

Welcome to St Mary The Virgin, Linton

Church
Community



Church in our community and community in our church

St Mary's pewsheet for the week commencing 25th September 2016

Services

8.00 Communion

1 Timothy 6:6-19 and
Luke 16:19-31

10.00 Communion

1 Timothy 6:6-19 and
Luke 16:19-31

Thursday

10.00 Communion

Friday

9.00 School Service

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to you all as we worship together, especially if you are visiting or this is your first time with us.

At our Sunday Communion services, all are welcome to receive the bread and wine, either at the High Altar or within the Nave. If you would rather have a blessing, please keep your hands below the rail or lowered and we will pray with you. It is also fine to stay in your seat and just enjoy a time of quiet. Children are welcome to receive the bread too if they put their hands out.

Please join us for refreshments,

in the pavilion after the Friday and 10 a.m. Sunday service.

Everyone is welcome, there is no charge, however a basket is available if you feel able to give a donation.

Next week, October 2nd, Team Walk

Starting at Bartlow, St Mary's at 2 pm, via St Mary's Shudy Camps (between 3.30 and 4 pm), to All Saints' Castle Camps for tea at about 5 pm. Dogs welcome on leads, and people of all ages.

To be followed by a Taize service at about 5.30 pm at Castle Camps. Please organise own car-sharing arrangements. Join or leave us for any stage of the proceedings.

Rehearsal for Taizé Service.

There will be a rehearsal for any singers and instrumentalists who would like to take part in the service at 5.30pm on Saturday, 1 October 2016 at 25A Back Road, Linton. All very welcome, whatever instrument you play, please come along. Contact David Parry-Smith if you would like further information. David@parry-smith.co.uk Tel 01223 894715.

Notices for the week

Please send news items to Sue Filby
suef4rector@btinternet.com by 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday,
as the pewsheets are printed on Thursday morning.

Haverhill Foodbank current food shortages are for long-life juice, tinned tomatoes and coffee.

'Turning to Christ': a small group is starting on Thursday September 29th at 7.45 pm at the Rectory, 11A Joiners Road, to discuss together the meaning of the questions the church asks people at baptisms. We shall go for six sessions on Thursdays till November, when there will be the opportunity for anyone who would like to, to get baptised and/or confirmed in Ely Cathedral. If you would like to join us – perhaps as a refresher on the basics of Christian faith, or to accompany those doing this course on their spiritual journey – you'd be very welcome. Please contact Maggie on 890273@margaret.guite@ntlworld.com.

Governors for The Infant School: Our C of E Infant School begins its new term with a new Headteacher and a new Senior Leadership Team and we look forward to supporting enthusiastically all who work and learn there in the coming year. As part of this support, the Church nominates the majority of the Governing Body: currently, we have a strong body of Church Governors with links to the parents and staff at the school, but we urgently need new Governors who have legal or financial skills, or who have the time to keep contact with the school on a regular basis. If you are interested in this vital role, either now or in future, please contact Michael Younger to discuss this further. As the school considers Academy status, we need to ensure there is a strong and active Church presence on the Governing Body.

The Events forthcoming dates:

Sunday 9th October - Bring and Share Harvest lunch at 1pm in the Pavilion with Maggie's special Harvest soup.

Monday 7th November - Curry Night at the Linton Tandoori - 7pm

Saturday 26th November - Day trip to St Albans Christmas Market.

People can express interest any time but more details will be available nearer the time.

Saturday 1 October, pavilion maintenance day. Helpers needed - more details on posters in church.

There will be a collection for flowers after the 10.00 a.m. Sunday service next week.

People Fully Alive: Please be prepared to stay after the services on Sunday 16th and Thursday 20th October to discuss People Fully Alive and the St Mary's Mission Action Plan. The areas to be discussed are outlined in four papers; the first is included within this pewsheet. The other reports will be included in following weeks.

