



# Tenpenny Villages Autumn Newsletter 2017

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

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

As the holiday season draws to an end, we have a very busy autumn season ahead. The season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' brings, of course, our Harvest Celebrations, but there's lots more to look forward to as well.

- **Church Culture:** Culture is the why we unconsciously act and respond in our churches. It embraces the 'norms' of our church families, ways we 'do things round here'. Culture can be good but it can also be inward looking and make it difficult for visitors and those new to the church to feel welcome. Jesus' call to the church is to be counter cultural, to live out his radical way of being that embraced the marginalised, sought out the lost and loved even to the cross. In the first section of **Preaching** this block we will be looking at how his radical call can influence the culture of our churches.
- **Discipleship:** A **questionnaire** is going out on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, listing opportunities to join home groups, bible study or prayer groups or to be involved in a variety of courses. Please do think about what would help you in your journey of faith. If you missed it on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, please do fill one in later and pass it on to me.
- **Invitation:** The autumn term is a fantastic opportunity to invite friends and family along to one of the very varied services and events we have planned. Look out for invitation cards and please do think who you can invite – a personal invitation is much more successful than a poster.
- **Fresh Expressions** are a new way of being church in order to reach those who would never come along to our usual Sunday services. One idea that is developing is to hold an informal time of discussion and worship in a neutral space (ie not in any of the church buildings). If anyone is interested in pursuing this, please let me know.
- **New Housing:** There are **new houses** currently under construction in Elmstead and Thorrington and building is due to begin shortly at Alresford. How can we welcome these new families into our villages? If you'd like to be part of a group working together on that, then please let me know asap.
- **Building Projects:**

**STMM** are just waiting now for a start date for the work to install a **disabled toilet and create social space** within the main church. We are working very hard to raise the funds to complete the project by updating the heating and buying chairs for the flexible social space.

**STAL** are also waiting to hear from builders. This project is to **repair the roof of the Chancel** (area at the front of the church) and to **re-plaster the walls of the church**. We are also looking at making the Lady Chapel and Chancel more flexible and comfortable by removing the differing styles of 'loose' pews (not the box pews or rear pews) and replacing them by upholstered chairs, some with arms.

**STA** is celebrating four years since the **New Horizons Building Project** completed (August 2013) giving us a new frontage to the church and the rooms and facilities behind. At the time, we had an £80,000 loan, half of which was covered by pledges over 4 years. Four years later, the building has proved an amazing blessing in all sorts of ways with new ministries flourishing AND the loan is all repaid! On Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup>, at a St Andrew's Day Celebration Service, Bishop Roger is coming to speak and there will be a bonfire and fireworks later in the afternoon as we celebrate and launch the new phase of the Youth Project.
- **Deanery:** I hope you are finding the **Deanery Prayer Diary**, whereby we pray for one of the parishes in our deanery each week, useful. As a reminder the parish concerned week by week appears on the news-sheet prayer diary as well as the St Osyth Deanery Facebook page.

We are now making progress towards forming a local **Mission and Ministry Unit (MMU)**. On Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am to 3pm, we are holding a conference at St Andrew's Alresford for the parishes of Weeley, Little Clacton, Thorpe, St Osyth, Great Bentley, Brightlingsea, Frating with Thorrington, Alresford

and ourselves. It is an open conference and if you are interested in being part of the process of building links between parishes, then please do come along.

We are in the process, as a Deanery, of appointing a Debt Centre Manager and Debt Coach who will run the new **Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre** for our deanery and I'm delighted to say it is to be Roni Dickeson from St Andrew's – congratulations Roni! She will visit families who are struggling with debt in order to work with CAP central office to build an affordable repayment plan. The Frinton, Great Clacton and Alresford churches will be the leading churches in this project. We are looking now for members of our deanery congregations to be volunteer befrienders to local families (training is given) and to be part of a support group for prayer and, eventually, putting on events for the families involved. Please let me know if you're interested.

## **Tenpenny Villages Diary September to December**

**Saturday 9th September** Memorabilia Evening at STAL

**Sunday 17th September**

- History afternoon (1 to 4pm) and Songs of Praise at 4pm at STAL
- The GATHERING at STA at 11am
- Harvest Songs of Praise at STA at 3.30pm

**Sunday 24th September** Invitation Sunday at both STMM & STAL

**Saturday 30th September** STMM Harvest Lunch at the King's Arms Frating

**Sunday 1st October** HARVEST FESTIVAL at STA & STMM with STA's Harvest lunch at 12.30pm

**Saturday 7th October** STAL Harvest Supper & Auction of Promises 6.30 for 7pm

**Sunday 8th October** HARVEST FESTIVAL at STAL

**Tuesday 31st October** Children's Monster Party 5pm at STA

**Sunday 5th November** All Soul's Day Service at STAL 5pm (Tea from 4pm)

**Sunday 12th November Remembrance Sunday**

- Remembrance Sunday Services 9.30am at STMM, 10am at STAL & 10.55am at STA
- Remembrance Service on Elmstead Green at 2pm
- Bereavement Service 6.30pm at STA

**Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th November** Display of Wedding dresses at STAL (dependent on building work dates)

**Sunday 19th November** Services at all 3 churches celebrating the Queen & Prince Philip's 70th Wedding Anniversary

**Sunday 26th November** New Horizons Celebration Service at STA with Bishop Roger at 11am then lunch, bonfire building 7 other activities and fireworks later in the afternoon

**Sunday 3rd December**

- The Christmas GATHERING at STA at 11am
- Advent Songs of Praise at STA at 3.30pm

**Sunday 10th December** Christingle at STAL at 10am and STA at 3.30pm

**Sunday 17th December** Carols by Candlelight STMM at 5pm, STAL at 5pm & STA at 6.30pm

**Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December** - Morning Prayer/Worship Services usual times at all 3 churches am

- Children's Nativity 3.30pm at STA
- Christingle 5pm at STMM
- Crib Service 5pm at STAL
- Communion Service for Christmas Night 10pm at STMM
- Communion Service for Christmas Night 11.30pm at STAL
- Communion Service for Christmas Night 11.30pm at STA

**Christmas Day** Family Communion Services at 10am at both STAL & STA

### **The Tenpenny Villages Benefice**

**Rector:** Rev Canon Pauline Scott, Tel: (01206) 823163 Email: [rector@alresfordchurch.net](mailto:rector@alresfordchurch.net)

**Curate:** Rev Pauline Hart, Tel: (01206) 826318 Email: [curate@alresfordchurch.net](mailto:curate@alresfordchurch.net)