

St Mary the Virgin, West Buckland

East Group of Parishes News and Worship March 2016

Dear Friends,

Everyone is familiar with the 'Highway Code' which is a manual of how to travel safely on the roads. We stop at the red traffic light because we are commanded to, we recognise that the safety of others and ourselves does depend on it. Every journey we make needs its 'rules of conduct'. This is also true of our journey of faith, a journey within disciplines but a journey to freedom.

Lent gives us the opportunity to stop at the red traffic light and consider our journey of faith with all the disciplines of following the path that Jesus has given us. As we stop at the red light and take stock, we may be given the chance to consider all that is going on in our lives.

During Lent we may consider to plan a long walk to take stock and view the beautiful creation that surrounds us; the colours, the sounds and the feeling of the fresh air upon our faces. Considerations challenge us when planning a long walk. On that journey you need a route, maybe a map and a compass, the distance needs to be calculated and the timing, remembering to take into account our paces. There are all sorts of options to be considered when planning your journey. It is now possible to create your own walk by using the 'mapmywalk' website.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian states that to consider being a Christian, our first instinct will be to strive to commit to our community. "We may put on our Sunday best, We may speak the acceptable words, We may act in the way it is expected of us, We may even strive to be saints."

"But is this a Christian community? We can only be a Christian community when we accept that we are a community of forgiven sinners who live by God's grace and mercy together." Bonhoeffer also quoted that forgiveness and reconciliation should be at the heart of every Christian community. Whatever you decide to do for Lent, stop, take stock and consider your choices, take that journey of faith to freedom.

Love to you all

Sandra (Reader)

OTHER SERVICES

Thursday 3rd March, Bradford on Tone midweek BCP Service 9.45am, refreshments afterwards village hall with coffee morning group.

6th March Mothering Sunday.



20th March Palm Sunday Services taking place in the East Group of Churches.

Holy Week East Group

Wednesday 23rd March Holy Week Joint Communion 10.30am at West Buckland church.

Thursday 24th Maundy Thursday Joint HC service with 'Stripping of Altars' 7pm at Nynehead Church.

Friday 25th March Good Friday Joint service 'Way of the Cross' reflections 2.30pm at Langford Budville.



Sunday 27th March Easter Day

EAST GROUP SERVICE ROTA

March	6th March	13th March	20th March	27th March
READINGS on pew sheets provided. <i>The Revised Common Lectionary</i>	OT Exodus 2. 1-10 NT 2 Corinthians 1. 3-7 Gospel Luke 2. 33-35	OT Isaiah 43. 16-21 NT Philippians 3. 4b-14 Gospel: John 12.1-8	OT Isaiah 50. 4-9a NT Philippians 2. 5-11 Gospel: Luke 23. 1-49	OT Acts 10. 34-43 NT 1 Corinthians 15. 19-26 Gospel John 20. 1-18
West Buckland	8.30am BCP HC	10am Parish Praise	9am HC with Palm Crosses & Commissioning of LWA's	10am Easter Family HC service.
Bradford On Tone	10am Morning Worship followed by Mothers Day posies and refreshments.	10am Morning Worship	10.30 am HC with Palm Crosses & Commissioning LWA's	10am Easter Family HC service.
Runnington	10.30 am Morning Worship followed by refreshments	<i>Join Langford Budville</i>	6pm BCP HC with Palm Crosses	9.15am Easter Family HC joint service & Commissioning of LWA
Langford Budville	10am Family service followed by Mothers Day posies and refreshments.	9.15am HC joint service	10am family service with palm Crosses	<i>Join Runnington</i>
Nynehead	10.30am Court Non HC	10.45am HC	<i>Join others.</i>	10.45am Easter Family HC service & Commissioning of LWA's

	Sidespersons	Readers
6 March	Churchwardens	C Rayson
13 March	Churchwardens -	
20 March	D Stagg & P Ford	J Morrish
27 March	D & S Fasey	D Fasey
3 April	Churchwardens	M Rose

Churches Together

4th March Women's Day of Prayer 2.30pm United Reformed Church Wellington.

Churches Together Wellington Good Friday - Walk of Witness

25th March 10am at Baptism Church to the Parish Church for a time of reflection, coffee and hot cross buns.

Creative Spirituality Workshop 5th March, 10am-4pm

Fiona, Joy and Sue are running a **Creative Spirituality** workshop in St.John's church and hall on Saturday 5th March for Lent. Through this experience, people can deepen their connection with God, through the use of creative materials. It is the process of prayerfully and playfully connecting with God that is important and not the finished object. There is no right or wrong way and everyone can be involved and is welcome. To find out more or if you are interested in coming along and to give us an idea of numbers, contact Sue 01823 664592/Fiona 01823 661602/Joy 01823 664147.

Team Quiet Day for Lent 'Into the Wilderness'. Saturday 12th March 10.00 - 4.00pm at Mill House Retreats. Led by Maria Hearl. Cost £15.00 including lunch. mariahearl@btinternet.com More details on poster in your church.

SMILE Smile At St Johns -3.15pm- 4.30pm after-school.

Wednesday 2nd March for children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Please do join us in praying for the children and families we seek to serve and share God's love with. If you're interested in getting involved as part of the Smile team, do get in touch: More details contact: Andy Levett on 07595 311183

Prayer Group March 23rd, in St Giles' Church, Bradford on Tone at 2pm Contact Sandra Lee or June Best - Churchwarden for details. All welcome.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

We will be cleaning and decorating the church on Saturday 26th March at 9:30am. All help gratefully accepted.

