



Benefice News

Issue 13 March 2025

I am able to do all things through the one who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

Reflections from the Rector

Dear all,

This is my last newsletter – and so my last Rector’s reflections – before Lloyd and I depart for pastures new. As you look towards the Interregnum (the period of time without a Vicar), perhaps this line from Philippians – which we often have at the top of our newsletter – can be a source of strength.

As I reflect on my time in the Benefice, many of you will know that it has been extremely challenging at times and I hope we have all grown and learnt more about what it means to be church and to love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34-35); remembering that it is God – and his Kingdom – which we serve above all else.

The scripture that particularly comes to mind as I pray for this Benefice in its next chapter is John 13 and Jesus’ image of the vine: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

I believe this is something of a pivotal moment for the church – more people (particularly younger generations) are seeking than ever before, there is a renewed openness to God and spirituality (not religion!) in some parts of our society; and we who are followers of Jesus know that there is something simply and uniquely attractive and awe-inspiring about the Good News of Jesus that we have to share. Whatever happens over these coming months, or years, I pray that you might always remain rooted in Christ and the Gospel we proclaim, and then I know that this church will continue to flourish and grow.

This church will very much remain in my prayers as Lloyd and I move to Buckinghamshire – as challenging as things may have been – and I really appreciate the prayers that have been said, and continue to be said, for us – thank you.

To those who have loved and supported us over these past few years - thank you so much.

To those who have taken those leaps of faith – to throw that net over the other side (as I preached about on my first Sunday here), or to even take that step out of the boat and on to the water – thank you. I hope you can take just as much delight in seeing the fruit of those leaps as I know God does, and I do.

My time as Incumbent has been quite an adventure – but I really do rejoice in seeing what God has done here; how his Spirit has breathed new life on this place and how we have welcomed new faces into the family of God and had the privilege of sharing – and figuring out - life and faith together.

May God bless you all – and may you keep your eyes fixed on Him.

Emily
Rector

News from across the Benefice

Lloyd and Emily's Departure

It was announced before Christmas that Rev. Lloyd has been appointed as Team Vicar in Beaconsfield (Holtspur: St Thomas & The Dove Café) in the Diocese of Oxford. Emily will be moving down to Beaconsfield with him, as she discerns where God may be calling her to next in her ministry. Their last Sunday will be Mothering Sunday (30th March) and the Benefice will officially enter into vacancy (interregnum) on the 5th April 2025.

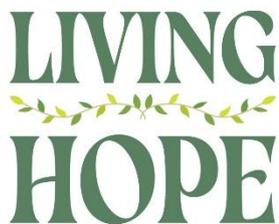
Our Archdeacon, Richard, will be working with Joint Council in the process of appointing a new Incumbent (Priest).



ASH WEDNESDAY – Christians have gathered to mark the beginning of this holy season of Lent since the earliest days of the church. There will be two opportunities to gather here in the Benefice to mark Ash Wednesday:

9:15am – Holy Trinity, Coates

7:30pm – St Mary's, Whittlesey



LENT has, since the earliest days of the church, been a season of particular spiritual devotion and pilgrimage before the great celebration of Easter at its conclusion.

This Lent there are a number of ways that you can join in with others from across the Benefice in this spiritual pilgrimage. You can:

DOWNLOAD THE APP 'Living Hope' from your App Store. There is some scripture and a reflection for each day. Over coffee in church, why not reflect together on what you have read that week - did anything particularly speak to you? Why?

JOIN IN WITH A LENT GROUP - there will be four running across the Benefice and in the past this has been a wonderful opportunity for those across the four parishes to come together for reflection and prayer. These Lent Groups will be running on:

Tuesdays, 7:30pm in St Andrew's Church, Whittlesey - from 11th March

Wednesdays, 10am in Holy Trinity, Coates - from 12th March

Thursdays, 10:45am in St Mary's, Whittlesey - from 13th March

Thursdays, 7:30pm in Pondersbridge Village Hall - from 13th March

READ THIS YEARS LENT BOOK 'Wild, Bright Hope'.

