



St. Martin's Church, Shutford

Wykeham Benefice News

February and March 2024

A Benefice Preparing for Easter
Lent Lunches at a glance

12.30p.m.

Tuesday 20th February – Tadmarton

Monday 26th February – Broughton

Monday 4th March – Epwell

Tuesday 12th March – Upper Lea Farm, Swalcliffe Lea

Monday 18th March – Sibford

Monday 25th March - Shutford

Lent is nigh!

I am writing while our celebrations of Christmas and the Epiphany are still firmly in my mind: it was lovely to see so many people in our churches over that period; the story of the birth of the baby Jesus and the homage paid to him by shepherds and wise men seemed to be a fitting contrast to the drama of war, floods and earthquakes unfolding on our television screens over the same period. But by the time you read this the season of Lent will be nearly upon us: Ash Wednesday takes place on 14th February, a date more usually associated with St Valentine, but this year for those with time to attend one of the two Ash Wednesday services I shall be marking your foreheads with an ash cross as a sign of penitence and a reminder of our mortality, using the words *Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.*

But Lent is not just about penitence, it is also about growing our faith: traditionally it was the period in which Christians prepared for baptism or confirmation. While we now tend to baptise fairly soon after birth and no confirmations are planned for Easter, at least not in this Benefice, it is a time when we should seek to increase our understanding of what Christians believe through study and prayer. This may be through a commitment to reading the bible every day, perhaps attending the Morning Prayer sessions which happen around our churches at 9am on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays each week, or by a commitment to spend more time in prayer every day. But I can also recommend the ***Come and See*** programme, ***the way of love***, that is being offered by the Diocese – with a series of daily emails and a weekly video, designed to help us grow in our faith. I will be leaving cards describing the programme in each church, but you can access it directly on www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see . And I am delighted that our Diocesan Bishop, the Bishop of Oxford, will be preaching for us at the Benefice Eucharist on 3rd March at Shutford.

We have planned a series of Lent lunches to join with others on our journey through Lent, as listed on the front cover, all at 12.30pm, with precise details to follow in the weekly pew sheets.

With every blessing

John Tattersall

News from the Parishes *in one edition we move swiftly from Christmas, through Lent, to an early Easter*

Broughton with North Newington

We learned with great sadness of the death of Lord Saye and Sele at 103, on Saturday, 20th January. There will be a full tribute to him in the next issue.

It was wonderful to welcome so many to the Carol Service on 17th December and to see so many staying afterwards to enjoy the mulled wine and nibbles.

The church was full of families for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve with over 100 children and adults in attendance. The children did a wonderful job in doing the readings and carrying the various figures to the nativity.

It was a joy-filled service on Christmas Day and a very special service at Broughton Castle Chapel on New Year's Day.

Coming up in February and March:

As we look forward, we are delighted to invite you to the Lent lunch on Monday 26th February at 12.30pm at St Mary's House in Wykham Lane, Broughton. Please do join us for a delicious lunch.

On Sunday 10th March, we invite you to St Mary's Church when we will celebrate Mothering Sunday with a very special service.

We are looking forward to hosting the devotional and beautifully reflective Good Friday service at 7pm on 29th March and to our Easter day celebration service at 11am on Sunday 31st March.



Short mat indoor bowls

Now that the Christmas festivities have past, the short mat indoor bowls has restarted. This takes place every Tuesday 2pm-4pm at St Mary's House, Wykham Lane, Broughton. No need to book, just turn up and have fun. You will be warmly welcomed at this social afternoon. For more details, please contact Neil Howarth on Tel: 250596



Epwell

Lent Lunch

Please put a note in your diaries to come along and join us in the Village Hall for a bowl of homemade soup and bread on Monday 4th March as part of this year's Lent lunches around the Benefice.

Holy Week

Holy Week begins with the Benefice Palm Sunday service on 24th March. There will be the traditional procession around the village following the donkey, singing and carrying Palm crosses, before the service in the church. Please gather in the square at 10.15am and the church will be open for anyone who feels unable to join the procession.

February 11th, Lay led Service. We welcome Ian Fleming from Epwell, who will lead our service. Ian worships at the Southam Road Evangelical Church in Banbury. Our mission continues on from last year to open up our Lay led services to involve more of our parish and benefice, some of whom may want to take a service or give a reflective talk. Please let us know if you would like to be involved. We hope it will broaden our Christian lives and allow a wider involvement in the community.



