

Wykeham Benefice News

April 2022

Happy Easter Everyone

Dates for Holy week 2022

10th April Palm Sunday

10.30am Procession and Benefice Eucharist service of Palms with our Benefice choir.

11th & 12th April, Monday & Tuesday

9pm Compline- why not join this short online zoom service of night prayer. A time of prayer and reflection.

13th April Wednesday

7pm Stations of the Cross, Epwell (Journey with Jesus in this moving and reflective service)

14th April Maundy Thursday

7pm Benefice service, remembering the Last Supper together.

15th April Good Friday

2pm Good Friday meditation, Tadmarton

7pm Devotional and reflective service, Broughton

17th April EASTER SUNDAY

6am First Communion of Easter, Swalcliffe

9.30am Holy Communion, Sibford

9.30am Holy Communion, Shutford

9.45am Holy Communion, Epwell

11am Holy Communion, Broughton

11am Holy Communion, Swalcliffe

11am Holy Communion, Tadmarton

Easter

*Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him mayst rise:
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more just.
Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part
With all thy art.
The cross taught all wood to resound his name,
Who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is best to celebrate this most high day.
Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song
Pleasant and long:
Or since all music is but three parts vied
And multiplied;
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.*

This beautiful poem by George Herbert, who it's said was not just a great poet but also an accomplished musician, captures both of his wonderful gifts. What Herbert does is to draw on scripture by way of illustration, with the words of praise in Psalm 57 sounding throughout. But it's the way that he uses the image of the wood of the cross, with the broken body of Christ upon it, becoming itself like an instrument of God, which is, I would suggest, very powerful. An instrument that brings with it the beauty and the promise of eternal life, through the crescendo of the Resurrection on that first Easter morning.

Now for those of you who might have the wonderful gift of being able to play a musical instrument or for those of us, like myself, who simply enjoy listening to music, what we all might have in common is the thought that music can emotionally change us. There is something about music that is not just physical but also I would suggest spiritual as well. It can affect maybe how we feel, it reminds us also sometimes of people and places. Music can be both exuberant and life affirming, whilst also it can be calming and can bring peace into our lives.

On Easter Sunday, across our Benefice, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, a time to once again hear the beautiful life changing music of God. This Easter we might, individually and together as a Church family, want to remind ourselves of something the great Greek philosopher Plato is reported to have said about music:

**It gives a soul to the Universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination and life to everything. *Love & prayers, Revd Neil***

Village News

Broughton with North Newington

In February, we marked Race Equality week and during Revd Neil's sermon, he reminded us that we are all equal in God's eyes. It has been wonderful to see churchwarden Neil back at church and we pray for his continued improvement.

We were delighted to host the benefice Eucharist service on Sunday 6th March – it was lovely to see so many in attendance and hear the benefice choir in such fine voice. Thank you to Penny for providing the refreshments after the service.

We hosted the first Lent lunch at St Mary's House on Tuesday 8th March which was well attended and we enjoyed a great variety of homemade soup. The money raised at the lunch will go to the work of the RNLI. Thank you to everyone who supported the lunch and donated.

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE ON GOOD FRIDAY, 15TH APRIL AT 7P.M. We are looking forward to hosting the devotional and beautifully reflective service and to our **EASTER DAY CELEBRATION SERVICE ON SUNDAY 17TH APRIL AT 11A.M.**

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN ON MONDAY 11TH APRIL AT 10.30A.M.

Please come and pick up a duster!

Cake and refreshments

For more information contact **Georgina Style 01295 738307**

Epwell

APCM

This year our Annual Parochial Church Meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 27th April at 7.00pm in St Anne's and is open to all.

Holy Week begins with

THE BENEFICE PALM SUNDAY PARADE AND SERVICE ON 10TH APRIL, 10.30 FOR 10.45 START

After a couple of years break, we hope to carry out the traditional procession round the village, singing and carrying Palm crosses, before the service. We would ask you to gather in the square and start the service and procession at 10.30am. The church will be open if anyone feels unable to join the procession and refreshments will be served in the Village Hall following the service.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS SERVICE, WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL AT 7P.M. AT ST. ANNE'S CHURCH EPWELL. Neil will use images, readings and prayer to encourage us to reflect on the path of suffering walked by Jesus.