Wild Bright Hope is a transformative Lent book, bringing together 12 dynamic voices, each contributing a unique chapter on the power of hope.

Themes include Seeds of Unity, Wild Paths of Peace, A Vision for Hope in Politics, and Hope in Suffering. These chapters inspire readers to face challenges with fresh perspective and active faith.

Through stories, reflections, and bold ideas, Wild Bright Hope not only encourages a hopeful outlook but also invites readers to play their part in bringing God's kingdom to life.

ELECTORAL ROLL – a reminder that if you wish to join the new Electoral Roll for this year, you will need to return your Electoral Roll form by the relevant date advertised in each parish.

MOTHERING SUNDAY (30th March) - Holy Trinity, Coates will be hosting another All Age service at 10am. All are welcome to join in with this interactive service.

This will also be Emily's last service in the Benefice - 11am at St Mary's, Whittlesey. All are welcome.

Feedback from PCCs:

St Mary's PCC met on the 14th January 2025 and the following was discussed:

- Reflections on Christmas services
- Subscribing to the New Wine Online training and resources
- Electoral Roll renewal
- Light Art Project
- Reflecting on our decision to better heat the building this winter; balancing our welcome and hospitality with the cost of Gas

Holy Trinity PCC met on the 29th January 2025 and the following was discussed:

- Reflections on Christmas services
- Replacement of the Church Boiler
- The Cornerstone Project & Church Giving
- Electoral Roll renewal

St Thomas' PCC met on the 2nd February 2025 and the following was discussed:

- Reflections on Christmas services
- Structural works needed for the Church Building – we are awaiting some specifications with quotations
- Electoral Roll renewal

St Andrew's PCC met on the 12th February 2025 and the following was discussed:

- Healthy Church Culture – what are our strengths and our weaknesses?
- Safer Recruitment
- Complaints policy
- Works needed for the Parish Hall
- Election of PCC members
- Leading your Church into Growth – how this is going at St Andrew's and ideas we can put into action
- Plans to install a toilet and kitchen facilities in the church building

Lent Lunch

Holy Trinity Coates

12:00 for 12:30

Wednesday, 5th March, 2025

Two course lunch £7 per person

Vegetarian option available



Tickets available from Tricia Brookes - on 075123444551
or Fiona Heaysman - 01733 208516 or 07541051939

FENLAND

*Memory Lane
Cinema*

"FLOODS and other Stuff"

Cambridgeshire
County Council

Cambridgeshire
County Council



**RETURNING TO
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, COATES
SATURDAY 22nd March
7.30pm START ALL TICKETS £5**

**PURCHASE TICKETS
HERE**

**PLEASE CONTACT CHURCH WARDEN, KEN PALMER ON
07547 349657**

Cambridgeshire County Council in association with MORE MUZIC COMMUNITY RADIO

St Andrew's, Whittlesey



Friends of St. Andrew's Church
Whittlesey



QUIZ NIGHT

**AT ST. ANDREW'S HALL
PARKINSON LANE**

**ON SATURDAY 29th March 2025
7.00pm for 7.30pm.start**



**CASH PRIZE for WINNING TEAM
RAFFLE**



**BRING YOUR OWN
BANQUET AND BEVERAGES**



**TEAMS OF UP TO 6, TICKETS £5.00 PER PERSON
TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE
RING LYNN 07767 373264
OR PAT 01733 203152**



Friends of St. Andrew's Church



You are invited to our
Sunday Lunch on Sunday 9th March 2025
At St. Andrew's Church Hall
12.30pm for 1pm

2 course Sunday Carvery Lunch for £15.00
Choice of Beef, Gammon or Pork or a vegetarian option



Followed by Apple Sponge and custard
Or Raspberry Cheesecake



A bar will be available

Please complete booking form below and return it to
Lynn Palmer either by email 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 _____

Number in your party?

Choices of Desert Apple Sponge Raspberry Cheesecake

Any dietary requirements eg. Vegetarian

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

Contact Us

For general enquiries, please contact:

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

The Ministry Team

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