

News for the Pews

Date: 25th September 2022

Sunday: Trinity 15



News and Views

I have just come home from a few days in the Fens (about 50m into Norfolk from Cambridge!). I must say I wasn't very inspired by the landscape – huge empty fields (but very rich and fertile), miles of dykes, drains and rivers that run in parallel lines several meters above the roads (home to a great variety of birdlife) and the once-grand Georgian architecture of Wisbech is now a bit drab. However, Ely was fascinating and full of history. We managed a walk in Thetford Forest and along the Norfolk coast. So the batteries are recharged!

Before I went away, the Parish Safeguarding Officers and I had a meeting. We reminded ourselves that safeguarding is the responsibility of every single person who comes to church and we must do as much as we can to ensure that it is embedded in our ethos as Christians. Although we are very good at providing the tangible evidence that we are taking it seriously: the policies and procedures, roles and responsibilities and safer recruitment practices etc, we need to pay more attention to cultivating healthy attitudes and how we behave towards each other. Safeguarding isn't just about physical or sexual abuse; it is about emotional, spiritual, psychological, financial, domestic and organisational abuse, discrimination and neglect. And it's not just about children but also any adults who are at risk of harm. Would you be able to recognise the signs if someone you know was being abused and would you know what to do about it? If you can't answer "yes" to those two questions, please have a look at our website (and consider doing the training). And please don't say "it won't happen here" – because it definitely could (and has)!

I also had a Fosse Foodbank meeting. And I am pleased to say that despite the number of clients increasing, so is people's generosity – so that supply is still meeting demand. So a big thank you to our supporters.

Events for the week

Monday 26th Sept – Napton School Harvest Festival in church at 9.45am

Monday 26th Sept – Group Council at 7pm in Stockton Church

Tuesday 27th Sept – "Create & Play" restarts for the term on Tuesdays from 9.30am-11am in Stockton Church

Wed 28th Sept – Midweek BCP Holy Communion at 10am at St. John the Baptist Church, Lower Shuckburgh

Thursday 29th Sept – Baptism preparation class at 7.30pm in Stockton Church

Saturday 1st October – McMillan Coffee Morning from 10am – 12noon in Lower Shuckburgh Church

Saturday 1st October – Stockton Harvest Supper at 6pm in church

Looking ahead

5th October – "Belong and Believe" – how our Celtic past can help us today – see attached poster for details

30th October – The Gathering at 10.30am at St. John the Baptist Church in Lower Shuckburgh

Services next Sunday 2nd October – Trinity 16

9.00am – Morning Worship at St. Mary's, Priors Hardwick

10.30am – CW Holy Communion at St. Lawrence's, Napton

10.30am – Harvest Festival at St. Michael's, Stockton

3.30pm – Harvest Festival at St. Leonard's, Priors Marston

The regular Bible readings for the week are: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 and Luke 17:5-10

And finally

A prayer for world peace: "Most holy God, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and fight for justice. Help us, who remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord. Amen"

God bless,
Gillian

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