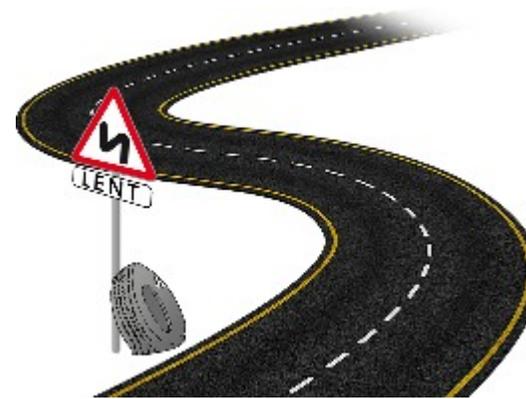


The Parishioner

norleigh.org.uk



I was reflecting on car tyres recently, largely as the result of a frustrating and wasted day after my car tyre had blown out, inconveniently on the A1 as I was taking my son to his quarter final cup match.

To his great disappointment, he didn't get to be part of the quarter final team (although

he was more placated when he heard the result and how much they had lost by!). Anyway, back to the car tyres. To my mind, they never last long enough and it seems that there is always at least one tyre on my car that needs replacing.

On this particular day, apart from the sheer terror of having a blow out on the A1 whilst children were in the car, then being picked up by free recovery, I also had to have two front tyres replaced which burnt quite a hole in my pocket. Now I know that I should be more vigilant and keep an eye on my tyres, checking for possible punctures and worn down tread but I have to confess that I have some aversion to spending cold Saturday mornings, as I did of old, with dipsticks and starter plugs. I am really grateful for a reliable mechanic who often comes to my aid and looks after my care to enable me to stay on the road.

Nowadays, with all our digital technology, cars ARE much more reliable and also much more essential to our daily lives. With the constant packing of our days with more and more activity, the car is the one thing that enables us to move seamlessly between one thing and another. Now I am not ignoring the carbon footprint that we leave behind from many of our cars but they / **cont'd page 3**



Good Friday Parish Walk 2018 North Leightonstone Benefice

The Good Friday Walk is a legacy left by Mary which we want to keep in memory of her time here. On **Good Friday, 30th April**, there will be a walk between all the churches in the Benefice, a distance of approximately 16 miles.

On the next page is an itinerary for the day. At each church there will be a very brief service where we will listen to the Good Friday story and at Steeple Gidding there will be an opportunity to receive communion.



Those who have taken part before have made new acquaintances, felt a bond with other people in other villages, challenged themselves physically, joined in fellowship, heard the Good Friday story, marvelled at the wonderful churches and countryside in which we live.

We will stop for lunch at Winwick Village Hall. **Please bring a packed lunch.** It has been arranged for us to use the facilities and purchase a delicious cake and a hot drink. Following the walk, tea and biscuits will be available for purchase at Ferrar House, Little Gidding.

Please join in. All are welcome to walk for as little or as much as you like.

cont'd from page 1 / are the bedrock of travel in the modern age. We are soon going to be entering Lent – Ash Wednesday is on 14th February. Then we will have six weeks of journey to the Cross at Easter. Lent is a time when we reflect on our own spiritual journey in life and we are pensive before God, perhaps recognising our faults and flaws, as well as endeavouring to draw closer to Him in a deeper way. To undertake such a journey, if you will forgive me extending the metaphor, we need to have our minds ready and in good condition, otherwise we will easily veer off the path and waste time getting repairs rather than focusing on the planned journey. How? Perhaps spending a few more minutes of stillness and prayer each day rather than rushing, perhaps spending a few more moments talking to someone than cutting a conversation short. Perhaps reading a bit more and having time to think and enjoy that. Perhaps starting to enjoy the fresh air more after the darkness of December and January.

Lent should be a refreshing and enlightening time so it is good to be ready for it. Better get out there and check my rear tyres then...

Every blessing on your Lenten Journey

Mandy

Good Friday Parish Walk - Itinerary

Please Note: All times and distances are approximate.

