



St Mark's Church, Reigate

September 2018

Letter from the Vicar, Father Martin Colton

Dear Friends

September is effectively the start of a New Year for many people. It's always a busy month with every group and committee in churches, schools and many other organizations the length and breadth of the country wanting to hold meetings so that they can make a 'good start'. If you read through this magazine you will read of all the things we are planning to do at St Mark's over the next four months – and beyond. It can make you dizzy just reading about it all. And thinking about Christmas – well that will immediately set you in a spin!

So what is it with all this 'busyness'? Why are we planning all these activities? And who are they for?

As is so often the case, simple enough questions don't lead to simple answers. Is all this for the benefit of the congregation of St Mark's? Well, yes. We will enjoy taking part in all the things that are planned for the coming months, whether it be the Vintage Tea, Harvest Festival, the Social Dances, Messy Church, Concerts, Community Lunch, SMART meetings, SMOAT events, All Souls' Service, Remembrance Sunday, or the Carol Service, or any other of the dozens of things scheduled to take place over the coming months (too many to mention!).

But we are not planning these things just for our own benefit. We are planning them for the benefit of friends and neighbours, and members of the parish of St Mark's who we don't even know – yet. We are seeking to invite people into the Church fellowship, to invite people into relationship with Jesus Christ. Why? Because having a relationship with Jesus Christ is something that we value; it is important to us and helps us in our lives, and so we want others to benefit from that relationship as we do. We want to travel with other people on a shared journey of discovery, and the sharing of that journey with other people of faith in our church fellowship is one of the most important things that we as a church can do.

So the question you should ask yourself as you read through all the events of the coming months is not really: 'Do I want to come to that?' It is rather: 'Who am I going to invite to come with me to this or that event?' By approaching things from this angle we start to engage in the most fundamental activity of the Church – namely MISSION. Over the coming months we, as a Church, will be considering the Five Marks of Mission that the churches worldwide have identified, and evaluating how each and every one of us can be included and play our part in the life of the mission of St Mark's.

With my best wishes