

Bridges Group News

Date: 2nd June 2024

Sunday: Trinity 1



News from Stockton

Like all the Churches across the Bridges group and the Church of England, Stockton Church has recently completed its annual meeting. It is a good opportunity to come together and look back over the year reminding ourselves of what we have achieved and what we can do better! There is also an inordinate amount of paperwork that has to be gathered together and hopefully approved! It can make it look as if Church life is enormously complex. However at the Passover supper, the night before his death, Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment – that you love one another just as much as I love you [John 13 v 34]. A simple & challenging instruction which we all need to try and follow.... but no templates or voting forms to complete. Wendy

Rectory reflection from Rev Andy

An extract from Premier Christianity magazine:

For the next six weeks, all the political parties will have the chance to win your vote. Perhaps you're excited, or just feel a sense of weariness. Maybe you are hopeful about what the prospect of a potential change in government may bring, or fearful of what such a change might mean. In any event the election is a golden opportunity for the Church to show up and engage. And the good news is that Christians do just that. Research shows that time and again, Christians take this opportunity seriously – which is fantastic. Jesus told us to love our neighbour and, if we care about them, we care about the laws and policies that come out of Westminster and the impact it has on their lives. Voting is a chance to not only hold MPs to account, but it also provides space for us to engage directly with local candidates and contribute to the common good of society. We should ask candidates about their worldview and moral vision, and look carefully at their character. Do they listen well to others? What does their social media profile say about how they operate? Do they care for their local area? Do they have views on religious freedom and free expression for all? While we can't know the outcome of this election yet, we do know that all human authority comes directly from God. Romans 13:1-7 is quite clear that government is God's idea and it is there for our good. This reality should compel us to cover this election in prayer, and vote with faith and prayerful optimism.

Prayer

Father God, We pray for the United Kingdom ahead of the general election, for women and men of integrity to be selected, and to stand, across the political divides. Raise up followers of you in public leaders who love you and their neighbours. Grant us wisdom and discernment, perspective and grace in all our decision making.

Looking ahead...

- Sunday 30th June The Napton Bike Ride
- Childrens Leaders meeting, 3rd June 7.30pm
- Stockton PCC 13th June at 4pm
- Napton PCC 17th June at 7pm

Services this Sunday: 2nd June Trinity 1	Services next Sunday: 9th June Trinity 2
9.00 Morning Worship at Priors Hardwick 10.30am Morning Worship at Priors Marston 10.30am CW Holy Communion at Napton 10.30am Morning Worship Lay let at Stockton	10.30am CW Holy Communion at Priors Marston 10.30am Morning Worship at Napton 10.30am Holy Communion in the Methodist Tradition at Stockton 5.00pm Evensong at Priors Hardwick
Bible readings for the week are: Deuteronomy 5:12-15, Mark 2:23- 3:6	Bible readings for the week are: Genesis 3:8-15, Mark 3:20-end

(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 Napton.