Church	Service	Depart	Distance to Next Church
Alconbury	6.15 am	6.25 am	3 miles Mainly footpaths
Upton	7.15 am	7.25 am	2.3 miles Mainly footpaths
Buckworth	8.25 am	8.50 am	3.6 miles Mainly footpaths
Hamerton	10.25 am	10.40 am	2 miles Mainly road
Lunch at Winwick - Bring a packed lunch !			
Winwick	11.30 am	12.15 pm	2.5 miles Mainly footpath
Great Gidding	1.20 pm	1.35 pm	2 miles Mainly footpaths
Little Gidding	2.30 pm	2.40 pm	0.6 mile Bridleway
Walk from Little Gidding to Steeple Gidding will be in silence			
Steeple Gidding	3.00pm		Communion Service
Return to Ferrar House for tea & biscuits			

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 14 February

Alconbury 7.30 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

Mothering Sunday – Sunday 11 March

Alconbury 9.30 am Family Communion

Buckworth 11.00 am Matins

Winwick 9.00 am Holy Communion

Palm Sunday – Sunday 25 March

Alconbury 9.30 am Family Communion

Upton 3.00 pm Evensong

Winwick 9.00 am Matins

HOLY WEEK

Monday

Alconbury 8.00 pm Compline

Tuesday

Alconbury 8.00 pm Compline

Wednesday

Alconbury 8.00 pm Holy Communion followed by Compline

Maundy Thursday

Alconbury 7.00 pm Supper Service

Great Gidding 8.00 pm Compline

Good Friday

Alconbury 7.00 pm Contemplating the Cross

Easter Sunday

Alconbury 8.00 am Holy Communion

Buckworth 11.00 am Easter Service with Communion by extension

Great Gidding 11.00 am Holy Communion

Hamerton 9.30 am Easter Service with Communion by extension

Connie Jolley of Hamerton

Olive and Terry Gray and families would like to thank residents of Hamerton and the surrounding villages who attended the funeral of **Connie Jolley** at Hamerton on 26th January. Special thanks to Revd Mandy Flaherty, Ruth Berry and Eileen Colman and the bellringers, for making this a very momentous occasion.

Thanks for all your donations and flowers which have now been given to the church.
Olive and Terry Gray.



NEWS
FROM THE PARISHES

**St Peter & St Paul's Church
ALCONBURY**

ANGLICANS and METHODISTS
WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

It seems a long time since Christmas but...

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Many thanks to Ros Partis who ran and organised this workshop.

Twenty wreaths were made, following the same guidelines and 20 completely different wreaths were created. Thank you, Ros for inspiring and encouraging us, we really appreciate it.

Travelling Nativity

Over 20 families enjoyed welcoming this box into their homes and enjoyed 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 and recreated the crib scene with the travelling nativity figures plus numerous shepherds! Each child brought forward a figure to place in and around the stable. The service finished with Jesus' birthday cake!

Carol Service

We welcomed Alconbury Community Choir to our service of lessons and carols. The church was filled with beautiful singing and the Christmas story retold through readings.

Christmas Praise

Our Christmas morning service was enjoyed by all and was followed by communion.

Dates for your Diaries



Over Easter, there are lots of services, not only at Ss Peter & Paul's church, but throughout the benefice.

For further details, see page 4 opposite.

Benefice Good Friday Walk starts At Ss Peter & Paul's church, Alconbury at 6.15 am (see page 2)

St Michael's Church GREAT GIDDING

Church Collection

This year it was decided to give the collections at the *Christingle Service* and *Carol Service* to the 'Children's Society'. A cheque for £178 has been sent to the society.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

Church Decoration

Thank you to all those people who gave of their time to decorate the church so beautifully for Christmas. This year there was an additional tree in the children's corner. This had been decorated by Great Gidding Primary School, who also made the decorations. Also thank you to the school for making the christingles for our service.

School Service

The school now holds a service in St Michael's Church on the third Tuesday of every month at 10.15am, to which everyone is welcome.

Church Cleaning & Flowers

There are two vacancies on the rota at the moment

- Flowers in August
- Cleaning in September

If you could offer some time and help to fill either of these gaps, then that would be appreciated. Please contact Jane Edwards (tel: 293555).

Cleaning equipment is provided.

Palm Sunday Procession



Many people in the village will have fond memories of past processions led by Boris the donkey, who is sadly no longer with us.

This year our procession, on Sunday 25th March, welcomes another donkey called William. We meet in the car park of the "Fox & Hounds" at 11am, and process down the road to St

Michael's Church for a short service. Refreshments will be available after the service, and everyone is very welcome.

Our thanks to Chris & Henry Hill for the loan of William.

Holy Week Services & Events

On Maundy Thursday 29th March, there will be a service of Compline in St Michael's Church at 8pm.

The following day (Good Friday) the now traditional walk takes place (see page 2). Details will also be found on the Great Gidding website in due course.

On Easter Day (April 1st) there will be a service of Holy Communion in church at 11am, plus some surprises – do I hear the word "eggs" ?!!

