

West Buckland Community News

February 2019

WEST BUCKLAND CHILDREN AND FAMILY CHAPLAIN

I hope that you all had a peaceful Christmas and New Year (seems so long ago now!) and that you have managed to avoid the many germs currently doing the rounds.

I had the pleasure of attending the first day of chaplaincy training as advertised by Rev Mike Haslam in a previous newsletter and am looking forward to the remaining sessions. It certainly gave me much to think about – not least of all what a chaplain does and how she might be able to help out in her community!

One of the things I shall be offering is a monthly activity craft and story session for under fives. Please see below for details of the first one. I will also be running a monthly coffee morning drop-in – further details to follow in next month's newsletter. I am currently setting up a FB page where I will eventually be adding lots more information. If we haven't yet met through Pre-School, I look forward to getting to know you at one of the monthly sessions.

On Wednesday 13th February from 9am to 10:30 am I shall be running a free session at the church for toddlers and pre-schoolers and their parents/grandparents/childminders/carers! It will be all about love as it is the day before St Valentine's Day. There will be some craft, perhaps a song or two and definitely a story. Oh, and refreshments. Interested? Please text me your name and how many will be attending on 07956 452332 so that I know how many I need to cater for – I would hate not to have enough biscuits!

With blessings

Sharon xx

2019	3rd Feb	10th Feb	17th Feb	24th Feb
READINGS on pew sheets	OT Malachi 3. 1-5 NT Hebrews 2. 14-18 Gospel Luke 2. 22-40	OT Isaiah 6. 1-8, (9-13) NT 1 Corinthians 15. 1-11 Gospel Luke 5. 1-11	OT Jeremiah 17. 5-10 NT 1 Corinthians 15. 12-20 Gospel Luke 6. 17-26	OT Genesis 2. 4b-9. 15-25 NT Revelation 4 Gospel Luke 8. 22-25
West Buckland	9am BCP HC	10am Parish Praise	9am HC	10am Morning Worship
Bradford On Tone	10am Morning Worship	10am Morning Worship	10.30am HC	10am Morning Worship
Runnington	10.30am Parish Praise	<i>Join Langford Budville</i>	6pm BCP HC	9.15am joint HC
Langford Budville	10.30am HC	9.15am joint HC	10am non HC Service	<i>Join Runnington</i>
Nynehead Court	10.30am Non HC	10.45am HC	<i>Join others</i>	10.45am HC

DON'T FORGET, FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCHES! (East Group) FOOD BANK: Clare Lucker, 07979 694 931 clarelucker@yahoo.co.uk

Information about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals Contact: Revd. Alan Ellacott Tel: 01823 669824 email rev.aellacott1969@btinternet.com

Wellington & District Team Ministry website: www.wellingtonteamchurches.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM RT REV RUTH WORSLEY BISHOP OF TAUNTON

The country of Ghana is making 2019 'The Year of Return' to mark 400 years of the slave trade. Akwase Agyeman who is heading up this year of celebration said this:

'We will celebrate the resilience of the African. Like Joseph in the Bible who was sold to slavery and later connected to his brothers, there was a celebration and in 2019 there shall be a celebration for Africans in Diaspora'

I wonder how we might make 2019 'a year of return'. I don't mean as a return to things past because we mourn a past glory. I'm thinking of the story of Joseph. Joseph was separated from family because his family were jealous of him. His brothers sold him into slavery, out of sight, out of mind. It's when they have need of food that they inadvertently come across Joseph again, this time he holds their fate in his hands. It would have been so easy for Joseph to seek to get his own back on his brothers. In fact he does play a trick on them. However when all is revealed we find many tears shed and reconciliation is achieved. I wonder how many families in our communities have faced such a fracture in relationships?

Rembrandt's famous painting, 'The Return of the Prodigal' is one of those iconic pictures which draws us into experiencing the depth of feeling the parable speaks of. The embrace of the father to the kneeling son shows us not only the emotion of a family relationship restored but that of God's love for us, his wandering people. Many of us have personal experience of discovering the love of the Father for us, his children. Perhaps this year we could pass on that story to others and help them to find the joy and celebration of a return to the Father who gave everything in order to release them from the slavery of sin.

