

### (Bank) Holy Days?

Prior to 1834, the Bank of England observed about 33 saints' days and religious festivals as holidays, but in 1834, this was reduced to just four: 1 May, 1 November, Good Friday, and Christmas Day. In 1871, Sir John Lubbock introduced the Bank Holidays Act. It introduced the concept of holidays with pay and designated four holidays in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. These were Easter Monday, the first Monday in August, the 26th December, and Whit Monday. From 1965 the date of the August bank holiday was changed to the end of the month in England

At first, all businesses closed when the banks closed - creating time for families to be together. This was, of course, on top of the presumption that all trading stopped on Sundays, already.

But gradually, over time, such presumptions have been eroded by the market-capitalist system which we all, often uncritically, find ourselves operating-under. The result is that now, it is pretty much *only* bankers who can be sure of a Bank Holiday (and some manufacturers and public utilities). Many other workers - from shop workers to warehouse order-fillers at Amazon, will find that they have no choice but to work...on both Sunday *and* the Bank Holiday. All to feed the public's insatiable appetite to consume. In fact, only Christmas Day gets even *close* to the original intention behind the 'bank holiday'. From 1834, then, one can trace a gradual, but inexorable erosion of the whole notion of 'holy days' - days set aside for the holy purposes of rest, strengthening family bonds, and worship.

What are we to make of this situation? It has many consequences, including for churches. The fact is that many families are forced to work so hard, and for so many hours, that they simply don't have the energy to come to church, however they might want to, in principle. The other new class of 'holy-day' worker is the sports coach - who is forced into providing 'Sunday Morning football classes', or 'swim-schools'. Christian families with children are forced between choosing to let their kids be like other kids, and develop their sporting abilities, or encouraging them to belong to the strange, edge-of-community organisation called 'the Church'. It's a hard call to make...and every Christian parent has my sympathy and understanding.

The challenge for the church, is how to respond to this rapidly-changing, consumerist world...and especially how to reach out to the next generation through the fog of consumerism. I don't yet have the answers - but I welcome your thoughts! Have a great week - including the Bank Holiday! Canon Tom

## Women's Fellowship

**From 2pm on the 5th of September**, on each first Tuesday of the month, Curate Vickie will be leading our new Women's Fellowship. Different from the existing 'Ladies Group' (which has a more purely social focus) the Women's Fellowship is aimed at women who are looking for good quality, interesting speakers and fellowship and (short) worship with other like-minded ladies. Speakers are being arranged on a wide range of topics - including history, politics, charities, the arts and (of course!) religion. Mini-concerts, might also feature from time to time. Our first meeting will feature Canon Tom talking about how he *became* a Canon, in West Africa - complete with slides and stories from his 'African Adventures'. Do let Vickie know if you plan to come (to help with catering numbers).

Watch this space for news of the new Men's Fellowship....coming soon!

ST FAITH'S  
TOWN FAIR  
9 September  
10am-2pm

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



We are in need of donations of the following:

**Bric- a- brac, Bottles  
(of all sorts), Tombola, stall items,  
plants,  
cakes, cakes and more cakes!**

Any donations can be left at the Parish Office

If you could help on the day, or would like to run a stall, please see

Sandra or Clare.

Thank you!

## RIDE AND STRIDE

**Saturday 9 September is also the day for Ride and Stride!**

It's the Town Fair Day too, but please support the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust .

Welcomers to St Faith's are wanted between 10am and 6pm. Walkers and cyclists from our congregation are needed to be sponsored to visit local churches; do join in the fun!

There is a notice in the Church and

Hilary Deadman would be pleased to give you further details.

## Forthcoming SERVICES

**SUNDAY 27 August 2017**

**Trinity 11**

**8.00 am COMMUNION**

President .....Canon Tom  
Preacher.....Sandra Haggan

**9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE**

President .....Canon Tom  
Preacher .....Sandra Haggan  
Readings: Isaiah 51, 1-6; Romans 12, 1-8;  
Matthew 16, 13-20

**6.00 pm EVENSONG**

Led by .....Vickie Morgan

**THURSDAY 31 AUGUST**

**10.30 am HOLY COMMUNION (TRADITIONAL)**

President .....Rev'd Richard Acworth  
Preacher.....David Morgan

**SUNDAY 3 September**

**Trinity 12**

**8.00 am COMMUNION**

President .....Rev'd Richard Acworth  
Preacher.....Vickie Morgan

**9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE**

President and Preacher..... Rev Dr Anthony Rustell  
Readings: Jeremiah 15.15-21, Romans 12.9-21  
Matthew 16.21-28

**6.00 pm EVENSONG**

Led by .....Dr Mike Fluck

**THURSDAY 7 AUGUST**

**10.30 am HOLY COMMUNION (TRADITIONAL)**

President .....Rev'd Richard Acworth  
Preacher.....Vickie Morgan



**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**

**Those in Urgent**

**Need:**

Margaret Ward

**The Departed:**


Mo Evans  
(a.k.a.Bridges)  
Edna Pearson

**Anniversaries of**

**Departed:**

27th Henry Cutting  
28th Michael Jones

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP**



The Bible Study Group will resume activities on Thursday September 7th at 2pm, at 4 Pine Grove PO9 2RW. We shall be looking at the life of Moses. More details from Alan Hakim (023 -9247-1681).

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

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

## ST FAITH'S CHARITY SHOP

Please keep those donations coming in... clothing, toys, books, puzzles, crockery, jewellery, linen, small furniture items. They can all be turned into useful cash for our Parish! Thank you.



**Closed this week  
For a well-earned Summer  
Holiday!**

## FUTURE EVENTS..

- Sat 9 September: Ride and Stride 10am-6pm and Town Fair 10am-2pm  
Sat 16 Sept 6pm Ordination of Vickie & David Morgan (Confirmed)  
Sat 23 Sept 7pm Harvest Supper in the Pallant Centre  
Sun 8 October 9.30am Patronal Festival - with a play about St Faith of Aquitaine  
Sat 14 October 7.30pm Ballads, Brews and Blues  
**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.