



THE WINDRUSH BENEFICE

EMBRACING THE PARISHES OF
ALDSWORTH * GREAT BARRINGTON *
LITTLE BARRINGTON *SHERBORNE * WINDRUSH
website: windrushbenefice.weebly.com

Rector: Nick Fisher

Providence House, High Street, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3EU
telephone: 01451 861195 e-mail: nick@5fishers.co.uk

Administrator: Margaret Shaw, 39 Sherborne, Cheltenham GL54 3DH
telephone: 01451 844218 e-mail: w.benefice@gmail.com

(the Rector is always pleased to learn of anyone who might be helped by a visit at home or in hospital, or who would like to receive holy communion at home)

NEWSLETTER for APRIL 2017

With the adoption of British Summer Time, the arrival of some days of warm sunshine, and primroses flowering in Little Barrington churchyard, Spring has definitely arrived! And it is against these signs of renewal that we once again celebrate Easter.

Details of the services during Holy Week and on Easter Day are provided at the rear of this newsletter, and in preparation for the major Church festival I encourage attendance at one of the services during Holy Week, ideally the devotional service on Good Friday morning. If, though, that is not possible, I commend making time on that day to read quietly and reflectively St. Matthew's account of the Passion (chapters 26 & 27) and so appreciate the full awfulness of Our Lord's sacrifice for us.

The stark image of three crosses against the sky on that 'green hill far away' is one that we all probably hold in our minds, and this Lent I have been reading an inspired exploration of St Luke's description of the Crucifixion.* The writer points out that St. Luke is the only one of the four gospel-writers to record the conversation between Christ and the two men nailed to crosses on either side of him but, as he emphasises, the

significance of that exchange is enormous, for the three crosses reflect back on the world its own reality.

The cross bearing the impenitent criminal shows a world that has gone wrong, one that has rejected God and displays every manifestation of selfishness and bitterness. The cross holding the repentant criminal indicates a recognition of the best alternative to being part of such a world. The central cross, to which Christ is fixed, shows sin transformed, with the evil in the world drained of its destructive power and reflected back in love and forgiveness. Through the divinity and humanity of his son, God is showing us what he is doing for his creation, and demonstrating what we can become. One cross presents the problem of humanity, another the solution to that problem, and the central one the entrance to eternity.

The reality is, of course, that all of us contain elements of the impenitent criminal. We all, to a greater or lesser extent and at different times, exhibit his closed mind, hardness of heart, and unwillingness to address personal reform. But the message of the central cross is not only that God will redeem *anyone* who regrets and repents the imperfectness of his or her life, but that the depth of Christ's love and selflessness there displayed is able to overcome hatred, evil and even death – including the appalling callousness that exists in our world, most recently exhibited outside the Houses of Parliament only last month.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter, and with every blessing,

Nick

*Graham Reeves, *Two Other Men: Lessons from the thieves in the crucifixion narrative of St Luke* (2017)

PARISH RECORDS

Holy Baptism

25 March	Hubert James Lyons Mead	Windrush
	Caspar Rudolf Penrice Mead	Windrush

Funeral & Burial

21 March	Kenneth Charles Stevens	Aldsworth
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Burial of Ashes

23 March	David Whitfield Scott Ward	Little Barrington
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EVENTS IN APRIL

The Benefice's website is **windrushbenefice.weebly.com** now being maintained by Steven White. We are most grateful to him for taking on this responsibility, and to James for managing the website since the departure of Michael and Katharine last Easter.

Saturday, 8 April, 7.30pm Bingo evening at Sherborne Club

Tuesday, 4 April, 6.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sherborne Social Club

Saturday, 22 April, 11am Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Windrush Village Hall

5pm Concert by Catherine Woolley, James Russell and friends, Sherborne Church,

Sunday, 23 April, 9am – 12.30pm Farmers Market, Countrywide Stores, Bourton-on-the-Water.

Fresh, high quality food direct from local farmers and small producers. Expect to find seasonal fruit and vegetables, lamb, beef, pork, poultry, free-range eggs, local game, honey, preserves, cakes, cheeses, fruit juice and plants, some organic produce and more . . .

Sunday, 23 April, 11.45am Annual Parochial Church meeting, Little Barrington Church

FUTURE EVENTS

Sunday 7 May, 9.45am May Merrie in Sherborne Church

Sunday 21 May Beating the bounds of Aldsworth parish, followed by refreshments

Wednesday 14 June, 2pm 'The Sherborne Princesses'. Repeat of Diane Lovell's fascinating presentation, in Sherborne Church

Saturday 8 July Sherborne Fête

Sunday 16 July Concert by Fretwork in Sherborne Church

Saturday 22 July Windrush Flower Show, Great Barrington

Sunday 6 August Lunch on the Green at Windrush.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2 April (Lent 5) hymns 538, 123, 308, 496