Mothering Sunday

This year the Mother's Day service will be held on Sunday 10th March at 9.45am, everyone is most welcome. There will be opportunities for young people to be involved with readings and prayers and there will be refreshments following the service.

Our Christmas celebrations were well attended, 107 in total but being a village depleted of children at the moment only 12 of those made it to the Christingle service. Nevertheless, Jocelyn Merris took a happy service. Alasdair Lowe had offered to don a Christingle outfit. Sadly he didn't. It would have been a big crowd drawer, no doubt. Perhaps next year Alasdair.



Dawn Castle prepared a magnificent Crib service with all the young and the young at heart to performed the very first play she wrote for the church, "You've got it wrong again Gabriel ". It was first performed in 1992 and this was the third time the script has been used. The production still held its dazzle and was full of hilarity and fun, with a clear Christmas message spread to a congregation of 50. Glyn Evans kindly presided over the service while many talented

parishioners took to the stage, the Bruggenwirth family included. Julie played Herod while her 3 'adult' children, Emma, Tom and James played the part of the 3 Kings. They started

their acting with Dawn's EDGE drama classes as small children. Tom has carried on with amateur dramatics since his humble beginnings with Dawn. He is soon to perform at Stratford Bear Pit in February in, 'The Real Inspector Hound' by Tom Stoppard.

Shutford News

It was good to have families with children at our Crafts & Christingle in Shutford Village Hall and our Carol Service in church. £200 from collections has been given to The Children's Society.



The next Fun Family Church event for Easter will be on Good Friday in the village hall 10.00am – 12noon. There will be crafts, a reflection on the meaning of Easter with refreshments and perhaps some chocolate?

The church was beautifully decorated for Christmas with flowers and greenery. There was also a Christmas tree adorned with angels made by villagers and a knitted Nativity donated by Lisa and Matt.

Special thanks to everyone who donates and arranges flowers all year and those who made angels for the tree and others who made our Advent and Christmas services and events so special.

The church tower was illuminated during Advent and Christmas with welcoming solar lights at the church entrance.

Our Mothering Sunday service on 10th March will be held in Shutford Village Hall with teas and cakes. Our Lent Lunch will be on Monday, 25th March from 12.30pm with donations to a local charity.

We are all grateful to Rev John for leading our benefice during the interregnum and for the team of retired clergy and lay people keeping our churches open and at the centre of village life.

Sibford

It was a hectic but enjoyable Advent and Christmas with many visitors to Holy Trinity Church coming to view the Tree Festival and to join in the Christingle Service; parents and pupils from Sibford Gower Primary school arriving for their School Carol Service and singing so beautifully. Our thanks to John, Jocelyn, Glyn and all our retired clergy for helping us in our celebrations. Bringing the Christmas season to an end we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with a Benefice Service at Sibford and now on to Candlemas.

MOTHERING SUNDAY March 10th. 3pm in church with a distribution of posies followed by Afternoon Teas in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

EASTER EGGS FOR POLLY'S HOMELESS PEOPLE For the last three years we have provided Easter Eggs for Polly Preedy to distribute to those homeless and needy in Banbury and we will do so again this year, a little sweetness in difficult lives. We ask that the eggs are of the smaller variety, so that everyone has something similar. *See our service in the service table.*

Swalcliffe

Looking back ...

... To the wonderful atmosphere and community spirit that over 150 people enjoyed at the Celebration of Christmas event held on Friday 22nd December in the Church. Church Warden Stephen Warrington ably led us through a succession of seasonal poems and readings read by local adults and children, interspersed with the lusty singing of popular carols and enthusiastic audience participation (aided by the mulled wine welcome drink)! Everyone commented that the different format was a refreshing change and perfectly created the spirit of Christmas. A retiring collection raised the impressive sum of £337, half of which has been donated to the Sunshine Centre in Banbury that provides practical support and much needed emotional encouragement to families and children.



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...This is also a good time to acknowledge all our dedicated volunteers who help keep our churchyard so well maintained. In particular, thanks to Michael Salter, Gillian Brooks, Padraig O'Connor and Mike Taylor, who regularly mow the grass and keep everything looking shipshape.

...Our church and the village Christmas tree on the green looked particularly beautiful when illuminated every evening. Thanks to all who worked hard to set up and take down the Christmas lights – they are greatly appreciated!

