

AMELCOTE BENEFICE



The Messenger

December, 2016 & January, 2017

The Rector, The Reverend Marion Reynolds

The Rectory, Pattishall, 01327 830573

Honorary Assistant Priest (Retired), The Reverend Hugh Kent

Readers: Peter Stiling, Nigel Strang, Sue Titheridge

Certified Lay Worship Leader: Jean Pugh

Churchwardens

Cold Higham	Pauline Pearson	01327 830 287
Gayton	David Coppock	01604 859 645
	Andy Hartley	01604 858 360
Pattishall	Gail Stuart	01327 831 534
	Ian Pugh	01327 830 909
Tiffield	Mike Dean	01327 350 077
	Philip Titheridge	01327 351 219

From the Rector

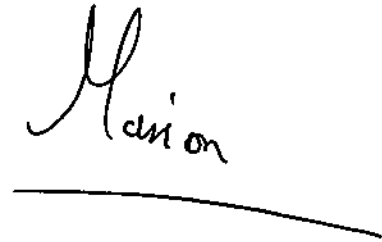
We're on an earlier deadline from the Editor this month so I write this only a couple of days after the result of the American Presidential election was announced to a mixture of incredulity, horror, anxiety and euphoria. And, yes we had already witnessed a very similar scenario in this country only five months earlier with the EU referendum. As I have said before, I would never try to influence how anyone should cast his or her vote but I am convinced that each eligible person should vote AND each person has the right to have his or her opinion respected. And, I think, that is what bothers me so much about both results – the fact that the “losing” side does not appear to accept the democratic will of the people (demanding re-runs, crying foul and generally treating those on the “winning” side as being actually unable to vote properly).

The reflections on the lectionary reading for November are on the Old Testament book of Daniel and this is a book that bears inspection today. Yes, we are talking different time, different economic and social structures and autocratic, almost tyrannical rulers; however the sentiments are the same and so powerful. Take, for example, the reflection for Wednesday, 9th November (just as the American result was announced). The reading was Belshazzar's feast (Daniel 5) and part of the reflection reads “we know something about the transition of power between the Babylonians and the Persians, and there are good historical reasons why it happened, but our writer is not interested in them. This book wants to show us, above all, that God controls everything and everyone. If there is a regime change, then God is behind it and God has his reasons. Its readers are encouraged to believe this, even when it is not easy to see, and know that ultimately they can feel safe in God's world”.

We are fast approaching the seasons of Advent and Christmas, the time when we lead up to the climax – the overwhelming love of God for his world in sending his Son, Jesus, to show us the way back to God. One phrase used to describe Jesus is “prince of peace”. Let us take this opportunity to listen again to the story of God's working out

of his purpose for humanity and pledge ourselves to listen to and follow the Prince of Peace, not just at this time but each and every day.

May God indeed grant each and everyone of us a happy and peaceful Christmas and 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marion". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, thin horizontal line that extends to the right.

From the Registers

RIP			
16th November	Dinah Anne Fowler	Gayton	Service and cremation

Supporting our Churches: Did you know that the easiest way to ensure that your regular giving to your church is maximised at no cost in money, time, or effort to yourself is to give through Peterborough Diocese? You can set up a standing order mandate payable to the diocese who will then give the money plus the tax refund (as long as you are a UK tax payer) to your church every month. For details ask the church treasurer or Reverend Marion.

The copy deadline for the February issue of The Messenger is Tuesday 24 January. Please email kirsten.gibbs@virgin.net, phone 01327 830 707, or give to Reverend Marion. Thank you!

Readings for December 2016 & January 2017

4th December (Advent 2)	Isaiah 11: 1 - 10 Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 18 – 19	Romans 15: 4 - 13 Matthew 3: 1 -12
11th December (Advent 3)	Isaiah 35: 1 - 10 Psalm 146: 4 - 10	James 5: 7 - 10 Matthew 11: 2 - 11
18th December (Advent 4)	Isaiah 7: 10 - 16 Psalm 80: 1 - 8, 18 - end	Romans 1: 1 – 7 Matthew 1: 18 - end
24th December (Christmas Eve)	Isaiah 52: 7 - 10 Psalm 98	Hebrews 1: 1 - 4 John 1: 1 - 14
25th December (Christmas Day)	Isaiah 62: 6 - end Psalm 97	Titus 3: 4 – 7 Luke 2: [1 – 7], 8 – 20
1st Jan	Num 6: 22 - end Psalm 8	Galatians 4: 4- 7 Luke 2: 15 – 21
8th Jan (Baptism of Christ)	Isaiah 42: 1 - 9 Ps 29	Acts 10: 34 – 43 Matthew 3: 13 - end
15th Jan (Epiphany 2)	Isaiah 49: 1 - 7 Psalm 40: 1 - 12	1Corinthians 1: 1 - 9 John 1: 29 – 42
22nd Jan (Epiphany 3)	Isaiah 9: 1 - 4 Psalm 27: 1, 4 - 12	1Corinthians 1: 10 – 18 Matthew 4: 12 – 23
29th Jan (Candlemas)	Malachi 3: 1 - 5 Psalm 24: [1 – 6], 7 - end	Hebrews 2: 14 – end Luke 2: 22 – 40
5th Feb (proper 1) (4 before Lent)	Isaiah 58: 1 – 9a [, 9b – 12] Psalm 112: 1 – 9	1Corinthians 2: 1 – 12 [, 13 – end] Matthew 5: 13 - 20

