

Wykeham Benefice News March 2020

LENT

By the time you read this magazine, we will be in Lent, a period of just over 6 weeks which starts on Ash Wednesday, 26th February. For Christians, it is a time of preparation for Easter, traditionally when candidates for baptism or confirmation prepared for baptism and confirmation services at Easter. But for those who have already been baptised and confirmed, it is a time when we are expected to devote more time to study of the bible and prayer in order to get closer to God, and for many Christians it is a time of fasting, perhaps originally with the aim of clearing our minds to better enable us to get closer to God.

I still give up chocolate every Lent, perhaps not the greatest sacrifice but quite significant for a chocoholic like me. However, I know that what is more important is devoting extra time to study and prayer, and I always do that too: certainly, more time than I would have spent eating chocolate, and it is always more worthwhile.

The Ash Wednesday services at 9.30am in Epwell and 7.00pm in Sibford force us to think about where we have gone wrong over the past year: what we have done that we should not have done, and what we have failed to do. The words are thought provoking: *'From sloth, worldliness and love of money, from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws, Good Lord deliver us'...* and then as the priest makes a sign of the cross on each forehead he or she says: *Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.* I always find these words deeply thought provoking, even when I am the one putting the ash on people's foreheads!

In the Wykeham Benefice, we organise Lent Lunches in different villages each week: these are meant to be austerity lunches, part of the fasting bit, to which people contribute what they would have spent on a full lunch and the money is devoted to charity. Do try to come to one or all of them. **This year dates are on the back of this newsletter.**

But please also try to spend time getting closer to God through study, perhaps attending extra services such as the Morning Prayer sessions held in different churches each day, or reading the bible at home and praying quietly. I can provide bible study guides if you want one. We are also planning a study group on the meaning of the Lord's Prayer: please let me know if you would be interested in joining this. **Details can be found on the 5th page.** You will find whatever that you do or whatever you give up worthwhile.

John Tattersall revjohn@wykehambenefice.org.uk

Mobile number: 07711 733978

News from the Benefice Villages



Shutford

The PCC met at the end of January to accept the Annual Report and Accounts and arrange the APCM on 14th March in Shutford Village Hall. The report confirms that worship numbers are being maintained. There has been positive outreach in the community and the accounts show a healthy financial situation. 2020 will be more challenging following the retirement of Ronald and Elisabeth and we are fortunate in having Rev John helping us during the interregnum. New churchwardens, PCC and Deanery members will be elected in March and it is hoped that younger people in our community will get more involved with church life.

We were pleased to welcome our friends from across the benefice to celebrate Candlemas on 2nd February. The choir led by Chris were present and it was good to have a full church: refreshments were enjoyed after the service.

LENT LUNCH: MONDAY 6TH APRIL 12PM. Lent lunch will be in the village hall. Money raised will be given to Katharine House Hospice. Members of Shutford PCC are taking up a **40-Day challenge** to Live Lent and Care for God's Creation (see C of E website for details). Other community lunches are held fortnightly in Shutford village hall on a **Thursday from 12.30pm** and everyone is welcome: see Shutford V.H. website diary for dates.

Sibford

We are now looking for a new Rector so we are busy putting together the Parish Profile. Also at Sibford the PCC are looking for a new Churchwarden.

We are thankful for visiting clergy who are taking Services for us. Please watch church noticeboard for Services during Lent. If anyone would like to assist in the church please contact the acting chairperson of the PCC.

SIBFORD'S MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE: SUNDAY 22nd MARCH AT 10 A.M.

It would be lovely to see families at the Mothering Sunday service. Please come and join us

LENT LUNCH: TUESDAY 24th MARCH AT 12.30PM AT WYATT'S CLOSE, SIBFORD GOWER home of David & Gilian Soden.

Everyone is welcome.



Swalcliffe

Farewell Ronald and Liz

What a very special and inspirational service it was to say goodbye to Ronald and Liz on 19th January. The sun shone, the choir sang like angels, the flowers were glorious, the food was delicious (thank you Tor) and the church was packed. There was much laughter and many tears but what a wonderful example they have set for us to follow.

LENT LUNCH: MONDAY, 2ND MARCH 12.30 - 2.30pm

To be held at Tyne Hill Farm by kind invitation of Martin and Gay Harris.

