



**We are a community of faith  
that SEEKS God in worship  
SERVES one another  
and SHARES the love of Jesus**

**Sunday 3rd September**

**9am Holy Communion**

**Theme: Love in Action**

**Readings: Romans 12:9-21 & Matthew 16:21-28**

**Theme: Education**

**Reading: Matthew 13:24-30**

**10.30am Active All Age Service with Baptisms  
and Prayer Ministry**

**12.15pm St. Mary's Walkers leave church**

**Wednesday 6th September**

**Holy Communion Service at 10.30am  
in St. Mary's Church led by Canon John**

**Sunday 10th September**

**Theme: Love Each Other**

**Readings: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 & John 15:9-12**

**9am Holy Communion with the Blessing of Keith & Gillian's Marriage**

**10.20am Children's Church (3 - 13+) meet in the Church Centre  
for their activities, before joining their families in church  
for a blessing/communion**

**10.30am Morning Worship with Communion and Prayer Ministry**

*There is an unsupervised crèche available for 0-3 year olds,  
through the doors at the back of church.*

*This area contains toys, books, colouring and comfortable seating,  
in addition to sound and vision, so you can see and hear the service.*

**Baptisms at St. Mary's**

We offer a very warm welcome today to the families and friends of those being baptized during our 10.30am All Age Service, as Almighty God draws to Himself those whom He is calling. It is great to have you celebrate this special occasion here, and we pray you will find this service an enjoyable and meaningful experience.

**St. Mary's Walkers**

All those wishing to join the walk are invited to join us as we leave the church on **Sunday at 12.15pm**. We will be taking a short drive, then will walk and enjoy lunch together. Please wear suitable footwear and bring a picnic. The walk is a great opportunity to build church friendships. If you would like to come please speak with Richard or Karyn French, or simply turn up at 12.15pm.

**Church Weekend Away September 2018**

All those members wishing to attend the event in Sidmouth from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th September 2018 are requested by **7th September 2017** to:

- Sign the sheet at the back of church with details of those expecting to attend (as best as they are known at this stage)
- Pay a £10 deposit for each adult attending, direct to the Church Office

The church has already paid a small deposit to secure the initial booking but now we have to provide a confirmed list and £10 per head deposit by mid-September if our booking is to be confirmed. Further details will be available in due course about the weekend programme and accommodation, but this is an important first step to secure the Sidholme Hotel for our Weekend Away. We are waiting for final confirmation but we are thrilled that it looks likely that our speaker for the weekend will be Andy Peck. Andy writes "I am a Christian communicator who writes books, broadcasts and teaches the Bible in a way that aims to be clear, practical and accessible. My work has included time as a Bible teacher in a pastoral role in three churches in the south of England; as a coach and mentor with university students; as a writer and editor for Christianity magazine; and since 2006 as a Bible teacher and trainer at CWR, a charity that aims to help apply God's truth in everyday life and relationships. In 2005 I created The Leadership File, a radio show designed to help Christian leaders in the church, charity and commercial sectors to develop character, skills and vision to better serve God.

I interview Christian leaders in a pre-recorded weekly show broadcast on Premier Christian Radio at 3.30pm (GMT) every Sunday and archived on the web and iTunes." The weekend promises to be an exciting, relevant and enjoyable time for us as a church family and we pray you will be able to join us.

### **Parish Prayer Meeting**

On **Thursday 7th September at 7.30pm** in the Church Centre we will be holding our monthly Prayer Meeting. We should all be regularly praying to God with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6) and this evening provides a wonderful opportunity to do this together. All are welcome.

### **St. Mary's Youth Bible Study Group**

A new, exciting group has started for young people who already have a faith in Jesus Christ, and who are between 11 to 16 years of age. The meetings will be held on the second Friday of each month from **7.30pm to 9pm** in the Church Centre Chapel on the **8th September**, 13th October, 10th November and 8th December. The format is simple and enables space to explore God's Word together, starting with some contemporary worship before spending time exploring the Bible, and finishing with hot chocolate (and of course cream and marshmallows) or milkshakes! Please pray for those leading the group for wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they lead and disciple these amazing young people and for those who attend, that their faith would be strengthened and encouraged so they learn how to defend the gospel and share it with those they meet. If you would like further information, or if you wish to help facilitate this evening by praying when they are meeting, providing hot chocolate or milkshakes at the end, or meeting and greeting young people as they arrive, then please speak with Andy Berry, Rob Savill, Kelsey Weymouth, Kevin Faulkner or contact the Church Office.

### **Ride and Stride 2017**

This year's annual sponsored Ride and Stride event on behalf of Hampshire's Historic Churches will be held on **Saturday 9th September**. Participants are invited to visit as many churches as they like between **10am and 6pm** that day, by walking, cycling, driving, or using public transport buses or trains. Sponsorship money is divided between the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust and the churches nominated by individual participants (St. Mary's Andover qualifies).

