

THE WINDRUSH BENEFICE

ALDSWORTH ❖ THE BARRINGTONS ❖ SHERBORNE ❖ WINDRUSH

Church of England – Diocese of Gloucester

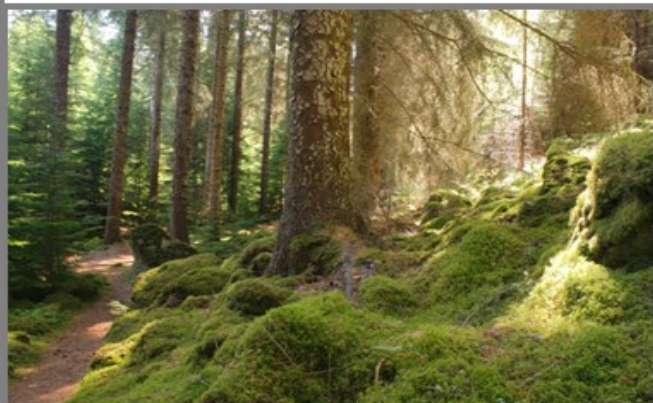
This is the
EASTER

edition of the Windrush Benefice
pEw News.

TEN SHORT SERMONS ON

THE WAY

THROUGH THE WOODS



PRACTICAL

FAITH

FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

SERVICES THIS MONTH

3 April 2022 *Lent 5*

11 a.m. SHERBORNE
Morning Prayer CW

10 April 2022 *Palm Sunday*

11 a.m. LITTLE BARRINGTON
Morning Prayer BCP

5 p.m. via Zoom
Evening Prayer

14 April 2022

Maundy Thursday

7 p.m. WINDRUSH
Holy Communion CW

15 April 2022

Good Friday

12 noon - 3 p.m. Vigil
SHERBORNE

Come when you can — go when you must

17 April 2022

Easter Day

11 a.m. ALDSWORTH
Holy Communion CW

24 April 2022 *Easter 2*

11 a.m. WINDRUSH
Morning Prayer CW

IN OUR TIMES TOO

Last month I reflected on a visit I had made to Poland, which included a pilgrimage to Auschwitz. The nearest city is Krakow, which is like our Canterbury and Oxford combined, as it is home to both the oldest church and oldest university in Poland.

Since I made the journey from the airport to Krakow by train in late February, more than a 200,000 Ukrainian refugees have passed through that railway station, some of the nearly two million that have sought shelter in Poland so far. Volunteers from the city and beyond have worked with kindness and commitment to offer a welcome but the mayor has recently admitted that the city is struggling to accommodate the seemingly endless influx of women and children. In defence of its nation, Ukraine does not permit its men under the age of 60 to leave at this time.

The UN Refugee Agency has said that it expects 4 million people to have left Ukraine by July 2022 and a further 7 million to have been 'internally displaced'. "At this rate" said a UN spokeswoman, "the situation looks set to become Europe's largest refugee crisis this century".

The Home Office has floundered in its response, though that is not because of a great tide of humanity, such as that being faced in Krakow. Unlike more than 90 countries throughout the world, including almost every other European nation, the UK still insists on refugees from Ukraine obtaining a visa before entry is permitted.

Whether it is because of the UK Government's unwillingness or its inability to respond to the public mood, at the point of contact the British welcome to refugees is continuing to be seen as a 'pettifogging bureaucracy'. Ironically, that is the very thing for which 'Europe' was criticised by our Prime Minister, in the House of Commons, on 3 February 2016.

As of two weeks ago, 17,600 visa applications had been submitted, and 10,900 appointments made at a 'Visa Application Centre' hurriedly established in Europe; but the Home Office had issued just 4,600 visas; all to people who already had a family member in the UK.

This is in contrast to the generous response of the British people. Following an Government announcement on 21 March, that people could 'register an interest' to host a Ukrainian refugee for up to six months, more than 100,000 people across the UK have done so.

People have registered in our area, I know, and are wanting to link with others who have made the same offer. In that way, when the Home Office eventually catches up with the mood of the British people, there will be a network of such sheltering homes in this part of England. To that end, I will put these people in touch with one another where I can.

When did Britain welcome the greatest number of refugees in proportion to its resident population? When did this nation ever face anything like the challenge that Poland is facing today? Remarkably, it was not during or after any of the terrible wars of the 20th century or even during the continent-wide upheaval caused by Napoleon's empire-building forays during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.