Other activities for the week

Monday

10.30 Service at Symonds House

Wednesday

7.30 Bell Ringing

8.00 Alpha Plus Group

Saturday

5.30 Pavilion Working Party
Choir Practice, 25A Back Road

Next Sunday

8.00 Communion

2 Timothy 1:1-14 and
Luke 17:5-10

10.00 Communion

2 Timothy 1:1-14 and
Luke 17:5-10

Dates for your diary

8th October Poetry & Meditation day at Little St Mary's, Trumpington Street, Cambridge (See 10a.m. newsreel or poster for details)

16th October Discussion about St Mary's mission action plan

Maggie's day off is Wednesday.

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Maggie will be saying evening prayer in the Resurrection Chapel at 5.30 p.m., she would be glad for anyone to join her.

Maggie aims to be there just before 5.30 p.m., however there are sometimes things that delay her; so please go in and turn the lights on.

Maggie's sermons are available on our website:

<http://www.stmaryslinton.org.uk/sermons/>

Please Pray for:

Those who are sick, recovering, awaiting treatment, or in any other kind of special need of prayer:

The recently departed, and their families:

Causes for special thanksgiving to God:

Other prayers:

People Fully Alive: SERVE the Community

Background

The key argument of the Diocese of Ely's new strategy, *People Fully Alive*, is that in the face of challenges with respect to ministry, congregations, finance, buildings and society, the church cannot continue in its current shape. Change is inevitable, though also inevitable are tensions between claims of the past and needs of the future.

The passage from Matthew 5: 13-16 sees Christians as the salt of the earth, engaging in and with the world around them and making a difference; and also as a light of the world, to shine brightly and help others find a way through darkness. Engaging with communities (globally and locally) is seen as central to the Church's mission in *People Fully Alive*. Our vision, then, might be to become a truly open door, a caring community showing care at the point of need; to become more relevant to people's lives.

Community engagement suggested in the Ely Strategy encompasses:

- ❖ Supporting the marginalised – 'a core Christian activity, not an optional add-on';
- ❖ Working with schools, including pre-school ministry – 'high priority';
- ❖ Contributing to the Common Good through joining public debate and taking on civic duties and political responsibilities;
- ❖ Working in partnership – cooperating and supporting other local churches, encouraging ecumenical partnership and working with agencies and individuals who seek to contribute positively to the quality of public life.

Priorities identified by the sub-group

Note. Although all areas of children's and young people's ministries would benefit from additional help and support, the sub-group felt that considerable effort has been put in recent years into establishing and developing these ministries. The priorities suggested below therefore focus on the other three areas of community engagement suggested in the Ely document.

1. Collect information – internal audit of church-based activities; find out what is already being delivered in the community, where help is needed and what partnerships might be possible.
2. 'Unlock our assets': undertake a skills audit across all who have a connection with St Mary's – then think creatively about how to use people's skills and to encourage volunteers.
3. Re-form the previously functioning Mark IV (Social justice) and Mark V (Environment) groups, combining these with the Refugee Action Group to form a new Social Justice / Social Awareness group.
4. Make contact with those who feel marginalised in some way. Eg: putting a message offering support in starter packs given by Haverhill Food Bank to Linton families; offering support to those who leave messages on prayer board in church; offering follow-up support with invitations to the annual All Souls service.

5. Demonstrate our claim to inclusiveness and concern with the environment and wider communities: join Inclusive Church, explore association with Christians Against Poverty, and Eco-Congregation. Display materials about these on noticeboards to signal more clearly that inclusiveness, social justice and environmental concerns are central to our identity.
6. Raise awareness and improve confidence to take part in civic and political debate by inviting a range of speakers (eg street pastors, prison visitors, etc) to share their experiences.
7. Encourage church members to join the Parish Council (which currently has 4 vacancies) to maintain awareness of the church's presence as part of the village community.
8. Gradually build up local ecumenical partnerships, working towards a joint strategy for supporting the marginalised.
9. Discuss shared concerns with the other four churches in the Linton Team and explore ways of working together for mutual support.