

Bridges Group News

Date: 6th October 2024

Sunday: Trinity 19



News from Stockton

Today Stockton Church hosted the WI Lavender Service. This service is thought to have been introduced By Rev Peter Jackson when he was the minister for Napton & Stockton so some years ago now. Jan and Sandi led the service and Heather provided the music. We enjoyed a mixture of hymns, poems, prayers and a Bible reading. A group of residents from Galanos House joined us and lavender bags were given out to all participants during the service. It was a lovely time of fellowship which culminated in tea and cakes & time to chat. A special time to reflect on all the good things provided by God's wonderful gifts of creation. On Sunday, we will continue this theme with our Harvest service. Thank you to everyone who has decorated the Church for these events and been a part of our thanksgiving!

Wendy

Rectory reflection from Rev Andy

This week we celebrate Harvest festival at Ladbroke, at Harbury the school had their Harvest service on Friday, Chesterton are celebrating on the 20th October and on Tuesday I was at Napton for their school Harvest Festival. In our rural parishes we have a particularly close connection with the land and those who cultivate it. That agricultural connection to our world and to God is often very evident in the Old Testament. We see awe and joy at the wonder of nature, but also its resilience: proclaiming the promise of renewal in the face of locusts and famine. These pastoral themes are woven throughout the bible: think of the figs, the grain, the seeds, yeast, the vines, etc. that Jesus uses in his parables. The stories on which our faith is founded were passed on by people who lived close to the land. They keenly understood the food they ate and its origins, because it was grown by themselves and their neighbours! And even though today we can have access to most foods at any time of the year, there is local produce that outshines all of that at particular times of the year. Strawberries, blackberries, plums and peas to name just a few of my favourites. Jesus assures us that God knows our needs and that the food we have will be sufficient. In times of scarcity and in times of plenty, we can trust that God will provide through the land he has given us, even if politicians sometimes make our farmers lives more difficult than they should be.

Prayer

God of harvest, gardener supreme, you place us at the centre, feed us, equip us and, having provided for us, look to a different harvest, a fruitfulness of lives in service to you, and others. God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us, that our lives might bring glory to you.

Looking ahead...

- Treasurers Meeting Monday 7th October
- Stockton PCC 10th October at 4pm
- Funeral for the late Joyce French in Napton at 11am
- Napton PCC 21st October at 7pm
- Lower Shuckburgh PCC 22nd October at 7pm
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**Services this Sunday:
6th October Trinity 19**

9.00am Morning Worship at Priors Hardwick
10.30am Morning Worship at Priors Marston
10.30am CW Holy Communion at Napton hosted by
Archdeacon Barry, All welcome
10.30am Morning Worship, Lay Led at Stockton

Bible readings for the week are: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12,
Mark 10:2-16

**Services next Sunday:
13th October Trinity 20**

10.30am Holy Communion in the Methodist Tradition
in Stockton
10.30am CW Holy Communion in Priors Marston
6.00pm Harvest festival in Priors Hardwick

Bible readings for the week are: Hebrews 4:12-end*,
Mark 10:17-31

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

Next weeks news to be hosted by Napton