

Wykeham Benefice News

May 2021

A close-up, profile photograph of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. He is an elderly man with thinning hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the right of the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh

10th June 1921 – 9th April 2021

We said farewell to The Duke of Edinburgh on Saturday, 17th April 2021

***Soft cloud, that while the breeze of May
Chants her glad matins in the leafy arch,
Draw'st thy bright veil across the heavenly way
Meet pavement for an angel's glorious march:***

***My soul is envious of mine eye,
That it should soar and glide with thee so fast,***

Dear friends,

The above beautiful words from John Keble's poem, 'Ascension day', come from his collection 'The Christian Year' that takes the reader on a journey through all the different times we encounter in our faith. They chart the many aspects of the Christian life, as we travel individually and together with God. In his poem for Ascension day, which as a Benefice and church family we shall be celebrating on Thursday the 13th May at Broughton, Keble encourages us to lift our heads and our eyes to the sky, to view the beauty of the divine connection between us and God, as Jesus ascends to be with his and our divine Father.

In his later poem for Whit Sunday (Pentecost), which we shall be celebrating across our Benefice on Sunday 23rd May, Keble once again makes the personal connection between God and all the World, between the divine and mankind. Here are just two verses from Keble's Whit Sunday poem;

***But when he came the second time,
He came in power and love,
Softer than gale at morning prime
Hovered His holy Dove.***

***So, when the Spirit of our God
Came down His flock to find,
A voice from Heaven was heard abroad,
A rushing, mighty wind.***

As we continue to journey in our faith individually and together, and gradually once again be more together in worship in Church, as well as socially, we are reminded through the wonderment of the Ascension and Pentecost, that we are relational people, not only is our Christian faith expressed in relationship with each other, but also in and through our relationship with God.

So as we celebrate Ascension and Pentecost, as a Benefice, and as a Church family, let us once again find ways and opportunities to grow in our Christian relationships with each other and in so doing, in our relationship with God.

Love & prayers, Revd Neil

Village News

Shutford – St. Martin’s Church

Rev. Neil led worship on Easter Day with many returning to church for this important celebration. The church was beautifully decorated with Spring flowers and there were Easter Eggs for everyone.

St Martin’s Church tower is illuminated for special occasions including The National Day of Reflection on 23rd March when the bells were also tolled.

Epwell – St. Anne’s Church

Villagers were delighted with this lovely idea this year to transform a corner of the churchyard into an Easter garden. Thank you to Lottie and her twins Florence and Cecily for their hard work, it was much appreciated, as were Clare Lee’s wonderful flower arrangements.



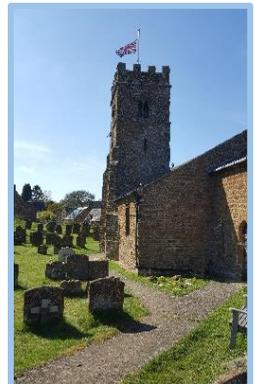
Easter Day We were grateful to Revd. John Tattersall who took our service on Easter Day and the PCC were able to present him with a gift to thank him for all his support during the interregnum, most importantly, keeping us in touch with services via Zoom.

We were 17 for Easter Day. The Long’s children and grandchildren came but there were no other young children. I think the long awaited sunshine had drawn families further afield and of course it was the first chance for families to meet up with another households when the Lockdown restrictions were beginning to be lifted. Several families were off to see their grandparents for the first time in a many months.



On Saturday, 17th April, Peter Koch de Gooreynd, who served in the Grenadier Guards, rang the bell 99 times at St. Anne’s church before the minute silence at the start of the Duke of Edinburgh’s funeral. The Duke was the Colonel of the Grandier Guards for 42 years.

The flag hung at half mast in a blue sky.



Tadmarton - St. Nicholas Church

Tadmarton Easter Service had an increased number of parishioners in the congregation and we enjoyed being together once more. The Rev. Neil gave us a very uplifting service and there were Easter eggs for all. Nice to see families and children once more. Our thoughts were with other members of our congregation, who for many reasons are still not able to attend church.

We hope to convene our Church Council soon and possibly in June.

Sibford – Holy Trinity Church

We prepared an Easter Garden on the path close to the gate for all to see and reflect.



The number of those returning to worship at church services is growing and very encouraging.



