

Sun 23 rd		
8.30am	Holy Communion (followed by breakfast)	Hillfarrance church
10.00am	Family Praise incorporating the APCM. There will be Sunday School for the children.	Community room, CSL
6.30pm	Evensong with APCM	Oake church
Mon 24 th		
12.00 noon	APCM	Hillfarrance Church
Thurs 27 th		
2.15pm	Toddler Church	Community room CSL
Sun 30 th Fifth Sunday		
10.00am	Family Service with the baptism of Teddy Davis	Heathfield Church
4.00pm	Pet Service	Oake Church
Thurs 4 th May		
2.15pm	Toddler Church	Community room CSL
Fri 5 th		
9.30am	Standing Committee	42 Graham Way, CSL
Sat 6 th		
11am-3pm	The 4 th Annual Yard Sale	Cotford St Luke
Sun 7 th		
8.30am	Holy Communion	Oake Church
10.00am	Family Communion	Community Hall, CSL
6.30pm	Evensong	Hillfarrance Church

Deane Vale

April

Church News

Covering the parishes of Heathfield with CSL, Hillfarrance and Oake

Preb Alison writes... Last month I attended a lecture at St Margaret's hospice by an eminent philosopher, Anthony Kenny. The talk was entitled "Mortality vs Immortality: The attitudes of theologians and philosophers over the centuries to the significance of death and the possibility of an afterlife". In fact 5 minutes in, it was evident that according to the speaker there was no possibility of an afterlife, and neither did he believe any of us really desired such a thing!

Whilst that might be your view, that's not generally what I hear both from those who have a religious belief, and those who are agnostic. Somewhere deep down there is a sense in many of us, that this world can't just be "it"; that our lives have meaning beyond this life, whatever we might conceive that to be, and "if our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world." (1 Cor 15:19)

There was also a sense in the lecture, that man had all the answers, and logic was the only thought process worth considering. I can't believe we have all the answers or life sewn up. Jesus was sensibly and deliberately quiet about what an afterlife might entail, and I don't think we do ourselves any favours when we try to describe it. We just don't know – it is a matter of hope and faith and trust. I come back time and again to the prophet Isaiah (64: 4) who says: "No one has ever seen this. No one has ever heard about it. No one has ever imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." Once we dare to believe in a God who is bigger than we are, then logically something we cannot see has to be beyond our comprehension.

And so we come again to the greatest of Christian festivals – Easter – the triumph of good over evil, and the breaking of the fear of death as the final enemy. How will you meet Easter day? With a logical feeling that any Christian hope is worthless rubbish or with joy and thanksgiving and hope and faith? I know which way I'd rather celebrate!

Diary for April 2017

Sun 2nd		
8.30am	Holy Communion	Oake Church
10.00am	Family Communion	Community Hall, CSL
6.30pm	Evensong	Hillfarrance Church
Mon 3rd Apr		
12.30-1.30pm	Lent Lunch	Oake village hall
7.30pm	Lent Group (final session)	42 Graham Way, CSL
8.00pm	Lent Group (final session)	5 Aveline Court, CSL
Wed 5th		
7.45pm	Lent Group (final session)	8 Cole Close, CSL
Thurs 6th		
10.00am	Lent Group (final session)	3 Court Farm, Hillfarrance
Sat 8th		
10.15am	Pilgrim Plodders	Meet at Cothelstone
Sun 9th Palm Sunday		
8.30am	Holy Communion	Heathfield church
10.00am	Palm Sunday service	Community hall, CSL
	Morning Worship	Hillfarrance Church
Mon 10th Holy Week		
8.00pm	Holy Week Meditation	Hillfarrance Church
Tues 11th		
8.00pm	Holy Week Meditation	Heathfield Church

