

Church Diary for August 2010

Sunday 1st		
8.30am	Holy Communion	Oake
10.00am	Family Communion	CSL Community hall
6.30pm	Lay-led Evensong	Hillfarrance
Friday 6th		
9.00am	Benefice Prayer Group	23, Venn Close, CSL
Sunday 8th		
8.30am	Holy Communion	Heathfield
10.00am	Family Praise Morning Worship	CSL community room Hillfarrance
Wednesday 11th		
5.00pm	Midweek Prayers	Hillfarrance Church
Thursday 12th		
10.00am	Holy Communion	1 Healy's Meadow, CSL
Friday 13th		
9.00am	Benefice Prayer Group	1 Court Farm, Hillfarrance
Sunday 15th		
8.30am	Holy Communion	Hillfarrance
9.30am	Bacon butties and read the papers... followed by SOS at 10.00am	CSL hall
10.00am	Parish Communion	Oake
6.30pm	Evensong	Heathfield
Friday 20th		
9.00am	Benefice Prayer Group	Forge House, Oake
Sunday 22nd		
8.30am	Holy Communion followed by breakfast	Hillfarrance
10.00am	Family Praise	CSL Community Hall
6.30pm	Patronal Evensong	Oake
Friday 27th		
9.00am	Benefice Prayer Group	23, Venn Close, CSL
Sunday 29th		
10.00am	Benefice Service	Heathfield
Friday 3rd September		
9.00am	Benefice Prayer Group	1 Court Farm, Hillfarrance
Sunday 5th		
8.30am	Holy Communion	Oake
10.00am	Family Communion	CSL Community hall
3.30pm	Songs of Praise on Hillfarrance Green, with Wellington Silver Band	Hillfarrance
<i>Bring something to sit on, a picnic and a teddy!</i>		
Looking ahead...		
Sunday 19th September		
5.30pm	Benefice Harvest Festival	Heathfield
<i>With a speaker from Open Door and followed by a bring and share supper</i>		

Deane Vale Church News

Covering the parishes of Heathfield with Cotford St Luke, Hillfarrance and Oake

A Message from Rev Alison

Last month the General Synod of the Church of England took another step towards ordaining women as Bishops. If you read the papers or saw the TV coverage you would be forgiven in thinking the Church of England was in crisis. According to our Synod members this was far from the truth; they tell us a "gracious compromise" was reached and the final draft Measure received only a few votes against it. It will still be a few years before we see the first woman ordained as a Bishop in England... the discussions have only been going on for the last 35 years after all!

In all this, we should never lose sight of the fact that any ministry whether lay or ordained, male or female, is a ministry of service – service to God and service to neighbour. There are many ways in which we might feel called to serve; my calling was to ordained ministry as a priest in the church, yours might be to make music in God's congregation, to visit the sick, to teach, to offer hospitality... you name it!

Every so often a need might become evident and we have to ask – "Lord, are you calling me into service here?" Some of those needs might employ a particular skill base – so if the need is for 24 scones to be baked and you know how awful your scones are (I am confessing personally here!) then it's unlikely God is calling you to that ministry. I would like to say a

huge thank you to those who washed up and served endless cream teas at the Open Gardens in aid of WACIA last month – no huge skill needed but a willingness to serve. There is always something we can do.

It has been brought to my attention that there might be someone in the Benefice who might feel called to become a school community governor. Cotford St Luke school is in need of two such beings. If this is something God might be calling you to as service within the community, then call in at school or ask me about it. Another ministry we're hoping to launch in the near future is Messy Church – outreach to children. Is there something you might be called to offer in this context – a creative talent, story-telling, music, dance, drama, help with refreshments...?

St Paul's picture of God's people as a Body is wonderful – for we know that a body has to be integrated to work properly and yet each part has its own part to play. "God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit... Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful." (1 Cor 12: 4,5: The Message) Thank God!

Stride Out for Charity

10 mile sponsored walk in aid of Somerset Churches and another of your church's choice(eg your own church?) on Saturday September 11th 10.30-4.00pm. Walking from church to church we shall start and finish at Hillfarrance visiting Oake, Halse, Ash Priors, Bishops Lydeard and Heathfield. Lunch break at The Priory, Ash Priors(bring your own refreshments).

A Cream Tea will be available at Hillfarrance on completion of the walk. Please meet at Hillfarrance Green by 10.15am. Sponsor Forms will be available in your local church. If you do not wish to walk you can be sponsored for welcoming visitors to your own church during the day. Speak to your Churchwarden about this. For further details contact Mrs Dawn Mitford-Slade (432255).

CONTACTS

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Churchwardens		
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