

Dates for your Diary

14 May	PCC meetings
17 May	Dane End village lunch
23 May	FOSM committee meeting
24 May	Roger de Clare service
24 May	Monthly discussion group
30 May	MU meeting
09 Jun	Open Gardens
10 Jun	Alan & Jill leaving tea party

Friends of St Mary's AGM 11th May

The FOSM AGM will take place in the Village Hall on 11th May at 7.30 pm. Once the business of the meeting is over, we will hear from Phillip Smith about farming in the area. Phillip spoke about this at a recent Tea Time Talks event and was very well received, with several suggestions that he return. Please come and support and encourage the work of the Friends, who fundraise all year round, year after year, to help us to maintain and improve our beautiful church building.

Knit & Natter group

If you like knitting or crocheting, come and join us for a couple of hours in the Sargent's room (at the back of Standon village hall) at 2pm usually on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Tea & cakes will be available. Our meeting in May will be on Thursday 10th. If you would like a lift please contact Diane Moss (01920 821130) or Marion Timmons (01992 505513).

Oasis and Men's Group

Neither Oasis nor the Men's group will meet this week. Instead, everyone is encouraged to attend the confirmation service in St Michael's, Bishop's Stortford at 8.00pm on Tuesday, to support our benefice candidates.

Mayday Music

Please join us for music in St Mary's on Mayday:
1.30pm Organ music played by Michael Smith
2.00pm The church bells will be rung
2.30pm Violin music played by Philippa Hanson
3.00pm Vocal and piano music with Catherine Smith
3.30pm Members of the choir of our United Benefice sing songs and anthems
We hope you enjoy the music!

St Mary's mugs will be on sale, as will many other items. Come in and shelter from the blistering sun (we hope)!

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Please take this notice sheet home with you. If you know of someone who is unable to be here today, please take a spare one for him or her.

Please contact Caroline Franks (telephone 01920 822723 or e-mail caroline.franks@rf152.co.uk) with any items for the next notices sheet.

The United Benefice of Standon and The Mundens with Sacombe Notices Sheet - 6th May 2018

Welcome to our service today.

Our readings this morning are:

Jeremiah 3:1-13 (p 757) Mark 7:1-8 (p 1010)

Notices for the coming week

Prayers are said in St. Mary's at 9.15 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and in All Saints on Thursdays. You are very welcome to join us. All of our churches are open for private prayer during daylight hours.

Sunday, 4.30 pm	Village Youth Club - Community Centre
Sunday, 4.45 pm	St Mary's at the School - Roger de Clare
Monday, all day	Mayday fair in Standon High Street
Tuesday, 9.30 am	Holy communion - St Catherine's
Tuesday, 8.00 pm	Confirmation service - St Michael's, Bishop's Stortford
Wednesday, 9.15 am	Holy communion - St Mary's
Wednesday, 10.15 am	Libury Hall service
Wednesday, 3.00 pm	Little Munden café - All Saints
Wednesday, 6.30 pm	Young people's discipleship group - All Saints
Wednesday, 7.30 pm	Alpha - Vicarage
Thursday, 2.00 pm	Funeral of Sylvia Bayley - All Saints
Thursday, 2.00 pm	Knit & Natter - Village Hall
Thursday, 7.30 pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion - St Catherine's
Friday, 2.30 pm	Funeral of Ivy Attwood - St Mary's
Friday, 4.00 pm	Wedding rehearsal - St Mary's
Friday, 7.30 pm	FOSM AGM - Village Hall
Saturday, 3.30 pm	Wedding of Oliver Birkbeck & Laura Trenchard - St Mary's
Sunday, 10.45 am	United holy communion - St Mary's
Sunday, 4.30 pm	Village youth club - Community Centre
Sunday, 4.45 pm	St Mary's at the School - Roger de Clare

Mayday!

It's not too late to sign up to help, to make a cake or to prepare a salad! All help is welcome! In particular, many hands in the Village Hall make light work of the teas.

Please note that we ask you not to take photographs or video recordings, whether on cameras or phones, during any of our benefice services.

Telephone numbers:

Rector:	Rev Alan Comfort 01920 318864 Email: alancomfort11@googlemail.com
Church Wardens:	Standon - Angie (tel tbc) and Michael 01920 821281 The Mundens - Jeremy 01920 438575 Sacombe - Peter 01920 438379 and Derek 01920 438875
Administrator:	Marion 01920 821281, benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk Office hours: Mon-Thu 10:00 - 13:30
Benefice Safeguarding Officer:	Lizzy 01920 823420, safeguarding@ubsms.org.uk

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unitedbenefice3
Follow us on Twitter @unitedbenefice3 Web site: www.ubsms.org.uk

Diocesan Thy Kingdom Come Event 19th May

The Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Celebration will take place on Saturday 19th May, 6.30 p.m. in the Cathedral. We are delighted that Archbishop Justin Welby will be joining us. Our Beacon Celebration is one of many Thy Kingdom Come events taking place around the country and is a collaboration between Soul Survivor Watford, local and national youth organisations, ecumenical partners, the Diocese of St Albans and the Cathedral. We will welcome Christians of all denominations. Entry is free. Prayer and fun activities will run from 4 p.m. Please spread the word. Whilst the event is multi-generational we hope to encourage as many young people to attend as possible. It will be a fabulous opportunity to be inspired to pray that others may come to know Jesus Christ.

