

# Wykeham Benefice News

## August - September 2020

Have you managed to eat out somewhere, get your hair cut or go to the dentist yet? I have managed all three and felt a great sense of returning to normality, but of course we are not yet back to normal and the risk of infection by Covid-19 remains. We must all still observe social distancing and lock-down regulations, even as they are eased. That applies to our church buildings too: if we are to restart public worship in our churches, there will be the need to maintain social distancing, observe one-way systems to avoid unnecessary contact, avoid singing, regularly sanitise our hands and keep a register of those attending each service – at least for the time being. Then the church will need to be thoroughly cleaned after each service.



In these circumstances, it is understandable that our parochial church councils (PCCs) are cautious about resuming services in church too quickly. Many of the PCC members who will be responsible for the cleaning and administration are themselves over 70 and discouraged from taking risks with their health. Many of those who attend our services on Zoom at 10.00am each Sunday, or link into the Diocesan worship at the same time, are themselves still sheltering and are very content with attending worship that way. The service rotas in the centre of this Benefice News show the services that we agreed on at the Benefice Council meeting in mid-July, but these are still subject to the risk assessments that each church will need to undertake. For the time being we shall be continuing with the Benefice services on Zoom, but these will move to 5pm once services restart in our churches in September. And thankfully at least three of our churches (Epswell, Swalcliffe and Sibford) have now reopened for private prayer and we have

resumed Morning Prayer in rotation around our churches on weekdays.

The search for a new Rector for the Benefice has begun: the advertisement for the role was placed in the Church Times and on the Church of England recruitment website at the beginning of July, and we hope to be interviewing short-listed candidates on 17 September. Each parish contributed to an impressive Benefice Profile which is available to applicants. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will steer a good number of potential candidates to apply, and if you know any suitable clergy candidates, please encourage them to apply yourself. There is a new more suitable rectory in Sycamore Close, Sibford Gower and the diocese expects to have a buyer for the old rectory shortly.

The new Rector will be joining us at a challenging time for the Benefice and the Church more generally: many parishioners are anxious about keeping safe; many more have new worries as a result of the financial impact of lock-down; many have suffered psychologically as a result of being locked down. The impact of the virus has been very unequal in terms of its impact on the poor, the handicapped and ethnic minorities. We all need to be conscious of the need to help those who have suffered or are suffering wherever we can. The Church, as it emerges from lock-down and returns to normality, needs to set an example of what it means to be Christian today.

*John Tattersall - July 2020*

## *News from the Benefice Villages*

### Epwell

**ST ANNE'S CHURCH, EPWELL  
WILL BE OPEN ON MONDAYS,**

**9 - 10.30 A.M. & THURSDAYS, 4 – 6 P.M.** We are still trialling the opening of the church with safety requirements in place. Any further requests can be received by our Church Wardens: Alasdair Lowe – 01295 788866, Dawn Castle – 01295 788473



**EVA, EPWELL VIRUS ASSISTANCE** – This still operates in Epwell as an additional safety net for villagers needs during COVID–19. If you need help, please call: Nicola Rudge 01295 780508, [nicola.rudge@icloud.com](mailto:nicola.rudge@icloud.com) or Chris Hurst 01295 780118 [chrishurst62@gmail.com](mailto:chrishurst62@gmail.com) or to volunteer call Gavin Lloyd Thomas 01295 788771, [gavinlthomas@aol.com](mailto:gavinlthomas@aol.com)

**EPWELL FACE MASK TREE** – As we now have new regulations from the Government and WHO to use face masks in all shops, we will continue to ensure that our community has access to face masks. The Big Community sew continues in Epwell. Our 'Community Face Covering Tree' is at the Village Hall and around The Well in Epwell. Epwell's Tree is being co-ordinated by Lin Iddons and she would welcome any offers of help with sewing, especially as she is also supporting Sibford and Shutford. Please contact Lin on 730369.

