

# Benefice News



Issue 2 - March 2024

## Pathway Church News and Reflections from across the Benefice

### Reflections from the Rector

Throughout March we will continue our annual pilgrimage through the season of Lent. For some, Lent can be seen as rather a dull and dry season - marked by a lack of colour (or flowers in church) and penitential fasts; but Lent doesn't need to be that way!

Yes, it is traditionally a season of devotion and spiritual preparation for the Easter Feast that is to come, and historically that has included fasting and a season of simplicity, but rather than focusing on what we might be giving up this Lent - let us instead see the opportunity to particularly focus on our relationship with God as we once again look to celebrate his death and resurrection.

It's not too late to try out a new spiritual discipline for these last four weeks of Lent - not because it makes us any more 'right' with God - but because we only grow closer to God when we spend time with God. You could read a Gospel or Book of the Bible, listen to a new podcast or daily reflection, perhaps it might be as simple as setting aside a particular time of the day to spend 5, 10, 15 (or more) minutes in prayer.

Whatever you do or try this Lent, may you drink deeply of the living water and may you come to better know the fullness of life that can only be found in God.

God Bless.

Emily Davis

Rector

# News from PCCs

## **Whittlesey - St Andrew**

**Feedback from PCC: St Andrew's PCC met on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and the following was discussed:**

- Canon B8 and the wearing of vestments for other occasional services
- Role Descriptions and Safer Recruitment
- Fabric: the clock chime and the flooring
- Prayers of Love and Faith
- St Andrew's Hall

## **Whittlesey - St Mary**

**Feedback from PCC: St Mary's PCC met on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 and the following was discussed:**

- Church Finances
- Lay Ministry
- Sir Harry Smith's Sword
- Insurance requirements
- Garden of Rest
- Prayers of Love and Faith
- Health and safety
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## **Pondersbridge - St Thomas**

**Feedback from PCC: St Thomas' PCC met on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and the following was discussed:**

- Archdeacon Rischard led us in a discussion around turning points-tensions that have arisen around changes in the wider Benefice and perceived lack of change at St Thomas's. How do we seek to move forward from here? How do we demonstrate greater generosity, self-discipline and grace with one another?
- Evening Praise
- Prayers of Love and Faith.

## **Coates - Holy Trinity**

**Feedback from PCC: Holy Trinity PCC met on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and the following was discussed:**

- Prayers of Love and Faith
- The wider Benefices' use of the Holy Trinity Church as a venue for meetings and whether we might ask for a contribution towards the cost of heating/lighting from the team.

**ELECTORAL ROLL** - Notice is hereby given that the Church Electoral Roll of St Andrew's, St Mary's, Holy Trinity and St Thomas' will be revised by the Parochial Church Councils beginning on **11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**, and ending on the **24<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

If you wish to remain on the Electoral Roll, you don't need to do anything. If you'd like to join an Electoral Roll, please ask for a form or there will be a downloadable copy coming through on the weekly email shortly.

# Parish News

## Coates - Holy Trinity

We have just finished serving our Lent Lunch which was a cheerful occasion with all enjoying the homemade soup and crusty bread followed by some lovely cakes for dessert.

We raised a total of £160.

We are now looking forward to our coffee morning which takes place on Saturday 2nd March from 10am to 12midday. There will of course be coffee and tea and lovely cakes for refreshments.

We will also have a sale of pre-loved books, cake stall, a craft stall, bric-a-brac stall, prize draw and possibly a few plants for sale. We would love to see as many as possible there.

At the end of the month on Easter Sunday we are looking to hold an Easter egg hunt during the Sunday service.



## Services and Events for March

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	12:00 2pm	Stations of the Cross World Day of Prayer	St Mary's, Whittlesey St Jude's (RC) Church, Whittlesey
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30am	Morning Praise	Holy Trinity, Coates
Lent 3	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11am	Sunday Worship + HC	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	<i>followed by Bring &amp; Share Lunch in the Rectory to mark Laura's last Sunday with us</i>		
	12:30 for 1pm	St Andrew's Sunday Lunch	St Andrew's Hall
	6pm	Evening Praise	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Lent Group	212 Ramsey Rd, Pondersbridge

