

Bridges Group News

Date: 28th May 2023

Sunday: Pentecost



News and Views – hosted this week by Napton

Lambing is over for our farm and the stronger lambs are a good size now, the cade lambs almost knocking me over as I walk into the 'Back Field'. Grass in the 'Big Ground' was mown the day before yesterday and is now baled by our neighbour, already wrapped for silage and got in under cover, all in a single day. This is so the crows and jackdaws don't 'puncture' the bales when using their height for lookout points or perching as they head off in the evening to roost in the woods behind. Allowing air into the bale will spoil the otherwise sweet smelling silage. The cycle of farming life is just that. The familiarity may differ with the year and endeavours of the farm but many aspects are the same, to be savoured and celebrated. The blossom seems overwhelmingly beautiful this spring. The crab apple is over but the may is wonderful and honeysuckle is about to share its sweetness.

In the search for a new priest to head our church family, an appreciation of 'all things rural' is not exclusive but it is one of the desirable attributes. Our grandchildren, young as they are, cannot articulate their reasons for being happy here (climbing on the bales is the most usual one) but do know they do not want to live anywhere else. Born here, this place, that hedgerow, these fields, all are interwoven with past generations. But I want to put in a good word for those who choose to live here too whether they also grew up in the countryside but elsewhere or like me, grew up in the 'smoke'! We too have faith that the sun will rise, the plants will grow, the harvest will be gathered in. These measures of life, alongside the miracle of nature, local traditions and helping our neighbours, make rural life something we can all appreciate and treasure. And yes, our future priest will be sure to appreciate them too but will bring more: a willingness to learn, to listen, share and lead our worshipping communities. Please continue to actively pray to God for this very special someone. Amen

Helen (churchwarden St Lawrence, Napton)

Looking ahead

Afternoon Teas at Lower Shuckburgh Church every Saturday starting 3rd June until August Bank Holiday
2pm-4pm

Services this Sunday: 28th May, Pentecost

10.30am - Morning Worship at Wormleighton

10.30am - CW Communion 'In the Methodist Tradition' at Stockton

3.00pm - 4th Sunday at Priors Marston

5.00pm - Evensong at Napton

Bible readings for the week: Acts 2:1-21, John 20: 19-33 or John 7:37-39.

Services next Sunday: 4th June, Trinity Sunday

9.00am – Morning Worship at Priors Hardwick

10.30am – CW Communion at Napton

10.30am – Morning Worship at Stockton

10.30am – Morning Worship at Priors Marston

Bible readings for the week: 2 Corinthians 13:11 – end, Matthew 28:16-20

And finally -

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God bless,

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk or the parish magazines)