Tadmarton

Happy New Year to everyone in the Benefice from St. Nicholas church and many thanks to Rev John and all the clergy for another successful Christmas celebration.

The Festive Fiesta was a great success, with proceeds donated to the Village Hall and the church. St Nicholas church and Village Hall came alive with many stalls of

crafts cakes to purchase, bottle tombola, lucky dip, pet toys. The Lampet Arms held a splendid stall of Christmas cakes and puddings, pickles and lots more. All made by Carolyn and Edith.

A harmonious choir was brought together by Alex and they sang in the Church, the Churchyard - as it was a beautiful sunny day - and the Village Hall. Excellent carols, and many thanks to all. We all enjoyed mince pies, sausage rolls, mulled wine, tea and coffee. A big thank you to the Village Hall Committee for their hard work. Can we do it again next year please?

St. Nicholas Service was well attended and the Carol Service was magical with the choir singing beautifully led by Alex. Maggie, as always was superb on the organ. We finalised the occasion with mulled wine, lots of delicious nibbles, mince pies and more. The collection went to the Sunshine Centre.

Our Christmas Day service was well attended. Five children joined us and many thanks to Rev Brian for a wonderful service. The church was magnificently decorated by the excellent flower arranges. Shirley displayed her Nativity scene in the little alcove which has become very popular with the children on Christmas Day.

Looking ahead we have our PCC meeting early February and our Lent Lunch Tuesday 20th February at 12 noon. Please come along and join us for delicious soups served with homemade bread, cheese and biscuits, tea and coffee. I heard there could be some of Shirley's delicious fruit cake and if we are lucky her renowned Bakewell tarts, not to be missed. Charity donation has yet to be decided.

We pray we will be blessed with a New Priest by the summer. Lots of love to everyone in the Benefice, Jennifer.

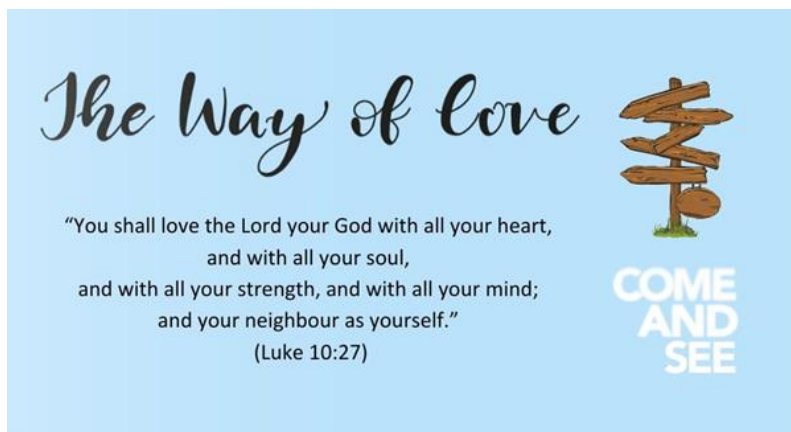
News from the Diocese – Candidate for a Rector

On 16th January the Article 12 meeting took place for the short-listing of candidates for the role of Rector of the Wykeham Benefice. The Archdeacon, Rev. David Tyler, Area Dean, Sara Sharpe, our Benefice Patrons and the representatives of the 6 parishes of the Wykeham Benefice were all present.

We can share with you that, unfortunately, there were no short-listable candidates brought forward this time, and therefore the post will be re-advertised. This process cannot happen for 6 weeks but may hopefully attract more candidates by that time of the year.

Whilst this is disappointing news, it was generally felt that it is better to wait and have quality candidates rather than rush in for the first one that applies and we hope that you will appreciate this approach. **Please continue to pray for a suitable candidate for our benefice.**

**From the Diocese of Oxford,
Love is at the heart of our Lent course**



‘Come and See’ is our big warm invitation to you all to join us for Lent and discover more about God's love for us. www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see

From the Church of England

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024 is *Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and Life*. Watch and Pray invites us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places this Lent: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning.

- There is support available for you and your church as you get ready for Lent.
- Learn about the Watch and Pray daily reflections – with versions available for both adults and children.
- Get tips for inviting your community to church this Lent and Easter using websites and social media

Search the internet for "Church of England Watch and Pray" to find the Church's web page with all these Resources for Lent 2024.



