

Wykeham Benefice News

November 2020

The announcement can at last be made that we have appointed a new Rector, the Reverend Canon Neil Bowler, who is scheduled to be installed by the Bishop of Oxford on 5 January 2021 at 7.30pm. We are very fortunate not to have had a longer wait to find a new Rector: many parishes wait much more than a year to find a replacement, as was the case, for example, with St Mary's Banbury. I know that many of you have been praying that the right person would decide to apply, and I believe that our prayers have been answered. But you will find out more about Neil by reading his letter to his future parishioners, which is set out below, together with a photograph taken by one of his current parishioners.

We have more than two months to wait until his arrival, however. Although some of us are rather less anxious now that this appointment has been confirmed, I know that this is a time of increased anxiety in our community as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. None of us likes uncertainty yet that is what we face with the risk of unexpected lock downs in particular areas, or individual quarantines just when we have important things to do. The uncertainty for businesses and the self-employed is even greater: it seems likely that unemployment will rise significantly towards the end of the year, making for an unpleasant Christmas for some.

The pandemic has, however, encouraged many villages like ours to pull together to tackle the impact of this uncertainty on people. It is an advantage which urban communities seem to find much more difficult to match. We should do our best to contribute to that pulling together, helping our neighbours wherever we can. No less is expected of us in following Jesus' commandment to us all to '*love our neighbours as ourselves*'. That is sometimes easier said than done. But there is a great deal of comfort in St Paul's parting words to the Christian community that he founded in Philippi, almost certainly written from a prison cell in Rome which he would leave only for his execution: *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

I wish you all the peace of God as we await the arrival of our new Rector.

The Reverend John Tattersall

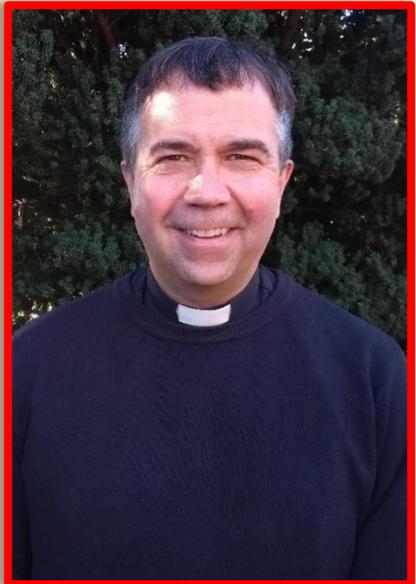
Dear friends,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I write this short reflection to introduce myself to you, as your soon to be new Rector for the Wykeham benefice. My time visiting all of the parishes has left a significant impression upon me and I'm looking forward very much to moving to the new Rectory and living alongside you all and being your Rector in January.

Well, what can I say about myself? I suppose I should start at the beginning; I grew up in a close-knit mining community in South Yorkshire and on leaving secondary school I went to study for my first degree, which was in Law, at Nottingham. I then moved to live in York for a year to take my Law society final examinations (solicitors' exams). My time in York was made even more enjoyable because my landlady worked at the chocolate factory and would bring copious amounts of chocolates back for the students who lived in her house. (It goes without saying that I'm known now for having a sweet tooth.)

After qualifying as a solicitor, I worked for almost 10 years as a senior legal adviser in the South Yorkshire Magistrates' Courts. Whilst working in the court service I was asked by my then vicar whether I had ever thought about becoming a youth leader (he knew of my extensive experience delivering training and advising in youth courts) and so I became a youth leader in the church for four years. It was whilst leading a residential trip for a group of young people that one of the teenagers asked me why I wasn't a vicar? He had no idea what he opened up, because he had planted the thought in my head and the more I reflected upon it and prayed about it, the clearer it became; I discerned a sense of being called to become a priest. I went to see my vicar and he simply said; "I've just been waiting for you to come and talk to me about it."

