

# Dover Town Team Ministry

## News from across our churches

### November 2023

#### Growing God's kingdom

There are some exciting things happening within our Benefice and I want to celebrate all the opportunities we have as disciples of Christ to grow God's kingdom by following Jesus' example of meeting people where they are to sow and nurture seeds of faith.

One of the new opportunities is that the benefice has joined a pilot scheme for Bubble Church which is aimed at families with children under 7. It is a 30 min service of bible stories told with puppets, action songs and an activity. I am really excited about trying this short interactive service aimed at the families we all want to bring into church but who often struggle with the length and style of our usual Sunday services. The aim of Bubble Church is that it is seen as a church service in its own right and it teaches families the importance of coming together on the Sabbath, that is why it is held on a Sunday, in a church.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to be part of the team, welcoming, leading and working the computer, if anyone else is interested please contact Rev Melissa there are lots of different roles. There is a training day in London on 11th November for those interested in leading and able to make it and then after that I would like to get everyone who is interested together to discuss our options for where and when so please let me know if you are interested so I can let you know when we will be meeting.

Some people have raised concerns that it won't be bringing children into the 'normal' Sunday service. In one way, it's not meant to, this will be a 'normal' service for those families who attend and it may be the only service for some families who are unable to come in the morning due to family, sport or work commitments. Also Bubble Church will be no more than once a month in any of our churches so it can be used as an opportunity to build relationships with families and invite them to other services and as the children and parents grow in age and faith they will hopefully look to attend other services which can support them in that stage of their faith journey. Many of the families are unchurched so as yet don't have a relationship with God which makes them want to prioritise Sunday morning worship. We need to help build those relationships so they feel like they belong.

So I encourage you to not look at any one service as being the 'main' or 'normal' service. If you want the service you attend to grow then invite people to come with you. If they don't want to come then we will always struggle to reach them, but if they want to but can't then we need to look for an alternative for them to enable them to engage. We may at times need to be willing to change our routine but let's look for the opportunities we might have to worship together, share our faith with someone new and help bring them into God's presence. And this is not just about families and Bubble Church it is about adults and midweek services, home groups and fellowship groups. As I often say to schools "when we listen to God and work together we can do amazing things".

Let's see what we can grow together.

*Revd Melissa Carter, Team Vicar*



#### Benefice-wide 'Headlines'

**Benefice Forum Tuesday 31 October, 7pm for 7.30pm-9pm at St Martins church** - will have a financial focus.

**Tuesday 28 November** - afternoon - interview date for Mission Post

**Tuesday 28 November 7pm Advent Course Evening 1** - at St Martin's Church with light supper - guest leader

**Saturday 2 December 12noon-2pm Christmas Leafleting & Hot Chocolate for the Town outside St Mary's Church** - there has been a decision that each church will produce their own separate Christmas leaflet this year - so come with your reps & leaflets!

**Benefice Forum Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm for 7.30pm-9pm at Charlton church** - guest speaker Jen Tobin the new Diocesan Lead Officer for Children's & Young People Ministry

**Tuesday 12 December 7pm Advent Course Evening 2 (and last)** - at St Martin's Church with light supper - guest leader

## Other regular activities

**Meditation & Taize Chanting** Tuesdays 9am-10am at **St Andrew's Buckland**

**Little Adventurers** Tuesday, 9am-12noon at **St Martin's Dover** come & go whenever suits with the little ones (term time only)

**CAMEO** – Tuesdays, 2.30-3.30pm at **St Martin's Dover** – **Come And Meet Each Other!** Every week except the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month

**Holy Communion** – Wednesdays. 10-10.45am at **St Mary's** with chat & refreshments afterwards

**St Andrew's Alive!** Wednesdays 4.30-5.30pm at **St Andrew's Buckland** well-being activity group

**Said Eucharist** – Thursdays, 9.30am at **Charlton**

**Little Lambs** – Fridays, 9.30-11.30am at **St Mary's**– age range is from birth up to starting primary school age

**Service of the Litany** - prayers and discussion on bible passage - 9.30am-10.30am on **Fridays** at **Charlton Church**

