

## Points of note from the Benefice Council Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012

•The Council passed a motion (10 in favour, 0 against and 4 abstentions) to become a member of the Sevenoaks Christian School's Trust, should the new Sevenoaks Christian School be given the go ahead by the Government. This Trust would appoint governors to the new school and ensure its Christian ethos. The Council expressed concern that the admissions oversubscription criteria might disadvantage local children and urged that the criteria might be fair to local children

•The Council has now received an order from the Bishop permitting people with a qualifying connection to one of our churches to be married in any of the Benefice churches

•The Pilgrim group will be taking a more prominent role in baptism preparation and follow-up. Baptism families will be asked to attend a preparation session before they are given a date for their child's baptism to ensure that they know what they are signing up for.

•The Council endorsed the CYP's suggestion of a summer holiday club, provided sufficient helpers can be found.

•The Council noted that whilst a majority of those who attended the "Children and Communion" meetings were in favour of giving Communion to children prior to Confirmation, the low rate of attendance, lack of response by parents to a questionnaire and lack of enthusiasm in the Council itself, did not at this time give sufficient warrant to proceed with the policy of admitting children to communion prior to Confirmation. Council members will solicit thoughts from their PCCs and discuss the matter again if there is a desire.

•The council agreed to invite the Church of Christchurch on the Mead, Hackney, to begin a journey of friendship. Christchurch serves a particularly deprived housing estate in East London, very different to our locality. It is envisaged that exchanges of information, prayer requests and an exchange visit might take place. The aim would be mutual learning, support and friendship.

•The Council agreed the pattern of services for the year and especially commended the new alternative evening worship service as a point of growth. Please see the calendar on the website for details.

•The Council endorsed a draft 'electoral roll pack' that would encourage potential church members to prayerfully commit to giving to the life of the church financially and in service.

Notices for the Pew Sheet are to be sent to Tina at the Rectory Office by Thursday 5pm every week. Please contact by email: [mail@efl-churches.org](mailto:mail@efl-churches.org) or phone 863050. The Rectory office is open Monday (8am-noon), Wednesday (8am-noon) and Friday mornings (8am-1pm.)

# EFL news

19<sup>th</sup> February 2012

*Sunday next before Lent*

## Sunday 19th February

8.00am	Holy Communion	Farningham
9.30am	Holy Communion	Eynsford
11.00am	Holy Communion	Lullingstone
4.00pm	Tea Time Family Praise with bring & share tea	Farningham

## Monday

Midday Prayer at St Martin's, 12noon.

Baptism Prep at St Peter & St Paul's, 7.30pm.

CYP Meeting at the Rectory, 8.00pm.

## Tuesday

Dedication Service to the new Christian secondary school in Sevenoaks at Chevening Church, 11.00am.

Benefice Pancake Party and AGM at Farningham Cricket Club, 6pm.

Alpha Course at the Rectory at 7.30pm.

## Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion with Ashing at St Peter & St Paul's, 7.30pm.

## Thursday

Bible Study Group at 71 Pollyhaugh, 10.30am.

Tea & Chat in FVH, 2.00pm.

Wedding Prep Evening at St Peter & St Paul's, 7.30pm.

## Friday

Holy Communion at St Martin's, 9.30am.

## Saturday

Prayers for the Benefice at 17 Tilmans Mead, 10.00am.

## Sunday 26th February

8.00am	Holy Communion	Eynsford
9.30am	Holy Communion	Farningham
11.00am	Matins	Lullingstone
6.30pm	Evening Worship-Taizé for Lent	Eynsford
6.30pm	YzUp	OSH

Benefice email address — [mail@efl-churches.org](mailto:mail@efl-churches.org)  
Benefice website — [www.efl-churches.org](http://www.efl-churches.org)  
Rev. Gary's email address: [eflrector@googlemail.com](mailto:eflrector@googlemail.com)

## Notices

### Evening Worship Service

Next Sunday's alternative evening worship is a Taizé service, using the quiet and meditative chants made popular by the Christian Community of Taizé.

### Celebration of Thomas Cranmer

Bishop James will be visiting St Botolph's on 21st March, 7.30pm for a service of choral evensong to commemorate Thomas Cranmer (who wrote the BCP). All are invited, and invitations to give to friends and neighbours are available from the back of each church. Please take and use them.

### Womens' World Day of Prayer

All welcome to come along to St Peter & St Paul's on Friday 2nd March at 1.30pm. The theme will be 'Let Justice Prevail' and we will be praying for Malaysia. Refreshments served afterwards.



### New Dean of Rochester

Rev Dr Mark Beach will be the new Dean of Rochester. His installation will be held on Sunday 20th May at 3.15pm in the Cathedral.

### Do you like cryptic quizzes?

Margery is selling an A4 sheet of quiz questions with 25 answers to find, all being names of places in Essex, Kent, London, Surrey and Sussex. Each sheet costs £1 and can be returned to Christian Aid (address on back of sheet) or to Margery who will be offering a prize of Fairtrade cereal and juice to the winner!

### Lent

Please see the special 'Lent' sheet for details about Lent services, Lent groups and two quiet days with Bishop James. Please sign up for these activities on the sheet at the back of church or speak directly to group leaders.



### Church opening

It is so important that St Martin's, like the other churches in the Benefice is kept open each day. Brenda Town, who has done this job for many years is now having to retire. Iris is happy to continue opening and closing church every other week, but we need a volunteer to take over Brenda's weeks. Please speak to Ruth or Gary to find out more.

### Two great events for your diary Saturday 17th March

**DVYM quiz** in aid of church funds, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.  
**Dave Bilborough** - writer of many modern choruses including Abba Father and All Hail the Lamb will be performing in Eynsford Baptist church - tickets £5.00 in advance.

### Books for Lent

Tonbridge Christian Book Centre launch the new book by Rev Andrew and Dr Elizabeth Procter, 'Encountering Depression: Frequently Asked Questions answered for Christians'.  
Friday 24th February, 7.45pm at Plaxtol Memorial Hall.  
Tickets £3. Book price on the night with ticket £8.  
Contact TCBC 01732 364897 sales@tcbconline.co.uk  
or Rev Procter 01732 811081 a.procter@live.co.uk



### *We pray for those who are poorly...*

Colin Wise, Johnny Gattung, Jean Humphreys, Michael, Ann Wootton, Alan Gillott, Doreen Reardon, Eileen Vann, Lucy Boddington, Yvonne Sansom.

### *We Pray for those mourning the loss of loved ones...*

Delia, Doreen Rose, Liz Caswell.