

# Parish Diary June 2019

1st	9am	DCT Prayers	Polish RC Church
3rd	12:30pm	Eucharist followed by a soup and sandwich lunch	St F
	2pm	St Fremund's Ladies	St F
7th	10am-12noon	Community Coffee Morning	St A
	2pm	Priory Ladies	Priory Hall
8th	10am	DTC Classic Motor Rally	Priory Gdns
	11:30am-2pm	Hunger Lunch to support Christian Aid	Chew's House
	3pm	Strawberry Treat Tea	St K
9th	10:30am	All-Age Parish Eucharist followed by a bring and share picnic	St P
11th	2pm	Priory Little Angels	St P
15th	11am-2pm	Summer Fayre	St A
	3-8pm	DTC Dunstable Live!	Grove House Gdns
16th	12:30pm	Singles Lunch	St F
17th		St Fremund's Ladies	Outing
21st	10am-12noon	Community Coffee Morning	St A
	2pm	Priory Ladies	Priory Hall
22nd	3-5pm	Strawberry Tea	St F
23rd	2:15ish	Priory Ramblers	
25th	7:45pm	St Augustine's Ladies Guild	St A
29th	10am	Priory Coffee Morning	St P
30th	9:15am	Patronal Festival	St P

## Wedding Blessings

Matthew Adam Klymkiw  
and Cheryl Alexandra Mary Randall

## Funerals

Jayne Margaret Abrahams  
Marie Elizabeth Black  
Thomas Richard Black  
Donna Black  
Peter Parker  
Abbey Nunhood

## 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



## Team Spirit News Sheet

June 2019

Until the early 2000's I was driving and navigating on unfamiliar routes with a road map perched on the steering wheel. I decided to update to the latest technology and it became a pleasure to drive. A year ago I was advised that my model was no longer going to be supported with the available software; I was forced to update.

Within this year we have witnessed the struggling and demise of big household brand names, whether it be the struggling M&S, Debenhams' store closures or collapse of Jamie Oliver's restaurant chain. One of the common themes of these troubles is a brand name not updating their business model; whether it was not taking into account changes in consumer preferences, the fickle political climate or strong market competition.

Over the past few months I have done some serious theological reading. As a committed Christian I cannot ignore what I read: the trend of the past 50 years is that religion is becoming quite irrelevant to increasing numbers of people.

Renowned theologians admit that we now have to acknowledge that there is at least a generation of Britons who are oblivious of Bible stories and the wonders of the life of Jesus Christ.

Don't we need to update the way in which we present the Good News to the church, dechurched or unchurched?

From my reading I learnt that although most people believe that the practise of our faith has become irrelevant to many, religion continues to be very relevant in our day and age. It does not take much to remind ourselves how advances in the medical sciences, sexual identity, the role of women within the church, sexual abuse of children and termination of unwanted pregnancies continue to dominate news headlines and provoke heated religious debate. Religion is not dying; I contend that it is alive and well as our Creator intended it to be. I submit that the manner in which we present it requires urgent updating.

Recently we visited the Titanic Exhibition in Belfast. A sad fact I took from the experience was that the ship's band continued playing, even when it became apparent the ship was sinking; both the ship and all the band members perished. I don't want to be a Christian on a sinking ship!

As Christians we have an obligation and a Jesus given duty to bring the Good News to all people (Matthew 28:18-20). We can do so in the twenty first century by updating the manner in which we do this in and outside our churches.

The fantastic news is that we are making inroads into this at the Priory: consider Messy Church attracting numbers equal to or at times greater than the Priory Church congregation. What is more there are some who attend Messy Church who have not attended any services of worship in the churches. Consider also the invaluable work done by congregation members who are updating the church's social media profile; we can't see the people who read these updates but the number of 'hits' recorded, speaks for themselves.

