

Welcome

To the Benefice of Epperstone, Gonalston, Oxtan & Woodborough

If you are new here in our Churches please introduce yourself.

We pray that God will bless us in our worship together and warmly welcome you into our communities.

Church Services

Sunday 1st March

8am BCP Holy Communion Woodborough
10am The Ark Woodborough
6pm Lent Prayers & Hymns Woodborough

Sunday 8th March

11am Holy Communion Oxtan
6pm Lent Prayers & Hymns Woodborough

Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion Epperstone
10am All Age Service Woodborough
11am Holy Communion Gonalston
6pm Lent Prayers & Hymns Woodborough

Wednesday 18th March

12noon Holy Communion Woodborough
& shared lunch

Sunday 22nd March

10am Holy Communion Woodborough
6pm Lent Prayers & Hymns Woodborough

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion Epperstone
11am All Age Service Oxtan

Monday 30th March

7pm Holy Week Reflections Woodborough

Tuesday 31st March

7pm Holy Week Reflections Woodborough

THE ARK ON SUNDAY



**CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES,
FAMILY FUN, FELLOWSHIP,
COFFEE & CROISSANTS.**

**1st Sunday of the month
10 am**

St Swithun's Woodborough

1st March

**Everyone welcome
For further information contact
Annie Hill
07890 776809**



Oxtan Village Hall

**Sunday 8th March
10am-11am**

All children aged 3 years plus are welcome for games, stories, activities & a snack together!

For more information contact
Sandra Hall 0115 9653901



**Play Church
at St. Swithun's,
Woodborough**

Wednesday 11th March

9:30am - 11am

Wednesday 25th March

9:30am - 11am

**Coffee Drop In
at Oxtan Village Hall**



**Wednesday 25th March
10.00 – 11.30**

Please come along for a coffee and a chat... All welcome!

**WOODBOROUGH
COFFEE DROP IN**

**1st Wednesday of the month
10am-12pm**



**Wednesday 4th March
Wednesday 1st April**

the HAPPINESS lab

Come and explore what psychologists, doctors and faith leaders have to say about happiness

**5th, 19th March
9th, 23rd April**

**7.15pm for 7.30pm – 9pm
St Swithun's, Woodborough**

Holy Cross Church Epperstone

Calling All Singers

Epperstone church will be putting on a choral evensong to celebrate their patronal festival on 13th September.

The service will be followed by a reception funded by the Choral Evensong Trust.



We are looking for singers to join the choir for this event.

Please drop in to any rehearsal...

**Wednesday evenings
Epperstone church at 7.30pm**

To find out more contact Geoff on
07447 127335
or email at thcniel@outlook.com

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Epperstone – 15th April, 7.30pm
Woodborough – 26th April, 11am
Gonalston – To be confirmed
Oxtan – To be confirmed

Church Contacts

Administrator

Susan Wilkes 07951 143162

Office.egowbenefice@gmail.com

Vicar

07494 049531

Vicar.egowbenefice@gmail.com

Children & Families worker & Safeguarding

Annie Hill 07890 776809

Anniehill1606@virginmedia.com

Churchwardens

Epperstone

Wyn Needham 0115 9665118

Gonalston

Neil Allen 07976 844261

Liell Francklin 07870 555712

Oxton

Mike Newell 07850 965221

Helen Lees 07866 364102

Woodborough

Ray & Liz Goddard 07961 755457

Facebook

Benefice Churches of Epperstone
Gonalston Oxton Woodborough

Our parish is committed to encouraging an environment where everyone, and especially children and those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and engage in their faith journey with encouragement and in safety.

If you have concerns about the welfare of anyone please contact:

Annie Hill: 07890 776809

anniehill1606@virginmedia.com

Good Friday Family Activities



3rd April 2.30-4pm
Oxton Village Hall

HELP US FEED THE HUNGRY

ST ANN'S FOOD BANK



We are collecting for St Ann's food bank, who are desperately in need of tinned and dried food and toiletries. Please leave any donations in the trolley in Woodborough Church porch or at the back of Oxton Church for our volunteers to deliver. Thank you.

Donations

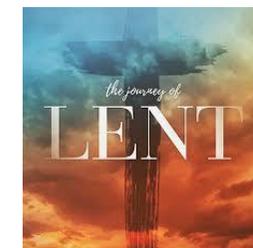
If you would like to donate towards the work and upkeep of Gonalston Church, please scan this QR code to be taken to our giving site.



Thank you for your kind donation

Epperstone, **Gonalston**, Oxton & Woodborough

Benefice Newsletter **March 2026**



Lent: A Sacred Journey Toward Easter and Something New

Lent is often described as a season of waiting, but it is far more than that. It is a sacred journey—a slow, intentional walk with Christ toward the hope and joy of Easter. These forty days invite us to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts for the miracle of resurrection. Lent is not about staying in the wilderness forever; it is about allowing God to do something new within us as we move toward new life.

Lent calls us to look inward, to acknowledge where we have grown distracted, weary, or complacent in our faith. Like Jesus in the desert, we confront temptation, dependence, and trust. This is not meant to discourage us, but to remind us that God meets us precisely in these places of vulnerability. Lent is a time for us to create space for God to speak, heal, and renew.

As Easter approaches, the tone of Lent subtly shifts. What begins in repentance slowly turns toward expectation. The cross looms ahead, reminding us of sacrifice and love beyond measure, but so does the empty tomb. Lent teaches us that transformation often begins in quiet obedience and small, faithful steps. Long before resurrection morning, God is already at work, reshaping our hearts.

This season is also an invitation to do something new. Scripture reminds us that God is always making a way, even when we cannot yet see it. Lent is the perfect time to release habits that no longer serve our spiritual growth and to embrace new practices that draw us closer to Christ. Maybe it is a deeper commitment to prayer, a renewed focus on Scripture, reconciliation with someone we've grown distant from, or serving others in a fresh and intentional way.

Doing something new during Lent does not mean doing something grand. Often, the most meaningful change comes through simple faithfulness—choosing grace over judgment, silence over noise, generosity over comfort. These small acts prepare us for Easter, shaping us into people ready to receive the joy of resurrection with open hearts.

When Easter finally arrives, it is not a sudden miracle disconnected from the days before it. It is the fulfilment of the journey. The alleluias ring louder because of the silence that preceded them. The light shines brighter because we have walked through the shadows. Through Lent, God has been quietly doing something new within us—renewing faith, restoring hope, and inviting us into resurrection life.

As we continue this Lenten journey, may we walk faithfully toward the cross, trusting that God is at work. And may we arrive at Easter not unchanged but transformed—ready to celebrate not only Christ's resurrection, but the new life He is bringing forth in us. May God bless your Lent Journey.

The Staff Team