Let's make this not just 'a year of return' but rather a lifetime!

SURVIVING WINTER CAMPAIGN

For the second year Rt Revd. Peter Hancock Bishop of Bath and Wells has given his support to the Somerset Community Foundation's Surviving Winter campaign which helps isolated older people who are living in fuel poverty. The campaign encourages those people who are better off and don't need their Winter Fuel allowance to donate some or all of it to those who do.

Bishop Peter who is the Vice President of Somerset Community Foundation and Patron of Age UK says, "Please think carefully about whether you need your Government Winter Fuel Payment this year. During the cold winter months many older people in Somerset are faced with a tough choice: fuel or food. A Surviving Winter Grant could prevent them having to decide between heating their home or being able to afford a decent meal. So please consider donating to this year's Surviving Winter appeal if you can. Thank you so much."

SCF says those statistics has discovered that around one in eight Somerset households live in fuel poverty and on average there are 440 excess winter deaths in the county each year. The Charity is aiming to raise in excess of £100,000 and to help over 500 vulnerable older people stay warm and better connected this winter.

Somerset Community Foundation work with local partner organisations who visit older people in need and make a grant to them face-to-face. That grant can then be used to help them stay warm, active and healthy. The charity uses part of the money donated to pay for essential services, like Meals on Wheels or community transport schemes.

You can support the Surviving Winter appeal by:

- sending a cheque made payable to 'Somerset Community Foundation' to our address at the bottom of this page. We can boost the value of your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate if you print, complete and return this Gift Aid Form along with your cheque (ref. SW on the reverse of your cheque)
- calling SCF on 01749 344949 to make a telephone donation
- making a BACS bank transfer to CAF Bank, Sort Code: 40-52-40, Account Number 00090372 (please use reference 'Surviving Winter')
- donating online by clicking the Donate to Surviving Winter button www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter

LETTER FROM THE RIGHT REVEREND PETER HANCOCK, BISHOP BATH AND WELLS

This lent as a diocese we will be thinking in different ways about what it means to care for the world which we live in. Our care for the environment and for all that God has created is an obligation for us as Christians and part of our response to the gospel.

Reference is sometimes made to the Five Marks of Mission and one aspect of mission is 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. What we now know about climate change and the impact we humans make on the world we live in, means that it is imperative that we take this responsibility seriously. The earth is our home. It is beautiful beyond words. It is God's gift to us and so we must take care of it! The Psalmist reminds us that: 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it', (Psalm 24: 1)

President Barack Obama recently said: "For the sake of our children and our future, we must do more to combat climate change... we must act before it's too late." He was not seeking to be alarmist in saying this, he was reminding us that climate change is already affecting agriculture, water resources, forests, wildlife, and coastal areas and also having a serious detrimental impact on human health.

We do need to be more responsible, more faithful and more diligent in the way we care for God's creation for a number of reasons. Firstly, a clean environment is essential for healthy living. Secondly, as the overall temperature of Earth's atmosphere and oceans increases so too does the frequency of dangerous weather patterns and devastating storms. We are stewards of what God has given us and we have a responsibility for future generations and we cannot deny that the way we live is stoking up problems for our children, grandchildren and all who follow us. Biodiversity, the variety of plants, animals, and other living things in our world, is important and we know that human activities are having a negative impact on it. Finally, it matters because the way we treat the environment also mirrors the way we treat each other. Mahatma Gandhi the Indian civil activist once said: "What we are doing to the forests of the world is a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another."

So what might it look like to show that we care about the environment! I have found these three simple words helpful as I have thought about this. The three Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle. Those are three words we might think about this lent.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The first meeting of 2019, chaired by Denis Cottle began with the usual greetings and distribution of birthday cards, November minute reading by the secretary and financial report from the Treasurer.

Feedback from the committee on two points raised at the AGM was given. Name badges were made available to everyone, with a competition for the best decorated badge, but wearing of them would entirely be voluntary. When possible trip coaches heading north would pick up at Longforth first and those heading south would pick up at West Buckland first, but this would depend on the coach company.

