

WHITTLEWOOD

BENEFICE MAGAZINE

November & December 2016

From the Vicarage Desk

I know that when you read this first it will still be November and rather early, however, I do want to take the opportunity to wish everyone a really happy Christmas and a wholesome New Year.

Through November and December we go on an interesting Journey as we take time to remember, to honour and to celebrate all that God and our forebears have done for us. This happens through All Saints, All Soul's, Remembrance, the Kingdom Season which culminates in Christ the King and then through to the season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas itself.

I hope that for each one of you that takes time to read this letter from me will be able to give some time in these activities that move from the recognition of the best in human endeavour, the greatest of Faithful obedience and the splendour of Divine love and renewal.

I am sure that elsewhere in this Benefice Newsletter you will find the details of services in the Benefice that will help you in your own pilgrimage of faith, your journey in life that is moving onwards towards God.

It is for this journey of faithfulness that we are looking to establishing ongoing groups that will be able to engage in a course entitled Pilgrim. This course that has been produced by the Church of England is offered to us to help us to deepen and nurture our faith in God by helping us to worship together, to pray together and to learn together. The success of anything like this is dependant totally upon people being willing to take the risk, and to give the time in order to join in the course. It will require commitment and a little financial outlay for the course book. I have been told by many of my colleagues that this material is very good and helps to nurture people's faith.

I have said for a while that I would like to have some programme, some scheme that will allow us to deepen our faith, and so this particular course seems to fit the bill. I truly

hope and pray that some of you will be inspired and willing to join in with this as and when we get it going.

Thinking of praying, I received a wonderful letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York the other day, well I and all clergy in the Church of England received this letter, I am not one who is in personal contact with such dignitaries of the Church. This letter was introducing, and indeed inviting our participation in, Thy Kingdom Come 2017. Simply put, we are being invited to ensure that we are praying in Church, in other spaces in the time between Ascension and Pentecost next year.

This year Thy Kingdom Come was held for the Church of England, there was a great wave of prayer across the country with special Beacon Events taking place. For 2017 the vision is even bigger. The Presidents of Churches Together in England are joining with the Archbishop of Canterbury and York to make the call to churches of all denominations in England, and Archbishop Justin Welby is sending out the call to every part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and the World Methodist Council to Methodist Churches worldwide.

The three aims are:

- To join in prayer with the whole family of God the Father
- To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit
- That we may be effective witnesses to God the Son, Jesus Christ

I am hoping that it might be possible for us in our Benefice to take part in this, how, I do not know as yet; I am waiting for the Holy Spirit to move amongst our number and to give inspiration and ideas to us as to how to take part. I am also hoping that there might be opportunity with the whole Deanery also to engage in this aspect. Please do let me know if God speaks to you! If you would like to learn more, just let me know.

And one final thing, for 2017, I am hoping that we might be able to have a Confirmation Service in the Benefice. Although, sadly, we do not have many children in our Churches, we do still have amongst our number those who have not been confirmed, some who have indicated that they might like the opportunity to engage in some education on the Christian Faith and to be confirmed. There may also be some others in the wider community of our parishes who would like to be confirmed, even though at this time they are not able to come to Church regularly, for some it is still important to be confirmed. In fact, in the Baptism of Infants I always hold out the hope that, when the children grow they will come and make this commitment for themselves, so it is important to offer the opportunity. I will let you know more when I know more on this matter.

Well, I started with this and I will end with it, my offering of good wishes for everyone through the Christmas Festival and into the New Year. Let us hope and pray that 2017

may be a year of growth, maybe in numbers, but just as much, in faithfulness and knowledge of the love of God and from God.

St John the Baptist Church, Abthorpe

We seem to have had some stunning autumn mornings recently and the sun has put a wonderful glow on all the colours around us. Our harvest weekend went off very well. 40 people turned out on Saturday 8th October for our Harvest Supper. We chose a variety of lasagne dishes this year for our main course followed by Alison's ever popular crumbles. Sticky toffee pudding was added as an alternative sweet. It was lovely to have some young families join us and we really appreciated all the help the children gave us when we were clearing up!

The church looked lovely for our harvest service on the Sunday and it we had quite a few people in church. The harvest produce donated once again was taken to the Hope Centre in Northampton.