Everyone very welcome, just pop in when you can for a choice of soups, bread and cheese! Donations gratefully received will go to Katharine House Hospice.

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 on line: www.swalcliffe.org**

MOTHERS DAY FAMILY SERVICE: SUNDAY, 22ND MARCH AT 4.30P.M. Followed by tea and fairy cakes! Virginia and Gay will be taking the service and it is hoped that lots of children will come along to this happy, cheerful occasion. *We would like the children's choices of hymns so let us know your favourites and any contributions to prayers, poems or readings thanking God for our wonderful mothers would be very welcome.* Anyone young (... or older!) is most welcome to read or take part!



Tadmarton

The services for the next two months are detailed on the Church notice Board and in both the Wykeham News and The Link. Come and join our regular congregation at these service, you will receive a friendly welcome and there is always cake and biscuits and tea or coffee to enjoy.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 8th MARCH IN CHURCH AFTER 11AM SERVICE.

This should take about 30mins approx.

LENT LUNCH: TUESDAY 17TH MARCH 12 – approx. 2PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the soups etc.

The future church events will be detailed in our next month's report.

Broughton

Peter and the family of Doreen Smith would like to thank everyone for their generous donations in October. The sum of £600 has been gratefully received by Juniper Ward where the staff cared for Doreen so well. The donation will be used for a much needed scanner.

The Friendship club met on February 4th in St Mary's House and welcomed two new friends. We had a good chat and Doreen Knight had devised a quiz for us. We also played a card game and enjoyed our tea and biscuits, plus the usual raffle.

The PCC met in Broughton Castle after Church on Sunday February 9th to discuss the Parish Profile, also to think about the wording for the advert to go in the Church Times for the new Priest. The Benefice representatives will get together to agree the final outcome.

Epwell

A Songs of Praise worship was held to mark Ronald's last service in St Anne's. The congregation chose a variety of modern and traditional hymns, some reflective, others uplifting, which evoked a personal memory or connection.

Afterwards, Ronald and Liz were thanked for their work and service to our community and we wish them God's blessing for their future endeavours.

MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE: 22ND 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.



EPWELL DRAMA GROUP: THE JUNGLE BOOK, 26TH – 28TH MARCH AT 7P.M.

Our next production will be The Jungle Book in the Epwell Village Hall. Please come along and support our very talented youngsters if you can.

Contact Dawn 01295 788473 for details.

LENT GROUP to be held on Saturdays in Lent. 10a.m.

We are planning to study the meaning of the Lord's Prayer at **Abingdon House, Park Lane, Swalcliffe**. Please let **John Tattersall** know if you would be interested in joining the group. revjohn@wykehambenefice.org.uk Mobile number: 07711 733978



Readings for March

		Old Testament	New Testament	The Gospel
Sunday 1 st March	Lent 1	Genesis 2: 15 - 17 & 3: 1 - 7	Romans 5: 12 - 19	Matthew 4: 1 - 11
Sunday 8 th March	Lent 2	Genesis: 12: 1 – 4a	Romans 4: 1 – 5 & 13 - 17	John 3: 1 - 17
Sunday 15 th March	Lent 3	Exodus 17: 1 - 7	Romans 5: 1 - 11	John 4: 5 - 42
Sunday 22 nd March	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2: 1 – 10 or 1 Samuel 1: 20 - end	2 Corinthians 1: 3 – 7 or Colossians 3: 12 - 17	Luke 2: 33 – 35 or John 19: 25b - 27
Sunday 29 th March	Lent 5 Passion Sunday	Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14	Romans 8: 6 - 11	John 11: 1 - 45

Assisting Clergy The Rev'd Dr David Pym (DP), The Revd Canon Glyn Evans (GE), The Rev'd Canon John Whitwell (JW), The Ven Keith Smalldon (KS), The Rev'd Michael Campling (MC)

