



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

### **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**

### **Wednesday 24th January**

**Holy Communion Service at 10.30am**

**in St. Mary's Church led by Canon Jill**

### **Sunday 28th January**

**Theme: The Significance Of Faith**

**Readings: Hebrews 11:1-7 and Matthew 8:5-13**

**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.*

### **Canon John and Sue**

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

### **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.

### **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. 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.

### **Holiday Club Planning Sessions - Dates for your diary!**

This year's Holiday Club will be taking place from Tuesday 7th August to Friday 10th August. If you would like to be involved, planning meeting dates have

been arranged! These will be on Thursdays **25th January**, 22nd February, 29th March, 26th April, 24th May, 28th June and 25th July **from 7pm to 9pm** in the Church Centre Chapel. Setting up for the Holiday Club will be on Sunday 5th August after 3pm and clearing away will be on Saturday 11th August.

### **Lunch Time Prayer Sessions for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Andover Churches Together (ACT) invite you to join together in prayer with other local Christians this week. These sessions are being held from **Monday 22nd January to Thursday 25th January from 12.30pm to 1pm** at Bridge Street Methodist Church, with various leaders responsible for each session. We are all encouraged to pray for ACT and HOPE 2018, which are being planned this year as outreach events, to bring the good news of Jesus to Andover. Please join us, all are very welcome.

### **Frontline Debt Advice**

The Andover branch of Frontline cordially invite you to join us for a cup of tea/coffee and homemade cake to meet the team and find out more about us and what we do to help people with debt and benefit difficulties in our area. Do come and join us on **Saturday 27th January from 10.30am to 12.30pm** at The Bridge Café, Bridge Street, Andover. We look forward to meeting as many of you as can join us and find out how you can help us in differing ways, or if we can be of any help to you or people you know. To find out more about Frontline, please visit [www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk/](http://www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk/)

### **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 sign the list at the back of church if you wish to attend, or contact Derrick and Heather Norton if you have any questions.

### **Men's Group Evening**

Please note that guest speaker Chris Lubbe, scheduled for March, is now unable to attend, so the evening has been postponed until later in the year.

### **Testimony Evening**

Andover Churches Together are hosting an evening with Paul Jones (Manfred Mann and The Blues Band) and Fiona Hendley (actress and acclaimed musical performer) sharing how their faith in God has changed their lives. The evening is not a concert, although they will be singing a few songs, and refreshments will be provided. It will be held on **Saturday 10th February at 7.30pm** in John Hanson Community School Hall. Tickets are free, but need to be ordered on the Eventbrite website at [www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-paul-jones-and-fiona-hendley-tickets-41964601252](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-paul-jones-and-fiona-hendley-tickets-41964601252)

### **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.

### **Andover Foodbank**

Thank you for all your fantastic donations over the Christmas period. The Foodbank distributed over 680 Christmas gift boxes and 320 hampers, which is an amazing achievement. Food items required this week please are: fruit juice, tinned meat, tinned fish and packets of rice (500g or 1kg).

*That is why, for Christ's sake,  
I delight in weaknesses,  
in insults, in hardships,  
in persecutions, in difficulties.  
For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

**2 Corinthians 12:10**