

# Welcome

To the Benefice of Epperstone, Gonalston, Oxton & 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 1<sup>st</sup> March

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

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

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

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday

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

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

12noon Holy Communion Woodborough  
& shared lunch

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

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

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion Epperstone  
11am All Age Service Oxton

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

7pm Holy Week Reflections Woodborough

### Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

7pm Holy Week Reflections Woodborough

## THE ARK ON SUNDAY



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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
10 am

St Swithun's Woodborough

**1<sup>st</sup> March**

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



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> March**

9:30am - 11am

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

9:30am - 11am

**Coffee Drop In**  
at Oxton Village Hall



**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
10.00 – 11.30

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

**WOODBOROUGH**  
**COFFEE DROP IN**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month  
10am-12pm



**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

the  
**HAPPINESS**  
lab

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

**5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> March**  
**9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> September.

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



**Love to Sing?**

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](mailto:thcniel@outlook.com)

**Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

Epperstone – 15<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm  
Woodborough – 26<sup>th</sup> April, 11am  
Gonalston – To be confirmed  
Oxton – To be confirmed

# Church Contacts

## Administrator

Susan Wilkes 07951 143162

[Office.egowbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:Office.egowbenefice@gmail.com)

## Vicar

07494 049531

[Vicar.egowbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:Vicar.egowbenefice@gmail.com)

## Children & Families worker & Safeguarding

Annie Hill 07890 776809

[Anniehill1606@virginmedia.com](mailto: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](mailto:anniehill1606@virginmedia.com)



St Swithun's Church

**SPRING CLEAN**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

**9.30am: Croissants & Coffee**

**10am to 12: Big Spring Clean**

Please sign the list in Church if you can help.  
Bring your marigolds and dusters!

## Good Friday Family Activities



**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Woodborough 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