Details are given in the yellow leaflets at the back of the church. The white inserts in these leaflets list the churches which will be open on the 9th September. They are arranged by Areas and this event is a great opportunity to see towns and villages in less familiar districts. **TIP:** For a very interesting walk try Winchester where 17 places of worship will be open - the Cathedral, 12 Anglican Churches, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, the United Church (Jewry Street), the Quakers, and the University Chapel. For more information contact June Harris or Diane in the Church Office.

### **Children's Church**

During this Autumn Term, **starting on Sunday 10th September**, Children's Church will be following the same themes and readings as in church. We pray this will encourage families to share together later in the day, perhaps over lunch, about how they have been experiencing this particular aspect each week of their Christian journey. Please pray for all those involved in seeking to lead, teach and model the Christian faith to our young people, in addition to the adult congregations.

### **Alpha Course**

The Autumn Term Course commences on **Monday 11th September from 7.30pm to 9.30pm** in the Church Centre, beginning with soup and a roll, followed by a DVD and discussion. If you can help practically, or would like to find out more about the course, please speak with Kate Walbyoff or contact Diane in the Church Office.

### **The Friends of St. Mary**

The next coach trip will be a day trip to Swanage on **Saturday 16th September**, departing from outside the Andover Museum at **9.30am**. Tickets cost £15 and are available from Valda England.

### **'Free Worship' Session**

This new initiative provides a time on a Saturday morning to praise God in song. The aim is to create a space that is less restricted than a structured worship service in order to explore a freer, more Holy Spirit led approach to sung worship. It is open to all, and it is not essential to stay for the full two hours. You are very welcome to join us in church on the third Saturday of the month, **between 10.30am and 12.30pm**, on **16th September**, 21st October and 18th November.

### **Taizé Service**

Take a break from the pressures of life and join us on **Sunday 17th September at 4pm** for this quieter, more reflective and contemplative service. A Taizé Worship Service is elegantly simple, involving sung and chanted prayers, meditation, periods of silence and liturgical readings; there is no preaching. "It is a time to rest in God, to let the words listened to and sung penetrate one's being." Do come and join us.

### **Christmas Choir**

We are seeking this year to have a Christmas Choir once again and would love it if you would join us. Practices will begin on **Monday 18th September**, initially once a fortnight and then weekly on the following dates: 2nd, 16th, 30th October, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th November in the Church Centre Chapel. The last practices on the 4th and 11th December will be in church. For more information or if you wish to join the choir, please speak with Pru.

### **Women's Group**

At the meeting on **Friday 22nd September at 7.30pm** in the Church Centre the group will be assembling Christmas shoeboxes for children, to be sent out by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian Charity, as part of Operation Christmas Child. Everyone can help by:

- Collecting shoeboxes (any size - just leave them in the old Church Office at the back of church)
- Donating items to fill a shoebox (see list on the table at the back of church for suitable items and place your gifts in the box under the table)
- Giving money (£1 to £5) towards transportation costs
- Knit, Sew or Crochet a gift - for free patterns see the website [www.pinterest.co.uk/occuk/occ-knitting-patterns/](http://www.pinterest.co.uk/occuk/occ-knitting-patterns/)

Do join us in making up the boxes (please sign the list at the back of church). Refreshments will be available and some small savouries and sweets. Glue, sticky tape and labels will be provided; all you need to bring is Christmas wrapping paper sufficient to cover a shoebox, and any gifts you wish. To find out more visit [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/).

There are also opportunities to join us on the committee, shaping the way forward, so do please speak with Eni Richardson, Jane Viggers, Karyn French or Sue Harkin.

### **Reverend Lee Davies**

Lee's Licensing Service as the new Priest in Charge at Knight's Enham will take place on **Monday 16th October at 7.30pm** in St. Paul's Church and Community Centre, Smannell Road, Andover SP11 6JP. If you would like to attend the service and reception afterwards please contact Rachel Harper, Parish Administrator on 01264 335237 or at [admin@knightsenham.org.uk](mailto:admin@knightsenham.org.uk). Rachel's working hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.45am to 4pm, and Thursday from 8.45am to 3.15pm. If you would like to make a donation as a farewell gift to Lee for his ministry here at St. Mary's, do please send your gift to Diane in St. Mary's Church Office marked 'Lee Davies.' Thank you.

### **The Vine Trust**

The Trust is urgently looking for volunteers to help in their Christian Bookshop in Bridge Street. They especially need help on Monday afternoons, Thursday mornings and Saturdays. The Vine Trust Bookshop is open 6 days a week from 10am to 4pm, operating two shifts per day, 10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm. They are looking for volunteers to help with either a half or full day. Please contact Brenda Sleath at [vinetrustandover@gmail.com](mailto:vinetrustandover@gmail.com), 01264 355706 or call into the shop to find out more or to arrange a time for training. The Vine Trust, a Christian charity based in Andover, operates The Vine Trust Bookshop. Its purpose is to serve the Christian and Churches in Andover and the surrounding area, and to witness to the gospel of Christ.

*Love must be sincere.*

*Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.*

*Honour one another above yourselves.*

*Never be lacking in zeal,*

*but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.*

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

*Share with God's people who are in need.*

*Practise hospitality.*

*Romans 12:9-13*