### **Answers to Old Testament Anagrams**

Numbers, Zechariah, Judges, Leviticus, Malachi, Ruth, Jeremiah, Chronicles, Song of Solomon, Deuteronomy, Lamentations, Genesis, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Exodus.

### **Broughton – St. Mary's Church**

**BROUGHTON CHURCH OPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:** Broughton Church will be open for Private Prayer on Tuesdays at 9am, starting on 4th August and we will be looking to open for Sunday worship from September. Naturally, we will be following the Government guidelines.

**REOPENING THE HALL** - The Saint Mary's House Management committee recently met to discuss the reopening of the Hall, we have received a great deal of information on the procedures we have to follow. It was decided that for certain activities we could maybe open on 1<sup>st</sup> September. This is in discussion with the Management Committee.

**STOLEN CIVIL WAR HELMET** - A few years ago we had a Civil War Helmet stolen from our Church. I am very happy to say that it has been found! Apparently it was bought by a very reputable dealer. On receiving it he became suspicious that this may have been a stolen piece of armour and made enquires and found that it was indeed a stolen item. We have him to thank for its recovery.

## Sibford

**CHURCH BELL** - The church bell has been examined by bell founders John Taylor of Loughborough, who were the original makers of our bell, as it was thought to be unsafe. It was pronounced in good order and not needing further attention for many years. We are ready to ring when we hold public worship and in celebration of the end of the current emergency whenever that time comes.

**CHURCH OPENING** – The church will be opening for Individual Prayer and Public Worship is constantly being reviewed. At present the church is open on Wednesdays and Sundays for Individual Prayer, 9.30am -3.30pm. following Government guidelines. A Risk Assessment is to be carried out again at the end of July and decisions will be made by the P.C.C. as to when we might open for public worship. We continue to enjoy the Zoom Services and a chance to meet and greet others in the Benefice, our thanks to John Tattersall and Tim Huckvale.

**A.C.P.M** - A date has been arranged with Revd John Tattersall to hold Sibford A.C.P.M on 24th September 2020 at 7 p.m. details to follow.

*Before you speak let your words pass through three gates.*

*Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind? Rumi*

## Shutford

**CHURCH CLOSED** - St Martin`s Church will remain closed for the time being but the situation is under review. The churchyard is open for private prayer and solace. We hope to restart worship with a lay led service on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September with our Annual Parochial Church Meeting afterwards. Details will be published via Shutford Village Website and on noticeboards. Any villagers wishing to become more involved with church life, including becoming a member of the church electoral roll, should contact [KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk](mailto:KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk).

Special thanks to everyone who has continued to support the church financially during lockdown. Future worship will be regulated by church and government health and safety directives and may be in a different format, this includes our Harvest celebrations planned for end of September.

All lives matter so it is important to continue to be alert and care for our neighbours wherever they may be.

## Swalcliffe

**HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST AT 11.15AM:** Happily Swalcliffe is holding a 'one off' HC service on 9<sup>th</sup>. Government guidelines for social distancing, sanitising etc. will be in place. They greatly look forward to seeing people joining the service which John Tattersall will be taking. Any concerns contact Gay, 01295 788427 or Robin on 01295 780125.

## Tadmarton

The Sunday Zoom service is very welcome for many of our church members and they continue to enjoy the fellowship of our Benefice.

**CHURCH OPENING** - Church Council has again elected not to open the church at this time. We are unable to ensure that all the requirements are met, at this stage of coming out of lockdown. We have so many members who have been self-isolating and do not feel able to mix in a social sphere just yet. Hopefully, we may be able to consider changes in the near future, but until then it is not considered by our Council to be safe to open our church. Naturally, we shall be conducting the required risk assessment prior to any decision by the PCC for the reopening of St. Nicholas church. We shall consider all aspects of any relevant information and hope to resume some variation of services as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

I have no more amusing files that are of interest for you all, as the remainder are not suitable for this publication. Therefore I bow out whilst I'm still ahead.