Coffee Morning Venues 2018, 10.30am - Noon

Thurs February 8 th	Anthea & Michael Keck	79 Main Street
Thurs March 8 th	Paul Burgess	85 Main Street
Thurs April 12 th		
Thurs May 10 th	Roland Bostock	Mill Road
Thurs June 14 th		
Thurs July 12 th		

Volunteers for the free slots very welcome!

All Saints' Church

BUCKWORTH

From Up The Hill in (for the moment) Sunny Buckworth !

All the Christmas Services went very well. Carols by Candlelight was particularly enjoyed in the presence of Bishop Stephen with, as usual, delicious festive nibbles and mulled wine! There were even visitors from as far afield as Goole in Yorkshire.....referred to by Bishop Steven as "God's Own Country"! I think we might have something to say about that!

Church Repairs

Following a lengthy site meeting we are now told that the repair to the north aisle roof will be in February (about 19th). The firm is CEL and most of their vans have this signage and all workmen have high-viz marked CEL. There will be some scaffolding and a porta-loo on site. The work is expected to take about 5 weeks. Should you have any concerns please contact a member of the Parochial Council.

Dinner Evenings

The Thai Food event and Cricket Club Christmas Dinner were excellent, we are lucky to have these occasions to get together as a parish and to have people prepared to work so hard to provide such entertainment. Our next "bash" is Burns

Night Dinner on 25 January, once again a fund raiser for the Church in the Cricket Club. Many thanks to all who gave of the skills and time to feed us so well!!

Waiting for Our New Vicar

The PCC and Rev Mandy, along with all the parishes within the Benefice are still struggling with the Parish Profiles.....which as you know are designed to persuade someone that we are worthy of their "vicaring" skills. We hope that someone will be attracted to our rural parishes with a CV matching all our expectations ... watch this space.

Finances

Having just done the Church accounts for 2017 I can report that finances are in a slightly better condition than 2016. However, 2018 will be even tougher, any fundraising will have to go to the upkeep of the Church, the every day bills that we all face.

Having so few regular contributors to the general funds of the Church makes bill paying very difficult. If anyone can commit to making a regular donation it would mean so much; please contact me if you can do this, it doesn't matter how much every little helps and makes the upkeep of the building that bit easier. Otherwise, in a few years time I feel that All Saints Church will be closed. The basic running costs for 2017 were £5019, basic income without fundraising £3158.....Dickens' Mr Micawber would understand very well!

Dates for your Diary



Usual services on 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays in the month.

We hope to have an Easter Sunday Communion Service on Easter Sunday which is 1st April.

More events in the next edition.

All Saints' Church HAMERTON

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

A very enjoyable Christmas Wreath/Table Decoration Workshop was held on 13 December. It was good to get so many Hamerton ladies together in the village hall and to meet new neighbours and friends from nearby villages.

Thank you to those who made soup, mince pies and cake for the delicious lunch and afternoon tea, all of which was served on beautifully decorated tables. Sincere thanks go to Ruth Berry for masterminding the day and for

organising the florists, catering and the decorations in the hall. The finished results were well worth the effort, and many local doors and tables were particularly well dressed this Christmas.

Christingle and Carol Service

We were so pleased that the Bishop came to Hamerton for our annual Carol and Christingle Service, which made it even more special than usual.

The collection raised £226.90 for the Children's Society. The Carol singing around the village afterwards raised another £115.50 which was shared equally between the Children's Society and the Friends of Hamerton Church.

Thank you to everyone who came, contributed, provided refreshments and went carol singing.

Coffee Mornings

It was good to start the Saturday coffee mornings again on 20th January. Thank you, as ever, to those who baked, helped on the day, and supported the event. We will be holding the next one on Saturday 17 February. This will start a little earlier at 10 am and we will be offering "Breakfast Baps", which will be one or all of, bacon, sausage or egg in a toasted bap in addition to the usual delicious cakes. We look forward to seeing you. Who knows, you might even win a raffle prize!

Connie Jolley

Everyone who knew her will have been sad to learn of the death of Connie Jolley on Christmas morning. Her funeral took place on Friday, 26 January at All Saints Church and you can read her obituary on page 11.

Date for Your Diaries The ever popular Christmas Fair will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 24 November.

St Margaret's Church UPTON

Christmas Carols

Upton ended 2017 in good voice with a hardy troop of Carol singers touring the village. It was heartening to see so many at the Carol Service and they were suitably rewarded with mulled wine and mince pies.

