

St Mary the Virgin Furneux Pelham

In the Benefice of St Mary's Braughing,
St Mary's Furneux Pelham and St Mary's Stocking Pelham



“Time flies—mind your business”



*The Church is open to visitors every day, during daylight hours.
It is an interesting and beautiful place: come, rest and find
quiet peace.*

Introduction

St Mary's is a small, friendly church which meets together most weeks of the year. St Mary's is part of the Ash and Quin Valleys Group in the Bishop's Stortford Deanery of the Diocese of St Albans and is one of three churches in a rural Benefice along with St Mary's, Braughing and St Mary's, Stocking Pelham.

The church is committed to "Living God's love", the key message of the Diocese, which involves us in helping people to go deeper into God, transforming the community and making new disciples. Worship is central to who we are and reflects our desire to engage with everyone in the village. We have a mix of services each month, from the more traditional to the modern – there really is something for everyone at St Mary's!

We also enjoy meeting together socially with a monthly Coffee Shop and other social and fundraising events throughout the year. The church enjoys close links with the local Church of England primary school, which regularly uses the church building for services and other faith related activities.

Services

There is a monthly pattern of services, but please see the current parish magazine and church noticeboard for any variations*:

1st Sunday— 9.30am Holy Communion

A short, quiet traditional service according to the Book of Common Prayer, without hymns, followed by coffee.

2nd Sunday— 11.15am Holy Communion

Common Worship service with hymns.

3rd Sunday— 9.30am Café Church



A short modern informal service for all ages, starting with coffee and conversation. It includes singing, children's craft and a talk.

4th Sunday— 11.15am Morning Worship

A service of readings, hymns, prayers and a short sermon.

5th Sunday— 10.30am at STOCKING PELHAM

All 3 parishes come together to join in a service of Holy Communion, followed by coffee.

**Variations mostly occur around festival times and during August.*

Seasonal Services

There are special services for Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance. In August there is a 'Group Safari', which includes all the churches in the Ash and Quin Valleys Group; Braughing, Stocking Pelham, Albury, Little Hadham and Much Hadham. It is an opportunity to meet neighbouring congregations and to worship in other local churches.

Church Activities

Coffee Shop—Held on 25th of nearly every month from 10am until 12noon, serving freshly brewed coffee and homemade cakes. It is often an opportunity to buy locally made jam and marmalade and some seasonal produce. Everyone welcome, including (well-behaved) dogs.

Soup Lunch—Raising money for a local charity, this is held during Lent in the Church.

Harvest Supper—A long established event held in the autumn in the Village Hall, usually including a Bar and Raffle.

Plant Sale—Held in the late Spring/early Summer. A chance to buy plants for your flower garden or vegetable patch. All locally grown.



There are also other occasional family events, for example Christmas tree decorating, an Easter egg hunt and occasional Family craft afternoons.

Baptisms/Marriage/Funerals

Please contact Rev'd Julie Gawthrop for enquiries regarding any of these services or indeed for any other pastoral matter.



St Mary's is a perfect venue for a wedding, to renew your marriage vows (which can be done at any time after your marriage) or receive a blessing on an anniversary.

Regular Benefice Activities & Groups

House Group—Meets fortnightly, on Mondays at 3pm during term time.

Refresh—An informal service of spirit led worship held at St Mary's, Braughing but for all those in the Ash and Quin Valleys Group. On the 2nd Sunday of the month this service is from 6pm to 7pm and starts with a time of fellowship, coffee and cakes at 5.45pm.

Impact—A social group, held in Braughing from 5.15pm until 6.30pm on the 1st Sunday of the month (during term time) for children in school years 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The Church



This is an ancient Church which is, and has been, at the heart of the village for many centuries. It relies entirely on voluntary help to keep it running. If you would like to contribute to its upkeep either by helping in any way or financially, please speak to the Rector, the Churchwarden, or to a member of the PCC (Parochial Church Council).

Thank you.

Rector - Rev'd Julie Gawthrope,
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*Dear Father God,
Thank you for the beautiful countryside around us. May we conserve
and care for your wonderful handiwork and help us to keep our
village a safe place in which to live and flourish. Show us how to fill it
with kind deeds and loving words. Let it be the kind of village that
brings you honour and glory. **Amen***

