



# **Benefice Bugle!**

## **JUNE 2021**



### **Services**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> June Trinity 1**

9.30 Wendlebury	Holy Communion
11.00 Hampton Gay	Matins
16.00 Kirtlington	Family Service
18.00 Zoom service	

#### **13<sup>th</sup> June Trinity 2**

9.30 Middleton Stoney	Holy Communion
11.00 Bletchingdon	Morning Worship
11.00 Weston-on-the-Green	Holy Communion
18.00 Zoom service	

#### **20<sup>th</sup> June Trinity 3**

9.30 Wendlebury	Morning Worship
10.00 Zoom service	
11.00 Chesterton	Holy Communion
18.00 Kirtlington	Evensong

#### **27<sup>th</sup> June Trinity 4**

9.30 Bletchingdon	Holy Communion
10.00 Zoom service	
11.00 Weston-on-the-Green	Family Service
18.00 Middleton Stoney	Evensong

## Contact details

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

### Ministry team

Rector: The Rev'd Gareth Miller  
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Children and Families' Co-ordinator:  
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Safeguarding Officer:  
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### Churchwardens

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If you are reading this on a notice board in a printed version, do also look on the website [www.akemanbenefice.org.uk](http://www.akemanbenefice.org.uk) or email [joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com](mailto:joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com) for the rest of the Benefice Bugle, which contains...

- News from around the benefice
- Meet our new Children and Families' Co-ordinator
- The Name Game
- Green challenge

## News from around the benefice

**Gemma Maybank and Maggie Forrester** have been welcomed onto the Ministry Team (Maggie from September). Backed by their PCCs (Kirtlington and Wendlebury respectively) and the ministry team they are both embarking on training to become Authorised Preachers. They will be training 'on the job'. Gemma is also taking over the role of Children and Families' Coordinator from this month, much to Joanna's delight (see later in this Bugle). She is very pleased to be able to hand the baton on to someone so well fitted for the role.

**Paula Clifford** has also been welcomed back to the benefice from Fontainebleau.

**Bishop Gavin** has now been consecrated. He came to visit the benefice as part of a Deanery tour on 17<sup>th</sup> May, and met some of the Ministry Team, asking how things were going.

"**Living in Love and Faith**", a large and thoughtful document from the C of E considering gender/identity/relationships, has been discussed at Deanery Synod; parishes will have the chance to review and discuss it in the autumn.

Many have been stunned to hear that the **Great Wolf** appeal has been upheld so it is likely to go ahead, which will very much affect parishes, especially **Chesterton**. There is a small chance of a judicial review.

Also in **Chesterton** there was the..

### **YOUNG FAMILIES' MAY SERVICE**

Sue Ashdown sets the scene:

We started off our service in the sunshine outside on the grass. There were no May birthdays and only one notice, which was fortunate as the black clouds told us time was short! We managed to sing our first hymn - '**If you're happy and you know it**' - before the heavens opened and we had to run for cover in the church, masks at the ready!

We continued inside with our story 'Jesus and the Children,' showing us that Jesus thought all sections of society were just as important as the others, something we are still working on today over 2000 years later.

Our activity was a Mexican wave ... I guess you had to be there, but it was fun! Finding activities that don't involve touching, handing anything out or moving from your family group continues to challenge me!

We sat and listened to our next hymn '**You shall go out with joy,**' which I thought was quite appropriate after all the happy, clappy smiles of the service. We finished off as always with the Lord's Prayer and our very own Young Families' prayer.

Do join us next time. Rain or shine, we will be there:

**6<sup>th</sup> June 2021 @ 11am- St. Mary's, Chesterton**

Ann Mowat reports from **Kirtlington**:

The excitement for May was a wedding in the church. Laura and Geoffrey married on May 8th with 15 guests (in line with Covid regulations) on a very wet day. Despite the weather and only 15 people present it felt very special. Laura is the daughter of Helen Adams who runs the choir and, as we are not allowed to sing in church, Helen had organised for some of the choir to come and sing outside as the happy couple came out of church. They sang St Patrick's

Breastplate. Some hardy villagers came along to listen and wish Laura and Geoffrey well.