Food Bank: We have just got our Christmas box out to collect treats for the festive season. This is at the back of the church with a list of things that the food bank would like leading up to Christmas. This will need to be put into the box by 14th December. The list is as follows: Mince Pies (only a few), Tinned Ham, Christmas Pudding, Christmas Cake, Box of Biscuits, Children's Selection Box, Box of Chocolates, Large Bar of Chocolate (150/200g), Snacks and Nibbles (eg peanuts), UHT Milk, Long Life Fruit Juice, Cordial/Squash. Tinned fruit is also useful.

Tea and Piece: Our monthly summer afternoon teas in church have been a great success and we added an extra one in October by popular demand. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and helped on the afternoons. The space created by taking out the pews on the north side of the church has really worked for this and we are now waiting for a visit from the DAC to help us decide where we go from here.

Services for November and December: Remembrance Service: This year it will be a lay led service taken by John Riches and will be held on Sunday 13th November at 10.50am. Everyone is welcome

Sunday 11th December:	Holy Eucharist Service 11am
Sunday 18th December:	Holy Eucharist Service 9.15am
Saturday 24th December:	Carol Service at 4pm followed by mulled wine & mince pies
Sunday 25th December:	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 9.15am

All are very welcome to any of our services.

Tote: Our recent winners are Katie and Alex Hammon who won in August and Mary Hulbert who won in September. Congratulations to all!

Church cleaning: This will be held on Friday 16th December 10am. Come and enjoy getting the church clean for Christmas, along with a bit of chat and some mince pies!

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us over the past year. The PCC really do appreciate it and wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a successful 2017.

For any further information, please contact Barbara Malcomson on 01327 857066 or malcomson@abthorpe.net

Paulerspury – St. James.

The repairs to the South Aisle Roof have been completed. Although we received generous grants from third parties towards the repair costs, the PCC had to use all its Reserves to fund the balance of the costs. The priority over the Summer has been to replenish the Reserve fund and several successful events have been organised. Jose Lepper opened her new garden for an evening Cheese and Wine Party, Heather de Ritter held an afternoon tea party and a Quiz night in the Village Hall attracted over 70 people and raised £800. Mollie's "Tea and Toast" continues to provide the opportunity for a chat and to try some homemade cakes on a Thursday morning in Church between 0930 and 1200 as part of our fundraising and outreach.

Our Harvest events included "Experience Harvest" which explored the rich harvest of our lands and the spiritual harvest of our lives through interactive displays and was attended by the senior class at Paulerspury Junior School; a Harvest Service for the whole School; a Harvest Eucharist followed later in the day by an excellent Harvest Supper in the Village Hall after which the produce given for the Services was auctioned for charity and that remaining unsold was given to the Towcester Food Bank.

Messy Church has restarted its monthly meeting after the Summer holiday in the School on a Tuesday afternoon and the number of children attending is on the increase. Our thanks are due to all the Ladies who help with the organisation and running of the events for the children.

A twice monthly Prayer Meeting is held in Church on Wednesday evenings.

At Christmas there will be a Posada for children in the Village, a Crib Service on 21st December at 3.00pm, the School's Christingle Service, and our Carol Service on 11th December at 6.00pm

St. Michael's Church, Silverstone

On Sunday 2nd October we welcomed the family of the late Barry Linnell to the United Benefice Eucharist and St. Michael's Patronal Festival. The family have generously given a new White Altar Frontal, Burse and Veil to St. Michael's Church in memory of Barry.

Reverend Paul blessed these gifts within the Service. We thank Hazel and her family for this wonderful gift.

The School Harvest Service was held in the Church on the afternoon of Friday 7th October. Our Harvest Supper was held in the Church Rooms on Saturday 8th October and on Sunday 9th October we held our T@4 in the Church Rooms and then moved into the Church for our Harvest Festival Service led by Reverend Paul. We thank Heather Coles and her team for decorating the Church so beautifully and co-ordinating the Supper. The gifts of food have been distributed to the Towcester Food Bank and the Hope Centre.

The Remembrance Service will commence at 10.40 a.m. at the Methodist Chapel, we then proceed to the War Memorial for 11.00 a.m. Following the Act of Remembrance we move into St. Michael's Church for a Service led by Peter Byng and a representative from the Chapel. There will be activities for children in the Church Rooms during the Church Service.

Our Autumn Soup Lunches commenced on Monday 10th October and will continue each Monday up to and including 14th November - 12 noon to 1.30 p.m. in the Church Rooms. We will be holding a Christmas Soup Lunch – watch for poster details nearer the time. Thanks are given to Sara Hughes for co-ordinating these lunches and thanks are also given to the soup makers and helpers.

