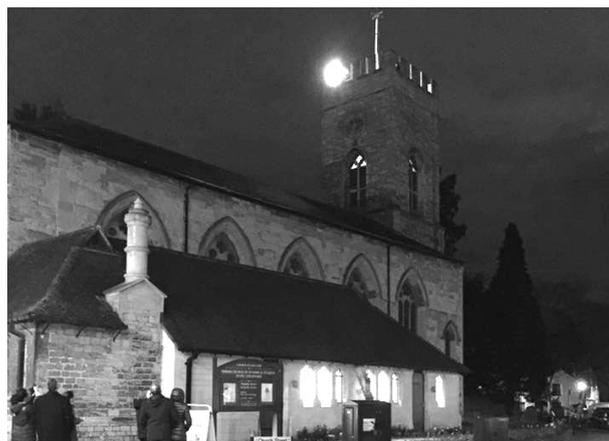
As is required the Annual Report (including the Financial Statement) was received by the meeting and Messrs Hickson Boyce were reappointed for the coming year as out Independent Examiners. The Treasurer, David Williams, and his team, especially Steve Thompson and Clive Williams, were thanked for all their hard work over the course of the year.

The PCC was asked to consider, at it next meeting, the matter of Parish Administration and assisting the Rector in some of the running of the website to ensure that it is as up to date as possible.

Questions were raised about the numbers of worshippers as reported in the Sunday Newsletter. There was some confusion in that it seemed to have been thought to be that this was the number solely attending the Parish Mass, whereas, as the Newsletter has always indicated, it is the total number of worshippers on the previous Sunday. That number includes those who attend the Family Mass at All Saints and those attending the occasional Baptism Services. It must be emphasised that we are ONE Parish with TWO Parish Churches. The Rector was delighted to be able to report that the numbers attending worship at All Saints had more than doubled since the introduction of the Family Mass at All Saints. He was also delighted to be able to report that numbers attending Weekday Masses, which are not recorded in the Newsletter, are very, very encouraging at the moment. By way of illustration: on Tuesday of last week there were 18 at the 10:30am Mass at All Saints (and numbers are usually good at 12-15); the attendance on Wednesday evening at St Mary & St Giles is on nearly always on a par or better compared with the previous pattern of Thursday evening celebrations; the Thursday morning Mass is also attracting similar numbers to the former Wednesday morning celebration; and the Friday morning Mass in SMSG School regularly sees attendances in double figures - and it is good to regularly see parishioners attending to support the school community and parish in prayer.

The Rector thanked a whole range of groups and individuals for all their hard work over the past year along with all those who had contributed to our common life on any way.

The meeting coincided with not one, but two significant birthdays: one, of course, was Her Majesty the Queen, and the other was Louise Brown. Happy Birthday was sung to both and the meeting was made all the more enjoyable by Louise having provided us all with wine. Afterwards, we adjourned to Church Street for the lighting of the Beacon to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday.



MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

In the Mass, we thank God for all of his gifts to us: our life, our health, our relationships, the universe itself. And we thank him for giving everything a new meaning through the resurrection of Jesus.

The Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)

The First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 14:21b-27

SMSG Reader: David Scrutton New Testament Page 112

All Saints Reader: Jonathan Dunn

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 145)

R/. I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. ®

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign. ®

Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. ®

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-5a

Reader: David Scrutton New Testament Page 219

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A new commandment I give you, says the Lord;
that you love one another even as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

John 13:31-33a, 34-35
New Testament Pages 92

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Jenny Rowlson)

Priest:

My brothers and sisters, in joy and hope let us pray to God the almighty Father.

Intercessor:

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection . . .

V/. let us pray to the Father:

R/. in Christ our Lord.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter . . .

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love . . .

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter . . .

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world . . .

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them . . .

Wendy, Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Wally Atkins, Maggie Baker, Mary Barry, Henry Blake, Peter Brazell, Richard Coley, Ross Dilnot, Richard D'Souza, Gill Edwards, Sue Gower, Russell Herbert, Margaret Hooton, Paul, Rebecca, Magnus John, Bill Lees, Ray Lewis, Kay Lucas, Isaac Lyon, Harry Manistre, Sue Maton, Cyril Millward, Shirley Scrutton, Alma Steinmetz, Fr Edmund, Janis Williams, Marian Wright

That he may give a place of light and peace to....Joyce Samuels....and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**25th** George Henson, Avril Hopcraft; **26th** George Goodger, Ann Ryan, Joseph Wallis; **27th** Roy Quick, Mabel Poppleton, Barry Pickthall, Laura Roberts; **28th** Edith Taylor, Kenneth Lucas; **29th** Keziah Neal, Alfred Varney; **30th** John Black... and all those who have died in the peace of Christ.

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

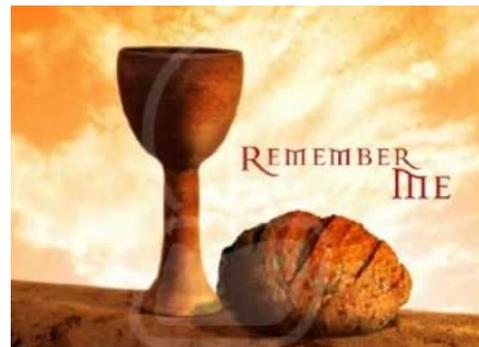
That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people.... so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection.

Priest:

Father,
receive the prayers of your Church
celebrating the glorious victory
of your risen Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

At this moment, Jesus gives himself to us as the source of our new life. This is a sign of his love for us, and being fed by him and with him we share in this love by allowing ourselves to be its channels in the world. Let us ask the Lord Jesus to teach us how to be his disciples not only in word but also in action.



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