

June & July 2023



A family of Churches, centred on Jesus, serving the community, and sharing our Faith

GOOD NEWS FOR WILLESBOROUGH & SEVINGTON

Find Us At: www.ashfordtownparish.co.uk

Contact us at the Parish Office *info@ashfordchurches.co.uk*

01233 620433 (Libby & Jacquie)

Dear Readers,

As the seasons of the year change we find ourselves doing new things - putting away the winter jumpers for another year and getting out the t-shirts and shorts and gardening tools ready to get stuff growing - or trying in vain to stop it, in the case of my lawn!

The church too changes seasons, and we are moving out of Easter-tide and into a long season of what is known as 'Ordinary Time' - not because it is any way ordinary, but because this is the time of the year when we revert to our normal *order* of things, without the festive flair of the other seasons. We will settle into a gentle rhythm through this summer time... But just because it's no longer Festival time doesn't mean there's not loads to celebrate.

The first thing is that, subject to agreement by the PCC when it meets this weekend, we will have some small changes to our pattern of services at St. Mary Willesborough from July. The timings will remain the same, but we are (re)introducing a 'service of the word' - led by our talented lay ministry team - one Sunday a month. If anyone wants to hear more about how to become part of that, do ask me about it. We are also looking at 2 new services of Holy Communion - one on a Sunday evening once a month, and one on Friday lunchtimes at 12 noon. This latter will be a Common Worship (modern language) service to match the Book of Common Prayer (traditional language) service that we already have on Wednesday mornings.

Next, we should pat ourselves on the back for a series of really well organised, well attended, and very much enjoyed events and activities over the last few weeks. From a glorious Holy Week and Easter we moved straight into a whole variety of things as diverse as Herbie's defib training and the tea for the Coronation of the King; the film show and the quiz night. There's been loads happening in our churches for us as a church family and for our local community, and it's always great to see so many people popping in to the cafe too. If you've not had one of our bacon baguettes yet, then you are missing out!

And on that note, I want us to celebrate those who just carry on carrying on in the background making so many things in our churches just tick along nicely. There are too many of you to name individually, but I want us all to be thankful and grateful for the gifts of our cafe volunteers, our local leadership team and ministry team, our flower ladies, our bellringers, our choir, our musicians, our churchwardens, our historians, our volunteers with children, our setter-uppers and our take-downers, our worship facilitators, our intercessors and readers, our cleaners, our home group leaders, as well as those who hold roles

around safeguarding, finance, administration, and pastoral care. It's a real team effort in these 2 churches, and that is what makes being here so wonderful.

And so I want to say a big thank you to all of you, for your welcome and your love. I've been with you a whole 7 weeks now, and I can't begin to tell you how blessed I am by our gracious God in being called to be here with you. Please don't hesitate to talk to me and tell me what it is you need me to do to serve you as church communities, and let me know if there is ever anything I can help you with as an individual. You can be assured of my prayers - I ask that you please hold me and my diverse ministry here in Ashford in yours.

With every blessing for you and all those you love and pray for,

The Revd. Teena Twelves

Team Vicar *with responsibility for*

lowest income communities in Ashford Town Parish

and

St. Mary's Church, Willesborough - St Mary's Church, Sevington

mobile: 07735 398040

My usual day off is Tuesday

Pastoral care – If anyone would like a home visit for Holy Communion and/or anointing with oil, and prayer then please contact Rev Teena or the Church Office

Quinquennial Inspection of St Mary's Willesborough. Every 5 years our church architect checks the fabric of the church and lists the work that needs doing over the following 5 years. The 2022 inspection report has been received and we have requested quotations from local builders to carry out the work. We will let you know how much the cost will be, but it is likely to be in the £,000s. If you can help us financially then please contact Jerry Fox. Thank you for your continued generosity towards the Mission and Ministry of both our churches.

Coronation Tea Celebration. We had a wonderful afternoon tea with over 60 people from the community enjoying tea, scones and cakes, watching the King Charles III's Coronation highlights and reminiscing on Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1952. Thank you, Councillor Liz Wright, for a generous contribution towards the cost of the event and for donations towards the work of the church received from people on the day.

Annual Church Meeting. Our Local Leadership team is planning a Willesborough & Sevington Annual Church Meeting to be held in the Autumn. We would welcome your thoughts on what you would like us to include in the meeting. Do speak to Rev Teena or Jerry Fox if you have any ideas.

A New Face book page. 'What's on at Willesborough and Sevington Churches' is now online and open to all to access and advertise events held in the churches or organised by our church user groups.

SERVICES AND EVENTS (All in Willesborough Church unless noted otherwise)

Services Our regular services times are listed on the Parish website.

