

Wykeham Benefice News

May 2020

What strange times we are living through! While the sun continues to shine in the sky and Spring turns into Summer, many of us are confined to our homes except for our daily exercise, shopping for essentials, and essential work that we cannot do at home. Our churches are closed on Government instructions and yet, as the notices on our churches remind us, the Church is really alive and active. It may not seem like that to many of you, but I do commend our on-line Holy Communion services each Sunday for the whole benefice at 10a.m. (although open for chat at 9.30a.m.) on Zoom, the first of which we launched on Easter Day to an attendance that beat attendances at most of our monthly Benefice Eucharists. If you are not

already on the invitation list for these services, please contact me on revjohn@wykehambenefice.org.uk and I will make sure that you are invited. They provide an opportunity to see, hear and greet many of the neighbours and friends that you may not have been able to see since lock down commenced.

While we cannot achieve the full rituals that we are used to, including

sharing communion, we can hear God's word, sing hymns and pray together.



But these times have allowed me, at least, to catch up with reading as well thinking and praying about what really matters in our lives. I finally managed to read the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book – *Saying Yes to life*, by Ruth Valerio. It is a book designed to lift our focus from everyday concerns, including concerns about the Corona Virus, Covid-19, to issues that will have an impact on millions of lives around the world long after we have found a vaccine to protect against Covid-19 and the restrictions on our movement and meetings have been

lifted. It draws on the creation story in Genesis to remind us what we should be doing to protect God's wonderful creation, including our fellow human beings and the other creatures with whom we share the world. I recommend it as a read even after the end of Lent. Coincidentally it follows a meeting of our Diocesan Synod in March (before lock down) at which we declared a climate emergency and required the Diocese and its parishes to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2035. That will be a challenge for many of our churches and indeed for many of our clergy houses which still use oil-fired central heating. Thus, as the rituals of our regular worship and of our lives change because of the Corona Virus, at least temporarily, perhaps it is a good time to think how we should change our lives in the longer term to save creation for future generations, as well as supporting our fellow human beings both near and far away.

The Easter message which many of us shared on Easter Day reminded us of what Christians believe, namely that Jesus Christ rose from the dead as part of a new creation on the first Easter Day. In the Easter gospel story he tells Mary Magdalene, the first of his disciples to meet him after his resurrection, not to hold onto him in his old human form, but he allows her to embrace him in his new eternal form, a presence in her heart and mind long after his human form has gone. It is a reminder to all of us not to abandon the Church because our church buildings are closed, but to embrace the Church in an eternal form that is not confined to church buildings and indeed is present in our hearts and minds as we study God's word and pray together.



Saint Mary Magdalene

However, please do come back to our church buildings once they are reopened: I have continued to list the services that we would have held in May if permitted, and might still hold if lock down is lifted before the end of May. I have also included the list of readings for each Sunday that you can, of course, read at any time though we shall be sharing them in our virtual Holy Communion each Sunday at 10a.m.

News from the Benefice Villages

Please contact John if you would like to receive information about the on-line Communion Services via Zoom on Sundays at 10a.m.

Please join us from 9.30 to say hello. It lifts one's spirit to see everyone. If you wish to continue your worship in line with the services, the pew sheets will provide the resources you require. These will be sent via email or found on the Wykeham Benefice website.

<https://wykehambenefice.org.uk>

Swalcliffe

The spirit of friendship and community is alive and well in Swalcliffe with a wonderful group of volunteers helping those who are isolating. The churchyard is looking well cared for and loved with extra volunteers using mowing as part of their daily exercise!



We especially missed the popular 6am sunrise Eucharist on Easter morning and the Egg Rolling on Easter Monday. However, some families still had a go competing at different times to ensure social distancing!

As we enjoy our wonderful countryside we pray for those less fortunate than ourselves and look forward to better times which surely will come. *Gay Harris*

Tadmarton

The report from Tadmarton is that The Village has been blessed with the wonderful caring that is evident all around, with wonderful acts of kindness.

