

St Peter's and Blessed Mary

Sunday 28 November

st.peter's
bishop's waltham

blessed mary
upham



Dear Sam

Welcome to this week's update.

This week we are beginning our Advent journey in preparing for Christmas. This Sunday we begin by thinking about how we can prepare for Christmas and how we might be *'giving to those we don't know at Christmas'* and we are especially supporting Portsmouth Churches Homeless Action. Thank you so much if you have been able to bring a Supermarket Gift Voucher.

If you would like to come to the **Water into Wine** event tickets are now available.

Please do also think of coming to the **Advent Carol Service** at St Peter's at 6:30pm with combined choirs from around the area.

Finally, for those at St Peter's, please read the summary of the main points from the congregational survey carried out recently. We are also working through some of the specific comments that have been made in various ways. If you would like to know more, or have any queries please do ask.

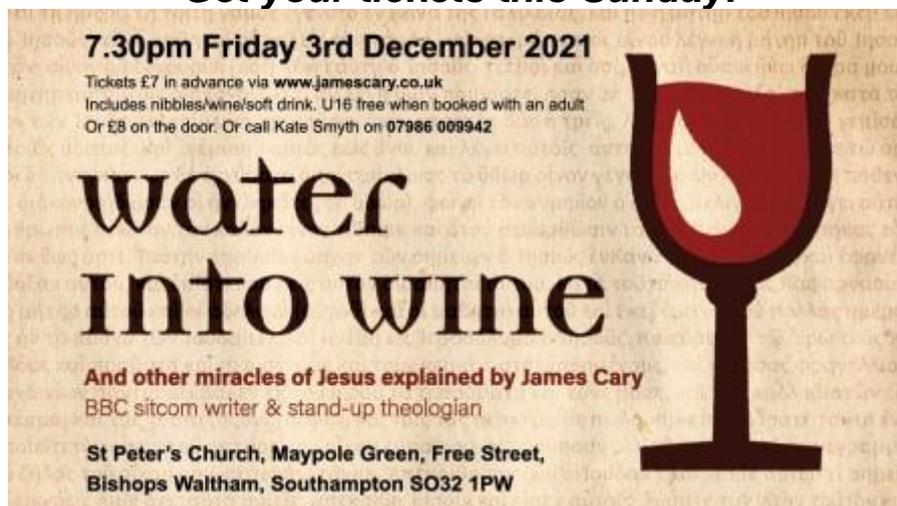
For all that is coming up in the life of our church, please do look through the various items below.

With prayers for the week ahead

Revd James

Contents
Advent Carol Service
Nativity Experience - Helpers!
Nativity Trails
Messy Church Christmas
Meon Voices Christmas Concert in aid of WATSAN
St Simon's Soup Kitchen
16 Days of Activism against Gender based violence
St Peter's Congregation Survey
St Peter's Service Timings
People for Prayer
MVFB Items

Water into Wine
This will be a great evening!
Get your tickets this Sunday!



7.30pm Friday 3rd December 2021
Tickets £7 in advance via www.jamescary.co.uk
Includes nibbles/wine/soft drink. U16 free when booked with an adult
Or £8 on the door. Or call Kate Smyth on 07986 009942

**water
into wine**

And other miracles of Jesus explained by James Cary
BBC sitcom writer & stand-up theologian

**St Peter's Church, Maypole Green, Free Street,
Bishops Waltham, Southampton SO32 1PW**

Advent Carol Service - Sunday 28 November 6:30pm



Instead of our usual Sung Evensong service, we are having an Advent Carol Service at St Peter's. Joining the choir and readers we will the Bishop's Bells and there will be refreshments as part of the service. All are welcome!

Michael, The Choir and Revd James

Nativity Experience - Christmas Eve



We are hoping to have some sort of 'makeshift' stable like structure/ outline to represent the stable for the outdoor nativity on Christmas Eve at 3pm in the churchyards of Blessed Mary & St Peter's. Is there anyone with design & construction skills who might be able to help with this please? Nothing fancy & it could be cardboard instead of wood etc which can be decorated.

Also if anyone knows where we might be able to borrow a couple of bales of hay from that would be wonderful!

Please chat to Katie Harrison (07825 679746) Kate Smyth (07986009942) or Liz Webb (07743921561) if you have any ideas or might be able to help us!

Thanks as ever.

