



Benefice Bugle!



No.8 February 2021

Signs of New Life



It still feels like winter...



but spring is coming...



Spring flowers breaking through in Kirtlington and Chesterton. With thanks to Margaret Forey, Ann Mowat and Andrew Thomas.

There have been many sadnesses this month, members of our congregations and villages for whom we mourn, stresses amongst families and hospitalisation. Do let's join in prayer for those people.

But in the midst of this we have hope, and trust that: ' "I am with you" says the Lord.' This issue celebrates signs of new life in the midst of hardship and mortality.



It has been very encouraging to welcome some new people to our online services. There were 75 screens recently! Do continue to join us, and tell your friends about it. For those for whom a zoom service doesn't work for whatever reason you can look at the Diocesan website for alternatives.

Services in February (all on zoom)

7 Feb 10 am Communion

14 Feb 10 am Morning Prayer

17th Feb 7.30pm Ash Wednesday service

21st Feb 10 am Morning Worship

28th Feb 10 am Communion (Book of Common Prayer)



PLUS



A new group for the youngest members of our congregation, taking place during morning services, accessed via a separate link, with a variety of fun activities including Bible stories, games and craft. The link will be sent out together with the service link each week, or ask joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com for it

Other opportunities in February and March

LIVING LENT

Some opportunities to take time out this Lent

Ash Wednesday - 17 February, 7.30 pm Online Ash Wednesday Service

Every Wednesday from 24 February - 24 March, 7.45 - 9.00 pm

There will be two groups, but beginning together for 15 minutes:

Group A "Locked down, still open?" Faith in a time of pandemic....

Group B "Let Us Dream" Reading the Pope's new book together

Other midweek events (all on Zoom and none lasting more than 20 minutes):

Mondays at 7.30 am (for early risers!) Morning Prayer with our Swedish link parish (in Swedish but sometimes with English readings and hymns)

Fridays at 12.00 pm Midday Prayer

Sundays at 9.00 pm Night Prayer

Holy Week

28 March: Palm Sunday Service at 10.00 am

29, 30, 31 March: Evening Service at 7.30 pm

1 April: Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30 pm

2 April: Good Friday Service/Activity at 12.00 pm

Good Friday Compline at 8.00 pm

EASTER DAY - to be confirmed.

Email akemanbenefice@gmail.com for more information



Signs of New Life:

Quite a few people have now been vaccinated. "My son has moved into his new flat". "Meg the duck has laid her first spring egg". "People have been so wonderful". "Lovely to see people on our zoom services".

We have 12 hopeful couples booked in for weddings this year.

Add your own pieces of good news here...

"If winter comes can spring be far behind?"

Living Lent for families

An activity for each of the 6 weeks of Lent. More to follow in next month's Bugle!

Week 1

LOOK ABOUT.



You will need: sharp eyes, paper and pencil.

Look around your village for as many spring flowers as you can.

Can you find some aconites, snowdrops, daffodils, crocus, iris, cyclamen?

Make a list of what you have seen.

The Benefice Bugle would be thrilled to receive some drawings of them...

Week 2

LOOK INSIDE.



You will need: strips of paper, a different colour for each member of your family; felt-tipped pens

On their colour of paper, write something that you like and is good about that person. Make all the characteristics into a paper chain to hang up on Easter Sunday to celebrate your uniqueness as a family.

Talk about how wonderful it is that God made us individuals! In what ways can we show our thanks to him that he made each of us special and unique?



Another new venture for us:

Parentalk
THE PRIMARY YEARS

A 6-week course, online, with videos and discussion, has just started. The participants are from all around the benefice and beyond. Our first session was warm, lively and thoughtful. We have 11 sets of parents taking part and a fine team of group facilitators.

Thank you so much to Aki Olver from Chesterton, and Vicky Lavy who is leading the course, for their initiative and input into this.



Welcome to a new (busy) warden!



Hello - my name is **Jackie Hucker**. I have recently become Church Warden in Wendlebury alongside Charles who featured last month.

