



# Tenpenny Villages Spring Newsletter 2018

(STA St Andrew's Alresford, STAL St Anne & St Laurence Elmstead, STMM St Mary Magdalen Thorrington)

## Happy New Year everyone!

A New Year always holds such possibilities but it also offers the opportunity to stop and reflect about what is God calling us into this year? As individuals and as churches?

In 2017 we followed a sermon series on Church Culture that has given us much to reflect on:

**"The Church is the only organisation that does not exist for itself, but for those who live outside of it."**

**William Temple**

**Looking to the needs of others** - freely we have received, freely we are called to give.

**The Marginalised** - being a church that looks with the eyes of Jesus to see those in need.

**Change** - Being a church that is willing to follow where God leads and that will bear the cost of change in order to be the church God would have us be.

**The Gospel of Grace** - being a church that knows itself loved, accepted and forgiven & love overflows to others.

**Welcome** - Being a church that consciously seeks to welcome all.

**Generosity** Being a church that gives in thankfulness with the generosity we have received ourselves from God.

**Looking Outwards** – being a church that looks first to love and serve its community.

**Our challenge for 2018 - How are we being 'Christ in our communities' as it says in our benefice logo?**

## News for 2018

### Prayer Workshops:

There will be 6 days over the year:

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| 1. Feb 10 @ STA Adoration                 | 2. Mar 17 @ STAL Lenten Contemplation          |
| 3. Apr 21 @ STA Resurrection Thanksgiving | 4. Jun 23 @ STMM Poetry & Psalms in the Spirit |
| 5. Sep 22 @ STAL Petition in Creation     | 6. Dec 8 @ STA Advent Longing                  |

These days are for everyone whether you're an expert or a beginner in prayer, whether you're young or old, in work, at home or retired...They are for everyone who seeks to know God better...and everyone is welcome!

Book by signing up or with Pauline S.

### Preaching Series:

We will be starting a 7 week series from the Old Testament soon looking at Exile – an important thread running through into Lent. Notes will be available giving the historical and cultural background.

### Lent:

Lent starts early this year on 14<sup>th</sup> February. How can you aim to 'follow Lent faithfully' as it says in the Ash Wednesday service? There are Ash Wednesday services in the morning & evening, Lent courses running day-time & evening, and a series of Holy Week reflections and dramas to lead us through to Good Friday & prepare us to meet anew with the risen Christ.

### New Horizons Youth Project:

Although Charley Day, our Youth & Schools Worker, is currently employed by St Andrew's, her work is very much based around reaching out to young people across our whole benefice and beyond. One day a week she is at the Colne Secondary School (where the children from our villages attend) and is available for both staff and pupils as well as running projects and courses alongside others from CYO (Colchester Youth Outreach with whom we work as a three-way partnership). The rest of the time includes her work with outreach groups for children and young people, runs Youth Refresh, a discipleship group for older youth, the monthly Youth Service and the group for the 11-14s on Sunday mornings – all of these are based at STA but include young people from wider afield. The vision for the New Horizons Youth Project is to reach out to young people across this area with the love of Jesus and to provide opportunities for them to explore the Christian faith for themselves. Currently STAs pay 20% with the rest of the costs of employing Charley made up by a Diocesan grant. From July 2019 we must meet all these costs (around

£30,000pa) ourselves. We are therefore starting to build up a Youth Project fund from now to help the transition – fliers detailing the project and how to contribute will be available before a Gift Day on 25<sup>th</sup> February. We will also be approaching other churches in the area to ask their support – both financial and in prayer.

### **Building Works:**

STMM's project to install a disabled toilet & create a social space completes end of January. There will then be a children's corner in the social space to help families feel more relaxed in church and we will be relaunching the monthly Family Service after Mothering Sunday. They have 'twinned' the toilet with one in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world!

STAL is selling the loose pews for £250 each and new, comfortable upholstered church chairs will replace them. The repair work on the Chancel roof & to replace the plaster starts straight after Easter.

