



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 21 February, 2021

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

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30am Milton Holy Communion Church Service

11.00am Live Zoom Service followed by conversation & coffee
from 11.30-12

We will post a recording of a service on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday. It will be available on the website from the Monday. [youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice](https://www.youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice)

There is an online service from the Diocese at 10am each Sunday. The order of service and links to view/listen are posted on Saturday:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

Live Zoom Service - Sundays at 11am

Join our Zoom Sunday Service:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83839976916?pwd=Uk5DcmRJamY1V0YrMFo0czdUdGZydz09>

Meeting ID: 838 3997 6916

Passcode: Service

Zoom by phone

It is also possible to join the zoom service by phone if you don't have internet or an alternative option. If you would like some help with zoom, get in touch with Liz 01993 684286 or Anne 01993 830160.

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to

live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading I Peter 3:18-22 Peter tells us that although our sin separates us from God we are saved from that separation by baptism into new life, made possible by Christ's willing sacrifice of his own life and his resurrection from the dead by the power of God.

Gospel Mark 1:9-15 The Holy Spirit who, at his baptism, descends on Jesus like a dove, now drives him out into a wilderness time of trial and temptation before he can begin his public ministry of proclaiming that the kingdom of God is near.

Prayer List: Hostage John Cantlie, Marian Clark, Emma Bradford, Robert Arlott, Joan Howard Drake and Wendy Cherry.

Deanery: St Peter's, Hook Norton. Please pray for Janet Faull and churchwarden Mark Taylor.

R.I.P.: Phillip Pittaway and Shauni McGregor.

Funerals: Shauni McGregor's funeral is in Shipton church on Friday 26 February 11am. Due to covid it is invitation only.

Shipton Church update:

There are some new photos of the work on the church on the Benefice website and Facebook page <https://wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/update-on-work-on-shipton-churchs-roof/>

From the photos you can see the work being carried out on the roof timbers and on the stonework. The contractors are confident the work should be completed by the end of March.

We have now received tenders for the work on the South Aisle roof, the most competitive is around £75k. This is very encouraging as it is less than initially expected. Also, we must not forget that there is more work to be done to the church with the improvements: heating, toilets, server, floor repairs etc. However, we will need to do a lot more fundraising. We are extremely grateful to those who have so generously given already. If you would like to donate, please complete the Gift Aid form on the website [Gift Aid Form Shipton Church 2021](#)

Or request a copy by email from the office.

More information about how to donate and fundraising events, or ideas for events please contact Geoffrey.

Services:

Here in the Wychwood Benefice we are for now continuing with one service of Communion each Sunday for the duration of the lockdown as well as the Wednesday Service in Milton. An online service will continue to be posted for those who wish to stay at home, as well as a Zoom Sunday service.

These will be simple said services, I do not wish to oblige anyone to attend who does not wish to, this includes sides-men/women or sacristans, readers, intercessors, so please can we suspend any rotas for the duration. I urge you to think seriously about attending these services, your safety must come first, and I will not be disappointed if there is no one attending.

Church services for the next few weeks are as follows. There is now also a rota of services up to the end of April. There are copies in church and it is also on the website <https://wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Services-Feb-April-2021-onecol.pdf>

March: 7th Fifield 11am
14th Milton 9.30am (Mothering Sunday)
N.B. There will also be a special Family Mothering Sunday Service on Zoom at 11am
21st Idbury 11am BCP Holy Communion
28th Shipton 11am Palm Sunday Holy Communion

Mid Week Communion in Milton every Wednesday 10.30am in Milton Church.

Guidelines on coming to church:

- Booking: It will be necessary to book to attend services in Fifield church. Contact Catherine, who will allocate seating 01993 831881 catherine.lordlandry@gmail.com.
- We ask you please not to come if you (or anyone in your household) are unwell.
- Please wear a mask or covering and use hand sanitizer on entering church.
- Please sign in and use the track and trace system if possible.
- Please adhere to the advice displayed on signs in church with regards to social distancing and where to sit.

Churches are still open for private prayer and there will be copies of the orders of service and Church News available for you to take home in the churches.

Lent Groups and Lent Book *Living is Christ, Dying is Gain*

As we enter Lent we will be looking at our chosen lent book during our home groups for 4 weeks from 22 February.

Living is Christ, Dying is Gain is Bishop Steven's reflections on the book of Philippians. If you'd like to join our home groups on zoom get in touch. Or, if you would like to order a copy of the book for £2.50, let Geoffrey know.

School

We are still unable to go into school for assembly and Open the Book, but we are now sending in a weekly short video with a bible reading. Once things are more relaxed, we will continue with a more active Open the Book. We are always looking for more volunteers to join the Open the Book team...

The pastoral team (Geoffrey, Anne and Elaine) are available if you or anyone you know might need pastoral or practical support. Please get in touch.

For those who are missing singing in Church:

Check out quarantine choir- take a look on YouTube, Home Choir, Sacred Sing with Ben England.

Also Morning Prayer with the Dean of Canterbury can be found on YouTube.

Supporting the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank

There has been a great response by the community to the Food Bank trolley in Milton Co-op. The generosity of the people of Milton and the surrounding villages is heartening. As the winter progresses, I am sure we will all continue to remember those who are struggling.

Donations of long-life and non perishable foods, soap, toothpaste and basic cleaning materials can be left at the village Co-op store or our local churches.

Sunday 28 February 2021 Lent 2

11.00am Idbury BCP Holy Communion Church Service

11.00am Zoom Service followed by coffee

First Reading Romans 4:13-25 Abraham grew strong in faith, believing in God's life-giving presence and trusting that God would accomplish what was promised. Likewise we are urged to believe in the life-giving promise of salvation through Jesus, accomplished for us despite our failure to follow every strict religious rule.

Gospel Mark 8:31-38 Peter finds it difficult to believe that the Messiah he has just acknowledged must die on the cross. Jesus once again resists Satan's temptation to trade his divine task for human power and urges his disciples to have faith in him and his life-giving mission.

The Benefice Office is currently closed, Clare is working from home and will be checking emails and phone messages Mon – Fri.

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Rest Day Thursday

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