

# Wykeham Benefice News February 2020

## WYKEHAM BENEFICE IN AN INTERREGNUM

After our sad farewell to Ronald and Liz on Sunday 19 January, there will inevitably be concern among some parishioners as to how we should keep things going in the Benefice over the coming months. We have become used to having three members of the clergy to cover our six churches, a generous allocation compared to many other benefices around us, but we now go down to just one – me - and I am only available part-time, because as many of you will know I still work part-time in London during the week. But we should look on this period as an opportunity to develop talents that many did not realise that they had, as well as to consider how we want the Benefice to be led in the future. It means many months when no-one can say 'Let's check with Ronald' because he will be many miles away in Yorkshire and will probably no longer have the answer anyway. I will always be in contact by email or text in case of real difficulty, but for many questions and issues the knowledge and decisions will rest with churchwardens.

The Church of England is a firm supporter of what is called 'The priesthood of all believers' which reminds us that many of the things that have traditionally been done by priests can in fact be done by those who are not ordained. The phrase comes from the words of the apostle St Peter in

1 Peter 2:9 *'You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people'.*

Lay people are allowed to do many of the tasks that we call 'pastoral' - they can visit parishioners who are unwell, suffering or lonely, and often more importantly can be a local point of contact with the church; in addition they can preside at non-eucharistic services, they can lead bible study groups, lead prayers and teach their neighbours about what it means to be a Christian, and of course they can chair PCC meetings. Above all, they can take initiatives when required.



Over the next few months, each church is likely to have at least one lay led service every month. I hope that several congregation members will participate in these and will discover skills that have lain dormant. Please ask me for advice on how to lead worship if you wish, though many of you have been attending services for at least as long as I have and will have lots of experience of worship which works and that which doesn't work.

It is impossible to know how long the interregnum will last for. Technically it does not start until Ronald's formal retirement date of 31st January: the last 12 days of January were unused holiday allowance for him. The first step is for us to hold a 'Section 11' meeting of all PCCs – hopefully during February – which will appoint parish representatives from each parish to participate in the selection process, as well as discussing who we might be looking for. Churchwardens will already have met before that to start the process of developing a 'Benefice profile' – the description of the Benefice to be sent to prospective candidates for Rector. The next step is for a 'Section 12' meeting to be held with the Archdeacon and Patrons of the Benefice (Lord Saye and Sele, New College Oxford and Worcester College Oxford) to develop the advertisement which will hopefully be placed in the Church Times and on various websites in late March.

At that stage we are dependent on responses to the advertisement: sometimes it is necessary to advertise several times to find suitable candidates. But if there is a good response, it might be possible to interview a shortlist in May. If parish representatives can agree on the candidate, then after checks and notice period we might have a new Rector in September. But it could take several months longer if suitable candidates do not apply. Thankfully because of the number of retired clergy who live locally, I have been able to book clergy for all of the services which need to be led by clergy until the end of June, and I will start booking clergy for the months after that in March. I am very grateful to so many retired clergy who have agreed to help us out.

I hope that by this time in 2021, even if delays happen, it will be a new Rector who writes the lead piece of Wykeham Benefice News!

John Tattersall

[revjohn@wykehambenefice.org.uk](mailto:revjohn@wykehambenefice.org.uk)

Mobile number: 07711 733978



## ***News from the Benefice Villages***

### **Epwell**

**ADVENT** - It was wonderful to have so many people visiting the church over the festive period for a variety of occasions. Thank you to the Wingfield-Digby family who kindly donated the Christmas tree and to Catherine Hurst and Nicola Rudge for the beautiful flower arrangements. On Christmas Eve, the church was filled with families watching the children both young and old perform their version of the Nativity and the Christmas Day service, which was taken by Ronald Hawkes and was well attended.

The PCC would like to thank the households that hosted the 'Travelling Nativity Scene' and wish everyone in the village a Happy New Year.

### **MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE: 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH AT 10AM.**

Please come along to our Mother's Day service and help us celebrate and give thanks, with the promise of flower posies for mums and chocolate cake for everyone else.

