



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 6 and 13 March 2022

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

SUNDAY 6 MARCH – LENT I

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

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR C)

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 Romans 10:8b-13 Quoting from Deuteronomy, Paul says, “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.” It behoves us to become more familiar with scripture, so it can be a resource in times of trial. The word growing within our memories and hearts deepens our faith.

Gospel Luke 4:1-13 Luke implies that the very purpose of Jesus' time in the wilderness was to be tempted. Clearly Jesus was on his own in this place. The idea of Jesus recounting the episode to his disciples is wholly credible, as he associates Satan with temptation on several other occasions.

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

R.I.P.: Sylvia Breslain, Connie Johnson and David Busk.

Funerals: David Busk's funeral is on Monday 7 March 11.30am in Shipton Church. Sylvia Breslain's funeral is on Friday 11 March 1.30pm in Milton Church.

Deanery: 6 March All Saints, Shorthampton. Please pray for Sally Welch, Jan Fielden, Tish Bird and churchwardens Dine Glasgow and Paddy Gallagher. 13 March Holy Trinity, Ascott-u-Wychwood. Please pray for Mark Abrey and Ilona Cheyne.

SUNDAY 13 MARCH – LENT 2

- 9.30am Milton Holy Communion *livestreamed*
11.00am Shipton Holy Communion
11.00am Fifield BCP Holy Communion

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR C)

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 Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 Paul, writing to the Philippian Christians, exhorts them to follow his example and to look to their ultimate home in heaven.

Gospel Luke 13:31-end Jesus is warned by some Pharisees that Herod wants to kill him. He gives them a tough message for Herod and predicts his own death in Jerusalem.

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

Bell Ringers AGM and Service Saturday 5 March 10.30am Shipton Church

The Chipping Norton Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers will be holding the AGM at Shipton Church on Saturday 5th March. There will be a service from 10:30, which Geoffrey will lead, followed by ringing from 11:00 to 12:00 with the meeting from 12:15pm.

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. Contact Anne for the evening group & Geoffrey for the morning group.

Cake & Produce Sale Saturday 19 March 10.30-12noon Fifield Churchyard

Home made Cakes and produce. Proceeds for Fifield Church Funds. All contributions Welcome. More information from Catherine Hitchens 01993 831881.

HELP FOR UKRAINE

Donate Cash

If you are able to, the best way to help is to donate cash via the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. You'll help DEC charities provide food, water, shelter and healthcare to refugees and displaced families. And the UK Government will match donations from the public pound-for-pound up to £20 million, meaning your support will go even further. Details here:

donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal

And/or you can donate items including blankets, waterproof coats and hygiene items (full list on website wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/the-wychwoods-collecting-for-ukraine/) to Milton or Shipton Church on Monday 7 March between 5 and 7pm.

Garage Sale in Fifield House Stable Yard Saturday 2 April

Stalls. Bar. Barbecue. A new venture for Fifield – with some very good items including antique china for sale. Details from Catherine Hitchens 01993 831881.

Churchyard Butterfly Survey 2022

The Wychwood Forest Trust wishes to work with local churches in a project to identify and record the butterflies in their churchyards. At present, only one of more than twenty churchyards in the area has someone recording butterflies and many more could be recorded with more volunteers. These churchyards could potentially hold colonies of scarce butterflies of which we are currently unaware.

If you would be willing to devote just half an hour a month in May, June, July and August to survey your local churchyard, we would like to hear from you.

Identification guides will be available for those involved as well as an initial on-site training visit if required.

This initiative is part of a wider project to increase awareness and appreciation of butterflies across churchyards, gardens, parks and countryside in and around the Wychwood Forest. More information about garden surveys is also available for those wishing to take part at home. Please contact Roger Newman at the Wychwood Forest Trust Tel: 01993 778402 Email: rogerdnewman@hotmail.com

Join Shipton Choir 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, who can join from the age of 7. If you'd like to know any more, please contact Bernard (bernard.west@cantab.net /01451 824169) or come and have a chat with one of the choir on a Sunday.

Tall Trees, Old Prebendal House and The Paddocks

We are once again able to offer visits and services to those in elderly Care in our parishes 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 .

Seeking a befriender for once a week in Milton

Do you have a couple of hours a week you could spend with an elderly gentleman in Milton so his wife can go shopping? Contact Clare in the office for details.

Shipton Monthly Prize Draw

The winning number for February was 43! If you have not yet signed up for this year, you can complete the application form here (also available in Shipton church).

wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Shipton-Prize-Draw-application-2022.pdf

The monthly prize draw starts at just £36 a year for one number (12 x £3) you can sign up to as many numbers as you like. **Each month there will be a £100 prize.** All funds raised go towards the next phase of Shipton's repair work.

Guidance on coming to church now restrictions have been removed

We ask that you continue to please stay at home if you are feeling at all unwell.

- **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. Thank You.

SUNDAY 20 MARCH – LENT 3

9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion **livestreamed**

3-5pm Messy Church at Wychwood School - *activities and games ending with a shared tea.*

6pm Shipton Choral Evensong

READINGS First Reading I Corinthians 10:1-13, Gospel Luke 13:1-9.

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.