

-WHITTLEWOOD BENEFICE MAGAZINE March and April 2017

From the Vicarage Desk

Firstly, Confirmation.

I have now managed to arrange with Bishop Donald a date when he can come to this Benefice to take a service of Confirmation. This will be Sunday 15th October at 10 a.m. We have yet to agree amongst our 5 churches where would be best for this service to be held.

Having arranged a date and time, I am now seeking candidates.

Such an officious title, what this means is, does anyone want to be confirmed?

Maybe someone who comes occasionally to church or Messy Church, there may be people on the fringe of church life who would like to come along for the preparation classes [these are compulsory for anyone who would like to be confirmed] and then to the service.

Indeed, there may be people in our communities who would like to be confirmed, young or old!

What is Confirmation?

Simply it is the opportunity for any person who was baptised as a child to confirm the baptismal promises, the Bishop will then lay his hands on the head of this person and thus confirm the gift of the Holy Spirit, the full membership of the Church, the family of God on that person. Adults who have not been baptised may wish to come along, to be baptised and confirmed by the bishop in the same service, this is a wonderful opportunity and I encourage any adults who would like to be Baptised to consider engaging with this opportunity.

Those who are confirmed are then able to receive the Blessed Sacrament, the bread and the wine that, in the service of Holy Eucharist, also known as Holy Communion, becomes for us the body and blood of Jesus and, in accordance with His promises, our Spiritual food, sustenance that draws us closer to Jesus, to God.

I would like to point out however, people who are not confirmed may well still be able to receive this Sacrament, but that is a separate matter for another time!

Please share more widely than just in Church that we will be having Confirmation later this year and then, anyone interested in being confirmed should get in touch with me, The Revd Paul McLeod as soon as possible. I am sure that potential people for confirmation will be able to speak to Churchwardens or other church members first if they would like to before the big step of speaking to me, a more relaxed way to approach this possibility.

I really do hope we can present some people who wish to be confirmed to the Bishop on the 15th October. However, if not, he will still come to The Whittlewood Benefice and take a service on that date, which means we shall only have one United Benefice Service that day.

Secondly. Annual Parochial Church Meetings [APCM's]

These important meetings, our churches AGM's are coming up soon.

I would encourage people to attend these meetings, they are the point where you properly get the opportunity to discover what we are doing as church in these parishes, to elect representatives to various bodies and even to ask, what I always hope and pray, will be constructive questions about church life, maybe even to offer suggestions as to how we could be better witnesses to Jesus Christ!

I mentioned earlier that you have the opportunity to vote, to elect people. Here is how this happens.

You elect your parishes Churchwardens, they become the Bishops Officers for a year (of course, they may be re-elected on an annual basis). The constituency that elect the Churchwardens is anyone who lives in the Parish or who is on the Church Electoral Roll. Each Parish would normally have two Churchwardens, this is the case in our parishes, each parish is entitled and encouraged to have the two.

I mentioned the church Electoral Roll just there. This is like our membership list. In order to vote for anyone other than Churchwardens [indeed, according to the rules, to even attend the APCM,] you need to have registered yourself in the Electoral Roll.

If you are not yet on this, each Parish has an Electoral Roll Officer who has forms to allow you, if you're not already on it, to enter yourself onto the Electoral Roll of your parish church.

This year, alongside electing members of the Parochial Church Council's [PCC's] there is an additional election which is for Representatives onto Deanery Synod. People are elected to a three year term on Deanery Synod. We are in the Towcester Deanery, one of 6 Deaneries in the Northampton Archdeaconry which is one of 2 Archdeaconries in the Diocese of Peterborough.

The Deanery Synod is there to encourage and enable the mission of God across the whole Deanery, it can make decisions which can influence and shape the future ministry in the

Deanery, however, we more normally look at ways by which we can be encouraged and educated in different and differing aspects of the work of God, respecting very much that the place of Mission is the Parish. The good news is also, there are only three meetings each year!

As the Rural Dean of Towcester, sharing the opportunity of chairing Synod Meetings with the Deanery Lay Chairman, I truly encourage people to stand for Synod and then to engage in the life of the Deanery.

