

Bridges Group News
Date: 26th November 2023
Sunday: Christ the King



News and Views – hosted this week by Priors Hardwick
Greetings from the people of Priors Hardwick

ALLELUIA! Going to church raises the spirits.

Last weekend the Daily Telegraph reported (under this heading) a recent survey by the Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life (IIFL). More than 2,000 adults were surveyed relating to their religious background and various aspects of their mental health. Over 70% reported that their religious background was important to their identity.

The survey found that more than 8 in 10 people who attend a place of worship at least once a week reported being happy, compared to just half of those who never attend a religious service. Church-goers also reported higher levels of self-control, better psychological wellbeing, more confidence in handling life's challenges and more satisfaction with their lives in general, than others.

One of my grandmothers wrote in my Autograph Book, when I was a child: "Happiness is a condition of mind; not a result of circumstances".

But if all this is the case why do the pages of the Daily Telegraph contain such a preponderance of sad, miserable even evil matters?

Could it be that those of us who admit to being happy don't make it obvious enough?

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the 'flu. When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too. I walked around the corner and someone saw me grin. When he smiled, I realised I'd passed it on to him. I thought about the smile and realised its worth: a single smile like mine could travel round the earth! So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected. Start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.
Anon.

Jesus said: "I came that they might have life – and have it more abundantly". John's Gospel, Ch.10, v.10

Give us a sense of humour, Lord, the grace to see a joke;

To get some humour out of life and pass it on to other folk.....Also anon!!

Looking ahead

- Group Council Meeting 30th November at Stockton
- Building Managers Meeting 4th December
- Deanery Synod : 7th December, 7.30pm at the Tom Hauley Room in All Saints Harbury
- Stockton PCC 14th December
- Albert Hall Carols: 16th December, 9am – 8pm, please email Napton School to book tickets
- Napton PCC 18th December

Services this Sunday: 26th November, Christ the King	Services next Sunday: 3rd December, Advent 1
9.00am BCP Holy Communion at Lower Shuckburgh 10.30am Morning Worship at Wormleighton 10.30am Holy Communion at Stockton 3.00pm '4 th Sunday' at Priors Marston 5.00pm Evensong at Napton	9.00am Prep for Christmas Family service at Priors Hardwick 10.30am Morning worship at Priors Marston 10.30am holy Communion at Napton 10.30am Morning Worship, Lay Led at Stockton
Bible readings for the week are: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Matthew 25:31 - end	Bible readings for the week are: Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-end

OTHER SERVICES etc



SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER – 9.00AM AT PRIORS HARDWICK
PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS - A FAMILY SERVICE
FEATURING THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 6.30PM – CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AT NAPTON

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 6.30PM CAROLS AROUND THE VILLAGE AT STOCKTON MEET AT CHURCH

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER - LOWER SHUCKBURGH FETE 2-4PM

TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 5.30PM CAROLS AT THE LYCHGATE AT
PRIORS HARDWICK

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER YOUNG FARMERS' CAROL SERVICE
WORMLEIGHTON AT 7.30PM

FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER – 7.00PM FOREST CHURCH IN NAPTON CHURCHYARD

SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER – TEA AND MINCE PIES IN THE CHURCH AT LOWER SHUCKBURGH

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER THE GATHERING AT LOWER SHUCKBURGH

HOLY COMMUNION LED BY REV MARTIN SAXBY FROM RUGBY

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2024 – 9.00AM AT PRIORS HARDWICK - THE EPIPHANY
A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE – ESPECIALLY FAMILIES
FEATURING THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

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

Next Week's Bridges Group News will be hosted by Stockton.