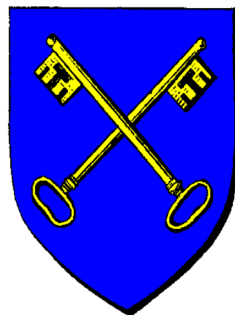




**St Peter's Church,
Raunds
Newsletter No. 29
March 2020**



February 2020 will be remembered for the awful weather, although we have been fortunate compared to other parts of the country. Being a short month there is not much to report.

The Covenant Service at the Methodist Church was a good opportunity for the two churches to worship together, with many staying for lunch afterwards, despite the rain and winds. Wednesday Worship was at Hargrave this month and, as usual, a lovely time of praise and worship.

Next month will be St Peter's APCM, on the 15th March after the morning service. If you are interested in being on the PCC please see the Churchwardens, Maureen and Mike.

The annual Town Garage Sale will be on Saturday 25th April 2020. Application forms are available from the Community Centre or from the website www.raundscommunitycentre.co.uk.

Finally, if you have any items to include in the next newsletter please email or give to Stephen (stephen_clements@btinternet.com) or Judy (cawabs@aol.com).

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March services		
1st March Lent 1	Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.	Evening Prayer 6 p.m.
8th March Lent 2	Morning Prayer 10:45 a.m.	No service
15th February Lent 3	Holy Communion & APCM 10.45 a.m.	Evening Prayer 6 p.m
22rd March Mothering Sunday	All Age Service 10:45 a.m.	Evening Prayer 6 p.m
29th March Lent 5 Passiontide	Benefice Service of Holy Communion at St Mary's, Ringstead 10:00 a.m.	

Forthcoming Events

15th March—St Peter's APCM

29th March—Civic Service

Tuesdays—Little Sunbeams (pre-school group) 9:30—11:00 am. During term time—St Peter's Church.

Fridays—Coffee Morning 10-12 in the Community Enterprise Centre.

2nd Saturday of the month - Messy Church 3.00pm - 5.00pm



Rector Jon

Dear Friends

This year the beginning of Lent was February 26th when we celebrated the liturgy for Ash Wednesday. Each year the old palm crosses are gathered up & burned to create the ash (And be warned, burning palm crosses make a tremendous smell through the house, so leave the window open!). This ash is then mixed with a drop of oil & then used to anoint the foreheads of individual Christians with the words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ”.

The ash reminds us of our mortality, that we are made up of a collection of atoms that one day will return to the earth, but that in Christ we have the promise of an existence beyond this life and that through our Lord, death and decay will not have the final word. In Jesus Christ the Risen Lord, we have the promise of resurrection – “I am the way, the truth and the life.”

The ash is also symbolic of penitence, that in ages past people would put on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of wanting to make amends for wrongs done. Lent is the penitential season, echoing Jesus’ time in the wilderness when he faced different temptations as how to exercise power. Whether by fasting from something or taking up a spiritual discipline (or both!), Lent is a time to discipline ourselves and make time for God.

The ash is formed from burnt palm branches, reminding us of the events of Holy Week when Jesus was welcomed into the Holy City by crowds cheering and throwing palm fronds in front of Him, and yet a few days later the same crowds were crying out, “Crucify him!”. As human beings we can be fickle and we need God’s grace and mercy, constantly turning afresh to the Lord and away from the things we do and say that are destructive.

The ash is used to make the sign of the cross, reminding us of our baptism when we were marked with the symbol of God’s family. The cross is the sign of salvation and the reassurance of the depths of God’s saving love towards us.

May we be enabled to keep a holy Lent and deepen our relationship with our Living Lord, and may we come to know the depths of God’s love towards us.

Every blessing

Rev Jon



Higham Deanery Synod

Higham Deanery Synod held an open meeting in February at Hargrave, at which members of the Diocesan Youth Ministry team gave a presentation on the Gen 2 project. This is an exciting project initiated and largely funded by the Diocese and will last for 6 years. The project aims to develop new and sustainable models for mission and ministry with children and young people.

Higham Deanery have become involved by supporting our own Deanery Youth Ministry Enabler, Lizzie Moesbauer. Lizzie has completed a year's internship at Whitefriars. She has now started a 3 year youth ministry degree course at Ridley Hall, Cambridge and is on placement for half the time in our Deanery. The plan is for Lizzie to spend time initiating, supporting and developing youth ministry in every benefice each year.

The Diocese is funding Lizzie for the first 3 years and then the Deanery is expected to continue the funding. The intention is to find sponsors from each benefice now, who are willing to commit monthly to building up a funding pot. If you would like to know more please contact Rev Jon or any other member of the Deanery Steering Team.

Future Newsletter Publications

To ensure you receive future copies promptly you can opt to receive yours by email.

Simply register this preference along with your email address to:-
stephen_clements@btinternet.com

April Newsletter

Just a quick reminder that the closing date for the next issue is Sunday 22nd March.



