

News for the Pews

Date: 9th October 2022

Sunday: Trinity 17



News and Views

This week I have attended two events which both picked up and focussed on the same theme. The first was the Diocesan “Greenhouse Learning Community”. This is a Church of England initiative to help us put good ideas into practice. It’s about embodying the values of community, courage and curiosity. The second was the Deanery 5 week course on “Belong & Believe” – looking at how our Celtic past can help us understand our faith and mission today. Both courses picked up the subject – in a very similar manner – of inspiring people outside the church to connect to God in a natural, 21st century way, and to help their faith grow. They described a very simple method to help us do this: Listen to God and to others → love them → draw them into community → introduce them to Jesus → invite them to church when they want to find out more. Basically, it all starts with love! But must go further than that if we want people to connect with God. There are some useful resources on this website, which I would like to spend some time exploring together - <https://churchsupporthub.org/fxgreenhouse/new-to-godsend/> - watch this space!

I had two lovely school harvest festivals this week – they were so full of joy and excellent singing (the Harvest Samba has stayed with me all week!) I talked about “flying pizzas” – I calculated that the ingredients for our average ham and pineapple pizza travel about 13,210 miles to reach our tables, which I find quite shocking. But it does emphasise how much we depend on a global network of farmers to produce our food.

Events for the week

Wednesday 12th October – Stockton PCC meeting at 4pm in church

Wednesday 12th October – Celtic course at 7.30pm at Harbury Village Club

Sunday 16th October – Baptism of Jude at 12.30pm in St. Leonard’s Church, Priors Marston

Looking ahead

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

Services next Sunday – 16th October – Trinity 18

9.00am – BCP Holy Communion at St. Mary’s, Priors Hardwick

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

10.30am – Morning Worship at St. Leonard’s, Priors Marston

4.00pm – Messy Church at St. Lawrence’s, Napton

Bible readings for the week are: Genesis 32:22-31 and Luke 18:1-8

And finally

On Tuesday this week, the church celebrated St. Francis of Assisi. To us, he is probably best known as the patron saint of animals and nature. He founded the Order of the Friars Minor, the women’s Order of St. Clare and the Third Order of St. Francis. He devoted his life and ministry to uncompromising poverty. And in 1223, he arranged for the first live Christmas Nativity scene – I didn’t know! This prayer is attributed to St. Francis: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.”

God bless,
Gillian

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