

-WHITTLEWOOD BENEFICE MAGAZINE January and February 2017

Services

Date		Time	Church	Service
Jan 1st	Christmas 1	9.15	Paulerspury	Family Worship
		10.00	Silverstone	Holy Eucharist
Jan 6 th	Epiphany	9.15	Silverstone	Holy Eucharist
Jan 8 th	Baptism of	9.15	Paulerspury	Holy Eucharist
	Christ	11.00	Abthorpe	Holy Eucharist
		11.00	Whittlebury	Matins
		4.00	Silverstone	T@4
Jan 15 th	Epiphany 2	9.15	Abthorpe	Holy Eucharist
		11.00	Whittlebury	Holy Eucharist
		6.00	Paulerspury	Evening Prayer
Jan 22 nd	Epiphany 3	9.15	Paulerspury	Matins
		9.15	Whittlebury	Holy Eucharist
		10.00	Silverstone	Anglican/Methodist joint service at Chapel
		11.00	Slapton	Holy Eucharist
		6.00	Silverstone	Evening Prayer
Jan 29 th	Candlemas	10.00	Silverstone	United Benefice Service
Feb 5 th	4 th before Lent	9.15	Paulerspury	Family Worship
		10.00	Silverstone	Holy Eucharist + Baptism
		5.00	Slapton	Evening Prayer
Feb 12 th	3 rd before Lent	9.15	Paulerspury	Holy Eucharist
		11.00	Abthorpe	Holy Eucharist
		11.00	Whittlebury	Matins
		4.00	Silverstone	T@4
Feb 19 th	2 nd before Lent	9.15	Abthorpe	Holy Eucharist
		11.00	Whittlebury	Holy Eucharist
		6.00	Paulerspury	Evening Prayer
Feb 26 th	1 st before Lent	9.15	Paulerspury	Matins
		9.15	Whittlebury	Holy Eucharist
		10.00	Silverstone	Anglican/Methodist joint service @ Chapel
		11.00	Slapton	Holy Eucharist
		6.00	Silverstone	Evening Prayer

Check the church notice boards for other occasional services and for any changes to the above. Midweek Healing Eucharist services are held at 7.30p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Paulerspury and a 9.30a.m. Holy Eucharist most weeks at Silverstone.

From the Vicarage Desk

We have celebrated Christmas, marked the turn of the year, begun the year of our Lord, 2017! Before I continue on, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks and appreciation for all the hard work, effort and support that makes the celebration of Christmas possible in our group of five parishes, five parish churches and for our communities.

As I write this I have not yet had the first of the Beer and Carols but I have already been asked about the possibility of adding an extra one of these for Christmas 2017, at Whittlebury!

I hope that everyone has been able to stay healthy and happy through this wonderful festive season. Of course, we are now into the year and we need to consider what we are going to with our lives and how we are going to make the most of the opportunity that we have. As those who believe in God, who follow the Way of the Lord, I believe that we have a great opportunity to bring light and hope to the world, in which we live because this is the message from Jesus.

Many of you will know that I regularly refer to particular passages of Scripture, my personal inspiration texts. One of these is this:

Matthew 28. 18 - end

And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

In these words of Jesus we have clear instruction to go out, to share Good News with the world, with all amongst whom we live and all whom we may meet. Having had the time through this past Christmas I was left thinking that a part of what this means today, for us, is that we need to be involved in advertising. This is one form of Evangelism, to share the Good News and invite people to hear the Word of God and so to make a commitment in their lives to following Jesus.

Yes, to ensure that this Good News is heard by as many people as possible we need to ensure that we are advertising the services, the opportunities to hear and to participate in the wonder of this Good News. We had the Crib scene on the end of St Michael's Church; we used advertising for our Carol Services and had the added help of the Children's Society to advertise the Christingle Services. There has been a website organised by the Church of England online from November which had the details of our Christmas Services shown for the world to see. [www.achristmasnearyou.org]

Well, later this year, between Ascension and Pentecost, we are going to do a little bit across our Parishes to engage in a prayer outreach time that has been called, 'Thy Kingdom Come'. We have not firmed up what we shall do, however, we are hoping that we can make a difference by engaging in Prayer and Witness. Please keep a looking out for more information about this, the dates, for your diaries now, 25th May to 4th June 2017.

