

News for the Pews
Date: 10th July 2022
Sunday: Trinity 4



News and Views

It is with great sadness I let you know that Jill Carter died earlier this week, after a short illness. Jill was a faithful, longstanding member of the church family at St. Leonard's in Priors Marston. She served for many years as Sacristan, setting up for our services on Sundays. We will miss her.

Following the Diocesan Rural Vision Day in May, a few of us from around the Deanery met this week to have a conversation about "Forest Church". This is an initiative to help people explore being with God in nature. It is about re-engaging with the land, the seasons, where our food comes from, local crafts etc. It can be whatever we would like: prayers, songs, meditations, crafts, food – on a walk, around a fire, over a meal. Following the success of the Summer Solstice service in Napton, we are hoping to follow up this idea and think about what we can introduce. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with me.

As we approach the end of the school year, Stockton Primary School will be holding their annual art exhibition in Stockton Church from Monday 11th July for a week. We are very pleased to be able to host this event. Everyone is very welcome to pop in and see their wonderful work.

Events for the week

Saturday 16th July – Afternoon teas at St. John the Baptist Church, Lower Shuckburgh from 2pm – 4pm
Sunday 17th July – Napton Bike Ride (supporting Napton Church) from 11am

Looking ahead

Sunday 31st July – Outdoor Gathering at 10.30am at the home of Neil & Angie Adkins at Holt Farm, Napton

Services next Sunday – 17th July 2022 – Trinity 5

9.00am – BCP Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church, Priors Hardwick
10.30am – Morning Worship at St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston
4.00pm – Messy Church at St. Michael's Church, Stockton
Bible readings for the week are: Genesis 18:1-10a and Luke 10:38-end
Please note there are no services at Napton due to the Bike Ride

And finally

This week, I read the story of Gideon defeating the Midianites (Judges 7). God told him that his army was too big and if he won, Gideon would claim the victory for himself. God therefore required Gideon to reduce the size of his army from 32,000 to just 300 – so no-one was in any doubt that when the enemy was defeated, the victory was God's alone.

My commentary on the reading gave this helpful reflection: "Very often we try to amass resources for ministry, agonizing over statistics and anxiously recording Church decline. We think that if we have more of everything, God's work will flourish. Perhaps God's shaking of our resources at this current time is a call to listen to God, walk with Jesus and trust afresh in the Holy Spirit's provision. With God at the helm, nothing is impossible." Amen!

God bless,
Gillian

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk or the parish magazines)