

Keeping in Touch

The Newsletter of St Mary's Church
Portchester

No. 39 November 2017



“Remember, remember”

Remembering

In the church's year, the month of November is very much about remembering the past. Coming up to our 'new year' at Advent, I suppose like any new year's eve, it is a time to get a bit nostalgic as we review the past year. I have a passionate interest in history, and this along with my patriotism, and love of religious freedom, makes me grateful for the courage of others who made the supreme sacrifice.

We've been thinking last month about Martin Luther and the Reformation. Although Luther was not martyred (no thanks to the pope at the time), he did take his life in his hands by challenging the superstition and corruption of the medieval papacy – almost everyone else who had tried that was either forced to recant or ended up on a bonfire. They said his little protest would not last – well, here we are 500 years later with almost 2 billion people, 38% of the world's Christian population who broadly stand in the tradition he started. It's amazing what banging up a notice can do!

On All Saints Sunday 5th November, we celebrate all the saints – known and unknown, who have lived the Jesus life and have entered into their reward. Later on that day we remember 'All Souls' when we think of our own particular 'saints' (some of them were of course, quite un-saintly at times!), but we loved them, and wish to remember them fondly.

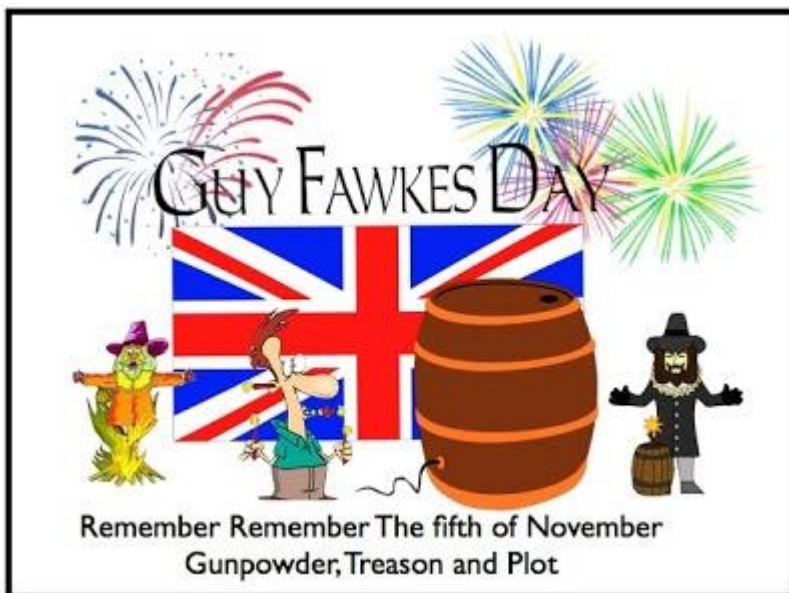
Talking about the 5th November – we are always encouraged especially to remember 'gunpowder, treason and plot.' I hope like me you are enjoying the Saturday night BBC drama, '*Gunpowder*.' Of course, it is difficult if not impossible to write a play, film script or book about history, without being partisan for one side or the other. I would have liked the viewers to have had some background as to why in England we were so paranoid about 'papists' in the Elizabethan and Jacobean period.

The people of Portchester will remember their war dead on Saturday 11th and the next day we have our own service at St Mary's.

November obviously has more 'commemorations' than any other month, and at our Wednesday and Friday services we will be remembering Richard Hooker (3rd), Saints and Martyrs of England (8th) Leo the Great (10th) Hugh of Lincoln (17th) and St Cecelia (22nd)

Of course we should only dip into the past for short periods and in order to get inspiration, courage and perspective for the future. This is the day the Lord has given, and we need to live in it and grasp the amazing opportunities our forefathers never had – without the fear of ending up on a bonfire!

Happy memories,
Your pastor and friend,
Ian



Bereavements

In the past week we have lost two very dear members of St Mary's. Ron Hatton, who with his wife Vera, was very faithful in worship, died suddenly of a heart attack while in hospital. His funeral will be on Wednesday 8th November 3.00pm at Portchester Crematorium. Mrs Jayne Hubble, mother of Rev Trevor Hubble also died in hospital. She was aged 102 and her Requiem Eucharist will be at St Mary's on Friday 3rd November 2.00pm to which you are all invited.