I hope and pray that we shall all be able to meet up again soon. J.H.W.

### ***Churches Open for Private Prayer***

**Swalcliffe – St. Peter and St. Pauls Church:** will remain open at all times

**Sibford Church – Holy Trinity Church:** Sunday and Wednesdays 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

**Epwell - St. Anne's Church:** Monday 9–10.30a.m. & Thursday 4–6p.m.

**Broughton – Tuesdays at 9am.**

**Shutford and Tadmarton churches will remain closed.**

***In all cases rules for hand sanitising and social distancing are spelt out at the entrances.***

## Details of our clergy

**Rector:** Vacant. **Associate Minister:** The Revd John Tattersall (JT) **Assisting Priests:** The Rev'd Dr David Pym (DP), The Rev'd Canon Glyn Evans (GE), The Rev'd Hazel Scarr (HS), The Rev'd Canon John Whitwell (JW), The Ven Keith Smalldon (KS), The Rev'd Michael Campling (MC).

## Services for August and September

**N.B. Subject to risk assessments by each church**

**During August Zoom services will continue with Holy Communion at 10am.**

**These will be taken by John except when he is away on 16<sup>th</sup> when Glyn Evans will conduct the service.**

### August Services 2020

Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> August <b>Trinity 9</b>	Swalcliffe	11.15am	Holy Communion BCP	JT
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### September Services 2020

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> <b>Trinity 13</b>	Shutford	9.30 am	Morning Praise (lay led)	Lay led
	Sibford	9.30 am	Holy Communion (JT)	JT
	Swalcliffe	9.30 am	Morning Praise (lay led)	Lay led
	Epwell	9.45 am	Holy Communion (JW)	JW
	Broughton	11 am	Holy Communion (JT)	JT
	ZOOM	5 pm	Holy Communion (JT)	JT
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> <b>Trinity 14</b>	Sibford	8 am	Holy Communion BCP	JT
	Shutford	9.30 am	Holy Communion BCP	GE
	Sibford	9.30 am	Morning Praise	Lay led
	Swalcliffe	9.30 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Epwell	9.45 am	Holy Communion	Lay led
	ZOOM	5 pm	Holy Communion	JT
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> <b>Trinity 15</b>	Broughton	8.am	Holy Communion BCP Holy	JT
	Sibford	9.30 am	Communion	DP
	Epwell	9.45 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Shutford	11 am	Morning Praise	Lay led
	Broughton	11 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Swalcliffe	5 pm	Harvest Festival	GE
ZOOM	5 pm	Holy Communion	JT	
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> <b>Trinity 16</b>	Swalcliffe	9.30 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Epwell	9.45 am	Holy Communion	DP
	Sibford	11 am	Harvest Festival	JT
	Broughton	3 pm	Harvest Festival	JT
	ZOOM	5 pm	Holy Communion	JT
	Shutford	6 pm	Harvest Festival	JT



## Readings for August

		Old Testament	New Testament	The Gospel
<b>Trinity 8</b>	Sunday <b>2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	Isaiah 55: 1-5	Romans 9: 1 -5	Matthew 14: 13 – 21
<b>Trinity 9</b>	Sunday <b>9<sup>th</sup> August</b>	1 Kings 19: 9 – 18	Romans 10: 5 - 15	Matthew 14: 22 – 33
<b>Trinity 10</b>	Sunday <b>16<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Isaiah 56 1 & 6 - 8	Romans 11: 1 - 2 & 29 - 32	Matthew 15: 21 - 28
<b>Trinity 11</b>	Sunday <b>23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	Isaiah 51: 1 - 6	Romans 12: 1 - 8	Matthew 16: 13 – 20
<b>Trinity 12</b>	Sunday <b>30<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Jeremiah 15: 15 - 21	Romans 12: 9 - 21	Matthew 16: 21 - 28