Again, reflecting on aspects of Christmas in 2015 and hoping (as I write this) that 2016's Beer & Carols goes as well, I am led to wonder on how we, as the Churches in these villages and communities might do more for 'outreach'? That is to be overtly being Christian in the world beyond the doors of the Church.

This is indeed a part of the work I have the privilege of engaging in at Silverstone Circuit and which I try to do by many engagements with people in our communities who do not come to church. However, there must be more that we can do, I know it to be so for this is God's work and mission.

Jesus spent time in the Synagogues, in the place where religious people gathered, but he spent much more time outside of these places, speaking with people in the market places, in their homes, on the streets. How can we do the same in our culture amongst our neighbours and for our communities?

Just as with the planning for our engagement in 'Thy Kingdom Come', where I do not have the ideas, but the enthusiasm to see something happen, so it is with our Outreach. I firmly believe that to be churches that are able to grow, we must be able to look beyond our gathered communities in Church and see how we can make a difference with and amongst the people who do not come into the buildings that we call church.

A budding idea is that we could have an outreach team, work group, task force or whatever name might be used. And so, as we are looking towards the beginning of this New Year I ask you to pray about this. How can we engage further in Outreach? Who might be those who are called by God, who can be equipped by the Church and empowered then to work alongside me to engage in the work and mission of bringing Good News to the nations, beginning in our part of this nation?

The wonder is that God wants the church, the gathered people of His family, to grow both in the depths of faith and also, wonderfully, in the numbers of those who gather. Not only does God want this, but God will also empower this with the Grace of forgiveness, love and the presence of The Holy Spirit.

Let us be people of faith and hope into 2017.

St John the Baptist Church, Abthorpe

A Happy New Year to everyone from us all at St John the Baptist Church. As I write, we have just finished decorating the church for Christmas and the food box with the Christmas donations has been taken to the food bank. We look forward to our Christmas services and celebrations and hope that the year ahead is a calm and peaceful year.

Food Bank The box that was recently taken to the Food Bank weighed 24.3kg, making the total since we first put the box in church 946.8kg. Thank you to the people of Abthorpe who continue to give to this and to John and Joyce Riches for ensuring that the box is emptied regularly.

We have just sent the cheques off to our chosen charities for 2016 from our Giving Fund. These are the local branch of MIND; Embrace the Middle East (supplying Winter Survival Kits for refugees) and Tearfund's appeal for the Yemen Crisis. We have donated £142 to each charity and earlier in the year, the same amount was given to The Red Cross for the Hurricane Matthew Appeal.

Remembrance Service This was a lovely, well attended service led by John Riches. As in previous years, he focussed on the lives of people from Abthorpe. The collection of £140 was sent to the British Legion.

Services for January and February The services for the next two months follow our regular pattern:

Sunday 8th January	11am	Holy Eucharist Service
Sunday 15th January	9.15am	Holy Eucharist Service
Sunday 12th February	11am	Holy Eucharist Service
Sunday 19th February	9.15am	Holy Eucharist Service

Everyone is more than welcome to any of our services.

Annual Church Meeting Just a bit of advanced warning to pop the date in your diary! This will take place on Tuesday 28th March at 7pm in the Old School. If you would like to join our electoral roll, please do contact me for a form.

North Aisle reordering We met with 7 members of the DAC in November to discuss the options we have for the next stage of our development of the north aisle where we have removed the pews. It was a very useful meeting and the PCC now needs to meet and discuss these.

