

# Parish Diary May 2019



## Team Spirit News Sheet

May 2019

### May's Social Reformers (No, not Theresa May)

In the Anglican year of festivals, the month of May commemorates three social reformers. Most well-known are John and Charles Wesley on 24<sup>th</sup> May; then there are two women who are less well-known, Josephine Butler, who we remember on 30<sup>th</sup> May; and Caroline Chisholm on 16<sup>th</sup> May. They shared a passion of taking action to improve the lives of other people who were trapped in social conditions. John Wesley was very active in the area of social concern. Some of his interests were the abolition of slavery, education and prison reform. He, himself, gave away about £30,000 during his life, which in the 18<sup>th</sup> century would have been a huge sum. He encouraged people to act from a love of God and of their neighbour. He didn't want our giving to be impersonal and so he encouraged people to deliver aid personally, not just send it. I watched a TV programme called '60 days on the Streets'. A former soldier, Ed Stafford, spent 60 days and nights living on the streets. What made it very watchable was not how he survived but the people he met on the way and their stories. When we walk past a homeless person, do we always see the person as an individual with a story.

Josephine Butler became concerned about the way society treated prostitutes, most were forced into this way of life by poverty. From 1869 she campaigned about laws surrounding these women both here and in Europe. She campaigned against child prostitution and worked with William Stead in resulted in the age of consent being raised from 13 to 16 years old. To highlight this issue, William Stead bought a 13 year old girl from her mother for £5. This happened just around the corner from where my children went to school in London many years later. What helped to bring about this change is that the public were able to see how social conditions affected one person, the 13 year old girl, and suddenly the problem isn't hypothetical, it is real.

Caroline Chisholm helped vulnerable immigrants in Australia, especially those who were being lured or bullied into working in brothels. She set up a Registry Office so that they could find other work and accommodation. She also campaigned for better conditions for them.

These people saw social issues and followed Christ's command to love our neighbour as ourselves. We too are called to love our neighbour and to look at the bigger picture in our society. In the news over the last few months, there has been a lot of coverage about knife crime. You may have seen the programme '24 hours in Police Custody' which featured 2 incidents of stabbing in the Luton area. It can be difficult to see the people who commit these attacks because we are faced with the horror of their crimes. However just as we saw that the three social reformers were able to look at the social problems of their time and campaign for changes so we should be able to care about the knife crime that is injuring and killing our people, especially our young people. There are charities and organisations which are trying to make a difference.

|      |                    |   |                       |
|------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 3rd  | 10am-12noon<br>2pm | Community Coffee Morning<br>Priory Ladies                                       | St A<br>Priory Hall   |
| 4th  | 9am                | DCT Prayers   | St A                  |
| 7th  | 2pm<br>7:30pm      | Priory's Little Angels<br>Archdeacon's Visitation                               | St P<br>St P          |
| 11th | 11am-2pm<br>7:30pm | Spring Fayre<br>Priory Quiz Night   | St F<br>Priory Hall   |
| 13th | 12:30pm<br><br>2pm | Eucharist followed by a soup<br>and sandwich lunch<br>St Fremund's Ladies Guild | St F<br><br>St A      |
| 17th | 10am-12noon<br>2pm | Community Coffee Morning<br>Priory Ladies                                       | St A<br>Priory Hall   |
| 16th | 10am               | Coffee Morning  | St P                  |
| 18th | 10am<br>7:30pm     | DTC 'Around the World'<br>Shambles Big Band Concert<br>with Priory Choirs       | Priory Gdns<br>St P   |
| 19th | 2.15pm             | Priory Ramblers   | TBC                   |
| 20th | 3pm                | 61 Group  | 61 GNR                |
| 24th | 10am               | Ashton St Peter Service   | St P                  |
| 25th | 10am               | Priory Coffee Morning   | St P                  |
| 28th | 7:45pm<br>7:45pm   | BRF Meeting<br>St Augustine's Ladies Guild                                      | 3 Penrith Ave<br>St A |
| 30th | 7:30pm             | Parish Eucharist for Ascension<br>Day   | St F                  |

### Wedding Blessings

Norman and Kim Deal

### Funerals

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kathleen Waddington      | Valerie Anne Lucas      |
| Christine Janet Matthews | John Gerrard Bunn       |
| Undine Avril             | Irene May Stella Wright |

### 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<br>Chew's House 01582 477401 admin@dunstableparish.org.uk |                           |
| St Peter's Office Chew's House 01582 477422 for Baptisms at the Priory<br>priory@dunstableparish.org.uk                                |                           |