I also, as Rector of The Whittlewood Benefice encourage everyone to come along to our APCM's that will be held in March/April.

Thirdly. New Administrator

It is with great pleasure that I can confirm that we received a number of applications for the role of Benefice Administrator, we held interviews in January and we appointed Mrs Shirley Williams to this role. Shirley started work in February and is beginning to learn the various tasks that are involved. One of her duties is to be the minute taker at our WPT meetings that happen three times a year, the meetings when all 5 PCC's come together to look at things that are possible and better arranged as a Benefice (there are some!)

There is a lot for Shirley to get to grips with, so please be patient as we take the time to get up and running. It is though a great relief to know that we have managed to be blessed by God and to have an administrator again.

Fourthly. Thy Kingdom Come.

The Archbishops in the Church of England have invited us all to make a concerted and additional effort for prayer for renewal in the period between Ascension and Pentecost. This has been given the title, Thy Kingdom Come. We have the opportunity to do some things a little differently, maybe a prayer walk, have prayer spaces, in Church, in our Church Schools (it should be school holidays then) or indeed some other possibility, whatever our imaginations and our energy permits.

There is a small group from the WPT that have agreed to look into this. I have not as yet convened the group but am hoping to do so soon, however, if you have any ideas please do let me, or your Churchwardens know (they will forward the ideas to me I am sure).

For more information on this matter, those of you with access to the internet can look it up at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global>, and it says global at the end of this web address because the prayer period is a global time of prayer! Isn't that wonderful.

Thinking of prayer, I sign off offering prayers for everyone who will read this, for Peter Byng our magazine editor and for the parishes that make up The Whittlewood Benefice. Amen.

Readings for March & April

1st March – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2. 1-2 & 12-17 or Isaiah 58. 1-12
Psalm 51. 1-18
2 Corinthians 5. 20b-6.10
Matthew 6. 1-6 & 16-21 or John 8. 1-11

5th March – Lent 1

Genesis 22:22. 15-17 & 3. 1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5. 12-19
Matthew 4. 1-11

March 12th – Lent 2

Genesis 12. 1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4. 1-5 & 13-17
John 3. 1-17

March 19th – Lent 3

Exodus 17. 1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5. 1-11
John 4. 5-42

March 26th – Mothering Sunday

Tobit 4. 1-5
Psalm 113
Ephesians 5. 21 & 6. 14
Luke 2. 41-52

April 2nd – Lent 5

Ezekiel 37. 1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8. 6-11
John 11. 1-45

April 9 – Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms
Matthew 21. 1-11
Psalm 118
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50. 4-9a
Psalm 31. 9-16
Philippians 2. 5-11
Matthew 26. 14 to 27.66 or 27. 11-54

April 16th Easter Sunday

See Service Booklet

April 23rd

Exodus 14. 10-31 & 15. 20-21
Psalm 16
Acts 2. 14a & 22-32
1 Peter 1. 3-9
John 20. 19-31

April 30th – Easter 3

Zephaniah 3. 14-20
Acts 2. 14a & 36-41
Psalm 116. 1-3 & 10-17
1 Peter 1. 17-23
Luke 24. 13-35

St John the Baptist Church, Abthorpe

As I write this, the sun is shining after a bitterly cold miserable day yesterday. It is still cold, but the snowdrops are out and spring must be just round the corner!

Christmas in Abthorpe last year was joyous and at the Christingle service on Christmas Eve, it was almost 'standing room only'! From recent comments, it was very much enjoyed and a lovely start to Christmas. The Revd Paul organised and led a very enjoyable 'Beer and Carols' at our village pub, The New Inn before Christmas. Something new in the village which I am sure will be repeated. On Christmas Day itself, we enjoyed a lovely, Christmas Day Eucharist Service.

Services for March and April:

12th March 11am Holy Eucharist Service
19th March 9.15am Holy Eucharist Service
26th March 10am Mothering Sunday Service
9th April 11am Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist Service
16th April 9.30am Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist Service

This year, our Mothering Sunday service will be led by Clare Ray from Silverstone and it will be held at 10am on 26th March. Please note also that the time of our service on Easter Day is at 9.30am

Everyone is welcome to all of our services.

