

News for the Pews

Date: 12th February 2023

Sunday: 2nd Sunday before Lent



News and Views

Lent begins on 22nd February – see poster attached. This will be preceded by a pancake party on Shrove Tuesday from 12noon – 1.30pm in Stockton Church – all are welcome!

- On Ash Wednesday there will be a special service of Holy Communion at 10am at St. John the Baptist Church in Lower Shuckburgh. Please note that this will not be the usual BCP Holy Communion. Then:
- The first Lent Lunch, hosted by Napton in the village hall from 12noon (alternating each week with Stockton)
- The first session of the Lent course which will look at the “holy habit” of biblical teaching, from 7.30 till 9pm in Stockton Church. Each session will start with refreshments, followed by a short act of worship, then a passage of scripture on which to reflect and respond, before ending with prayer. The course is designed to help us deepen our relationship with Jesus and equip us to be more effective disciples. Please let me know if you plan to come. (Each session is stand-alone so don't worry if you can't come every week.)

For a while now, the PCCs and Group Council have recognised the need to simplify our “management” structures to make them more effective. There will be a Joint PCC meeting on the morning of 11th March to discuss a proposal to change from 6 PCCs to 2 “united PCCs”. If you are interested in finding out more, please let me know. It will be important to have a quorum from each PCC at the meeting so that important decisions can be made. I will be circulating more information to the PCCs in the next couple of days.

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings will be held over March and April – see attached list of dates. Formal notices will be issued nearer the time to everyone on the electoral roll. (If you are not on the electoral roll of your parish and would like to join – please speak to a member of your PCC.)

Events for the week

Wednesday 15th February – Soup & pudding lunch from 12noon in Stockton Church

Thursday 16th February – Wormleighton PCC meeting at 7pm at the Estate House

Looking ahead

Friday 3rd March – World Day of Prayer at St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston, time to be confirmed

Sunday 5th March – Bishop John will preach and preside at Holy Communion at 10.30am in St. Lawrence's Church, Napton. This will be a Gathering with no other services that day.

Saturday 11th March – Joint PCC meeting – see above for more information

Services next Sunday 19th February – the first Sunday before Lent:

9am – BCP Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church, Priors Hardwick

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

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

4.00pm – Messy Church at St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston

Bible readings for the week are: 2 Peter 1:16-end and Matthew 17:1-9

And finally

As the tragic events in Syria and Turkey unfold, let us pray to the Lord: “We lift before you all the people affected by the earthquake. We pray for those who are trapped under the rubble. Lord, comfort them and calm their fears. Please bless the emergency efforts to rescue them. We pray for those who have lost loved ones in this tragedy. Lord, bring them peace. We pray for those who have been left without homes, for those already living in poverty. Lord, please be their refuge and strength. We pray for the aid agencies responding to this crisis on the ground. Lord, keep them safe and bless the work of their hands. Amen.”

God bless,

Gillian

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