

June 2017 Edition 18

**The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.**



Since the birth of the Church, Christians have met together in people's homes and in public places to support one another. An extract from Hebrews 10 vv24-25 says "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together but encouraging one another".

There are a number of house groups meeting regularly in the parish. They exist so that we can encourage and support one another so that we may grow strong in our Christian faith and be a witness to others. They are open to all, and wherever we are in our

journey of faith, we can benefit from joining one. No question is too simple that it cannot be asked or too hard that it cannot be explored. Listening to others discussing their faith, and, as we get braver, sharing our own experiences, help each of us to grow and to encourage others.

From my experience people who do join a house group become life-long brothers and sisters willing to share the ups and downs that life throws at us and it becomes an incredibly important network of support and a fantastic way to build our faith in a small and safe environment.

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Each group has its own style and will look at things in different ways. While all will include prayer, bible reading, sharing meals and discussion, the emphasis will vary. The one thing that they have in common is a warm welcome for anyone who wants to join them!

We are celebrating **House Group Sunday on July 2** with particular focus on Christian discipleship and what that means. After the 9.30am service we are holding a House Group market stall in the church hall during coffee where will have current members from our House Groups ready to talk and share with people about what it is like to

belong to a House Group and explain what they get up to when they meet.

We would love to encourage more members of the congregation to join a House Group so that they can share in benefit from the love and support that these small groups offer as we journey through life together.

If you would like more information on our House Groups please speak to one of the members of our Prayer and Spirituality Team (Julie Stamford, Rod Clarke, Malcolm and Jenny Coffey, Judith Peake, Helen Bisset and Jason Gray)

**Jason Gray**

## **Editor's Corner**

This month the process of recruiting a new vicar is proceeding apace, thanks to the hard work put in by the churchwardens and the PCC. We look forward to a successful outcome in due course. This edition also focuses on House Groups. If you are not already a member do consider joining one. Most meet every two weeks with a break in the summer.

Please write a few lines about something you feel is important for our Church, so that The Listening Post can fully represent the views of our congregation. We publish monthly, on the third Sunday.

**Linda Charlton (Editor)**

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## Vacancy Update ....the latest

After Lynn withdrew from the post in February, the PCC had to prepare a full Parish Profile, Statement of Needs and Person Specification – before the position could be advertised. A small group was tasked to carry out this activity.

We decided to concentrate on describing the churchmanship of the parish (a point the last two incumbents felt was not accurately conveyed in previous profiles), the needs of the parish and the person sought. The geography and culture of the wider parish was put into a set of appendices.

Following review by the Archdeacon, deanery and diocesan elements were added and the Archdeacon helped us be less pessimistic and judgemental in our presentation.

We held the required Section 11 meeting on 28 May (with a sufficient number of PCC members in attendance to avoid me having to participate by 'phone from Spain). This is the formal meeting at which the content of the documents is approved, the parish representatives selected and permission requested to advertise

the vacancy. As a result the advertisement appeared in the Church Times on 9 and 16 June and can also be found on the diocesan website and our own website.

The Bishop of Guildford wishes to appoint a  
**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE**  
to St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's is a suburban parish situated on the northern boundary of the Diocese of Guildford in Wokingham Park, within easy reach of London by train and near to major road networks.

We are now seeking a Priest-in-charge to continue a 'Pastorally Displaced' who will lead us forward with a gentle collaborative approach.

We are a warm parish with well used, quiet, encourage and work alongside us in our work:

- growing faithfulness and discipleship
- moving forward together as a Church
- increasing our going and stewardship

We are looking for someone who will:

- love and care for the congregation and the whole parish
- encourage younger people to live with us in worship
- health and inspire us on our spiritual journey
- engage and encourage our gifts and talents
- appreciate our present traditions while at the same time moving the Church forward

Someone who will help us to show the light of Christ's love for others in our parish and community.

The Parish Profile and the Statement of Needs are available on the Diocese website: [www.guildford.org.uk](http://www.guildford.org.uk) and also on our own Church website: [www.stmarysguildford.org.uk](http://www.stmarysguildford.org.uk)

For further information please contact:  
The Archdeacon of Guildford, 19, The Terrace, Wokingham, RG40 2AA  
Telephone: 01488 701212  
Email: [archdeaconofguildford@guildford.org](mailto:archdeaconofguildford@guildford.org)

Closing date for applications: 28th June  
Interview date: 29th and 30th July

Diocese of Guildford  
The Anglican Church in England and Wales

Applications are now awaited, and provided suitable candidates apply a short list will be drawn up on 12 July with interviews on 26 and 27 July.

Candidates will be shown round the church, vicarage and parish on the first day and will meet PCC members and other key people in the evening.

Formal interviews will take place on the second day with the parish representatives (churchwardens) Area Dean, Archdeacon and one of the Bishops. An announcement of the outcome will be made as soon as possible after that.

**Dan Smithers**

R I P

Christine White

4 November 1946 – 31 May 2017



## July Services and Events

<b>Saturday 1</b>	<b>09.00</b>	<b>Men's Breakfast at The Plough Harvester</b>
<b>Sunday 2</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Sung Communion and Children's Groups</b>
	<b>17.00</b>	<b>Choir Summer Concert</b>
<b>Sunday 9</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Café Church followed by Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 16</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Sung Communion and Children's Groups</b>
<b>Wednesday 19</b>	<b>20.30</b>	<b>PCC meeting in Church</b>
<b>Thursday 20</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Thursday Club in Cuddington Hall</b>
<b>Saturday 22</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Women's Group at Rowe Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 23</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Family Communion with Baptism</b>
<b>Sunday 30</b>	<b>08.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Sung Communion</b>