In trying to get back to some form of normality at Pentecost coffee was laid on after the morning service which was held at **Kirtlington** instead of Hampton Gay (because of flooded fields). Even with social distancing and the doors open this was much appreciated, especially by those who live alone.

It was sad to hear of Grant Lee's death at the age of 99. He was previously a lay minister in the benefice. His funeral took place in **Kirtlington** on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Alex Charlesworth in **Kirtlington** is sending round a document about Nature in Churchyards, inviting churches to observe and record.

Churches have been busy: as well as the wall-building activity recorded in the last Bugle, **Middleton Stoney** has had a working party to cut back ivy etc. Thanks to Marc Swan, one of the wardens.

**News from schools:** Louise Williams has resigned as head of Kirtlington School. The recruitment process for her successor has started. Congratulations to Iain Horner, head of Chesterton School, on the birth of a daughter, Ivy.

Our schools have been working incredibly hard to maintain education as normally as possible with children still in class or year bubbles and some consequent staff availability issues. One sign of normality is that whereas Prayer Spaces have not been able to take place over the past year, in June there will be a specially-adapted **Prayer Spaces** in Bletchington and Chesterton schools in the open air. In Bletchington the theme is “Special Spaces” which is their Big Question for the half of term, and in Chesterton the theme is “Hope”. These Prayer Spaces will be on a reduced scale from the old format but it would still be good to have people present to talk to the children so if anyone would like to offer to help, on 22nd/23rd June in Bletchington or on 28th and 29<sup>th</sup> June in Chesterton, please let Joanna know: [joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com](mailto:joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com)



## [Meet Gemma, our new Children and Families' Co-ordinator!](#)

Hi. My name is Gemma Maybank and I live in Kirtlington with my husband Philip and our son Rowan (4) and daughter Amber (2), which currently makes for a rewarding and Duplo-strewn existence! I like singing and cookery and grew up in Gloucestershire, constantly being told on car journeys to put down my book and ‘Look out of the window at the



sheep!” This love of reading eventually led to my studying English at Corpus Christi, Oxford, and then qualifying as a teacher in Manchester. I taught for a good few years in Dulwich, South London (meeting Philip in a church choir rehearsal) and we later got married, agreeing that Oxfordshire was so lovely that it was definitely worth us both revisiting. We moved out of Oxford when our second child came along, and spent nearly a year renting in

Bletchington, before moving here shortly before lockdown started. I’m a novice gardener and am excited by the seedlings we currently have sprouting for the school sunflower-growing competition. I’m trying to rein in my competitive side: Philip has had to be very patient with the way we accumulated plants in need of frost protection on the kitchen windowsill and other surfaces!

I’ve been caring for children in a church context since I was a teenager, and it was probably the fun that I had in church with a group of 4 year olds when I was a university student that prompted me into teaching. There was definitely a papier-maché whale in there at some point! I’ve spent twelve years teaching English in both the state and

independent sectors, in both day and boarding schools. I love storytelling and seeing people respond when they hear an unexpected plot twist, completely disagree with a statement, or learn something new. In the past I've enjoyed volunteering with Oxford Mencap for their residential holidays at Hill End for adults and young people with learning disabilities, and we also have years of experience of being part of the team at an Urban Saints holiday camp for young people called 'Houseparty at Bethany School'. Maybe in future years we might have a group of kids/ families from the Akeman Benefice travelling to learn, have fun and serve on a holiday camp together!

To shamelessly steal a quote from Mark and Lisa Scandrette, church family is about 'belonging and becoming': it involves all of us knowing that we are safe and loved, and supported in knowing Jesus better and growing into the people God made us to be. That love we know can then spill out beyond us to everyone we meet. Of course I am keen to enable an inclusive welcome for all children, young people, parents and grandparents, but that works best when the whole church community unites to make that happen: which is where you come in! There is plenty that single people, couples, or those who live far from their family can offer in coming alongside families and relationship-building, whether it's during church services, supporting prayer spaces in the local schools, or joining the team for regular, or one-off events. I'd love to hear from you if you have a talent for baking, DIY, craft, kids' work, befriending, or prayer!

