



Services This March

Sunday 2nd March 9am, Holy Communion (BCP), St Lawrence, Long Buckby 10:30am, The Breakfast Service, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 10:30am, Morning Praise, All Saints, West Haddon

Wednesday 5th March - Ash Wednesday 9:30am, Holy Week Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 7:30pm, Holy Communion, All Saints, West Haddon

Sunday 9th March

9am, Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Watford 10:30am, Holy Communion, All Saints, West Haddon 10:30am, Morning Praise, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 4pm, Tea Time Together, St Lawrence, Long Buckby

Sunday 16th March

10:30am, Morning Prayer, All Saints, West Haddon 10:30am, Family Service, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 6pm, Holy Communion, St Michael and All Angels, Winwick

Sunday 23rd March

9am, Holy Communion, St Peter and St Paul, Watford 10:30am, Holy Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby 10:30am, The Family Service, All Saints, West Haddon

Tuesday 25th March - The Annunciation 7:30pm, Holy Communion, St Lawrence, Long Buckby

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion, All Saints, West Haddon

Everyone is welcome!

rening Times across our churches

St Lawrence, Long Buckby Open Monday-Saturday 10am-3pm

St Peter and St Paul, Watford Open Monday-Sunday, 10am-4pm

All Saints, West Haddon Open Monday-Sunday, 9am-4pm

St Michael and All Angels, Winwick Open 24 Hours

The Vicar Writes



Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!' Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: His divine sonship, political power and Messianic role (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I? It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves? Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives.

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

We have two Ash Wednesday services in the Benefice to mark the start of Lent, 9:30am at St Lawrence and 7:30pm at All Saints, why not come along and lets start Lent together.

Every blessing Verin

Reflecting Faith: Baptism

One of the clearest visual symbols inside a church building relates to where the font, used for baptism, is placed.

We often think of Baptism as being uniquely Christian, but this is not the case. Most established religions have some form of rite to welcome a new person – regardless of their age – into their fellowship.

If you think of Jesus being baptised in the river Jordan by John, it is clear that this was something within the Jewish practice happening before 'Christianity' came into being.

When Paul writes to the Corinthians in his first letter, he compares the Christian rite with baptism 'into Moses in the sea'. This comes from him being a Hillelite rabbi who argued that as 'the Jews passed from slavery in Egypt through the Red Sea into Canaan, so the Gentile passed from heathenism through baptism into the "promised land" '.

Baptism was intended as a symbolic action of outward cleansing, meaning change, from not being part of the 'group' to being welcomed into it. It was accepted that the person's inside did not change! There was and still remains nothing magical about that (unfortunately).

In the Book of Acts there is an instance where one person chose to follow Christ, and the whole family was baptised.

The Early Church took baptism very seriously, and new believers had to spend a good length of time preparing for it. As the years passed, the babies of Christian believers came to be baptised shortly after birth.

This month

Have a think about your own Baptism. What value do you place on it? Do you feel it makes you part of the Christian Family, or was it so long ago that for you, it's become an irrelevance?







WHAT CAN I DONATE - HIGH DEMAND ITEMS

Tinned meat products – stew, casserole, meatballs etc Tinned fish – especially tuna





Tea and coffee are also popular!

Washing up liquid





DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO GO IN THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER? TO DISCUSS YOUR IDEA EMAIL: HELLO@ONECHURCH4PARISHES.CO.UK

FINAL SUBMISSIONS FOR EACH MONTH SHOULD BE IN BY THE 20TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

St David's Day 1st March



On 1st March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David – or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called 'Dark Ages' (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined, and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.

It's likely that David was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'Bishop David'. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia, David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary.

At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy – indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as Archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi – brefi in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously, in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

His monks avoided wine and beer, drinking only water. Indeed, he and they lived lives of rigorous austerity and constant prayer, in the manner of the Desert Fathers of the Eastern Church. The date of David's death is disputed – either 589 or 601. It wasn't until the 12th century that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David's were highly regarded in the following centuries – including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It's traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils on St David's Day (Gwyl Dewi Sant in Welsh) – but there seems no particular reason for it, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day – oh, and they look nice!

Ash Wednesday

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)
'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.







Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen. Starting 6th March 7:30pm on Zoom

Our Lent Course this year is The Pilgrim Course on the Lord's Prayer and is open to everyone. We're running it on Zoom over the six weeks of lent.

Each week has a theme, some opening prayers, a 'conversation-starter' (a short video to help you begin to explore the theme is also available online, an opportunity to reflect on a reading from Scripture (the Bible), a short article from a contemporary Christian writer on the theme some questions to address a further time of prayer finally, a 'sending out' section, with suggestions for further reflection and selected quotations from the great tradition of Christian writing to help you do so.

The Link will also be on the Weekly Email: https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/82300358229?pwd=WWv5b204PlVqtHHvWo8bglZnWUoL8Z.1

25th March – Lady Day or The Annunciation



This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked – He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar – it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice – humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.



321 is a course that invites you to see life the way Jesus does.

Inspired by Jesus' vision of reality, 321 is designed to help you think about God, the world and yourself through immersive videos and thoughtful illustrations.

Do you know someone who would like to know more about the Christian faith? To help discover what difference believing in Jesus can make to their lives?

The 321 course is coming soon, so be thinking about who you can invite as we love Jesus, share Jesus across our parishes.





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17TH MARCH 2025

DOORS OPEN 7pm. TICKET'S £8.

(free glass of wine on entry)

ticketsource.co.uk/stpeterandstpaulwatford

or: 07762 600047

BAR (cash or card)

St Peter & St Paul Church

BRANDS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

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SIZES

6 TO 30

Lord, Teach us to Pray - Year of Prayer 2025



Bishop Debbie introduces our Year of Prayer



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vLoxi5YMsA

At the start of this year, my prayer is that each one of us will take time over the coming months to deepen our prayer life – perhaps to join a study group, to try different ways of praying, to experiment with silence or spend time in nature, to be willing to lead intercessions, to offer prayer to our friends and neighbours..... It doesn't matter what we do, the key thing is to recognise that restlessness in our hearts that can only find peace when we spend time with God. +Debbie

In a change to our normal Bible Day, we will this year be focusing on prayer, and will be holding a Prayer Study Day on Saturday 8 March at Caroline Chisholm School in Northampton.

The day will have two main talks by Bishop John Stroyan as well as a panel discussion, featuring a range of voices from different settings focusing on both individual prayer and praying for others.

Agenda

10:00 Arrivals - Arrive any time from 10am. Tea and coffee will be available, please bring your own reusable mug

10:30 Opening Worship

10:45 Session 1 - Prayer as being present to the presence of God How might we become more aware of and responsive to the presence of God in our daily lives?

11:35 Coffee break Tea and coffee will be available, please bring your own reusable mug.

12:00 Session 2 - Moving outwards in prayer Jesus says 'Come' and Jesus says 'Go'. Prayer in the activities and encounters of everyday life.

12:45 Lunch -Please bring your own lunch. There will be spaces to eat packed lunches and tea and coffee will be available. There will also be water fountains, so please considering bring your own water bottle.

13:45 Session 3 - Panel Discussion featuring a range of voices from different settings

14:20 Closing Worship





Tickets here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lord-teach-us-to-pray-prayer-study-day-tickets-1203471538769

Mothering Sunday, the Mother Church and Mother's Day

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31).

The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day have been celebrated on the same day and it can almost be a piece of trivia to know that it is both Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday for the church.





