

## News for the Pews

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Sunday: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**



### News and Views

On Saturday a few of us attended the Rural Vision Day with Archdeacon Barry in Shottery. We were challenged to think about how the church needs to change in order to address the requirements of a changing rural culture, while holding onto our foundations. What do we need to let go of so we can invest in new thinking – to embrace a “mixed economy” – different styles of mission? We need to pay “radical” attention to what is happening in our communities in order to respond as kind, caring, loving neighbours. We were encouraged to grow a new worshipping community that would be totally unconnected to anything we are currently doing. We also had an interesting seminar on “forest church” – about rural spirituality and how we can re-engage Christians with our land and seasons – the sacred spaces around us.

Ascension Day falls on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May. I am proposing to celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at the midweek BCP Communion service at 10.00am at Lower Shuckburgh – unless I am petitioned by a multitude of you to have a service on 26<sup>th</sup>!

And congratulations and thank you to everyone involved with the plant sale in Priors Marston last Saturday. I am told it raised over £1500 – but more importantly, it brought the whole community together.

### Events for the week

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May – School assemblies are starting up again, hopefully on a more regular basis and with the Open the Book team from Southam and an additional team member  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Prayer Book Society Matins at 11.00am at St. Mary’s Church, Priors Hardwick  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Stockton Church lunch from 12noon – homemade soups and puddings – all welcome!  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Wormleighton’s APCM at 7pm in church  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Rev. Claire Maxim’s licensing in Northumberland – please hold her in your prayers as she begins her new parish ministry  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Stockton’s APCM at 11.45am in church, followed by a bring and share lunch

### Looking ahead

24<sup>th</sup> May – “Growing the heart of England” roadshow – responding to Bishop Christopher’s invitation to explore life in all its fullness, including restoring health, renewing relationships and generating new growth, from 7.30pm to 9pm at St. Paul’s Church, Leamington  
29<sup>th</sup> May – The Gathering at 10.30am at St. Mary’s, Priors Hardwick  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June – lots of village/church events to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – look out for details

### Services next Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

10.30am – CW Holy Communion at St. Michael’s Church, Stockton  
10.30am – Morning Worship at St. Leonard’s Church, Priors Marston  
10.30am – Morning Worship at St. Peter’s Church, Wormleighton  
5.00pm – BCP Evensong at St. Lawrence’s Church, Napton  
Bible readings for the week are: Acts 16:9-15 and John 14:23-29

### And finally

The collect for this coming week: “Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.”

God bless,  
Gillian

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