For a daily meditation all year round, with songs, Bible readings, and contemplations for prayer, visit <https://pray-as-you-go.org>

Readings for February

Old Testament New Testament Gospel

4 th February	Second Sunday before Lent	Prov.8:1, 22-31	Col.1:15-20	John 1:1-14
11 th February	Sunday Next before Lent	2 Kings.2:1-12	2 Cor.4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
14 th February	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa 58:1-12	2 Cor.5:20b-6:10	Matt. 6:1-6,16-21 or John 8:1-11
18 th February	First Sunday of Lent	Gen.9:8-17	1 Pet. 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
25 th February	Second Sunday of Lent	Gen.17:1-7, 15-16	Rom.4:13-end	Mark 8:31-end

Readings for March

Old Testament New Testament Gospel

3 rd March	Third Sunday of Lent	Exod.20:1-17	1 Cor.1:18-25	John 2:13-22
10 th March	MOTHERING SUNDAY Family Services	Exod. 2:1-10 or 1 Sam.1:20-end	2 Cor.1:3-7 or Col.3:12-17	Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25b-27
17 th March	Fifth Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday	Jer.31:31-34	Heb.5:5-10	John 12:20-33
24 th March	PALM SUNDAY	Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11:1-11 Liturgy of the Passion Isa 50: 4 – 9a	Phil.2:5-11	PASSION reading Mark 15: 1-39
28 th March	MAUNDY THURSDAY	Exod.12:1-4(5-10),11-14	1 Cor.11:23-26	John 13:1-17,31b-35
31 st March	EASTER DAY	Isa.25:6-9	Acts 10:34-43	Mark 16:1-8

Services for February

Liturgical
colours

Sunday Second before Lent	4 th	Broughton	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist (JT)	Green
Tuesday	6 th	Tadmarton	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion (BF)	Green
Sunday Next before Lent	11 th	Sibford Shutford Swalcliffe Sibford Epwell Broughton Tadmarton	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 11am 11am	BCP Holy Communion (JT) BCP Holy Communion (GE) Holy Communion (JT) All Age Family service (JM) All Age Family service (lay led) Holy Communion (JT) Holy Communion (GE)	Green
Tuesday	13 th	Tadmarton	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion (DP)	Green
Wednesday Ash Wednesday	14 th	Epwell Sibford	10am 7pm	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes (JT) Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes (JT)	Purple
Sunday Lent 1	18 th	Sibford Epwell Broughton Shutford Tadmarton Swalcliffe	9.30am 9.45am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (DP) Holy Communion (JT) Holy Communion (HS) All Age Family service (lay led) Holy Communion (JT) BCP BCP Evensong (JM)	Purple
Tuesday	20 th	Tadmarton	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion (BF)	Purple
Sunday Lent 2	25 th	Shutford Sibford Swalcliffe Epwell Broughton Tadmarton	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (DP) Holy Communion (JT) Holy Communion (BF) Holy Communion (GE) All Age Family service (JT) All Age Family service (Lay led)	Purple
Tuesday	27 th	Tadmarton	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion (HS)	Purple

Rector: Vacant. Associate Minister: The Rev'd Canon John Tattersall (JT)

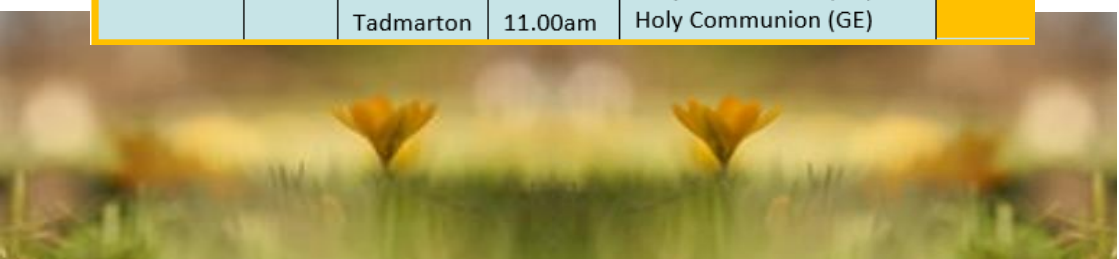
Licensed Lay Minister: Jocelyn Merris (JM) Assisting Priests: The Rev'd Brian Fairbank (BF);
The Rev'd Dr David Pym (DP), Rev'd Canon Glyn Evans (GE), The Rev'd Graeme Arthur (GA),
The Rev'd Hazel Scarr (HS), The Rev'd John Smith (JS), The Rev'd Michael Campling (MC),
The Rev'd Prebendary Olwen Smith (OS)