I am happy to report that several members of the Taddy congregation were able to join with other Benefice members to share the service with JT on Easter morning. They report that it was most comforting to be able to share with others and that it could be ongoing during these dark days.

The Village Parish Council members have ensured that help is offered wherever required and nothing is regarded as too small a request for help.

I have been sorting some files recently and came across the following reports which have actually appeared in Church notices or were announced in church services and I thought they may be of interest. As Follows:

- The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: “Jesus Walks on the Water” The sermon tonight: “Searching for Jesus”
- Ladies, don’t forget the jumble sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- The ‘peace making’ meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing “Break Forth Into Joy”
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What Is Hell?” Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
- Finally—Miss Charlene Mason sang “I will not pass this way again”, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

I hope some of these may bring a bit of a smile in these dark times. Please stay safe. *John H. Wilson - Hon Sec.*

Broughton

Now that St. Mary’s House has closed its doors for the duration of this most dreadful virus there is not a lot of news to report on, although the village has somehow been drawn closer together.

The local pub is supplying take away food and also helping out with the basics of Bread, Milk and other essentials plus you can order meals and also Sunday Lunch.

The village WhatsApp is keeping the residents informed. A big thank you to all those who were inspired to set this up. *Neil Howarth*

Shutford

Our Lent Lunch planned for 6th April was cancelled but instead of meeting in the village hall, many of us had our soup at home mid-day, remembered those in need and made a donation to charity.

Live Lent: Care for God's Creation was a challenge taken up by members of Shutford's congregation. Based on the book of Genesis, each week had a theme with daily readings, a reflection and an action to help the environment. The message of Easter gives hope for the future and small changes in our lifestyles and actions can help us care for God's creation.

Christian Aid Week 2020 is 10th – 18th May. Because of the coronavirus, there will be no door to door collections or fund raising such as Big Brekkies or lunches this year. Instead, Christian Aid Week is moving online! Visit the Christian Aid website for details and donate – www.christainaid.org.uk

Is Life Worth Living?

Yes, so long

*As Spring revives the year,
And hails us with the cuckoo's song,
To show that she is here;
So long as May of April takes,
In smiles and tears, farewell,
And windflowers dapple all the brakes,
And primroses the dell;
While children in the woodlands yet
Adorn their little laps
With ladysmock and violets,
And daisy-chain their caps;
While over orchard daffodils
Cloud-shadows float and fleet,
And ouzel pipes and laverock trills,
And young lambs buck and bleat;
So long as that which bursts the bud
And swell and tunes the rill,
Makes springtime in the maiden's blood,
Life is worth living still.*

ALFRED AUSTIN (1835-1913)

Kindly sent by Ken Jeffs



Epwell

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians, 1 v 3-4

At this challenging time in our lives, Let us try to continue to be a community who choose faith instead of fear, who provide a peaceful presence for others and who persevere in prayer. *Julie Bruggenwirth*

Sibford

Well what a difficult time we're all having. Perhaps when the WBN comes out there may be a light at the end of the tunnel? Easter has passed, most unusually for most of us. I missed GOING to Church but the ones online were great.

I remember as a little girl listening to a sermon about the 7 Words of the Cross. To MY mind there were a lot more than 7 and asked "why and what?" The Preacher gave me a little book by W Robertson Nicoll to explain it all....70 years later, emptying YET another cupboard, I found it again. Now I understand what it is all about. Blessing to all and keep well, *Evey Boughton*

A speech of encouragement From our Queen

"I am speaking to you at what I know is an increasingly challenging time. A time of disruption in the life of our country: a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all."



"...I also want to thank those of you who are staying at home, thereby helping to protect the vulnerable and sparing many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones. Together we are tackling this disease, and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it. I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge and those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any. That the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling still characterise this country. The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future. And though self-isolating may at times be hard, many people of all faiths, and of none, are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect, in prayer or meditation."

