

## My Last Editorial

I suppose on a glorious spring day we are more than ever aware of the changing seasons, the passing of time. Quite often in funeral services families choose the Old Testament reading made famous by the Byrds in the 1970's, Turn! Turn!, Turn!

It's a reading that begins "For Everything there is a season..."; a good reading that helps us to reflect on life. And so as I prepare to leave you all, to take up the position of Rector of Holy Trinity Kilmarnock, Scotland, I remember with great affection my time spent in this Benefice.

That is not to say that there haven't been challenges, whether it is has been about pastoral issues, lead thefts or a multitude

of bones, but what I will remember is that we have shared time together and gotten to know not only each other but also to be aware of God's presence with us in all the events of our lives.

I would like to thank Jane Scanlon who for several years has master minded this newsletter; situations change and Jane due to personal circumstances is unable to continue as editor. I am sure that we are all thankful for all Jane has done. And so to the future. Jim Hogg, who is a reader or lay minister within the Benefice has agreed to pick up the baton.

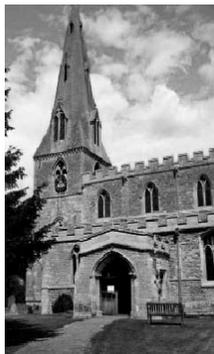
I truly am sorry to be leaving, but needs must.

Thank you all for all your love and support over the past 6 years, I will miss you all terribly and shall remember you in my prayers as I hope you will remember me.

Do have a happy and blessed Easter.

Yours  
Mary





## **ALCONBURY**

It seems a long time since Christmas but...

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

We would like to say a huge thank you to all who contributed to this

either by entering one of the fabulous and ingenious trees, baking a cake, making soup, stewarding or visiting the festival. It was a real community affair; it was wonderful to see so many people in the church enjoying themselves. We raised over £1400 which will be used on Project 21 phase 2 to create a warm meeting room within the church for the use of the whole community. The winning trees were: Up-cycled by Youth Group, Pokemon Tree by Lascombe and Lay Families and Thursday Club.

### **Travelling Nativity**

Over 20 families enjoyed welcoming this box into their homes and acting out the Christmas story using the knitted characters and books.

### **Crib Service**

The church was packed with families who were led through the Christmas

story, with a modern twist, by Kate Hampton, one of our Peak Youth Group, supported by members of Peak, Mountains and Rock Café Youth Groups. The service finished with Jesus' birthday cake!

### **Dates for your diaries**

16 April – Confirmation at Ely Cathedral

18<sup>th</sup> June – Alconbury & Alconbury Weston Open Gardens 12-6 organised by Friends of Alconbury Church

24<sup>th</sup> June Midsummer Sale – craft stalls, refreshments – look out for posters

14<sup>th</sup>&15<sup>th</sup> October Scarecrow Festival

14<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Supper

**We are in the process of planning a Dedication and Celebratory Service for our toilet, kitchen and porch extension. We want to thank all who have helped with this fantastic achievement.**

### **DO COME TO:**

**Sunday Rocks** – all age café worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month – crafts, activities, cake, short worship 3:30 - 4:30 - all welcome

**Coffee Plus** – Mondays during term time 9-11 -in the church. Coffee, cake, toys, chat for all ages. Child friendly!





## BUCKWORTH

**From Up The Hill in Not So Sunny Buckworth (in fact it is raining!)**

How sad are we that Mary is leaving? We shall miss her so

much! Who will take over from her? Don't you just love interregnums?

However, life goes on, and grumpy parishioners just get grumpier!

We look forward to the **Good Friday** walk around the parishes and to **Easter Day** when our communion service is at **11am**.

The north aisle is still covered in delightful plastic but, hopefully, a new roof is in sight. So far £7000 has been negotiated in grants with hopefully one more to come. Tenders for the work should be back on 22 March and a quote has been received for a roof alarm.

The PCC has to think of more cunning plans for fund raising ... watch this space.

It is with sadness that I report the death of **Terry Cheney**, a long time resident and character in Buckworth. Terry and his wife June were well known in the area and on Radio Cambridgeshire; he will be sadly missed for his dry sense of humour and outlook on life.

Our sympathies to Meryl and family and Buddy the dog who has been rehomed.

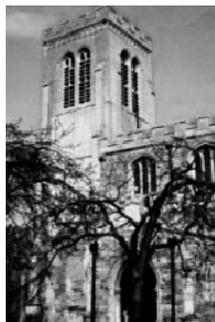
**Buckworth Annual Parish Walk** takes place on May Day (actually 1<sup>st</sup> May this year). Everyone is welcome to walk as little or as much as they like, maps are provided for a donation and the Cricket Club serves soup and rolls (and something a little stronger should the need arise) afterwards.

Well done Jim for taking on the Parishioner!! Does this mean we will have to read it in a Scottish accent? ..... oh dear! (Ed: Och aye!)

**Hazel Cooper**

The views expressed are my own.





