

Wykeham Benefice News

October 2020

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

The return to church services in our churches rather than just on Zoom has brought an element of normality back into our lives, and the Prime Minister's new 'Rule of Six' thankfully does not stop us having services in our churches, as long as we observe appropriate social distancing within church. It has been very good to see the congregation again in person, even if their faces are partially obscured by facemasks. It was entirely coincidental that the concluding sentence of the gospel reading on the first Sunday back in church was '*Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them*' but it was a timely reminder of God's presence with us, whatever we are facing in our lives. He is there if only we are prepared to recognise him and welcome him into our lives.

But we are not back in normal times yet: anxiety remains for many people over the risk of infection or the breaking of the law if we gather in groups which are too large. I believe that the arrangements in our churches are safe on both counts. Many of our regular congregation members are unhappy about not being able to sing, not being able to exchange the peace by shaking hands and not being able to receive communion in both kinds. The restrictions on singing and shaking hands can only be sensible given the way in which the Corona Virus is transmitted and it may be many months before we can all belt out our favourite hymns. Likewise, the restrictions on sharing the chalice of wine make sense, though many have wondered why we cannot have individual glasses of wine, as are used in the United Reformed Church

and some Methodist churches. Apparently, Church of England canon law does not permit it, though that may of course change.

One commentator in the Church Times, Canon Angela Tilby, said that the small individual glasses reminded her of the glasses used by Russian soldiers for shots of vodka, which are often smashed against the wall once the vodka has been drunk. It would of course save washing up if we did that!

There are greater frustrations than those imposed on our church congregations: the 'Rule of Six' may well make it very difficult for larger families to gather properly. Relationships via Zoom or facetime are really not the same but we will need to have patience. Those frustrations make it all the more important to recognise that our access to God is not limited by Covid-19 or any laws which our Government chooses to make. God is always present when we turn to him, though our human minds can never really understand how he can be. Our need for that reassurance – *'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them'* – is greater now than it has been for many years.

There is promising news on the appointment of a new Rector. An announcement may well have been made by the time that you read this, but we hope to be able to give you more details in the next edition.

John Tattersall, September 2020

News from the Benefice Villages

Shutford

The PCC met in August and, after a risk assessment, decided to open St Martin's church every Sunday for worship and private prayer. Strict hygiene measures are in place with face coverings and social distancing required.

There is also Morning Prayer on Saturday at 9.00am. The church will remain closed at all other times for the time being.

The first Sunday service in church since March was lay led Morning Praise on 6th September which was followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The existing members of the PCC were re-elected to serve in various roles with the exception of Jackie who stood down after 33 years. Her contribution

to church life is much appreciated. The church continues to be supported by a small number of loyal good natured worshippers and others from the wider community are involved in social and fund raising events. Most value the presence of St Martin`s church in the village. The future is challenging, made more difficult by the coronavirus crisis, but it is hoped that, with the appointment of a new rector the church and its outreach will go from strength to strength.



Tadmarton

The Parochial Church Council has now agreed to resume Sunday services in church from the beginning of October, though in fact the first service will be a funeral on Friday 25 September.

St. Nicholas church has been open for private prayer for several weeks now and inside the porch there is provided the necessary safety instructions including hand sanitizer. Please follow the guidance if you attend.

Several church members join the Zoom services every Sunday and when convenient they have attended services in some of the other Benefice churches. Details are always given in The Wykeham News.

Several members of the church will have been present to record participants in the Oxford Historic Churches cycle ride which took place on Saturday 12th September.

The interviews for the new Rector of this Benefice will have taken place before this month`s publication and we hope that an announcement can be made quite soon.

We are happy to report that the Kitchen Project has received approval from the Church authorities and may now proceed to construction.

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

Epwell

It was with great pleasure and excitement that on the 6th September St. Anne's held its first Holy Communion since the middle of March. The PCC had met to approve a system to allow entry via the Chancel door and exit via the porch door so that all social distancing and other requirements to keep everyone safe were met.

In addition to Sunday services, St Anne's remains open for private prayer on Mondays 9 - 10.30am and Thursdays 4 - 6pm.

The postponed APCM is due to take place on Thursday 8th October at 6.00pm in the church and is open to all.

Swalcliffe

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!

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

CHURCH OPENING for Public Worship is constantly being reviewed and our first Service was held on 6th September with twenty-five worshippers. Zoom services were a great alternative but it was good to be back in church. Thank you John. The A.C.P.M. was also held by The Reverend John Tattersall at Sibford church on 24th September 2020.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE was held on 27th September. We had planned to hold a picnic lunch in the church grounds but this had to be cancelled. Also, in line with Government guidelines we have also cancelled the proposed coffee mornings and Craft workshop.

Broughton

St Mary's House has been open for small groups and is ticking over OK, obviously all the required hygiene practices are in force.