Wed 12th		
8.00pm	Holy Week Meditation	Oake Church
Thurs 13th Maundy Thursday		
6.30pm	Passover Supper	Hillfarrance Church
Fri 14th Good Friday		
10.30am	Good Friday walk of witness starts at	St Luke's Centre land
11.30am	Short service and hot cross buns at	Heathfield Church
1.00pm	Short service and lunch at	Oake Church
3.00pm	Short service	Hillfarrance Church
<i>You are welcome to join in and opt out at any point in the journey</i>		
Sun 16th Easter Day		
9.00am	Holy Communion	Hillfarrance church
10.00am	Meet at CSL school and walk to the church land for Holy Communion and an Easter Egg hunt. Please bring flowers to dress the cross. If the weather is inclement, we will have Holy Communion in the hall.	
Wed 19th		
1.00pm	Church Lunch	Hillfarrance Church
Thurs 20th		
2.15pm	Toddler Church resumes	Community room CSL
Sat 22nd		
2.30-4.30pm	Open Garden and Cream Teas	Harnham Farmhouse

Third Sunday Talks

The third Sunday in April is s
Easter Day so there won't be a
talk in April. However, in May,
the Dean of Wells Cathedral, Dr
John Davies will be our guest
with the subject "What is a
Cathedral For? When accepting
our invitation, his secretary also
invited us to come along to an
Evensong at the Cathedral,
followed by a cup of tea and an
escorted tour of the cathedral
(date yet to be fixed.) So if
anyone is interested, please let
me Phil know. Call on 430818 or
hallpalg@yahoo.co.uk

St Luke Annual Dog Show on the Village Green 10th June 2017

Teas, BBQ, Bar, Stalls, Events
*Volunteers needed to set up,
man stalls, and tidy away.*
Contact Derrick 433590

Open Garden and Cream Teas at Harnham Farmhouse

Norton Fitzwarren
Saturday April 22nd
2.30pm -4.30 pm

Admission free

In aid of St Luke's Centre
Plant and Produce stalls
Activities for children
Contributions welcome

Cake stall

Marina Livsley 432170

Produce

Sue Harris 461226

Plants

Dawn M - S 432255

Raffle

Lindsay Hall 430818

For more information, please
contact Dawn Mitford - Slade
dawnmitfordslade@gmail.com

Children's Society Boxes

This year's collection made
£394.04. Thank you to all who
have boxes.

Cotford St Luke's 4th Annual Yard Sale
(with Refreshments, cakes and BBQ
on the church land)
Saturday May 6th 11.00am-3.00pm
Just £6 to register your table in the sale.
Looking for a bargain? Come along on 6th and
pick up a map and away you go...
If you can help with baking cakes, running the
refreshments stall or bbq on the church land, setting up
or taking down, please get in touch.
Contact Claire Bleloch to register and for more
information.
Profits to St Luke's Centre

Pilgrim Plodders

The season started last
month with an easy walk on
the foothills of the Quantocks
with lunch at The Bicknoller
Inn. Our next walk is on
Saturday April 8th. Meet at
10.15am at Cothelstone (first
corner at bottom of hill)
We will walk to the top of our
local hill and do a two-hour
right-handed circle. Lunch
will be at the Lethbridge Arms
at 12.30 pm. Please let me
know by April 5th if you would
like to come. Dawn email
dawnmitfordslade@gmail.co
m or tel 01823 432255.



"All creatures great and small" April 30th 4pm

Diana's dog, Cindy, regularly
attends Oake church
services and on Sunday April
30th we would like to invite
you to bring your beloved pet
for a short service of blessing
at 4pm; giving thanks for the
joy that our pets bring.



Contacts

Rector: Rev Preb Alison Norris 6 Cole Close, CSL
Tel: 431567 revalison@revsnorris.co.uk (Day off: Tuesday)

Church Wardens

Heathfield with CSL Phil Hall 430818

Dawn Mitford-Slade 432255

Hillfarrance Adrian Dyke 461440 Marcia Maunder 461245

Oake Frances Mansfield 461697 Roger Earthrowl 401043

Please email items for the next news by **Sunday April 23rd** to
dvbcommunications@gmail.com