



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 15 - 22 March 2020

Our Vision: To build God's Kingdom here on earth as in heaven

SUNDAY 15 MARCH – LENT 3

9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion
4pm Messy Church at Wychwood Primary School

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promise in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Post Communion Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Today's Readings (Year A)

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7 God meets the material needs of the people of Israel, wandering in the desert, by the miracle at the rock, and is revealed as the source of life – the one in whom thirst is quenched.

Second Reading Romans 5:1-11 Paul contrasts human weakness and ungodliness with the grace and love of God that are shown in the reconciling death of Christ.

Gospel John 4:5-42 Jesus' encounter with a woman at a well leads to his revelation of himself as the Messiah, as "living water" and the "Saviour of the world".

Deanery: 15 March Holy Trinity, Ascott-underWychwood. Please pray for Mark Abrey and Ilona Cheyne. 22 March St Giles' Wigginton. Please pray for Janet Faull, Janet Collins, Wendy Cunningham, Keith Disney & churchwardens Nicholas Case and Hugo Brown.

Prayer List: Hostage John Cantlie, Mark Forsbrey, Emma Bradford, Wendy Cherry, and Marian Clark.

Banns & Weddings: Banns will be read in Milton Church on 15th and 22nd March for Alex Hardwick and Kelly Partlett who are getting married in Milton on 22 May. Banns will be read in Milton Church for Adrian Marks and Chantel Hall on 15 & 22 March and 5 April. Their wedding is in Freeland on 23 May.

R.I.P.: Chris Sole.

Funerals: There will be a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Graham on Saturday 21 March at 2pm in All Saints' Church, Churchill.

If you would like to gather to share memories of Chris Sole, please come to Chipping Norton Town Hall on Sunday 29 March 2.30-5.30pm for drinks and light refreshments.

SUNDAY 22 MARCH – LENT 24 / MOTHERING SUNDAY

8.15am Shipton BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Milton Mothering Sunday

11.00am Shipton Mothering Sunday

11.00am Fifield Mothering Sunday

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings: (Year A)

First Reading 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Paul assures the Church in Corinth that God's comfort and strength are present in suffering.

John 19:25b-27 As he is dying on the cross, Jesus makes provision for his mother, Mary.

Notices

Coronavirus guidelines from the Church of England

In light of the current situation we are following the guidelines which can be summarised currently as follows:

- We have been advised to suspend the use of the shared chalice and so will be offering communion in one kind only i.e. the consecrated bread/wafer, with the priest alone taking the wine.
- We will also suspend handshaking or other direct physical contact during the sharing of the peace; we will therefore offer the sign of The Peace verbally.

If you have any concerns please get in touch with Geoffrey or Anne.

The latest Church of England guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Milton's APCM will take place on Sunday 15 March after the 10.03am service.

Messy Church Sunday 15 March 4-6pm in Wychwood School. This month's theme will be *Breaking Bread*. N.B. following the latest advice we are unable to offer tea.

EVENT POSTPONED: BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Friday 20 March, 7pm Fifield Church

Lent Groups

We continue to meet on Mondays at 10.30 at The Paddocks and on Tuesdays at 7pm at The Old House, Upper Milton. For more details contact Anne or Geoffrey. We are looking at the following book:

A Word for Lent, 6 part study on: *Temptation, Transformation, Acceptance, Celebration, Forgiveness and Passion*. (Copies available from Geoffrey £5 each).

Lent Lunches. Details for these will be updated soon.

In **Idbury after the 11am United Benefice Service on 29 March** there will be a soup with a roll and cheese lunch. All are invited but to help with catering please R.S.V.P. to Mary Champness on 01993 831074.

In **Milton on 5 April after the Palm Sunday United Benefice Service at 10am** there will be a hot lunch in Milton Village Hall.

If you would like to come or are able to help towards food (by making a cottage/shepherd's pie) please contact the office or speak to Anne Hartley 01993 830160.

26th March: Friends of St John's Supper followed by Quiz. 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Tickets £12 from Tina Palmer (830 517) or Sally Austin (832 582). All very welcome. There will be a Raffle.

The Shipton APCM will be held on Sunday, 26th April in the Church at 4pm. We are looking for a few more people to join the PCC and you would have to be on the Electoral Roll to be eligible. We are also organising sessions for volunteers to do some jobs at the Church to address a few things raised in the Quinquennial Report that we can do ourselves where they do not need engaging professionals. If you are interested in the PCC or can help as a volunteer then contact Martin Davies on 01608 643230 or email m.ndavies1@tiscali.co.uk.

The Friends of St Mary' Shipton is seeking a Secretary.

The secretary would need to be the first point of contact for the Charity Commission, ensure meetings are effectively organised and minuted, maintain effective records for the Friends, maintain a list of trustees and members of the Friends, and generally uphold the requirements set out in the charity constitution. This is a voluntary post which would suit someone willing to give a little of their time on a regular basis. If interested please get in touch with Geoffrey.

Update on Shipton Church

A year since the beam first fell from Shipton church roof, we continue to move ever so slowly forward with plans for its repair. Unfortunately, dealing with historic materials and many and varied specialists is a slow process, but the PCC continues to try to push things along.

We hope to start repairs to the central nave roof as soon as we physically can, so we can remove the need for the scaffolding. The second phase of work, when we've raised a second tranche of money, will be to repair the south aisle roof. The third phase, once the roof is secure, will be to finally move ahead with improvements to things like heating, toilets and kitchen facilities. Overall, we expect that we'll need to raise in the order of £905,000 - £1,000 for every year of the church's life to date. Some will come from grants, but there will be a lot of fundraising for the foreseeable future. If you can help in any way with this project, do let Geoffrey or the churchwardens know!

Foodbank Donations:

Shipton and Milton churches are drop off points for donations for the foodbank:

For details please visit the website:

<http://www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk/>

Book Corner in Shipton Church

Don't forget books are available to buy/swap. If you have any books (all types) to donate please drop off at the Vicarage, at Shipton church or phone Geoffrey.

Readings 29 March: Lent 5 Romans 8:6-11, Gospel John 11:1-45.

Vicar: Rev Geoffrey Clement vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk 01993 832514
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