Denis then spoke of the November trip to Bath Christmas Market and also the West Buckland Christmas Fair, thanking attendees and contributors to the Friendship Club cake stall. The Christmas lunch at Oake Manor had been a success and the 1970s-themed Anniversary Party with buffet and live music would be on 24th January from 2-4pm. Volunteers for manning the entrance door at meetings, thanking speakers and donating raffle prizes were directed to the relevant organisers.

Social Secretary Bernard Durant gave details of the arrangements for the March Plymouth Gin Factory trip, explaining that anyone wishing to go should see him to add their names to his list. The coach would leave at the usual morning times allowing about an hour of free time in Plymouth before the guided factory tour at 12.30. Then there would be time for lunch before the coach moved on for a cream tea at Two Bridges.

The 69 members attending were then entertained by Ian Williamson's illustrated account of his trekking trip in Mongolia last August, which didn't start well when Aeroflot took an extra 24 hours to get his luggage to him in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar (UB). An initial video of the wilderness area of vast open spaces and forests, populated by nomads and many horses and yaks, set the scene, was followed by still photos. The two female schoolteacher, Mongolian guides seemed to have given Ian and his three fellow travellers a wide range of experiences during the trip including a visit to the impressive national museum in UB under the huge statue of Genghis Khan, seeing many

temples including those ruined by Genghis Khan or Stalin, camel-riding, yak-milking, yurt-building, joining in a vodka-fuelled haircutting ceremony and viewing 5,000 year old petroglyphs. Ian was thanked by James Steele, who had spent 20 years visiting Mongolia himself.

The next meeting will be at 10.30 on Thursday 7th February at West Buckland Village Hall when Gerald Toghill will be 'Riding Shotgun'. New members are always welcome.

YOGA AND PILATES CLASSES

Pilates - Monday 6pm; **Yoga** - Wednesday 5.45pm. £35 for 5 classes. Both classes are taught by a qualified and experienced tutor. All levels welcome. For more information or to book a class please contact: Rachael Salter: rachaelsalter1234@gmail.com 07969 912080 or Helene Perry andrew.perry99@btinternet.com 07896 026492.

WEST BUCKLAND PRESCHOOL

A huge thank you to all children and parents who supported our fundraising event 'Afternoon Tea with Santa' on December 15th.

A fantastic afternoon of fun and jollity was enjoyed by all and an amazing and much needed £220 net profit was raised to boost our funds. Our grateful thanks are also extended to our super committee members and staff who generously give up their time to help set up, help and clear up afterwards. You are all superstars! We rely on fundraising and donations to keep us afloat. Thank you also to all the lovely people who have called in with wallpaper, pens and pencils, Sellotape and other craft things. We very much appreciate you thinking of us.

This term the children's topic is Mad Science. The children experimented with changing the colours of Skittles sweets by placing sweets in a dish and adding water. They were fascinated that the coloured coating dissolved and spread through the water. The next experiment involved making a volcano! They mixed baking soda, food colouring and vinegar inside a container and watched as the baking soda and vinegar reacted together to froth up and 'erupt'. The next experiment was making a lava lamp. We shall soon be making lollystick catapults and slime. Sarah takes photos and adds them to our FB page – please visit and 'like and share' us!

We have spaces available so please tell your family and friends about us.

We constantly have to fundraise to remain open, so if you would like to help us you could always buy a Somerset West Lottery ticket: www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk and search for our name; we receive 50p from every £1 ticket purchased. Thank you to those who are already supporting in this way and also please like comment and share on our FaceBook page or look for us on Easyfundraising when online shopping. Our FaceBook page also gives details of upcoming events. Thank you for supporting us.

Sharon, Sarah and Sheena xxx

PARISH COUNCIL

The February meeting of the Parish Council takes place at the Village Hall on Tuesday 26th at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

POLICE BEAT SURGERY

The next beat surgery is between 5.00pm and 5.30pm in the Village Hall on Thursday 21st February.

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. Please note that you may need to add this address to your contacts to ensure receipt.

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

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