

AMELCOTE BENEFICE



The Messenger
February – March 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

I know it's a bit late but Happy New Year to you all!

For my family the New Year started off rather badly with several members (none local to us) being hospitalised. It is quite an anxious time waiting for news, especially when one person is 6,000 miles away with an 8-hour time difference. There is so much feeling of helplessness: you try not to speculate on how the person is; you spend ages holding onto a ringing phone only to be told by a nurse that your loved one has had a comfortable night and is doing well; then you think, if that is the case, then why are they not well enough to be discharged? You juggle the diary to dash up and down the M1 in all weathers to be with them and you wonder what will happen when they are discharged – will they be able to cope, to look after themselves? We have found that this has been a time of clinging onto faith, of reaffirming our commitment to the knowledge and love of God in our lives and in theirs – even if they are not themselves professed Christians. Experiencing God's calming spirit, even just for a moment, is so powerful and reassuring.

For us then the start of the year in many ways has been a time of waiting. The beginning of February marks Candlemas (or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple), 40 days after Christmas and the traditional end of the Christmas / Epiphany season. So, then February becomes a time of waiting: a time to draw breath, to recharge our batteries before the seasons of Lent, Passiontide and Easter, which this year is the middle of April.

Believe it or not, waiting is good for us! Our society today is SO driven by the "I want it and I want it NOW" culture that is shamelessly encouraged by the media and advertising. I am actually horrified at some of the TV adverts expounding the latest instant gratification, must-have gadget. No sense of waiting, of taking our time.

In between Christmas and New Year, we took a few days off and, although walking for me was difficult, we spent time outdoors, walking with the family, in the Weaver Hills and the Monsal Trail. So many people were also out, exercising by walking or cycling, with friends and family, just enjoying spending time together in fresh (albeit cold) air, admiring the beauty of God’s creation all around us. It was a lovely few days with no hassle, no stress, no rushing around. In the evening, we sat at the table together for our meal then very little TV, as we stayed round the table playing games together.

Wait on the Lord, scripture tells us. At the start of the year we may have plans as to what we want to do / achieve this year; we may have the germs of ideas but, in general, we do not know what this year will bring. Spiritual waiting, waiting on God, moving forwards day by day with him, feeling and sensing each day the joys and, yes, the troubles of life together with the thrill of his presence, knowing that with Christ the best is yet to be.

From the Registers

RIP		
1 st December	Charles Hugheston-Roberts	St Mary’s & Crematorium
6 th December	Valerie Livingstone	Crematorium
15 th December	Terence Eason	St Mary’s & burial
25 th January	Janet Porter	Crematorium
26 th January	Douglas Groom	Holy Cross & burial

Readings for February and March 2017

5 th Feb	Isaiah 58: 1 – 9a Psalm 112: 1 - 9	1Corinthians 2: 1 - 12 Matthew 5: 13 - 20
12 th Feb	Deuteronomy 30: 15 - end Psalm 119: 1 - 8	1Corinthians 3: 1 - 9 Matthew 5: 21 - 37
19 th Feb	Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 3 Psalm 136	Romans 8: 18 - 25 Matthew 6: 25 - end
26 th Feb (Next before Lent)	Exodus 24: 12 - end Psalm 2	2Peter 1: 16 - end Matthew 17: 1 – 9
5 th Mar (Lent 1)	Genesis 2: 15 – 17; 3: 1 – 7 Psalm 32	Romans 5: 12 – 19 Matthew 4: 1 – 11
12 th March (Lent 2)	Genesis 12: 1 – 4a Psalm 121	Romans 4: 1 – 5, 13-17 John 3: 1 -17
19 th March (Lent 3)	Exodus 17: 1 - 7 Psalm 95	Romans 5: 1 - 11 John 4: 5 – 42
26 th March Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2: 1 – 10 Psalm 34: 11 - 20	2Corinthians 1: 3 - 7 Luke 2: 33 - 35
2 nd April (Lent 5)	Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14 Psalm 130	Romans 8: 6 - 11 John 11: 1 - 45

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 taxpayer) to your church every month. For details ask the church treasurer or Reverend Marion.

THANK YOU!

To everyone who supported the various fundraising and fellowship events over the Christmas season. The Music & Readings evening raised £130 for the Towcester Food Bank and £130 for Northampton Hope Centre; the Advent Frugal Lunches raised £125.50 for the Children's Society.

Pattishall Bell Ringers Strike Back Against Blood Cancer

On Saturday 10th December the bells of Holy Cross Church, Pattishall rang out as part of a national campaign to raise funds to treat those who suffer from various types of blood cancer. Six members of the local band of ringers successfully completed a ¼ peal of Julie McDonnell Bob Doubles in 43 minutes – a very creditable achievement given the trickiness of the method.

