

Amelcote Benefice

The Messenger



April-May-June 2021

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A Note from the Rectory



“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

James 1:12

Over the past twelve months it seems that we have all been challenged and tested in one way and another.

Like many other young people my Grandson has started the serious Exam period. He was pleased to tell me after a week of tests and exams, he had three weeks before the next ones.

How quickly it took me back to my school days, I remember I spent many hours preparing for tests. There were oral tests, written tests, open-book tests, placement tests, and Exams! Then after completing my formal education, I hoped, my testing worries would stop, for ever! However, once I started my first job, I quickly discovered that it was expected, if not mandatory, to attend college one day each week, and then there were more exams to help me advance in my profession. This has continued, for most of my life!

As Christians, we know God also tests us. He asked Abraham to sacrifice his son to test his faithfulness. God asked Job to endure many hardships to test his loyalty. Jesus asked Peter if he loved him over and over again to test his love for him. The forming of our faith, obedience, love, integrity, and loyalty through testing is serious business for God. He evaluates our responses to people, difficulties, and challenges. And this includes looking at the ordinary things—opening the door for a stranger, running an errand for a friend, and giving the gift of a smile to someone who needs encouragement.

God’s tests are not impossible to pass when we focus on him rather than the circumstances. He strengthens us and encourages us along the way. And with every test we get through, God rewards us by pouring blessings into our lives. He finds great joy in our successes and always looks for ways to grow our faith. It’s up to us to commit ourselves to pass each test of faith and bring joy to our Saviour.

Lord, help me to see the tests in my life the way you see them. I thank you for all the second chances you have given me. And with each hurdle I overcome, may my faith and trust in my Lord and Saviour, deepen. Amen.

My thoughts and prayers are with all those young people who have Exams and Tests to take this year. Help us to encourage them and ourselves, to see each challenge, and test as an opportunity.

For we can trust God to strengthen us and grant us the wisdom needed to overcome the challenges we must face now, and in the future.

Love in Christ

Canon Káren

Services in the Amelcote Benefice

How wonderful it was to be back in church on Easter Sunday, to hear the bells ringing out, to listen to glorious Easter hymns, and to be together in person to worship the risen Lord and receive communion. Thank you to all who made it possible!

For the remainder of April and May we will be easing back in gently. Sunday Holy Communion services will alternate between Zoom and Holy Cross Pattishall. From June to September we will follow a new rota which will also include Gayton, Tiffield and Cold Higham churches.

Wednesday Morning Worship will continue on Zoom until the end of May. From June the service will rotate around the Benefice.

If you wish to attend a service in church it is important that you book your place in advance so that seating can be planned accordingly. You will receive a link to book your place with the weekly news sheet. Please remember to wear a face covering (unless exempt), refrain from singing and observe social distancing guidance when in church.

See below for services up to the end of June.

		Family Communion Sunday 10am		Morning Worship Wednesday 10am
Apr	25th	Zoom	28th	Zoom
May	2nd	Pattishall	5th	Zoom
May	9th	Zoom	12th	Zoom
May	16th	Pattishall	19th	Zoom
May	23rd	Pattishall <i>Pentecost</i>	26th	Zoom
May	30th	Zoom	Jun 2nd	Zoom
Jun	6th	Pattishall	9th	Tiffield
Jun	13th	Zoom	16th	Gayton
Jun	20th	Cold Higham	23rd	Pattishall
Jun	27th	Zoom	30th	Cold Higham

...and July and August services are planned as follows...

		Family Communion Sunday 10am		Morning Worship Wednesday 10am
Jul	4th	Pattishall	7th	Tiffield
Jul	11th	Zoom	14th	Pattishall
Jul	18th	Gayton	21st	Cold Higham
Jul	25th	Zoom	28th	Gayton
Aug	1st	Pattishall	4th	Tiffield
Aug	8th	Zoom	11th	Gayton
Aug	15th	Tiffield	18th	Cold Higham
Aug	22nd	Zoom	25th	Pattishall
Aug	29th	Cold Higham		

Because of the uncertainties around the easing of Coronavirus restrictions it may be necessary to change this proposed schedule.

Keep an eye on the weekly news sheet for readings, prayers and up to the minute information on services. Email Chris Bulleid on amelcote.info@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

Amelcote Benefice YouTube channel

All our Zoom and Pattishall services are streamed live on Youtube and can also be watched later at a time convenient to you.

Search for Amelcote on YouTube and subscribe to our channel.

New to Zoom?

