



**SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**  
**CHRIST THE KING**

(Sunday Next before Advent BCP)

We welcome Rev. Clay Knowles at 8am and  
 Rev. Peter Irwin-Clark at 10am

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>10.00am Parish Eucharist with Sunday School</b>
<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am Avon House Group</b>
	<b>7.45pm Evening House Groups</b>
<b>Tues 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.45pm Bell Ringing Practice</b>
<b>Weds 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am Monthly House Group*</b>
	<b>Family Funeral - Michael Noble**</b>
<b>Fri 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1.00pm Funeral – Michael Dutton</b>
	<b>6.30pm Youth Club – Parish Room</b>
	<b>7.00pm Choir Practice</b>
<b>Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>10.00am Family Christingle</b>
	<b>6.00pm Advent Carol Service</b>

**Monday House 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.

**Monthly morning House Group - The Wednesday Group**

This group meets on the last Wednesday of the month, 10am at the house of Bridget Gosney, Twittens, Oldlands Avenue. At the next meeting we will be starting a new study entitled "Paul: His Life and Teaching". The next date this term is Wed 28th Nov. Please contact Lorna (819149) or Rosemary (400373) for further details or if you would like a lift. All welcome.

**Mothers Union**

The next meeting will be the Christmas Tea Party on **Thursday 13th December, at 2.15pm in the Parish Room.** All are warmly welcome to join us for carols, readings, a delicious tea, chat and our Christmas raffle. Further details from Lorna Robinson or Rosemary Corder

**Green material needed**

The Open the Book team need some green material to help create the hills where the shepherds of Bethlehem tended their sheep. Does anyone have anything they would be willing to lend for the school assembly on Tuesday 4th December? It could be green sheets, old green curtains or any green material. If you have, please speak to any of the team, Lorna, Charles, Julia, Denise, Gillian, Julie, Jacqueline, Margaret, or Dee.

**\*\*Michael Noble – Funeral is for family but there will be a memorial service held in the new year – details to come.**

**Website: [www.stmarys-balcombe.org](http://www.stmarys-balcombe.org)**

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

### The Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### The New Testament Reading Revelation 1: 4b-8

4Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, 6and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

7Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.  
So it is to be. Amen.

8'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

### The Holy Gospel John 18: 33-37

33Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' 34Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' 35Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' 36Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' 37Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

### The Post Communion Collect

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS:

Monday: Revelation 14: 1-13

Thursday: Revelation 16: 12-end

Tuesday: Revelation 14: 14-end of 15

Friday: John 12: 20-32

Wednesday: Revelation 16: 1-11

Saturday: Revelation 18

### PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

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

All those who are sick, especially

**The departed and our own departed loved ones:**

**Those whose anniversaries occur during the week:**



**EVENTS AND NOTICES**

## **Advent & Christmas Services**



**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**

10am Family Christingle Service  
6pm Advent Carol Service with candles

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

6pm Carols by candlelight

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

2pm Play and Praise Nativity

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

4pm Crib Service  
11pm Midnight Eucharist

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

10am Family Eucharist

Full list of services in the Parish Magazine

### **Pack Up Your Troubles**

Tony Perkins filmed the concert which took place in September for the History Society and has created a DVD.

Please contact Ali Cunningham (811370) if you would like one.  
The cost is £5; proceeds to the Balcombe History Society

### **The Ardingly Senior School Choir**

The Choir kindly came to perform in the Church on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October. It was a beautiful concert with wonderful singing; there was no charge but generous donations of £163.55 were received, for which we are very grateful. If you missed it, you still have a chance to hear them as they have created a CD of Christmas music; again, contact Ali if you would like one.

The cost is £10

**CANON KEITH RICHARDS APPOINTMENT AS RECTOR TO ST MARY'S**

**BALCOMBE:** Please see below a message from Fr Keith:

*"It is my great privilege and joy to have been appointed by the Bishop as your next incumbent and I am already beginning to get excited at the prospect of working alongside you in the mission of the Gospel in such a lovely part of God's vineyard!*

*My early working years were spent in the world of education, as a primary school teacher and later, as headteacher. Most of my parochial experience has been gained in this Diocese with a short sojourn in Yorkshire. As well as being a parish priest, I've occupied various roles within the life of the Church including twice being rural dean; a national selector for the church's ministry; Diocesan reader selector and serving on a number of Diocesan committees.*

*You will discover more about me, and I you, in the months and years which lie ahead, as together, we embark on what I hope will be an exciting new chapter in the life of the Parish. My hope and prayer is that we will experience something of the joy, the laughter and the glory of being a part of God's wonderful world as seen through the prism of Christ's Church on earth.*

*Can I ask you all to pray for me as I prepare for this new ministry? Please be assured of my prayers for you and the Parish of St Mary's as we prepare to face the future together."*

**JEFFREY LLOYD-ROBERTS** - We produce below extracts of a letter just received from the St Mary's Director of Music, Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts. Jeff is still working abroad until February 2019, of course. Jeff has been an inspirational leader of our worship, singing and music-making in St Mary's for several years. We are very sad that his commitments mean he will be moving on, but consider ourselves extremely fortunate indeed to have had his tremendous contributions to church and village over the past few years. We shall follow you, Jeff, from stage to stage, auditorium to auditorium, watch out! Many thanks from us all at St Mary's and Balcombe. Our huge thanks also to Max Preston-Bell who has stepped into the breach since September when Jeff's Sabbatical started.

*Dear St Mary's Family*

*I trust you are all well and looking forward to the joyous Christmas Season? Always an amazing time with such glorious Music. This year there is the added excitement of a new Rector arriving in January. I'm sure Father Keith Richards will be welcomed with open arms, not just by St Mary's, but by Balcombe as a whole. Sometimes in life developments happen swiftly. This has been the case with my plans for 2019. Since I left for my Sabbatical I have been offered another two Opera Contracts for next year. This is an honour and great for my singing career, but it has meant I have had to think long and hard about my other commitments. In accepting these offers for Garsington Opera and Opera North, it means that I would need to be away from St Mary's for much of May and June. The Opera North Contract would take me away from mid-July until November. You have all been incredibly understanding of my freelance singing work, especially during this long Sabbatical I am currently in the middle of. I do feel strongly that a Music Director, at any Church, should be in place for the vast majority of the time to lead and direct the Choir, and also develop Music and concerts within the Church and in the wider village community. It is with a heavy heart I have to announce that I am stepping down as Director of Music at St Mary's with immediate effect. Please please don't be sad. This is an exciting time of new development for you all, and it will lead to a wonderful fresh chapter of music making and praise. The whole congregation ... an enormous hug to your all. My Welsh effervescence is not to everybody's taste I know. You all took to my madness with relish. Thank you all. Keep singing, keep smiling and keep praising. It's what you all do so well at St Mary's. Far too many to thank individually, so forgive me if I say a blanket Thank you to every one of you, but especially the Children. Developing a small group of youngsters into a great choir for services and concerts was so wonderful. I do feel quite confident that the next Music Director will not have my voluptuous figure. It means you can get three new robes out of my old cassock!!!  
With much love and God's blessings. Jeff*