The church was beautifully decorated by Gil Soden and the Flower Team and much admired by the Easter Day congregation.



Broughton – St. Mary's Church

The Easter day service in Broughton was quite well attended although different from what we have been used to in the past, however it was a very nice service taken by John Tattersall. The weather was fine we were able to sing the last Hymn 'Thine be the glory' outside in the closed church yard, how nice to be able to sing again!

We have unfortunately got a leak in the Vestry roof, this has been investigated and will be sorted out soon.

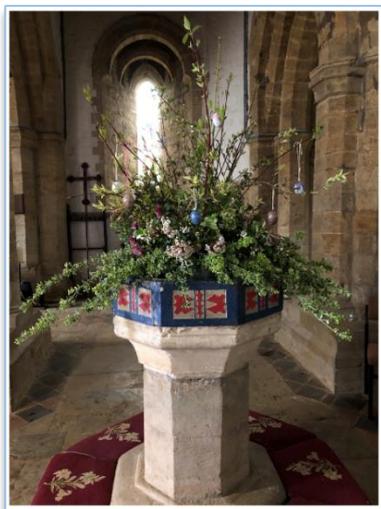
The bell at Broughton was tolled as at other churches in the Benefice for H.R.H The Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh.

Thank you Neil for the Zoom services which help to keep the Benefice together at this difficult time.

Swalcliffe – St. Peter and St. Paul’s Church

The church’s clock is now up and running again, so no excuses for being late! After a phenomenal village fund-raising appeal organised by Barbara Taylor, Karen Riordan and David McLindon, Swalcliffe villagers chimed in to help raise the money needed to pay for the urgent clock repairs by taking part in a monthly raffle. The first draw winner was Imogen Payne. There will be 5 more monthly draws until the beginning of September.

Swalcliffe church looked its Easter bonnet best for the Easter services! Our talented team of flower arrangers brought armfuls of spring flowers and foliage and transformed the church with wonderful displays that lifted the hearts and contributed to the general feeling of opening up again after a long and cold winter. Thank you to everyone who helped and who attended the special Easter celebrations.



Easter flowers in Swalcliffe



We are still looking for willing volunteers

to join a mowing rota for parts of the churchyard. There has been a lot of hard work over the past few years to regain control of the wilder parts of the churchyard and we want to maintain it that way. If you can spare an hour or so every 2-3 weeks between May and October, please contact Virginia Merritt on 01295 788098.

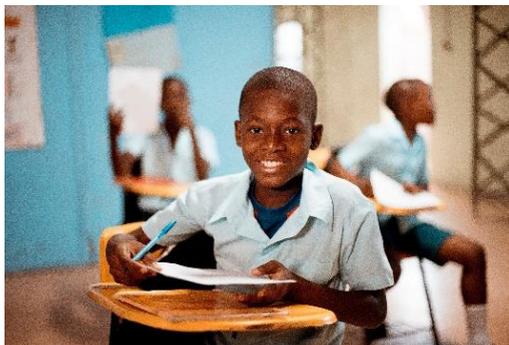
Christian Aid Week, 10th – 16th May

Last year we were in lockdown for Christian Aid week and were unable to hold House to House Collections; Christian Aid encouraged giving by e-envelope. This year, in addition to e-envelopes they are suggesting '*delivery only envelopes*' with information naming collection points where residents will be able to drop off their envelope donation during this week.

Finding ways to increase donations, we plan to hold a **sale** outside the Sibford church on **Saturday, 15th May, 10 am- 4pm**, selling cakes, produce, preserves, plants, books, and a table top Bric-a-Brac. We invite other parishes in the Benefice to call by and enjoy the goodies on sale and have good conversations.

We intend to repeat the Christian Aid Quiz lunch on Zoom which lasts about one hour, starting at 12 noon on Wednesday 12th May. It was fun and will be another way to promote the week. Everyone is welcome to join in, meet and greet each other; say what you are having for lunch; watch three short videos about the work of Christian Aid and be prepared to answer a short quiz on the videos shown. No prizes except knowing that you are helping to change lives. Let's try to beat the total collection in 2020 which was £355; house collections were usually over £1,000. More details will follow in the Pewsheet nearer the time, and on the website.

