THE WINDRUSH BENEFICE

EMBRACING THE PARISHES OF
ALDSWORTH * GREAT BARRINGTON *
LITTLE BARRINGTON *SHERBORNE * WINDRUSH

website: windrushbenefice.weebly.com

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(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 MARCH 2017

There is something rather neat this year about Lent beginning on the first day the month. A new month always represents a fresh start and another looking forward (which means, of course, that it is also a very good time to rekindle those New Year resolutions if they need some further encouraging!).

But Lent also brings into play other resolutions – traditionally this has meant giving up until Easter some particular pleasures, such as chocolate, or cake or alcohol, and this self-denial is often followed by many who wouldn't describe themselves as regular churchgoers. In recent years, Lent has come to be viewed also as an opportunity for us to take on additional, perhaps more inconvenient activities, such as trying to be more of a good neighbour, or finding time to more conscientiously say our prayers, read the Bible or attend church.

Whether, though, we *give up* something, or *take on* something (or do a bit of both), the fundamental purpose is to remind ourselves of the sacrifice that Jesus made for all humankind on that first Good Friday, to gain a better appreciation of the enormity of its cost to him in physical and emotional terms, and to try to live the less selfish lives that he has shown will enable us to feel happier and more fulfilled.

This year, perhaps more than most because of Brexit and a new President of the United States, we are aware of the fragility of our human existence, having been forcibly reminded how full of uncertainty our lives are. The 'forty days and forty nights' of Lent allows us a defined period of time in which we can take stock of where we are as individuals and reflect on what God's purpose might be for us in the amazing world he has created for humans to live in. Details of further activities that might assist this Lent may be found under 'Benefice Jottings'.

With every blessing,

Nick.

SHERBORNE C OF E SCHOOL

Increasingly valued across the region as a unique school, firmly rooted in the community and its rural environment.

An exceptional education provided by small classes through which children can develop their full potential – naturally

To enquire about availability of places, please contact the Headteacher, John Moore
01451 844277

EVENTS IN MARCH

The Benefice's website is **windrushbenefice.weebly.com** and James Russell has kindly offered to maintain it for the time being. He may be contacted via his email: jim_tot@hotmail.co.uk. We are most grateful for this help.

Saturday 25 March Windrush Film Night. 'I, Daniel Blake' (2016; cert. 15), winner of 2016 Palme d'Or and BAFTA for Best British Film. Starts 7.30pm, tickets £3.50 on door.

Friday 17 March, 7.30pm 'A Pilgrimage to Medieval Gloucestershire' – Illustrated talk by Tom Porter about the shrines to saints in the county, such as Hailes Abbey. Rissingtons Local History Society, Little Rissington Village Hall. Details 01451 820233, visitors welcome £3 (inc. refreshments).

Sunday, 26 March, 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…

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 22 April	Concert by Catherine Woolley, James Russell and friends, Sherborne Church, 5pm
Sunday 7 May	May Merrie in Sherborne Church
Sunday 21 May	Beating the bounds of Aldsworth parish, followed by refreshments
Wednesday 14 June	'The Sherborne Princesses'. Repeat of Diane Lovell's fascinating presentation, in Sherborne Church
Saturday 8 July	Sherborne Fête
Saturday 22 July	Windrush Flower Show, Great Barrington
Sunday 16 July	Concert by Fretwork in Sherborne Church
Sunday 6 August	Lunch on the Green at Windrush.

CHURCH SERVICES

Ash Wednesday 1 March hymn 95
7 pm Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes **Windrush**

Sunday 5 March (Lent 1) hymns 95, 541, 423, 578
9.45am Morning Praise **Sherborne** 11.15am Eucharist **Aldsworth**

Sunday 12 March (Lent 2) hymns 95, 385, 490, 578
9.30am Eucharist **Windrush** 10.45am Matins (1662) **Little Barrington**

Sunday 19 March (Lent 3) hymns 95, 541, 423, 555
9.45am Holy Communion **Sherborne** 11.15am Morning worship **Aldsworth**

Sunday, 26 March (Mothering Sunday) hymns 507, 253, 238, 487
9.30am Eucharist **Windrush** 10.45am Family Service for Mothering Sunday **Little Barrington**

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 **G 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**

SHERBORNE
Pre-School

Funded and unfunded places
currently available
From 2 years
9am – 3pm
Full or half day sessions