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Lent Group	Holy Trinity, Coates
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Lent Group	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11:30am	Frugal Lunch	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	12:00	Stations of the Cross	St Mary's, Whittlesey
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Coates
Mothering Sun.	9:30am	Morning Praise	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11am	Sunday Worship	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	11am	Morning Praise	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10-noon	Friends Coffee Morning	St Andrew's Hall
	7:30pm	Lent Group	212 Ramsey Rd, Pondersbridge
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Lent Group	Holy Trinity, Coates
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Lent Group	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	12:00	Stations of the Cross	St Mary's, Whittlesey
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>		Alpha Weekend	Holy Trinity, Coates
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Morning Praise	Holy Trinity, Coates
Lent 5	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11am	Sunday Worship	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	6pm	Evening Praise	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Lent Group	212 Ramsey Rd, Pondersbridge
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Lent Group	Holy Trinity, Coates
	7:30pm	Friends of St Andrew's AGM	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10am	Lent Group	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	12:00	Stations of the Cross	St Mary's, Whittlesey
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Morning Praise	Holy Trinity, Coates
Palm Sunday	9:30am	Morning Praise	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11am	Sunday Worship	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	11am	Holy Communion	St Thomas, Pondersbridge

*For full details of our Holy Week and Easter services, please check the Weekly Sheet.*

Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Worship Wednesday	St Mary's, Whittlesey
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Chrism Service	Ely Cathedral
	EVE	Holy Communion	TBC
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Churches Together Service	The Buttercross

Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Dawn	Dawn Service	Burgess' Farm, Pondersbridge
Easter Sunday	9:30am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Coates
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
	11am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Whittlesey

### Regular Services and Activities:

Monday	9-11am	Trinity Tots	Holy Trinity, Coates
Wednesday	9:15am	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Coates
Thursday	9:15am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Whittlesey

## What's Happening across the Team

### Boiler Room Zoom Prayers 09.30 Tuesdays & Fridays

Morning Prayers for Pathway Church ,this is to be a regular event were you may pray on your own or join us on Zoom you can do this by going to :

[www.pathway-church.co.uk/theboilerroom](http://www.pathway-church.co.uk/theboilerroom) and clicking on the link to join the video call.

**A short order of service is available at all of the Churches for you to take away and use.**

We are praying that our community may be Blessed.

**Stay curious, try Alpha.**



The current Alpha is now well underway and was fully subscribed if you are curious to find out more or know someone who may be interested then you can sign up to be the first to hear about the next Alpha course at [www.pathway-church.co.uk/alpha](http://www.pathway-church.co.uk/alpha) or speak to Emily or Lloyd.

Alpha is a great way to explore Faith and Jesus with others sharing friendship and food in a relaxed environment enabling you to explore Faith without pressure.

# Friends of St Andrew's



## 2024 Membership Renewal/Application Form

Please complete the following membership renewal/application form for 2024 in full and return it with your membership fee of £7.50 per person to Membership Secretary - Mr Phil Knighton, 2 Walnut Close, Whittlesey, PE7 1LL. Email [adyandphil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adyandphil@hotmail.co.uk) Telephone number 01733 202008.

Please make cheques payable to "The Friends of St Andrews". Please tick here.....

Alternatively payment can be made by Bank Transfer to

Friends of St. Andrew's, Sort Code 20-67-37 account number 23409678 using the reference Membership. Please tick here .....

Title and Full Name
Address
Postcode
Contact Telephone number
Email Address

If you feel you might like to help out at future Friends of St. Andrew's events please indicate below

Preparing and serving refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Door person/Steward	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivering Posters/letters	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raffle prizes	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am interested in being on the committee of "Friends"	<input type="checkbox"/>

By completing this form you are agreeing to allow your personal details to be on file securely under the current Data Protection Act. By providing these details you will only be contacted by The Friends of St. Andrew's for the purposes of informing you of details of future meetings and events. You may request for them to be removed at any time.

Signature .....



# Friends of St. Andrew's Church



You are invited to our

Sunday Lunch on Sunday 3rd March 2024

At St. Andrew's Church Hall

12.30pm for 1pm

2 course Sunday Carvery Lunch for £14.00

Choice of Beef, Gammon or Pork or a vegetarian option



Followed by Apple Crumble and custard

Or Chocolate Brownie



A bar will be available

Please complete booking form below and return it to

Lynn Palmer either by email [lynn.palmer20@btinternet.com](mailto:lynn.palmer20@btinternet.com)

Or

18 Glenfields, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 1HX

If you require any information please ring Lynn on 07767 373264

Maximum of 6 per table for group or family bookings

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Names of members in your party

Choices of Desert      Apple Crumble.....      Chocolate Brownie .....

Any dietary requirements eg. Vegetarian

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Please tick payment method

Cheque payable to "Friends of St. Andrew's" .....