Broughton Church opened for the first time since lockdown 6th September. John took the service and the choir sang along with the recording, Ruth played the organ for the communion hymn.

The APCC meeting took place in St Mary's House on September 29th.

**Lord Saye & Sele celebrated his 100th Birthday
on 22nd September, 2020**

“We all wish him well and give thanks for a long and interesting life. One of life’s real gentlemen.” Neil Howarth, Broughton.

Below: Captain of Eton X1
v Harrow, Lords, 1939



Nat Fiennes, Adjutant with the 8th Battalion, Rifle Brigade, in
Germany with General Montgomery 1945.



Cricket with his grandson, 2006 and at Broughton Castle, 2010

Services for October 2020

Sunday 4 th October Trinity 17	Sibford	10a.m.	Benefice Eucharist	JT
Sunday 11 th October Trinity 18	Sibford	8 am	Holy Communion BCP	JT
	Shutford	9.30 am	Holy Communion BCP	JT
	Sibford	9.30 am	Holy Communion	GE
	Swalcliffe	9.30 am	Holy Communion	DP
	Epwell	11 am	Harvest Festival	GE
	Broughton	11 am	Holy Communion	JT
Sunday 18 th St Luke	Tadmarton	11am	Holy Communion	DP
	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	JW
	Broughton	11 am	Morning Praise	Lay led
Sunday 25 th October Last after Trinity Bible Sunday	Shutford	11 am	Morning Praise	Lay led
	Tadmarton	11 am	Holy Communion	JT
	Shutford	9.30 am	Holy Communion	DP
	Sibford	9.30 am	Morning Praise	Lay led
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	GE
	Epwell	9.45 am	Holy Communion	JT
Broughton	11 am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Tadmarton	11am	Village Service	Lay led

Rector: Vacant. **Associate Minister:** The Revd John Tattersall (JT)

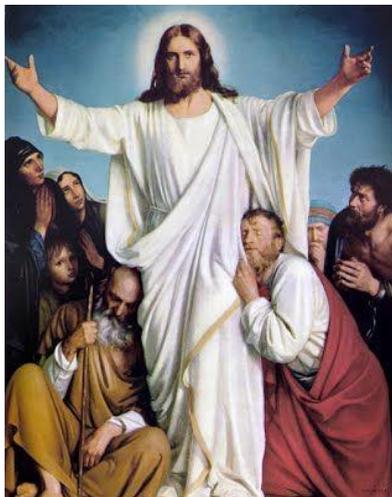
Assisting Priests: The Rev'd Dr David Pym (DP), The Rev'd Canon Glyn Evans (GE),
The Rev'd Canon John Whitwell (JW)

Readings for October

		Old Testament	New Testament	The Gospel
Trinity 17	Sunday 4th October	Isaiah 5: 1-17	Philippians 3: 4 - 14	Matthew 21: 33 - end
Trinity 18	Sunday 11th October	Isaiah 25: 1- 9	Philippians 4: 1 - 9	Matthew 22: 1 - 14
St Luke	Sunday 18th October	Isaiah 35: 3 - 6	2 Timothy 4: 5 - 17	Luke 10: 1 - 9
Last after Trinity Bible Sunday	Sunday 25th October	Nehemiah 8: 1 - 12	Colossians 3: 12 - 17	Matthew 24: 30 - 35

Please Pray ...

- With Gratitude that we are not without God and therefore 'not' alone.
- For the opportunity to pray with others.
- Thankfully for our Heavenly Father's compassion that shows His care in all our needs, lows and joys, and His desire to share them all with us.
- With gratitude that some medical progress has been made to help the most severely affected Coronavirus sufferers.
- For those who suffer from any other serious illnesses. Please pray that their requirements will be fulfilled and necessary support be there for them.
- For our climate and all who have lost so much due to the fires and floods this year.
- For all those who grieve. For courage and God's comfort to surround them.
- For unity to rid each nation of racial violence and discrimination throughout the world and for initiatives to demonstrate peacefully.
- ...and ask God to help us be compassionate and courageous Christians for His service.



Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us sinners. Help us to be both receptive soil of your word and sowers of the seed that is your word in the world. Bless and guide those who lead your church and preach your word, especially The Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, the Archdeaconry of Dorchester, Judy French; the Archdeacons of Oxford, Buckingham, and Berkshire, and all of the support Staff at Church House Oxford. Lord hear our prayer. Amen

Churches Open for Private Prayer

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

Sibford Church – Holy Trinity Church: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9.30 – 10.30a.m. & 3.30 – 4.30p.m.

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

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

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

Good News from Ronald and Liz

This was sent on 3rd September, 2020

Hello,

This very morning the flooring was put into the conservatory....aka The Wykeham Room, and it is now complete and in use. Lovely.
Thank you all once again.



With very best wishes to everyone,

Ronald and Liz



Please submit your copy for the November edition by
Monday, 12th October, 2020