## **Tenpenny Villages Diary January to April 2018**

**Sun January 14<sup>th</sup>** Covenant Sunday Service at STMM & STA, Plough Sunday at STAL.

**Sun January 21<sup>st</sup>** Food for Thought on at 6.30pm at STA's Hub

**Fri January 19<sup>th</sup>** 4.30pm MESSY DREAMS @ STA's Church & Hub

**Mon January 22<sup>nd</sup> (& 29<sup>th</sup> & Feb 12<sup>th</sup>)** CAP Money Budgeting Course @ STA's Hub 7.30pm

**Sun January 28<sup>th</sup>** Plough Sunday at 11am at the Red Lion in Thorrington; Book lunch with the Red Lion

**Sun January 28<sup>th</sup>** STAL with Trinity for Covenant Sunday Service at 10.30am

**Sun January 28<sup>th</sup>** Launch of new 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Service @ STA at 6pm 'ELEMENT'

**Sat February 3<sup>rd</sup>** Colchester Area Conference – booking forms in each church for discount

**Sat February 10<sup>th</sup>** Prayer Workshop 1 @ STA

**Tues February 13<sup>th</sup>** Pancake Party @ STA 6 for 6.30pm – sign up or book with Pauline S

**Wed February 14<sup>th</sup> ASH WEDNESDAY** Communion & Imposition of ashes at STMM at 9am & STAL at 7.30pm

**Fri February 16<sup>th</sup>** 'Messy Family' 4.30pm at STA

**Sat February 17<sup>th</sup>** Marriage Preparation Day for couples getting married across the benefice STA at 10am – 2pm

**Sun February 18<sup>th</sup>** Speaker at STA from CAP as part of Deanery CAP Debt Centre launch at 11am followed by poverty lunch (lunch is soup, bread & fruit with cost of 'normal' lunch donated).

**Mon February 19<sup>th</sup>** Tea Dance at STA with afternoon tea 2.30 to 4.30pm – sign up or book with Pauline S

**Week beginning Mon 19<sup>th</sup>:** LENT COURSES & ALPHA COURSES begin

**Sat February 24<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm 'A Programme of light classics' Concert with Trianon Music Group @ STA - proceeds for Youth Project – tickets £7 from Don Cardy 01206 823210 or email dfcardy@tiscali.co.uk

**Sun February 25<sup>th</sup>** NEW HORIZONS YOUTH PROJECT GIFT DAY

**Fri March 2<sup>nd</sup>** Women's World Day of Prayer @ STAL 7.30pm

**Sun March 4<sup>th</sup>** The Gathering at STA at 11am & Songs of Praise at 3.30pm at STA on 'Seeking God'

**Sun March 11<sup>th</sup>** Mothering Sunday – Family Services at all 3 churches

**Fri March 16<sup>th</sup>** 4.30pm 'Messy Change' at STA

**Sat March 17<sup>th</sup>** Prayer Workshop 2 @ STAL

**Sun March 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday** –Trinity Methodists at STAL @ 10am (All-age Worship)

**Holy Week – Reflections & Compline Monday to Wednesday 7.30pm**

**Monday** STA – Weeping over Jerusalem

**Tuesday** STMM - Anointing

**Wednesday** STAL – Foot Washing

**Maundy Thursday** 'The clouds gather' Dramatic presentation of events with drinks & nibbles @ STA 7.30pm

**Good Friday** 10am Children's Good Friday Workshop @ STAL; 11am All-age Worship & Drama of the Passion @ STA, 2pm Reflections at the Cross @ STMM, 4.30pm Messy Easter @ STA

**Easter Saturday** 7.30pm Easter Fire @ STAL

**Easter Sunday** 6.30am Sunrise Service @ STA; 9.30am, 10am & 11am Easter Communion at STMM, STAL & STA (No 8am service)

**Sat April 14<sup>th</sup>** 10am Flower Arrangements Demonstration @ STMM with coffee & cake

**Sat April 21<sup>st</sup>** Prayer Workshop 3 @ STA

**Sat April 28<sup>th</sup>** Bluebells at Thorrington & treasure hunt through the woods to the church (refreshments in church) 10am - 4pm

**Sun April 29<sup>th</sup>** Healing & Communion at all 3 churches in the morning; United Evening Communion Service at STMM

**Other things happening...**

- **Healing Prayer Course** – if you're interested please speak to Valerie Harper.
- **Experience Easter outside:** At Elmstead from week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> March.