T@4 in December will be on Sunday 11th in the Church Rooms.

There will be a Concert by the Silson Singers in the Church on Wednesday, 7th December – 7.30 p.m. in the Church. The Village Carol Service in St. Michael's Church on **Saturday** 17th December at 4.00 p.m. will take the form of a Christingle Service led by Reverend Paul.

Another reminder that Anne Pullen welcomes small items of toiletries/unwanted gifts for her Christmas Basket Tombola Stall in aid of St. Michael's Church.

Judith

Slapton, St. Botolph

Our fête this year was excellent and looked very stylish with Faye and Jamie Lister's Bedouin tent and Sam Smiths smart black gazebos. The Damian Flack Trio were brilliant as usual, and the rain held off until the end when most of us were having tea in the tent, but our Churchwarden Andrew Young was out in the rain surrounded by an enthusiastic group of young girls all trying to win a highly coveted prize in the darts competition. We raised £1,264.90.

At last the DAC has approved our application for the new heating panels in the pews. When we get recommendation for the Faculty work can finally begin, I hope before it gets too cold.

Jeremy Balfe is about to start work on digging out the earth around the back of the tower and on the North side of the church to allow for better drainage. An archaeologist will visit whilst this work is in progress. Jackie Balfe and Janet Dancer have done great work in the graveyard which now looks much better. Thank you both.

Carol singing is on 23rd December at 6pm outside Helen Holland's house. Please come and join in, it is always great fun

We are looking for someone to clean the church. One hour a week is enough to keep on top of it.

Some Interesting Talks are being planned for next Spring. Watch this space.

A warm welcome to the James family who are moving in to the Old Rectory.

Caroline

Date	Flowers	Service	Altar	Colour
6 th Nov	Jackie Balfe	Evening Prayer 5pm		
20 th Nov	Mary Miller			
27 th Nov	None in advent	Holy Eucharist 11am	Helen Holland	Purple
4 th Dec		Evening Prayer 5pm		
18 th Dec	Jackie Balfe	Carol Service 6pm		
25 th Dec		Holy Eucharist 11am	Caroline Coke	White

ST. MARY'S CHURCH – WHITTLEBURY

Prayer Group Monday 7th November & Monday 5th December in church at 10.30am.

Church Cleaning Monday 14th November & Monday 12th December at 2pm.

Coffee & Cake were served in church on the morning of Wednesday 14th September as a "thank you" to all the villagers who work behind the scenes at church, keeping the church yard neat and tidy, the church clean and placing flowers on the altar. It was lovely to see everyone chatting and enjoying themselves, their help is much appreciated.

The church was beautifully decorated for our Harvest Festival Service on 25th September. After the service the perishable goods were sold and along with the collection the money was sent to Christian Aid. All the dry goods were taken to the Towcester Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who decorated the church, donated and bought goods.

The Harvest Supper held in the Reading Room on 1st October was enjoyed by all. Chan's fish and chips were delicious.

On Friday the 4th October the children from Whittlebury and Tiffield C of E schools came together for their Harvest Festival service in the church. They were welcomed by Mrs. Hollis the Head Teacher. The church was filled with parents and friends, there was

standing room only! The children sang beautifully and did Harvest Readings. A lovely service.

One of God's promises The Lord is loving and merciful, slow to become angry and full of constant love.

As the festive season will soon be here, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Advert – Benefice Administrator

The Parishes of Silverstone, Abthorpe, Slapton, Whittlebury and Paulerspury, working together as The Whittlewood Benefice seek a person to be our Administrator.

We are looking to have a person who can work for four hours per week, working in our Benefice Office which is in the Silverstone Church Room which is on Little London near to St Michael's Church. The pattern we have operated with until recently has been that the administrator worked on two days, 2 hours on each day for £10 per hour. It is expected that this pattern would be adopted again, though the days of work are negotiable [though not a Monday].

We are also looking for a person who will be able to attend occasional evening meetings to take minutes. This time would replace the normal working hours in this week.

