

WHITTLEWOOD

BENEFICE MAGAZINE

May/June 2017

Services in May and June

7 th May	Easter 4	9.15 Paulerspury Family Worship 10.00 Silverstone Holy Eucharist 5.00 Slapton Evensong
14 th May	Easter 5	9.15 Paulerspury Holy Eucharist 11.00 Abthorpe Holy Eucharist 11.00 Whittlebury Morning Praise 4.00 Silverstone T@4
21 st May	Easter 6	9.15 Abthorpe Holy Eucharist 10.00 Silverstone Rogationtime (at Pits Farm) 11.00 Whittlebury Holy Eucharist 6.00 Paulerspury Evensong
25 th May	Ascension	6.00 Silverstone Holy Eucharist
28 th May	Easter 7	9.15 Paulerspury Matins 9.15 Whittlebury Holy Eucharist 10.00 Silverstone Joint Anglican/Methodist service 11.00 Slapton Holy Eucharist 6.00 Silverstone Evensong
4 th June	Pentecost	9.15 Paulerspury Family Worship 10.00 Silverstone Holy Eucharist 5.00 Slapton Evensong
11 th June	Trinity	9.15 Paulerspury Holy Eucharist 11.00 Abthorpe Holy Eucharist 11.00 Whittlebury Morning Praise 4.00 Silverstone T@4
18 th June	St. Botolph	10.00 Slapton United Benefice Patronal Eucharist
25 th June	John Baptist	10.00 Abthorpe United Benefice Patronal Eucharist 10.00 Silverstone Joint Anglican/Methodist Service

THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE WHITTLEWOOD **BENEFICE 2017**

It has been quite a year of changes for the Benefice.

We have said farewell to our curate, The Revd Graham Buckle as he has moved into a new ministry in the Diocese of Lincoln. It was wonderful that we had a good group of people travel to see Graham Installed into his new living. From all I hear Graham is getting on very well and is enjoying this new way of living, as a full time stipendiary minister in the Church of England. We certainly continue to wish him, Davina and their family, well and hold them in our prayers.

We had to say farewell to another priest this past year, sadly this time as our brother in Christ, The Revd Vic Read died last year. Vic had been an amazing help and support to me in my time in this living and to you all throughout two previous vacancies. I already feel his loss in the workload of the Benefice as well as in his words of wisdom and support. Vic is now with God in the heavenly kingdom that he believed in and worked for so diligently over many years, we rejoice in this knowledge and we pray for Pat as she comes to terms with her life without Vic's presence.

We have also had a change in the administration of the parish as Carolynn Tomalin decided to resign from being our Administrator towards the end of last year. I would like to record my thanks to Carolynn for her great help and support for the first 5 plus years of my ministry and also to acknowledge the support that she gave to all the parishes through the last Interregnum and prior to that to Canon Bridget Smith. Carolynn had accumulated a great amount of knowledge of the people and the working of this Benefice

throughout that time and was a wonderful support to me as I began my time here and as life in the Benefice evolved.

Change is inevitable, as we live our lives; individually as well as being in the community of faith that is the church. And so now we have to learn how to be a five parish Benefice with only one Priest, and with a new Administrator.

Yes, we have a new administrator, Mrs Shirley Williams who started in February and is learning the role at this time. Please pray for Shirley that she may find this to be a satisfying and enjoyable opportunity helping us in our Benefice.

One thing that has not changed is that I continue in the role of Rural Dean, indeed last year I was licenced in this role for another five year period. It is a challenging role but also a very rewarding one, seeing how the churches in the Towcester Deanery are engaging in the wonder of building and caring for God's Kingdom in the parishes in this area. Some of these ideas that others are using are worth considering by us, and I have brought these to the attention of the gathered PCC's.

We are also being encouraged by the Bishop and in response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ to share the Good News with others, to pray and to participate in the wonder of seeking to bring more people to know Jesus Christ in their lives. This is the Growth Agenda. We are planning to engage in this with our event on 27th May, the Thy Kingdom Come – Prayer and Walk as well as by having our Churches, where possible, open and available for prayers. We are simply seeking to find ways by which we can pray for people to come to know Jesus and then, by the means of Christian living to witness to Jesus amongst our communities. I hope and pray that this is something that we can engage with.

As we bring people to know Jesus there are opportunities to deepen faith and knowledge of Jesus, we continue to have our Lent Courses and also, later this year we are going to have a Confirmation Service, before which there will be, for want of a better expressions, Confirmation Classes. I am still at the point of simply wanting to hear from people who are interested in being confirmed.

As usual in my annual report I want to take a moment or two to say thank you.

There are so many people who do magnificent work to care for our churches, both the buildings in which we gather and by which we maintain a presence in our communities, but also in the gathered people who are the true church, the family of God.