Liz Smith and the Great South Run

We are very grateful to Liz, a friend of Leroy Osbourne, who took part in the Great South Run at Portsmouth on 22nd October on behalf of St Mary's Church. Despite it being a windy day (*Hurricane Brian*) she ran the 10 miles in just over 2 hours – 7 minutes faster than the pace she had set herself. This was in order to raise money for the Labyrinth Garden of Remembrance. Sponsorship money has been over £2,000 and Barclay's Bank has matched funded with another £1,000 giving us over £3,000. Many thanks to all who sponsored, to local funeral directors and those who donated through 'Just Giving.' There will be a special **Service of Thanksgiving on 19th November** when the Mayor of Fareham will hand over the cheque.

Sound System

We hope you have noticed an improvement in the sound quality in church. Our grateful thanks to David Williams and 'The Friends of St Mary's' for donating £2,000 towards this. This included a donation of £500 from Councillor Roger Price's Community Fund. The new equipment was dedicated on Sunday 22nd October. We would like to thank the sound team – Ray, Mark and John for all the set-up work, and Richard Nice for making the cabinet.

Help wanted: audio and video.

Still on the sound system – we are increasingly using amplification at most events and also increasingly using PowerPoint presentations and films. We wondered if there were other people out there who would like to be part of our team. Ray, Mark and John do a great job, but more help would be appreciated to go on a rota for this. Please see Ray Norman at the sound desk if you can help.

Cesspit.

It was recently mentioned by our treasurer that one of the increasing expenses St Mary's occurs is the emptying of the cesspit, which because of increased Tea Room and other church use, now has to be emptied four times a year, costing an annual £1,000. An anonymous donor was recently moved (forgive the pun!) to donate the £1,000 for this year. Our grateful thanks.

Parking

It's an ongoing issue and causes some tension between ourselves and the castle, but again could we politely ask our members not to park in the castle grounds, especially on Sunday mornings, unless you have a blue badge or a Churchwarden's permit. This especially affects latecomers who arrive and find the car park full. You need to come a little bit earlier, and use the larger car park by the sailing club if the one near the gate is full.

Rotas

For the smooth running of the church we need those on rotas (readers, sidespeople, prayers, coffee after service, etc) to put it in their calendar once they get the rota. If you cannot manage, please arrange for a swap or contact the parish office. Obviously we appreciate that at the last minute

emergencies happen, but if you could give us some notice that would be helpful.

Senior Citizens' Fair

Suella Fernandes, MP, is holding a Senior Citizens' Fair on Friday 17th November between 10.30am and 1.00pm at the Sports Hall, Fareham College, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham, PO14 1NH. She writes, 'All too often we hear about the problems than can accompany the ageing process, including loneliness and isolation.' At the event, a variety of organisations will be represented including health and fitness, hobbies, voluntary services, home support, financial and bereavement services. Admittance is free and there is plenty of onsite parking. Further details on church notice board.

Mental Health Support

St Mary's Church members in conjunction with the mental health charity, The Richmond Fellowship, are starting a group in Portchester to support people with mental health issues. This will be held at a central venue (possibly the library) on an afternoon once a week. The group will be focused around the needs of the clients and might include ideas like creative writing, self-care, walking, crafts, or just sitting around chatting. If you, or if you know someone with a mental illness, mild or severe, and including depression, eating disorders, schizophrenia, etc. They are welcome to come along. The Richmond Fellowship will have a short interview with prospective clients, and will be responsible for the professional guidance and cover of the group. It will not be a 'religious' group as such, and is open to all faiths and none. If this is of interest, please contact Rev Ian.

Visiting overseas

We welcome back this month Trevor and Samia Hubble who were on holiday in South Africa when they heard that Trevor's mum had taken unwell and was not expected to live. They had hoped to spend more weeks there where they still have family. Liz Nice has spent October in Africa where her daughter Fiona and her husband David are missionaries. We have missed these friends and look forward to their fellowship again.

NOVEMBER SERVICES AND EVENTS



Reformation 500

Our commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation concludes this month with these events:

Thursday Talks 7.30pm at Portchester Methodist Church:

- 2nd 'Women of the Reformation'
- 9th 'Catholic Response'
(The Counter Reformation)
- 16th 'Luther's Legacy'
(the last 500 years)

Evening Services 6.00pm at St Mary's, 'The Five Solas'

5th Justification by Faith Alone
(Speaker: Derek Johnston)

12th 'Living for God's glory alone' (Speaker: Ian Meredith)

This service which brings our evening series to a close will be a service of Holy Communion as might have been experienced in England at the Reformation under Edward VI. We will be using the liturgy of the 1552 Book of Common Prayer (not your modern 1662 edition!)

