

# Newsletter – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020



St. Mary the Virgin, Hartfield  
Holy Trinity, Colemans Hatch

## ***A warm welcome to Diane Watts***

Diane will be leaving Together in Sussex at the end of January to take up the role of leading the Faith and Society team at the Baptist Union. This will be quite a varied role as the work of the Faith & Society team is to enable churches in their mission locally and to raise awareness of need. Working ecumenically, reflecting theologically and speaking on issues of justice is also part of the Team's remit so things will be busy!

Please pray for Gods blessing on Diane in her new role.

## ***Today's Readings***

Old Testament: Isaiah 9: v 1-4



Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan –

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.  
You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.  
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

New Testament: Matthew 4: v 12-23

### **Jesus begins to preach**

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali –to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

'Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles –  
the people living in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned.'

From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

### **Jesus calls his first disciples**

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### **Jesus heals the sick**

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and illness among the people.

### ***Tim Jackson writes..***

When I began studying at St Augustine's over six years ago, I was uncertain about what to expect but thought I would give it a go. It has turned out to be one of the best decisions that I have made.



The course is incredibly flexible, and you can study at a pace that suits you. I have been studying part-time, taken a year

out, and I am now 18 months away from completing an honours degree in “Theology, Ministry & Mission”. If I had wanted I could have left the course with a lower level qualification after two or four years of study. Many people did so.

I have attended formal study sessions on Monday evenings at Southwark Diocesan offices 10 minutes from London Bridge Station and study days on alternative Fridays at the beautiful West Malling Abbey.

People on the course are independent students such as myself, people training as lay readers or for ordination. They come from all over South East England. This year am I studying with people from Brighton, Dover, Bedford, Cambridge, and from many locations in south London. It is a real mixture of people from inner city area, rural locations, towns, and regional cities.

My studies have significantly deepened my faith, greatly increased my understanding and considerably enhanced my worship. I have also made many new friends. While completing two assignments of 2,500 words every term can be demanding it is also very rewarding and means that you really have to think through what you have been studying.

It is not all one-way either. In my last assignment I used material from Ephesians that we are current enjoying studying in our weekly house groups.

If you what to know about my course or St Augustine's please contact me. Thank you to all of you that have taken an interest in my studies and have prayed for me in my efforts. Your continued support and prayers are very much appreciated. In particular, please pray that I may continue to deepen in my Christian understanding and faith, and that I may find ways of sharing that faith with all in our local community.

**Tim Jackson**

## **Lent 2020**

A sequence of services and times of reflection in St Marys Church during the period of Lent



**26<sup>th</sup> February at 11am: Ash Wednesday.** A time of prayer and Holy Communion with a cross of ash on the forehead for those who would like to receive it.

**4<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 to 8:30pm** A short service of listening prayer by candlelight ending with Compline (short service of evening prayer)

**11<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 to 9:00pm** Theme will be sacred space with music and candlelight.

**18<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 to 9:00pm** Theme based on Psalm 86: Hear my prayer O Lord.

**25<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 to 9:00pm** Theme will be The Servant King.

## **For Your Prayers**



Pray for all who are undergoing tests or suffering with ill health at this time. We especially pray for Carol ( Joanne's Mum ) as she recovers from her knee operation. Also for Sue, Phil Reids mother and all those undergoing tests.

God our Father, we bring before you today those who suffer from illness or disability—those whose lives are profoundly affected by their illness.

*When they feel fragile and broken,  
remind them that you call them by name  
and hold them in the palm of your hand.*

*When they feel devalued, remind them  
that they are made in the image Jesus.*

*When they are reminded of different times in  
the past,*

*lead them to grow in the faith that you love  
them today, as they are,*

*in the reality of their lives this day.*

*When they feel uncertain and fearful about  
the future,*

*lead them to that perfect love which casts out  
all fear.*

*When situations remind them not of what they  
can do,*

*but of what they cannot do, remind them that  
love never fails.*

*May all of us, whatever our circumstances,  
never be so taken up with our own concerns  
that we do not see or respond to the needs of  
others, especially those who suffer in our  
midst. May we live with courage to respond to  
the challenges that each of us faces.*

*Amen.*

## **Baptism or Confirmation**



**Baptism** You are never too young or too old to start a journey of faith. A Christening is the same as a Baptism, and it is an outward sign in the form of a special service in church, where people make a commitment to follow Jesus. If it is a young child that is being Christened, adults will make promises on their behalf to help them on their journey of faith, learning about Jesus. When they get older they can confirm that they make these promises for themselves, at a service of Confirmation.

It may be that you were not baptised as a baby and would now like to consider being baptised as a young person or an adult. If so, please contact Rev Julie to find out more.

**Confirmation** is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized. If you were baptized at a christening when you

were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf.

As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you. The local Bishop will lay their hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life. I would love to talk to you if you would like to know more.

***Rev Julie***

### ***Trinity Café***

Over the past five years, we have seen the success of Trinity Café in Coleman's Hatch make a real difference for and with the community, providing home-made cakes and a warm welcome for all ages, all donations going to the upkeep of Trinity Hall and local charities. Thank you for all your support.

This year's chosen charity will be the **Crowborough First Responders.**

Future Café dates for your diary:

13th Feb - St Valentine

27th Feb - St David

12th March - St Patrick

***Rev Julie and Team***

## ***Church Street Community Café***

We had a great response to our first gathering at the café. Thank you to the team. The next café will meet on the 30<sup>th</sup> January and then 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month. New flyers are available with all the dates to August 20<sup>th</sup>. A place where people can feel connected, make friendships and enjoy home-made cakes, coffee and tea. Everyone is welcome. All donations will go towards the upkeep of St Marys and local charities.



***Revd Julie and Team***

### **Next Week's Services**

#### **February 2<sup>nd</sup>    Presentation of Christ**

St Mary's            9:30am Holy Communion *with Sunday Discoverers and Big Breakfast*

Holy Trinity        11am Matins

                          6:30pm Choral Evensong

Readings:         Malachi 3:1-5 Luke 2: 22-40

#### ***Administrator***

If you have items for our newsletter please contact Trevor Sear [tgsear57@outlook.com](mailto:tgsear57@outlook.com) Working days Tuesday am and Thursday.

#### Websites

[www.hartfieldchurch.org](http://www.hartfieldchurch.org)  
[www.colemanshatchchurch.org](http://www.colemanshatchchurch.org)

## Churches Information

### **Rector:**

The Reverend Julie Sear 01892 770436

[revjuliesear1@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliesear1@gmail.com)

*Day off for Rector is a Monday*

### **Licensed Lay Reader:**

Donna Dewar 01342 326424

[dewardonna@gmail.com](mailto:dewardonna@gmail.com)

### **Retired Clergy:**

Reverend Tom Hewson and Reverend Rosie Hewson 01342 319027

*With responsibility for Small Groups and Open the Book*

Administrator: [tgsear57@outlook.com](mailto:tgsear57@outlook.com)

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Andrea McGlew 01342 850992

### **PCC Treasurer:**

Tim Jackson 01342 850902

### **Church Wardens for St Mary's:**

Kathy Green 01892 770208

Linda Graham 01892 770487

### **Hon. Secretary & Church Electoral Roll Officer:**

Ian Burns 01892 771014

### **Church Wardens for Holy Trinity:**

Paul Double

John Van Maurik (on sabbatical)

### **Hon. Secretary:**

CJ Payne [cipayne@hotmail.com](mailto:cipayne@hotmail.com)

### **Hon. Treasurer:**

Donald Clarke [drc.scc1897@gmail.com](mailto:drc.scc1897@gmail.com)