



St Mary's Church Newsletter

May 2012

DEAR PARISHIONER,
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING OUR NEWSLETTER AND FIND IT INFORMATIVE. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE CHURCH WARDENS IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY FORTHCOMING SERVICES OR EVENTS.

Clive is retiring !

Our Vicar will be retiring in June. His last service with us will be on **Sunday 10th June at 09.30am**. You are all welcome to come and join us. Clive will be selecting a couple of his favourite hymns for us to sing and there will be refreshments afterwards.

We are also having a farewell drink at The Cape on **Wednesday 30th May from 7pm onwards**. Everyone is invited to come and have a drink with us to say farewell and best wishes to Clive and Sue. A number of us will be staying to have a meal there too if you would like to join us—please contact the church wardens by Friday 25th May if you will be having a meal.



Thanks to the generosity of local residents and supporters from across the county and beyond, work has now started on the bell tower and bells. It is hoped that the restoration work will be completed by the end of May. A rededication service will be taking place later in the summer—please contact the church wardens if you want to be involved in the planning of this event.



Church Wardens:

Zoe Baggott 07974 808817
Rebecca Hadley 07885 095972

www.stmarys-billingsley.org.uk

Readers Wanted !!

We are setting up a bible reading rota and would really like to try and get a different person at each service doing the 2 bible readings. Do you think you could commit to attending just 1 service a year? If so, we would love you to join our rota. You can even choose the date !! Please contact the church wardens.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 13th May—Morning Service 09.30am. Last chance to sign “The Big Thanks” message sheet for HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Sunday 27th May— Holy Communion Service 08.00am

Wednesday 30th May—7pm onwards at The Cape of Good Hope PH— come and join us for a drink and say farewell to Clive.

Sunday 10th June—Morning Service 09.30am. Join us for Clive’s last service before his retirement.

Sunday 24th June—Holy Communion Service 08.00am

Saturday 21st July—09.30 am to 12.30— open meeting at The Severn Centre, Highley with Diocese Representatives to discuss the process of recruiting a new vicar.

Sunday 22nd July—Holy Communion Service 08.00am

So what happens once Clive retires?

Following Clive’s retirement in June there will be a period when the four parishes (Billingsley, Chelmarsh, Glazeley and Highley) are without a full time vicar. This is called an interregnum period. During this time, the services will be conducted by a variety of lay readers and part time non-stipendiary clergy from the area.

Plans are already underway to prepare for the forthcoming recruitment process of Clive’s replacement. The church wardens have produced that parish profile which provides key information to any candidates about the area and St Mary’s. The church wardens from all four parishes will also be meeting with the Bishop on Monday 25th June to discuss both the interregnum and recruitment processes.

So what can I do to make sure my thoughts are considered?

Do you have an opinion on how our new vicar should approach services at Billingsley? Maybe you would like more informal community engagement, more pastoral support in your home or a wider variety of services? If you have any views you are of course always encouraged to contact the church wardens, but please also try and attend the Open meeting on Saturday 21st July where representatives from the Diocese will be meeting with local residents. This is your opportunity to get involved and have your say on the direction of our church in the future! If you would like more information on this meeting, please give the church wardens a call who will be happy to discuss this with you.



Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

In response to the Queens message to the nation, the Diocese is arranging a “Big Thanks” to be sent back to Her Majesty. Each parish has an A3 sheet where residents can add their special messages. This will be available for signing at our service on 13th May. Please contact the church wardens before this date if you would like to sign the sheet but are unable to attend the service.

Did you know we have a visitor information point in church listing many local attractions and events? Why not pop in when you are passing to take a look?