

WWRT CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2021

Services

Sunday 3rd – Trinity 18

10.30 am – Leigh CW Holy Communion
6.00 pm – Alfrick Evensong

Sunday 10th – Trinity 19

9.00 am- Bransford BCP HC
10.30 am – Crown East All Age
3.00 pm – Knightwick Evening Worship

Sunday 17th – Trinity 20

9.00 am – Alfrick Harvest CW Holy Communion
10.30 am – Suckley CW Holy Communion

Sunday 24th – Trinity 21

10.30 am - Crown East CW Holy Communion
3.30 pm – Forest Church – Almshouse Wood, Pewcroft Farm
6.00 pm - Leigh Evensong

Sunday 31st – All Souls (Fifth Sunday)

4.00 pm – Crown East Memorial Service

From the September Registers:-

Nothing to report

Parish Contacts:

Vicar: The Revd Anne Potter (01886 832355)
Parish Administrator: Alison Khan (07984 748059)

ST THOMAS' CROWN EAST & RUSHWICK OCTOBER 2021



It's Harvest Time!

Eco Church – by Kate Hunt

Last week saw the autumn equinox, that time of year when day and night share roughly equal number of hours. The morning sun is lower, the mornings are cooler and evenings creepingly shorter. The skyscape still has housemartins and bats, with hedgehogs still on the move. Rushwick as a wider landscape is changing, so if you can't tell an oak leaf from a sycamore (and even if you can) here are some suggestions to help everyone get out and about. There is still much on our doorstep to celebrate and conserve.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has many reserves to visit, while Worcestershire County Council offers a range of walks across the county, usefully arranged by length. The Nature Trail at The Fold is not far away and we are surrounded by a maze of footpaths. The RSPB has a good Fun and Learning section for families, whilst Gardener's World offers lots of information on what to do/not do at this time of year to give wildlife a hand. If gardening or walks do not appeal, many conservation charities have volunteering opportunities.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/directory/37/walks_in_worcestershire

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/insect-quiz>

PS November is the month of remembrance. In late November/early December, St Thomas' will be planting a new hedge .. a very long hedge! You are welcome to come along between 10.30 - 12.30 and plant a root in someone's memory, or as a positive action for the planet or just to come and see. More in next month's newsletter.

Booking for St Thomas' for an event

It is lovely to have been able to use the church again for church services and last month we had our first Wedding after the pandemic. Just a reminder that our lovely church building is also available to hire for meetings, get together and recitals. Now we have fixed pews but early next year the 4 pews behind the font will be replaced with tables and chairs to give greater flexibility of use of that area. We already have the 1st Crown East Guides booked in for a Christmas Camp, it will be so lovely to have the church filled with young people. Please contact Abigail Tilling for further information abigailtilling@hotmail.co.uk

Church Maintenance

You may notice we have just had the external paintwork of the church, soffits etc re-painted as it was starting to look a little worn. We've also had work done to the roof as had a small leak above the organ. Nick Crowther has done a very nice job for us in both respects. We are now awaiting a new oak door and door surround for the vestry. Thanks to the generous regular giving from our congregation and others, thankfully, we had the money available to pay for all these works. Your help is much appreciated to keep our Church in such lovely condition.

Dear Reader

Autumn brings both thanksgiving and, for some, a sense of sadness. Thanksgiving for the beautiful colours as the leaves turn into a symphony of brown and orange, thanksgiving for the harvest of fruits and the gathering of corn, thanksgiving for another season. For some it also brings a sadness that the long days of summer are drawing to a close and another winter is on its way with its shortage of sunshine, and prolonged dark nights. (Mind you we haven't had a lot of sunshine this summer!!).

Like spring, autumn is a transitional season. Spring brings new life whilst autumn is a time of dying. Our Christian seasons reflect this in the sense that we celebrate Easter, the new life promised to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus, in the spring. In the autumn on All Souls Day (October 31 st) we remember those loved ones whose earthly lives have come to an end and then the next day All Saints Day offers us the opportunity to give thanks for all those saintly (and saintly does not mean they didn't do anything wrong) people we have known, either personally or through the annals of time. Those who dedicated their lives to working with others to bring God's kingdom of peace, love, joy and hope here on earth.

Many of my congregations know that one of my saintly heroes is Desmond Tutu and this month, as we enter the Autumn season, a lovely lady from the Suckley congregation gave me a book called 'The Book of Joy' telling the story of when Tutu and the Dalai Lama met for a week in 2015. They spent seven days looking back on their long lives of finding joy in the face of suffering...something they have both experienced and yet they are two of the most joyful people. Through their own faith filled, God given lives, they have experienced many seasons of spring and autumn, new life and death alongside the light of summer joy and the darkness of winter gloom.

And so, as we remember the saints in our lives and beyond, I would like to finish this month's ..from the Vicar....with a sonnet, 'Thanksgiving' from Malcolm Guite from his book 'Sounding the Seasons'

Thanksgiving starts with thanks for mere survival,
Just to have made it through another year
With everyone still breathing. But we share
So much beyond the outer roads we travel;
Our interweavings on a deeper level,
The modes of life embodied souls can share,
The unguessed blessings of our being here,
Threads of connection no one can unravel.
So I give thanks for our deep coinherence
Inwoven in the web of God's own grace,
Pulling us through the grave and gate of death.
I thank him for the truth behind appearance,
I thank him for his light in every face,
I thank him for you all, with every breath.

...and a few words from Christine Currah, 2002

Remember me when I am gone, but not with sorrow, pain and grief
Think of me as a turning leaf,
That in the Autumn falls from its branch
To be born again in Spring and live forever in your heart.
And the blessing of God be upon each of us as we give thanks for the seasons of the year
and within our own lives.

Rev Anne