St Mary's Willesborough will be hosting the **Parish Pentecost service** on **Sunday 28th May at 10am**



Trinity Sunday 4th June 10am service led by Rev Jo Purle

Choral evensong is being held in St Mary's Willesborough on **Sunday 4th June at 4pm**. All are welcome to this reflective worship.

There is a **wedding** in Church on June on 22nd July at 2pm. We hold the bride and groom in our love and prayers.

Events

Saturday Beetle Drive and Games Morning 11th June 10 to 12am. Café open and Bacon rolls on offer. Do come and have some family fun.

Murder Mystery Evening, 'A Lesson Taught!' Saturday 24th June 7pm for a 7.30 start. Bring Your Own drinks and food. Tickets at £5 are selling fast. Contact the church office.

Cricket match and free Barbeque at Willesborough Cricket Club off Hythe Road, provisionally **Friday 7th July** 6pm onwards. This event depends upon repair of the clubhouse so watch out for confirmation later in July.

Games Morning Saturday 8th July 10 to 12am + café and bacon rolls

Snippets from Sevington Church (compiled by Spencer Stone)

The following has been taken from the 'Guide to St. Mary's Church, Sevington'; a hard copy of which can be found, along with listings and an A2 plan of the churchyard inside Sevington Church, to the left of the entrance.

Mysteries of Sevington Church, Part Two: The Missing Brasses

There are a number of memorials (7) around the church floor, in the chancel, nave and south aisle which have scarring from where brasses have been removed (presumed to have been forcibly removed during Cromwell's time).

An account of these brasses was given in 1628 by Sir Edward Dering, which even included some of his own illustrations of four of them (belonging to the Barre(y) family):

From 'A Saunter Through Kent – Vol. 13', Sir Charles Igglesden, 1919 (p66-74):

“Sir Edward Dering, a learned antiquary of the seventeenth century, has placed on record a description of four of these brasses. Their disappearance therefore must have occurred after that date. Sir Edward gives sketches of four of them, two of which I reproduce. The male figure is one of the Barreys, probably Sir John Barrey, who about 1347 paid towards the expenses of conferring the honour of knighthood upon the Black Prince. It will be noticed that the sword is missing, but the dotted lines show where it should be. The female figure represents Margaret Barrey, who died in 1400, but the costume she is wearing is usually associated with ninety years afterwards. The explanation may be that the brass was placed in the church some years after her death. She was the wife of Edward Barrey and a member of the Sussex family of Oxenbridge. It appears that Sir Edward Dering visited Sevington Church on the 9th of May, 1628, and took copies of these brasses. He subsequently published a book entitled “Church Notes” and reproduced these sketches amongst many others in the country, including Ashford and Willesborough.”

There is another train of thought that the brasses may still be present on-site, but hidden, although there is only one reference to this:

From 'The Daily Mirror, Monday, 13th July 1936:

“The ancient vaults have not been opened for years. Is it suspected that they may contain valuable brasses. If we found the brasses, they might defray our expenses, but opening the vaults would be a costly operation”.”

The set lectionary bible readings for Sundays in June & July are:

Date	First Reading	New Testament	Gospel
June 4th	Isaiah 40 12-17, 27-end	2 Cor 13 11-end	Matthew 28 16-end
11th	Job 29 11-16	Acts 11 19-end	John 15 12-17
18th	Genesis 18 1-15	Romans 5 1-8	Matthew 9 35-10 8
25th	Genesis 21 8-21	Romans 6 1b-11	Matthew 10 24-39
July 2nd	Genesis 22 1-14	Romans 6 12-end	Matthew 10 40-end
9th	Genesis 24 34-38, 42-49, 58-end	Romans 7 15-25a	Matthew 11 16-19, 25-end
16th	Genesis 25 19-end	Romans 8 1-11	Matthew 13 1-9, 18-23
23rd	Genesis 28 10-19a	Romans 8 12-25	Matthew 13 24-30, 36-43
30th	Genesis 29 15-28	Romans 8 26-end	Matthew 13 31-33,44-52

It is everyone’s duty to ensure the safety of our young people and vulnerable adults. To view our Safeguarding Policy, and to find contact details for our Parish Safeguarding Office please follow:

www.ashfordtownparish.co.uk/safeguarding

If you have any short items of news that you would like us to consider for the next (August & Sept 2023) Good News edition, then please contact Jerry jerrykfoxy@gmail.com by mid-July.

If you know anyone in our communities who might like to receive this bimonthly bulletin, then please suggest that they contact the office with their email address. This will be retained confidentially.