



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

Sunday 7th January

Theme: Healing and Wholeness

**Readings: Isaiah 61:1-3
and Luke 4:14-21**

**10am United Parish Communion
and Prayer Ministry**

Children's Church join us in church

Wednesday 10th January

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

Sunday 14th January

Theme: What Is Healing?

**Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-5, 9-15
and Luke 17:11-19**

9am Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry

10.20am Children's Church (3 - 13+)

meet in the Church Centre for their activities,

before joining their families in church

for Communion and Final Blessing

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.*

Kate Allen

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Constance, known as Kate, who died on Wednesday 20th December at her care home in Devon, aged 104. Kate was a long time member of St. Mary's, and was a remarkable lady who donated a large sum of money towards the Pentecost Window at the back of church.

Winter Drop In

The Bridge Centre will be open every evening throughout January and February to provide a nutritious meal and somewhere to be in warmth and safety. Tents and sleeping bags will also be provided to those who need them. If you can volunteer to help for a few evenings, please contact the Bridge Office telephone 01264 335522. Thank you.

Alpha Course 2018

The next course commences on Monday evenings from **8th January to 23rd March from 7.30pm to 9.30pm** and also includes a day on **Saturday 3rd March from 10am to 4pm**. Do pray about this course, God is blessing so many people through Alpha so please speak with Tom Etherton if you are interested in joining, or if you have anyone on your heart you could invite to join. We would be grateful for any offers to make soup for those attending, which can either be brought to the Church Centre during office hours each Monday or after 6.30pm before the course begins. There is a list at the back of church to sign.

Prayer for Children and Families

The work with Children and Families is a huge privilege. One of the greatest privileges we have is praying, knowing we have a God who listens to us and loves to hear us pray! With this in mind we are starting a regular time of prayer, for the work with Children and Families, to be held on the second Wednesday of every month. We'll meet for up to 30 minutes, in St. Mary's Church Chapel, immediately after the Wednesday morning Holy Communion Service. If you have any questions, or would like to join with us in prayer, please speak to Julie Johnson, or Diane Wilson in the Church Office.

Please note that due to planned maintenance in the church, our first time of prayer will be held in the Church Centre Chapel on **Wednesday 10th January**.

St. Mary's Women's Group

The next **Women's Group** meeting is on **Friday 19th January at 7.30pm** in the Church Centre. This will include a Fish and Chip Supper, with a fun 'Getting to know you' opportunity, where we are all encouraged to bring a photo of when we were very young, or write a couple of sentences, so that everyone has to guess who that person is! There is a list available at the back of church to sign if you are able to join us. We also need additional women to join the planning team, so do please speak with Eni, Jane or Sue to find out more.

Esther and the Zargonites

Unity Christian Theatre will be presenting this play on **Friday 19th January at 7.30pm** and **Saturday 20th January at 2.30pm and 7.30pm** at The Lights. The story of Esther is ages old but entirely up to date, accepting diversity and promoting tolerance towards others. Tickets cost £7 and £5 for children and are available from The Lights Box Office.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reverend Matthew Grayshon, who is a House for Duty Priest serving the Portway and Danebury Benefice, has strong links with the Anglican Church in the DRC. He has invited two bishops from DRC to visit Winchester Diocese, which is partnered with this Anglican Province in Africa, and sees this as "... something of a tiny step in expressing this partnership." The bishops will be staying in Over Wallop, and are happy to meet people and share about their work and ministries in the DRC. A meeting will be held on **Friday 19th January at 7.30pm** in Nether Wallop Hall, which has built in audio-visual provision, so there will be a PowerPoint presentation. All are welcome and more information is available at the back of church.

Spring Term 2018

This term our focus will be on **Healing and Wholeness**, exploring different aspects of this in our sermons in January, including definitions of healing, and considering why some people are not healed. We will also be running a short course which is open to all members of St. Mary's Church. Each of the four fortnightly sessions will be on Tuesdays in the Church Centre from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, covering the following topics:

- **30th January** Seeds of Faith
- **13th February** Rich Soil for Growth
- **27th February** Leaves for Healing
- **13th March** Growing a Healing Church

The course is a combination of teaching with PowerPoint slides, partner tasks, discussion/sharing and prayer. An initial Healing Service is to be planned for April. Please contact Derrick or Heather Norton, via the Church Office telephone 01264 366373, if you wish to attend or have any questions.

Men's Group

Our next Sunday meeting is on **21st January at 6.30pm** at Nigel's, starting with soup and rolls. Barry will lead informal worship and Ian our Bible study, probably on Nahum, Zephaniah and Habbakuk! - three short books. All men welcome, especially new ones. Please sign the list at the back of church.

Parish Mission Action Plan (pMAP) Update

During the latter part of 2017 the PCC spent considerable time praying and updating our pMAP, which was finalized and agreed at our PCC meeting in November. This was necessary because so much has been achieved over the past 12 months from our previous pMAP, as God has so graciously blessed our church community! We hold fast to His calling for us to **SEEK** Him individually for our own spiritual development, to **SERVE** one another in real and practical ways and to **SHARE** the love of Jesus with all those we encounter in life. Thank you for your prayer and support so far, and do please keep the copy below of the latest pMAP for yourself, so that you may be better informed as you continue to play your part in the life and mission of God's church here.

***The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners.***

Isaiah 61:1