## **HAMERTON**

### **Christmas Fair**

We were delighted to have another very successful Fair which raised the grand sum of £800.00

Our thanks to all those who came and spent so generously and enjoyed a hot drink and snacks with us. We were very fortunate that our team in the village excelled themselves with all the goods they made to sell, the arty crafty ones, the bakers, the tea and coffee maker, the plantsmen, the pickles and chutney makers and numerous others who helped on the day. Thanks to all of you for making it a great morning.

### **Village Hall Refurbishment**

We are just getting to the end of the current refurbishment of the hall, the fridge and the new cooker have been wired up. We have now dealt with all the electrics and plumbing (including the sewer connection) and a completely new kitchen with new flooring, lights, steel units and cupboards, cooker, water heater and paint job - we did manage to salvage a few items with all this!

We now have to stand back and see if there are any other things that need addressing. I think we all agree the hall is much more inviting with the new curtains and other facilities, our thanks to all who assisted with anything helping to make it so.

### **Hamerton Christingle Service**

This was a lovely occasion and the Church looked wonderful. The collection for the children's society raised an excellent total of £212.60. After the Service, welcome refreshments were provided by The Austins and The George families. The draw was made for Jan's excellent Christmas cake which was won by Neil Collcott of Peterborough. This was followed by singing around the village by a merry group of Carol Singers who collected £150.00, £75.00 for the friends of Hamerton Church and £75.00 for the Children's society.

### **Christmas Cake Raffle Bench**

A new bench, to be sited in the churchyard, has been bought with the proceeds of Jan's Christmas Cake raffle. In future those tending family graves will have somewhere to sit and reflect, or merely rest, when they visit Hamerton, so please do continue to support these village events.

### **Coffee Morning**

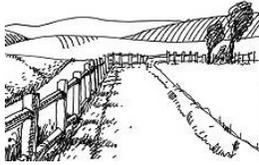
Saturday, 1 April at 10.30am in the Church. Do come along for a cup of coffee/tea with delicious home made cakes and/or soup and bread and a chat with your neighbours.

### **PCC AGM**

Tuesday, 18 April at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms. Everyone is welcome to come to this open meeting.

### **Plant Sale**

Saturday, 20 May 2017. Watch this space for more details and in the meantime, feel free to start growing some plants for sale.



## Good Friday Parish Walk 2017 - North Leightonstone Benefice

On Good Friday, the 14th of April, there will be a walk around the churches of the benefice, a distance of approximately 16 miles. Below you will find an approximate itinerary for the day. At each church there will be a very brief service where we will listen to part of the Good Friday Story and at Steeple Gidding there will be the opportunity to receive Communion.

We will stop for lunch at Winwick; please bring a packed lunch. It has been arranged that we will be able to use the facilities in the Village Hall at Winwick. Following the walk, tea and biscuits will be available for purchase at Ferrar House, Little Gidding.

**All are welcome for as little or as much of the walk as you like.**

### Times & distances are approximate

<b>Alconbury</b>	Service 6.15 am Depart 6.25	3 miles mainly footpaths
<b>Upton</b>	Service 7.15 Depart 7.25	2.3 miles mainly footpaths
<b>Buckworth</b>	Service 8.25 Depart 8.50	3.6 miles mainly footpaths
<b>Hamerton</b>	Service 10.25 Depart 10.40	2 miles mainly on road
<b>Winwick</b>	Service 11.30 Depart 12.15 pm	lunch break (bring a packed lunch) 2.5 miles mainly footpath
<b>Great Gidding</b>	Service 1.20 Depart 1.35	2 miles mainly footpath
<b>Little Gidding</b>	Service 2.30 Depart 2.40	This part of the walk will be in silence 0.6 mile bridleway.
<b>Steeple Gidding</b>	Communion 3.00	

Return to Ferrar House Little Gidding for tea and biscuits.



## GREAT GIDDING

### Mary Jepp

It is very probable that you have already heard the news that our vicar, the wonderful Mary Jepp, has been

appointed as Rector of Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock, in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. This will give her just ONE parish to have under her very capable wing rather than the multi-faceted group of parishes she has had to juggle so gainfully with us here.

Mary has given us a warm-hearted and truly dedicated service. She has managed to walk that tricky tightrope between respect and reverence for tradition, and keeping the church relevant and evolving to meet the needs of modern lifestyles.

You will be missed, Mary, and we do wish every blessing for you and Mike for your life in Scotland.

### Great Gidding Show

Don't forget the village show on Saturday 2 September. Now's the time to get those seeds planted for your winning contributions to the vegetable classes! If you haven't got a schedule give Sue a ring, tel: 01832 293 271.

## Coffee Morning Venues

April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Burgess	85 Main St
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Alvey	14 Main St
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda Williams	64 Main St

## LITTLE GIDDING



### Poetry Group

The next meeting of the Little Gidding Poetry Group will be on

Thursday April 13th at 7.30 pm in Ferrar House. Matt Carter, a Christian poet and musician, will be our speaker.

### Pilgrimage

Advance notice for the Little Gidding Pilgrimage on Saturday 20th May, led by Canon Tim Alban Jones and Bridget Nichols. The day will start with Eucharist at Leighton Bromswold at 10.30 am, followed by lunch.