Intergenerational relationships are a crucial part of helping young people to feel that they are seen, valued, and belong. One idea I'd like to explore is setting up a café-cum-toddler group (initially in Kirtlington Church, but possibly also in another village in the benefice), just as a place of no-strings-attached welcome, play and cross-generational friendship for all comers. I am sure that plenty of people will value a regular chance to connect and be encouraged (and good cake never hurts, either)! Similarly, parents really appreciate encouragement from people who have walked the walk and have the wisdom that everything's a stage- and plenty of caffeine. I think everyone is wondering about how all of our roles and institutions will adapt post-pandemic: what lessons should we keep, and which previous ways of doing things might be worth re-evaluating? Whilst (like my nascent sunflowers!) I have some other ideas sprouting already, I'd value your views on how young people 0-18 and parents in our villages can best be made to feel welcome, to be resourced, and connected with other parts of church family, as we go forward together. I'd like to build on the excellent and imaginative work and relationship-building done by Joanna and Paul Clifford and others over many years and, as well as also being open to new possibilities. I'll probably get plenty wrong too, so thank you in advance for the grace you'll no doubt have to extend my way, as I wrestle with toddlers, grow into the role and train as an Authorised Preacher. And thank you already for the patient welcome you've shown to our own (sometimes very energetic) children!

To sum up, our well-thumbed 'Dora the Explorer' book says that 'Big boys and girls go on big adventures'. Little ones, young people and families in our villages need to know that they are loved- and that loving and trusting God with the big and little parts of their lives can be a brilliant adventure.

You can contact Gemma on [gemmamaybank.akeman@gmail.com](mailto:gemmamaybank.akeman@gmail.com) - she'd love to hear from you!

# The Akeman Benefice

Seven parishes in North Oxfordshire

[The benefice website:](http://akemanbenefice.org.uk)

Do make use of it. All the vital information about services can be found there (as well as in the Bugle), plus other interesting stuff: [akemanbenefice.org.uk](http://akemanbenefice.org.uk)

[What's in a name?](#)

It has been suggested that the term “Benefice Bugle” gives an old-fashioned ring to this modern form of communication. The name was chosen to be alliterative, but Benefice Bulletin would also tick that box. But maybe you can think of a better name? A fair-trade bar of chocolate to the person whose suggestion is chosen (McBulletin-face not accepted as an option).

Do you know people with these names? See if you can match the name with the meaning (disclaimer- for all the linguists out there, there may be different interpretations of these names - feel free to write to the Bugle and let us know!) Answers on the final page.

Aaron	dog
Caleb	ewe
Chloe	star
David	healer
Esther	exalted
Felix	small
Jason	friend of horses
Jemima	dove
Matthew	lucky
Noah	green shoot
Paul	Beloved uncle
Philip	Rest, comfort
Rachel	God has heard

## The Akeman Benefice Green Page

Thanks to Eric Bohm from Weston who is giving us a series of good, do-able ideas to make our lives greener and better.

### ONE SMALL STEP for MOBILE-OWNERS...

It is encouraging that Bishop Steven has been enlisted onto a Parliamentary Committee on the environment. The encouragement stems from what environmentalists call "convening power", which is the ability to bring large groups of people together.

One of the greatest challenges faced by the environmental community is convincing people their individual actions will actually make a difference to such issues as climate change. While our individual footprint may be small, it is the collective action that has major consequences.

At a conference on climate change in 2004, the Chairman of Nokia, the mobile telephone company, stated that if every person in the world who owned a Nokia device removed the charger from the wall socket after recharging their phone, the electricity saved would be equivalent to the power consumed by 600,000 homes in Germany over one year!

Can you imagine the energy savings if every mobile phone owner did the same?

So after recharging any device, please remove the charger from the wall socket or turn off the socket. It helps.

### The meaning of names

Aaron = exalted  
Caleb = dog  
Chloe = Green shoot  
David = Beloved uncle  
Esther = star  
Felix = lucky  
Jason = healer  
Jemima = dove  
Matthew = gift of Yahweh  
Noah = rest  
Paul = small  
Philip = friend of horses  
Rachel = ewe  
Samuel - God has heard



**UNPLUG IT**