

The Pastrow Benefice

Sharing the love, grace and truth of Jesus Christ

Services & events this week

Wednesday 5th Holy Communion 9.30 am HBT & 10 am Tangley

Friday 7th Holy Communion 1.30 pm Weyhill & 2.30 pm Charlton

Services & events next week

Saturday 8th Breakfast at Nine – a new meeting starting with breakfast then a bible study, all welcome. 9 am Charlton

8th September – Pastrow Pilgrimage – All are welcome to do some or all of the walk, if you would like a sponsorship form please see Jude.

Sunday 9th Pet Service 10 am The Old Dairy Hatherden, Young Church 11 am Charlton & Encounters 6.30 pm Charlton

Tuesday 11th Messy Church Smannell 3 – 5 pm & Val's leaving service at Christ Church Hatherden – 7.30 pm

Wednesday 12th Holy Communion 9.30 am HBT & 10 am Tangley

Readings This Week

Song of Sol 2 8 – 13 Ps 45 1 – 2, 6 – 9 (or 1 – 7)
James 1 17 – end Mark 7 1 – 8, 14-15, 21-23

Next Week

Prov 22 1 – 2, 8 – 9, 22- 23 Ps 125
James 2 1 – 10 [11- 13] 14 – 17 Mark 7 24 - end

Grapevine

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In your Prayers please pray for.....

All our clergy in the benefice.

All the children and teachers as they return to schools and colleges this coming week

All the harvest events that are being planned over the next few weeks.

Pastrow & Community Diary Dates

Thursday 20th September Afternoon Tea - Hatherden Church, at 2.30 pm. An opportunity for a get together over strawberries and cream, cakes and tea! Everyone welcome.

29th & 30th Sept Flower Festival at Weyhill.

29th September Swing Night with the Good Fortunes Big Band – doors open 7 pm Tickets £15 inc supper. Bring your own drink. Call Jude 07708 425864 or Jan 01264 710173

Sat 6th Oct – Harvest Supper & Quiz Charlton church, call Jean for details 01264 391504

Sat 6th Oct – Harvest Supper Wildhern village hall 6.30pm for 7pm. Bring your own drinks. Tickets £5 available from Zoë at zoecleaton@hotmail.com or phone 01264 735247.

Notes from Pastrow Admin

Please see the Benefice website for details on future services and events.

Words of Encouragement

By Alan Evans

“Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way, just as the Scripture says.” (John 7:38)

A question for each of us to consider: on balance, are you a person who's filled with the joy of the Lord, or are you miserable, negative, fearful or just bored with your routine life?

Scripture tells us that Christians shouldn't be living miserable lives, one of the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 is joy. That's not to say that we should all be on “cloud nine” all the time or that we don't go through difficult times. Of course we do, that's part of the consequences of the original sin of mankind and living in a fallen world. But we shouldn't be continually miserable, negative, fearful or bored either, the only way that can happen is if we treat “religion” like a club, with a set of rules to follow. Christianity is about having a personal relationship with Jesus (the clue is in the name) and letting the good news of God's grace and mercy turn our lives' upside down - because if we have a one-to-one relationship with the Creator of the Universe it changes us. It has to, we can't help it.

We can be feeling under pressure, afraid or angry, then go and spend some time alone with God and, just as He promises, His peace ends up guarding our heart and mind and setting us free from those feelings. And if we do that often enough, when we lean into Him, when we trust our lives' into His hands and experience His faithfulness over and over again, it's something that we won't be able to contain.

I've seen it in Christians whom I respect and admire. Their deep, personal relationship with Jesus, ends up overflowing out of them, like a flood of blessing into the parched, dry land around them. Let's become a river of living water to those around us in the Pastrow Benefice by deepening our own relationship with Jesus.