Church Bell: Our single church bell was very quiet at the end of last year. At our Quinquennial inspection held on October 5th, it was picked up that the bell was loose on its mountings. We put the bell out of action, although the chiming of the clock still continued as it did not involve the bell swinging. The bell mountings have now been replaced and the bell was up and ringing again for our service on 12th February.

Tote Winners: The last tote winner for 2016 was Mike Matthews who won £207.50 and the first winner of 2017 was Merrick Loggin who won £205. Congratulations to them both. If you have not joined the tote and would like to take part, please contact me. All proceeds from the tote goes towards keeping the fabric of our church in Abthorpe in good condition. Thank you to everyone who supports it.

Annual Church Meeting: Our meeting this year will be on Tuesday March 28th at 7pm in the Old School. Everyone is very welcome to come and find out what has been happening in the church and our plans for the future.

Food Bank: Our December and January donations to the food bank totalled 44.7kg and our February donation was 28.7kg making our grand total 995.9kg. We are so very near to a tonne! Thank you to all who have contributed, particularly over the lead up to Christmas when everyone is so busy with their own preparations. Thank you also to John and Joyce Riches who take our box to the food bank regularly.

Barbara Malcomson malcomson@abthorpe.net 01327 857066

Notes from St James', Paulerspury.

After a busy Christmas things have been quiet during January and February. We use that period to build up steam for the rest of the year. Messy Church is held every month at the school and we are pleased to see numbers increasing. Many thanks to Nic Edwards and his staff for making the main hall and the kitchen available to us.

On Shrove Tuesday, pancakes with a choice of toppings will be served in the church between 12 noon and 2pm. In March we are hoping to hold a Coffee Morning with a cake stall and a book stall. Moving into April our St George's Lunch will be held on 23rd in the village hall. Traditional roast beef with yorkshire pudding and vegetables will be served. This event has always been well supported and is a wonderful community event.

On 10 June we have a Fun Dog Show during the morning followed by the fete in the afternoon. Moving to August Bank Holiday, we have our three day Flower Festival. Phew, what started as a quiet year is about to become very active.

St Michael's Church, Silverstone

7 members of the PCC attended the Bishop's Roadshow held at Towcester Racecourse on Saturday 4th February and enjoyed the morning.

Lent Lunches will commence on Monday 6th March and each Monday to 10th April inc. 12 noon – 1.30 p.m. in the church Rooms. Suggested donation £5.00.

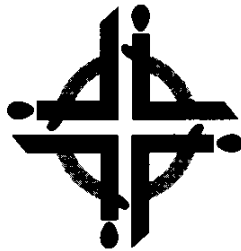
A concert by the **Towcester Studio Band** will be held in the church on Saturday 1st April at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £10.00 to include refreshments.

Our **Summer Fete** will be held in front of the church as last year, on Saturday 10th June, 2 – 4 p.m. New ideas for stalls welcomed!

On Friday 16th June Carolyn Lovell will again be organising a '**Moveable Feast**'.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on Sunday 2nd April following the 10.00 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist.

Judith



Women's World Day of Prayer On Friday March 3rd 2017 Am I being Unfair to You?

On Friday 3rd March over 5000 services will be held in the British Isles on the Theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?'. The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world.

Find out more about the theme and the Philippines by joining us at Silverstone Methodist Chapel at 2pm on Friday 3rd March.

The day of prayer is not just for women – everyone is welcome to attend the service.

Our service in Silverstone will be led by women from churches in the benefice including the Methodist Chapel.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH – WHITTLEBURY

Prayer Group - Prayer Group has been temporarily cancelled.

Church Cleaning - Monday 6th March & Monday 10th April at 2pm.

Coffee Morning - Please join us at our Annual Coffee Morning to be held in Church on Saturday 29th April 10.30am to 12 o'clock. It is hoped that once again Elizabeth will entertain us with organ music. All donations will go to Church Funds for the upkeep of our beautiful Church. Everyone, villagers, friends and family will be made most welcome and your support is much appreciated.

Notes for your Diary

The Women's World Day of Prayer will be held in Silverstone Methodist Church on Friday 3rd March at 2pm.

