

Dear All,

In case it had escaped your notice we are now **The Parish of Stour Downs**, a single parish with six churches. So much has changed with this administrative adjustment, and so much remains the same. We still have to keep our churches going and in Holy Week we have been privileged to have Bishop Trevor with us for six services including a **combined Holy Communion Service at Smeeth on Easter Sunday (9.30 am)**. This isn't the only service in the parish as there will be Holy Communion at Brabourne (10 am) on Easter Day, and Evensong with Holy Communion at Monks Horton (6 pm). We shall be well served on Easter Sunday. After Easter it's more or less back to normal with a range of different types of service from which you can choose so please consult the Diary for details.

As for events, we seem busier than ever: on the **first and third Wednesdays of each month (4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) Mersham has Craft Mornings** at which goods are made for sale in aid of Mersham Church. Periodically there are also things to repair for the church, for example altar frontals, cushions and the like. If you live locally and would like to help please join in as the more the merrier – details are in the Diary. On **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> First Friday meets at Brabourne** and our hosts will be Julia and Keith Heustice and Donna Semple. I can guarantee we shall be well looked after so please come along – 6-7pm for a glass of wine or a soft drink and something delicious to eat. All are welcome.

On **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> there's churchyard tidying at Brabourne from 9.30 am** – please do come along to help, and then at **10.30 am there is a Coffee Morning in Mersham Church**, in aid of the Church. It doesn't matter which church you go to normally, if you can, please join in.

On **Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, Knit and Natter meets in the Oak Room** bringing together anyone with an interest in craftwork – or an interest in nattering. Either, or both, are good. And on the same evening there is yet another **Great Film Evening in Mersham Church**. With popcorn, choc-ices, tea and coffee these evenings are very gentle and enjoyable. There is no charge for entry but donations are welcomed.

**Smeeth Church is hosting a Day of Hymn Singing on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>**, with a Soup and Roll lunch in the Oak Room from 1-1.45pm, and on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup>, **Penny and Graham Lilley are kindly hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Smeeth Church**. There's bound to be a warm welcome, plenty of coffee, goodies to eat and buy, and plenty of time to chat, so please don't miss it – whether or not you are a regular at Smeeth Church.

The month closes with a flurry of activity as on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>, Fridays@3 meets in the Oak Room with a talk by Alex Le Rossignol** – followed by tea. Later in the evening, at **7.45pm, there is a concert in Stowting Church by the King's School Canterbury Chamber Choir** – details about how to get tickets are in the Diary. And on **Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> there is a concert in Mersham Church by Canterbury City Brass Band**. We're spoilt for choice!

Our churches need support from all of us so please make services and events a priority in your diary. If you'd like transport to any of these please contact your churchwarden or just let me know and I will endeavour to help. And if you enjoy any or all of what the churches in our parish have to offer please do let me know. Might be interesting to circulate a few views on what is liked – and you don't have to be named!

With warmest wishes for a very Happy Easter,

Kathy  
Kathy Embleton-Smith

Acting Chair Brabourne PCC