The pilgrimage walk will set off at 1 pm with Evensong at 4.30 pm, followed by tea at Ferrar House.

A contribution towards the cost of the day and food is £12 per person.

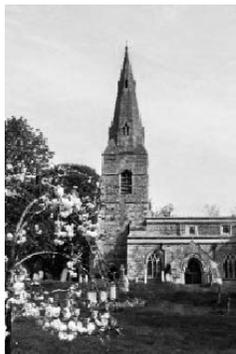
For more details see:

[www.littlegidding.org.uk/pilgrimage](http://www.littlegidding.org.uk/pilgrimage)  
or [Facebook.com/littlegidding](https://www.facebook.com/littlegidding)

## A Date for Your Diary

As you will see on page 7, Mary's final service after six years with us, is on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 11 am** in **St Peter's & St Paul's Church** in **Alconbury**.

This may well be the last time we can speak to Mary before she goes, so make sure you arrive early.



## WINWICK

### **Cake 'n' Coffee Morning**

The next Cake and Coffee Morning, with Book Sale, is on 8<sup>th</sup> April in the Church at 10 am until 11.30 am.

Come along and enjoy a slice of cake, a cup of coffee and a chat. Thank you to everyone who supports this every month.

### **British Legion Poppy Appeal**

Thank you to all who donated to the annual Poppy Appeal. The sum donated in Winwick was £241.53. Thanks also to Mike and Maureen Alderman for, once again, trudging around the village to collect this money.

## **Special Church Services - April & May 2017**

**23 April St George's Day Church Parade**  
9.30 am Alconbury (no Holy Communion)

### **Holy Week - Palm Sunday**

3.30 pm *Sunday Rocks* Alconbury

### **Monday - Thursday**

8.30 am Morning prayer Alconbury

### **Tuesday**

8 am Morning Prayer Great Gidding

### **Mon, Tues & Wed**

9 pm Compline Alconbury

### **Maundy Thursday - Alconbury**

7 pm We remember Jesus' last supper with a simple meal and Communion

9 pm Compline Great Gidding

## **Future Events**

### **25<sup>th</sup> March - Pub Night**

with skittles, darts, cribbage and other traditional pub games. Bread and Cheese, with pickles and crisps etc will also be available.

### **27<sup>th</sup> March - Winwick PCC AGM.**

7.30pm in the Village Hall

### **20<sup>th</sup> May - Antique Evening**

Another Antique Evening will take place in the Church.

More details next month

### **9<sup>th</sup> July - Winwick Fete.**

Watch this space!!!

More details soon.

### **Cleaning and Flower Rota**

12<sup>th</sup> March - Lynn and Denise

26<sup>th</sup> March - Jane and Sarah

9<sup>th</sup> April - Jenny and Nicki

23<sup>rd</sup> April - Lynn and Denise

May - Glyn and Val

### **Good Friday Benefice Walk**

Alconbury to Steeple Gidding  
(See page 5 for timings)

### **Easter Eve Confirmation**

8 pm Ely Cathedral (we have 6 candidates!)

### **Easter Sunday Eucharists**

9.30 am Alconbury & Hamerton

11 am Buckworth

11 am Great Gidding Family Communion,

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### **Sunday 21 May**

**11 am Mary's Last Sunday Morning Service at Alconbury**

6pm Evensong Great Gidding

## North Leightonstone Benefice - Church Services

### St Peter & St Paul, Alconbury

<b>1st Sunday</b>	8am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Morning Worship
<b>2nd Sunday</b>	9.30	Holy Communion
	3.30	Sunday Rocks (Worship, Refreshments, and Crafts for All God's Family)
<b>3rd Sunday</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion (Methodist)
<b>4th Sunday</b>	9.30 am	Family Communion
<b>Wednesday</b>	7.30 pm	Midweek Communion (in Vicarage during winter months)
<b>Morning Prayer</b>	most mornings at 8.30 am	

### All Saints', Buckworth

<b>1st Sunday</b>	6 pm	Evensong
<b>2nd Sunday</b>	11 am	Morning Worship
<b>3rd Sunday</b>	11 am	Holy Communion

### All Saints', Hamerton

<b>1st Sunday</b>	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>3rd Sunday</b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)

### All Saints', Winwick

<b>2nd Sunday</b>	9 am	Morning Prayer
<b>4th Sunday</b>	9.am	Holy Communion (BCP)

### St Michael's, Great Gidding

<b>1st Sunday</b>	11 am	Holy Communion
<b>3rd Sunday</b>	6 pm	Evensong
<b>Tuesdays</b>	8am	Morning Prayer
<b><u>Except</u></b>		
<b>3rd Tuesday</b>	8am	Holy Communion

### St Margaret's, Upton

<b>4th Sunday</b>	6 pm	Evensong
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### St John's, Little Gidding

<b>2nd Friday</b>	noon	Holy Communion (For more information contact Richard Scott 01480 890 286)
<b>5th Sunday</b>	11 am	Holy Communion