One is The Ben Kinsella Trust. Ben was a 16 year old from London who lost his life in 2008 as a result of a violent knife attack. Ben's family decided to use his story as a starting point to educate children and young people about how knife crime affects communities. [www.benkinsella.org.uk](http://www.benkinsella.org.uk)  
Part of the journey is to start to see those who commit knife crime as not being 'the other' but that they are part of our communities, they are us. We seem sometimes to have the ability to look at others in difficulties and distance ourselves and this is not a new problem. John Donne (1572 – 1631) wrote for 'For Whom the Bell Tolls'. He understood that we are all connected and each death diminishes us.

#### **For Whom the Bell Tolls by John Donne**

No man is an island,  
Entire of itself.  
Each is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less.  
As well as if a promontory were.  
As well as if a manor of thine own  
Or of thine friend's were.  
Each man's death diminishes me,  
For I am involved in mankind.  
Therefore, send not to know  
For whom the bell tolls,  
It tolls for thee.

Sue Lucas

#### **News from St Fremund's**

We had an enjoyable coffee morning in March and the ukulele band "Onalele" entertained us with music and singing. We even had dancing!!

Mothering Sunday – We had a lovely service from Rev Tim and made our own posies.

Café Church – 7<sup>th</sup> April. Delicious bacon rolls as well as croissants and crumpets. In the hall Tim led a slightly different service. Tim talked about the story of the Bible and he used his lap top and the screen to present some lovely music and songs.

**St Fremund's Spring Fayre**  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 11 a.m. – 2 p.m**  
**Books, Trash or Treasure, Tombola,**  
**Lunch, Toys, Cakes, Raffle, Bric a Brac**

#### **News from St Katherine's**

St Katherine's is having a Musical Evening with the U3A Choir singing songs both popular and sacred at the Church on 11th May at 7 pm.

Admission will be £5 which includes refreshments. Tickets at the door,

We have recently had the floor of the hall repaired and polished, and it is looking quite splendid.

#### **News from St. Augustine's**

Good News! We have gained a grant of £3,000 from Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation (BLCF) to go towards our new emergency lighting and replacement hall, lobby and corridor lighting.

Many thanks to Barry George and anyone who has helped to secure this bid.

Many thanks also, to Rosemary Turley who has successfully won a bid for £376 from Skillsmax (a grant giving programme). This will enable an exciting new project to begin which aims to support and give guidance to those in the community who want help with using food economically. There will be 10 sessions which include cooking and budgeting held on one Thursday morning in the month to coincide with the Foodbank distribution centre here at St. Augustine's Church.

Our next major fundraising event will be the Summer Fayre on **Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> June**. Please come and join us for bargains, games and entertainment!

#### **Thank you to everyone involved with The Priory Church of St Peter over Easter.** **By Alan Salter**

From Palm Sunday to Easter Day over 500 people attended our services and events. Some services, such as Maundy Thursday were small, quiet and complete with a congregation of about 30. It ended in darkness and silence with the altar stripped bare.

In contrast, Easter Sunday saw the Priory full of sunshine and beautiful flowers as over 150 people with three choirs celebrated Christ's resurrection with songs and praise, including the Hallelujah Chorus.

Over 40 people young and old came to our Easter Craft Workshop, decorated eggs for rolling on Sunday, made some great artworks and built the beautiful Easter.

garden. You can all still see the garden as you come into the Church, which is open every day from 10:00 – 16:00.

Thank you to our clergy, Ricky, Tim, Vanessa & Johan for leading so many parish services while one man short and still remaining happy and caring. Thank you to our flying vicars Terry, James and Sue for filling the gaps.

Thank you to our Serving Team for helping our services to run smoothly and graciously.

Thank you to our Tower team for the joyful sound of your bells.

Thank you to our choirs and organists for your wonderful music, the hours and hours of practice resulted in many very moving and spiritual moments during the week.

Thank you to our Flower Guild for filling The Priory with beauty.

Thank you to our Social Committee for providing us with tea, coffee, cakes, hot cross buns, fizz and Easter eggs.

Thank you to our Church Wardens, sides people and all the other unsung heroes that help them ensure that The Priory is open, clean, light, warm and safe with everything we needed for each service.

Finally, a big thank you to all the Dunstable people and others who joined us to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection.

You are always welcome, to join in or simply come, sit, think and pray.