

Parish Diary March 2019



Team Spirit News Sheet

March 2019

Changing Climate, changing Church?

1st	10am-12pm	Community Coffee Morning	St A
	2pm	Priory Ladies	Priory Hall
2nd	9am	DCT Prayers	St Mary's RC
	7.30pm	Race Night	St A
4th	12.30pm	Eucharist followed by a soup and sandwich lunch	St F
	7.15pm	DCT Lent Film Night	Meth Church (The Square)
5th	2pm	Priory's Little Angels	St P
6th	9:30am	Ash Wednesday Service	St F
	10:30am	Ash Wednesday Service	St A
	8pm	Ash Wednesday Service	St P
11th	2pm	St Fred's Ladies AGM	St F
15th	10am-12pm	Community Coffee Morning	St A
	2pm	Priory Ladies	Priory Hall
17th	After 9:15am	ADCM Service	St P
	During 10.30am	ADCM Service	St A
18th	3pm	61 Group	61 Great Northern Rd
23rd		Church Cleaning	St P
24th	After 10:30am	ADCM Service	St F
	3pm	Town Mayor's Civic Service	St P
25th	2pm	St Fred's Ladies	St F
26th	7.45pm	St Aug's Ladies	St A
30th	10am	Coffee Morning	St P
	10.30am	Priory Ramblers	TBC

Most of us these days are aware to some extent of the reality of Climate Change, if not from our personal experience, then from what we see on our screens from around the world. As I write Australia is enduring extremes of both heat and flood at the same time. The President of the US has demonstrated his lack of understanding of the difference between the weather and the climate by claiming that the Polar Vortex which has been freezing the mid-west is a sign that the world is not really warming. Those who do understand see it as a symptom of that reality. The 97% strong consensus among Climate scientists agrees that the cause of the changes lie in humanities utter dependence upon fossil fuel burning. Whether it is for energy, for transport, for agriculture, for making plastic, for almost everything we do we are using up the stored carbon from past ages. The consequence of this is a rapidly rising level of CO2 in the atmosphere.

This is bad news for future generations. I fear for what my grandchildren will be faced with. The challenge is to discover ways in which the Church can respond. To throw up our hands in horror should not be an option. I believe that long after Brexit is behind us, we will be dealing with what we might call 'Foxit', leaving fossil fuels in the ground and relying on new clean energy.

Meanwhile there are ways in which churches can respond. All Saints, Leighton Buzzard is currently exploring becoming an Eco-Church. This is inspired by A Rocha UK, a Christian Charity dedicated to helping the churches to become more environmentally aware and active. There is an on-line survey which all members can complete which then provides a platform from which further action can be planned. Details are at www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

USPG has published 'Faith in a Changing Climate' Stories from the world church. Ideas for prayer and action. www.uspg.org.uk

The Christian Ecology Link provides resources for regular prayer and enables Christians who wish to become part of a wider network for change to work together. www.greenchristian.org.uk

Operation Noah is a Christian organisation which provides leadership, focus and inspiration in response to the growing threat of catastrophic climate change endangering God's creation. www.operationnoah.org.uk

These are just a few of the possibilities which are available to enable us as local Christians to engage with our changing climate and become part of a church which is also changing to meet the challenge. A first step will likely be to gather a group of people who have the motivation to meet and seek the way forward.

Canon John Payne-Cook

Parish contacts are as follows:

St Augustine's – Revd Ricky Turner 528485
 St Fremund's - Revd Tim Davis revd.timdavis@yahoo.co.uk
 St Katherine's - Revd Ricky Turner 528485
 Priory Church of St Peter's - Revd Ricky Turner 528485
 Parish Administrator Jackie Roberts, for funerals and weddings at the Priory
 Chew's House 01582 477401 admin@dunstableparish.org.uk
 St Peter's Office Chew's House 01582 477422 for Baptisms at the Priory
 priory@dunstableparish.org.uk

Dunstable Churches Together—Lent Courses 2019

The course planned is 'Hooked on Christ' which is based on the film 'Hook'.

See poster in churches for further details of dates and venues.

Joy in Enough Confession

Our climate is changing, and we are changing it. We confess our carbon footprints, our failure to consider the consequences of our actions, our slowness to react. We are sorry for all the times we knew the right thing to do, but chose convenience.

Your earth is exploited, and we are complicit in its exploitation. Species are lost, soil erodes, fish stocks decline, resources dwindle. We confess that many of us have taken too much, and not considered the needs of future generations.