*Symbol of the Huguenots
(which coincidentally
contains the colours
of the flag of Ukraine)*

It was in the years that followed the decision, published on 22 October 1685, by Louis XIV, king of France, and known to as the 'Revocation of the Edict of Nantes'.

Protestant Christians in France ('Huguenots') were persecuted and, by that decision, so proscribed that despite being forbidden to do so about 200,000 Huguenots left France for safety to non-Catholic countries in Europe and North America. Some 50,000 came to Britain of whom about 10,000 settled in what is now Eire and Northern Ireland.

It has been argued that the positive contribution to the life, culture, prosperity and success of our nation by the Huguenots was one significant reason for the otherwise unlikely emergence of the United Kingdom as a 'world power' in the two centuries following that refugee crisis.

It may also explain the choice of a slow march by the lesser-known composer Meyerbeer being played by the Massed Bands of the Guards Division every year at the 'Trooping of the Colour' in London: called *Les Huguenots*.

EASTER HOPE



*'A yellow daffodil and a blue sky' - a sign of hope
photographed by **Andrew McKerlie** of Windrush.*

Notwithstanding the news and contrary to the Covid contagion, there has been much to take heart and to be encouraged about taking place in our parishes. Whether it was the moving and challenging service on the first Sunday of Lent in **Sherborne**; or the handful of 'first-timers in a while' at a service in **Little Barrington**; or the largest congregation for a Sunday service in **Aldsworth** church in many years; or the baptism of a local child in the wonderfully spruced and florally-decorated church of **Great Barrington** on Mothering Sunday; or the moving 'Farmer's Farewell' in **Windrush**, being the funeral and thanksgiving for the life of the village's longest resident, **Bill Hewett**; the past month has seen the life, love and service of our village churches in action in a variety of ways.

No sermon! Now that might seem like a good draw for any Sunday service. Well, this coming Sunday, 3 April, is 'Passion Sunday' when traditionally in place of a sermon there is a reading of the narrative of the Passion of Christ from one of the gospels. This year the reading will be from the Gospel of St. John. The following week will be Palm Sunday. No donkey is scheduled to attend the service in Little Barrington (but if Hugo the dog makes a return visit then perhaps he could be invited to take a part). Maundy Thursday will be a quiet, contemplative service of Holy Communion. This service is different from any other similar service because it has a 'ragged finish', with no hymn or blessing, to reflect the uneasy end to the Last Supper.

A service that last three hours! Who on earth would want to come to that? Surprisingly perhaps, more than a few usually do. Anyone who is familiar with the way these services work will know that no-one is under any obligation to stay for the whole time. 'Come when you can—go when you must' will be the order of the day for our Good Friday Vigil from 12 noon until 3pm in Sherborne church. Some will stay for the whole time though. For them it will be an oasis of calm and contemplation as we focus on the loving sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This year the theme will be:

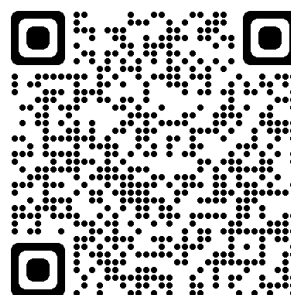
Jesus Christ: the same Yesterday, Today and Forever

Easter Day will be celebrated (as is required by the law of the Church of England) with a service of Holy Communion. This year our Easter celebration will be in Aldsworth church. The team there would appreciate the help of others in getting the church ready for the festival. For example, if you are able to offer a gift of flowers or help to arrange them, then please let churchwardens, David Wilcox or Shirley Crewe, know.

Is there someone who would be willing and able to bake a **simnel cake**, but as a tray bake rather than the usual round version, so that it can be easily shared with the congregation after the service on Easter Day?



There has been a gift offered to cover the costs involved in doing this (by someone who says that you wouldn't want to eat a cake that they had baked!) A recipe and method may be found on the '**Baking Mad**' website, or by using this QR code through a 'smartphone':



PRAYERS

Good Friday

ALMIGHTY GOD,
in mercy look on this your family,
for which our Lord Jesus Christ
was willing to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross,
who now lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Easter

LORD of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection
of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory. Amen.

For Peace

O GOD, from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed;
Give unto thy servants that peace
which the world cannot give;
that our hearts may be set
to obey thy commandments,
and also that by thee, we,
being defended from the fear of our enemies,
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD,
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all,
a true love of peace
and guide with your wisdom those
who take counsel for the nations of the earth;
that in justice your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled
with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

FOOTNOTE



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Published for the Windrush Benefice by the Revd Dr Gerard Moate FRSA
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