Shutford News

Our Annual Church meeting takes place on 4th April in Shutford Village Hall at 7.30pm with refreshments to follow. Our small loyal congregation ensures St Martin's Church can remain



open and part of village life. The church is open to all denominations or none and everyone is welcome.

LENT LUNCH ON 11TH APRIL AT 12.30 – 2P.M. AT SHUTFORD VILLAGE HALL – good food and company guaranteed with donations to Katharine House Hospice.

GOOD FRIDAY MESSY CHURCH ON 15TH APRIL AT 10 AM – 12 NOON IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

There will be crafts an Easter Story and refreshments to finish. This event is open to everyone from across the benefice and is a good family occasion. **Future Messy Church dates** for the diary – **25th June, 24th September and 10th December – SVH – 3.00 – 5.00pm.**

We have three weddings and two baptisms arranged for the spring and look forward to welcoming everyone in church for these joyous occasions.

Snowdrops in the churchyard have faded and have been replaced by primroses, celandines and daffodils – spring has sprung!
Ken Jeffs

Tadmarton

Our Hearts go out to the poor people of Ukraine, I'm sure we all join together in taking a few moments every day to say a prayer for them.

On a lighter note a big Thank you for the Church yard volunteers for their sterling work in clearing all the debris from the recent storms we endured. We have a great team not all members of the congregation, but always willing to help.

We had a lovely all age family service lay led by members of the Congregation with some beautiful prayers. It was a most enjoyable service.

We have some new faces in our midst and we welcome them and thank them for joining us. Rev Neil's sermons are being enjoyed by us all, especially his memories of his Childhood. We can just imagine him, cheeky little face big eyes butter wouldn't melt in his mouth.

The visit of Bishop Steven to St Mary's in Banbury was very much enjoyed by the ones that went from Tadmarton, he came across as being a very caring person and answered The many questions put to him.

Our Tuesday coffee Morning after the 10. a.m. H.C. Service is becoming very popular and a chance to catchup with Neil for the ones that don't attend service. He is always ready to chat and talk about your interest. The smell of freshly brewed coffee and the warmth of the hall is very inviting.

Our Visit to Polly recently with boot full of goodies was much appreciated. She greeted us with a big hug (allowed now) saying Bless you all for looking after me and my lost souls. There is a box in the Church for her, maybe during the Easter period you may like to pop In and enjoy the beautiful flowers that will we put in ready for Easter Sunday. (hope to see you there) The Ash Wednesday service at Epwell was beautiful, and sitting in the Little side Chapel was a bonus having never sat there before.

Anyway we are looking forward to seeing you all at the Lent Lunches, and all the Easter Services. It is so lovely to catch up with all our Friends in the Benefice .

So until we meet. God Bless you all and a Very Happy Easter.

Shirley Wackrill



Swalcliffe

Restoration work at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church



Mark Perry conserving the medieval wall paintings at Swalcliffe Church, March 2022 (The photos taken by Colin Hill show Mark doing his painstaking work.)

Heritage Improvement Project: the restoration of our three medieval wall paintings has now been completed. They look really stunning so please do come in and take a look. Mark Perry, the conservator, will be giving a guided tour to share the stories behind each of the paintings on **Sunday 24th July at 4pm** so please note that for your diaries.

Lent Lunch: please come and share a lunch for Lent of delicious homemade soups, bread and cheeses on **Tuesday, 5th April 12.30 - 2.30pm** at Swalcliffe Village Hall. We will ask for contributions that will be donated to the Disaster Emergency Fund.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) takes place on **Saturday 23 April at 12 noon** in the church to which all villagers are welcome. This is an opportunity to come and find out what has been happening in the church over the last year, to elect members to the PCC and to raise any questions or concerns.