‘This is my body ... this is my blood’ (Various interpretations of the Lord’s Supper)

Thursdays 10.30am – 12noon at the Parish Hall

2nd November The Anglican view (Dr Anthony Rustell)

7th December The Baptist view (Speaker from Paulsgrove Baptist)

Newcomer’s Meal

Friday 3rd November 6.30pm at the Parish Hall. Our speaker is Mick Mellows, formerly a professional footballer and now working for the charity ‘Faith and Football.’ If you have started attending St Mary’s and have not had an invite, please see Rev Ian.

All Saints Sunday – 5th November.

Services at 8.00am (Holy Communion – not Matins) and 10.00am. Incense will be used at the 10.00am service. Every so often we invite a lay person from the congregation to preach the sermon, who is not even a licensed reader. On this occasion Tony Gillam will be our preacher.

All Souls Service

This will also be held on 5th November at 3.00pm. It is our annual service where we invite the families of those whose funerals we have conducted in the past year. We are expecting around 100 people to attend. After these names have been read out and a candle lit, anyone else will be invited to come up and light a candle to remember a loved one. All are welcome to the service, which will be followed by tea and cake. We are grateful to the Tea & Company Team who will be serving that day and welcoming our bereaved friends. Because of this, there will be no Tea & Company that day.

Wedding Fayre – Saturday 11th November.

Once again we are grateful to Angela Parker for organising this and contacting lots of stall holders. It will be held in the church from 11am – 3.00pm. If you are getting married, thinking about it, or know someone who is, please tell them about this event.

Portchester Remembers.

The annual service of Remembrance will be held at the precinct on Saturday 11th November at 10.15am. As well as the usual civic dignitaries, veterans and youth organisations, we will have the newly formed Portchester Community Choir singing for us, ‘Make me a channel of your peace.’

Our own service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday 12th at 10.00am and this will be a non-Eucharist service. There will also be an act of Remembrance at the 8.00am service and hymns will be sung.



Lest We
Forget

War and Peace Poems

Next year is the centenary of the end of World War I, and we are also hoping to have a new War Memorial for World War II in the church. In connection with this, we are producing a booklet of poems about war and peace. We are inviting anyone who lives in Portchester to submit a poem for consideration. If Portchester people have friends or relatives outside the village who have also written poems, we might be able to include some of these. Please send to the parish office.

Fundraising Meal.

On Friday 17th O Sole Mio, the Italian restaurant in Port Solent has been booked by St Mary's. We held a very successful meal last year and this will be repeated. Tickets are £22 from the church office.

The November Men's Breakfast will be held this month on the 3rd Saturday – 18th at 8.00am and the speaker is Brian Kay.

“Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador”

Our friends in the local Catholic community have asked us to advertise a play about Archbishop Oscar Romero ‘Heartbeat of El Salvador’ at St John's (RC) Cathedral on Saturday 18th November at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 and there are refreshments before and after the play. Oscar Romero is commemorated in the Anglican Calendar on 24th March. Details on notice boards.

Praise Service. On Sunday 19th our 10.00am service will be slightly different. Although we will have a shorter form of Holy Communion, the first part of the service will be a ‘Praise Service’. This is in thankfulness for all God's goodness and grace to us in the past year – we have much to celebrate. The Mayor of Fareham, Geoff Fazackerlay will be presenting a cheque for the amount raised by Liz Smith on her recent sponsored run.

The Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 25th November from 10.30am. We hope that you will give this your support. As well as a major fund-raising event, it gives us the chance to welcome our many friends from around Portchester. There are still spaces for stall-holders, so if you have things to sell, an event to promote, a book to launch, or know of someone interested, please contact Hazel Powlesland, via the church office.

DECEMBER SERVICES AND EVENTS

We hope to issue a December/January newsletter on the first Sunday in December, but in order to give you a bit more notice of things coming up, we are including these events in this November issue:

Churches Together Christmas cards. Our partner churches in Portchester have found it increasingly difficult to distribute their share of the Christmas cards around the parish. We at St Mary's have offered to distribute all the cards this year, but obviously we will review this for the following year, but for this year, could we ask for some extra help in getting these delivered to all the homes in Portchester and Port Solent.

Extra homes in Portchester?