Services for March

Liturgical
colours

Sunday Lent 3	3 rd	Shutford	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist (The Bishop of Oxford)	Purple
Tuesday	5 th	Tadmarton	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion (BF)	
Sunday Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	10 th	Sibford Swalcliffe Epwell Broughton Tadmarton Sibford Shutford	8.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm 4.30pm	BCP Holy Communion (JT) Mothers' Day service (JT) Mothers' Day service (lay led) Mothers' Day service (JT) Mothers' Day service (lay led) Mothers' Day service (JM) Mothers' Day tea (JT)	Purple
Tuesday	12 th	Tadmarton	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion (DP)	
Sunday Lent 5 Passion Sunday	17 th	Sibford Shutford Epwell Broughton Tadmarton Swalcliffe	9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (JT) BCP Holy Communion (GE) Holy Communion (DP) Holy Communion (GE) Holy Communion (JT) BCP BCP Evensong (JM)	Purple
Tuesday St Joseph of Nazareth	19 th	Tadmarton	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion (BF)	
Sunday Palm Sunday	24 th	Epwell	10.15am	Precession of Palms and Benefice Eucharist (JT)	
Tuesday of Holy Week	26 th	Tadmarton	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion (HS)	
Maundy Thursday	28 th	Sibford	7.00pm	Benefice Eucharist for Maundy Thursday (JT)	White
Good Friday	29 th	Tadmarton Broughton	2.00pm 7.00pm	Good Friday Meditation JT Devotional service (JT)	Red (no hanging s)
Sunday Easter Day	31 st	Swalcliffe Sibford Shutford Epwell Broughton Swalcliffe Tadmarton	6.00am 9.30am 9.30am 9.45am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	First Communion of Easter (JT) Holy Communion (JT) Holy Communion (GE) Holy Communion (BF) Holy Communion (JT) Holy Communion (DP) Holy Communion (GE)	Gold or White



Thoughts for prayer time for Lent -

In John's introduction, he mentions a couple of meditation programmes to support you through Lent as well as Benefice Morning Prayer sessions.

Many of us will start our day with exercise or with brain teasers but how many of us prepare our inner selves to face the day with God at our side? We all know it's important to pray and to meditate to be able to grow as a Christian, so we can learn about God and ourselves. It brings us knowledge, understanding, courage and peace for the day ahead. Nevertheless, I imagine most of us find it hard to make the time to do this.

During the day you can offer up prayers of praise and thanks or give Him your worries. You can ask for guidance at any moment. You can offer to serve Him anywhere - but perhaps what God would love is for us to give Him a small amount of concentrated time to just focus on Him and learn from Him each day. With our hectic lives we need to learn how to just slow down, sit quietly, and with ease, as you would with a dear friend. How does one release the rat race in our mind, be quiet and be still – not just pray, but listen, even to the peace of silence? We know, if we are prepared to practice prayer, it becomes less of a challenge and more part of what we are.

Some of the words from the song 'Slow Down' by 'iAmSon'
found on Google, Spotify or YouTube.

*"Slow down, where are you going
What's so important that can't wait....*

*...I'll be the light to guide your feet,
If you just slow down, just slow down*

And meet with me.

*...Why hurry when you can walk with me,
just slow down and meet with me."*



How do we slow down for God, even for a few minutes?

Here are some suggestions:

- Find your own quiet space and close the door on the world. It can be anywhere.
- Perhaps listen to a piece of music, a song that draws your focus on God.
- Start by breathing with intention. Consciously inhaling, holding the breath for a moment before exhaling. Do this slowly, 5 or 6 times.
- It can help to listen to a reading, a chant, a prayer.
- Draw upon the word or phrase that stands out for you. Repeat it, absorb it.
- Be still, absorb this moment of quiet. Thank God for it and for what it has meant to you.
- When you are finished, get up slowly and pause before you re-join your day.
- Now armed with His word and peace, carry this exclusive moment with God with you for the rest of the day.

It will be God's glory, not yours, that will guide your feet, support you, and love you today.



Happy Easter to you all.

Date for copy for the April/ May edition

Tuesday, 12th March 2024.

Send to carolyn.kdeg@zen.co.uk