



Monthly Newsletter March 2024



The Church of England in the Diocese of Oxford serving the eight villages of: Alkerton, Balscote, Drayton, Hanwell, Horley, Hornton, Shenington & Wroxton.

Rector: The Reverend Alicia Baker
The Rectory, Wroxton, Banbury, OX15 6QE
Tel. 01295 738593
Email: rectorofironstone@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Reverend Guy Edwards
The Vicarage, Lane Close, Horley, Banbury, OX15 6BH
Tel: 01295 738191
Email: vicarofironstone@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs. Lindy Bridgeman
Eastgate House, Hornton, Banbury, OX15 6BT
Tel: 01295 670282

Benefice Administrator: Mr. Giles Dessain
Heath Farmhouse, Main Street, Hanwell, Banbury, OX17 1HN.
Tel: 01295 730679

Rector's Ramblings

I was casually reading something online relating Lent to a sort of Spring-clean. I'm sure they won't mind if I borrow the idea. In Spring we begin to notice parts of our homes that are not as clean as we would like them to be. We clear away accumulated dust and perhaps start of pile of items to take to a charity shop. Similarly, we can take this time of Lent to start clearing out those things within ourselves that we know are not helpful, or even harmful. Some of us might have just finished dry January and might not be ready to give something up again so soon. But we can each find our own thing that will help us to concentrate on Christ instead of our earthly wants. For some people that is finding something each day in their home that they can do without and put it aside for charity. For someone else it might be to write a letter each day to someone they have lost touch with. Another person may well set aside time each day to read a spiritual book and to pray. The common denominator in all these is time.

Maybe you have on your heart, the concerns in the Middle East or Ukraine? Is it possible for you to make a Lenten gift to charity working among the children in that place?

I'm going to bring your attention to something closer to home. This year we have a series of talks/discussions on Wednesday evenings in Hornton Methodist Church. You will see this advertised elsewhere in the magazine. You may find these a challenge, but I challenge you to give them a go!

Also- at the Shrove Tuesday quiz, (which was really good fun by the way, especially as Wroxton won!) there was a round where it was required to name the church in the picture as well as the church's saint if they have one, as well as the pub in the village. So, one more

challenge – can you visit all the churches in the benefice and look around them and especially at the East windows? **The page from the quiz is in the centre of the magazine.** You can pull it out and take it with you.

Alicia

Holy Island Retreat

Still one double room available for the Retreat on Holy Island April 29th to May 3rd. Please speak to Alicia if you would like to find out more.

Bishop Alan Wilson RIP

Bishop Steven writes ...

Bishop Alan Wilson [Bishop of Buckingham] suffered a suspected serious heart attack [Saturday] morning at home and, very sadly, has died. I know you will hold Alan, Lucy, their five adult children, wider family, and their close friends in your prayers.

Alan was a dear friend and colleague to many across the Diocese. He has served as Bishop of Buckingham for over 20 years. His entire ordained ministry was within the Diocese of Oxford as a curate in Eynsham, Vicar in Caversham and Sandhurst, Area Dean of Sonning and then Bishop of Buckingham.

Alan has deep friendships and pastoral relationships across both church and community in Bucks. He has offered remarkable leadership to our work in education and church schools over more than a decade. Alan has been a friend and advocate for victims of abuse and a strong ally and supporter of the LGBTQIA+ community for many years.

Alan had recently begun a well-earned sabbatical and was planning to use the time to plan and prepare for retirement in the

next year. Alan loved God and loved God's church with a rare passion. He was a bishop who prioritised the parishes and clergy in his care above everything else and served the people of Buckinghamshire with devotion over a long and demanding ministry.

I will miss him as a friend and colleague. The Church has lost a wise, pastoral, and prophetic bishop.

We commend him to God's grace and mercy. Alan is now at rest in Christ. We pray and offer our support to Lucy and those closest to him on this sad day.

