

Bridges Group News

Date: 11th February 2023

Sunday: 1st before Lent



News from Napton

The Bridges Group has had good contact with the Rural Mission Hub that covers South Warwickshire but St Pauls in Leamington (<https://stpl.org.uk>) is our actual 'Mission Church'. These hubs aim to offer a gathering point and focus, where small churches can come for support. They facilitate learning together, (especially for lay leaders/teams), encourage/share good practice and mentoring. A few of us went along last Saturday and were given a warm welcome. Rev Christopher Landau, from ReSource (<https://www.resourcingrenewal.org/>) led a presentation. This christian charity nationally supports local churches in spiritual growth with a particular focus on 'little, local, ordinary' CofE churches and their leaders, lay and ordained. Lots of prayer, ideas and leaflets later, we came away feeling blessed and encouraged.

Stop Press - *too late for last weeks 'News'!*

Finally, our advert for two 'House for Duty' priests have been agreed by the archdeacons and will be posted online and in clergy press shortly. Please actively pray for God's blessing on these practical processes and that the right people hear His calling.

Lent

Lent services as advertised, starting Ash Wednesday 10.30am, Lower Shuckburgh.

Lent bible course, every Wed evening, details from Margaret Clarke.

Rectory reflection from Rev Andy

This Sunday we reflect on the account of Jesus transfiguration. I suspect there are moments in life for all of us when we experience a moment of transfiguration. We might have that experience as we discover the countryside transfigured after a heavy snowfall, we might find it during a particularly beautiful sunset or sunrise, and a memorable moment for me was on a warm Greek evening watching the stars reflected in a gently rolling sea, surrounded by the flickering light of fireflies, and listening to the music drifting up from the beach below (but let's not talk about the mosquitos!). Our reading describes how Jesus was transfigured, as his divine nature is made visible to the disciples, but those moments of transfiguration can also happen to us in our daily lives, often unexpectedly, and perhaps they might remind us that this world will one day be transfigured itself, restored to its original beauty before the corruption of sin and death and evil was let loose. Heaven and earth are not so far removed from one another as we might think. We delight in his glory and his love as we are moved by those special moments of transfiguration, and as we ourselves are transfigured by the Spirit within us, may our awareness of his presence and his commitment to us grow within us and sustain us.

Prayer

Early morning mist rises upon still waters leaving behind a crystal clear reflection.

Transfigure us, O Lord, into a shining reflection of You. Steep us in wonder, and mould us in love.

Looking ahead...

- Funeral of Rob Butcher, 13th February at 11.30am in Priors Marston
- Wormleighton PCC 15th February at 7.30pm
- Napton PCC 19th February at 7pm
- PSOs Meeting 4th March at 7.30pm

Services this Sunday: 11th February 1st before Lent	Ash Wednesday Wednesday 14th February	Services next Sunday: 18th February Lent 1
<p>10.30am Holy Communion, CW at Priors Marston 10.30am Holy Communion in the Methodist tradition at Stockton 2.30pm Messy Church at Stockton 5.00pm Evensong at Priors Hardwick</p> <p>Bible readings for the week are: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9</p>	<p>10.00am Lower Shuckburgh</p>	<p>9.00am Holy Communion BCP at Priors Marston 10.30am Morning Worship at Priors Marston 10.30am Holy Communion, CW at Napton</p> <p>Bible readings for the week are: 1 Peter 3:18-end, Mark 1:9-15</p>

(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 Priors Marston.