I went to train for the priesthood at the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield. During my two years there I also studied for a degree in Theology at Leeds University and went on placements in Leicester and Romania. My curacy was in Doncaster before I moved to be the Rector of Whiston, which is a large urban and rural parish in Rotherham. During my time at Whiston I was asked to be one of the Bishop's educational advisors on national advisory panels and was also the Area Dean for Rotherham at a time of significant change. I then was asked if I would become the Vicar



of Ranmoor in Sheffield, a very large church. During my time in Sheffield I was appointed as the Bishop's advisor in spirituality and was asked if I would become an honorary Canon of Sheffield cathedral. Having had all these experiences in ministry I discerned that I felt a calling to experience ministry in a multi parish setting and so I became the assistant priest of the Silverwood mission partnership, made up of seven churches across a much more rural setting. Alongside this I also wanted to gain even more experience of the life and workings of a school and so I also became an advanced learning support worker in a local primary school. All of these experiences have brought me to this exciting moment in my life and ministry, preparing to be your Rector.

I'm someone you will very quickly find out who enjoys hearing laughter and being joyful. I also am someone who places a great deal of importance upon the pastoral care that I can bring as your Rector. Whilst also being someone who brings enthusiasm and energy, as well as a 'can do' sort of an attitude, all of this done in a prayerful and reflective way. I'm excited by the prospect of being the Rector for all the people who live, work and are educated in all of the parishes in the Benefice. Be prepared then to receive a regular visit from your Rector, to see your Rector visibly in all aspects of community life and to have someone as your Rector who will love you and care for you, who will be alongside you in times of sadness as well as share in times of joy.

If I'm not out and about around the parish, then I may well be digging in the vegetable patch at the Rectory, as I enjoy gardening, or maybe you'll find me with my sketchbook in hand as I enjoy painting and writing, or with a pair of binoculars going for a long walk as I'm also a member of the RSPB.

I do hope that what I've written gives to you just a little bit of a sense of who I am and how much I'm looking forward to being with you all in the New Year.

Love & prayers
Rev'd Neil

News from the Benefice Villages

Tadmarton

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL: has now, with guidance from The Rev'd John Tattersall, re started services in our church.

St. Nicholas church has been open for private prayer for several weeks now and on Sunday 11th October we resumed our Sunday morning services. The Rev'd Dr David Pym conducted the communion service which was attended by over sixteen members of the congregation. Several church members continue to join the Zoom services every Sunday and when convenient they have attended services in some of the other Benefice churches.



OXFORD HISTORIC CHURCH CYCLE: Several members of the church were present to record participants in the Oxford Historic Churches cycle ride which took place on Saturday 12th September 2020.

The Church Council was so pleased with the news that a minister has been appointed to this Benefice. Parishioners and the Parochial Church Council look forward to welcoming our new Rector Reverend Canon Neil Bowler, in January 2021, to St. Nicholas Church and the Parish of Tadmarton.

KITCHEN PROJECT: We are hopeful that the Kitchen Project may soon proceed to construction; the project is in the hands of our Church wardens to obtain the necessary quotations, for the work.

Please stay safe and we look forward to some form of normality soon. J.H.W

Epwell

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING: At the recent APCM, thanks were expressed to all those who have supported St Anne's in so many ways during 2019 – with refreshments after the service, flower arrangements, grass cutting, help at fundraising events and maintenance work. The Annual Report for 2019 and Accounts were presented and the Treasurer and Secretary agreed to continue in their roles for another year. After more than 32 years dedicated service to St Anne's, Dawn Castle felt it time to step down as Churchwarden and the PCC thanked her for her hard work and commitment to the church in Epwell. Happily she continues to serve on the PCC whilst Alasdair Lowe was elected alongside Carolyn Koch de Gooreynd as Churchwardens for 2020.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE: We hope to hold our traditional **Remembrance service on Sunday 8th November**. We will gather in the village square near the war memorial **at 10.55am** and begin with prayers and a 2 minute silence. We will then move into the church for the service and would ask that people follow directions given by the Churchwardens as to seating, distancing and hand sanitising.

BRIGADIER FRANK HENN: Sadly Brigadier Frank Henn died on Thursday, 15th October, one month before his 100th birthday. He had fought bravely for this country through the Second World War and was always a figure representing his fellow soldiers and all those who fell in the war at our Remembrance service in Epwell. He was the kindest man with enormous charm and always interesting. He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with his daughter Frannie Wingfield Digby, George and their family at this time.



Swalcliffe

FACULTY RECEIVED: We are very pleased that we have recently received a Faculty (permission from the Diocese) for the restoration and conservation of our three medieval wall paintings. Grant applications are being made at the moment and work is due to start in early summer next year.

