



SUNDAY 29TH APRIL 2018
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Common Worship)
The Fourth Sunday after Easter (Book of Common Prayer)

*We welcome Rev. Alan Mathers at 8am
and Rev. John Morris at 10am*

Hallelujah - Christ is Risen!

TODAY	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist (CW)
	11.30am	Baptism
Monday 30th	10.30am	Avon House Bible Group
	7.45pm	Evening House Group Prayer
Tues 1st	10.15am	Assembly – Balcombe School
	7.45pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Friday 4th	6.30pm	Locus Youth Club (Parish Room)
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Saturday 5th	2.00pm	Birchanger Gardens Open Afternoon
Sunday 6th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Service – Prayer Spaces
	6.00pm	Evensong

Daytime Bible Study House Group

This is a daytime Bible Study House Group which meets on the last Wednesday morning of each month. The venue is Twittens, Oldlands Avenue, and the time **10.00am to 11.30am**. The next date is **Wed 30th May**. Anyone who wishes to join us will be very welcome. Please speak to Lorna Robinson or Rosemary Corder for any further details.

Monday Bible Study Groups

During term time on Mondays, in the morning at 10.30am and in the evening at 7.45pm. Contact Julia Wilson on 811304 or Julie Mitchell on 819262.

Women's World Day of Prayer

There are some Women's World Day of Prayer booklets at the back of the church. The service on Friday 2nd March was cancelled because of the weather, but if anyone would like to make a donation to this, there are envelopes in the booklets and Margaret Williamson will be happy to receive any donations in church this Sunday.

100 Club

The numbers will be drawn during coffee after our Family Services. If you would like to join the 100 Club, there are a few spare spaces. Cost is £60 per year (£5 per month). Prizes each month £100, £50 and £25 - doubled in December. The 100 Club raises money for St Mary's Church. Please speak to Rosemary or the Churchwardens.

READINGS AND PRAYERS:

The Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

The New Testament Reading 1 John 4: 7-end

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19We love because he first loved us. 20Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Holy Gospel John 15: 1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 1'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

The Post Communion Collect

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS:

Monday: Luke 4: 38-end

Thursday: Luke 5: 27-end

Tuesday: James 1: 1-12

Friday: Luke 6: 1-11

Wednesday: Luke 5: 12-26

Saturday: Luke 6: 12-26

PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

All those who live in: Rowhill Lane, Stockcroft Road, Stumblemead

All those who are sick, especially:

The departed:

And those whose anniversaries occur during the week:

St.Mary's



EVENTS AND NOTICES

PRAYER SPACES FAMILY SERVICE - NEXT SUNDAY (5th May at 10am)

***What is a 'Prayer Space'?**

Children and young people are innately curious about life. Growing up raises lots of questions, some to do with their experience, both the good and the bad, and some to do with their sense of wonder at the universe we live in and whether there's more to life than meets the eye. Many have an interest in the non-material aspects of life, the spirit or soul, and want to explore how these ideas and experiences help them to develop their own sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose.

Prayer Space enables children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore these life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Taking a broadly Christian perspective as a starting point, Prayer Spaces give children and young people an opportunity to develop skills of personal reflection and to explore prayer in an open, inclusive and safe environment.

The younger generation very much enjoy these activities but we also had a fantastic response from the adults in the church when we ran the sessions last November. Please come along and have a look at ways of communicating to God in prayer, letting go of our worries, forgiving, saying sorry and remembering to give thanks.

Birchanger Gardens Open Afternoon – Saturday 5th May
2.00pm – 5.20pm

Please join us on the above date when the Worrall Family kindly open their beautiful gardens in aid of St Mary's Church. With gardens set over seven acres, you'll discover a wonderful display of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, and magnolias, a grassy avenue, lake, lily-pond, pergola, Etruscan-style temple, herbaceous borders and much more. Afternoon tea and delicious cakes will be served. Sign up forms for helpers, and cake donations, are at the back of the church.

Mothers' Union

Thank you to all who supported the coffee morning on 15th April. The brilliant sum of £220 was raised. In addition, the Count Your Blessings for Lent raised £115 for the Make a Mother's Day project, so thank you very much to those who took part.

THY KINGDOM COME

With Lent behind us, we're now looking ahead to Ascension and Pentecost, marked across the Church by the Archbishops' Thy Kingdom Come initiative. Thy Kingdom Come is an international prayer movement that encourages Christians from all denominations to pray for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

The initiative started in 2016 as a simple invitation from Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop John Sentamu. Last year alone, hundreds of thousands of Christians joined in more than 85 countries – from Australia to South Sudan, Canada to Japan, and this year Thy Kingdom Come hopes to build on this momentum and encourage even more people to be involved.

“The Heart of Things”

**an exhibition of painting and sculpture by Paul Hobbs
as part of Thy Kingdom Come. 10th - 13th May 2018**

St. Michael and All Angels Church, South Street, Lancing, BN15 8AJ.

The exhibition will be open for four days (10-13 May) with Paul Hobbs in attendance, offering an opportunity for visitors to talk with an artist about his work. There will be opportunities for tours with the artist discussing the ideas in his work in an open and engaging way.

MID SUSSEX BEACON EVENT – THY KINGDOM COME

**An evening of prayer and worship joining with the global ‘Thy Kingdom
Come’ prayer initiative**

Sunday 20th May at 2pm

The King's Church Mid-Sussex, 33-35 Victoria Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9LR
For more information: email info@tkc.org.uk