### **Shutford**

A total of £584 was raised in November for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. This money came from the George & Dragon pub, church and door to door collections.

An excellent Christmas Community Lunch was held in the village hall on 5th December. Food was prepared and served by members of the village hall and church teams. They raised £350 for Katharine House Hospice.

The final Messy Church Event for 2019 was held on 14th December. It had a Christmas theme and 14 children and 20 adults enjoyed making Christmas crafts and Christingles with a story, carols and refreshment to finish. Apart for a Good Friday in Sibford, no other Messy Church Events have been

planned for 2020. The four held in Shutford were organised by an elderly churchwarden who needs younger people to take the lead! Please contact [KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk](mailto:KJJ@kennyjohn.co.uk) with offers to organise future events. Craft materials are held in Shutford and are a benefice resource.

The carol service on 15th December was well attended. The evening started with refreshments and was organised by Rev Ronald. There were readings, seasonal carols and songs from the Skeptics A Capella Trio. £100 has been given to The Children's Society from collections at Messy Church and the carol service.

St Martin's Church was beautifully decorated for Christmas with a tree, flowers, greenery and the crib in place on the font. A big thank you to everyone who provides and arranges flowers all year round.

## **Sibford**

So we say goodbye to Liz and Ronald. with many, many thanks to both of you for ALL you have done for this Benefice.

Although Christmas was a month ago to some it is still fresh in the memory. Sibford Services were well attended from the Carol and Christingle Service to Midnight and Christmas day. With thanks to visiting clergy for their help. In the next few months we will depend a lot, I think, on their help.

Thanks go to Joey Wardell for the magnificent Christmas Tree and Tim Huckvale and his CREW for the decorating of it... It certainly had the WOW factor when one went into church.

Please pray for those whose task is to select a new incumbent to this Benefice .

## **Tadmarton**

The Christingle service on December 8th at 4pm in the church was a very enjoyable service. The children, of all ages(!) displayed the true meaning of Christingle, directed by The Rev. Ronald.

The Carol service on Tuesday 17th December in the church was a great evening of well-known Carols as well as Carols sung by the Choir. The church was beautifully decorated and the atmosphere could not have been better. The service set an excellent start to the festive season. Thanks to our ladies, the refreshments after the service were magnificent. The services for the next two months are detailed on the Church notice Board and in both the Wykeham News and The Link.

By the time we read this report we shall have said farewell to our Rector Ronald Hawkes and the Reverend Liz Hawkes. We are so appreciative of all the services and ministry they have given to this Parish and they will always be welcome in Tadmarton. We shall all miss them very much.

We are so fortunate to have The Reverend John Tattersall at the helm of this Benefice during the Interregnum period and we shall give him our support wherever possible.

## **Swalcliffe**

A joyous Christmas Day service with Ronald was very well attended and the Carols and Nativity Tableau was a huge success with almost 200 people in church to hear the Christmas story told with an amusing 'twist'! It will be a hard act to follow this year but we have promised Ronald we will continue his successful format!

Thanks to generous donations, a cheque for £300 was sent to the Sunshine Children's Centre in Banbury for which they were extremely grateful.

## **PIVA- THE RENAISSANCE BAND RETURNS: SATURDAY, 7TH MARCH AT 7.30PM (Bar/doors open at 6.45PM)**

The wonderful Renaissance band PIVA will return to Swalcliffe Church to perform their popular show "Measure for Measure", a glorious celebration of the dance and ballad music that would have been familiar to theatre audiences in Shakespeare's time. There are over 3000 references to music in Shakespeare's writings running from village green to stately court and rowdy tavern to country house. PIVA bring this vibrant period to life, melding all these influences together to create music of the past played for today. **Tickets £15 available from 01295 788127 or [www.swalcliffe.org](http://www.swalcliffe.org)**

## **Broughton**

All the services over the Christmas period were all very well attended we had over 650 people in Church. On January 1st the annual service in the Chapel at Broughton Castle was standing room only. Many thanks go to Martin for allowing us to hold this service in such a spiritual setting. January 8th the short mat bowls resumed in St. Mary's House after the winter break.

**THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB: TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY AT 2.30P.M.** - will be held in St. Mary's House. Please do come along to this very social gathering for a cuppa and a chat.

By the time this magazine is published Ronald & Elizabeth will have moved on to pastures new in Yorkshire we will miss them and pray that they have a long and happy retirement.

**SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY AT 11AM: IST LAY LED SERVICE**

The Benefice will now go into an Interregnum to plan for a new Rector, this will take some time but the Church will continue as normal but with some services being Lay led. The first one in Broughton will be led by Alan Wolstencroft who will bring us up to date on ‘Alans Africa’.



***Readings for February***

		<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>	<b>The Gospel</b>
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Candlemas</b>	Malachi 3: 1 - 5	Hebrews 2: 14 - end	Luke 2: 22-40
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>	Isaiah: 58: 1 – 9a	1 Corinthians 2: 1 - 12	Matthew 5: 13 - 20
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>	Genesis 1: 1 - 2:- 3	Romans 8: 18 - 25	Matthew 6: 25 - end
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>Next Sunday before Lent</b>	Exodus 24: 12 - end	2 Peter 1: 16 - end	Matthew 17: 1 - 9
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Joel 2: 1 – 2 & 12 - 17	2 Colossians 5: 20 – 6: 10	Matthew 6: 1-6 & 16 - 21

## *Services for February*

Sunday 2nd February <b>Candlemas</b>	Shutford	10am	BCP Benefice Eucharist	JT
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	JW
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>	Sibford Shutford Sibford Swalcliffe Epswell Broughton Tadmarton	8am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11am 11am	BCP Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Morning Praise Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	JT JT Lay led DP GE GE JT
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	DP
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> February <b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>	Broughton Sibford Swalcliffe Epswell Broughton Shutford Tadmarton	8am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Praise Holy Communion	JT JT Lay led DP Lay led Lay led JT
Tuesday 18th	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	JW
Sunday 23rd February <b>Next before Lent</b>	Shutford Sibford Swalcliffe Epswell Broughton Tadmarton	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11am 11am	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Village Service	DP JT GE Lay led JT Lay led
Tuesday 25th	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	DP
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Epswell Sibford	9.30am 7pm	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	JT JT

### **Clergy:**

The Revd John Tattersall (JT), The Rev'd Dr David Pym (DP), The Revd  
Canon Glyn Evans (GE), The Rev'd Canon John Whitwell (JW)

## *Please Pray...*

- With thanksgiving, echoing the prayers and good wishes stated in this newsletter by villagers in our Benefice for Ronald and Liz.
- With thanksgiving for John Tattersall, the retired clergy, church wardens and those who will help lead and support our churches in the Benefice during the interregnum.
- for guidance on good decisions needed for advertising for a new incumbent for our benefice.
- For devotion to our communities and courage to do God's will.

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- For our Queen in these times of personal difficulties.
- For those whose needs are great and resources few. We think particularly for those who have recently suffered loss and trauma through the fires in Australia, the floods in Indonesia and the floods in our own nation.
- For progress in combating global warming in our own lives and in parts of the world where the message of destruction of wildlife and our beautiful planet falls on deaf ears.
- May we remember to be truly compassionate and courageous Christians and strive to make God's Kingdom a reality here on earth.

### *Winter*

Old January clad in  
crispy rime  
Comes hirpling on and  
often makes a stand  
The hasty snowstorms  
neer disturbs his time  
He mends no pace but  
beats his dithering  
hand  
And February like a  
timid maid

Smiling and sorrowing follows in his train  
Huddled in cloak of mirey roads afraid  
She hastens on to greet her home again  
Then March the prophetess by storms inspired  
Gazes in rapture on the troubled sky  
And then in headlong fury madly fired  
She bids the hail storm boil and hurry bye  
Yet neath the blackest cloud a sunbeam flings  
Its cheering promise of returning spring.



Thank you to Ken Jeffs  
for sending in this poem.

John Clare (1793-1864)