

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN STEVINGTON

September 2011 Newsletter



September Services

4 th September	9.30 am	Holy Communion	11 th Sunday after Trinity
11 th September	10.00 am	Holy Communion	12 th Sunday after Trinity
18 th September	9.30 am	Holy Communion	13 th Sunday after Trinity
25 th September	6.00 pm	Evensong	14 th Sunday after Trinity

Please note that the Sunday 11th September Service will commence at the later time of 10.00 am, this being Canon Peter Mackenzie's first service and at which the Bishop of Bedford, the Right Rev'd Richard Inwood will be present.

From the Churchwardens

The week-end of 10th and 11th September promises to be an eventful one in the life of our Church. On the Saturday, we have the annual "Bike 'n Hike" during the day and a Friends Concert in the Church in the evening. Most importantly, the Bishop of St Albans will be at Turvey for the licensing of the Rev'd Canon Peter Mackenzie as our Priest in Charge. I do hope that as many of us as possible will attend at Turvey at 4.00 pm to show a warm welcome to Canon Peter and his wife Sara. A buffet reception in Turvey village hall will follow the service, to which all are invited.

We are indeed fortunate that the Bishop of Bedford will join us at Stevington on Sunday 11th September for a special service of welcome to Canon Peter and Sara. This service will commence at 10.00 am. This is a very special occasion, so I do implore as many as possible to show support for the Bishop (this is likely to be his last visit to Stevington since he will be retiring next year) and Canon Peter.

It would be very remiss of us not to thank our visiting Ministers for their dedication and support during a long interregnum. The Rev'd Eric Royden, the Rev'd Jo Spray, the Rev'd Lionel Albon and, most importantly Father Mac who, since his retirement as priest in charge, has been a tower of strength in undertaking pastoral care as well as conducting most of our services. When it comes to our spiritual care nothing has been too much trouble for him. I am sure that he, as well as our other visiting ministers can be relied upon for help when needed in the future. They will always be most welcome at our services as well as our social functions.

Bob Westwood

Toilet and Kitchenette

We can now confirm that everything is in place for work to commence on the toilet and kitchenette. The contract has been awarded to Mick Garrett and he has scheduled commencement for soon after 11th September. It is expected that the work will take about 6 weeks to complete.

Churchyard Gates

At their meeting on 8th August, the PCC sanctioned expenditure for renewal of the churchyard gate-posts and complete refurbishment of the gates. This should take place during October.

Friends of St Mary's

Under the expert guidance of John Duffield (who holds the record for watching the most YouTube clips of scarecrow-building) the Friends committee constructed a magnificent duo of characters for the Scarecrow Festival in August, coming runners-

up in the competition. Magnificent though his straw-filled counterpart was, we are sure that our new vicar will display slightly better dress-sense!

The weekend of 10th and 11th September will be a very busy one. Friends of St. Mary's committee are organising a chamber concert on the evening of Saturday 10th and, if you joined as a Friend, a complimentary ticket is available for you to reserve. You will have received an invitation email and flyer giving you the details of ticket availability and there are posters around the village advertising the concert. This concert, as all Friends of St. Mary's events, is open to everyone and tickets are available to purchase for those not eligible for a complimentary one.

Saturday 10th also sees the 20th anniversary of the Beds. & Herts. Historic Churches Trust annual fund-raising event – the *Bike 'n Hike*. The Trust makes valuable grants to churches in the two counties in order that they can maintain their historic buildings. Half the sponsorship money raised by a participant visiting churches in their county goes to the Trust and half to their own village church. If you would like to sponsor a biker or a hiker, or take part yourself, please contact Bob Hart (01234 823769).

You may have noticed that the Church Room exterior is in need of urgent maintenance. Some very exciting news is that the award of a grant from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited - <http://www.wren.org.uk/>) will allow that vital work to take place. WREN were very supportive and enthusiastic about our application and recognised what an important part that historic building plays in the life of the village. We should see work start very soon, with thanks to WREN and to those who have joined as Friends and those who have joined in Friends fund-raising events.

It has been very heartening to see that so many people in the village are willing to support the Friends' activities and we are trying to make them *fun*-raising as well as *fund*-raising. As a committee our main aim is to devise events that raise money, but it's great that they also offer opportunities for the village community to be in each other's company. Every event is open to all and everyone is welcome. We are always open to suggestions and if you have an event that you would like to organise yourself, please don't hesitate to let us know. We are always appreciative of any offers of practical help, too.

Chrissie Galley

Bike 'n Hike Saturday 10th September

There is still time to apply for sponsorship for this year's Bike 'n Hike event. Anyone interested in taking part, please contact me (telephone 823769) for a list of churches that will be open on the day and for entry/sponsor forms.

