



Monthly Newsletter April 2024



The Church of England in the Diocese of Oxford serving the eight villages of:

Alkerton, Balscote, Drayton, Hanwell, Horley, Hornton, Shenington & Wroxton.

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Rector's Ramblings

The Bible narrative that spoke deeply to me this Lent was the story of Jesus' mother Mary and a few other women and John (we assume) who stayed at the foot of the cross in Jesus' last minutes. This was a reading set for Mothering Sunday. Other disciples would have been afraid of arrest, but John was young enough to not be considered a risk to the authorities; and the women certainly weren't.

A common theme of this and the accompanying epistle was comfort. Comfort is more than consolation. To comfort someone is to help them move forward within their distress. Those few people had gathered close – to comfort Jesus in his last hour? Maybe. But also, to comfort each other in their loss. And Jesus himself offers comfort from the cross. 'Woman here is your son'. And to John 'here is your mother' In his last moments Jesus creates a new family.

I am often struck by how Mary's story overlaps with the experience of today's tragedies.

How many mothers give birth with the thought that their child may pre-decease them.

How many have to stand back and watch their children suffer and wish they could suffer in their place. How many women wish they even knew where their child was buried?

At the tomb on Easter Day the body was missing. But that grief turned to joy on the discovery of the Risen Christ.

We know that many people live without the peace that Mary was eventually given and live without the hope of eternal life.

We travel through Lent remembering the hopeless despair of Jesus' journey to the cross, but finally arriving at Easter Day which is the day new life, hope and joy was given to every one of us. We are Easter people. We can live in that joy and hope and each of us give it away to others that are yet to have that experience for themselves.

I wish you all a happy Easter with your families – traditional or otherwise.

Alicia

Bits and pieces

1. Shenington Mid-week Communion Wednesday April 24th 10am
2. There are two confirmation services planned in the Deanery this year:- May 5th 9.45am Bodicote Church; September 1st in Shires Edge benefice.

If anyone would like to be confirmed (I suggest September would be the better date) please see Alicia or Guy

Mobility Scooter

Free to a good home
Speak to Alicia for further details.

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.

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May 2024 Edition: **Friday 19th April 2024**

Ironstone Benefice Services

April 2024

DATE	VILLAGE	SERVICE	CONTACT
April 7 th	Alkerton 9am	Holy Communion BCP	Guy
	Horley 11am	Holy Communion	Alicia
April 14 th	Wroxton 9.45am	Holy Communion	Alicia
	Shenington 9.45am	Village Service	Lindy
	Hornton 11am	Communion	Alicia
	Drayton 11am	Mattins	Lindy
April 21 st	Hanwell 9am	Holy Communion	Guy
	Wroxton 9.45am	Village Service	Alicia
	Balscote 10.30am	Holy Communion	Guy
April 28 th	Balscote 9.45am	Village Service	Guy
	Drayton 11am	Holy Communion BCP	Guy
	Hornton 11am	Village service	Alicia

Book of Common Prayer - BCP