

Some dates for February 2012

Wed 1	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Mums and Tots (Methodist Hall)
	10.15am	Coffee after Communion (LS Room)
Thur 2	9.30am	Buckden School RE day (St Mary's)
	8.00pm	Ground Floor Group (Vicarage)
Fri 3	3.30pm	Tea, Chat and Toys (Vicarage)
Sat 4	8.30am	Men's Breakfast in the Lion
Sun 5	9.30am	Family Service (Offord)
	10:30am	Family Eucharist
	6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion
Wed 8	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Mums and Tots (Methodist Hall)
	10.15am	Coffee after Communion (LS Room)
	2.30pm	Friends in Deed Winter Tea Party (Methodist Hall)
Fri 10	3.30pm	Tea, chat and toys (Vicarage)
Sun 12	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	9.30am	Holy Communion (Offord)
	10:30am	Family Eucharist
	4.00pm	Stepping Stones
Mon 13	12.30pm	Study Lunch (Methodist Hall)
Tue 14	7.30pm	15+ group (Living Stones Room)
Wed 15	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	10.00am	Mums and Tots (Methodist Hall)
	10.15am	Coffee after Communion (LS Room)
Thur 16	8.00pm	Ground Floor Group (Vicarage)
Fri 17	3.30pm	Tea, chat and toys (Vicarage)
Sun 19	9:30am	BCP Matins (Offord)
	10.30am	Family Eucharist
	4.00pm	Messy Church (Offord Church Rooms)
	6.00pm	BCP Choral 'Treat of an Evensong'
Mon 20	1.30pm	Bible Study (Vicarage)
Tue 21	6.30pm	PCC Pancakes at Offord Church
Rooms,	7.00pm	Joint PCC at Offord Church Rooms
	7.45pm	Offord PCC meeting
Wed 22	9.30am	Ash Wednesday Communion
	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion (Offord)
	10.00am	Mums and Tots (Methodist Hall)
	10.15am	Coffee after Communion (LS Room)
Sat 25	11.00am	GRAND AUCTION SALE In the Millennium Hall.
	7.30pm	Soup and Puddings evening (Offord Church Rooms)
Sun 26	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion
	9:30am	Holy Communion (Offord)
	10:30am	Family Communion – 'Thinking Day'
	6.00pm	Night Prayer
	6.00pm	Deanery Evensong (Eynesbury)
Mon 27	12.30pm	Churches Together Lent Lunch (1) at the Methodist Hall
Wed 29	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	10.00am	Mums and Tots (Methodist Hall)
	10.15am	Coffee after Communion (LS Room)

Closing Date for the March Newsletter:

Sunday 19th February

Items to Ken Gray by hand or by E Mail to:

grayfamily31@talktalk.net

We are now able to distribute the St Mary's newsletter by email. If you would like to receive your copy electronically, and haven't already told us, please be in touch. If you have already told us you're happy to go paperless, thankyou! Electronic distribution saves paper (and, for those outside the parish, postage, too)

St Mary's The Parish Church of Buckden Newsletter, February 2012



Dear Friends

Lent is a time when most of us will do some thinking and reflecting – on who we are, and how we relate to God and to one another.

This Lent we will again have the usual **Churches Together Study Lunches** and thanks to Fr Chris (St Hughs) and Revd Tricia (Buckden Methodist Church), both of whom minister in churches in St Neots, we also this year will be able to tap into the study groups being organised by St Neots Churches Together, for those not able to attend at lunchtime in Buckden. Details of the Deanery Evensong series on 'Approaches to God' are also listed in the notices.

We will also have a book of 'Aids to Reflection', a resource of poems, prayers and images being compiled by the Ground Floor Group and available in church from 26th February, and can be posted or emailed out on request.

If Lent is among other things a time for reflecting and thinking, then it's most appropriate that our 10.30am Family Communion service on the first Sunday of Lent, 26th February, will be a special 'Thinking Day' service, at which we will welcome our local Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units. Thinking Day is an annual event in the Guiding movement which encourages the young people involved to reflect on their identity as part of that movement, and to find out about guiding in other parts of the world. It's also a time when all involved in Guiding renew their promises. I'm very excited that all this will be taking place as part of our Family Communion service this month, and that some of the young people will be taking part in leading our worship.