9.45am Morning Praise **Sherborne** 11.15am Eucharist **Aldsworth**

Sunday 9 April (Palm Sunday) hymns 122, 128, 129, 468

9.30am Eucharist **Windrush**

11am Morning Prayer & Procession **Great Barrington**

Maundy Thursday, 13 April

6pm Benefice Eucharist **Aldsworth**

Good Friday, 14 April hymns 123, 120, 127

10am Devotional Service **Little Barrington**

Easter Eve, 15 April hymns 156, 145, 140, 135

6pm Service of Light **Windrush**

Easter Sunday 16 April hymns 147, 148, 162, 160

9.45 am Easter Holy Communion **Sherborne**

10.45am Family Communion **Little Barrington**

11.15am Easter Eucharist **Aldsworth**

Sunday 23 April (Easter 2) hymns 159, 148, 150, 160

9.30am Morning Praise **Windrush**

10.45am Holy Communion (1662) **Little Barrington**

Sunday 30 April (Easter 3) hymns 148, 162, 311, 557

10.30am Benefice Eucharist **Great Barrington**

Sunday 7 May (Easter 4) hymns 517, 594, 589, 496

9.45am May Merrie **Sherborne** 11.15am Eucharist **Aldsworth**

Sunday 14 May (Easter 5) hymns 585, 538 (odd vv.), 565, 589

9.30am Morning Praise **Windrush**

10.45am Holy Communion (1662) **Little Barrington**

Sunday 21 May (Easter 6) hymns 470, 250 (odd vv.), 380, 496

9.45am Holy Communion **Sherborne** 11.15am Morning worship **Aldsworth**

Ascension Day, Thursday 25 May hymns 166, 172, 563

7.30pm Benefice Eucharist **Great Barrington**

Sunday 28 May (Sunday after Ascension) hymns 167, 507, 163, 563

9.30am Eucharist **Windrush** 10.45am Matins (1662) **Little Barrington**

Sherborne C of E Primary School



Thanks to the energetic fundraising efforts of FOSS (Friends of Sherborne School), Sherborne C of E Primary School now has a splendid new trim trail in the grounds. This welcome facility was opened in March by the Headteacher, John Moore, and within minutes was covered by a scramble of children, all thoroughly enjoying themselves. A wonderful sight!

Gardening tips for April by Alan Abraham

Sow leeks, spinach, lettuce, parsley and peas, and plant your second batch of early potatoes along with gladioli and evergreen shrubs. Once the forsythia has flowered, prune it, and now is a good time for making new lawns. Spray fruit trees against scab, and gooseberries and blackcurrants against mildew, and plant out early sown sweet peas. Remember to keep the hoe moving, and above all enjoy yourself!

BENEFICE JOTTINGS

David Scott Ward (1939-2017). We are sorry to report the death of David Ward on 22 January. He was a regular visitor to his parents' home in Little Barrington, and his ashes have been buried in their grave in the churchyard. We are also sorry to learn of the death of **Ken Stevens (1924-2017)** on 12 March after a long illness. He had served in the navy during the War, and afterwards worked as a driver, making his home in Aldsworth, where he will be much missed. May they both rest in peace.



Aldsworth reredos

Earlier this year, repairs were commenced to the surface of the panel behind the altar in the church, and to the artist's surprise an original mid-nineteenth century decoration lay behind the red paint. The image shows the decoration in the central panel after five hours of painstaking recovery work. Arrangements are being made for a diocesan conservator to restore all three panels.

Confirmation classes

The rector will be running a confirmation class, starting after Easter. Anyone who would be interested in attending is asked to contact him, and, as a separate matter, any adult who might wish to be baptised is similarly invited to make contact.

Getting things straight (1) – St. Peter's, Windrush Appeal



Many congratulations to Windrush P.C.C. on obtaining a grant of £55,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the cost of repairing the floor of Windrush Church. This is brilliant news, and particular thanks are owed to Martyn Ifould who crafted this and all the other applications and to Jo McKerlie who has energetically and so successfully performed the role of fundraiser extraordinaire.

The Appeal is now just over £14,000 short of its target (which had to be raised a little following the tendering process) but work will start this April, when the first stage (relocating the font) will be undertaken. It is hoped that a final fundraising drive shortly will enable the target to be achieved and the remaining work to be commissioned and completed without a break in the three months' timeframe anticipated as being required.

Getting things straight (2) – St. John's, Sherborne

Following the discovery in Sherborne during 2013 of a Roman corn dryer, Diane Lovell (left in the picture) with friends are seen conducting a geophysical survey in Upper Ground, Sherborne, in preparation for another archaeological dig which is seeking amongst other things to identify the location of the medieval church dedicated to St. John and which at some period fell into disrepair. The dig is scheduled to take place during the summer holidays, and volunteers will be welcome – please contact Diane if you wish to be involved, *via* drlovell@gmail.com.



Joyce Lang celebrated her 95th birthday on Ash Wednesday, and during the evening, many of her friend in Windrush village called round to wish her well. Here she is seen surrounded by cards and faithful furry friend.