Barbara Malcomson 01327 857066 malcomson@abthorpe.net

St. James' Paulerspury

No contribution received by 28th December. See list of services on the front page for those planned at St. James'.

News from St. Michael's Church

The Silverstone Schools Christmas Fair was held on Sunday 4th December – Anne ran her Basket Tombola Stall, and Corinne and Mea ran a bookstall. The money raised goes to Church Funds.

On Wednesday 7th December we welcomed The Silson Singers to St. Michael's. The event was very well attended. We all enjoyed a concert of carols, pieces from the Messiah and also some seasonal songs new to us in the audience. Refreshments were served during the interval and a raffle was held.

On Sunday 10th December we sent sandwiches and cakes to The Street Church in Northampton. We also enjoyed our monthly T@4 in the afternoon in the Church Rooms.

Our Christingle Service was held on Saturday 17th December at 4.00 p.m. It was wonderful to see the Church so full. Tea and mincepies were served in the Church Rooms after the Service.

A Christmas Soup lunch took place on Monday 19th December. This was enjoyed by all attending and raised £108.00. This added to the almost £600.00 raised by our Autumn Soup Lunches goes to Church Funds. We thank all our soup makers and all who have supported these lunches.

As I write we are looking forward to Beer and Carols in the White Horse on Thursday evening!

Plans are at the early discussion stage to improve our 'refreshment corner' in St. Michael's. Modernisation and more space is required and Ben Smith the Historic Church Advisor in the Diocese has paid us a visit and has suggested other churches for us to visit to see how improvements have been made and give us ideas.

We wish everyone within the Whittlewood Benefice a Happy and Peaceful New Year.
Judith.

St. Botolph, Slapton

The church looked beautiful for the carol service. Very many thanks to the brave people who stood up and read the lessons. The readers were:- Sophie Holland, Harry and Charlotte Leadsom, Milly Olney, Joseph and Jasmin Macintosh, Hamish James and Julian Roberts. Very many thanks also to the enthusiastic team who decorated the church, they did a wonderful job. We had a much needed warming glass of mulled wine and a mince pie afterwards.

Friends and neighbours from far and wide again filled the church on Christmas Day. Jon Macintosh read the first lesson. It is extraordinary to think of all the people who have gathered on Christmas Day at St. Botolph's for the last 700 years or so.

Our drainage and heater plans have had to overcome a few hiccups but now we are hoping to complete all the work soon.

Caroline

Date	Flowers	Service	Altar	Colour	Reader
Jan 1 st		Evening Prayer 5pm		White	Stuart Bell
Jan 8 th	Mary Miller			White	
Jan 22 nd	Phillippa H.	Holy Eucharist 11am	Lucy Owen	White	Mary Miller
Jan 29 th		Benefice at Silverstone			
Feb 5 th	Caroline Coke	Evening Prayer 5pm		Green	Andrew Young

Feb 19 th	Barbara Smith			Green	
Feb 26 th		Holy Eucharist 11am	Amanda Bell	Green	James Miller

ST. MARYS CHURCH – WHITTLEBURY

Prayer Group There will be no Prayer Group in January. The next prayer meeting is on Monday 6th February in Church at 10.30am.

Church Cleaning Monday 9th January & Monday 13th February at 2pm.

Can anyone spare an hour on the second Monday of the month 2 – 3pm to help with Church cleaning? If so, our very small band of helpers would love to see you. You can be sure of a cup of tea and biscuit, whilst you sit back and admire your hard work! Special thanks go to the ladies who, due to failing health have had to hang up their brushes, after many years of loyal service.

Carol Singing. We were so lucky to have had 2 nights (Monday 19th Dec. & Tues. 20th Dec.) of sound weather for our Carol Singing around the village and your generosity resulted in £516 - 63p raised for the Children's Society. On behalf of St Marys may I thank you all for this wonderful amount. Also to thank all the singers that joined us not forgetting our collectors. We also appreciate Mr & Mrs D. O'Dell and Mr & Mrs R. Evans who welcomed us into their homes on both evenings.

