



Welcome to
St. Mary's
Andover

NoticeSheet

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

Sunday 7th May

9am Holy Communion

Theme: Life In All Its Fullness

Readings: 1 Peter 2:19-25 and John 10:1-10

10.30am Active All Age Service

Theme: Don't be Afraid: Be Free!

Reading: Psalm 111:1-10

Children's Church (3 - 13+) meet in church

12.15pm St. Mary's Walkers leave church

Wednesday 10th May

Holy Communion Service at 10.30am

in St. Mary's Church led by Canon Graham

Sunday 14th May

Theme: Jesus Is The Way

Readings: Acts 7:55-60 and John 14:1-14

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
towards the end of the service**

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***

St. Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At the APCM, Gordon Bell and Jane Viggers were elected as Churchwardens. Val Bond, Paula Deverill, Tom Etherton, June Harris (PCC Secretary), Derrick Norton, Heather Norton, Mary Singleton (Treasurer), Ann Smith and Victoria Taylor were elected to serve as PCC members. Nigel May is one of our Deanery Synod representatives and is also on the PCC. We thank them all for their commitment to serve the Lord and St. Mary's through these important roles in the life and witness of the church.

Archdeacon's Visitation

Please do support your Churchwardens when they are officially sworn in as Officers of the Diocesan Bishop. This will happen at a special service, for Churchwardens from across the Diocese, in St. Mary's Church on **Thursday 11th May, 7pm for 7.30pm**. Thank you.

Children's Church Summer Term Theme - Fruit of the Spirit

The new Summer Term activities have begun and Children's Church will be meeting again next Sunday. Please bring your child/children directly to the Church Centre for registration. The morning will commence with contemporary worship, and there will be child friendly Bible based teaching and interactive prayer. The children will then come into church in time to receive a blessing or communion with their families.

St. Mary's Walkers

The next St. Mary's Walk will be on **Sunday 7th May**, starting from church at **12.15pm**. Please bring a packed lunch and suitable footwear. If you are interested in coming, please speak with Simon Nash or Rosemary Baker.

Saying Goodbye

This service will be held in Winchester Cathedral on **Saturday 13th May at 10.30am** for those who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by a family member's or friend's loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend.

This is also a service for anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility or for other reasons but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye Service is a family event for all. This is organised by the Mariposa Trust, a UK charity which supports those who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy.

Christian Aid Week - 14th to 20th May

As part of our Eco Church work we are supporting Christian Aid Week with a collection in church. This is the 60th year of Christian Aid week and provides significant funds to the charity to enable it to provide assistance to those across the world in need. Last year Christian Aid week helped a Bangladeshi woman whose home was constantly flooded. Her home has been rebuilt with support from Christian Aid and she said the following, "Last year when you came to my home we were knee deep in water. Today despite the flooding we are standing in a dry place. I am much safer now." (Source Christian Aid Magazine Spring 2107). Next Sunday we will issue a Christian Aid envelope with every Grapevine. Please make a donation, gift aided if possible, to support this important work and return the envelope to church no later than the 20th May. Thank you.

Women's Group

Do come and join us as we meet again on **Friday 19th May at 7.30pm** in the Church Centre. The evening is called 'Food as God intended' and will be hosted by Pippa Pearce. Having worked for many years in the NHS as a Dietitian, Pippa will be helping us to explore this fascinating and important subject. There is a list at the back of church, so please put your name down. Volunteers are needed to help with refreshments. Thank you.

The Friends of St. Mary's Coach Trip

The first coach trip of the 2017 programme will be to Poole for a wonderful day out on **Saturday 20th May**. We will be meeting outside the Andover Museum in Church Close for a **9.30am** departure. Tickets cost £15 and are available to family, friends and neighbours. Please speak with Valda, or contact the Church Office for more information, or to reserve your places.

Men's Group - Sunday 21st May at 6.30pm

The Men's Group meet in the Church Centre and start with soup and rolls. Do come and join us as we hear from guest speaker Bruce Dunton.

