

Bridges Group News

Date: 17th November 2024

Sunday: 2nd before Advent



News from Priors Marston

" A different kind of remembering.

Many years ago, a Bible belonging to the Elliman family of Priors Marston with the date 1879 was left in St Leonard's Church.

To cut a long story short, last week I was delighted to return it to a descendant of the family. I was able to show him the grave of his great great grandparents and the church where his family had worshipped since the 17th century.

That meeting made me think about how important it is to preserve the church buildings, the grave stones, family heirlooms like that Bible. They link us inextricably with the history of our faith.

Like that precious Bible, we must pass it on."

Shirley Monkhouse.

Rectory Reflection

As many of you will know, the Archbishop of Canterbury resigned this week. This follows criticism in the Makin Report published recently regarding his failure to respond adequately and effectively to the sustained and brutal abuse of boys and young men dating back to the late 1970's. While we pray for Justin and his family at this difficult time, there is no doubt that his resignation was inevitable given the serious nature of this abuse and the loss of confidence in Justin across the whole church. As someone who has to deal with safeguarding issues, some of which have been of a serious nature, and given the historic failures of the church to address such issues I was one of many clergy who called for this resignation. We should hold in our prayers the many people who were scarred by their experiences and for whom this dramatic turn of events will stir up traumatic memories and renewed distress. As some of you know I am personally angry and appalled by the abusive behaviour of those who hold power in the church, and indeed there may be other senior leaders who need to examine their position in the light of this report. No one can be happy about this course of events, it is a time for acknowledging our failings and weakness, for listening to and upholding those who have been through profound trauma. If you have had memories and emotions stirred up that are difficult and painful please be in touch. I and all my colleagues are here to listen and support, it is an important part of our calling.

Prayer

Tender God, look with mercy on all who have experienced profound harm, and for whom the church is associated with pain and damage. Send your spirit on your people, especially those in positions of power, that we may be wiser and humbler. Surround Justin and his family with your love as he faces the public scrutiny and blame. Guide us to cherish all your children, that through Jesus' example we may see not only a shared pain, but also your everlasting faithfulness to us.

Looking ahead...

- Priors Hardwick PCC, 18th November, 7pm**
- Steering Group meeting 25th November at 7pm**
- Funeral for the late Janice Monk in Stockton at 11am
- Building Managers meeting 2nd December**
- Stockton PCC 12th December at 4pm**
- Napton PCC 16th December at 7pm**

**meetings are scheduled on the yearly meeting planner, any changes to schedule to be arranged/communicated locally

**Services next Sunday:
17th November 2nd before Advent**

9.00am BCP Holy Communion at Priors Hardwick
10.30am Morning Worship at Priors Marston
10.30am CW Holy Communion at Napton
4.00pm Bereavement Service at Stockton

Bible readings for the week are: Hebrews 10:11-14 19-25, Mark 13:1-8

**Services next Sunday:
24th November Christ the King**

9.00am BCP Holy Communion Lower Shuckburgh
10.30am Morning Worship at Wormleighton
10.30am CW Holy Communion at Stockton
5.00pm Evensong at Napton

Bible readings for the week are: Revelation 1:4b-8 , John 18:33-37

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

Next weeks news to be hosted by Priors Hardwick