

Wykeham Benefice News April 2020

By the time you read this, the Benefice should have been well advanced with its plans for Easter: Holy Week normally starts with the Procession of Palms and a Benefice Eucharist at Epwell on Palm Sunday (5th April), where we follow a donkey (weather permitting) round the circular road in the middle of the village, commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. It would have continued with the Stations of the Cross service at Epwell on Wednesday 8th April, commemorating Jesus' painful progression through Jerusalem carrying his Cross; the Maundy Thursday service at Sibford to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and the occasion on which he washed his disciples' feet; and concluded with the one hour Meditation at the Cross on Good Friday at Tadmarton followed by a devotional service at Broughton on Good Friday evening. But Good Friday was not the end of Jesus: on Easter Day we would have started our celebration of his resurrection from the dead, of his conquest of the fear of death, with the first communion of Easter at 6am on Easter Sunday at Swalcliffe, and family communions in all churches later in the morning. Alas, the suspension of public services means that we are unlikely to resume worship on Sundays or during the week until the threat of catching the Corona Virus – Covid 19 – diminishes.

The impact of that virus on the country is increasing every day, with advice which restricts our lives more and more, especially for those who are over 70 or with underlying health conditions. And at this stage it is impossible to predict when those restrictions will end. One parishioner has asked me whether the combination of floods and disease – alongside fire (if you live in Australia) and plagues of locusts (if you live in East Africa) – foreshadow the end of time. Personally, I don't believe so, but these threats to our comfortable lives certainly challenge our preconceptions. They remind us of the need for mutual support and consideration of others, and of the relevance of second commandment in Jesus' summary of the Law – Love your neighbour as yourself. We will all be challenged by current events to follow guidance on self-isolation if we are unwell, to be considerate in avoiding the risk of passing on germs, and to care for others who are worried, suffering or self-isolating. For all of the tales of

suffering, there are also tales of love and self-sacrifice about those who care for the old and infirm or who consider others first. I cannot say why God allows these horrors to occur, other than to say that he has granted humankind free wills, but it is during such horrors that we as Christians have the chance to show others what it means to love our neighbours as ourselves.

In our Easter celebrations each year we are reminded of the joy of our faith: knowing that through the events of the first Good Friday our sins are forgiven if we turn to Christ and that through the events of the first Easter Sunday the fear of death has been overcome: it is not the end. We should remember to reassure those who are grieving over the loss of loved ones by reminding them of the meaning of Easter, far more important than Easter bunnies and Easter eggs. And of course, it is also the end of whatever we have given up or taken on for Lent. Even when we can't all join together for services, we can still pray at the same time and read the same scriptures. I will continue to circulate the pew sheets that we would have used in church with the regular bible readings for us to follow, and if it is possible we will explore whether we can use some sort of webcast to broadcast services to which we can all listen at the same time from the comfort of our homes.

So far as you can, have a very Happy Easter!

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News from the Benefice Villages

Though the public services have been suspended we are retaining the service and reading rotas in the WBN and John will also be providing pew sheets so that you can use these resources if you wish to continue your worship in line with the services. The pew sheets will be sent out via email and you will find them on the Wykeham Benefice News website. <https://wykehambenefice.org.uk/>.

Sibford

Like all Parishes within the Benefice we are now well into the interregnum. However, our Lay led services have all been meaningful and well supported by our congregation. Following the resignation of our Churchwarden, an extraordinary meeting of the PCC was held on 19th February where arrangements for electing a new churchwarden at the APCM on 30th April were discussed and agreed. This also included the appointment of a new PCC

Secretary and Parish Safeguarding Officer. The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019 were also accepted subject to audit.

The church services and events for Sibford: - Virus Permitting



PALM SUNDAY – 5TH APRIL AT 9.45AM *AT EPWELL

Procession of Palms and Benefice Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 9TH APRIL AT 7PM:

Benefice Eucharist and Washing of Feet

GOOD FRIDAY – MESSY CHURCH FROM 10 – 12 NOON. SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL

EASTER DAY – SUNDAY, 12TH APRIL AT 9.30AM Holy Communion

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 30TH APRIL AT 7PM IN THE CHURCH – Virus Permitting

This Meeting is open to all Members of the church who are on the Church Electoral Roll.

COFFEE MORNING – SATURDAY, 18TH APRIL 10 -12AM - TO BE HELD IN THE CHURCH, if permitted. This is the first of this year's coffee. Other dates to follow next month.

Swalcliffe

Lent Lunch held at Tyne Hill Farm on Monday; 2nd March was a very merry affair with 22 people attending. Thanks are due to all those who came along to make it such a success and for their kind donations. A sum of £200 was forwarded to Katharine House Hospice. Thank you to the cooks for some superb soups!

