



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 20 and 27 February 2022

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

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY – 2 BEFORE LENT

- 9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion **livestreamed**
3-5pm Messy Church at Wychwood School - *activities and games ending with a shared tea.*

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading Revelation 4 John received a revelation from God whilst exiled on the Greek island of Patmos and this included an incredible vision of heaven.

Gospel Luke 8:22-25 Jesus and the disciples set off in a boat. When he is asleep a storm sweeps in; he commands the winds and water to calm down.

Prayer List: Hostage John Cantlie, Marian Clark, Emma Bradford and Craig Smith.

R.I.P.: Eira Horner and Les Wilcox.

Deanery: 20 February All Saints, Churchill. Please pray for David Salter, James Kennedy, Martha Simpson, Roger Simpson, Judith Marshall and churchwarden Claire Blackman. 27 February St Denys, Little Compton. Please pray for David Salter, James Kennedy, Martha Simpson, Roger Simpson and Judith Marshall.

SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY – SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- 8.15am Shipton BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Milton Worship for All
11.00am Shipton BCP Morning Prayer
11.00am Idbury BCP Holy Communion **livestreamed**

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2 In Christ, the former veil between God and the people is removed. Christians are freed to encounter God's glory and called to reflect it in Spirit-empowered and transparent lives.

Gospel Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a] Jesus' glory is temporarily unveiled to his disciples, anticipating its fruition in his death, resurrection and ascension. As they descend the mountain, Jesus continues his ministry of healing and deliverance.

MID WEEK HOLY COMMUNION Wednesdays at 10.30am in Milton Church.

The flowers in Shipton Church on 27 February are in memory of a loving mum, Gladys Avery on the 15th anniversary of her passing. Love from Elaine & Marie.

Up and Coming Service Details are on the Benefice Calendar on the website (scroll to the bottom of the home page or select *Main Benefice Calendar* from the Menu at the top) <https://wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/>

Looking Forward Together Saturday 19 Feb. 10am in the Benefice Centre
Geoffrey and Anne are inviting everyone who plays a part in our church services across the Benefice to come together to look at services in Lent, Holy Week and on Easter Day. Booklets with details will be available afterwards.

Lent Groups Mondays 7, 14, 21 28 March and 4 April.

During Lent we will be looking at the course *On The Third Day* – a 5 session course – for more info see the poster here: wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/lent-group.pdf

The Book is £5 and available from Geoffrey or Anne. The sessions will run on Mondays at 11am on zoom. There will also be an evening group on Mondays which alternates between 6.30pm in the Benefice Centre (with supper) and then one week on zoom. Please get in touch with Anne for details of the evening group and Geoffrey for the morning group.

Shipton Bell Ringing

There is a special ringing practice on Shipton bells on Friday 25 February between 7:30 and 9:00pm.

Shipton Choir update

After the pandemic revealed singing to be a surprisingly hazardous activity, Shipton choir continues to gradually find its way forward as best it can. From March, we are hoping to resume Choral Evensong services every other month, and the choir will also be joining Milton United Benefice services in the months where it is not singing evensong. There are a couple of weekend trips to sing elsewhere planned: a trip to Worcester Cathedral in April (the choir last sang at Worcester in February 2020, when the biggest worries on the horizon were flooding and bush fires) and one to Southwell Minster in May.

We've missed out on a couple of years of recruiting new members for Shipton choir, so would very much welcome more. The only commitment is on a Sunday morning – most church choirs have mid-week rehearsals, but Shipton choir doesn't, which makes the quality of their singing all the more remarkable! Sunday morning times are usually: 9:45am junior choir; 10:15am full choir; 11am service.

Because of the lack of rehearsal time, it is helpful if adults have some music-reading ability, but there's no such requirement for children in the choir, who can join from the age of 7. If you'd like to know any more, please contact Bernard (bernard.west@cantab.net/01451824169) or come and have a chat with one of the choir on a Sunday. And if you don't feel able to join the choir, do help support them by singing enthusiastically from the pews on a Sunday.

Invitation to see the crocuses The garden of Salisbury Place, Church Road, Shipton is currently open for people to come and enjoy the crocuses (when the sun is out!). The garden is signposted.

Marriage Preparation & Enrichment for all Married Couples Sat. 12 March in The Benefice Centre, coffee at 9.30 ending at 12.30pm

As important as your Wedding Day is, it's only the beginning of your relationship as a married couple, which you will build together for the rest of your lives. The marriage preparation course we use is Prepare and Enrich - Building Strong Marriages. It involves filling in an online questionnaire, which will give you a report on different aspects of married life. We then hold a session to go through your report with you and get you started on several, short worksheets. This is equally important for couples who have been married for any length of time and we encourage you to take this opportunity to celebrate all that is positive in your relationship and open up discussion on any topics that might help it to grow even closer.

The results of the report are confidential and only available to the team leader/ minister running the session. You can take your report and workbook home to refer to it in the future yourselves. To book please contact Anne on 07770745621 / anne@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk

Tall Trees, Old Prebendal House and The Paddocks

We are very excited that we can once again offer visits and services to those in elderly Care in our parishes. We hope to establish a regular programme of Services in each of our care homes including informal Songs of Praise, Holy Communion and coffee and chat. If you can support an elderly person so that they can engage with a service or join in a conversation, or you can help with music or lead a service, please contact Anne 07770745621 anne@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk We hope to build a team who can share this important ministry.

Guidance on coming to church and staying safe

For your own safety and the safety of others, we ask that you please stay at home if you are feeling at all unwell.

- **Lateral Flow Tests** Clergy will take a LFT before leading a service in church.
- **Hand sanitizer** is readily available.
- **Face coverings** are no longer mandatory but are recommended in enclosed or crowded places. We still recommend wearing a mask whilst singing.
- **Space and Seating:** Where possible there are pews in church for those who prefer to keep their distance. We will also provide cards to place next to you asking people to leave the seats next to you free.
- **Communion Services** Clergy will wear a mask whilst preparing the elements and distributing the Communion as at present.
- **Register of Attendance in Church** We are encouraging people to continue to sign in using the sign-in sheets. Thank You.

ASH WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 10.30am Milton Holy Communion

SUNDAY 6 MARCH – LENT I

11.00am Shipton United Benefice Holy Communion **livestreamed**

READINGS First Reading Romans 10:8b-13, Gospel Luke 4:1-13

Clare is working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Tel 01993 832467 office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk

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

Rest Day Thursday

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

Contactable on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings

If you'd like to receive the Church News by email, please contact the office.