Amongst the many I would like to pick out a few to name who have been and continue to engage in a recognised and licensed ministry.

We have a couple of Pastoral Ministers in the Benefice, Mollie Dunkley and Sara Hughes whose care and support of others continues on wonderfully, even through times of change and sometimes difficulty in their own lives. I am sure that as I offer my thanks you will be joining with me in this thought.

Also, though with great difficulty with his own health this past year especially, Peter Byng has continued to take on a share in the ministry and mission of God in these parishes, across the Benefice. We often talk about sacrificial ministry; I certainly think that this can be said of Peter's dedication and commitment to his ministry as a Reader in the Church of England. Thank you Peter.

It is wonderful to be looking ahead also, for we are going to begin to receive the blessing of a new ministry in our midst as Clare Ray will be licensed as a Reader in September after having been giving time and effort for these past three years training. I look forward to working alongside Clare as she grows into this new way of being a witness to Jesus Christ and a minister amongst God's children, us all in these parishes. Thank you Clare for the dedication you have already shown through your training and for being willing to hear God's call to become a minister as a Reader.

Of course, there are many more who give a great deal to our life as Church in these parishes. Our Churchwardens for this past year [and more]:

Abthorpe – Richard Tomalin

Paulerspury – Mollie Dunkley and Jane Sawbridge

Silverstone – Peter Coles and Judith Paybody

Slapton – Caroline Coke and Andrew Young

Whittlebury – Peter Nicholson and Raymond Pearson

Also, to those who have served as Deanery Synod Representatives over these past three years, some are not going to stand again this year for their own, reasonable and understandable reasons, these are Amy Crawford and Lesley Franklin from Paulerspury and Raymond Pearson from Whittlebury, however, to all who have and may well continue to serve at Deanery level, thank you.

I firmly believe that all of us share in the life of the Church, of being a part of the kingdom on earth, the kingdom that Jesus proclaims when he says, 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near' and that we all, in our own ways, actually take

part in the life of the church. So it is that we know how much we depend on each other, on the many and various talents and abilities that we have all of which go into the wonder of the life of Church in our parishes and across the benefice. To everyone then, I offer my thanks and also a challenge that you continue in your participation in the wonder of being the church and ask yourself the question, what does God want for me, with me, through me?

We are a part of the most wonderful and fulfilling families in the world today, building for the world tomorrow reflecting on the experiences of yesterday. We are the Church of God, we know Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord, therefore let us truly know that we can rejoice in God together as we witness and share Blessings to and with others.

And so finally, from me I say, thanks be God.

St John the Baptist Church

What an amazing spring we are having this year! The gardens are bursting with colour and as an added bonus this year, the female bluetit in our birdbox has just laid her first egg. We have a camera there so we will enjoy looking at the progress of this egg which will hopefully be joined by others in the next few days.

Services for May and June:

Sunday 14 th May	11am	Holy Eucharist Service
Sunday 21 st May	9.15am	Holy Eucharist Service
Sunday 11 th June	11am	Holy Eucharist Service
Sunday 25 th June	10am	Holy Eucharist Patronal Service

Our Harvest Supper will be on 7th October and our Harvest service on 8th October. Everyone is very welcome to any of our services and information on all the services in the benefice can be found on the notice board outside the north side of the church.

Tea and Piece Following the success of our monthly Tea and Piece events last year, we have decided to repeat them this summer. We held our first one in March, which was a complimentary 'thank you' tea for everyone who supports the church. Our second was held on April 9th and they will continue through the summer on the following dates: May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, August 20th, September 17th. Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and piece of home made cake!

Garage Sale You may have been spurred on by the lovely weather we have had recently, to sort out some things you no longer need. You will be pleased to know that, following the success of our last garage sale 2 years ago, we are holding another on Sunday 24th September from 2pm to 5pm. Put the date in your diary and there will be more details later.

Annual Church Meeting Our annual meeting was held on March 28th. We were pleased to welcome Darren Emerton as churchwarden on to the PCC. Richard Tomalin has been doing an amazing job as the only churchwarden since 2014. He organises the maintenance of the building, churchyard and churchyard extension. With any work needing doing, he get quotes from workpeople and meets with them as well as applying for any faculties needed for the work. On top of that,

he does his bit on the church rota and helps with fundraising. I am sure Richard and Darren will make a good team! Alison Robbins remains as treasurer, Barbara Malcomson as secretary and Jill Greenhalgh as PCC member.

Tote Our recent tote winners have been Louise and Andrew Gough in February and Mrs Webster in March. Congratulations to them all and thank you to everyone who supports our tote. If you do not, but would like to, please contact Richard Tomalin on 01327 857066 or Richard.tomalin@abthorpe.net to find out more.