Not too serious



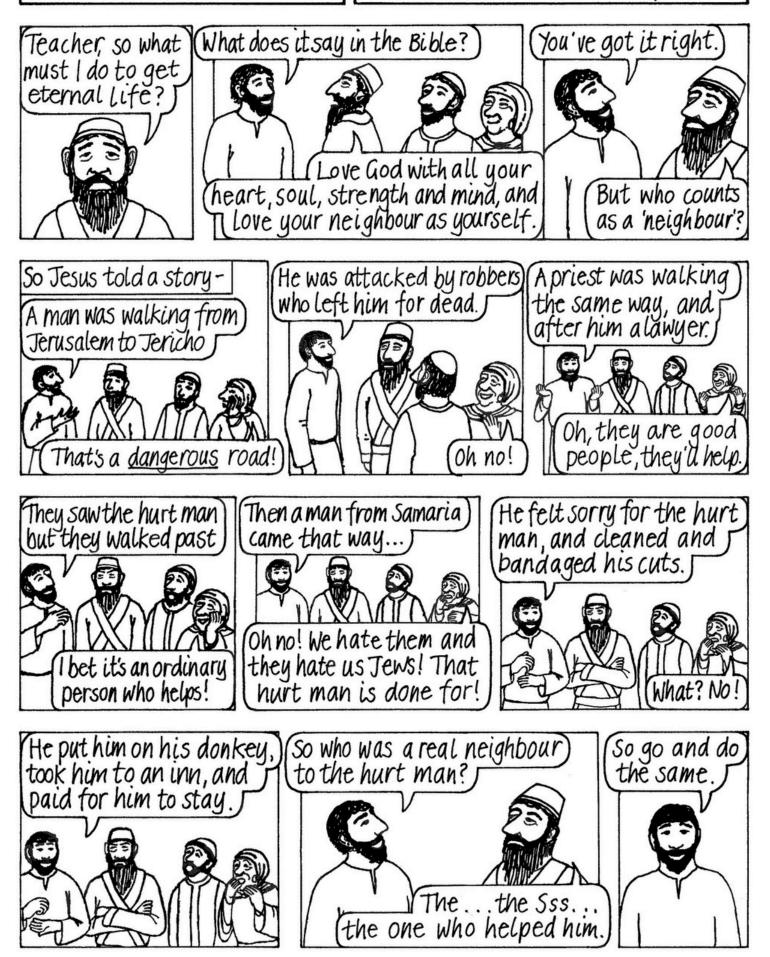
"No, not the steeple, the roof or the organ – it's for the vicar's post-Christmaspre-Easter recuperation holiday-break."





A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 10:25-37 An expert in the Law of Moses wanted to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.



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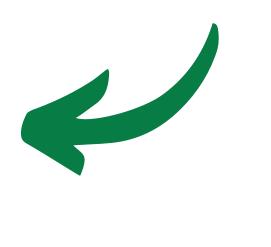
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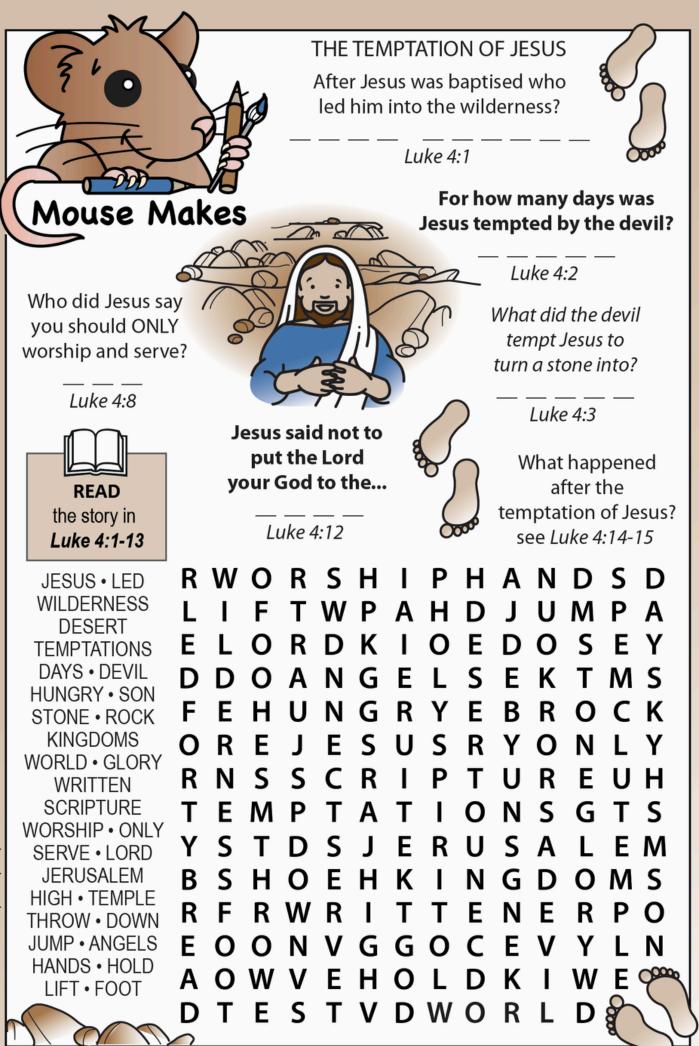
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28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5) 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4) 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

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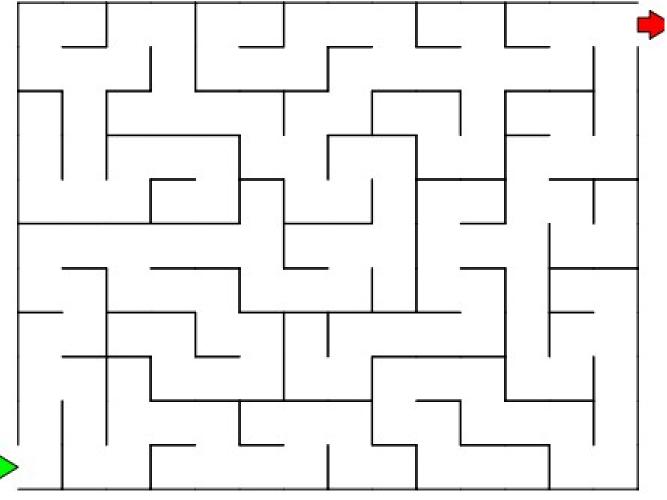
2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3) 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4) 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4) 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7) 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11) 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11) 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6) 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3) 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6) 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7) 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3) 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — - ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3) 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4) 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4) 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



Find the words from the questions too!

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The Maze



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DOWN: ٤, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

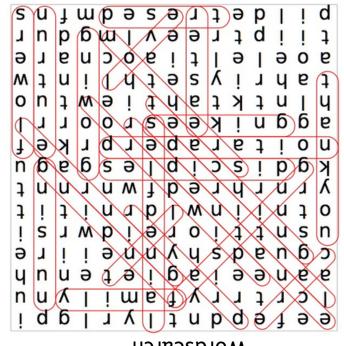
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BAPTISMS

Interested in getting your child baptised?

Whether you call it christening or baptism we are here to welcome you and those being baptised as part of our church family. A baptism service is a special service where those being baptised will be prayed for, where parents and Godparents will make important promises, water is poured over the person being baptised to signify being made clean and often a sign of the cross is made, a candle is given to you in the service to help remind you to "Shine as a light in the world to the Glory of God". It's a special day for not only the person being baptised but all those family, friends and church members who are there to be part of it. Please do contact us and we'd be happy to talk with you about baptism.



WEDDINGS

Have you considered a church wedding?

We are blessed to have wonderful church buildings in our benefice, in beautiful surroundings, where you can have a wonderful wedding as you make promises to God and each other in front of family and friends. Wedding services have declarations, vows, exchanging of rings, blessings and can include your own choice of readings, music and more, they are a joy to be part of. Church weddings are also surprisingly inexpensive and can help you have a very special wedding without breaking the bank. Contact us to find out how you can have your very special day with us.



FUNERALS

We are here for you.

Firstly our sympathies for your loss. We know how hard times like this are and we as the church can be here to support you, not only with the funeral service itself but also afterwards with pastoral support and special services to help you commemorate and remember your loved ones life. We are happy to liaise with you and funeral directors to help you say goodbye to your loved one, services can be tailored to help reflect the life of the deceased so that even in the sadness of loss you can remember the love, the times you had together and look to the hope that a church funeral services gives. Do contact us or ask your funeral director to be in touch with us and let us support you in this difficult time.

CONTACTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE



Vicar - The Revd Kevin Montgomery Email: vicar@onechurch4parishes.co.uk Tel: 01327 577244

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St Lawrence, Long Buckby

Church Warden - Chris Banks Tel: 07968 075465 Email: chris.banks@onechurch4parishes.co.uk School Rooms Bookings - Helen Baker Tel: 01327 843123 Email: helen.e.baker@btinternet.com

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Church Warden - Bernadette Frost Tel: 07525 017151 Email: bjfrost@yahoo.co.uk

All Saints, West Haddon

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St Michael and All Angels, Winwick

Church Warden - Bruce Green Tel: 01788 510415 Email: bg@brucegreenfoundation.co.uk

For further contact details visit our website



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Peterborough

The Diocese of Our parishes are in the Diocese of Peterborough and part of the Church of England.