Our church congregation and concert goers will be pleased to hear we are trying to address the cold and damp in the church! To this end we recently had an Environmental Study done and damage to the storm water drainage system was identified as the main cause. Next week you may spot engineers doing a survey and hopefully this will lead to us being able to make the necessary repairs. The next challenge will be the heating system!



CHURCH OPENING: The church is now open for prayer and services as usual with social distancing, masks and hand sanitisers! Lovely choral music is played via the sound system until we are allowed to sing again ourselves. We welcome you all to join us.

Sibford

Sibford congregation were excited to know of the appointment of Revd. Neil Bowler and are looking forward to welcoming him on 5th January when he will be installed as Rector of the Wykeham Benefice.

THANKYOU: My thanks to Jean and Bill Dunkley who worked tirelessly on several occasions to clear the new rectory drive of moss and weeds, tidied the edges of front paths making it look welcoming and cared for. Also thanks to a team of volunteers who swept, weeded and clipped the rear gardens.

HARVEST FESTIVAL: We held our Harvest Festival service on 27th September, obviously no singing of harvest hymns but Peter Hardman played old favourites with gusto before and after the service. The cash collection which totalled £100 was given to Polly Preedy with the tinned and dried food for her work with the homeless and needy in Banbury. A thankyou card from Polly can be found in the church porch.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES: We have started to collect and decorate shoe boxes which we plan to fill with items to make Christmas boxes for Polly to hand out at Christmas. More details from Barbara 01295 788541.

UPDATE ON THE SIBFORD METHODIST CHURCH

It is now 6 years since the chapel closed and the remaining 5 members have all been welcomed into the Chapels at Wiggington, Chipping Norton, Shipston and Holy Trinity Church. Sibford was part of the Chipping Norton and Stowe on the Wold circuit but with so many closures, the circuit ceased to warrant a minister and was split into two, some joining the Banbury and some joining the Witney group, though the members still worship in their own chapels, apart from Sibford. We in Sibford hope to have occasional meetings in the future so that the original surviving members can meet their former circuit friends.

Broughton

HARVEST FESTIVAL: Broughton held its Harvest Festival on Sunday September 27th at 3pm the Choir sang all the popular hymns and after we had refreshments held in the park thank you Penny.



The annual church meeting was held in St. Mary's House on September 29th. We were informed of the down turn in our financial position due to the dreaded virus. The Church

Wardens were re-elected and were sworn in at the Benefice Service at Sibford in October. All the other officers were re-elected.

Shutford

RIDE AND STRIDE: St. Martin's Church porch was open to receive Ride & Stride participants on 12th September: refreshments were available at the church and in the pub next door but only 8 people called.

CHURCH OPEN: Although the church is open on Sundays for private prayer and worship our congregations are smaller than before the coronavirus struck. Just 6 people were at our Harvest Thanksgiving on 27th September. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and some produce and vegetables: the non-perishable goods donated have been given to the BYHP Foodbank in Banbury. Our church is as secure as it can be for worship but some may prefer to stay at home and partake in the online services available instead.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE: Our annual Remembrance Service will be held at 6.00pm on 8th November with a retiring collection for The Royal British Legion, Poppy Appeal. With social distancing in place, there is room for about 20 individuals or family groups in church: although we will have some music, we cannot sing or have a brass band this year. There will be no door to door or street collections for the Poppy Appeal in 2020 but there will be collecting boxes in pubs and shops etc and donations can be made online - www.poppyshop.org.uk.

It has been a difficult year for everyone and many will be suffering financially and emotionally and many fear for the future in many ways. St Martin's church has a small generous congregation who have helped during these difficult times but it is sad that we have been unable to reach out to our community socially or raise funds for the many charities we have helped in previous years. In difficult times the vulnerable suffer most so we must all look out for those in need.