CHURCH FUNDRAISING FOR ESSENTIAL REPAIRS

Here we are, at it again, appealing to you, our Community, for more donations, however small, however large. Because it has been difficult to raise substantial amounts of money in the past, the Church has been sadly neglected. The PCC and Fund Raising Committee are trying desperately to rectify this. With your help and generosity we were able to restore the organ and now it sings. Do come in at any time the organists are rehearsing and enjoy the music, made possible by you.

For many years we have had to endure the gradual 'greening' of the west wall of the Church despite the hope that the removal of the plaster would alleviate the problem, by allowing the wall to breathe. During this time we have also seen the deterioration of the decoration on the South wall. Although these have been regular items on the agenda of the PCC the anticipated cost has always presented a sticking point.

However, following inspections and discussions with the Church's Architect, the pointing on the two walls has been identified as a problem and the walls are unable to breathe naturally. After further discussion builders' quotations were obtained and the PCC agreed at their meeting this week to proceed with the work with every hope that it would commence in the Spring and be completed during the Summer. There may be some inconvenience but it would be compensated by the improvement to the fabric of the Church on completion. It is anticipated that the total cost will be around £60,000 and although, through the good services of Viridor-Credits, an offer of Grant assistance of £43,000 has been received, the Church will be working hard in the coming months to cover the shortfall. You do not have to be a mathematician to see that this shortfall is vast. Concerts, cream teas, jumble sales and the money you generously put in the plate at Church Services bring in much needed finance but much of this goes towards the 'Share' that we have to pay to the Diocese each year.

We have often been told that the Church is a beacon to travellers on the motorway, and indeed it is. We would like it to remain so for years to come to be appreciated by our children and future generations.

According to the internet a church has been on this site since the 13th Century – Well, how about that, don't let it fall down!

When the walls are eventually re-pointed and the interior walls decorated it will be cosier, dryer and warmer. We hope to welcome you when you come to see what we have achieved together. Thank you.

David Fasey (Treasurer), Betty Dummett (Church Warden) Sylvia Fellgett and Colin Rayson, PCC.

WEST BUCKLAND FETE & FLOWER SHOW - SCHEDULE AVAILABLE NOW

The 2016 West Buckland Fete & Flower Show Schedule is now available for collection from the shop, village hall, church, school office and the WI.

WEST BUCKLAND FRIENDSHIP CLUB

A packed audience at the February meeting enjoyed the speaker for the morning Kay Wych who gave us a wonderful insight into "How I became a 16th Century kitchen maid". Taking on a character was central to her topic so she became Alyce Cleeve, a poor single working girl based at Glastonbury Abbey. Kay transformed herself by donning costume relevant to the Tudor era, explaining how only linen or wool was available for clothes and only the rich could wear the colour red. She had the audience in fits of laughter as she portrayed Alyce thus bringing history to life.

The Chairman reported on a successful anniversary tea party which also included Dr Charles Hill of the Woodland Trust taking about the life of a woodland area, explaining the importance of all the diversity that can be found there. Tying in nicely with the talk our club has been collecting Christmas cards for recycling, coordinating with the Woodland Trust and M&S who are the official collection point. The aim was to recycle cards with 1000 cards representing 1 new sapling, to be planted as part of a rural tree planting scheme. Representatives of the club took 8,153 cards to the store and presented them to the manager with club photographer Terry Hodson attending to take photos to mark the event. We are looking for a local rural area which could benefit from the sapling scheme so please contact the chairman on 01823 618113 with ideas or interest.

Next meeting is on Thursday 3rd March when Norman Thompson will give a presentation entitled "Smile Please".

WEST BUCKLAND WI

Despite awful weather the hall filled rapidly with members. More new members presented with books and programmes. A diamond wedding card given to longstanding member and hubby. The School pancake races luckily carried on outdoors, WI, schoolchildren and others thoroughly enjoyed especially the extra pancakes at the end!

From County many items to consider - book promptly for Road Shows, Bath & West Helpers needed Wed 1st June and Sat 4th June. Five members needed to pack County News Wilton Lodge 23rd March. Reminder that our Green sheet well packed for February/March shows West Buckland's many activities and all welcome whatever interests!

A visit to the Wellesley panto The Wizard of Oz was greatly enjoyed by our members, thanks to our secretary for organising. The South West Archery Association thanked three of our members for providing the usual excellent lunch. They left a Life Time Membership card for our WI member Mrs Hutter who for many years had been fully involved with their association even including tuition to all ages.

The evening's speaker Deanna de Burgh talked on the history of chocolate making. Over the last two years she had to decide on taking up something from home and had brought a lovely display of her products which she now sells widely. Next meeting: Tuesday 8th March, Kay Wych: "How I became a 16th Century kitchen maid."

WEST BUCKLAND SCHOOL – SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS & ANNUAL EASTER EGG TRAIL

If you are a Sainsbury's shopper you will have seen they are again running the active kids scheme. West Buckland School are again collecting the vouchers and would be very grateful for your help in collecting as many vouchers as possible. With the vouchers we are be able to renew playground and PE equipment. The more vouchers we can collect the better. Vouchers can be handed in to the school office during school hours or posted in the post box outside the school gate at other times. Thank you for your continued support.

Please come along to our annual PTFA Easter Egg Trail around the village on Saturday 19th March. Start at the School at 2pm and donate £1 to collect your address list which guides you around the village to identify the eggcellent displays. This year's theme is Eggstraordinary Events In History. Return to the school for prizegiving, refreshments, face painting and a go on the chocolate tombola.

Don't forget the Newsletter is available directly to your e-mail inbox – simply send an e-mail indicating your wish to **westbucklandnews@hotmail.com** and you will be added to the mailing list.

The deadline for next month's edition is, as usual, the 20th of the month preceding.

REMINDER OF NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR ARTICLES: westbucklandnews@hotmail.com