

HARPSDEN PARISH NEWS

MARCH 2022



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Curate's Contemplations

Over the past few days, I have woken to blue skies, the sound of birdsong and peace and quiet. I have felt very blessed because this is in stark contrast to the waking moments of the residents of Kyiv and other places in Ukraine. To quote Archbishop Welby on Thought for the Day: "To wake up to news of war is terrible. To wake up to its reality is orders of magnitude worse." Peace is precious and it is fragile.

It can, at times like these, be easy to feel helpless, at a loss. What to say? What to do? Our natural human response is to act, to do something. For some, this may be possible. For most, Jesus' answer would be 'come with me, come to me and pray'. Our Archbishops have called us to pray; the World Council of Churches urged all member churches and all people of goodwill around the world to join them in prayer for peace.

The Bishop of Ely writes: 'We have too easily thought about peace as the norm; but our human condition of sin means that peace would be far from us but for the saving action of God in Jesus.' Jesus came to give us peace. When he came to earth, people wanted - expected - him to be the sort of Messiah who would liberate the people from an oppressive regime with the sword. They were disappointed. Jesus came to lead us to the truth in words and prayer. God cannot be contained or deployed as we want, but instead transforms open hearts through the Holy Spirit in ways that are far-reaching and powerful. So, we can be bold in calling out injustice and praying for peace.

We spend most of this month in Lent, a season of penitence; a season of reflection and prayer; a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday (2nd March) are a traditional sign of sorrow and repentance, and are also a sign of mortality, a reminder of our human nature. Let us take time this Lent to pray. Peace is the gift of God that has been earned for us by Jesus on the cross. The Resurrection makes that peace available to us through time and eternity. That peace is not merely the absence of conflict, it is the orientation of hearts and minds to be active bearers of peace, just as Jesus sent out his disciples in pairs to be people and proclaimers of peace (Luke 10:5) from a solid foundation of prayer.

Let us join together in prayer this Lent, with our brothers and sisters across the world praying for peace and reconciliation. Through prayer may we find the words to speak out against evil and the courage to stand firm.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.
John 14:27

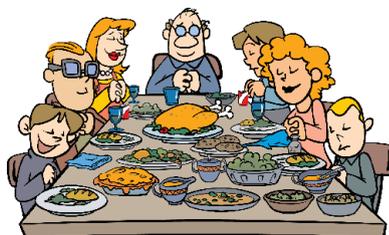
Our churches are open for prayer during the day every day, please feel free to use them.

Revd Sarah

Live-streaming of services - to be continued?

We have carried on live-streaming services from Shiplake Church beyond lockdown, but numbers have dropped significantly. Technically, it is a challenge, but if it remains essential for you, we will continue to deliver worship in this way. We have no way of knowing who is watching online via our YouTube channel, so please let Sarah or Robert know if you, or someone you know, is watching.

HARPSDEN LUNCH



The Next Harpsden lunch will be held at Badgemore Golf Club at 12.30 on Wednesday 2nd March. To reserve a seat please ring Hazel Cooke on 01491 575876 or email, hazelcooke01@gmail.com.

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP



The Privilege of Prayer - please join us. 🙏

From February the Prayer Group has slightly altered timings which are:

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm at St. Margaret's, Harpsden and the

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m also at St. Margaret's.

We meet to share spiritual readings/poems & reflections and spend time praying for those across our Benefice and the wider world's needs.

We would love you to join us either regularly or 'as and when' - you would be **most welcome** and there is no pressure for individuals to speak or pray aloud - silence can often be most golden!

We hope to see you soon 😊

SERVICES IN MARCH

Wednesday 2 nd March	10.00 am	Benefice Eucharist with Ashing	Harpsden
	7.00 pm	Benefice Eucharist with Ashing	Shiplake
Sunday 6 th March	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School	Harpsden
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Shiplake Live and online
	11.00 am	Morning Praise	Dunsden
Monday 7 th March	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	Online
Wednesday 9 th March	10.00 am	Midweek Eucharist Followed by Bible Study at 11.00	Harpsden
Sunday 13 th March	8.00 am	BCP Said Communion	Harpsden
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Shiplake Live and online
	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Dunsden
	4.00 pm	Evening Prayers	Harpsden

Monday 14 th March	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	Online
Wednesday 16 th March	10.00 am	Midweek Eucharist Followed by Bible Study at 11.00	Harpsden
Sunday 20 th March	8.00 am	BCP Said Communion	Shiplake Live and online
	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School	Harpsden
	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Dunsden
	4.00 pm	Tea with God Family Service	Shiplake
Monday 21 st March	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Online
Wednesday 23 rd February		NO SERVICE	
Sunday 27 th March	10.00 am	Mothering Sunday Benefice Eucharist	Shiplake Live and online
Monday 28 th March	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Online
Wednesday 30 th March	10.00 am	Midweek Eucharist Followed by Bible Study at 11.00	Harpsden