Nativity Trails

St Peter's Church Christmas Trail

Running throughout December 2021

The Nativity characters have escaped from the church!
They are hiding around Bishops Waltham centre...
Can you help us find them?



The trail starts at the church where you can pick up a free trail sheet and ends in the town centre.

All are welcome to our Nativity Experience at 3pm 24th December where you can come dressed up as your favourite nativity character and join in with our interactive nativity. Bring your trail sheet along too and you can receive a prize!

For more information please contact Katie Harrison on stpbn.fcy.katie@gmail.com

Upham Family Nativity Trail



Running throughout December

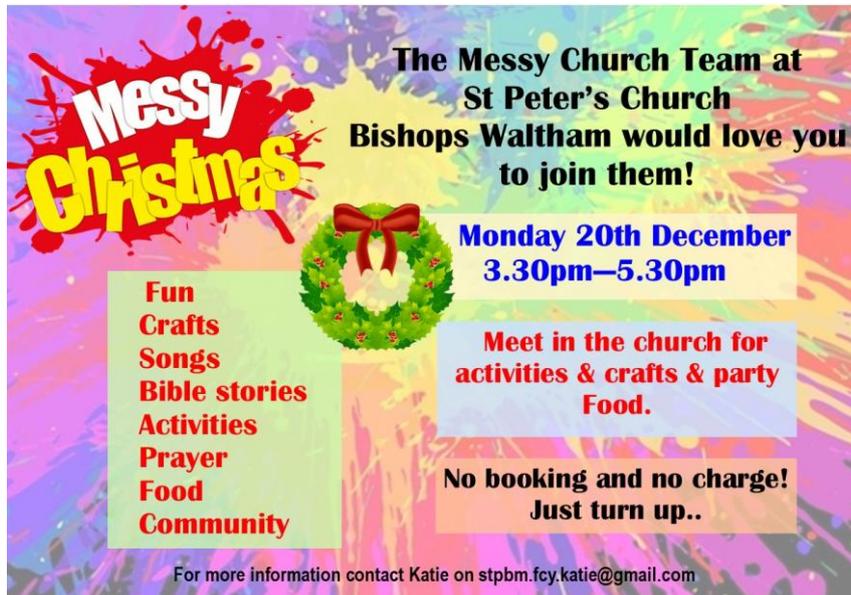


Locate all the characters involved in the Nativity around Upham Village
Pick up your Trail sheet and Map at Blessed Mary Church porch and return in Nativity Box on completion

Prizes for all those who take part and complete the trail sheet

Contact Kate our Families Worker on 07986009942 or e-mail at stpbn.fcy.katie@gmail.com

Christmas Messy Church



**The Messy Church Team at
St Peter's Church
Bishops Waltham would love you
to join them!**

**Monday 20th December
3.30pm–5.30pm**

**Fun
Crafts
Songs
Bible stories
Activities
Prayer
Food
Community**

**Meet in the church for
activities & crafts & party
Food.**

**No booking and no charge!
Just turn up..**

For more information contact Katie on stpbn.fcy.katie@gmail.com

Meon Voices Christmas Concert



MEON VOICES
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Thursday 9th December 2021
7.30 p.m.

St Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham

Uplifting music and carols

Refreshments will be available if restrictions allow
Covid precautions will be observed

This is a free event with no need to book. A retiring collection will be made in aid of church charities and your donation will be appreciated

ALL ARE WELCOME



St Simon's Soup Kitchen

In past years, many of you have been kind enough to provide new socks and pants for the homeless in and around Portsmouth. These go into gift bags which are given out by St Simon's Church in Southsea at Christmas. If you would like to make a donation, please would you give to me by Thursday December 18th? Or I am happy to collect. Thank you very much....I know how grateful they always are.

Mary Blow 895958

maryenblow@gmail.com



16 Days against gender based violence and abuse

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28th.

As part of Morning Worship on this day, the Mothers Union will be bringing attention to the 16 Days against gender based violence and abuse. This is a global campaign, supported by the MU.

We ask, if you wish to do so, to wear something purple to church. At the end of the service, cake will be served and we ask for a small donation for this, which will be given to the local Refuge. Delicious Apricot and Brandy Mincemeat @ £3 per jar will also be for sale

Thank you.