Amongst the administrative tasks that will be performed are:

- Weekly Photocopying of Sunday Newsletters
- Occasional other photocopying for the parishes and/or Rector.
- Filing and organisational assistance in the office for the Benefice.
- After training, the writing up of Marriage Registers and Baptismal Materials.
- Maintaining a Benefice Diary and liaising to ensure that this is as complete and current as possible. Including information on marriages, baptisms, Sunday & Weekday Services, Fundraising and Social Events
- Coordinating the annual collation of statistical information required of us by the Diocese and Church of England.

There may be other opportunities that can be developed with an Administrator depending on the person's abilities and willingness to work with and for the Church in this area.

If you would like to apply for this role, please write to, or contact the Rector, The Revd Paul M^cLeod at St Michael's Vicarage, 24a High Street, Silverstone, Towcester. NN12 8US. You could send an e-mail to revpaulmcleod@btinternet.com. We are looking to hold interviews on Wednesday 7th December in the afternoon.

Readings for November & December

Nov 6th Third before Advent

Job 19 23-27a

Psalm 17 1-9

2 Thess 2 1-5 & 13-end

Luke 20 27-38

Nov 13th Second before

Advent

Malachi 4 1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thess. 3 6-13

Luke 21 5-19

Remembrance – see booklet

Nov 20th Christ the King

Jeremiah 23 1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1 11-20

Luke 23 33-43

Nov 27th Advent Sunday

Isaiah 2 1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13 11-end

Matthew 24. 36-44

December 4th Advent 2

Isaiah 11 1-10

Psalms 72 1-7 & 18-19

Romans 15 4-13

Matthew 3 1-12

December 11th Advent 3

Isaiah 35 1-10

Psalms 146 4-10 or the

Magnificat

James 5 7-10

Matthew 11 2-11

December 18th Advent 4

Isaiah 7 10-16

Psalms 80 1-8 & 18-20

Romans 1 1-7

Matthew 1 18-end

Christmas Eve & Christmas

Day

See service booklets.

Services – there were too many services this period to fit onto the front page!

Date		Time	Church	Service
Nov 2 nd	All Souls	6p.m.	Whittlebury	All Souls Service
Nov 6 th	3 before Advent	9.15	Paulerspury	Family Worship
		10.00	Silverstone	Holy Eucharist
		5.00	Slapton	Evening Prayer
Nov 13 th	Remembrance	9.45	Paulerspury	Holy Eucharist + Remembrance
		10.40	Silverstone	Remembrance (Chapel-War Memorial – Church)
		10.50	Abthorpe	Holy Eucharist including Remembrance
		10.50	Whittlebury	Remembrance (War memorial – Church)
Nov 20 th	Christ the King	11.00	Whittlebury	Holy Eucharist
		6.00	Paulerspury	Evening Prayer
Nov 27 th	Advent	9.15	Whittlebury	Holy Eucharist
		9.15	Paulerspury	Matins
		10.00	Silverstone	Joint Service at St Michael's
		11.00	Slapton	Holy Eucharist
		6.00	Silverstone	Evening Prayer
Dec 4 th	Advent 2	9.15	Paulerspury	Family Worship
		10.00	Silverstone	Holy Eucharist
		5.00	Slapton	Evening Prayer
Dec 11 th	Advent 3	9.15	Paulerspury	Holy Eucharist
		11.00	Abthorpe	Holy Eucharist
		11.00	Whittlebury	Matins
		4.00	Silverstone	t@4
		4.00	Paulerspury	Carol Service
Dec 17 th	Saturday	4.00	Silverstone	Village Carol Service
Dec 18 th	Advent 4	9.15	Abthorpe	Holy Eucharist
		11.00	Whittlebury	Holy Eucharist
		4.00	Whittlebury	Carol Service
		6.00	Slapton	Service of 9 lessons & Carols
Dec 24 th	Christmas Eve	4.00	Abthorpe	Carols at Abthorpe
		22.00	Paulerspury	First Eucharist of Christmas
		23.30	Silverstone	First Eucharist of Christmas
Dec 25 th	Christmas Day	8.00	Whittlebury	Christmas Eucharist
		9.15	Abthorpe	Christmas Eucharist
		10.00	Silverstone	Christmas Worship + reserved sacrament
		11.00	Slapton	Christmas Eucharist

Jan 1 st	Christmas 1	9.15	Paulerspury	Family Worship
		10.00	Silverstone	Holy Eucharist
		5.00	Slapton	Evening Prayer

Midweek Eucharist services are held at 9.30a.m. on Thursdays at Silverstone and a Healing Eucharist on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Paulerspury.