May God bless you and resource you in your own thinking and reflecting this month, and this Lent.

Yours in Christ

Ally

Prayer Corner

In the life of the local church, please pray for:

- The Churches Together Lent study lunches, giving thanks for all the opportunities that we have to learn and grow together in the faith

In the local community, please pray for:

- Young people's uniformed organisations ('Thinking Day' service on 26th February)

In the wider world, please pray for:

- Solutions to the economic crisis in Europe and beyond, and for all who have already been severely affected by it.

General Notices

Planned giving

A message for Weekly Envelope donors:- You may need no reminder that 2012 is now upon us, but you may have forgotten how valuable to the church is your special green envelope 52 times a year, especially when the church's financial year is also drawing to a close. If you still have 2011 envelopes at home, please try to catch up with any weeks that may have been missed -- each week matters. A yellow envelope can be used if your green one has been left at home but you will have to write your name on it. Thank you for your continuing regular offerings, without which the church would struggle.
Bernard Hatswell.

Webmaster needed!

Peter Brittain has maintained the church's website for a good number of years, and is now looking to step down. If you are even slightly internet-savvy, and would like to know more about what the role of webmaster involves, please speak to Peter, or to Ally.

Coffee after Communion (Wednesdays)

There is now coffee after the 9.30am Wednesday Holy Communion service, served in St. Mary's Living Stones Rooms, for anyone who would like to meet old and new friends for open discussions on our spiritual journeys.

The Nativity Cribs

The Crib Sets are currently in an anonymous suit case, but during the Christmas season they travelled to 30 homes, Buckden Nursery, the Pre-school Playgroup, Buckden School and a local shop. The youngest host was just a year old and could tell me the sheep said "Baa" and the oldest were ladies and gentlemen of over 90. Thank you very much to everyone who welcomed them and enjoyed their presence for a few days, and a special "Thank you" to the ladies who, despite all the other calls on their time, knitted some most attractive sheep - the best flock we've ever had!
Ann A.

Useful Contacts

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Churchwardens

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St Mary's web site: www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk
Follow St Mary's on Twitter: @A1ChurchBuckden
And find us on Facebook: St Mary's Buckden
Buckden Churches Together: www.bctc.fsnet.co.uk
All Saints: allsaintsoffordcluny.wordpress.com

Special Events for Lent

This Lent we will again have the usual **Churches Together Study Lunches**, for five Mondays, at 12.30pm at Buckden Methodist Church: 27th February, and 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March. Details will be posted in St Mary's of alternative, evening, groups provided by St Neots Churches Together for those not able to attend at lunchtime.

Deanery Evensongs will take place at 6pm on:
27th February at Eynesbury
4th March at Everton
11th March at Great Staughton
(no Deanery Evensong on Mothering Sunday)
25th March at Buckden
The theme of the series is 'Approaches to God'

St Mary's Fundraisers

GRAND AUCTION SALE
11am Saturday 25th February 2012,
Buckden Millennium Hall
Have a New Year Clear out
or come along & pick up a bargain.

All contributions gratefully received
between 8.45-9.45am.

Please no books, clothes, TV's
or broken/out of date computers etc.

Viewing 10-11am & Sale starts promptly at 11am.

Refreshments available

Details from Patsy Gray 810041

Living Stones & Church Funds

Music at St. Mary's 2012

Dates for your diaries

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| Sat April 21 st | Lunchtime concert with
'The Silver Swan' madrigal group |
| Fri May 18 th | Stageworks
an evening of songs from the shows |
| Sat June 2 nd | Folk music with 'Pennyless'
three lively musicians |
| Fri June 8 th | Ridley Hall Gospel Choir
our first Gospel Group. |
| Sat June 16 th | The Eagle Choir from Bedford |
| Sat Sept 15 th | 'Peterborough Young Singers' |
| Sat Sept 22 nd | Jazz and more with Ally & Sam |

ALSO Thursday 26th April at 7.30pm: Come & hear one of England's greatest storytellers in a programme of folk-tales, legends, music & songs from East Anglia.
Details: Ron Ingamells 01480 811608