

Bridges Group News
Date: 28th January 2023
Sunday: Candlemas



David Moore

Please excuse the impersonal nature of this note but I thought some of you would want to know that David Moore died peacefully at Kineton Manor Nursing Home on Thursday, after struggling with illness for a while. Before moving to Leamington, David served on Wormleighton PCC and was a stalwart supporter of St. Peter's Church for many years. He was a kind, generous man with a sense of humour that could make us all smile. Please pray for Isabella and their family during this difficult time, that they will find peace and comfort in their grief through their faith in Jesus.

God Bless, Gillian

News from Priors Hardwick

This Sunday we see the end of the liturgical season of Christmas, as we remember the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple – according to the religious laws at that time. Most of us still follow the traditional date of 6th January - Twelfth Night to take down the tree, the cards and the decorations- but the hangings in church remain white and/or gold until 3rd February, when they will change to green and artificial flowers and decorations should be removed from the churchyard!

Did you hear the story about the little 10 year-old girl who was out with her parents viewing the nativity scenes in some churches? She suddenly stopped in one church and was very quiet. Her mother asked her if anything was the matter. The little girl replied: "I'm very worried about the baby Jesus. He doesn't seem to have grown since last year." Is there a bit of a parable behind this story?

In Priors Hardwick we had 4 celebrations for Christmas. For the beginning of Advent we held an interactive family service remembering Mary and Joseph's preparation for their big event. As we have no donkey in the village a very kind pony came instead. During the week before Christmas we held an outdoor Carol-singing event at the Lychgate which featured our group of handbell ringers and Mulled wine. Our traditional Carol Service on Christmas Eve, which also featured the handbell ringers was the best ever for attendance and singing – 157 people came. The collection amounted to about £500 which we've sent to the British Red Cross appeal for Gaza and occupied Palestinian territory. And on Sunday 7th January in another interactive service we celebrated the Epiphany with the three Kings in costume bringing their gifts.....and a Queen who brought some fabric to make a gown for the baby. Again, no camels, but another very obliging pony!

Now we've begun to prepare for Lent, Mothering Sunday and Easter which is very early this year – 31st March and we remember:

WITHOUT EASTER THERE'D BE NO CHRISTMAS AND WITHOUT CHRISTMAS THERE'D BE NO EASTER!

Rectory reflection from Rev Andy

As I have been recuperating from my knee surgery, I have been dealing with all sorts of issues - the exercises (which I admit I haven't done as frequently as I should!) the pain, which is now beginning to subside, the use of a wheelchair and crutches, ice packs and showers, and I know quite a few of you will have shared these experiences. But for me, one of the hardest challenges is to accept help from others – Julie has been supporting me selflessly, despite her many other commitments, and has been driving me around when necessary. Many others have offered help, which I have been very grateful for, but its been difficult to accept my new limitations after surgery, at least for a little time – I'm the sort of person who just likes to get on with stuff and its been more than a little frustrating. But of course, what I have learnt is that if you are in the position where you are struggling and someone asks you if they can help – the correct answer is "yes"! My experience reminded me what Paul means when he says that 'God's power is made perfect in our weakness'. Being willing to accept help means we need to recognise that sometimes our pride is the only thing that stands in the way, and the generosity and compassion of others can give us a new appreciation of what it means to be a part of the family of God. Someone once wrote – 'When we accept help, we give others permission to accept help, too.'

Prayer

Lord, give us the wisdom to know when we need help, and the humility to accept it when it's offered. Help us to appreciate anew the blessings of being a part of your family.

Looking ahead...

- Funeral service and burial for the late Peter Tobin, 26th January 2.00pm at Priors Marston
- Steering Group Meeting 29th January at 7.30pm
- Pastoral Group Meeting 5th February
- Stockton PCC 8th February at 4pm
- Building Managers Meeting 12th February
- Wormleighton PCC 15th February at 7.30pm
- Napton PCC 19th February at 7pm

Services this Sunday: 28th January, Candlemas	Services next Sunday: 4th February 2024, 2nd before Lent
9.00am Holy Communion at Lower Shuckburgh 10.30am Morning Worship at Stockton 10.30am Morning Worship at Wormleighton 3.00pm 4 th Sunday at Priors Marston 5.00pm Evensong at Napton Bible readings for the week are: Hebrews 2:14-end, Luke 2:22-40	9.00am Morning Worship at Priors Hardwick 10.30am Morning Worship at Priors Marston 10.30am Holy Communion, CW at Napton 10.30am Morning worship, lay let at Stockton Bible readings for the week are: Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:1-14

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

Next Week's Bridges Group News will be hosted by Stockton.