PIVA Concert

The concert on Saturday, 7th March attracted an audience of 64 who were treated to some lovely music played by the Renaissance band PIVA on their second visit to Swalcliffe. The six musicians played a varied and inspiring selection of dance and ballad music from the time of Shakespeare on a huge and wonderful range of woodwind instruments all of which were made by band members. The audience has been very complimentary about the concert and the sum of £384 was raised to go to support the annual expenses of running of the church.

Broughton

On Monday 2nd March S.M.H. held their A.G.M. a report on the past year was read out by the Chairman Neil Howarth. The meeting re-elected Neil as Chairman, Margaret Howarth as Secretary, Julie Taylor as Treasurer and Booking Secretary. The committee was also returned for another year: they were Margaret England, Sandra Walker and Peter Dent.

Tuesday 3rd March the Friendship club met. As well as enjoying a cuppa, biscuits and cake and discussing many topics we were entertained hearing about 'Funny insurance claims and Disorder in court', the latter from a book called 'Disorder in the court' a Collection of 'Transquips' collected by Richard Ledever. This made for much laughter which is good for the soul.

The Lent lunch held in S.M.H. on Monday 9th March: few came so thank you to those who did come and thanks to the person who took the trouble to send an apology and give a donation to the charity we were supporting namely the R.N.L.I. However, we did manage to raise over £75.00. Also thank you to the ladies who provided the lunch.

Tadmarton

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in church on Sunday 8th March. Matters discussed were The Treasurer's and Annual reports on the events and concerns of the church during the past twelve months. The church has 25 members on the electoral roll and parishioners are all welcome to join the roll. The Chairman the Rev'd J Tattersall gave a detailed explanation of the procedure for the appointment of a new Incumbent to this Benefice.

Some of the future church events have been announced in recent editions of the WBN. Please look out for further announcements nearer the time.

The next two months of services are detailed on the Church Notice Board and in both the Wykeham News and The Link. When possible, please come and join us at these services. You will receive a friendly welcome and there is always cake and biscuits and tea or coffee to enjoy.

Shutford

Fairtrade Fortnight took place between 24th February and 8th March and there was a small display of information and leaflets in St Martin's Church. Again this year, the fortnight concentrated on cocoa farmers and the need for them to earn a living income as well as sharing stories that show the positive impact that

Fairtrade has on the women behind the chocolate bar. Please buy Fairtrade whenever possible and be aware of the many products now available.

The early snowdrops in the churchyard have now faded to be replaced by daffodils and primroses. The church and churchyard are ideal for some quiet time with the bench overlooking Church Lane a great place to watch the world go by.

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent community lunch which raised £120 for church funds and also to those who leave provisions in the church box for the BYHP store cupboard.



Epwell

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins with the Palm Sunday service (5th April) when the procession around the village before the service is traditionally led by Percy the donkey. If permitted by then we shall gather in the square at 9.45am ready to process at 10.00am. The Stations of the Cross service in Epwell on Wednesday 8th April at 7.00pm will be a quiet and reflective occasion and the Good Friday service of readings and anthems takes place at Broughton at 2.00pm. The Easter Day service in the village will be led by Glyn Evans, beginning at 9.45am.



SPRING CLEAN - The PCC are planning to give the inside of St Anne's a spring clean during the week beginning 30th March. If anyone is able to help with a bit of polishing or sweeping at any time during that week then we would be very grateful. There will be a tick list of jobs that need doing inside the church for people to choose from.

THE APCM – TUESDAY, 28TH APRIL AT 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL Corona Virus permitting it is open to all.

'Thank you, Lord, that your golden daffodils bring hope at the end of winter. May your light bring us hope in our hearts and lift our spirits like a comforting, golden light. Amen'



Services for April – Virus Permitting

Sunday 5 th April Palm Sunday	Epwell	9.45am	Procession of Palms and Benefice Eucharist	JT
7 th April Tuesday of Holy Week	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	JT
8 th April Wednesday of Holy Week	Epwell	7pm	Stations of the Cross	JT
9 th April Maundy Thursday	Sibford	7pm	Benefice Eucharist and washing of feet	JT
10 th April Good Friday	Sibford Tadmarton Broughton	10am 2pm 7pm	Messy Church Good Friday Meditation Devotional service	JT JT JT
Sunday 12 th April Easter Day	Swalcliffe Sibford Shutford Epwell Broughton Swalcliffe Tadmarton	6am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11am 11am 11am	First Communion of Easter Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	JT JT CH GE CH GE JT
14 th April Tuesday of Easter Week	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	HS
Sunday 19 th April Easter 2	Broughton Sibford Swalcliffe Epwell Broughton Shutford Tadmarton	8am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11am 11am 11am	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion Scout service Morning Praise Village Service	JT DP Lay led JT JT Lay led Lay led
Tuesday 21 st April	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	DP
Sunday 26 th April Easter 3	Shutford Sibford Swalcliffe Epwell Broughton Tadmarton	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45 11am 11am	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	JT GE DP KS JT GE
Tuesday 28 th	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	HS

