

Dear Friends,

There are many delights which come with being the parish priest and certainly, one of these is being able to be alongside members of the community during one of the 'occasional offices'. Weddings, funerals and baptisms are those which fall in to this category.

In the Benefice, these services do indeed take place on occasions throughout the year. The joining of two people in marriage is a wonderful privilege and a happy time. When our loved ones die, of course we take the opportunity to commend them to God and remember what they meant to us and the funeral service helps us at these difficult times. The service of baptism gives us all the opportunity to welcome children and indeed adults into the family of the Christian faith. These are times of celebration and joy. Later on, those who have been baptised have the opportunity to confirm their faith at a service of 'confirmation'.

I have taken the opportunity to talk about the occasional offices this month in order to extend an invitation to anyone who might be considering marriage in the church, baptism, or indeed confirmation. If you would like an informal chat about what is involved, do contact me, Dodie or Richard. You don't have to commit to anything but I am only too aware myself that finding out how to go about these things might seem daunting, even though the desire is there. Please don't ever feel put off, we are only too pleased to help.

In the meantime my good wishes and prayers go out to all those who have been or are going to be married, baptised or confirmed this year, as indeed they do to you all.

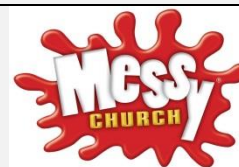
Warmest regards.

Craig



**Blessing the New Facilities
Sunday 24th June - 6.00pm
St. Peter's Church**

Join us as we give thanks for the new facilities of loo and servery in St. Peter's. 'Please be seated'.



**Messy Church Barbecue
Saturday 16th June - 4.00pm
St. Mary Bourne Vicarage Garden**
Please bring along whatever you would like cooked and join in the fun.
All welcome!

Vicar's Diary Dates

1st June	Friday Reflections	7.00pm	The School House, Hurstbourne Priors
16th June	Messy Church BBQ	4.00pm	Vicarage garden (Bring and share)
24th June	Blessing of facilities	6.00pm	St. Peter's Church
26th June	Bible Study	11.00am	The Vicarage, St. Mary Bourne
Thursdays	Home Group	3.30pm	4 Applegate, St. Mary Bourne
1st July	Jonathan Evans' ordination	10.00am	Winchester Cathedral