I have lived in Wendlebury since 1996, with a couple of overseas assignments, one to Sydney and one to Dubai. Our two children are grown up and flown the nest now, but they both went to Chesterton school and attended Sunday school and young church in Chesterton. They both were confirmed, Matthew at Chesterton and Rachael in Bletchington. Andi and I have both been active members of village groups: I was on the parish council and was one of the three people who set up Wendlebury youth club, and I am on the church fundraising committee. I now am a Brownie leader. Andi was on the village club committee and an active member of Alchester running club. I am a dual qualified adult and children's nurse and have a special interest in safeguarding. I am a senior lecturer at Oxford Brookes assessing overseas nurses to join the UK register.

I don't currently have much free time (*no, sounds like it! Ed*) but I like walking and reading. I belong to a Wendlebury book club and have been having zoom meetings, but it's not so much fun. We like to travel a lot but, like everyone else, have not been out much recently. We can't wait to get back to travelling and seeing friends and family!

So say all of us, Jackie, Thank you for finding time to introduce yourself to us!



New opportunities for vulnerable children:

Thank you to Kirtlington and Chesterton schools who have collected £250 in their Christingle collecting boxes to go towards the Children's Society, who are very grateful. Bletchington School is to do their Christingle this term, so there will be more to follow.

The Children's Society



The Children's Society supports children and young people who are danger from abuse, neglect, drug lines, homelessness. They may be refugees or alone for other reasons.

We are glad to be able to support what they are doing.

Other Schools news:

Huw Morgan at Bletchington, having done great work supporting and leading the school while continuing to be head of Islip School, has gone back to the single headship there.



Caroline Walker, formerly Deputy Head at Bletchington, has been appointed its headteacher, starting at the beginning of this term.

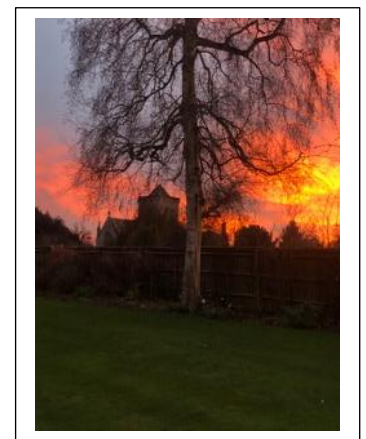
We are continuing to send a collective worship to the 3 schools each week.

Do pray for all the staff, as well as the families: it is a very difficult time for them all.

News of people:

Funerals:

We were sorry to hear of the deaths of Molly Strafford, Joan Boardman, John Williams and Gwyneth Learner from Weston; also of Judith Upton, formerly of Bletchington; Pat Heep, formerly of Kirtlington, and her daughter, Mara; and of Nick Crofts, son of Rosemary Waterhouse of Kirtlington. Our condolences to all the families.



Birth!

Congratulations to Rudi Banga and Melinda Fülöp of Weston on the birth of Lenard.



Lent Quiz

Easy Part 1 (Harder Part 2 to follow in next Bugle)

1. What Biblical event does the time of Lent represent?
 - a) 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness
 - b) 40 years Israelites in desert
 - c) 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God
2. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from
 - a) The Shrove pancake from Leicestershire
 - b) The practice of confessing and being absolved
 - c) An old English word meaning 'final'.
3. Which is the first day of Lent?
 - a) Ash Wednesday b) Shrove Tuesday
 - c) Valentine's Day
4. How is Ash for Ash Wednesday made?
 - a) by burning books b) by burning last year's Palm crosses
 - c) by burning wood
5. What does the word Lent originally refer to?
 - a) fast b) penance c) Spring

TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS SEE THE NEXT PAGE

Contact details

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Do feel free to contact a member of the ministry team if you would like to chat over anything, or a churchwarden if you would like information or help about the parish church.