We have become consumers. We have turned a blind eye to greed. We confess our hunger for more, and our failure to appreciate what we already have. We live in a time of unparalleled luxury, and we are sorry that we have not been more grateful.

The poor are left behind, even in this age of plenty. Human rights are pushed aside for profit. Wealth accumulates for the rich while the poorest still do not have what they need. We confess our apathy to injustice, and our haste in judging others.

This is not who you made us to be. We have not been good caretakers of your garden Earth. We have not loved our neighbours. Forgive us, creator God.

Forgive us. Renew us. Inspire us.

And in your strength, God, we declare:

- Enough climate change: help us to take responsibility. Give us the wisdom to live appropriately, the urgency to act, and the courage to make changes. Give us the voice to call for change from our leaders, and the perseverance to keep asking.
- Enough consumerism: give us what we need, God our provider. Then help us to find satisfaction and contentment. Help us to be grateful and generous.
- Enough inequality: nobody should be left behind. You care for the poor, and we want to follow your example. Make your church a living example of equity and inclusion, and a powerful advocate for justice and sharing.

We thank you for your kindness and your mercy. We look to your promise of restoration, and we move forward. Give us the strength to speak and to act - not out of guilt or duty, for we are forgiven and we are loved. Instead, we speak and act out of joy:

- joy in the living hope of knowing you
- joy in serving each other
- joy in the beauty and diversity of creation, your gift to us
- joy in your provision and your care – joy in enough

In your name we pray, Amen

From St Katherine's

Just to remind everyone about our much advertised **Spring Bazaar** which is on the **9th March between 10.30 and 12.30** with soup and rolls to finish!

Our Senior Citizens Group has received a wonderful boost with an influx to Rita Kirby's House Group. This heroic lady and her family arrange a monthly get-together of the retired and elderly in her home; they arrange competitions for discussion and much chit-chat, and follow it with tea and cake, (both Welsh and English); recently, we saw photos on a computer from Australia taken by Rita's daughter Michelle, and her husband. We usually have 8 people at this gathering, and most of us consider it to be St Kath's Bright Hour in view of past difficulties with heating etc at the church. Thank you Rita and Ray.

From St Fremund's

St Fremund's FUNdraisers hosted a superb Burns Night Supper event. Claire recited the "Address to the Haggis" and expertly plunged the knife into the haggis. At the end of the poem a whisky toast was proposed. We then sat down to haggis or sausage, neeps and tatties followed by strawberries, shortbread and cream. Some people had traditional cranachan – a dessert of cream and fresh raspberries bolstered by Scottish oats and whisky!

We were entertained with a word search (which we all love), a quiz based on Scottish words (very difficult) and a raffle. It was a very enjoyable evening which raised nearly £200 for church funds.

Last Sunday (Candlemas) we had our Christingle service led by the Worship Group (mainly Caroline, thank you) where we enjoyed making our own Christingles and learning about the work of The Children's Society. This year is a very special one for Christingle as it is 50 years since the first Christingle service for The Children's Society, was held in this country, at Lincoln Cathedral on 7 Dec.1968.

Next event a **coffee morning** with the Ukulele group on **Sat 16th Mar 10am 12pm**

From St Augustine's

Our Games evening on Saturday 26th January was enjoyed by all who attended. It was a great opportunity for everyone to share fun and laughter whilst engaging in some unfamiliar games.

Forthcoming events:

Lent Group with Lunch: every Tuesday through Lent at 12.15pm on 12th, 19th, 26th March & 2nd, 9th April. Enjoy a soup and roll. This year we will be using reflections from Gordon Giles' book '*At Home in Lent: An exploration of Lent through 46 objects*'. Although it is not necessary to purchase this book to take part in the group you might like to consider buying a copy to use throughout the season of Lent. It is published by BRF (see <https://www.brfonline.org.uk>) and costs £8.99. Ricky is happy to order copies.

Community Coffee Mornings

Here at St. Augustine's Church on the first and third Fridays of the month 10am-12pm, please come for a friendly chat and get together (children welcome):

Fri 8th and 22nd March, Fri 5th April

Dunstable Churches Together

Prayer Meetings - Saturday Mornings 9am **CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS!**

Sat 2nd March St Mary's Catholic Church, West Street

Sat 6th April The Salvation Army, Bull Pond Lane

Baptisms

Charlotte Alice Inkster
Oscar Alexander Peter Bennett,
Dawson James Reid

Funerals

Alec David Pratt
Robin William Vickery