

HARPSDEN PARISH NEWS

MARCH 2021



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MINISTRY IN LOCKDOWN

Curate's Contemplations

As I write this, we are at the beginning of March, the daffodils are waving their gorgeous heads in the breeze and the birdsong is beautiful. Spring is definitely in the air and there is a sense of hopefulness around. The days are lengthening, our schools will once again open for all children and if we continue to remember our 'hands - face - space' we can look forward to being able to meet a few friends outdoors again soon. The vaccination programme is making quite amazing progress and our bishops have given their support to the '[Give Hope](#)' campaign.

If you have been offered your vaccine, we hope you have taken it up, if not for yourself, then for the protection of others around you.

As we look forward in all hopefulness, giving thanks for every small blessing that comes our way, we cannot help but look back, given that this month marks a year since we first went into lockdown. I am writing my annual report for the church, noting that the last time we exchanged the Peace with handshakes and were not worried about distance was in February last year. It is a long time and there have been so many losses. Too many people's lives have been cut short and millions have been devastated by bereavement.

On 23rd March, the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown, the Marie Curie Charity are leading a [National Day of Reflection](#), involving many organisations including the Church of England, to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future. A time - a minute at mid-day - to pause and think in silence, then have a chat, send a card, a message or spring flowers.



National Day of
Reflection
23 March

At the moment, many of us are lonely, socially isolated and missing our loved ones, yet while we're desperate for some sort of normality to resume, some of us are quite naturally anxious about the future. It involves more change and things will not go back to how they were before. Our tolerance to uncertainty has lowered, we have developed new routines and new ways of being and have even gone through changes of priority and meaning in life.

As churches, we plan to continue to offer services online, because not everyone can get to a church building, even when they are open again. This will prove challenging, but not insurmountable and is one way of increasing inclusion and community in tough times. There is a lot of talk about 'rebuilding', a sense that we now need to push forward with



plentiful energy and focus. This is happening while many are struggling to cope with the daily emotional and physical demands of lockdown and certainly don't feel ready to leap energetically into an unknown world. What many crave right now is an increased sense of safety, certainty and a huge post-lockdown rest. That's fine if it helps you feel less anxious.

To quote Sam Wells, vicar of St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square: 'I wonder how you would feel if you knew that forever was taken care of?' Sit with that for a moment. How do you feel? As Christians, we know that forever is taken care of. As we spend time with scripture and prayer through Lent, looking towards Easter and the hope of the resurrection, we know that this promise is for all of us. This doesn't mean that we can just sit around and wait for forever; each of us has a purpose in life in which we will find fulfilment. Our task right now is to discern what it is we are called to be and to do as we approach the lifting of lockdown. It might just be to stop and rest awhile and watch the daffodils dancing in the breeze, their trumpets heralding the start of this new season.

Revd Sarah



RIP Susan Adams

The funeral of Susan Adams will take place on Thursday 18th March at 12 noon. Readers will be aware of the limit on numbers who can attend funerals under lockdown, but may wish to stand outside the church to pay their respects.

SERVICES IN MARCH

MONDAY 1ST MARCH	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	On-line
WEDNESDAY 3RD MARCH	10.00 am	Eucharist with wholeness and Healing, followed by Bible Study	On-line
FRIDAY 5TH MARCH	9.00 am	Morning Prayers World Day of Prayer	On-Line
SUNDAY 7TH MARCH	10.00 am	Eucharist Lent 3	On-line
MONDAY 8TH MARCH	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	On-line
WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH	10.00 am	Eucharist followed by Bible Study	On-line
FRIDAY 12TH MARCH	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	On-line
SUNDAY 14TH MARCH	10.00 am	Eucharist for Mothering Sunday	On-line
MONDAY 15TH MARCH	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	On-line
WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH	10.00 am	Eucharist with Ashing followed by Bible Study	On-line