## Readings for September

		Old Testament	New Testament	The Gospel
<b>Trinity 13</b>	Sunday <b>6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ezekiel 33: 7 - 11	Romans 13: 8 - 14	Matthew 18: 15 - 20
<b>Trinity 14</b>	Sunday <b>13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Genesis 50: 15 – 21	Romans 14: 1 – 12	Matthew 18: 21 – 35
<b>Trinity 15</b>	Sunday <b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	Jonah 3: 10 – 4 & 11	Philippians 1: 21 - 30	Matthew 20: 1 - 16
<b>Trinity 16</b>	Sunday <b>27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Ezekiel 18: 1 – 4 & 25 - end	Philippians 2: 1 - 13	Matthew 21: 23 - 32

## CARING FOR THE POOR

Who am I? Well, I'm Polly the lady in Banbury who has cared for the poor lost souls in Banbury, I say poor lost souls because that's what the people whom I care for daily are, homeless, suicidal, mental health problems, no families.

How did I begin my mission? God chose me. Let me explain, when I was in my 30s I had a stroke which left me unable to walk or talk properly for 2 years: when I recovered I became a Christian, as I know God healed me, about 6 months after getting better my husband and myself was watching TV one September evening around 8pm, it was pouring with rain and from nowhere this Voice spoke to me and said you need to go out. I told my husband about it, and he said, "You can't go out tonight, where are you going to go?" So I dismissed it, about 10 minutes later that same voice came back with some words, so I knew I had to respond. I said to my husband, "It's no good I must go out" so I put my coat on, went out down the Gillet Road, can you believe it, I went through People's Park, yes a park, I felt no fear, it was as if God took hold of my hand and led me into town, and lo and behold standing under the shelter, what used to be Littlewoods, stood 2 men. I didn't know them, never seem them, I boldly went up to them and said "Are you both OK?" they said that they were homeless sheltering from rain. I said, "I can't help you tonight but meet me tomorrow evening in The Peoples Park at 5pm and I will feed you and give you some hot drink".

I chose People's Park to feed them as we lived just off Gillet Road, well I kept my promise, I went down to the park at 5 and there was the two men plus 3 others, I was so excited as I knew then it was God's Plan, why he chose me!! 32 years on I still don't know: I'm so glad I listened to that voice and I went and I found what God wanted me to do: I get excited each day knowing I'm going to help some lost souls, I buy them nice foods: they get cakes, crisps, meat pies, fruit, chocolates, clothes, toiletries. I try to buy them the essential things they need, I used to take them all to the seaside once a year. They loved Bournemouth, but it got too expensive, plus, they would rather have things they really need: I love these people just as much as God does, they rely on me: and I rely on God to provide for them and he has done for 32 years, so in your quiet moment if you hear a voice saying something strange to you, it could be the voice of the Lord, I'm so glad I did what he called me to do all those year ago, God bless you all. I hope this has given you an insight of how I became a servant to God and a daily help to many. I've had hundreds of people come to me over years: people who need help however trivial or hard their problem it's good to be there for them.

*Polly*

Thank you to all of you who have already contributed so much to Polly's work from the Benefice. This cause continues to need your support. If you would like to donate to this most worthy cause, please contact Allison Pollard who is liaising with Polly on our behalf. Allison lives in Epwell. Please call her on 01295 788529



### ***Allison Pollard writes about the kind of support that Polly's work is needing***

"Food is very helpful, cereals, ring pull tins of food or soups - Chocolate bars and treats - Sandwich fillings. There are about a dozen folk turning up most nights, starting to look a little better generally than immediately following the Lockdown. Life for all very difficult. Polly is a bit of sunshine in their lives which are hard and disjointed."

### ***Reflection on Prayer***

Ask yourself this question: What difference do my prayers make? What difference would it make if I gave them up- if I didn't pray tomorrow, or all this week? Any difference? If not, then it isn't Prayer. You see, Prayer, *real Prayer* transforms life. It is bound to do so.