A great deal of fuss has been made about all these extra houses to be built in **Portchester**. Of course, most of them will not in fact be in Portchester – they will be in Fareham. The only extra houses which may be built in Portchester will be at Seafield Road and Cranleigh Road. The parish boundary is Hatherley Crescent and Ashtead Close, going over Portchester Road and up behind the Crematorium. The houses to be built behind Romsey Avenue and Winham Farm are in fact in Fareham. Anyone who disputes this is welcome to consult the map with parish boundaries at the parish office. We know exactly where the parish boundary is between Portchester and Fareham as we 'beat the bounds' of the parish boundary each year. The boundary is the wooded copse behind Portchester FC. The field to the left (behind Romsey Avenue) is in Fareham. Next year our boundary walk takes in the western boundary behind the Crematorium, where the field to the left is also in Fareham. The misunderstanding comes from the Fareham Borough Council Electoral Wards where 'Portchester

West' takes in houses up to Cams Mill in Fareham – but this is not Portchester.

ADVENT



Advent Sunday is 3rd December, when the liturgical colour changes to purple and the Gospel readings at the Sunday Communion services are from St Mark.

Posada

In our Parish since 2012, we have taken on the modern tradition of Posada. Parishioners and those from the village and further afield volunteer to give a home to the figures of Mary and Joseph for a night. A welcome prayer accompanies the figures as they travel. Their exchange provides an opportunity to meet someone who you may not normally see, maybe share a coffee or even a meal together. The rota begins on Advent Sunday and the figures journey around the village, and beyond, returning back to church on Christmas Eve in time for the crib service.

We would encourage you to fill in the rota as to when you would like them to visit you, whilst in your company you may do what you like let them join you and your family in what you are doing, going out to lunch, dinner, shopping, to school whatever you and your family and friends want. There will be a journal accompanying them and we would encourage you to fill this in with your activities and photos, pictures that the children might like to draw in fact anything but please do not remove anything that others may have posted in the past as this is a record.

You will be contacted by the resting place for the previous night to make suitable hand over arrangements and in turn you are asked to contact the next person to do likewise. If by any chance you have any problems please contact us on 02392363878/ 07885771893. The Rota will be found at the back of church until 19th November. So please fill in when you would like to host them, if you have any questions. please see one of us
Thank you for taking part in this start to our Christmas activities
Jane and Mike Baker

Friday 1st December 5.00pm **Switching on of the Christmas tree and lights** at Portchester precinct, when various school choirs will sing, as well as community items and lots of music.

Friday 1st December 7.30pm. **Concert at the church** with wine and canapés in an informal setting. This will be led by Paul Pilot, Louise Helyer and friends, and will be well known choruses from the operas. Tickets are £7.50. This concert is being organised by the social team of St

Mary's and will be a fund-raising evening for the building project (heating and new porch).

Sung Matins and hymns will be the service at 8.00am on the first Sunday in December.

The December **Men's Breakfast** is on Saturday 9th and our speaker is the Venerable Gavin Collins, Archdeacon of the Meon.

The Christingle Children's service is that start of our Christmas services and will be on Sunday 10th December at 4.00pm. We have invited the youth organisations and the band of TS Tenacity Sea Cadets will be playing.

Details of all the other Christmas Services will be appearing on posters soon, and more details next month.

Christmas Day lunch. Each year we provide a three course lunch with wine and all the trimmings for the elderly, and anyone who may be on their own at Christmas. If that is you, or if you are aware of someone, please come along and be our guest, at no cost. Contact Wendy at the parish office and put your name down. We can also provide transport. We are grateful to Ron and Lynn Prior for again organising this, and for the many local shops and businesses who donate freely. Thank you also to the friends from the church who give up their Christmas Day in order to serve the meals and tidy up. Again if you can help, please let Wendy know. We also welcome offers of help from people outside the church.

Proposed extra service

At our cafe church in September we launched a programme called 'Renewing the Vision' which included the provision of an extra service on

a Sunday morning announced to start in January. We regret that the occasion was somewhat rushed and did not allow proper questions and discussion. In hindsight we also realise that there needs to be a lot more thought, consultation and planning before this happens. The PCC has, therefore, decided to postpone the start of this service, so it will not be happening in January. We are thinking about having another cafe church in January but without Communion (and without a Baptism afterwards) in order to have a slower and more detailed presentation, and time for discussion. We have also taken on board the many concerns which have been expressed. We also want to engage in some proper consultation with the congregation, and also try and identify those who would start to attend such a service (who are not currently regularly attending any other).

More details in the next few newsletters.



**St Mary's Parish Church
Portchester Castle**

Sunday services: 8.00am; 10.00am and 6.00pm

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