LENT QUIZ ANSWERS

1 a

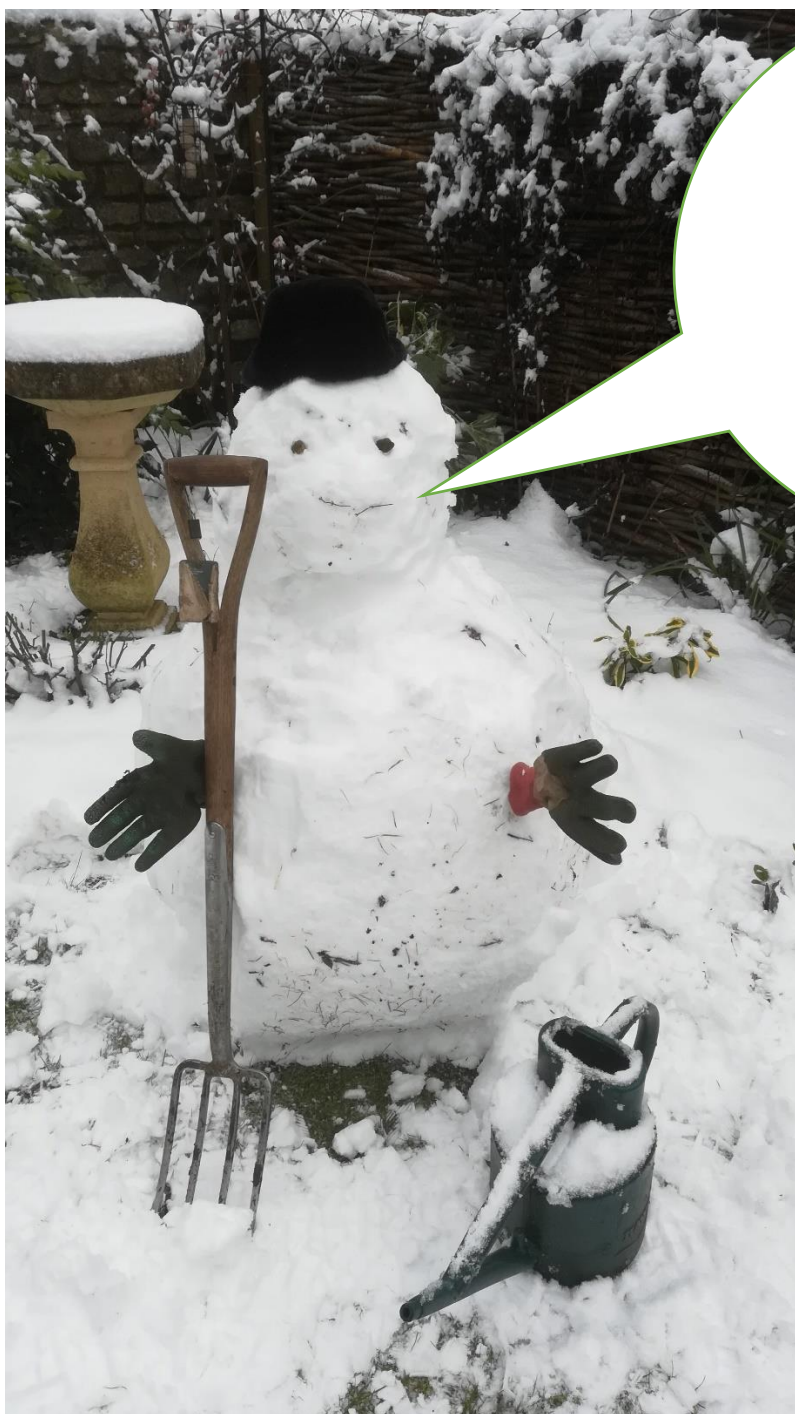
2 b "being "Shriven" means being absolved

3 a

4 b

5 c (when the days are lengthening)

WELL DONE ALL QUIZZERS!



**Come on,
spring! I want to
get gardening!**

That's it, folks! Next exciting installment coming out at the end of February. Why not have your say? Do please send your comments, news, recommendations, photos etc for inclusion, by 20th February, to joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com