Or BACS Sort code 20-67-37    Account number 23409678    Reference: Sunday Lunch

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## Friends of St. Andrew's Church Whittlesey

Invite you to a

Frugal lunch

Thursday 7th March 2024

At St. Andrew's Church

Anytime between 11.30am to 1.30pm

Cost £4 per head to include a choice of Vegetable, Mushroom or Broccoli and Stilton soup and a roll. Tea and Coffee

Lynn Palmer email [lynn.palmer20@btinternet.com](mailto:lynn.palmer20@btinternet.com)

Phone 07767 373264

To help with catering please give your choice of soup.







## Lent Groups 2024

Meeting from the week commencing the 19<sup>th</sup> February; together we will be exploring the themes of Wilderness, Fasting, Solitude, Temptation and Preparation together.

Meeting on:

Tuesdays at 7:30pm - 212 Ramsey Rd, Pondersbridge

Wednesdays at 10am - Holy Trinity, Coates

Thursdays at 10am - St Andrew's, Whittlesey

## Other News and Information

### Prayers across the water.

Roger Brown has shared this email with us from Australia they sure are facing challenges but it appears Prayers are being answered and they are rebuilding the structures and the size of the congregation. I shall see if I can get some picture for the next Newsletter.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February the parishes of our benefice and the parishes of Christ Church Whittlesea and St Peter's Kinglake in Australia especially prayed for each other. Our prayer requests were for the ministry and mission of the Church in the benefice; for Revd Emily and the Ministry Team, for the people of our parishes and for guidance as we look at 'Leading your Church into Growth.' For help with the costly maintenance of our church buildings remembering the work of our churchwardens and church council members.

Last year we found out that the priest that was there, left in May 2022 and that a locum priest the Revd Pirrial Clift was looking after the parishes. Pat Marston visited Whittlesea last March but Revd Pirrial contracted Covid-19 and had to cancel services. Since then, a new priest has been appointed, the Revd Dr Walter Firth and prayer requests were received from him as follows.

Dear Roger,

Thank you for your email. Happy to pray for you all on the 4th Feb. It's quite a fitting thought that the mutual prayers for one another usually occur close to the Feast of St Charles King and Martyr.

Currently our only prayer request is that all my planning is successful.

You may not have been aware at the time of Pat Marston's visit how dire the situation in the Parish was. When I took it on not only was the church condemned, but that the vicarage had holes through the roof, mould on the ceiling, a broken oven that hadn't worked since 2017 and broken storm water pipes through the front yard; the hall also had holes in the ceiling and large segments in the hall proper had rotted out; financially the Parish had a \$100,000 debt (approx £52,000) and also a negative bank account at -\$38,000 (-£20,000). The op shop site also was costing us significantly for its rent and required us to return the building back to its shell to leave. The congregation was no longer using the Whittlesea site at all, services and services had ceased there, and there were only four regulars worshipping at the fortnightly Saturday service that was still continuing at Kinglake.

Since my arrival, I have repaired the vicarage and all associated damage: it's now lived in by a church family, the hall has been repaired and will be opening as our op shop on the 5th Feb, much of the rented op shop site has been restored to its original condition (though there's a little more to still do before the lease expires at end of March), the church at Whittlesea has been reopened with regular worshippers and Kinglake too, has grown in size since moving worship to every Sunday morning (there's now approximately 10-16 people on any given Sunday in both congregations). In doing all this have also managed to cut the overdraft account down to -\$19,000 (-£10,000).

So as it appears what I'm doing is working, our only prayers are that my plans work and are fruitful.

Kindly,  
W

The Revd. Dr. Walter Bayliss Firth IV

**There is still time** to book for next Ride & Stride, the date for the next annual Ride & Stride: **Saturday 14th September 2024** – you don't have to Ride or Stride – do whatever you have the time. We will be opening the churches in support on the day.



To see some of the highlights from the 2023 day, or send your own images and stories from the day please visit the Trust's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CambsHCT/> or email [canonannettereed@gmail.com](mailto:canonannettereed@gmail.com).

For more details about the Trust visit our website where you can become a member and/or take out Gift Membership, go to <https://camhct.uk/>.

## Contact Us

For general enquiries, please contact:

**hello@pathway-church.co.uk** or **(01733) 205337**

### The Ministry Team

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Please send any items/notices for the April issue Newsletter to:

[Belinda.clapperton@pathway-church.co.uk](mailto:Belinda.clapperton@pathway-church.co.uk)