**Local Global** - **Saturdays** 10am-11am prayers, reflection and discussion at **St Mary's Church**

## Sunday Services across our Churches

	<b>St Mary the Virgin, Dover</b> 10.45am	<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul Charlton</b> 8am (HC) & 9.30am	<b>St Martin, Dover</b> 10.30am	<b>St Andrew Buckland-in- Dover</b> 10.30am
5 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion with healing: laying on of hands and anointing (Rev Catherine w Chris Scoble preaching & Gill Neary)	7am (Rec Catherine) Parish Mass (Fr Peter Sherred) 3pm All Souls (Rev Melissa w Wendy Bowditch preaching)	Explore service (Henry Coates & team) 6pm Connect (local team)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Kevin Jacobs)
12 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Sunday Communion (Rev Trish w Ant Shilson preaching)	Remembrance Sunday Mass (Rev Melissa) & Family Service (Alistair Mackie & LAMB)	Remembrance Sunday Morning Worship (Wendy Bowditch w Malcolm Gavin preaching)	Remembrance Sunday service (Nigel Collins)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion (+Rose w Rev Catherine)	8am (Rev Catherine) Parish Mass (Fr Richard Woods w DCY Choir)	Holy Communion (Rev Melissa w Graham Snellin preaching)	Morning Prayer (Anne Collins w Nigel Collins preaching)
26 <sup>th</sup>	Family Friendly Communion (Rev Trish w Rev Melissa preaching)	8am (Rev Melissa) Parish Mass (Archdeacon Darren)	Morning Worship (Malcolm Gavin w Henry Coates preaching)	Patronal Eucharist (Rev Catherine w Anne Collins reflecting)

## Other News and Events across our Churches

### St Mary's News & Events open to all:

**Sunday 5 Nov – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent** - join us after your service at 12.15 at St Mary's for sparklers in the grounds & hot drinks - all welcome.

And to let you know that on **Sunday 19 Nov – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Before Advent** – we have guest preacher Bp Rose Hudson-Wilkin Bishop of Dover at St Mary's - she will stay for refreshments after the service if you want to meet her after your service - all welcome.

**Saturday 25 November - 11am-2pm Lead up to Christmas Fayre & Community Cafe** in the Parish Centre - all welcome

**Sunday 3 Dec - 6pm** - join us at St Mary's for the **Advent Sung Service** - it's not a Choral Evensong but something different! - all welcome

### Charlton News & Events open to all:

Charlton hold regular **Bingo and American Supper** events – to receive details direct to your email box drop Chris Tyler a message and he'll add you to their mailing: [chris.tyler8882@gmail.com](mailto:chris.tyler8882@gmail.com)

Don't forget the **Fine Arts Concerts on the last Sunday of the month** at 3pm (details were in last months Benefice News or available from Charles Spanner [chas.spanner@gmail.com](mailto:chas.spanner@gmail.com))

## **Contacts (Team clergy & parishes)**

**Revd Catherine Tucker** – Interim Team Rector (focus: St Marys) 07709 618063 [doverttm@outlook.com](mailto:doverttm@outlook.com) day off Mon

**Revd Melissa Carter** – Team Vicar (St Martins, Children & Schools) 07825 910116 [rev.melissa.carter@gmail.com](mailto:rev.melissa.carter@gmail.com) day off Fri

### **Parish Point of Contact (Communications)**

**Buckland** – Nigel Collins [bucklandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bucklandchurch@gmail.com)

**Charlton** – Camilla Otaki [Camilla65Otaki@gmail.com](mailto:Camilla65Otaki@gmail.com) OR Richard Harman [richardharman48@gmail.com](mailto:richardharman48@gmail.com)

**St Martins** – Malcolm Gavin [malcolm.gavin@talktalk.net](mailto:malcolm.gavin@talktalk.net) OR Joanne Terry [joanneterry@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joanneterry@yahoo.co.uk)

**St Marys** – Lindsay Powell-Williams [lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com)

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION: SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**