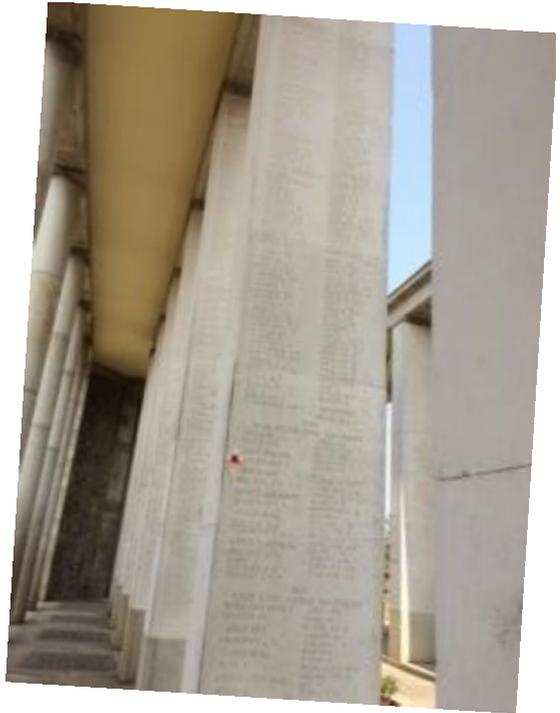
Assisting Clergy The Rev'd Dr David Pym (DP), The Revd Canon Glyn Evans (GE),
The Rev'd Canon John Whitwell (JW), The Ven Keith Smalldon (KS), The Rev'd
Michael Campling (MC)

A touching story of a Swalcliffe lad who now rests peacefully on the other side of the world.

L/Cpl Leslie Barber Remembrance Cross

A small wooden cross inscribed in memory of Leslie Barber, that had been displayed at the war memorial inside Swalcliffe Church since Remembrance Sunday last November, was taken by Janet Hodges on her visit to Myanmar (Burma) in January. She placed the cross in the Taukkyan cemetery (Commonwealth War Graves).

L/Cpl Barber was born on 16th April 1916 in Swalcliffe. He was killed in action on 3 April 1942 during the retreat through Burma. Janet placed the cross on the column inscribed with his name (several sections above the actual cross) which commemorates those with no known grave.



In the same cemetery, the poppy wreath on the Cross of Remembrance is the one that was laid in Broughton Church on Remembrance Sunday Nov 2018 and was there until a new one replaced it last November.

Readings for April

		Old Testament	New Testament	The Gospel
Palm Sunday	Sunday 5 th April	Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a	Philippians 2: 5 - 11	Matthew 26: 1–27 & 61
Maundy Thursday	Thursday 9 th April	Exodus 12: 1 – 4 & 11 - 14	1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26	John 13: 1 –17 & 31 - 35
Easter Day	Sunday 12 th April	Acts 10: 34 - 43	Colossians 3: 1 - 4	John 20: 1 - 18
Easter 2	Sunday 19 th April	Acts 2: 14a & 22 - 32	1 Peter 1: 3 - 9	John 20: 19 - 31
Easter 3	Sunday 26 th April	Acts 2: 14a & 36 - 41	1 Peter 1: 17 - 23	Luke 24: 13 - 35

Please Pray....

- With thanksgiving for John Tattersall and all the clergy around the world.
- For their health and stamina to pace themselves through this challenging time of uncertainty as they minister.
- For guidance on good decisions made worldwide to tackle the Coronavirus.
- For those with mental health issues and anxiety for all people at this time.
- For the world economy and the impact on those who have less to support themselves and their families.
- To help us to be generous with our possession, stocks and time.
- For continued devotion to our communities and courage to do God’s will.
- For those dealing with, containing and finding a cure for the Coronavirus.

Thanksgiving for the Healing Ministry of the Church from ‘Pilgrim’ by Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford

“Daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth, bringing life and health, wholeness and peace. In the renewal of our lives, you make known your heavenly glory. Blessed be God Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”



Final date for copy for the May edition is Monday, 13th April 2020