Download the Zoom app or access the website <https://zoom.us/signup>
Create a Zoom account (free). Join the services at times shown above using
meeting ID: **323-560-1333**

Password: **Amelcote**

Need more help? Contact Chris Bulleid on amelcote.info@gmail.com

Discovering Nature in Holy Cross Churchyard

Do you love nature? Do you enjoy watching birds or searching for minibeasts? Do you wonder at the beauty of flowers and trees?

If you do then you may like to get involved in **Churches Count on Nature** which is running from **5th -13th June**.



This event is being run in churchyards across England and Wales to discover what is living there, and we will be taking part in Holy Cross churchyard, Pattishall.

During the week we are hoping that you will come to the churchyard and discover some of the plants and animals that live there and record what you see. There will be some resources to help you - or you may like to bring your own. The information you record will be collated locally and added to all the information collected by others.

On **Sunday 13th June** we are going to finish the week with a **Fun Afternoon in the Churchyard, starting at 3pm**. Join in with some singing, enjoy the churchyard, bring a picnic and have fun (in a COVID secure way).

Keep an eye open locally for further information or contact me on jbunker@talk21.com or 07773 131107 for further details.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing about what you have discovered!

Julie Bunker

From the Editor

It's good to look forward once again to holding more of our services back in church and to one or two summer events. The churchyard nature week sounds wonderful; will anyone spot the famous white squirrel?

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition. The next Messenger will cover July and August and the copy deadline will be June 20th. Please send items to me at amelcote.messenger@gmail.com

Thanks for reading.

Margaret Bulleid

Is God's love really there for me?

When waking from sleep in the small hours it often seems as if the Lord wants to get my undivided attention! One night a few days ago I woke up and realized that all the recent set backs; including my wife tripping on a walk and having to spend 2 days in hospital recovering and being stitched up were upsetting my walk with the Lord. As I said "speak Lord for your servant listens"; He seemed to give me this prayer and answer.

Prayer

*Bless you Lord for our creation.
Bless you Lord for our salvation.
May we live in you today,
With Jesus showing us the way.
Holy Spirit hear our cry,
Be in us Lord in wet or dry.
Bless you Lord for our creation,
Bless you Lord for our salvation.*

Reply

*I am here day by day,
Ever with you on the way,
Blessing you with the gift of life
Releasing you from trouble and
strife.
I am with you every day,
Walking with you on the way.*

It may seem to some that believing this came to me 'from the Lord' is a presumption. To others who may be suffering from bereavement, or illness, or loss of job; may have thoughts such as where is He 'on the way' with me in all this? The bible makes it clear that God does not batter us to follow Him but that He is there all the time 'by our side'. You may remember the legend of St Christopher?

He is depicted as a huge, strong man, who served the people by carrying them across a dangerous river.

One day a child came to ask to be carried over. Christopher thought this would be easy. As he reached the middle the load became heavier and heavier. By the time he struggled up the bank on the other side he said to the child:

"You have put me in the greatest danger. I do not think the whole world could have been as heavy on my shoulders as you were." The child replied: "You had on your shoulders not only the whole world but Him who made it. I am Christ your king, whom you are serving by this work." The child then vanished. [\[1\]](#)



Just as Christopher did not know God was there so we must ask Him to reveal Himself before we are able to hear Him.

From the Registers



Graham Terrance Collins

Tiffield

Cremation 9th March 2021

Maureen Ann Burnicle

late of Cold Higham

Died 2nd April 2021

Cremation 21st April 2021

Please remember these individuals and their families
in your prayers

Well Group

Well Group is a Christian ladies group that, in normal times, meets monthly at Astcote Methodist Church for lunch followed by a guest speaker. Currently we are meeting on Zoom.



Our next meeting is on Zoom on Thursday 29 April 1.30-2.30 pm. The speaker is Kate Duncan from St. Peter's Brackley. She is married to a vicar and mother to two small children. The topic is Students and how universities have managed during Covid.

Our May meeting will be on Thursday 27 May - the speaker (tbc), is likely to bring an artistic theme to the group.

All women are welcome to connect with us on Zoom - please get in touch with me on 01327 830770 or albrierley@btinternet.com for joining details.

Alison Brierley

Lent course via Zoom??

Who would have thought a Lent Course via zoom
.....and with our Bishop, Donald?



Like many other things in our lives these past few months we have all had to adapt.

Sue Titheridge ably led us through discussion based on the New Testament book of Hebrews, participants having watched and listened to the Bishop's narrative on 2-3 chapters a week, which he read prior to the narrative.

There were some questions to guide our discussion and reflection whilst at the same time enabling us to share our thoughts, feeling and concerns about aspects of our faith and Christian lives. Equally if any of us did not feel they wanted to contribute that was fine too.