Services for March

Sunday 1 st March Lent 1	Sibford	10am	Benefice Eucharist	JT
Tuesday 3 rd March	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	HS
Sunday 8 th March Lent 2	Sibford Shutford Sibford Swalcliffe Epwell Broughton Tadmarton	8am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11am 11am	BCP Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Morning Praise Holy Communion Morning Praise Holy Communion Holy Communion	JT GE Lay led JT Lay led GE JT
Tuesday 10 th March	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	DP
Sunday 15 th March Lent 3	Broughton Sibford Swalcliffe Epwell Broughton Shutford Tadmarton	8am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Praise Holy Communion	JT DP MC JT Lay led Lay led JT
Tuesday 17 th March St Patrick	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	MC
Sunday 22 nd March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Epwell Sibford Broughton Tadmarton Shutford Swalcliffe	10am 10am 11am 11am 4.30pm 4.30pm	Family Service Family Service Family Service Family Service Family Service Family Service	GE JT JT Lay led JT Lay led
Tuesday 24 th	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	DP
Sunday 29 th March Lent 5 Passion Sunday	Shutford Sibford Swalcliffe Epwell Broughton Tadmarton	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11am 11am	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	JT GE KS OS JT GE
Tuesday 31 st	Tadmarton	10am	BCP Holy Communion	HS

Greetings from Beverley

Dear Wykeham Friends,

Greetings from Beverley. The boxes are unpacked; the lampshades up; the cupboards organised; the place feels like home. Most importantly we have found several lovely dog walks - the views are very different from north Oxfordshire but lovely too in their own way.

We both want to thank you most warmly for several things;

-for your kindness and support during 7 1/2 years in your company; as we said in our little speech "we have been greatly blessed";

-your presence at our final service in Swalcliffe - it was a great joy to have such a splendid send-off;

-last and certainly not least the amazing leaving present. In case you didn't know it was a cheque for £13,500. Yes, really! We were quite overwhelmed.

It has given us the most wonderful opportunity to install a conservatory on the little bungalow we now enjoy - we shall call it the "Wykeham Room" and look forward to enjoying many happy warm afternoons basking in the sunshine, enjoying the indoor plants, and remembering your kindness.

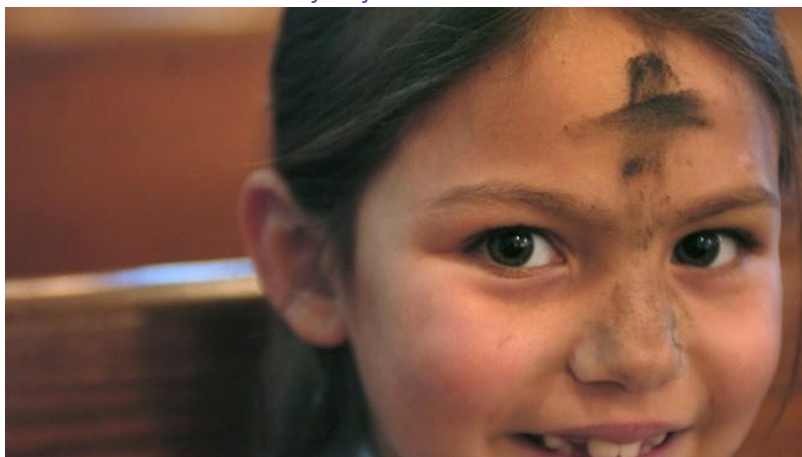
With every good wish to you all,

Ronald and Liz.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES, 26TH FEBRUARY

9.30 a.m. Epwell and 7p.m. Sibford – Please come along to this special service.

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."





DATES FOR THE LENT LUNCHES

Monday, 2nd March, 12.30 – 2.30p.m. – Tyne Hill Farm courtesy of Martin and Gay Harris.

Monday, 9th March, 12 – 2pm – St Mary's Hall, Broughton

Tuesday, 17th March, 12pm - 2pm – Tadmarton Village Hall

Tuesday, 24th March, 12.30p.m. – Wyatt's Close, Sibford Gower, courtesy of David and Gilian Soden

Monday, 30th March, 12pm – 2pm – Epwell Village Hall

Monday, 6th April, 12pm – Shutford Village Hall

Pease Pray....

- 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 and our neighbouring Ironstone Benefice who have also lost their Rector.
- For continued devotion to our communities and courage to do God's will.
- For those dealing with, containing and finding a cure for the Coronavirus.
- For those whose needs are great and resources few. We continue to think particularly for those who have recently suffered loss and trauma through natural disasters abroad and here in the United Kingdom.
- May we remember to be truly compassionate and courageous Christians and strive to make God's Kingdom a reality here on earth.

Final date for copy for the April edition is Thursday, 12TH MARCH