Our Organist - Ian McGlashon

A big thank you goes to Ian McGlashon who has retired from playing the organ for services after many years. We will miss your contribution to the life of the church Ian and wish you all the very best.

Church Maintenance

Further necessary work has been carried out on the steeple to make it watertight.

Thank you to the anonymous neighbour who returned the errant weather cock which took flight during the recent high winds!

We are pleased to report that the Parish Council has agreed to fund the churchyard grass-cutting which will help ensure its upkeep for the future.

Evensong

During January, February and March the monthly service held on the 4th Sunday will be at the earlier time of 3 pm. Everyone is welcome but remember to wrap up warm as the building can be very cold.

All Saints' Church WINWICK

Cake and Coffee Morning

The next get-together, with Book Sale, is on 10th February in the Church, from 10.00 am until 11.30 am.

Come along and enjoy a slice of cake, a cup of coffee and a chat. The following one will be on 10th March. Thank you to everyone who supports this every month.

Carol Service

Christmas in Winwick started here! The Carol Service on 17th December was the usual mix of Carols and Readings and was followed by mulled wine and mince pies etc. in the church. There was a large congregation, including a number of small children. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Quiz Night

A Quiz Night with a Fish and Chip Supper was held on 20th January in the Village Hall. Sixty-nine people took part in the quiz which consisted of 50 general knowledge questions. The fish and chips duly arrived at about 7.00pm and were quickly distributed (and eaten!), before the 'quizzing' resumed. Amid much hilarity and disputed answers, the winning team were declared with a score of 42. A game of 'Heads and Tails' followed, with Martin Bailey winning the Hamper. A final prize, for the winning entry ticket went to Phil Endersby. Thanks must go to David and Alison German for expertly organising and adjudicating the quiz; Glyn Popeley and Val for keeping us all supplied with drinks and finally thanks to the winning Team and Phil for donating their winnings back to the Church and Village Hall, which profited from the evening by sharing a wonderful £603.64.

PCC Meeting

A Meeting of the PCC was held at Seabright House on Monday 22nd January. Among the things discussed was how we should tackle the Chancel floor (which is sinking!), the Parish Profile, erection of a sign by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to indicate the presence of a war grave and the dates for future fund raising events.

Cleaning and Flower Rota

11 th & 25 th February	Jane Brine and Sarah Lee
11 th & 25 th March	Jenny Endersby and Nicki Hallett
8 th & 22 nd April	Lynn Garner and Denise Johnson

Dates for Your Diary

	Sat 19th May	Village Table Top sale. More details in the next magazine. Flyers will be circulated round the village soon.
	Sun 1st July	Barbecue and Fete.
	Sat 6th October	Harvest Festival and Supper

Connie Jolley of Hamerton

Connie Jolley, who died on Christmas Day, was a stalwart of the Church and the Village. Her life had a small geographical compass: she was born and lived on Winwick Hill, before moving to Hamerton with her parents, for whom she cared. She never got to London. Yet she had a deep and lasting impact on those who knew her, with her ready smile and strong sense of duty.

She carried out war work at Stewart's and Lloyd's in Corby; that must have been quite an experience for a girl from a quiet rural backwater.

She visited the Church every day and for many years kept it spotless. She knew and loved the Book of Common Prayer and Hymns Ancient and Modern; even now, to those who remember her, it seems strange not to see her sitting in her accustomed place in the back pew.

Connie never married, but so exceptional was her commitment to caring for others that she was made an extraordinary member of the Mothers' Union.

May she rest in peace.



David Way

Benefice
NORTH LEIGHTONSTONE

SERVICE TIMES

St Peter & St Paul, Alconbury

1st Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Morning Worship
	9.30 am	Sunday Rocks (Worship, Crafts and Café for All God's Family)
2nd Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (Methodist)
4th Sunday	9.30 am	Family Communion
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Midweek Communion
Morning Prayer	8.30 am	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs Only

All Saints', Buckworth

1st Sunday	6.00 pm	Evensong
2nd Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Worship
3rd Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Communion

St Michael's, Great Gidding

1st Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	3.00 pm	Evensong
Tuesdays	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Except 3rd Tuesday	8.00 am	Holy Communion

St John's, Little Gidding

2nd Friday (Feb to Nov)	12.00 noon	Holy Communion (For more information contact Richard Scott 01480 890 286)
5th Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Communion

All Saints', Hamerton

1st Sunday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
3rd Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)

St Margaret's, Upton

4th Sunday	6.00 pm	Evensong
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All Saints', Winwick

2nd Sunday	9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
4th Sunday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)

— See Easter Services on page 4. —