The trouble is that we don't expect it to do so: we don't expect our prayers to make a difference: we don't expect them to change our lives.

We get into thinking that when we pray we are trying to get God to do something for us; whereas really we are trying to get ourselves to do something for God. We think of praying as trying to get God to change things for us; whereas really what we are trying to do is nothing less than to change ourselves for God. And this can hardly be an easy task...

...Prayer is thinking with God, thinking in God's presence. And it's not the slightest use starting your prayers until you have first recollected His presence. Prayer must start with thinking of God, picturing God vividly there beside you, ready to listen to you, ready to talk with you. Until you have done that, it is really useless to go on... ... How can I picture God who I do not see? Christ taught His disciples to begin their prayer with 'Our Father'. *From George Snow's book 'Our Father' 1938*

**Julie Bruggenwirth writes:** As we have all been encouraged to stay at home many of us have been spending more time in the garden.....

## *A conversation between God and St Francis*

**God:** Francis, you know all about nature. What in the world is going on down there? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and all the other flowers I started aeons ago? I had a perfect, no maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from their long lasting flowers attracted butterflies, honeybees and flocks of song-birds. I expected to see a vast garden of colour by now, but all I see are green rectangles.

**Francis:** The people started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great trouble to kill them and replace them with grass.

**God:** Just grass, but that's so boring! It's only one colour. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds or bees - only worms. It uses so much water and it's temperamental with temperatures. Do people really want all that grass growing there?

**Francis:** Apparently so. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each Spring by fertilising it and poisoning any plant that crops up in the lawn.

**God:** The Spring rains and slightly warmer weather probably make the grass grow really fast. That must make the people happy.

**Francis:** Not really. As soon as it grows a little they cut it, sometimes even twice a week.

**God:** They cut it? Do they bale it like hay and use it to feed cattle?

**Francis:** No, most of them rake it up and put it in bags or bins.

**God:** They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

**Francis:** No, just the opposite. They pay to have it taken away.

**God:** Now let me get this straight. They fertilise grass so that it will grow and when it does they cut it and pay to have it taken away.

**Francis:** That's it.

**God:** The people must be relieved in Summer when I reduce the rain and increase the heat. That slows the growth of the grass and must surely save them a lot of work.

**Francis:** You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing quickly, they get out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

**God:** Well at least they have kept some of the trees. They were a stroke of sheer genius. The trees grow leaves in Spring to provide beauty and shade in the Summer. In Autumn they fall and make a natural blanket to keep in moisture and protect roots from frost. Plus as the leaves rot they form compost to enrich the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

**Francis:** Lord, you'd better sit down. The people have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall the people rake them in piles and get rid of them.

**God:** How do they protect the roots and keep the soil moist?

**Francis:** They go out and buy "mulch" and spread it around in place of the leaves.

**God:** Where do they get the "mulch"?

**Francis:** They cut down trees and shred them.

**God:** What nonsense!!



***“The point of Prayer is to change your life; through Prayer you will try to make your life different, to make your life what God wants it to become.” George Snow***

***Please Pray ...***

- With thanks for our homes, our health and our daily bread.
- With thanks for your forgiveness Lord which allows us to move forward with our lives in service to you.
- We bring before you, Lord, all those who are suffering from disease, particularly the Corona Virus.

- those who feel discriminated against, and those facing real poverty or deprivation.
- those who suffer abuse of human rights and those who fight to protect their human rights.
- We bring before you too those who are migrants, fleeing war or oppression or poverty and
- those who are unemployed – particularly the long-term unemployed, those who live on benefits and have extra needs and those who are in debt and are worried.
- We ask you to inspire the leaders of all countries to be merciful and compassionate in supporting all those in need and bringing about peace.
- For our parish we pray for a new incumbent who will be happy in our Benefice. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will steer a good number of potential candidates to apply.
- Help us to be persistent in proclaiming your word to others in our words and in our lives.



**Final submission of your copy for the  
October edition of the newsletter is**

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020**