Knife Angel Exhibition - Northampton in July

The Knife Angel is a 27' high sculpture made from over 100,000 seized blades. It was created specifically to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour whilst solidifying our critical need for social change. Not only does the Angel act as a catalyst for turning the tide on violent and aggressive behaviour, but it also acts as a beautiful memorial to celebrate those lives that AV been lost through violent and thoughtless actions.



The Knife Angel was created by a team from the British Ironwork Centre, who supplied police forces all over the country with knife bins. Amnesties were run and knives and weapons were handed in anonymously. The Knife Angel is currently on tour around the country and will be in Northampton Town Centre in July. For further information see www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk

#LIVE LENT

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livlent-care-gods-creation>



Ginny Pledger— Child & Family Worker

The New Year started off busy with lots going on across our Benefice. Please see below for the full details:-

- St Peter's Academy Assembly – We looked at Epiphany and the gifts that the wisemen brought to the baby Jesus, we then looked at the different gifts that God has blessed us all with and how we can use those gifts to help spread God's kingdom and give thanks to God for them.
- Messy Church, Raunds – We continued with the theme of Epiphany. We had wisemen masks and craft activities and we looked at the presents that we had got for Christmas and the gifts that the wisemen brought and why they were important.
- Golden Ticket Events in Ringstead, Raunds and Stanwick – It was that time of year again to host the Golden Ticket Events across the Benefice. The children are responding very well to these events and enjoy the opportunity to meet together in a safe environment and be able to catch up with their friends. Tickets have been issued for the next get together before they break up for the summer.
- All Age Service in St Peter's Academy – After our 2 trial All Age Service in 2019 were received so well we have decided to run them for the next 6 months in school. We looked at Matthew Ch.4 v.12-23 where Jesus gathers his first disciples. The children were great and had loads of fun pretending to be the first disciples fishing on the Sea of Galilee. They then acted out the scripture passage and we had some great discussions on how those disciples must have felt at the time and why they possibly chose to follow Jesus.
- St Peter's Academy Assembly, Raunds – The theme was 'forgiveness' and we looked at the Bible story of Esau and Jacob. The children were great at acting out the Bible passage and we looked at how Esau forgave Jacob and why forgiveness is important and what the Bible says about forgiveness.

That was about everything for January, there is lots in the diary for the coming months so I look forward to reporting on the coming events over the following months. Until next time, God bless

Ginny Pledger

Child & Family Worker

4 Spires Benefice – Raunds, Hargrave, Ringstead & Stanwick



Getting to Know You!

Questions this time answered by Wendy Aldwinckle...or according to one child, Mrs Vicar.

Thank you, Wendy.

- Watch TV or read a book?
Read a book, I support the library and like to travel the world in my armchair
- Watch sport or play sport?
I am a spectator and love to watch Athletics, World Darts and Formula 1 Motor racing and football of course
- Read a kindle / tablet or a paper book?
Paper book there is something about holding the story in your hands
- Who is your favourite author and favourite book?
Currently I like Daniel Silva who writes fiction thrillers about espionage and the spy world
And I have just read a lovely romantic book called A postcard from Italy by Alex Brown
- If money was no object what would you do all day?
It would be a combination of gardening, water colour painting and flower arranging with good coffee and Danish pastries, then relaxing in a spa with a massage and a light lunch, I might do some baking, then finish by cooking a lovely evening meal
- If you could go back in time which era would you travel to?
There is no better time than now
- What is the one thing you cannot live without right now?
My glasses
- What is your favourite piece of music?
I would have to say birdsong
I do however have a mixture of tastes and have just tuned into Classic FM and love all the different sounds of piano, violins and oboe but could not name one piece
- Who do you look up to?
I have always looked up to my parents who taught me a lot but especially manners to be polite and say please and thankyou
- Where do you most want to travel to but have never been?
New Zealand is top of the list



Friday Club

On Friday February 21st we met at 1, Chamberlain Way for our AGM. This opened at 7.30 following our Friday Club prayer. Details can be seen in the report book. One change was that Shirley, having been our Treasurer since 2003, stood down and was of course thanked for all her work during that time. Her place has very kindly been filled by Andrea, for which we are very grateful. The meeting ended at 7.45 and we followed this with a short Beetle Drive, which was won by Shirley with a prize of a chocolate bar! We finished the evening with refreshments and our usual good chat. Our next meeting is on March 20th, again at 1, Chamberlain Way, 7.30p.m., when Jon will lead our Lent Devotional. We would be delighted to welcome you to join us at any time, at any of our meetings that appeal to you. Hopefully there will be something!!

Pat Stuart

- March 20th Lent Devotional with Rev. Jon
- April 17th. ... Spring Celebration (readings & poems)
- May 15th A church visit – probably Kimbolton this time; there is a Tiffany Window.
- June 19th ... Village or Park walk.
- July 17th Talk. By Nicki Philips
- August 21st. Meal out.
- Sept 18th. ... Social Evening
- Oct 16th Games evening.
- Nov 20th. Planning evening for 2021
- Dec 11th Agape.
- Jan 2021.... our Burns Night Supper