A number of local residents braved the elements to visit the church, and enjoy listening to the bells over a cup of tea and cakes. Thanks to Jill Faiers and Claire Delves for providing these.

Due to the generosity of many, the total sum raised for SBABC amounted to £650. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this event!

Chris Bulleid, Tower Captain

Holy Cross Churchyard

The Parish Council, supported by a local grant, is going to tidy the whole churchyard of Holy Cross. This will include cutting back overgrowth, re-training the willow arbour, removing growth from tombs and cutting the north, east, and southwest sections of grass. In the Old Burial Ground the boundary holly hedge in Blacksmiths Close will be reduced to a manageable height so that it can be maintained annually, and all other hedges will be trimmed.

Roger Clarke, Chairman, Pattishall Parish Council

Food and Fellowship



Winter Warmers at Holy Cross

1st Sunday of the month from 12.30—14.00

February 5th – March 5th – April 2nd

Escape the winter gloom and enjoy a friendly chat over a warming
“Light Lunch” on the first Sunday of the month
£4 per person – All proceeds to the Church Fund

Tickets are nearly sold out for the Quiz evening on
February 18th at Pattishall Parish Hall
Contact Wendy Watts ASAP if you haven't yet booked your place!

MEDIEVAL BANQUET at Holy Cross

Saturday May 6th

Tickets will be on sale soon at £20 per head

Hog Roast, entertainment, optional period dress and much more!
SAVE THE DATE, as we hope to welcome many noblemen & women,
vassals, freemen and serfs to our evening of feasting and fun.

Calendar of Events in our Benefice

Sun 5 Feb	12.30-2pm	'Winter Warmer' light lunch at Holy Cross. £4 per person; proceeds to the church fund (no need to book).
Wed 8 Feb	11am-3pm	Hanson's Antiques valuation day in Cold Higham Village Hall. Refreshments are available with any profit from sale of them to St Luke's church.
Sat 18 Feb	7.00pm	Quiz Night to benefit Holy Cross Church, at Pattishall Village Hall
Sat 25 Feb	8.30-9.30am	Monthly Prayer Breakfast at Jean & Ian's home (TBC). A chance to get together to share a breakfast followed by a time of prayer, particularly for the benefice but also for whatever is on our heart and mind.
Sun 5 Mar	12.30-2pm	'Winter Warmer' light lunch at Holy Cross. £4 per person; proceeds to the church fund (no need to book).
Sun 2 Apr	12.30-2pm	'Winter Warmer' light lunch at Holy Cross. £4 per person; proceeds to the church fund (no need to book).
Sat 6 May	Evening	Medieval Banquet at Holy Cross

From the Editor

Just a reminder that Marion will be off until end-March recovering from hip replacement surgery. She will be in our thoughts and prayers and we all wish her the very best. The Church Wardens are the first point of contact during Marion's leave.

As February is a short month, I'm away at half term, and Marion will be recovering, I've taken a last-minute decision to combine the February and March issues of the Messenger. There will still be plenty of time to get Easter events in the April issue and I can always send 'stop press' notices out via the e-mail list. The copy deadline for the April issue of The Messenger is Friday 17 March. Please email kirsten.gibbs@virgin.net or phone 01327 830 707. Thank you!

Church Services for February & March 2017

Please note slight temporary change to service pattern

Date	Time	Service	Venue
5 th Feb	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Pattishall
	9:30am	Informal Worship	Pattishall
	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Gayton
12 th Feb	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Tiffield
	9:30am	Family Worship	Cold Higham
	11:00am	Morning Worship	Pattishall
19 th Feb	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Pattishall
	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Cold Higham
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Tiffield
	11:00am	Morning Worship	Gayton
26 th Feb	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Pattishall
1 st Mar	10:00am	Ash Wednesday Communion	Pattishall
5 th Mar	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Pattishall
	9:30am	Informal Worship	Pattishall
	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Gayton
12 th Mar	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Tiffield
	9:30am	Family Worship	Cold Higham
	11:00am	Morning Worship	Pattishall
19 th Mar	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Pattishall
	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Cold Higham
	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Tiffield
	11:00am	Morning Worship	Gayton
26 th Mar	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Pattishall
	2:00 (tbc)	Holy Baptism (tbc)	Pattishall
2 nd April	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Pattishall
	9:30am	Informal Worship	Pattishall
	9:30am	CW Holy Communion	Gayton
	11:00am	CW Holy Communion (said)	Cold Higham