



St Mary the Virgin Stevington

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

NEWSLETTER August 2015

SERVICES AUGUST – SEPTEMBER

Sunday 2nd August 9.30am – Holy Communion

Sunday 9th August 9.30am – Holy Communion

Sunday 16th August 9.30am – Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd August 6.00pm – Evensong

Sunday 30th August 10.00am – Together at Ten - Holy Communion at Turvey (Minister, Canon Peter Mackenzie)

Sunday 6th September 9.30am – Holy Communion

Sunday 13th September 9.30am – Holy Communion

Sunday 20th September 9.30am – Holy Communion

Sunday 27th September 3.00pm – Harvest Festival at Baptist Chapel



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Since our last Newsletter in May, further proposals have been made for the grouping of the ten churches in the west of the Sharnbrook Deanery which, by mid-September, will all be without a vicar. The aim is to have three stipendiary priests, one of whom would take over the existing group of Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Felmersham. The other two, a rector and a vicar, would run a Team Ministry of the other seven, being Turvey and Stevington, Harrold and Carlton, and the three independent parishes of Odell, Podington and Wymington.

Our PCC has voted solidly in favour of this proposal, as has Turvey and most others. However, at present, at least one parish does not agree, and we should hear in September what the Bishop and the two Chairmen of the Deanery propose to resolve the situation. If agreement is reached quickly, it is still likely to be a minimum of twelve months before the new ministers are in place.

In the meantime we carry on with the help of the retired priests of the area, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude. We, in common with some of our neighbours, are already running our own Evensong services and these have proved popular. Thank you all for your continued support during this difficult period, and the PCC, who are all having to share the burden.

Robert Hart – Churchwarden

HARVEST FESTIVALS - ADVANCE NOTICE

Please note that instead of Evensong on **27th September** we shall be joining our Baptist friends at their Harvest Festival Service at the Baptist Chapel at the earlier time of 3.00pm. We have not had a joint service for some time, and I hope that a good number of us will be able to attend.



This year our own Harvest Festival Service will be held at 10.00am on **Sunday, 4th October**, with the choir to lead us and all the usual gifts of produce to be laid at the altar. We hope that this change of time will be more family-friendly, and that a good number of children will join in the preparations – of this, more information will appear in September.

The Harvest Supper will follow last year's successful format at 7.00pm for 7.30pm on **Monday, 5th October**. Tickets will be on sale in early September on a first come, first serve basis due to limited numbers. This will be a "bring your own drinks" occasion - see posters in due course.

THE CHOIR

Robert Eadie will start Choir Rehearsals for the Harvest Festival on Tuesday, 8th September at 7.00pm in the Church Room. Weekly rehearsal details will be agreed that evening, so please try to get there!

GET ON YOUR BIKES!!



The Annual Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Bike 'n Hike will be held on Saturday 12th September between (not necessarily from/to!) 10.00am and 6pm.

For cyclists and walkers, this is a very different day out with a real purpose, and I have never met anyone who has not enjoyed it. The aim is simple – to raise much-needed finance to keep our wonderful heritage of churches in good structural shape, by riding or hiking from one to another, as many or as few as you like. The money you cajole your friends into giving to this good cause can be a lump sum or based on the number of churches visited. Half the total goes to the church of your choice (preferably St Mary's!), the other to the Trust to distribute in grants where the need is greatest. A good pub lunch can be fitted in to your day.

Please contact me for information and entry forms - Robert Hart (823769)

EVENSONG AT LITTLE GIDDING 30th AUGUST at 6



Little Gidding, set in the lovely Huntingdonshire countryside, is a remote and peaceful church. It was established in 1625 by Nicholas Ferrar. T. S. Eliot's visit in 1936 inspired him to include the Church in the last of his poems in 'Four Quartets'.

A number of us are keen to attend Evensong at 6pm but thought it would be rather nice to take a little picnic to have beforehand in the Church grounds. If you think you would like to come along, please let Bob H or Jane know by 23rd August so we can organise ourselves with a car share.

'You are here to kneel where prayer has been valid'

GIVING

Throughout the last couple of months we have been collecting for the Disaster in Nepal Appeal. Donations from a number of sources including coffees on Sunday, Well Dressing box and Church Rooms Books have raised £224.78. Thank you to all who have contributed. For the time being, we will continue to raise funds for Nepal. Thank you.

A New Broom

Many thanks to all those who give their time to clean the Church and arrange the flowers. It makes all the difference! Your continued help is much appreciated. We now have a lovely cleaner who will be able to support us a couple of hours every month. If you would like to volunteer a little time each month, there is a rota in the Church Rooms. We could do with an extra pair of hands in September!



We also have a super cleaner for the Church Rooms – so we are going to be totally spick and span and squeaky clean!

ST MARY'S GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Our proposals for the Garden of Remembrance have been approved and a faculty issued by the Diocese. Costings for the landscaping, including a gravelled area with York Limestone surround having containers for floral tributes are now to hand. Neville memorials will undertake the work on the floral tributes area. To the rear of this, a long forgotten 14th century memorial stone will be placed. The PCC have agreed that costs for the overall work, including landscaping will be met from a part of the generous legacy from the estate of the late Terence Studley. Court Lane Landscapes have been engaged to landscape the area, including replacing and extending the existing Snowberry hedge along the Churchyard wall with Box grown into a "cloud " hedge. This will give some privacy to the area, screening it from the footpath.

A three seat Court Bench has been obtained and is ready for placement overlooking the area with a good view of a part of the Church. We are indebted to Stevington Parish Council for generously providing a ward grant covering the cost of this.

If all goes according to plan, it is hoped that we can arrange for a special consecration service of the Garden by late August / early September.

ARE YOU ON EMAIL?

If you are on email and receive this newsletter by hard copy please let me know and we will send it electronically in future, doing our bit to save the planet Barbara Davies (barbarad2@btinternet.com)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding	Barbara Davies and Roger Pheasant	2nd May
Funerals	Dorothy Jeffries	27th April
	Jean Cartwright	14th July
Interment of Ashes	Barbara Harpin	22nd July