



Pews News

Sunday 7th July

10am Holy Communion, St Mary's

Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5253921788?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5253921788?pwd=MC9kNmpldmFrRSsrV1pkc1k5aU1vZz09)
[pwd=MC9kNmpldmFrRSsrV1pkc1k5aU1vZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5253921788?pwd=MC9kNmpldmFrRSsrV1pkc1k5aU1vZz09)

Collect

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers

The sick: Marilyn Bailey, Sandra Baxter-Brown, Dennis Evans, Ginny Fraser, Stacey Medalyer, Christine Miles and Jacky Williams

Interregnum Prayer

Dear God, your love for us is unchangeable. You have welcomed each of us into the family of your Church; in Jesus, you call us to be His Body in this place. Send down your Holy Spirit upon us at this time of uncertainty and change, to fill us with vision and energy and faithfulness in prayer, that we may be true to our common Baptism, and bring new life to our Parish community. Guide with your heavenly wisdom those appointed to discern the way ahead and a new Incumbent for this Parish, that we may receive the priest you have prepared for your people: ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and lead us by example in loving obedience to your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



During the months of July and August we will be operating to a slightly different service rota. You can see the week-by-week list below and all the services are listed separately on the church website under the category 'Services and Events'.

Firstly, there will be no Funday@4 services for July and August. We will resume in September.

July 7th. Family Holy Communion service at Dunsfold Church at 10am.

July 14th. Cafe Church at the Winn Hall with a guest speaker at 10am.

July 21st. Joint parish Holy Communion service at Dunsfold Church at 10am.

July 28th. No service at Dunsfold. Joint parish Holy Communion service at Hascombe at 10am.

August 4th. Joint parish Holy Communion service at Dunsfold Church at 10am.

August 11th. Joint parish Holy Communion service at Hascombe Church at 10am.

August 18th. Joint parish Holy Communion service at Dunsfold Church at 10am.

August 25th. Joint parish Holy Communion service at Hascombe Church at 10am.

I don't know about you but whenever I visit a place, I nearly always pop into the local church. Large or small, the welcome is usually warm and I delight in seeing the stained glass windows and learning about the history. One such time was when we popped into Chichester cathedral when we were visiting the city to go to the theatre to see 'Half a Sixpence'. Not only were we greeted warmly, we were invited to stay and listen to the visiting choir from Denver, Colorado. We sat in the choir stalls and the experience was magical. Such an unexpected treat.

When I'm at home and spending time around St Mary's I often meet someone passing by who has popped in for a moment of quiet, or to tend a grave, or to have a look round. I always love reading the comments in our visitors' book and seeing who has come to have a look and where they are from.

Of course a church is more than bricks and mortar. It is a community of people who, together, live in relationship with God through Jesus Christ. There is a church at the heart of every community from small villages to large cities. And each one puts its faith in action. Churches run food banks, offer debt counselling, host groups and classes, offer pastoral care and bereavement support, serve meals or deliver them, and so much more including showcasing gifted choirs from other countries!

Our churches belong to everyone. The buildings are often one of the oldest buildings in the community, and in many rural areas they are quite often the only community building. These communities often use their churches in imaginative and creative ways.

I know of a church where they don't have a hall so they run all sorts of groups and activities, including a play group in the church during the week. There's a village that was about to lose its Post Office and the church stepped in and runs it from the church building along with a small village shop. Some may find these other uses a challenging concept but throughout Christianity our churches have always been used in a variety of ways. In fact, many of the early Christian communities mentioned in the Bible met in people's homes, until they grew too large and a dedicated building was needed.

Which leads us to the spiritual side of our church buildings.

When you call into a church, just think about the number of prayerful people who have stepped over the threshold over the years, and all the prayers of the faithful that have helped create the special atmosphere that we often sense when we step inside.

St Mary's is open every day. But if you call in, and we hope you will, as well as looking at the history and architecture, you might like to treat it as way of having a quiet meditative tour around the church. You may like to think about the following as you do.

The doors – are a symbol of God who welcomes each one of us into God's presence.

The font – the starting point for many people on their journey of faith – what might you want to start afresh by leaving behind?

The pulpit – there may not be anyone preaching, but listen in the silence for God's voice.

The aisle – imagine the thousands of people who have walked here before you. Some come weekly, some come for those moments on life's journey – to bring their child for christening, to be married or to say farewell to a loved one. All those life stories in this one place.

The walls, pillar and roof – think how long they have stood there, solid and strong. Imagine the storms they have withstood. For centuries people have come to church to find shelter and refuge from the storms of life. You may be feeling battered by life's storms at the moment. Pray for God's protection and peace.

A Prayer

God of our journey, we thank you for your church throughout the ages.
Thank you for all those people who have walked the journey before us.
Thank you for the community of faith that gathers here week by week,
and who share your love within our community. Help us to know your presence with us,
both inside this building and alongside us day by day. Amen