

## *St Mary's Church News*



### ***Hope and Renewal***

'Alleluia! He is risen!' The traditional Christian greeting on Easter morning, and indeed throughout the whole of the Easter season, celebrating Jesus' miraculous return to life after the terrible events of Good Friday: his betrayal, torture and ultimate death on a cross at the hands of the authorities for reasons of political expediency.

Easter Sunday, the most important day of all in the church's year is an incredibly special time for all Christians everywhere. It is a celebration of life renewed; of triumph over death; and of exciting new beginnings. Easter is truly a season of hope. No surprise then that the early church chose to celebrate Easter in the springtime, with the evidence all around us of creation restored and made anew after the cold, dreary darkness of the winter months.

That rebirth of creation could not have been more evident for me than it was on Easter morning this year. I had the pleasure and privilege of leading my very first public communion service, the first such service to take place in our village churches for 12 months, in the wonderful open-air setting of St Chad's churchyard, under brilliant blue skies, surrounded by daffodils, fresh blossom and serenaded by birdsong. Stage fright aside, it was an incredible, amazing experience for me to be able to minister to the church family around me in such a wonderful setting. If anybody noticed my nerves, they were kind enough not to say so; and I smiled for days afterwards.

This year though, I found the familiar Easter story especially powerful. The message could not have been plainer, thrown into sharp relief against the backdrop of Covid-19, of lockdown and of loss. More than ever, the Easter message of hope and renewal was cause for extra celebration, coinciding as it did with the start of our emergence from a year of restrictions and our gradual return to normal – whatever ‘normal’ is (somebody very wise once told me, “normal is just a spin cycle on a washing machine!”). Clearly, it’s too early to believe that we are finally out of the woods yet, but as we begin to emerge into the light, stretching and blinking, we surely have cause for optimism: hope in life reborn, of renewal, of a fresh start.

As we continue on through the Easter season, let’s take a moment to thank God for the gift of his precious, only son who came to redeem us; Jesus’ resurrection and his promise of a new life eternal with him; the beauty of his creation, bursting once more into glorious life all around us; and the miraculous gifts of science, of medicine and of the talented, selfless, compassionate people who are working so hard to restore to us that which we have lost. Truly a cause for grateful celebration. ‘He is risen indeed. Alleluia!’

*Revd Paul Maple, Curate*

**Services in May**

Because we are regularly updating our services in response to changes in the government’s ‘roadmap’ and in line with Church of England guidance, we can’t publish details here. Please visit our website and Facebook page for up-to-date information on our services, both online and in person, or call Revd Adam on 01673 565244.

<b>Readings for May</b>				
Date	Sunday	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
2nd	5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 8 26-end	1 John 4 7-end	John 15 1-8
9th	6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 10 44-end	1 John 5 1-6	John 15 9-17
16th	7th Sunday of Easter Sunday after Ascension Day	Acts 1 15-17 21-end	1 John 5 9-13	John 17 6-19
23rd	Pentecost	Acts 2 1-21	Romans 8 22-27	John 15 26-27; 16 4b-15
30th	Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6 1-8	Romans 8 12-17	John 3 1-17

## Mustard Seed Shop

Located at the bottom of the steps on the public footpath from Church Lane to Lincoln Road, the Mustard Seed is a charity shop for St Mary's church. The shop offers good condition second-hand clothes, books, toys, games and bric-a-brac, all from donations and offered at modest prices to help the community and to support funding the overheads of the parish church.

Having been closed since March 2020 due to Covid-19, we are now able to reopen so, from Thursday 6th May until 30th October, we will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9.30am to 12 noon. Volunteers will be running the shop.

We still have Covid-19 guidelines in place, so please wear your face mask, use the hand gel on entry and no more than two people in the shop at one time. Cash payments only, please, as we do not have card facilities. We don't sell electrical goods as we do not do PAT testing.

If you have anything to donate to the shop, please bring your donations during Saturday opening hours.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Anne Garbutt**



## Easter Cross of Flowers

Many thanks to all of you who brought flowers to make the cross. While it could not feel the same as actually putting the flowers in the cross yourself, the message of your flowers was still relevant.

The cross was lovingly blessed by Carol and will stay in the church yard for everyone to see until the flowers fade.

The notes left in the box are now in the Memorial Book.

Thank you again.

**Dell Atherton**  
Churchwarden

## **Revd Brian Pritchard**

19/1/1929-29/3/2021

Vicar of Welton St Mary's 1972-1992

Revd Pritchard graduated from Cambridge and priested in Sheffield with Revd David Saunders and Canon Frank Hone; all three of whom ministered in Welton. They celebrated their induction together at Eyam church 50 years later, supported by many members of the church in Welton.

Brian and Pam's vicarage was always open house, informal and welcoming. After retirement they eventually moved to Oxfordshire where they enjoyed spending time with their children, Peter and Joy, and grandchildren.

Brian encouraged suitable members of the congregation into a new local non-stipendiary ministry team. Supported by him, Revds Kate Guy and Julie Johnson trained as curates. Julie, who Brian asked to conduct his funeral, encouraged Revd Carol Jones. Brian's vision is being progressed by Revd Adam who continues to encourage active ministry from parishioners. During his time here Brian, with the Methodists, innovated the Pram Service for mums and toddlers which led to a greater family focus for both churches.

Shy, not an extrovert, very devout and humble, Brian was easily recognised by his brown duffel coat.

A credit to the community, well respected, fondly remembered. Rest in peace Brian.

### **Mike Cosford**

#### **Threechurchespray**

During January, St Mary's, St Chad's and St Germain's churches in our benefice will be praying for Welton streets as follows: Hackthorn Road, Poachers Rest, Keepers Close, Field Close, The Spinneys, Bramble Close and Karsons Way.

If you would like to join us as prayer triplets or would like to know a bit more before you make up your mind, please contact Glyn on 861907 or Dave on 860986.

### **From the Registers**

We share in the sadness of those who mourn the death of a loved one, remembering those whose funeral has taken place or whose cremated remains have been laid to rest recently:

**27th April: Joan Scott**

## Light Up St Mary's

St Mary's church will be specially lit up on the following nights in May:

- ♥ Saturday 1st May: **Robin Leak**. Remembering our dear friend Robin on what would have been his 80th birthday. You may have been lost to Covid-19, but your friendship and creativity will remain with us forever. God bless. From Marjorie and Peter Everett and family.
- ♥ Wednesday 5th May: **Ernie Lowbridge**. Remembering Ernie on his birthday – *On your birthday in Heaven in Holy embrace,/What we wouldn't give to see your dear face./In hearts and minds your memories we treasure,/But missed beyond words and loved beyond measure.* Happy birthday in Heaven...always in our thoughts from wife Sue, daughter Adele and family.
- ♥ Saturday 15th May: **David Nugent**. Treasured memories of a loving husband and dad, who passed away on this day in 1994. Always in our thoughts, too special to forget. All our love from Judy and Sarah xxx.

If you have any special memories that you would like to mark or an upcoming event that you would like to celebrate in a special way, why not sponsor the floodlights of your church? For a donation of £10, you can have St Mary's floodlit just for you! Call Peter Everett on 01673 861253 for further details.