Bruce is the Area Representative for Christian Voice for Men and he will be talking about men's ministry, something of his own story, and the work of CVM www.cvm.org.uk. Please sign the list at the back of church.

Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Initiative - Between 25th May and 4th June

There will be a special Pentecost Praise Service organized by Andover Churches Together, held in St. Mary's on **Sunday 4th June at 3pm** to which all are very welcome.

Men's Group

Please note there will be a Men's Breakfast at The Redbridge in Bridge Street on **Saturday 17th June at 8am**. All men are welcome, do come and join us.

Great, Great God (3G) Concert

A concert featuring the Petra House Choir and others, will take place on **Saturday 1st July at 5.30pm** at The Lights. Admission is free, but tickets need to be booked in advance, 01264 368368 or www.thelights.org.uk/whatson.

Hope into Action

We are pleased to say that we have now reached £175,000!! of investment pledges towards a house for the homeless in Andover, and need just one or two more investors to help us over the finishing line. We are now looking at suitable houses, and planning to move forward very soon with the project. For information contact Derrick Norton or Peter Kinross. Thank you for your prayers.

Vine Trust

The Vine Trust is a Christian charity based in Andover and 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. The Bookshop is open 6 days a week from 10am to 4pm and they are looking for more volunteers to help, either for a full day or for one of the shift patterns they operate, which are 10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm. Do contact Brenda Sleath on vinetrustandover@gmail.com, telephone 01264 355706 or call into the shop to find out more or to arrange a time for training.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow His precepts have good understanding.
To Him belongs eternal praise.
Psalm 111:10*

New preparation process for Baptisms at St. Mary's

In March 2017, the PCC gave full support to a proposal to introduce a new baptism preparation process, whereby prospective baptism families will come to an All Age Service for initial discussions with designated Baptism Team Members, then attend a revamped Baptism Preparation Evening, leading to baptisms at an All Age Service.

This reflects our parish Mission Action Plan (pMAP), which includes under SHARE: "Prepare and begin delivery of a new baptism outreach initiative."

The new scheme is planned to begin in September 2017, in order to allow time to make the necessary preparations and adjustments. One key change is that baptisms will normally take place during the All Age Service on the first Sunday of the month. Baptisms will be planned so that the total number of anticipated guests will not swamp the regular fellowship: in the event of a very large baptism party, alternative arrangements will be made.

In each of the last few years, around 1500 people have attended baptisms on Sunday afternoons. This represents a tremendous opportunity for outreach. The intention is to establish a large group of Baptism Team Members who will help and guide prospective baptism families through the process, so that parents make informed decisions, including whether to proceed with a baptism, as well as in the choice of godparents.

Please would you consider volunteering as a Baptism Team Member? In pairs, your role will be to have an initial chat (aided by a checklist) with prospective baptism families after an All Age Service which they will be expected to attend. Ideally, Baptism Team Members will also attend the Baptism Preparation Evening and the baptism itself.

Training will be given at **on Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm in the Church Centre**, when more information will be highlighted and discussed.

As Baptism is an important part of our Christian journey, this is a wonderful opportunity for anyone in the fellowship to engage with those seeking baptism for their children. If you would like to volunteer as a Baptism Team Member, or wish to find out more, please speak with **Canon John, or Martin and Jane Bazire**.



Children and Families Leaders

The role of the Children and Families Leader is to lead in developing the work of St. Mary's with children and families both in the church and in the community and to pioneer mission opportunities for children and families in Andover, with a focus on Andover Church of England Primary School and Pilgrims' Cross Church of England (Aided) Primary School.

This role is shared between Andy and Jo and has been divided into ten key areas of responsibility; where one leads, the other will always be supporting that role.

Andy will lead on:	Jo will lead on:
Vision - communication, media	Support and advice for parents
Worship Planning Group - (All Age Service)	Safeguarding
Managing Children's Ministry Teams	Partnership working, liaise with groups in St. Mary's and beyond
Pastoral care for children - Children's Church, Baptisms	Outreach Activities
Special Events - Holiday Club, Light Party	Schools work

If you would like to be involved with Children's Church, or for more information, please speak with Andy and Jo via the Church Office