Upcoming Events

Pattishall Bell Ringers Strike Back Against Blood Cancer

On Saturday 10th December the bells of Holy Cross Church, Pattishall, will be ringing out as part of a national campaign to raise funds to treat those who suffer from various types of blood cancer. Strike Back Against Blood Cancer was started by a bell ringer, originally from Potterspury, by the name of Julie McDonnell. Julie is undergoing treatment for Leukaemia herself, which is being funded by charitable donations as NHS England no longer provide more than one session of stem cell therapy.

As part of the fund raising activity, a special method of change ringing has been named 'Julie McDonnell Bob Doubles', and bell ringers across the country have been challenged to ring 200 quarter peals of it before Christmas. (In total that's over 1.5 million dongs!). Julie McDonnell Bob Doubles is quite tricky to ring, and the ringers at Holy Cross have been practising hard for their quarter peal attempt, which will be in the afternoon of 10th Dec.

If you would like to donate to this very worthy cause you can do so by visiting: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/SBABC, or alternatively contact me and I will arrange for someone to call round with a sponsorship form. Thank you.

Chris Bulleid
Tower Captain
07934 589685

Food and Fellowship



Winter Warmers at Holy Cross

Following on from our popular “Summer Teas”

We are offering “Light Lunches” on the
1st Sunday of the month from 12.30—14.00

February – March – April

(Please note: Not on 1st January)

Come and enjoy a friendly chat over a warming lunch with us.

£4 per person – All proceeds to the Church Fund

Advent Frugal Lunches at Cold Higham Village Hall

1, 8, 15, 22 December 12:00 - 1:30pm

Come for physical and spiritual sustenance with a soup, bread and
cheese lunch and a study based on the Advent Wreath



Calendar of Events in our Benefice

Thursdays 1, 8, 15, 22 December	12-1.30pm	Advent Frugal Lunches at Cold Higham Village Hall
Wed 7 Dec	11-3pm	Antiques Valuation Day at Cold Higham Village Hall. Refreshments are available with any profit from sale of them to St Luke's church
Sat 10 Dec	Afternoon	Sponsored quarter peal at Holy Cross
	7.00pm	Pattishall Village Hall – Elvis Evening! Elvis tribute Andy Kelso in concert to support niece Camila's charity expedition - Contact Robin & Barbara Kelso (01604 857585) for details
Mon 12 Dec	10-11.30am	Advent Quiet Prayer based around the Jesus Prayer at Holy Cross Church
Fri 16 Dec	7.30pm	An Evening of Festive Music and Words at Holy Cross, Pattishall Enjoy traditional carols, readings and refreshments – an evening for all to enjoy (non-ticketed)
Wed 11 Jan	11-3pm	Higham Village Hall. Refreshments are available with any profit from sale of them to St Luke's church.
Sat 28 Jan	8.30-9.30am	Prayer Breakfast, venue TBC
Sat 18 Feb	7.00pm	Quiz Night to benefit Holy Cross Church, at Pattishall Village Hall

Church Services for December 2016

Date	Time	Service	Venue
10th Dec	5:00pm	Taize	Cold Higham
11th Dec	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Tiffield
	11:00am	CW Holy Communion	Pattishall

	5:30pm	Carol Service	Gayton
17th Dec	5:00pm	Taize	Gayton
18th Dec	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Pattishall
	11:00am	Family Communion	Gayton
	3:30pm	Carol Service	Tiffield
	6:00pm	Carol Service	Cold Higham
24th Dec	4:00pm	Crib service + CW Holy Communion	Pattishall
	11:30pm	CW Holy Communion	Tiffield
25th Dec	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Pattishall
	9:30am	CW Family Communion	Pattishall
	9:30am	CW Family Communion	Gayton
	9:30am	CW Family Communion (by extn)	Cold Higham
	11:00am	Family Service	Tiffield
January 2017			
1st Jan	9:30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Cold Higham
8th Jan	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Tiffield
	9:30am	Family Worship	Cold Higham
	11:00am	CW Holy Communion	Pattishall
15th Jan	8am	BCP Holy Communion	Pattishall
	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Cold Higham
	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Tiffield
	11:00am	CW Family Communion	Gayton
22nd Jan	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Pattishall
	11:00am	Family Service	Tiffield
29th Jan	9:30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Pattishall
5th Feb	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Pattishall
	9:30am	In formal Worship	Pattishall
	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Gayton
	11:00am	CW Holy Communion (said)	Cold Higham