



# NoticeSheet

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

## **Sunday 30th April**

**Theme: Be Holy**

**Readings: 1 Peter 1:13-23 and Luke 24:13-35**

**9.50am 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**

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

## **Wednesday 3rd May**

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

## **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**

**There is an unsupervised crèche available for 0-3 year olds**, through the doors at the back of church. We are grateful to Joan Bruce whose legacy allowed us to create this area, which contains toys, books, colouring and comfortable seating, in addition to sound and vision, so you can see and hear the service.

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

Our Summer Term activities commence **TODAY Sunday 30th April at 9.50am**. 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 come into church in time to receive a blessing or communion.

## **Monthly Parish Prayer Meeting**

We are all encouraged to join together for an hour of prayer on **Thursday 4th May at 7.30pm** in the Church Centre. *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."* 1 John 5:14. All are very welcome.

## **Andover Foodbank**

There is an urgent need please for fruit juice, pasta sauce, 500ml bags of sugar and tins of tomatoes, also for tinned fruit, meat and potatoes. Thank you. The next **Foodbank Coffee and Cake Morning** will be held on **Friday 5th May at 10.30am** in the Parish Hall, Alexandra Road, Andover. Do please bring along any spare plants for our Plant Sale, or just come along and see what is on offer! Thank you for your generous and continued support, all donations whether food, money or non-food products, provide really valuable assistance to people in our community who are in or facing crisis. Thank you.

## **The Friends Coffee Morning**

Come and enjoy wonderful hospitality, great refreshments and the chance to relax in a comfortable environment on **Saturday 6th May from 10am to 12 noon** in the Church Centre. Do join us!

## **The 3R's Café**

Our next Café, offering free tea, coffee, homemade cakes and children's activities for residents of Picket Twenty, will be held on **Saturday 6th May from 2pm to 4pm** in Pilgrims' Cross School. Please bake some cakes this week and bring them to the Church Office by 4pm on Friday 5th May.

### **Andover Choral Society Concert**

On **Saturday 6th May at 7.30pm** in St. Mary's Church, there will be an evocative programme of English music, including Vaughan Williams 'In Windsor Forest', a lively cantata based on the composer's Shakespearean opera Sir John in Love. Other works include Vaughan Williams' enduringly popular Five Mystical Songs, George Dyson's rarely performed In Honour of the City, and Finzi's charming Eclogue for piano and string orchestra, performed by pianist Julie Aherne. Tickets cost £12 and are available from choir members and from The Lights box office on 01264 368368.

### **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.

### **The Friends of St. Mary's Coach Trip**

This 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 place.

### **Thy Kingdom Come**

This is a prayer initiative, started by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which this year will be held between **25th May and 4th June**. During this time communities and churches around the world gather together to pray that their friends, families and neighbours may come to know Jesus Christ.

Prayer events will take place across the 9 days, as people gather together to worship and to pray for the empowering of the Holy Spirit. 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. Please use these 9 days of prayer as the Spirit leads you, more information can be found at [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global).

### **Hope into Action**

Thank you for your support in seeking investors for the project to buy a house in Andover in which we can support homeless people and help them reclaim their lives, we are now up to £160,000 pledged investment. We have identified a couple of local properties that have great potential but financially we are not quite there yet, and we cannot make an offer on property that we could not fulfil. We have had some quite encouraging expressions of interest which have not yet been followed up with a pledge. We would be immensely grateful if you would mention in your church notices that if members are interested in investing then now is the time to put that intent into action. Equally if you know of other people in your congregation whom you think might be willing to invest, please encourage them to get in touch. Although the worst of the winter is behind us we are more determined than ever to see real changes made in the lives of homeless people in Andover. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Derrick Norton or Peter Kinross. Thank you.

### **Congratulations! Eco Church Bronze Award**

As part of our pMAP objective to work towards the three levels of the Eco Church Award, we have now successfully achieved the Eco Church Bronze Award! Our thanks go to Ann Smith who is leading this initiative, and to all of you who are supporting it. Well done for this first significant step forward.

*Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled;  
set your hope fully on the grace to be given you  
when Jesus Christ is revealed.  
As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires  
you had when you lived in ignorance.  
But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;  
for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

**1 Peter 1:13-16**

## 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, or contact them via the Church Office.**