- **It is fun**
- **It never (well, hardly ever) rains on the 2nd Saturday in September**
- **You call into as many (or few) churches as you wish**
- **It doesn't have to take from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm**
- **Half the money raised comes back to St Mary's, the rest stays with the Historic Churches Trust for grant- giving**
- **There are pubs en route.**

Bob Hart (St Mary's Bike 'n Hike Co-ordinator)

Note: The Historic Churches Trust have awarded a grant towards the cost of our toilet facilities.

If you cannot participate yourself but would like to sponsor Tom Lennie to do some Churchyard jobs on Saturday 10th (for example getting rid of elders in ruins, taking ivy off trees and cutting back shrubs) do let either Bob Hart, Bob Westwood or Tricia know.

Bob Westwood

Harvest Festival 2nd October

We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on 2nd October. This will be followed on 3rd October by a Harvest Supper in the Church Room at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Tickets, priced at £7.50 each for a 3-course meal, will be on sale in the Community Shop from 12th September. Numbers are limited, so early application is recommended to avoid disappointment. As this is not a licensed event, please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 13th November. As is our usual custom, the service will be held around the Memorial in the Churchyard, unless the weather is very bad, in which case the service will be held in the Church

Autumn Fayre – Advance Notice

Following last year's very successful Autumn Fayre, the PCC intend another one this year, on 26th November. Anyone willing to assist or contribute, please contact Sylvia (Goddard) or Fiona (Serrechia).

Christmas Arrangements

As is usual in the summer, we are giving advance notice of some Christmas arrangements!

The Nine Lessons and Carols service is on Sunday 18th December and the Christmas Concert is 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th December in the Social Centre.

We invite anyone who wishes to join the village choir for these events to attend rehearsals in the Church Room 7-9pm, starting Tuesday 8th November, and meeting weekly on Tuesdays for six weeks or so under the guidance of Philip Bond, our musical director. The choices usually cover some old favourites as well as 'challenges'. We sing in four parts and would welcome new sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. This is a village choir so don't be put off by thinking you'll have to audition! As long as you can hold a tune, have some sense of rhythm, will turn up to rehearsals and listen to direction you are likely to get the rest of us sacked.

Tricia Lennie

Preparations for 10th/11th September

Many thanks to all those of you who have offered to help with preparations for the various events over the weekend of 10th/11th.

Cakes for the 4pm service on Saturday 10th at Turvey, should either be delivered to Tricia (10am-12 noon in St Mary's Church, Stevington) or to Turvey Village Hall by 3pm (it should be open most of the day). It would be helpful if they were ready portioned, ideally 10 portions per cake. If you want your plate back please name it and I will try to gather them up at the end.

Saturday cakes are being donated by Hannah MacDonald, Anna Hart, Claire Stapleton, Trish Gillam, Sylvia Goddard, Alison Champion, Barbara Davies, Diane Bate, Frances Hirst and Mary Ronald. Tricia Lennie and Claire Stapleton will do sandwiches.

Sunday 10am cakes and biscuits can be brought to the service and handed to Maggie Reeves, Mary Ronald or Tricia Lennie before the start of the Service

Sunday cakes and biscuits are being donated by Doreen Pendlington, Frances Beard, Sarah Bush, Maggie Reeves, Tricia Lennie, Heather Eadie, Barbara Davies, Bob Westwood and Mary Ronald.

Thank you also to our flower arrangers. The Church will be open all day on Saturday 10th (until approximately 3pm when we go to Turvey) for you to put your flowers up. Flowers for this weekend: Chris Galley (altar) Diane Bate, Kathy Brown, Tricia Lennie (windows) Claire Stapleton (porch) and Sylvia Clarkson and Heather Eadie (lectern).

Tricia Lennie

Church Cleaning Rota

The volunteers for Church Cleaning in September are Doreen Pendlington and June Homer.

Many thanks for your continuing support for this vital aspect of church life. If you have any questions please call either Frances Hirst or Tricia Lennie as we are going to manage the rota and cleaning materials between us. If you give us a ring at the beginning of your month we should be able to let you know of any festivals/weddings and special events planned during that period. We try to make sure that the church is clean for Sunday services and any extra events. A list of suggested jobs is pinned to the noticeboard in the vestry and if you can tick to say what you have done, it may help the next pair.

As always we would be delighted to hear from anyone who is willing to join the rota. We have a particular need in July.

Tricia Lennie

Useful Contacts

Priest in Charge:	The Rev'd Canon Peter Mackenzie	01234 881312
PCC Secretary:	Sylvia Goddard	01234 822130
Treasurer:	Alison Campion	01234 826352
Church Warden:	Bob Westwood	01234 822648
Assistant Church Warden:	Tricia Lennie	01234 825169
Church Hall Bookings:	Maggie Reeves	01234 823091
Visiting Ministers:	Rev. L R Macdonald	01234 782849
	Rev. E Royden	01234 294496
	Rev. Jo Spray	01234 713726