

Dear Friends,

I am sure that all of us at some time or another have come across 'soundbites' and 'slogans'. Our recent general election threw up one or two as I am sure you are only too aware. Though sometimes overlapped to the point of being tiresome, they can, none the less, be powerful tools for persuading and communicating.

Thumbing through my diary for forthcoming events, I came up with a slogan of my own in relation to a significant event taking place at 6.00pm on Sunday 2nd July in St. Peter's Church, St Mary Bourne. My slogan is:

Confirming my Commitment to my Community

The specific context for this is that up to fourteen youngsters will be confirming their commitment to the church community of faith at a Confirmation Service conducted by the Bishop of Basingstoke. This will be a wonderful experience for all concerned and their families and everyone in the benefice is very welcome to attend.

For me, one of the great joys of living in a village is that there is a strong sense of community. Sometimes the focal point for this might be the church but often it is the pub, the shop, the village hall or many of the organisations which run for the benefit of residents and neighbours.

I shall be praying for the confirmation candidates as they prepare for their special evening. Please be assured too, that I will continue to pray for all the villages and hamlets in our benefice as I confirm my own commitment to the wonderful communities it is a privilege to serve.

This comes with every blessing to you all.

Craig

Vicar's Diary Dates

7 th July	Friday Reflections	7.00pm	Bourne House (Hurstbourne Priors) <i>(Mark and Susie Sorby's)</i>
25 th July	Bible Study	11.00am	The Vicarage (St. Mary Bourne)

Please note there will be no Friday Reflections or Bible Study in August