



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 28 February, 2021

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

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

11.00am Idbury BCP 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

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 Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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.

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

Deanery: St James, Over Norton. Please pray for James Kennedy, David Salter, Ursula Simpson, Roger Simpson, Gareth Harper, Toby Artis, Judith Marshall and churchwardens Graham Povey and Tim Woolcock.

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.

Coming out of lockdown

The latest information from the government on the easing of restrictions came out at the start of the week. For the present the Church of England has not published any guidelines. However, what we can say is that the "Stay at Home" rule will end on the 29th March and by 12th April "non-essential" retail will reopen.

For our part we will be looking at our service planning post Easter. Post Easter we will be looking at returning to a fuller pattern of Sunday Services.

Services:

For now we are 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: 14th Milton 9.30am (Mothering Sunday) Holy Communion
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.

Shipton Church work update

If you've not yet had chance to look at the recent photos on the progress in Shipton church they are on the website (and on facebook)

<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.

Shipton Monthly Prize Draw – £100 prize every month!

If you haven't yet signed up to this and would like to (costs from £36 a year, £3 a month) see details on the website <https://wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/sign-up-to-our-monthly-draw-100-prize-each-month-and-help-raise-funds-for-shipton-church/> or contact Mary: minifan2@gmail.com

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. ***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.

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.

Join the service to welcome Gavin to the Diocese

This Sunday at 3pm there will be a Service of Welcome for the Venerable Gavin Collins, our Bishop-designate. All are welcome to participate in the service on [YouTube](#). The order of service is available to download now [here](#). Please hold our Gavin and his family in your prayers.

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 7 March 2021 Lent 3

- 11.00am Fifeild BCP Holy Communion Church Service
(Please book via Catherine Hitchens 01993 831881)
- 11.00am Zoom Service followed by coffee

First Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Paul begins his letter to the Corinthians with a statement of the contradictory nature of the Gospel. What seems like utter foolishness to the unconvinced is new life and hope to the ones who have been transformed by its power.

Gospel John 2:13-22 Jesus violently disrupts the trading that takes place in the temple courts. Right at the beginning of John's Gospel, Jesus' actions shadow the great change and disruption his death and resurrection will bring about when the story closes.

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

Rest Day Thursday

Rev'd Anne Hartley anne@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk 01993 830160