Mary Blow on behalf of the MU



St Peter's - Congregation Survey - Summary



Please find below a summary of the main points from the St Peter's congregational survey carried out recently and we will be taking these into account as we look forward into 2022. We are also working through some of the specific comments that have been made in various ways.

If you would like to know more or have any queries please do ask. As we go through 2022 we very much hope to keep an ongoing and open conversation about the best shape of our church going forwards.

- 1. The overall results were evenly balanced across the two main services (9am and 10:30am).*
- 2. Only 18% of respondents were under 50 (there could have been more) which does*

- represent the age demographic of the church...this is a key area to work on.
3. A very high majority felt very supported by the church over the last year and felt the church did all they could.
 4. 87% of respondents are part of church life outside of a Sunday i.e., in a home group etc, but it would be good to see more.
 5. A number of comments about removing pews and creating a more welcoming space i.e., re-ordering.
 6. A large number mentioned the lack of provision for 10 - 20 year olds on a Sunday morning
 7. Whilst only 28% of respondents indicated they were leaders in the church, 1/3 of these feel unsupported by the church, but volunteers do feel supported.
 8. A large majority are happy with the times of the services and feel that they are good as they are.
 9. A lot of people across the whole church wanted more time for fellowship.
 10. A general feeling is that Sunday at 10:30 should be more contemporary and was slipping back into the 80/90's at times.
-

St Peter's - Service Timings

Over the Autumn it has been lovely to have had all our services back in person. We are very grateful to all of you, and those on teams, who have helped make everything happen, especially with new times and timings. Much is working well, but there are areas that we would like to work on going forwards to help things work even better. Ideas to help timings between services are below and we hope that these and other ideas can be built in more as we go forwards:

1. **'Service in Progress' board**....to help remind us that a service is going on. If you do want to go into church please join in with the service until it has ended.
 2. **Porch Doors**.....between services for all to be open so there is plenty of room to come in and go out at the same time.
 3. **Service Leader**....to stand further out to enable proper conversation with the leaving congregation and to prevent a 'traffic jams'.
 4. **Coffee and Biscuit Table**.....to be together to then enable better circulation.
 5. **Coffee Flasks**....more coffee to be pre-made to enable faster serving
 6. **Between Services** (8:40-9.00am and 10:10-10:40am)
....for those just finished their service, to be re-assured that there is no rush to leave, but to enjoy fellowship with those at the service and those coming for the next service.
...for those coming to prepare or join the next service, to bear in mind those ending their worship and wanting to enjoy fellowship until the next service starts.
 7. **Service Length**....service leaders continue to plan for an appropriate length for each service so as not to be rushed in anyway, but also to start and end within time as far as possible.
8am: 8-8:40am
9am: 9-10:10am
(coffee 10:10am-10:40am)
10:30am: 10:40-11:45am
-

People for Prayer

Please pray for William Anthony Roy Ward and his family and friends. He was joyfully baptised last Sunday during the 9 o'clock service at St Peter's
Please pray for those who especially need our prayers at this time and all those whose names are written in our Book of Requests for Prayer: Ian Cooper, Betty Restall, Susan Browne, and Roy King.

We pray for the families of those Anniversaries of Death fall around this time and whose names are listed in our Book of Remembrance

Charles Tatton-Brown – 28/11/1990
Iris Daphne Burkett – 29/11/2015
Martin Smith Berry – 29/11/2009
Annie Tombs – 1/12/1992
Ivor John Charles Wilson – 1/12/1994
Edna Margaret Davies – 1/12/1994
Esther 'Betty' Dobbie – 4/12/2015



Meon Valley Food Bank



Thank you for your continued support.

We will be open next Monday between 10 and 12 to receive food donations.

Food can also be dropped off at the following places...

Marks and Spencers Whiteley, Wickham Coop, Wickham Community Centre, Sainsburys Bishops Waltham. St Peter's Church, Bishops Waltham.

The Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Lane, Bishops Waltham, Pre-loved Treasures, Swanmore.

The items we require for the coming week are:

Tinned meat meals

Sugar, small bags

Coffee

Tinned vegetables, all types

Tinned Fruit

Porridge

Soft Drinks such as orange squash

Toilet Rolls

Washing up liquid

THE MEON VALLEY FOOD BANK TEAM
Meon Valley Foodbank



Subscribe/Unsubscribe

We very much hope that you will want to receive the weekly update, but if not please do e-mail: bwuoffice@tiscali.co.uk and we can take you off our list.

