

## All Saints Church, Middleton Stoney reports on exciting developments:

Since November there have been extensive works in church. A disabled toilet has been installed alongside an area for flower arranging. At the back of the Church a servery has been made, so we can now provide a better area for refreshments.

With a mad dash after the builders left we just managed to make the church ready for Easter. Teams of sweepers and polishers, and then a grand finale of flower arrangers, made it look truly beautiful for Easter Day.

There are so many people to thank, including Alec Poole for the magnificent job he has done restoring the bier. This was in a sad state of repair, rotting away in the tractor shed. It was used many years ago to transport the coffins from the cottages to the Church before hearses were invented.

Advance notice: The Bishop of Oxford will be rededicating All Saints' Church on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025, giving us time to complete all our renovations and re-install the organ before he comes.

Marc Swan and Catherine Fulljames and the PCC



*The restored and rejuvenated bier and the very elegant entrance to the new facilities. It is really worth visiting the church to see the transformation that has been made.*

## Sad news

Graham Dunn, a faithful warden at Hampton Gay over many years, died recently. His support for the church, and his gentle smile and sense of humour will be much missed. We send sincere condolences to his wife Margaret.

## In other news...

Some 50 people took part in our 6 Lent groups, “From Now On”, and enjoyed getting together, watching film clips, reading Bible passages and discussing issues, sharing experiences and praying. We are looking to see how we may maintain the momentum.

The PCCs’ Away Morning looked at a very practical book “How Village Churches Thrive”; people shared their own successes and took away several implementable ideas. Watch this space. The particular areas looked at were our welcome, and our use of churchyards and festivals to appeal to more people in the villages.



## Prayer Spaces in Schools

Until Covid we were doing 3 Prayer Space sessions a year, one a term in each of our 3 schools. The children found it very special having time to be quiet and to reflect in an atmospheric environment, and it gave us a chance to talk with them about various forms of prayer. This year the heads of Kirtlington and Chesterton Schools have enthusiastically accepted the offer to have prayer spaces once again, so we have arranged to be in Kirtlington School just before half term, on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (set-up on 22<sup>nd</sup>) and in Chesterton School in the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Each 40-minute Prayer Space session for about 15 pupils requires 5 adults, 1 to be in each of the 4 prayer spaces, and 1 to lead the session, so we are looking for a good number of helpers who would be happy to sit with small groups of children and focus them on the activity. PLEASE LET JOANNA KNOW if you might be able to offer some time to join in this valuable and very enjoyable activity. Contact [joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com](mailto:joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com) or 07779578088.

## Ascension Day

On Ascension Day, 9th May, there will be a Sung Eucharist at Kirtlington Church at 1900. The preacher will be Canon Peter Moger, Sub-Dean of Christ Church. All are very warmly invited.

## 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

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### Churchwardens

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

[akemanbenefice.org.uk](http://akemanbenefice.org.uk)



# May 2024

## Services

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

0800 Chesterton  
0930 Bletchington  
0930 Middleton Stoney  
0930 Wendlebury  
1100 Chesterton  
1100 Kirtlington

### Rogation

Holy Communion\* (said)  
Morning Worship  
Morning Worship  
Holy Communion  
Family Service  
Holy Communion

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May

1900 Kirtlington

### Ascension

Holy Communion

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

0930 Kirtlington  
1100 Chesterton  
1100 Hampton Gay  
1100 Weston  
1800 Kirtlington

### Ascension 1

Holy Communion\* (said)  
Holy Communion  
Matins  
Café Church  
Evensong\*

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May

0930 Bletchington  
0930 Middleton Stoney  
0930 Wendlebury  
1100 Chesterton  
1100 Kirtlington  
1100 Weston

### Pentecost

Holy Communion  
Holy Communion  
Morning Worship  
Morning Worship  
Morning Worship  
Holy Communion

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

1030 Bletchington  
1800 Kirtlington

### Trinity

Holy Communion  
Choral Evensong\* with ACCC

\*Indicates Prayer Book service

Akeman Benefice vital information