Food bank I think most people know that we have a food box in the back of church which has been there since 2012. John and Joyce Riches regularly take the box in to Towcester food bank and on 21st March, John was thrilled to announce that the 47.9kg they had just taken in meant that Abthorpe had donated over a tonne of food! This is absolutely amazing. A big thank you to John and Joyce and especially to everyone in the village who has made donations to the box.

Abthorpe Plant Sale This year's plant sale in the village will be held on Sunday 28th May at 2pm in the Old School. This year the proceeds will be shared between the Old School, St John the Baptist Church and Marie Curie. As well as plants, there will also be preloved tools and tea and cakes.

malcomson@abthorpe.net Barbara Malcomson 01327857066

THY KINGDOM COME

- PRAYER AND WALK

Slapton to Abthorpe to Silverstone to
Whittlebury to Paulerspury in one day!

Come walk and pray with us on Saturday 27th
May 2017

You can drive, cycle, or even ride your horse!

We will strive to meet at our churches at the
following times to pray, and maybe have
some refreshments.

We leave St. Botolph's at 9.30am and aim to be at
the other Bénéfice churches:

Abthorpe		10am
Silverstone	-	11.15am
Whittlebury	-	12.15pm
Paulerspury	-	1.30pm

They will be refreshments, I hope, at each of
the churches apart from Slapton.

St Michael's Church, Silverstone

Our Annual Parish Church Meeting was held on Sunday 2nd April following our 10.00 a.m. Service. Peter Coles and Judith Paybody were elected Churchwardens for a further year, Phil Reddall continues as Treasurer and Anne Pullen PCC Secretary.

The 6 Lent Lunches again proved very popular. With the support of the many who attended and the excellent soups provided we raised £690.00 for Church Funds and from the sale of Notelets and Tea Towels depicting village landmarks past and present we have been able to send a donation of £70.00 to the charity Water Aid. Many thanks are given to all who made soups, all who came and enjoyed them and to Sara Hughes for co-ordinating the rota of soup makers.

Towcester Studio Band gave a concert in the Church on the evening Saturday 1st April. This raised a substantial amount for Church funds and thanks are given to Peter and Heather Coles for organising the evening.

Our Rogation Service on Sunday 24th May 10.00 a.m. will be at Pits Farm.

We will be having a **'Moveable Feast'** on Friday 9th June Tickets £22.00. Please contact Carolyn Lovell on 01327 857656 or email ce.lovell@tesco.net for tickets and information.

On Saturday 10th June we will be holding our **'Annual Fete'** 2 – 4 p.m. in and around the Church and Church Rooms. There will be displays in the Church by local organisations and local

artists, stalls, raffle and homemade teas and cakes. Do please support this event. If you wish to help in any way please phone Judith on 858667 or Anne on 857608.

St. Botolph, Slapton

Our Good Friday Liturgy service was very well attended by friends from throughout the Bénéfice, and we had hot cross buns afterwards which cheered us all up. St. Botolph's was absolutely packed for our Easter Day service and we had to put out extra chairs. The church looked beautiful and many thanks to all the flower arrangers. As our organist Andrew Young was away Stuart Bell had nobly volunteered to play. Unfortunately poor Stuart is in hospital but the Millers guest, Mr. Andrew Wilton, former head curator of the Turner Wing at the Clore Galleries, Tate Britain came to the rescue and played beautifully. After the service the younger members of the congregation had an Easter egg hunt in the church. Outside in the cemetery we had a short ceremony to bury the ashes of the Rev'd Vic Reed. It is a great honour for Slapton that he has chosen to be laid to rest here, and a great comfort to us.

Dates for your diary: - Thy Kingdom Come. The Global Wave of Prayer 25th May - 4th June

Come walk and pray with us on Saturday 27th May. We leave St. Botolph's at 9.30am and aim to be at the other Bénéfice churches as follows:-

Abthorpe		10am
Silverstone	-	11.15am
Whittlebury	-	12.15pm
Paulersbury	-	1.30pm

They will be refreshments, I hope, at each of the churches apart from Slapton. You can walk, drive, ride a bicycle or even a horse. Please come.

June 11th. Slapton Open gardens for the NGS. Teas at Slapton Lodge by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Colin Webster in aid of St. Botolph's.

July 1st. Fete 2.30pm in front of the church. More delicious cream teas, games, lots of fun as always, and plenty of stalls - plants, cakes, collectables etc.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>ALTAR</u>	<u>COLOUR</u>	<u>READING</u>
07/05/2017		Evening Prayer 5pm			A.Y.+ C.C.
14/05/2017	Lucy Owen				
25/05/2017		H.E Silverstone 6pm			
28/05/2017	<u>Yvonne B</u>	Holy Eucharist 11am	Caroline Coke	White	Julian Roberts
04/06/2017		Evening Prayer 5pm			Amanda + A.Y.
11/06/2017	Linda H.				
18/06/2017		U.B. Pat. Festival 10 am	Barbara Smith	White	Mary Miller
25/06/2017	Helen Holland	Abthorpe U.B Pat 10am			

ST. MARY'S CHURCH – WHITTLEBURY

Prayer Group - Prayer Group will be held on Mon. 1st May at 10am & Mon. 5th June at 10.30am .

