

Weston Bampfylde and Little Weston
Newsletter April 2024

I am writing this in the week before Easter. The time seems to go so quickly. It seems only a short while ago we were celebrating Christmas.

Last Sunday we had a lovely time with the Palm Sunday procession and our Palm Sunday service for the Cam Vale Churches. The weather stayed fine for the donkeys and we had a good number in church for the service.

Included in this edition are the services for April, a parish letter from Rose and a little bit about our new Interim Minister. I will send a further edition with the services for May next month. Please let me have anything for inclusion in next month's edition by 23rd April.

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Church Treasurer;

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Cam Vale Benefice Services April/May 2024

Sunday 7th April

9.30am All age service at Queen Camel

10.00am BCP Holy Communion at Corton Denham

4.00pm Tea@Four with the Methodists

Sunday 14th April

9.30am Common Worship Holy Communion at West Camel

10.00am Common Worship Morning Prayer at Weston Bampfylde

10.00am BCP Holy Communion at Sutton Montis

Sunday 21st April

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Queen Camel

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Sparkford

Sunday 28th April

10.00am Together@Ten at Queen Camel

Weston Bampfylde Church is open daily for private prayer or a quiet time from 10.00am to 4.00pm. All are welcome to use the church at these times

New Interim Minister

It has been announced that Bishop Michael has appointed the Revd. Caroline Walker to be our new Interim Minister for the Cam Vale Churches. Caroline will be welcomed to the parishes on Thursday 1st August at 7.00pm. More details of the service will follow later, but please put this in your diaries so that we can make this a very special service of welcome.

Here is a little bit about Caroline.



I am delighted to have been appointed as Interim Minister for Cam Vale and looking forward to coming to join you. In advance a little bit about me... I am married to Michael and we have been married 42 years. We met at agricultural college and also became Christians there. We have three children and three grandchildren, a springador

dog called Zawadi (means gift in Swahili) and 2 cats. We have worked as missionaries in Kenya, helped set up a church plant in a school and been involved in rural ministry for over 36 years. My family were based in Northamptonshire but Michael's were Somerset based in the Chew Valley area.

Before training for ministry I ran a Farm Shop on the farm that Michael was managing.

I trained part time for the ministry whilst running the Farm Shop and was ordained in 2010. We moved to Somerset in 2013 when I became Rector of Hardington Vale and have been there for the past eleven years. I have also more recently been serving as Area Dean of Frome. I enjoy riding horses and eating chocolate. I am an ardent Wordle fan - and thankfully JESUS does fit into that too!

Looking forward to meeting you all in the not too distant future

Caroline

Revd Caroline Walker

Parish Letter

First to say a big thank you to all who have sent prayers and best wishes following my close encounter with breast cancer, your messages have kept me (and Alan) cheerful and are surely helping the road to recovery. One of the things about taking time out because of a health problem is that it gives the opportunity to read things you wouldn't normally read. So, when a certain health and beauty magazine dropped through my door, I was intrigued by a piece entitled '*Glimmers, the new micro-joy movement*'. The message seemed to be about the importance (for our physical and mental wellbeing) of finding those tiny moments of joy in everyday life: the sun on your face, the breeze on your skin, a conversation, a funny or a touching moment, the scent or colour of a flower. The tricky thing is, the wise author said, to **notice** those glimmers and **savour** them.

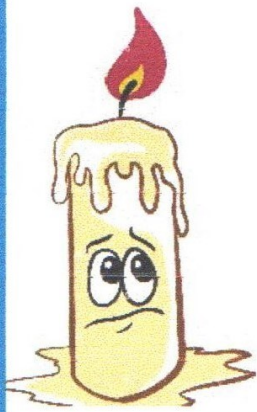
By the time this hits your inbox the Easter weekend will be over. One of the interesting things about Easter is that it is an on-going story, a succession of glimmers. We tend to focus on the big event, hot cross buns (marking Good Friday) and Easter eggs (signs of new life symbolizing Jesus rising from death), but if we look closely, we discover that even Jesus' closest disciples needed more than a one-off big miracle event to keep them going. As we read the story some 2,000 years on it's easy to think "if only we had been at the empty tomb and met the risen Jesus personally it would be so much easier to believe." But would it? The stories in gospels reveal that in the early days after Easter Jesus' closest disciples had times when they struggled to keep the faith. In our churches during the weeks following Easter, we read various accounts (Stations of the Resurrection they are sometimes called) of Jesus appearing to his disciples and offering them encouragement.

It's striking how often these appearances happened at everyday times and in ordinary places: a walk, a conversation, going fishing, having breakfast, little glimmers of hope breaking into ordinary life. Sometimes the disciples nearly missed them, like the couple who walked from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus in company with Jesus and didn't even realize it was him until right at the very end.

There is so much in the news and in our modern environment that accentuates the negative, and many of us are naturally predisposed to the glass half empty way of thinking, so it's easy to miss those glimmers of hope, beauty and new life, signs of resurrection and of God's presence. Yet they are all around us in everyday life if only we take a moment to look and make the time to savour them.

May I wish you all a (belated) Happy Easter!

The Revd Rose



Helping Ukraine



Are your old candles sitting in a box
feeling pre-loved/ un-loved
a bit sad and neglected?

They could be put to a far better use.

Helping to give light, warming up food
bringing a little hope in the darkness.

Church candles, household candles,
scented candles, nearly used up candles...any candles will do.

Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership

are collecting candles for Ukraine

They can be melted down to help with
a whole range of wonderful but really basic things

just take a look at the website

<https://www.shapuk.org/>



if you would like to help by donating your old candles
or candle leftovers

You can find drop off boxes in your local church.

When you are passing just pop them in

closing date **Wednesday May 1st**

and we can collect and send.

If you need to know more do contact

Jenny Rowe: jennyc.digby@gmail.com

Or the Revd Rose: revroseanne@gmail.com



**Wishing you all a very
Happy Easter**

