



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

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

Wednesday 17th January

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

Sunday 21st January

Theme: Who Can Be Healed?

Readings: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 and John 9:1-11, 35-41

9am Holy Communion

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

**meet in the Church Centre for their activities,
before joining their families in church
for Communion and Final Blessing**

10.30am Morning Worship and Prayer Ministry

4pm Taizé Service

6.30pm Men's Group at Nigel's home

*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.*

Canon John and Sue

As many of you will now be aware, after considerable discussion and prayer Sue and I have agreed I will retire from full time ministry in March 2018, to take up a retirement post. I will be Licensed as an Associate Minister on a House for Duty basis, so I will have responsibility for Sunday morning services and 2 days pastoral ministry, in a parish in the Guildford Diocese. Our last Sunday here at St. Mary's will be on **Sunday 11th March at a 10am service**. May we take this opportunity to thank you for the many messages and words of encouragement we have already received, and to assure you of our prayers for God's future for us all.

*"So we keep on praying for you,
asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of His call.
May He give you the power to accomplish all the good things
your faith prompts you to do." 2 Thessalonians 1:11*

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

This term's course is being held 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**. Please speak with Tom Etherton if you are interested in joining, or could invite someone else, it's not too late! Please pray for course leaders Tom and Julie, and current members Lucy, Dean and Karen. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Taizé Service

Join us on **Sunday 21st January at 4pm** for the next of our monthly Taizé style services. These provide the opportunity on the 3rd Sunday of every month to join together for a mixture of reflective music, words and silence, which aims to provide space for us to encounter God in ways that are just right for each of us. If you would like to be involved in the service, do speak with Tom or Pru.

Men's Group

Our next Sunday meeting is on **21st January at 6.30pm** at Nigel's home, 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.

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 if you wish to attend, or have any questions.

Sharing Your Story

Many people are hugely encouraged when others share their own story about what their faith means to them. We would like to offer opportunities for this in church services, particularly on the 3rd Sunday at the 10.30am service, so please contact Canon John or Tom Etherton if you would be prepared to share something about your faith journey.

Parish Mission Action Plan (pMAP) Update

Thank you for your prayer and support so far, and do keep your own copy of the latest updated pMAP so that you may be better informed, as you continue to play your part in the life and mission of God's church here. Copies are available at the back of church.

*Naaman's servants went to him and said,
"My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing,
would you not have done it?
How much more then, when he tells you,
'Wash and be cleansed'?"
So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times,
as the man of God had told him,
and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.
2 Kings 5:13-14*