One of our Fundraising events this year is to produce a Sibford Calendar with the help of the Sibford Photography Club, with independent judges from Adderbury and Deddington Photographic Club; proceeds to church funds. Entry is restricted to residents of The Sibfords and those who are members of various clubs and societies, schools in the area. It is intended to have the calendars on Sale on the 1st October. We hope to have an exhibition of entries and a showing of the twelve finalist photographs with refreshments in Sibford church during August. There will be a chance for visitors to vote on the day for the Peoples' Choice and the winning photograph will receive a prize; what, where and how much, is still being decided.



Barbara Foster

Services for May

Zoom Services: Sunday H.C. at 6pm and Wednesday Evening Prayer at 6 pm

Sunday 2 nd May Easter 5	Sibford	10 a.m.	Benefice Eucharist BCP	NB
Sunday 9 th May Easter 6	Sibford	8 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP	NB
	Shutford	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP	GE
	Sibford	9.30 a.m.	Christian Aid Service	NB
	Swalcliffe	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	JT
	Epwell	9.45 a.m.	Morning Praise	Lay led
	Broughton	11 a.m.	Holy Communion	NB
	Tadmarton	11 a.m.	Holy Communion	JT
Thursday 13 th Ascension Day	Broughton	7 p.m.	Benefice Eucharist	NB
Sunday 16 th May Easter 7 Sunday after Ascension	Broughton	8 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP	NB
	Sibford	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	JT
	Swalcliffe	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Lay led
	Epwell	9.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	NB
	Shutford	11 a.m.	Morning Praise	JT
	Tadmarton	11 a.m.	Holy Communion	NB
	Broughton	6 p.m.	Evensong BCP	NB
Sunday 23 rd May Pentecost	Shutford	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	NB
	Sibford	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP	GE
	Swalcliffe	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	JT
	Epwell	9.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	DP
	Broughton	11 a.m.	Holy Communion	JT
	Tadmarton	11 a.m.	Village Service	NB
Sunday 30 th May Trinity Sunday	Sibford	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	NB
	Epwell	9.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	JT
	Broughton	11 a.m.	Holy Communion	NB
	Tadmarton	11a.m.	Holy Communion	JT
	Shutford	4 p.m.	BCP Evensong	NB
	Swalcliffe	6 p.m.	Evening Worship	NB

Prayers

- Now that the dust has settled, please continue to remember the Queen and her family at this sad time.
- For seven pro democracy activists who have been imprisoned for 5 years under Chinese rule. Among them is 73 year old Jimmy Lai, 82 year old Martin Lee and Margret Ng. Hundreds of others have been imprisoned after peaceful demonstrations in Hong Kong.
- For Nazanin Zaghari - Radcliffe who is still being held in captivity in Iran.
- For the thousands dying in India and Brazil from a new variants of Corona virus.
- Thank God for the freedom we enjoy in both our faith and our lives every day.

Readings for May

		Old Testament	New Testament	The Gospel	<i>Liturgical Colour</i>
Sunday 2nd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 8: 26 - end	1 John 4: 7 - end	John 15: 1 - 8	<i>White</i>
Sunday 9th May	6 th Sunday of Easter – Rogation Sunday	Acts 10: 44 – end	1 John 5: 1 - 6	John 15: 9 - 17	<i>White</i>
Thursday 13th May	Ascension Day	Danial 7: 9 - 14	Acts 1: 1 - 11	Luke 24: 44 - end	<i>White</i>
Sunday 16th May	7th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1: 15 – 17, 21 - end	1 John 5: 9 - 13	John 17: 6 - 19	<i>White</i>
Sunday 23rd May	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2: 1 - 21	Romans 8: 22 - 27	John 15: 26 – 27, 16: 4b - 15	<i>Red</i>
Sunday 30th May Fifth Sunday of Easter	Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6: 1 - 8	Romans 8: 12 - 17	John 3: 1 - 17	<i>White</i>

Ascension and Pentecost through art - following receiving very positive responses to his Lent talks using art, Revd Neil is once again going to share some reflections, this time upon the art that has shaped his understanding of the meaning of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, as well as the meaning of Pentecost. These talks will be on Zoom on **Monday 10th & 17th May at 7pm** and will last approximately 25mins. There is no need to book, as a zoom link will be circulated on the morning of each talk.

Please send your news for the June edition by Friday, 14th May, 2021

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