Date for your diary: The 'Al Fresco' village supper will take place this year on **Saturday 6th August from 7pm** (venue to be announced in due course).



Mark Perry conserving the medieval wall paintings at Swalcliffe Church

“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

Sibford

The cash collection at the Benefice service held at Broughton raised £154.60. Sibford Treasurer will make the donation to Disasters Emergency Committee. Thank you everyone.

There are plans to have an Easter Garden in preparation for the Easter season, again this year. And we look forward to our Benefice Maundy Thursday Service in Holy Trinity.

Our APCM is to take place in Holy Trinity Church April 25th at 7 pm. Annual reports are being prepared and will be distributed to all on the Electoral Roll two weeks in advance with copies also available in church.

Preparations are being made to hold Christian Aid collections in May. Last year this was done by delivering envelopes and arranging for Collection Points at various places around The Sibfords which worked extremely well and raised over £750 and the cake and produce stall which realised £250; in previous years with house to house collecting approx. £1,000 was raised.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter. Barbara Foster

Services for April

Sunday 3rd April Lent 5 Passion Sunday	Sibford	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion (NB)
	Shutford	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion (GE)
	Sibford	10am	All Age Family service (lay led)
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion (JT)
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion (NB)
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion (JT)
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion (NB)
Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday	Epwell	10.30am	Procession of Palms followed by Benefice Eucharist (NB)
Wednesday of Holy Week	Epwell	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross (NB)
Maundy Thursday White	Sibford	7.00pm	Benefice Eucharist for Maundy Thursday (NB)
Good Friday No hangings	Tadmarton	2.00pm	Good Friday Meditation (NB)
	Broughton	7.00pm	Devotional service (NB)
Sunday 17th April Easter Day White or Gold	Swalcliffe	6.00am	First Communion of Easter (NB)
	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion (NB)
	Shutford	9.30am	Holy Communion (GE)
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion (JT)
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion (NB)
	Swalcliffe	11.00am	Holy Communion (JT)
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion (GE)
Sunday 24th April Easter 2 Low Sunday	Shutford	9.30am	Holy Communion (JT)
	Sibford	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion (NB)
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion (GE)
	Broughton	11.00am	All Age Family service (JT)
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion (NB)
	Swalcliffe	6.00pm	BCP Evensong (NB)

The Primrose by *Robert Burns*

Dost ask me, why I send thee here,
 This firstling of the infant year?
 Dost ask me, what this primrose shews,
 Bepearled thus with morning dews?—

I must whisper to thy ears,
 The sweets of love are wash'd with tears.

This lovely native of the dale
 Thou seest, how languid, pensive, pale:
 Thou seest this bending stalk so weak,
 That each way yielding doth not break?

I must tell thee, these reveal,
 The doubts and fears that lovers feel.



Readings for April

Sunday 3 rd April 5th Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)	Isaiah 43 v16-21	Phil. 3 v4b-14	John 12 v1-8	Purple
Sunday 10 th April Palm Sunday	Liturgy of the palms: Luke 19 v28-40 Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50 v4-9a	Phil. 2 v5-11	Luke 23 v1-49	Red
Thursday 14 th April Mandy Thursday	Exod. 12 V1-4, 11-14	1 Cor. 11 v23-26	John 13 v1-17, 31b-35	White
Friday 15 th April Good Friday	Job 14 v1-14	1 Peter 4 v1-8	John 19 v38-end	Red
Sunday 17 th April Easter Vigil	Genesis 7 v1-5, 11-18 Exodus 14, v10-end. ch.15v20-21	Zephaniah 3 v14-end	Luke 24 v1-12	White
Sunday 17 th April Easter Day	Acts 10 v34-43	1 Cor. 15, v19-26	Luke 24 v1-12	White
24 th April 2nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 5 v27-32	Revelation 1 v4-8	John 20 v19-end	White

Please pray for peace throughout the world.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



I wish you a very Happy Easter with love and peace in your hearts. Carolyn Koch de Gooreynd

*Please send your news for the April/May edition
by 12th March 2022*

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