<i>Readings for November</i>		Old Testament	New Testament	The Gospel
All Saints	Sunday 1 st	Revelation: 7 9 - end	1 John 3: 1 - 3	Matthew 5: 1 - 12
Remembrance Sunday	Sunday 8 th	Amos 5: 18 - 24	1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - end	Matthew 25: 1 - 13
Second before Advent	Sunday 15 th	Zephaniah 1: 7 & 12 - end	2 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11	Matthew 25: 14 - 30
Christ the King	Sunday 22 nd	Nehemiah 8: 1 - 12	Ephesians 1: 15 - end	Matthew 25: 31 - end
Advent 1	Sunday 29 th	Isaiah 64: 1 - 9	1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9	Mark 13: 24 - end

Services for November 2020

Sunday 1 st All Saints	Broughton	10 am	Benefice Eucharist	JT
Tuesday 3 rd Richard Hooker	Tadmarton	10 am	Holy Communion BCP	MC
Sunday 8 th Remembrance Sunday	Sibford	8 am	Holy Communion BCP	JT
	Swalcliffe	9.30 am	Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance	JT
	Broughton	10.55 am	Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance	JT
	Epwell	10.55 am	Remembrance Service	HS
	Sibford	10.55 am	Remembrance Service	MC
	Tadmarton	10.55 am	Remembrance Service	JW
Shutford	6 pm	Remembrance Service	JT	
Tuesday 10 th St Leo the Great	Tadmarton	10 am	Holy Communion BCP	DP
Sunday 15 th Second Sunday before Advent	Broughton	8.am	Holy Communion BCP	JT
	Sibford	9.30 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Swalcliffe	9.30 am	Morning Worship	Lay led
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	DP
	Broughton	11 am	Morning Praise	Lay led
	Shutford	11 am	Morning Praise	Lay led
Tadmarton	11 am	Holy Communion	JT	
Tuesday 17 th St Hugh	Tadmarton	10 am	Holy Communion BCP	MC
Sunday 22 nd Christ the King	Shutford	9.30 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Sibford	9.30 am	Morning Praise	Lay led
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	DP
	Epwell	9.45 am	Holy Communion	GE
	Broughton	11 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Tadmarton	11am	Village Service	Lay led
Tuesday 24 th	Tadmarton	10 am	Holy Communion BCP	DP
Sunday 29 th Advent 1	Sibford	9.30 am	Holy Communion	DP
	Swalcliffe	9.30 am	Holy Communion	KS
	Epwell	9.45 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Broughton	11 am	Holy Communion	DP
	Tadmarton	11 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Sibford	4pm	BCP Evensong	JT

MORNING PRAYER: 9 AM – Monday - Epwell. Tuesday - Broughton. Wednesday - Sibford. Friday - Swalcliffe. Saturday - Shutford. Services on ZOOM at 5pm on Sundays

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 Reverend Hazel Scarr (HS), The Rev'd Canon **John Whitwell (JW)**, **The Venerable Keith Smalldon (KS)** The Rev'd Michael Campling (MC)

Churches Open for Private Prayer

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

Sibford Church – Holy Trinity Church: Wednesdays 9a.m. – 3p.m

Sunday for services – 12 noon.

Shutford Church - Sunday

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

Broughton church will remain closed.

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

Please Pray for ALL young people during these unusual times:



* For children at Kindergarten, early years of school, those taking SATS, school entrance exams, GCSEs and A Levels all of whom have missed out on so much schooling.

* For undergraduates from freshers year to those who will graduate this year whose lectures halls are closed and social lives, sports, libraries and facilities are restricted.

* For those school leavers and graduates whose dreams of internships, further education or exploring an independent life in other parts of the world have been thwarted or who are looking to land their first job in a listless job market.

* For those who have lost their jobs with little experience under their belt or have less opportunities to find others.



“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you” Deuteronomy 31: v. 6

Wyatt Almshouses, Broughton - One bedroom accommodation available

The Wyatt Almshouses are situated on the Main Road and Wykeham Lane junction in the centre of Broughton, near the Saye & Sele Arms. The Hornton stone properties were built in 1859 by Miss Elizabeth Wyatt. Maintained to a high standard providing modern, comfortable, desirable accommodation. Owned by The Wyatt Almshouse Charity, registered with The Charity Commission. Managed by appointed Trustees responsible for all maintenance, decoration and refurbishment.

A ground floor single unit, currently undergoing extensive refurbishment, will shortly become available. Applicants of a minimum of 60 years old. The Trustees invite applications for occupancy in writing please to: **Mrs Elaine Boswell, T-Tree House,**

Main Street, North Newington, Banbury, OX15 6AJ.

Closing date 30th November 2020.

**Please submit your copy for the next edition by Saturday,
14th November 2020**