

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARY!

Last week, on September 8th, the Church celebrated the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is one of the few figures in the church's calendar whose birthday is honoured in the calendar. The only others are in fact our Lord himself and St John the Baptist.

We usually commemorate saints on the anniversaries of their deaths. This draws our attention to the way God's grace triumphed in their lives. Their holiness is evidence of how they cooperated with the gifts and guidance of the Holy Spirit - and they therefore challenge to us to cooperate in the same way and encourage us to believe that it really is possible for us all to be saints.

That's a pretty wonderful thing. But when we celebrate the birthdays of Jesus, Mary and John the Baptist we are taken to an even more wonderful and profound aspect of God's mercy.

One of my favourite passages in the whole of the Bible is the first chapter of the Letter to the Ephesians which describes what the writer calls, "the mystery of God's will, his plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth." It's a powerful and infinitely reassuring picture of how God is in control of everything, how nothing is wasted, and nothing is pointless.

The same passage also tells us that this is not a general truth, but applies directly to each and every one of us. "God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places." Even more than that, "God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love."

To my mind the real importance of celebrating Mary's birthday is that it focuses our attention on this long term plan of God's, and on how God prepared her for her part in it as the mother-to-be of the one in whom God would gather all things up. When we think about Mary, we are naturally grateful for the way in which she collaborated with God's plan and brought Jesus to birth. But on her birthday, we recall God's providential grace to Mary, long before there could be any question of her saying "Yes" to the angel of the annunciation.

For each one of us too, God has a plan within his big plan, and has been preparing us for it from even before we were born.

Bishop John

faith talk



Third Saturday of every month. Discussion starts at 11.00am. At St Faith's Church, Havant.

Next Saturday: FaithTalk will be led by Canon Tom.

Theme:

"Set Apart": What is ordination?

With David & Vickie's ordination as deacons taking place in the evening, what is ordination all about? What does the Bible mean about a 'priesthood of all believers'. What's different about deacons and priests?



ST FAITH'S TOWN FAIR

Done and Dusted!

Local produce stalls, Barbeque, Games Tearoom in Church, Exhibitions, Trips up the Tower and much more...

Grand Draw Buy your tickets from the Parish Office, or from Sandra Haggan 02392455161 First prize £200



THANKYOU!

...to everyone who came to the Fair, or ran a stall, or put up bunting, organised entertainment, served refreshments, organised road closures, marched up and down the Tower, or any one of a thousand other jobs!

You're all fantastic people for helping us to share St Faith's with the community!

Forthcoming SERVICES

SUNDAY 10 September Trinity 13

8.00 am COMMUNION

President and PreacherCanon Tom

9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE

President and PreacherCanon Tom
Readings Ezekiel 33.7-11, Romans 13.8-14,
Matthew 18.15-20

6.00 pm EVENSONG

Led bySandra Haggan

THURSDAY 14 September

10.30 am HOLY COMMUNION (TRADITIONAL)

President AND Preacher.....Canon Tom

SUNDAY 17 September Trinity 14

8.00 am COMMUNION

President and PreacherRev'd Richard Acworth

9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE

President and PreacherCanon Tom
Readings Genesis 50.15-21 , Romans 14.1-12
Matthew 18.21-35

6.00 pm TAIZE EVEING PRAYER

Led byDr Mike Fluck

THURSDAY 21 September

10.30 am HOLY COMMUNION (TRADITIONAL)

PresidentRev'd Richard Acworth
PreacherRev'd David Morgan

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2018

There will be a meeting in church on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 7pm, for anyone interested in taking part in the Flower Festival next year. If you would like a lift to this meeting, please speak to Sandra or Clare.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The World

Including St John the Divine, Nsawam Ghana
Rod & Glenda Thomas & Sendai Church Japan.

The Diocese

& Bishop Christopher

Our Parish & Deanery

Especially David & Vickie preparing for Ordination as Deacons

Those in Urgent Need:

Margaret Ward
Joyce Shuttleworth

The Departed:

Donna Young
Beryl Miller
Irma Standford

Anniversaries of Departed:

11th Susan Coughlan, Frederick Robinson, Valentine Searle
13th Gordon Coleborn, Jean Shephert

HAVE YOUR SAY

Consultation Forms about the re-ordering of St Faith's are available near the North Door. Closing date September 17th.

Dolce String Quartet

at
St Faith's Church Havant



Sunday 5 November 2017

at 3.30pm

Haydn

String Quartet Op. 76 No.2 in D minor

Beethoven

String Quartet Op. 18 No. 4 in C min

Refreshments will be offered at the end of the performance

Retiring collection and donations in aid of
St Faith's Church 'Big Build' Fund



Liturgy for Life

Living Sunday's words all week

A five-session programme of discussions, exploring how familiar words can equip and inspire our daily Christian lives.

Introduced by Revd David Morgan.

Week 1: Why Liturgy?

Week 2: "Glory to God in the highest..."

Week 3: "We believe in one God..."

Week 4: "Holy, holy, holy Lord..."

Week 5: "Lamb of God..."

In the 'Upper Room' at the Pallant Centre

Starts Monday 16th October

st.
faiths
havant

7.30pm



Café open from 8.45am to 4.30pm
Monday to Friday, from 8.45am to
2.30pm on Saturday.

FUTURE EVENTS..

- Sat 16 Sept 6pm Ordination of Vickie & David Morgan at St. Faith's.
Sat 23 Sept 7pm ~~Harvest Supper~~ — please note that the Harvest Supper is cancelled because of the volume of other parish events.
Sun 8 October 9.30am Patronal Festival - with a play about St Faith of Aquitaine
Sat 14 October 7.30pm Ballads, Brews and Blues
Tues 17 Oct 12.30 pm. Series of Lunchtime Musical Half-Hours begins.
Sat 5 November 3.30pm Concert by Havant Orchestra String Quartet
Sat 25 November 7pm Bell Ringers' Dinner in the Pallant Centre

CONTACT INFORMATION...

...can be found on the Monthly Information Sheet.