

News for the Pews

Date: 26th March 2023

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent



News and Views

I have started to mark “this is the last time that I have” a PCC meeting, Kay & Bradshaw Trust meeting, BCP Communion, funeral ... I had my “exit” meeting with Bishop John to share (honestly!) the challenges as well as the joys of the last ten years of my journey. We then spent time in prayer which was so refreshing and just what I needed. I also met up with a group of rural clergy friends and was again able to spend time praying with them. Please never forget the importance of prayer in your daily life.

Events for the week

Sunday 26th March – Stockton’s APCM at 11.45am in church

Sunday 26th March – Baptism of Billie-Jo at 2.30pm in St. Lawrence’s Church, Napton

Monday 27th March – Napton School Easter service at 9.45am in church

Monday 27th March – Group Council meeting at 7pm in Stockton Church

Tuesday 28th March – Lower Shuckburgh APCM at 7pm in church

Wednesday 29th March – Lent lunch from 12noon in Stockton Church

Wednesday 29th March – Priors Marston APCM at 4pm in church (preceded by tea and cake)

Wednesday 29th March – Lent course continues at 7.30pm in Stockton Church

Friday 31st March – Priors School Easter service at 12noon in church

Friday 31st March – Stockton School Easter service at 2.30pm in church

Saturday 1st April – Refresher for those leading Communion by Extension at 10.30am in Napton Church

Sunday 2nd April – Napton APCM at 11.45am in church

Sunday 2nd April – Priors Hardwick APCM at 4.30pm in church (preceded by tea and cake)

Looking ahead – Holy Week

- During Holy Week, there will be Morning Prayer at 9am in Stockton Church and Evening Prayer at 5pm in Priors Marston church.
- On Maundy Thursday, I will be taking part in the Chrism Eucharist at 10.30am at the Cathedral – all are welcome. In the evening we will have a Maundy Thursday service at 7pm in Stockton Church. This will include foot-washing (optional!), a meal with Holy Communion, and ending with Tenebrae – a service of “light and shadows” as we sit with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and prepare for Good Friday. As a meal is included, please could you let me know if you plan to attend.
- On Good Friday, we will journey to the cross at 10.30am at Priors Marston Church and in the evening at 7pm in Napton Church. These services will include words, music and silence. During the afternoon, Lower Shuckburgh Church will be open for personal reflection.

Please can I encourage you not to go from the “Hosannas” of Palm Sunday to the “Alleluias” of Easter Sunday without the experience and emotions of the rest of Holy Week.

Services next Sunday: 2nd April – Palm Sunday

9am – Morning Worship 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

10.30am – Morning Worship at St. Michael’s, Stockton

2.00pm – The baptism of Kiara at St. Lawrence’s, Napton

Bible readings for the week are: TBC

And finally

As we reflect on the raising of Lazarus this week, remember that some things need to die before something new can be done. It may be hard, but it will be necessary. And through it we will see the glory of God! Amen.

God bless,
Gillian

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