The P.C.C. A.G.M. will be held in Church on 4th April at 7pm.

One of God's Promises.

Seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness and all these things will be given you as well.

Matt. 6 v 33.

ST BOTOLPH'S, SLAPTON

We are awaiting the architect to come here and sign off the drainage work done by Jeremy Balfe and to give him the go ahead to bâton back the sides of the trench. If he has to do more digging the archaeologist will have to return. We are also waiting for the architect to come out to go over the electricians requote for the new radiators.

Our fete will be on Saturday July 1st and Slapton gardens are open on June 11th.

Magazine subscriptions are now due. £4 for the paper copy or £1 for the email copy.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>ALTAR</u>	<u>COLOUR</u>	<u>READING</u>
	NO				Andrew Young
05/03/2017	FLOWERS	Evening Prayer 5pm			
26/03/2017	DURING	Holy Eucharist 11am	Linda Humphreys	Purple	Amanda Bell Caroline Coke
02/04/2017	LENT	Evening Prayer 5pm			
14/04/2017		G.Friday Liturgy 2pm			
16/04/2017	Amanda Bell	Easter Day	Caroline Coke	White	Stuart Bell
		Holy Eucharist 11am			
23/04/2017		Holy Eucharist 11am	Helen Holland	White	James Miller
		Benefice Paulerspury			
30/04/2017	Linda Walker	10am			

Wed Mar 1 Services in March & April

Date		Venue	Time	Service
Wed Mar 1	Ash Wednesday	Paulerspury	6.00	Holy Eucharist + imposition of Ashes
Mar 5 th	Lent 1	Paulerspury	9.15	Family Worship
		Silverstone	10.00	Holy Eucharist
		Slapton	5.00	Evensong
Mar 12	Lent 2	Paulerspury	9.15	Holy Eucharist
		Abthorpe	11.00	Holy Eucharist
		Whittlebury	11.00	Matins
		Silverstone	4.00	T@4
Mar 19	Lent 3	Abthorpe	9.15	Holy Eucharist
		Whittlebury	11.00	Holy Eucharist
		Paulerspury	6.00	Evening Prayer
Mar 26 th	Mothering Sunday	Paulerspury	9.15	Matins
		Whittlebury	9.15	Holy Eucharist
		Silverstone	10.00	Joint service at Chapel
		Abthorpe	10.00	Service of the Word
		Slapton	11.00	Holy Eucharist
		Silverstone	6.00	Evensong
April 2	Lent 5	Paulerspury	9.15	Family Worship
		Silverstone	10.00	Holy Eucharist
		Slapton	5.00	Evensong
Apr 9	Palm Sunday	Paulerspury	9.15	Holy Eucharist
		Abthorpe	11.00	Holy Eucharist
		Whittlebury	11.00	Matins
		Silverstone	4.00	T@4
Apr 10	Holy Week	Silverstone	9.15	Holy Eucharist
Apr 11		Paulerspury	9.15	Holy Eucharist
Apr 12		Whittlebury	7.30	Holy Eucharist
Apr 13	Maundy Thursday	Silverstone	7.30	Agape Eucharist & Watch
Apr 14	Good Friday	Slapton	2.00	Good Friday Liturgy
Apr 15	Holy Saturday	Silverstone	7.30	Vigil & Kindling of New Light
Apr 16	Easter Sunday	Paulerspury	8.00	Easter Eucharist
		Abthorpe	9.30	Easter Eucharist
		Silverstone	10.00	Easter Eucharist by extension
		Whittlebury	10.00	Easter Eucharist by extension
		Slapton	11.00	Easter Eucharist
Apr 23	Easter 2	Paulerspury	9.15	Matins
		Whittlebury	9.15	Holy Eucharist
		Silverstone	10.00	Joint service at Church
		Slapton	11.00	Holy Eucharist
		Silverstone	6.00	Evensong
Apr 30	Easter 3	Paulerspury	10.00	United Benefice Eucharist

A communion service is held most weeks at 9.30a.m. on Thursdays at Silverstone subject to the Vicar's diary commitments and a Midweek Healing Eucharist at Paulerspury on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30p.m.