

Churches Together

News and resources for the United Benefice of Burton Joyce, Bulcote & Stoke Bardolph and Lowdham with Caythorpe & Gunthorpe



Newsletter no: 95

January 2024

God is with us



Christmas is over. The trees are down, the decorations are packed away, and the baby in the manger is safely behind us for another year.

But the church's celebration has hardly begun. In the next few weeks we have another go at the Wise Men, and we celebrate Jesus turning water into wine, dry January notwithstanding. We skip forward briefly to think about Jesus's baptism when he was 30 years old, before returning to him as a baby as his parents bring him to the Temple.

Then there's the briefest of pauses before we plunge into Lent at the other end of Jesus' earthly life.

Despite the big difference that Christmas makes to our everyday routines, and the way so many things get put 'on hold' for the season, our everyday lives don't stop any more than the church's story.

So now we look at the scales and resolve to join a gym; the grass will soon start to grow again and need cutting; those decisions at work which were delayed because of Christmas will need attention.

Many people find January the most difficult time of year for all those reasons, as well as the dark and cold, so how are we to find the direction and resources to pick up the reins again, and get on with ordinary life?

One way is to remember that Christmas and Easter are


not two stories, but one: the baby in the manger and the man rising from the dead are the same person – the one who was born for us is the one who died for us. God came to be with us in all the pain and messiness of this life so that our sins can be forgiven and we have Emmanuel, God with us, not just at Christmas but all the time.

Whatever this new year might bring, we can all be sure that God's love and presence are here to steady, to illuminate, to encourage, to inspire, and to give life.

Love, Anna

'Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see.
For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you.
Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of
the earth,
but the glory of the Lord arises and appears over
you.
All nations will come to your light;
mighty kings will come to see your radiance.'

Isaiah 60. 1-3



January Services across the Benefice

Please note there is no Holy Communion at St. John's, Gunthorpe on 2nd January.

Sunday 7th January

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham.

11.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Tuesday, 9th January

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Bulcote.

Sunday 14th January

9.00a.m. Morning Worship, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m. Morning Worship, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Tuesday, 16th January

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Luke's, Stoke Bardolph.

Sunday 21st January

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Tuesday, 23rd January

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Aidan's, Caythorpe

Sunday 28th January

9.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Regular events

Our churches are living communities at the centre of village life, offering help, fellowship and welcome to everyone. We'd be delighted to see you!

Coffee Chit Chat

Mondays 9.15a.m—11.30a.m

St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce

Come and join us for a cuppa and a natter!

Parents & Toddlers

Monday 9.30 –11.00a.m. (term time only).

St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce.

Everyone is welcome. With refreshments

The Tea Shop at St. John's

Tuesdays 9.30a.m. –12 noon at St. John's,
Gunthorpe.

Join us for coffee, cake and chat. Everyone welcome!

'Churches Together' Baby & Toddler Group

Tuesday 9.15 –11.00a.m. (term time only)

Methodist Chapel, Lowdham. Coffee & snacks, crafts & songs. Everyone is welcome. £2.50/ family to cover costs.

Wednesday Prayer & a Pint!

First Wednesday of the month, 7.30p.m. at St. Helen's, Burton Joyce, followed by a social drink in the pub afterwards.

St. Helen's Singers

7.30-8.30p.m. first Thursday of the month.

Come and enjoy singing hymns at St. Helen's. All welcome. *Please speak to Sev for more information:*

Home Groups

There are several home/ study groups that meet across the Benefice. Why not come and join us as we share prayers, explore the bible and grow together in faith and friendship.

For more details please contact Tracey, the Vicar's P.A.

Winter Blessing

When sleet blinds you,
hail drowns out voices,
and snow hides your path,

may you discern in each flake
a star, image of the one
that guided the Magi,

and find that in the pain
of birth, death or change

There is a light to guide you.

Contact us...

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