Contact Claire
01451 844833
for more
details or to
arrange a visit

Fantastic new Big Lottery
funded play area and
wildlife garden

Small rural setting
with Forest School
sessions in adjoining
National
Trust Estate

Gardening tips for March by Alan Abraham

Taking a chance when the ground is no longer waterlogged, consider sowing the seed now for early potatoes, carrots and beetroot, and by the end of the month prune any fruit trees. If the weather is fine, give the lawn a light cut when you have the chance to keep it looking tidy, just taking the top off the grass until there is no chance of frost and not cutting it short until mid-May. In the greenhouse, sow your tomato seeds or put in plants there. And enjoy yourself!

BENEFICE JOTTINGS

Lent

Lent starts for the Church on Wednesday with a Eucharist that includes marking the foreheads of those present with the sign of the cross using the ash resulting from burning some of the palm crosses used last year (hence 'Ash Wednesday'). Last year the Lent sermons were inspired by Paula Gooder's recent paperback *Journey to the Empty Tomb.* This seemed to achieve a modest success, so I shall be repeating the exercise this year, using as my launching point a very accessible book by a former Vice-dean of Chester Cathedral, Trevor Dennis, entitled *The Gospel beyond the Gospels*. This paperback, published earlier this year, purposes to explore the attempt of the gospel writers to come to terms with Jesus and the God he revealed, and in so doing help to reveal the bright gospel beyond the Gospels. As last year, there will be copies of it available at the reduced price of £5 (on public sale publicly at £10.99) for anyone in the benefice who would like a personal copy.

Because the book also lends itself to group discussion, Margaret Shaw has generously agreed to host at her home an hour long meeting for this purpose at 11am on the four Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday (March 8, 15, 22 and 29). Each of the sessions is intended to be able to stand alone, but there will obviously be more to be gained through attendance at each of the meetings.

Further opportunities to prepare ourselves for Easter will occur in Holy Week itself. If it is possible to be in church to follow Our Lord's journey on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve, I suspect that the increasing realisation of the absolute awfulness of what Christ experienced will make an unexpectedly powerful impact on everyone present. (If time allows for attendance at only one of the services, I would suggest the short service on Good Friday.)

But of course there will be mid-Lent relief in the form of Mothering Sunday on 26 March! There is something for everyone on this Lenten journey – more literally than would appear at first sight, maybe!

The Rector.

Sherborne School News

Congratulations to our School for the involvement of the pupils with the world around them. As part of the Erasmus Project which Mrs. Ellis is so ably co-ordinating, preparations are underway to host representatives of our five European partner schools during their visit which will take place during the summer term. Worthy of mention, too, is the generosity of our boys and girls who raised over £200 for the Save the Children charity – of particular note was the resourcefulness shown by Year 5 and Year 6 girls who organised their own sponsored silence (a spectacular achievement!). And the School's Wildlife Team of Callum, Evie, Jazzy, Joe and Joseph, enthused by Mrs. Penfold, maintained our longstanding success in the regional quiz by proceeding to the next round of the competition.

News of the Appeals

Currently three of the five churches in the benefice are running major appeals for the fabric. **Sherborne** successfully raised the £20,000 or so that was needed to fund the repairs to the East end of the church which had suffered from weathering. The scaffolding was raised, the work completed and the scaffolding was taken down, but unfortunately, some further, unforeseen repairs will need to be carried out later this year, so the scaffolding will return and the fundraising will continue!

Speaker Professor Diane Lovell is shown with organiser Emily Penfold during the second of what is becoming a series of informative illustrated

talks about the Dutton family, that was held recently at Sherborne House. It raised a brilliant total of some £800 towards the cost for the further repairs to **Sherborne Church** – a brilliant total. A third talk is in the pipeline, and the fundraising will continue . . . .

Windrush, needing to raise £78,000 to make the church floor safe, has been particularly inventive in the events it has put on to raise both awareness and funds for its Appeal. Soho Farmhouse generously supported the Appeal (once again – many thanks!) by supplying a splendid hamper prize for a raffle, and Una was understandably thrilled to win it. The raffle itself raised an excellent £225, and the first stage of the work is expected to commence during April.

Great Barrington, unsuccessful (like most churches in our diocese) in its attempt last year to obtain significant funding to repair the church roof, is currently preparing applications to a number of potential sources. More details will be provided when they are available.