FRIDAY 19TH MARCH	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	On-line
SUNDAY 21ST MARCH	10.00 am	Eucharist for Passion Sunday	On-line
MONDAY 22ND MARCH	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	On-line
WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH	10.00 am	Eucharist followed by Bible Study	On-line
FRIDAY 26TH MARCH	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	On-line
SUNDAY 28TH MARCH	10.00 am	Palm Sunday	On-line
MONDAY 29TH MARCH	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	On-line
	7.00 pm	Agape meal by Zoom	On-line
TUESDAY 30TH MARCH	7.00 pm	Taize Service	Harpsden Live* and on-line
WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH	7.00 pm	BCP Said Evening Prayer	Dunsden Live* and on-line
THURSDAY 1ST APRIL	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist With The Watch	Shiplake Live* and on-line

FRIDAY 2ND APRIL	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Good Friday Liturgy	Shiplake Live* and on-line
SUNDAY 4TH APRIL	6.30 am	Easter Vigil at Shiplake	Shiplake Live* and on-line
	10.00 am	Easter Eucharist	Shiplake Live* and on-line
	10.00 am	Easter Eucharist	Harpsden Live* and on-line
	10.00 am	Drive-in All Age Service	Dunsden Live*

*** Subject to COVID regulations and Joint PCC Agreement**

Lent Course - Sundays during Lent at 4pm via Zoom Everyone welcome

The season of Lent offers an opportunity for reflection as we journey through the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day. Exploring what it means to be Christian, to worship with, in and through Christ, is important. What does 'following Jesus' mean? What do we believe?

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians developed short, simple summaries of the faith. Many of them are embedded in the Scriptures. These short statements became known as 'creeds' from the Latin 'credo', meaning 'I believe and trust'.

In this course, we will explore these creeds, summarising the store of God's great good news for all. This might feel a little daunting, but think of the creeds as a great hamper full of good things. Each one needs to be unpacked and unwrapped, tasted and savoured. This takes time, but more than repays the work involved. Or think of the creeds as the home screen of your phone or computer, full of icons; behind each one is a whole world of meaning to be explored - and they all connect together.

Each of the sessions in this short course from the Pilgrim series is one part of that hamper, one icon on the home screen. Sessions are on Sundays, at 4pm, via Zoom, which allows us to share and discuss our thoughts.

21st February: What are the creeds?

28th February: God as Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit

7th March: Fully God and fully human

14th March: Crucified, risen and ascended

21st March: I believe in the Holy Spirit

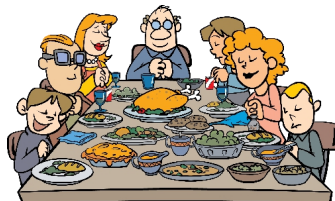
28th March: One, holy, catholic and apostolic Church

To find out more, contact Robert, Sarah or Pam. For the link to join the sessions, email Leigh at benefice.sdh@gmail.com

www.shiplakedunsdenharpsden.org.uk

@shiplakedunsdenharpsden

@sdh_benefice



FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Fellowship lunches will return once are out of Lockdown!

Pancakes by Zoom

How does that work? Well, when we can't meet in person, what are the options? Thank goodness for the technology that allows some of us to meet online. Sadly, it is exclusive, as not everyone has the technology or know-how, and others just don't find it helpful to see others on the screen, which is understandable.

In the absence of being able to meet in the village hall for our usual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, we met via Zoom. Some ate their pancakes as we gathered and caught up with one another's news - lemon and sugar was the most common topping it seemed. Our usual pancake cooks were very relieved not to have spent the day preparing 100 pancakes, since everyone made their own, but we missed the home-made soup.

26 people on 18 screens joined the party. We shared some pancake poems and pancake stories, then a history of our Pancake Supper. The latter is published on the following pages. And then we played bingo!

Joanne was our 'caller' and did a fantastic job with a very colourful caller's check card. Bingo cards had been emailed out beforehand and we had the longest game I've ever come across, with several people asking if we all had the same card (we



didn't) because when someone finally called 'bingo!' there were only 12 balls left in the bag. Yvonne Watson, Wendy and Paul Robinson all finished with the same number and pancake-related chocolate prizes will be delivered in due course. