

Weston Bampfylde and Little Weston
Newsletter November/December 2023

This is a newsletter with news items covering up until the end of the year. I will send an update at the beginning of December. Slightly different order this time as I wanted to put the notice of the Bishop Michael's visit to the Deanery first because we need responses to this as soon as possible.

Also in this edition there is a Parish letter from Rose, and details of the Winter Fair at Wincanton.

Please note that unfortunately we are unable to have a service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day at Weston Bampfylde this year. We are encouraging everybody to attend church in one of the other churches in Cam Vale.

With best wishes

Alan

You are invited to join with people across Bruton & Cary Deanery for:

The Bishop's Autumn Visits

This is a chance to:

- tell the bishop what life is like in your churches and communities at the moment
- hear stories of hope and encouragement from your deanery
- hear from the bishop about what is happening in our diocese
- ask questions of the bishop

Join us at Jubilee (Village) Hall, Batcombe, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6HE
7pm on 27 November 2023

Please let Alan know if you plan to attend by **Monday 6th November** so that we can ensure there are seats and refreshments for all.

Email: alanhoski@gmail.com

Services in Cam Vale November and December 2023

Sunday 5th November

9.30am All age service at Queen Camel
9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Sparkford
10.00am Morning Service at Corton Denham
3.00pm Tea @ Three at West Camel
3.00pm All Souls Service at Queen Camel

Sunday 12th November, Remembrance Sunday

There are special Remembrance Services at each of the churches in Cam Vale including at **Weston Bampfylde at 10.45am** (Please note the time of this service)

Sunday 19th November

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Queen Camel
10.00am Morning Prayer at Sparkford

Sunday 26th November

10.00am Together at Ten at Sutton Montis

Sunday 3rd December

9.30am All Age Service at Queen Camel
10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion at Corton Denham
3.00pm Tea at Three at West Camel

Sunday 10th December

10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion at Weston Bampfylde
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at Sutton Montis

Tuesday 12th December

6.00pm Cubs and Scouts Carol Service

Sunday 17th December

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Sparkford
3.00pm Carol Service at West Camel
4.30pm Carol Service at Corton Denham
6.30pm Carol Service at Queen Camel

Monday 18th December

7.00pm Carol Service at Weston Bampfylde

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

6.00pm Crib Service at Queen Camel

9.30pm Christmas Eve Communion at West Camel

11.30pm Midnight Communion at Sutton Montis

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

9.30am Family Communion at Queen Camel

10.00am Christmas Celebration at Corton Denham

10.00am Christmas Communion by extension at Sparkford

Sunday 31st December New Years Eve

10.00am Together at Ten New Years Eve Celebration at Sutton Montis

6.30pm United Service with the Methodists

Church open for Prayer

The church is open for private prayer, or as a quiet space for all in our community, daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

The Winter Fair

Saturday 18th November
At Wincanton Racecourse
10.00am to 3.00pm

Lots of stalls with all sorts of goodies
A great place for Christmas Shopping
Proceeds in aid of The Balsam Centre

Parish Letter

Recently we celebrated a very special occasion in the life of our benefice, on Sat 7th October at Wells Cathedral Christy Casley was licensed by Bishop Ruth as a Reader (Licensed Lay Minister) to serve in our parishes. As I presented Christy to the Bishop, I reflected that it was 40 years almost to the day when, standing in front of that great imposing scissor arch in Wells Cathedral making my allegiance to the Church of England in front of the even more imposing Bishop John Bickersteth, I had been licensed as a Lay Reader.

How times have changed! Whilst I'm not a great one for nostalgia it is good perhaps to remind ourselves that 40 years ago the church was in a very different position than it is today. Back in 1983 It was still assumed, (although even then it wasn't actually the reality) that every parish would have it's own parish priest. Lay people, Lay Readers, Churchwardens, could lead worship in an emergency, congregation members could read the lessons in church and maybe **even** on *very special occasions* lead the prayers but mostly it was down to the priest to lead worship and be the spiritual leader within the local community. Women were mainly not seen and certainly not heard.

Rosamund Essex was the first woman to be licensed as a Reader in July 1969 and when I was licensed at the tender age of 26 there were few female Readers and I was far and away the youngest one in the Diocese. This, as you may imagine, caused some interesting, sometimes tricky/ delicate and occasionally hilarious situations. It would take another 25 years for the first women priests to be ordained and another 10 for the first women Bishops to be consecrated.

There was a sense in my heart as Julie and I invested Christy with the blue stole that signifies her Readership of handing on the mantle, a bit like the lovely Elijah story (If you don't know it look it up in your Bible in 1 Kings Chapter 19 verses 19 to the end). And yet, of course ministry is always a team game, a partnership, a shared effort and always moving on. Although some would wish to return to the days of a priest for every parish one of the great plusses of the development of every member ministry has been the encouragement of people's gifts, bringing a richness and diversity to our worship and our church life in general.

We are so fortunate in our benefice to have a wonderfully gifted group of lay people, Churchwardens, our Lay worship Assistants Peter, Alan, Andy and Pat, Readers Julie and Christy together with the various retired clergy who help out. We also have in our benefice office Kerry and Julia who are absolutely fabulous in keeping Cam Vale afloat in these ever-changing times. Do give thanks for them all and support them with your prayers.

I am, as you will have guessed from reading this a collaborative leadership kind of person and I have always greatly valued Readers and Lay Worship Assistants who have often given me new insights. I just want to re-affirm that we are so blessed by those who give their time/efforts and gifts for free in offering the leading of worship across our benefice. I know at the moment because of uncertainty regarding pastoral re-organization life seems hard and tiring and somehow, we long for that leadership that will lift the mantle off our shoulders so we can place it onto a leader/Rector or whatever we chose to call him or her.

However, can I just leave with you a few thoughts I have gleaned over the years, they all add up to one-word GRACE, essential I believe in our church community and in our day to day lives.

Grace

G Is for generosity of spirit, forgive even when you can't quite forget, just cut people a little slack and try to put yourself in their shoes.

R Recognize that for all our good efforts when it comes to faith and church the work is God's and not ours. Why were our churches built in the first place? In the beginning it's all about God.

A Anticipation. Anticipate that even when we're tempted to feel that it's all down to us. if we invite God in God is well able to show up and surprise us.

C Curiosity. So many times, I've been amazed at how just taking a little time to ask a simple question can lead to interesting conversations and responses. Where have you come from?

Why do you feel or believe that?

Equally with people of other faiths/religion/ beliefs ways of seeing life. Listen and learn because often there is common ground. If God created us all in God's image everyone's views should be heard, respected and valued. Curiosity opens the mind.

E Encouragement. The magic that makes all things grow. 'You can do that!' I can hear the words of my very dear friend The Revd Alan Ripley, Director of Lay training in Bath and Wells when I was on his team. You can do that! And you can and you will!

GRACE is a really lovely word, beautiful but powerful too.

If you have time to read these words just take a little moment to ponder what all of this might mean to you.

With my love and prayers

Rose Hoskins

Contact for the Village Hall

Booking secretary and Treasurer

Rob Malton, email; r.malton@btinternet.com.

Tel 01963 440663

Newsletter contact

Alan Hoskins, email: alanhoski@gmail.com Tel 01963 440026

Contacts for Holy Cross Church

Churchwardens;

Alan Hoskins, email: alanhoski@gmail.com Tel: 01963 440026

Sally Strelley, email: sallystrelley82@gmail.com

Tel: 01963 440870

Treasurer;

George Lawson, email: georgelawson175@gmail.com

Tel: 01963 440551

Contact for The Cam Vale Churches Office

Parish Office; Mrs Kerry Pike email: admincamvale@gmail.com

Tel: 01963 441595

Office hours Tuesdays and Fridays 10.00am to 2.00pm