In Christ and in hope of resurrection.

Shrove Tuesday Quiz

Huge thanks to each village who pulled together a team for the Ironstone Benefice Shrove Tuesday Quiz. We had a great turnout at Drayton Village Hall with (almost) every village in the Benefice being represented. We were put through our paces on local history, Banburyshire celebrities, Patron Saints, and garden flowers, amongst other things. But surprisingly, the most taxing rounds were on the churches in our Benefice! It would seem we are so busy listening to the sermon on a Sunday morning that we don't notice the East windows in our churches! I am sure Alicia, Guy and Lindy would be pleased at our levels of concentration. And while we may know the insides of our churches very well, we can't always recognise them from the outside....Congratulations to Wroxtton who were victorious closely followed by Drayton with Horley in 3rd place. Thanks to all who helped to make it an enjoyable social evening and to the ladies of Drayton for their help with refreshments and the bring and share supper. One question remains unanswered....should we make it an annual event?

Emma

Ironstone Benefice Services: March 2024

DATE	VILLAGE	SERVICE	CONTACT
March 3 rd	Alkerton 9am	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer (BCP)	Guy
	Horley 11am	Holy Communion	Alicia
March 10 th Mothering Sunday	Wroxton 9.45am	Holy Communion	Alicia
	Shenington 9.45am	Morning Worship	Guy
	Hornton 11am	Holy Communion	Rev Graeme Arthur
	Horley 11am		Guy
	Drayton 11am	Mattins	Alicia
March 17 th	Hanwell 9am	Holy Communion	Alicia
	Wroxton 9.45am	Village Service	Guy
	Balscote 10.30am	Holy Communion	Alicia
March 24 th Palm Sunday	Balscote 9.45am	Village Service	Alicia
	Drayton 11am	Holy Communion BCP	Guy
	Hornton 11am	Village Service	Lindy
March 31 st Easter Day	Hanwell 9am	Holy Communion	Guy
	Wroxton 9.45am	Holy Communion	Alicia
	Shenington 9.45am	Village Service	Lindy
	Balscote 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd John or Olwen Smith
	Horley 10.30am	Holy Communion	Guy
	Hornton 11am	Village Service	Lindy
	Drayton 11am	Holy Communion BCP	Alicia

Posy Making Workshop For Mothering Sunday 10th March

When: March 9th 10:30 till 12:00

Where: Old School Horley

All are invited but especially children to make cards and posies for Mothering Sunday.

Contact: Sue Ashdown
ashdownsm@btinternet.com

Benefice Newsletter

A monthly production, (Christmas Season excepted) on topics of church and local interest. It is available in electronic copy viewed for download from the 'Church Near You' Website

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com> and select your parish.

Items can be posted on a 'Church near You' via Lesley Blake Ironstone Benefice Admin please note her Email:

ironstonechurches@gmail.com.

You can also find news about the Benefice on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ironstonebeneficeoxon/>

Copy to be with Editor, Brian Ashdown, usually by the 3rd Friday in the month.

Telephone: 07896 714591

Email: brian.r.ashdown@btinternet.com

April 2024 Edition: **Friday 15th March 2024**



Lent in The Ironstone Benefice

Lent Talks - Hornton Methodist Church
All Wednesdays at 7pm

Feb 28th What is lent for in 2024?
A discussion: Lindy Bridgeman

March 6th Care for our Fragile Creation:
John Bridgeman

March 13th Money: Alicia Baker
(where does it come from and what do we do with it?)

March 20th Living in Love and Faith (sexuality):
Guy Edwards

Holy Week (March 25th to 27th) Compline 8pm
Monday in Alkerton Church - Tuesday in Wroxton Church - Wednesday in
Hanwell Church

Good Friday (March 29th)
Hanwell 10am to 12 noon
Easter Craft and Easter-egg Hunt

Horley 12 noon
Stations of the Cross followed by Frugal Lunch