"Today, once again (referring to the children evacuated from London during the 2nd WW), many will feel a painful sense of separation from their loved ones. But now, as then, we know, deep down, that it is the right thing to do. We will succeed - and that success will belong to every one of us."

"We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."

Services for May 2020 – subject to Lockdown

Sunday 3rd May Easter 4	Tadmarton	9.45am	Benefice Eucharist	JT
Tuesday 5 th May	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	KS
Sunday 10 th May Easter 5	Sibford	8am	BCP Holy Communion	JT
	Shutford	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	GE
	Sibford	9.30am	Christian Aid Service	JT
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	DP
	Epwell	9.45	Morning Praise	Lay led
	Broughton	11am	Holy Communion	JT
	Tadmarton	11am	Holy Communion	GE
Tuesday 12 th May	Tadmarton	10 am	BCP Holy Communion	DP
Sunday 17 th May Easter 6	Broughton	8am	BCP Holy Communion	JT
	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Morning Worship	Lay led
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	DP
	Shutford	11am	Morning Praise	Lay led
	Tadmarton	11am	Holy Communion	JT
	Broughton	6pm	BCP Evensong	JT
Tuesday 19 th May St Dunstan	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	MC
Thursday 21 st May Ascension Day	Broughton	7pm	Benefice Eucharist	JT
Sunday 24 th May Easter 7 Sunday after Ascension	Shutford	9.30am	Holy Communion	DP
	Sibford	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	GE
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	CH
	Broughton	11am	Holy Communion	JT
	Tadmarton	11am	Village Service	Lay Led
Tuesday 26 th May	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	DP
Sunday 31 st May Pentecost	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	GE
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	DP
	Broughton	11am	Holy Communion	GE
	Tadmarton	11am	Holy Communion	JT
	Shutford	4pm	BCP Evensong	JT

Associate Minister: The Rev'd John Tattersall (JT)

Assisting Priests: The Rev'd Canon Christopher Hall, The Rev'd Dr David Pym (DP),
The Revd Canon Glyn Evans (GE), , The Rev'd Michael Campling (MC)

Readings for May

		Old Testament	New Testament	The Gospel
Easter 4	Sunday 3 rd May	Acts 2: 42 - end	1 Peter 2: 19 - end	John 10: 1 - 10
Easter 5	Sunday 10 th May	Acts 7: 55 - end	1 Peter 2: 2 - 10	John 14: 1 -14
Easter 6	Sunday 17 th May	Acts 17: 22 - 31	1 Peter 3: 13 - end	John 14: 15 - 21
Ascension Day	Thursday 21 st May	Acts 1: 1 - 11	Ephesians 1: 15 - end	Luke 24: 44 - end
Easter 7	Sunday 24 th May	Acts 1: 6 - 14	1 Peter 4: 12 -14 & 5: 6 - 11	John 17: 1 - 11
Day of Pentecost	Sunday 31 st May	Acts 2: 1 - 21	1 Corinthians 12: 3b - 13	John 20: 19 - 23

Please Pray...

- With gratitude for our homes and for the beautiful area in which we live.
- With gratitude for the technology that is keeping us all connected.
- With gratitude for the water, food and all necessities that we have. Let us pray for those who are less fortunate.
- With gratitude for the approach of summer, brightening our days with the return of birdsong, new life in livestock and nature which all bringing colour and warmth to our surroundings all of which lift our spirits.
- With gratitude for all those who have recovered from Covid 19 and please ask God to continue to protect all those who are recovering and that He will be there with those who are suffering.
- For the departed and for those who grieve, that they will find comfort in Him.
- For the world economy and for all those who have lost their jobs and homes, especially those who had already endured natural disasters this year.
- For comfort to all those who are suffering anxiety, fear or loneliness. May this be replaced with 'peace', 'courage' and 'comfort' from the kindness of others.
- ...and please pray for God to help us all to be compassionate and courageous Christians, echoing those who do make God's Kingdom a reality here on earth.

“The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6, verses 24 – 26

**Final date for your contribution to the next edition to the
WBN is 13th May, 2020**