Carol service & Christingle What a lovely way to start our Christmas Celebrations walking to Church with the Bells pealing loudly. On the afternoon of the 18th December St. Marys Church held our Carols and Christingle Service. The Church was beautifully decorated and lit with dozens of candles. The children helped during the service by placing the figures and animals in the manger and after receiving their Christingle stood around the Church whilst they were lit, the lights were turned off and we sang 'Silent Night' by candle light. MAGIC! After the service the congregation stayed for refreshments, it was lovely to see so many (about 90 in total) children, parents and grandparents. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way and St Marys PCC wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2017.

Jesus said *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8 v 12

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

The Whittlewood Benefice is scheduled for its yearly inclusion on the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for Thursday 11th January on which day prayers will be said for us throughout the diocese.

The Bishop of Peterborough invites:

Dear friends,

Following on from the very popular series of Roadshows in 2014 I would like to invite you warmly to another one next year. I am planning to hold four Roadshows throughout the diocese next year and I would very much hope that you can come to one of them.

I believe that God cares passionately about his church and that he wants it to be alive and joyful; to grow and flourish. The purpose of next year's Roadshows is to share with the whole diocese this vision for God's church in order to encourage and invigorate the parishes throughout the diocese.

During these Roadshows I will be talking about many aspects of what it means to be alive to God as Anglicans in this part of the world. We will be considering the training and cost of ministry - both lay and ordained. We will be thinking about the place of schools in our parishes and other ways of how we can support your parishes to thrive and grow.

I very much hope that clergy, licensed lay ministers, churchwardens, and PCC treasurers, will come to these Roadshows, but the invitation is open to all PCC members, and indeed to all churchgoers. Please spread the word as widely as possible, and come and join me one Saturday morning next year from 9.30 am – 12.30pm.

The dates and venues are:

January 28th Kettering Conference Centre, Thurston Drive, Kettering, NN15 6PB

February 4th Towcester Racecourse, London Road, Towcester NN12 6LB

April 29th Greetham Valley Golf Course, Greetham Valley, Wood Lane, Greetham, Oakham, LE15 7SN

May 6th Northampton Cricket Club, Abington Avenue, Northampton NN1 4PR

Further details about directions and timings etc. will be available on the diocesan website in the New Year. It will be helpful for my office to have an idea of numbers so please could you let suzanne.carter@peterborough-diocese.org.uk know which event you are planning to attend, and how many people are likely to be coming from your parish.

With many thanks and best wishes



Readings for January and February

January 1st

Isaiah 63. 7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2. 10-18
Matthew 2. 13-23

January 6th Epiphany

Isaiah 60. 1-6
Psalm 72. 10-15
Ephesians 3. 1-12
Matthew 2. 1-12

January 8th

Isaiah 42. 1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10. 34-43
Matthew 3. 13-17

January 15th

Isaiah 49. 1-7
Psalm 40. 1-12
1 Corinthians 1. 1-9
John 1. 29-42

January 22nd

Isaiah 9. 1-4
Psalm 27. 1, 4-12
1 Corinthians 1. 10-18
Matthew 4. 12-23

January 29th Candlemas

Malachi 3. 1-5
Psalm 24. 7-10
Hebrews 2. 14-18
Luke 2. 22-40

February 5th

Isaiah 58. 1-9a
Psalm 112. 1-9
1 Corinthians 2. 1-12
Matthew 5. 13-20

February 12th

Deuteronomy 30. 15-20
or Ecclesiasticus 15. 15-20
Psalm 119. 1-8
1 Corinthians 3. 1-9
Matthew 5. 21-37

February 19th

Genesis 1. 1 – 2. 3
Psalm 136
Romans 8. 18-25
Matthew 6. 25-34

February 26th

Exodus 24. 12-18
Psalm 2 **or** 99
2 Peter 1. 16-21
Matthew 17. 1-9