INTERCESSIONS – MARCH

6th 9.30 am Brenda Wright
20th 9.30 am Tilden McKean

READERS – MARCH

6th 9.30 am Martyn Read and Annabel Blackwell
14th 4.00 pm Nigel Smith and Karen Drakeford-Lewis
20th 9.30 am Paul Barrett and Josie Peddie

SIDESMEN – MARCH

6th 9.30 am Rob and Carol Lewis
14th 4.00 pm
20th 9.30 am Annabel Blackwell and Karin Henderson

COFFEE – MARCH

6th 9.30 am Lyn Goodwin
20th 9.30 am James and Elsie Frost

THE HARPSDEN CHURCH GOLF DAY AT TEMPLE GOLF CLUB



Come and play golf at one of the
best local Golf Courses and raise money for
St Margaret's at the same time

NEW DATE – SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

Golf from 13.00
followed by a simple supper

Teams of 4
(Enter as a team or individually)

Cost £65.00 per person
Non-playing guests are welcome to join us for supper

Please contact Sue Wright for entry forms
susanpwright@hotmail.co.uk
or 0118 9406220

Cuppas, Chats and Crafts

Join us for fellowship and friendship on Monday 7th March, 2pm at Dunsden Church for a cuppa, some good conversation, cake and crafts. You can bring a craft project you're working on or join in with the ones provided and try something new - or just sit and chat with us. Just turn up, we'll be delighted to see you.

Revd Sarah



Snowdrop Sunday - Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Snowdrop Sunday such a success. Over £500 was raised towards the upkeep of All Saints Church and despite the weather, over 120 people came and the snowdrops were in full bloom.

APCM

The APCMs (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) are on Sunday 3rd April; Harpsden's will be at 9:15am at Harpsden and Shiplake and Dunsden's will be at 10:30am at Shiplake. Both will be followed by the morning service.

If you would like to join either of the PCCs, or would like to nominate someone, nomination forms will be available at the back of each church.

Lent Reflections

Each year the Church of England provide a series of daily reflections throughout Lent; this year the theme is Embracing Justice.

This Lent we are called to reflect on the injustices of the world and ask what God is calling us to do about them. Over 40 days, we step into God's work in the here and now - and in doing so we move from brokenness towards wholeness.

Our journey through Lent is one in which we seek inner transformation to be people of a new world, people who reflect God's vision that all are created equal. You can find out more, sign up to receive the daily reflections or download the Lent reflections app [here](#).



We are not planning to hold Lent Groups in the Benefice this year, so please do access these materials. There are Prayer Cards in each church for you to take.

Join the 'Greenshoots' Network

As part of the [Environment Action Programme](#) in the diocese, we are forming a network for all those engaged in environment action in their church, to share and exchange ideas and learn from each other. The aim is to link parishes together as we respond to the environmental crises facing our planet and work towards the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2035.

If you want to be part of the network and help build a more environmentally sustainable church, [get in touch](#).

Our February [Care for Creation](#) newsletter gives you even more resources to help you take action for our planet to thrive.

Bringing together different voices at General Synod

The Revd Canon Toby Wright, Rector in Witney, joined Danny Cox on BBC Radio Oxford on Sunday morning to share the experience of his first General Synod, and giving his maiden speech. Toby highlighted the success of the personal discipleship plan training in the diocese. [Listen to the full interview](#)

Bishop Steven in Aston and Cuddesden

Continuing his visits around the diocese, Bishop Steven joined clergy, lay leaders and PCCs in Aston and Cuddesdon Deanery at the beginning of February for a day of listening and learning. The day included a visit to a local care home to meet staff and the new Anna Chaplain, and hearing the experiences of a group of Asylum Welcome's Afghan clients living in Oxfordshire. [Read more about the day](#)

Bishop Steven will be visiting our benefice on 18th May 2022.

Seeking a School Governor

Shiplake C.E Primary School, our local Church of England Voluntary Aided School, is seeking a Foundation Governor. Foundation Governors are appointed through the church and have a



responsibility to ensure that the distinctive foundation character and Christian ethos of their Church school is upheld as well as participating fully in the wider work of the Governing Body. There is plenty of training available. For more information, have a look on the Diocesan website [here](#) and at the school website [here](#). If you are interested in finding out more, please speak to Robert or Sarah.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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Harpsden Parish News is written for and by the people of this parish, and contributions are always welcome. However, the views expressed therein are those of the writers and are not necessarily shared by the Rector, the Editor and Churchwarden.

Benefice Website:

<http://www.shiplakedunsdenharpsden.org.uk>

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Branch Manager



Jenny King
Lettings Manager



James Kilkenny
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