I am not an academic or theologian , just your ordinary run of the mill Christian trying, often failing, to live in a Christ like way. Bishop Donald's presentation felt very relaxed almost as if he were just talking to me! This gave me the confidence to think about my faith in the context of Hebrews and how much Jesus loves us.

The course was held over 7 weeks for an hour on a Wednesday evening from 7-8 , which we mostly adhered to thanks to Sue's guidance. So still time to watch your favorite programme afterwards on TV!

Perhaps in the future you may feel you would like to try it out ? Please give it some thought and you may surprise yourself in the way it can boost your faith especially during the tough times which we have all experienced recently.

Rachel Holloway

HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Following the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on 9th April, the tenor bell at Pattishall was tolled 99 times. This was repeated on the 10th April and the bell was tolled half-muffled for an hour prior to the funeral on 17th April. At Gayton the tenor bell was tolled on 10th April and at Cold Higham the tenor was tolled prior to the funeral. The bells were rung half-muffled before the service at Pattishall on 11th April.

A service for the life of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh was held in Pattishall church on 16th April.



Bishop Donald's talks and sermons

Bishop Donald has a wonderful gift for teaching on the scriptures and has produced many talks and sermons which are available online via the [Peterborough Diocese website](#).

If you missed it, his Hebrews course is still available to watch on his [YouTube channel](#).

Bishop Donald's latest course is on Galatians. There is a short introduction, then four half-hour talks, each accompanied by a reading of the passage; you can [download the entire series](#) or simply watch it on his [YouTube Channel](#)

Follow this link for all the latest news and information from the Peterborough Diocese

<https://crosskeysmag.org.uk/>



Like some of you, I watched the recent BBC Panorama programme - 'Is the Church Racist?' I was dismayed. I encourage you to follow the link below to read the response given to the General Synod by the Archbishop of York.

[Archbishop of York condemns racism in the Church of England](#)

Revd Karen



Donations

Thank you for all your kind donations over the last few weeks, especially for the wonderful response to the appeal for Easter eggs.

The collection boxes are in Holy Cross Church and Holmeview, 8 Greenway Eastcote porches every Friday from 9am - dusk.

To find out the items most needed at the moment please follow this link:

<https://towcester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Accessing the Foodbank

Anyone who is struggling to buy food due to money problems, can access the Foodbank by phoning 07724 832043 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 10.00 and 11.30 am.

For urgent cases outside these hours go to info@towcester.foodbank.org.uk and leave a message.

A delivery service is available.

Giving

Your church's need of financial support is greater than ever during these difficult times. If you feel able to make a gift to your church, please click the button below.

Thank you.

Cold Higham

Gayton

Pattishall

Tiffield

Easter Garden

in the 700th year of Dante's death 1321 - 2021

O bush of flaming gold,
what joyous thoughts you bring.
I breathe the heady fragrances
of my garden in the spring.

Flowers open petals to the sun;
my heart begins to sing!
My lively eye is captured
by chaffinches on the wing.

Nodding daffodils, currant pink,
Magnolia blooms, softly white.
Tulips stand like sentinels
awaiting sun's kiss on their height.

Amid beauty nature is cruel.
Birds' pecking order is rife,
as instinct seeks to save its own -
Look at mankind and his strife.

A better way leads upward,
where sweat like drops of blood fall.
The Son of Man upon a cross -
Act of redemption for us all.

Three crosses on a hill,
God feeling nails and pain.
Man is mortal and will die,
but Jesus rose again!

From the stillness of the tomb,
heaven's mystery did unfold.
We may be stopped midway in life,
like Dante in dark wood, has told.

For in an Easter garden
with freshness budding green,
we smell the fragrant perfume;
Divine love passing unseen.



Alison Brierley

Who's Who in the Amelcote Benefice

Rector

Reverend Canon Káren Jongman

01327 830569 07980 881252 karenajongman@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Priest (Retired)

Reverend Hugh Kent

Reader

Sue Titheridge

07879 882660 sue.titheridge@btinternet.com

Certified Lay Worship Leader

Jean Pugh

07711 329664

Churchwardens

Cold Higham	Pauline Pearson	01327 830287
Gayton	David Coppock	01604 859645
	Andy Hartley	01604 858360
Pattishall	Chris Bulleid	07934 589685
	Julie Bunker	07773 131107
Tiffield	Mike Dean	01327 350077
	Philip Titheridge	01327 351219

The Amelcote Benefice

St Luke, Cold Higham: St Mary, Gayton:

Holy Cross, Pattishall: St John the Baptist, Tiffield