

**Stoke Prior, Wychbold & Upton Warren Churches**

 **May 24 Services & News**

**From the Church Diary in April**

**Funerals** 1st David Rea - Wychbold

 2nd Betty Cooper - Stoke Prior

 9th Mavis Nokes - Stoke Prior

**Weddings** 27th Alexander Margetts and Rebecca Connor – Wychbold

**Baptisms** 14th Ralph Geroge Hinton – Stoke Prior

 28th Abel James Deane Arnold – Stoke Prior

**Baptisms in April**

 25th March William and Edith Bowen at Stoke Prior

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**SERVICES FOR MAY**

**Upton Warren**

 5th 9am Holy Communion

 11th 10-12 Coffee and Cake

 19th 9am Iona Celtic Morning Prayer

Midweek service Tuesday 21st at the home of **Tom Hickinbottom**

**Wychbold**

 5th 10:45am Short service - Celtic Morning Prayer

 11th 3pm Wedding

12th **NO SERVICE**

 21st 10:45am Holy Communion

**Stoke Prior – PLEASE NOTE THE TIME REMAINS AT 5pm**

4th 1pm Wedding

5th 12pm Baptism

 12th 10:30am 20 is Plenty

 12th 5pm Holy Communion

 19th 5pm Evensong

 26th 5pm Informal (Kate)

 2nd JUNE 10am Farewell Eucharist

Midweek service at the **earlier time of 10:30am\*** in Upton Warren on 29th May

*\*Please note the time – Paula has a funeral that day*

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**From 7th July**, Rev Pat Barford will be taking **a service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. This service will be for the three churches together and will be held in Stoke Prior Church at 10:30am each month.** Many people will remember Pat with fondness from her time as a curate. We are grateful to Pat for her commitment to providing a regular service for us for the next 12 months. This is an opportunity to worship together so all are warmly invited – despite the new time and/or place for all of us.

Kate Cross, ALM Worship Leader, will continue to lead an **evening service on the 4th Sunday of the month in Stoke Prior at 6pm.** Details of other services across the parish will be displayed on church noticeboards. We are grateful to Kate for her leadership and creativity.

Karen Deane, Worship Leader at St Mary de Wyche, is standing down at the end of May. Karen is a wonderful gift to the church, and we thank her for her leadership and for sharing thought-provoking reflections. We wish her well and hope she will return to ministry in the future.

**THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**: **TUES 14TH MAY 7:30pm** in Stoke Prior. Reports will be sent out a week before to those on the electoral roll who have email addresses. Hard copies will be available in church on 12th.

**MEETING WITH ARCHDEACON NIKKI GROARKE**

A congregational meeting was held on 22nd April with the Archdeacon and Alison Maddocks, Dean of Smaller Churches. It was well attended. Main points taken from the meeting:

* There will be NO church closures.
* Due to average congregations of 10 or less at Wychbold and Upton Warren, Stoke Prior is likely to be the centre for worship from June onwards, with the other churches available for weddings, funerals, baptisms and social events.
* Questions were raised concerning the practicalities. Alison Maddocks will be working very closely with the DCC and other groups as we move forward. **She will also arrange public consultations across the district.**
* In the absence of church wardens, each church will need a contact person.
* If you feel you are able to offer a little time or if you have an interest in taking an active part in the life of the church – buildings, governance, community or worship, please contact Michelle Bovey at Stoke Prior Church (or Paula before the end of May).

**NB** For some roles, you may need to be on the electoral roll.

**Heritage Friends Group – St Michael & All Angels, Stoke Prior**

**Events 2024 - Update**

Again, we have decided **NOT** to organise a Craft Fair and Table Top sale this year and the events below are now confirmed.

Wherever possible, please come along and give your support and remember, there are events held for the joint benefit the churches of Stoke Prior, Upton Warren & Wychbold.

**Event Date or To Be Confirmed**

80th Anniversary of D-Day Thu 6th June 2024

Quiz Sat 15th June 2024

Ride & Stride Sat 14th September 2024

Brilliant Builders\* Sat/Sun 14/15th September 2024

Heritage Open Days\* Sat/Sun 14/15th September 2024

Stories in the Stones\* Sat/Sun 14/15th September 2024

Bazaar Sat 23rd November 2024

Halloween Sat 26/11 or Fri 01/11

Brunch with Santa Sat 21st December 2024

Christmas Tree Festival 30/12/24 – 03/01/25 inc.

 \* to be run at the same time

PLEASE GENEROUSLY SUPPORT THE LOCAL FOODBANK – donations can be left in all three churches. Include toiletries and washing powders, etc as well as food.

Find us on Facebook (United Parish of Stoke Prior, Wychbold and Upton Warren), or

on our individual church websites (A Church Near You + the church name)

We are also part of the Bromsgrove Parish Website or **scan this QR code….**

**Reverend Paula Honniball**

Team Vicar in the Bromsgrove Parish (part-time)

with responsibility for Wychbold, Stoke Prior, Upton Warren Churches

*Usual Parish working days Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.*

Tel. **07902 098 500 -** *For urgent enquiries on other days please contact the Parish Office on:* ***01527 577759 or*** *Rev David Ford on* ***01527 873831*** *for any urgent pastoral issues.*