

St Mary's Church, Mudford

St Mary's Church has celebrated two of the most important Christian Festivals in the last few months. The Christmas services were quite well-attended, particularly the Carol Service and, of course, the lovely Christingle and Crib Service on Christmas Eve, when the church was packed with people of all ages and lots of children.

During Lent, we met with others from the benefice weekly in our Village Hall to take part in a fascinating study the Parable of the Prodigal Son, with particular reference to Rembrandt's painting and the writings of Henri Nouwen. On Palm Sunday, we joined our friends at Rimpton Church for the traditional procession to church with a donkey, followed by a dramatised reading of the passion gospel. Later that week, there was a moving evening of music and poetry on Good Friday, with wonderful music provided by Stephen Suttle on the organ and the Benefice Choir, under the direction of Ken Sherring. The poems were a sequence called 'Words from the Cross' by Godfrey Rust.

As always, the church was beautifully decorated for Easter by the dedicated team of flower arrangers, led by Lydia Gane, but our Easter Day Communion Service was made even more special because a wonderful new altar frontal, designed and made by Yvonne Rowlands, was on display on the communion table. It features Noah's Ark and the rainbow and is really striking, vivid and absolutely splendid. Yvonne told us all a little about what had inspired her and the process by which the piece was made, and the Rev'd Jeremy Swayne blessed and dedicated during the service. Please find time to go and look at it.

Also, in the Easter holiday, we held another Fun Day, entitled 'Wild in the Wilderness', which was enjoyed by a dozen children and included the usual range of stories, crafts, cooking and games. We learned a great deal about wild places and deserts in different parts of the world and the animals of the Judean wilderness, we painted stones, tried to pitch a tent in the wind, made raven masks and ate the rock cakes containing dates which we made together, as well as hearing stories about Jesus, Elijah and Abraham in the wilderness and playing a lot of games.

There is a service in church almost every Sunday at 11.00, followed by coffee, biscuits and a chat. However, in the next few weeks, there will be a couple of exceptions:

Sunday, 26th May will be a Café Church in the Village Hall for Rogation Sunday. Breakfast will be served from 10.00am and worship will commence at 11.00. Depending on the weather, those who are able will go across to recreation ground for part of the service. We did this once before and it was well-received by those who came along.

Sunday, 9th June will be a Benefice Pentecost (Whit Sunday) Service at Marston Magna, commencing at 9.30am. There will be no Morning Service at Mudford.

EVERYONE is WELCOME at ALL our services and events.

For further information or if you wish to contact us, please check our posters, flyers and leaflets, ring or email Revd Barbara on 01935 850745 / barbarastanton@protonmail.com or visit our website: <http://www.mudfordchurch.org.uk/>