Church Cleaning - Monday 8th May & Mon. 12th June at 2pm.

On Thursday 30th March the children from Whittlebury C of E Primary School came to the church for their Easter Service and were joined by parents and friends. The children told the story of Easter through readings which were read beautifully and

sung songs with great enthusiasm. It was a lovely service.
Sue Barton

At the A.P.C.M. held in church on the 4th April 2017. Raymond Pearson and Peter Nicholson were re-elected as churchwardens for another year.

A Dream Auction will be held in Whittlebury Reading Room on Saturday 3rd June on behalf of St Mary's Church commencing at 7.30pm. Items for this will be greatly appreciated as it will be our main fund raising event of the year. All support will be most welcome as we try to increase funds which have been somewhat depleted following the repairs to the roof of the North Aisle.

Our Annual Grand Draw will be held on the same evening tickets for which will be available in the weeks prior to the event.

On Saturday 8th July at 7.30pm "The Towcester Studio Band" will be playing in Church.

One of God's Promises. To Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,to Him be glory for ever and ever.
Ephesians 3 v 20 - 21

Readings for May and June

May 7 th	Easter 4	Acts 2.42-47	Psalm 23	John 10.1-10
May 14 th	Easter 5	Acts 7.55-60	Psalm 31	John 14.1-14
May 21 st	Easter 6	Genesis 8.20-9.17	Psalm 66	Acts 17.22-32 John 14.15-21
May 25 th	Ascension	Acts 1. 1-11	June Psalm 47 or 93	Luke 24.44-53
May 28 th	Sun after Asc	Ezekiel 36.24-28	Psalm 68	Acts 1.6-14 John 17.1-11
June 4 th	Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21	Psalm 104	John 20.19-23 or 7.37-39
June 11 th	Trinity	Isaiah 40.12-17 & 27-31	Psalm 8	Matthew 28.16-20
June 18 th	Trinity 1	Exodus 19.2-8a	Psalm 100	Matthew 9.35-10.8
June 25 th	Trinity 2	Jeremiah 20.7-13	Psalm 69	Matthew 10.24-39
	John Baptist	Acts 13.14b-26	Psalm 85	Luke 1.57-66, 80

He is (still) risen

This year the whole of May falls within the great 50-day Easter season. The revival of that whole period between Easter and Pentecost as a celebration of Christ's resurrection is one of the best features of the modern church calendars. It is not just on Easter Day that we can shout, "He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!"

Of course every Sunday is (and should be) Resurrection Day. Jesus' rising from the dead is why we worship together on Sunday. It

is the first day of the week, the Day of Resurrection. Every Sunday. But we forget, and we let other things crowd out the empty tomb, the risen body, the promise of new life for us all.

I suspect that if we lived out our faith in the context of persecution, if we regularly saw or heard of our fellow believers taken away to torture or death, we might focus more naturally on the resurrection as the key to everything, we might know the reason for meeting together on Sundays. But we have become soft, we have become used to relatively comfortable long life. We have forgotten that this life is short and very precarious, we have lost sight of the priority of being ready each day for death. We have lost sight for the need to live each day in the knowledge of Christ's



resurrection, and the anticipation of our own.

During this long and glorious Easter season, may we all re-focus on the reality of Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection as a historical fact; and may we remind ourselves and one another of our new life in Christ, which has already begun, and which will be completed and perfected at the glorious final resurrection. Living each day in the light of that should change our priorities, our focus, everything. May we be resurrection people, Easter people: not just in this Easter season, but right through the year.

He is risen indeed. Hallelujah

+ Donald

May 2017 events

Starts Wed 3 May, Lifestyle from the Discipleship Menu 7.30-9.30pm at Ketton Church Hall PE9 3RD £10 registration. More info from Liz.holdsworth@peterborough-diocese.org.uk or 01604 887070

Wed 3 May, Historic Churches Support Officer Open Surgery 9am-5pm at St Peter's Church, Brackley, NN13 7BZ. More info from Ben.Smith@peterborough-diocese.org.uk 01604 887046.

Sat 13 May, STARBURST 10am-4pm at All Saints' Primary School, Boughton Green Road, Northampton, NN2 7AJ £10 per person, please bring a lunch. Book a place through bookings@peterborough-diocese.org.uk of 01604 887048.

More details at: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/events

Mea Culpa

My apologies for the howler on the front page of the paper version of this magazine, noticed only after printing but corrected for this. This is, of course the Whittlewood Benefice magazine, not the Whittlebury magazine.

Peter Byng