The Benefice Choir Sings at Southwark 16th June

The choir will be singing Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 16th June at 3pm. There will be a coach travelling to London leaving from the Community Centre in Puckeridge at 10.30am and returning by 6.30pm. It would be lovely if some of the congregation would join us for the trip. It is always an enjoyable day. Please let Marion Smith know if you would like a seat on the coach. The cost is likely to be about £15 per head.

For your Prayers

As a church family, we pray regularly for each other and for our world. On this sheet, we suggest focus points for prayer for each week.

These suggestions are not exclusive. Please continue to pray for the work of our churches and for those who have been listed on previous sheets.

Praise God

Praise God for all who will come through the doors of St Mary's tomorrow as they visit the Mayday Fair in Standon. Thank him that our church buildings stand at the centre of the celebrations and pray that our message may reach the centre of people's lives as we meet them and welcome them tomorrow.

Pray for our world

With the warmer weather, Christmas seems a long time ago. Please don't forget to pray for the work of Samaritan's Purse, though, who work year round all over the world. Continue to pray for those who received shoeboxes last Christmas. Pray for the children and families in communities where Samaritan's Purse is working with local churches to run programmes such as The Greatest Journey, a follow up course about Christianity which is used by Samaritan's Purse with local volunteers and workers in places where it is appropriate. Pray that the children and families, those around them, and people in this country, would understand that each shoe box is an unconditional gift - a reminder of God's unconditional love for them, and that like God's love it is not given as a result of anything they do or don't do. Pray for wisdom for all involved in Operation Christmas Child, that God's love would be spread through the power of a simple gift.

Pray for our community

Pray for our local organisations. As many of them will be on display this weekend, thank God for all the good work that they do, and pray for those they serve. Pray, as

well, for those not represented at Mayday, and for the many informal arrangements that are in place in our communities to provide support for those who need it.

Pray for our benefice

Please continue to pray for Tracy, Tovah, Adriel, Denise and Ireane as they are confirmed by the Bishop of Hertford (Bishop Michael) at St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford on Tuesday at 8pm. It would be lovely if some of us could go and support them at this important and special time in their Christian journey.

Pray for those in pain of mind or body

Please pray for all in our community who are sick or sad, including those who have been listed recently.

Pray for Margaret Goodall, at home now, recovering from a procedure to remove stones from her bile duct, and thank God that all went smoothly this time.

Pray for all who grieve, especially all who mourn for Richard Hill, Ivy Attwood and Sylvia Bayley.

A message from Margaret

Margaret writes: Just to let you know I am out of hospital now; I got home Tuesday evening. The procedure on Monday went really well, it was like the pain, discomfort and heaviness had been lifted out of me and so, so unlike the last time. All my blood levels have come down apart from one that's not quite back to normal so I have to have that checked next week. I would like to say thank you to everyone for all their prayers and concern, texts and cards.

If you are aware of anyone who would like our prayers, or would like the church family to share in some news, good or bad, please let Caroline know. Please pass on any news, too, about those for whom we are praying.

Plans for Alan and Jill's Last Day

Alan and Jill's last service with us will be on 10th June at 10.45. This will be a united communion service in St Mary's as usual. At 4.45 pm the whole benefice will meet at Roger de Clare School for tea, hosted by St Mary's at the School, at which we will say goodbye to the Comfort family.

Alan's Institution Service at St John's Upper Holloway

Alan's Institution service at his new church will be at 7pm on Thursday 28th June. Because the parking there is difficult (and very expensive!) and driving is stressful, we would like to organise a coach for those who would like to go and support Alan and Jill at this exciting start to the next part of their ministry.

If you would like to come on the coach, would you please let Marion know by Sunday 27th May at the latest. She will be unable to take bookings after this date. We will then source a coach and get a quote.

We would anticipate the cost being in the region of £15 per head. Payment will be required before the day, once we have confirmed prices.

The coach will probably leave from the Community Centre in Puckeridge at 4.15pm (time to be confirmed) to allow for traffic. It is suggested that people would bring a packed tea either to eat on the coach or once we arrive in Holloway. For more information, please contact Marion (01920 821281)