

**The Windmill United Benefice**  
St Bartholomew, Burstow ■ St Mary the Virgin,  
Horne ■ St John the Baptist, Outwood

## Church Calendar for June

As restrictions begin to lift, services in the churches are resuming. This month there will be 'live' services in the churches every week. Please note that currently, social distancing measures remain in place, masks must be worn and singing is not yet allowed inside the churches. Any changes will be posted on the benefice website, or on the church notice boards. In addition, the online Sunday services will continue and can be found on the benefice website, [www.windmillchurches.co.uk](http://www.windmillchurches.co.uk), or on CD (contact Nicholas if you would like one delivered to you)

### Sunday 6 June

- 9.30 am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew, Burstow
- 10 am Morning Worship at St Mary, Horne
- 11 am Morning Worship at St John, Outwood

### Sunday 13 June

- 9.30 am Holy Comunion at St Bartholomew, Burstow
- 10 am Holy Comunion at St Mary, Horne
- 11 am Holy Comunion at St John, Outwood

### Sunday 20 June

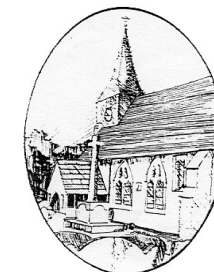
- 9.30 am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew, Burstow
- 10 am Morning Worship at St Mary, Horne
- 11 am Morning Worship at St John, Outwood

### Birth of John the Baptist, Sunday 27 June

- 9.30 am Holy Comunion at St Bartholomew, Burstow
- 10 am Holy Comunion at St Mary, Horne
- 11 am Holy Comunion at St John, Outwood

## St Mary the Virgin

Church Road, Horne RH6 9LA  
*(The church is open to visitors every day)*



## Diary for June 2021

### Churches count on nature

Come along to St Mary's churchyard on Saturday 12 June, any time between 2-4pm to take part in surveying plants and wildlife. It doesn't matter whether you are an expert bird watcher, a novice botanist or just keen to explore nature – in fact, there is no requirement to participate in the survey at all, so you could just come along to relax and admire the nature in the churchyard. There will be activities for children, including a treasure hunt. Bring along your own magnifying glass or binoculars! Churches Count on Nature is part of the Caring for God's Acre's Love Your Burial Ground week

### Rector's Ramblings

I've recently returned from ten days away in Dorset. Our post-Easter break is usually in France but Covid restrictions meant that we were unable to go abroad so we rented a house in Swanage. I was chatting about my time away to Michael Harvey from Outwood, who some of you will know, and he said he remembered Swanage for three things: the train, Corfe Castle and the sea – in that order. I said I remembered it for those three things as well, except in reverse order – the sea, Corfe Castle and the train! I loved the steam train puffing, chugging and whistling its way between Swanage and Corfe, a reminder of a bygone age. I loved Corfe Castle, a ruin from a much older bygone age, but still an amazing feature in the landscape and so evocative of "knights of old" (and incidentally maybe also the inspiration for Enid Blyton's Kirrin Castle). But first on the list for me had to be the sea – the stunning views along the South-West Coast path, the beautiful blues and the sheltered bays and coves.

But what also struck me about the area was the number of churches dedicated to the saint whose name I share, Saint Nicholas. It dawned on me that you tend to find churches dedicated to St Nicholas by the sea because he is (among other things) the patron saint of sailors and fishermen. When

those churches were built those who earned their living by and on the sea knew, along with their families, that the sea was (and still is) often a dangerous place to be and having a saint who you feel is on your side and from whom you can request prayers was a benefit.

St Nicholas and seaside churches is an obvious connection but often the reason for a church's dedication is lost in the midst of time. The three churches of the benefice have popular dedications. St Mary the Virgin, Horne has by far the most common dedication for a church and St Bartholomew, Burstow's dedication, though less common for more recent churches, was a popular one in the medieval times from which the church dates. Although St John the Baptist, Outwood is by far the youngest of the three churches I haven't able to find out why he was chosen for Outwood, though it is probably again simply because it is a popular dedication.

However, talking of St John the Baptist, the Christian Church celebrates his birth this month, on 24 June and at Outwood we celebrate it on the nearest Sunday to his birth – this year it's Sunday 27 June. You are very welcome to come along, but it may be that church going is not your thing. However, one of the special things about the online services we created because of lockdown has been that many people who didn't usually go to church have told me that they have been 'going to church' more than they ever have done because online worship is so much more accessible for them. (You can find all the online services here: [www.windmillchurches.co.uk](http://www.windmillchurches.co.uk))

Another special thing about lockdown is that we have kept all three churches open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I feel this is very important as although church services are very much a part of my life, I also love sitting alone in an empty church. I love the silence and the stillness and when out on one of my walks, whether recent ones in Dorset or past ones on the South Downs, I never pass a church without trying the door and hopefully going inside. It always disappoints me to find a locked one.

At one of the churches I stopped at recently I found cards on the pews which said this:

Whether you have come to a Sunday service, a wedding or a funeral, for some quiet personal reflection, or just to take a look – then whoever you are, and whatever you believe in, you are welcome. If you are here for a service and you don't know what to do, please don't worry – no one will mind. We do hope, however, that you will share with us a sense that this is a special place.

I like those words, especially the bit about whoever you are and whatever you believe in. They sound all embracing and all welcoming. And that is how I like to think of God.

So if you are passing one of the churches of the benefice feel free to try the door. They are always open, you are always welcome and they are special places. But remember as well, that wherever you are: where you are, God is.

With love and prayers

**Nicholas**                      01342 842224    [Nicholas.calver@btinternet.com](mailto:Nicholas.calver@btinternet.com)

## **GOING GREEN – THE EARTH IS WHAT WE EAT**

It does not sound quite right, yet it is true: the earth, the land, the soil, the seas, rivers and lakes – they all provide food for our survival. The closer we look, the more we can see the damage inflicted upon soil and water bodies through intensive farming methods and pollution. We all care about the food we eat. All that pollution sooner or later, one way or another, ends up on our plates.

There is more scientific evidence emerging on how pollution and changes in weather patterns affect crop yields. There is a clear link between the soil quality and decreasing nutritional content of food, namely the number of vitamins and minerals. Have you ever wondered why no weeds are growing in some fields after the harvest? If you look at your garden or the neighbour's allotment, the situation tends to be somewhat different. The crux of the matter is the soil quality – all those pesticides and herbicides kill many living things, including weeds.

Some readers might remember that in some foreign lands or back in the olden days' fruit and veg used to taste different. So did dairy products and meat. Even when we grow our own food, it tastes different. In our gardens or allotments, we can be more mindful about using various chemicals and find natural ways of improving the soil.

It is great to see more farmers taking a different approach to land stewardship – regenerative farming, organic methods, crop rotations, and no-till farming (a bit like no-dig gardening). The side effect is often better soil quality, which means tastier food and increasing biodiversity above and below the ground. Want to support local food growers? Visit <https://localfoodbritain.com>. Our individual actions and local farmers' actions will contribute to healthier food and environment for all of us. So, let us all take a little bit more care for the earth and what we eat.

**Lauma Kazusa**