It is my sincere belief that amidst all the distractions away from religious practise, 'the harvest is big but the labourers are few' (Matthew 9:37). My plea to you the reader is this: we urgently need to review and remedy the way in which we deliver the Good News – in a nutshell we need to update our practise. The most important consideration is this: we need to appeal to where people are at this time (their circumstances at home and at work, their spiritual needs and their longing for meaning in their lives).

I am sure that like me I have no appetite for the demise of our Christian faith nor do we want to be remembered as the band that continued to play as the Titanic sank!

Johan Schoeman

#### News from St Fremund's

Our Spring Fayre on the 11th May at St Fremund's was nicely attended. We had our usual stalls selling bric-a-brac, books, toys, handicraft pieces, cakes, good gifts, refreshments, woodwork (by Jim) as well as a lovely garden plants stall and lots of jigsaw puzzles for sale too! We also had games stalls :- farmyard animal and princess run by the Brownies, tombola, hoopla, the ever popular trash or treasure, and the fabulous raffle on which Chris B won the first prize of the hamper. A good time was had by all and thank you to everyone who helped out. We made over £1000.

Up coming events – **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June Strawberry Tea 3—5 p.m.**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July Tea and Games 2—4 p.m.**

#### News from St Katherine's

Our U3A choral concert went well. There was variety and no end of lively songs and harmonious serious music. We were delighted.

Our next event is on **8th June at 3pm - a strawberry tea and bingo**, which we hope you will enjoy - cost £3.

#### News from St. Augustine's

##### Sad News

Mary Townsend who was known by many in Dunstable and Houghton Regis and loved by us all at St. Augustine's died on 18<sup>th</sup> May aged 95 years old in her care home. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this sad time. Mary was one of the first members of St. Augustine's Church and was loyally committed to giving her time, sharing her faith and offering care to others throughout the years. The funeral will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 1.00pm in St. Augustine's Church.

##### Rooms for Hire

St. Augustine's Church rooms and kitchen can be hired for a variety of functions and needs, from small meetings and regular activity groups to larger parties and special events. We have what you need! For more information about booking Please contact Andrea Haughton tel: 01582 660974 or email [staugs@dunstableparish.org.uk](mailto:staugs@dunstableparish.org.uk).

We have a variety of groups that use our Church rooms:

*Bounce on Saturdays 9.00am–10. am, Mondays 8.00pm-9.00pm, Tuesdays 7.00pm-8.00pm, Wednesdays 8.00pm-9.00pm, Thursday 6.00pm-7.00pm.*

*U3A Yoga: Monday 9.30am-11.00am*

*Flexertone: Mondays: 11.15am-12.15pm*

*Ladies Guild on the last Tuesdays of the month 7.45pm*

*Alzheimer's Society on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month 10.00am – 1.00pm*

*Four Square Church (most) Saturdays 6.00pm – 8.00pm*

*Get Fit with Leon: Fridays 6.30pm-7.30pm and Saturdays 7.30am-8.30am*

##### Forthcoming events:

##### Summer Fayre on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June from 11.00am.

Please come and join the fun with lots on offer. Bric-a-brac, tombola, raffles, food and entertainment! There is something for everyone. NOT TO BE MISSED!

#### The Alban Pilgrimage Saturday 22 June - St Alban's Day

Procession starts at 11am, St Peter's Church, St Albans

Join the Alban Pilgrimage - a magnificent procession organised by St Albans Cathedral, to celebrate St Alban, Britain's first saint.

Each year, 12ft tall carnival puppets, representing figures from the story of St Alban, take to the streets to re-enact the historic events which lead to St Alban's execution at the hands of the Romans. The puppets are accompanied by people of all ages dressed as lions, Roman soldiers, angels, chariots and more, resulting in a stunning spectacle of colour and celebration.

"As the earliest truth-teller for whom it cost his life, Alban is one of Britain's greatest witnesses to Jesus." - *Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury*

After the procession arrives at the Cathedral, services take place throughout the rest of the afternoon. You can also join the Alban Fest at the Abbey Orchard for an afternoon of fun Roman themed activities, part of the Roman Festival, from 12pm until 6pm.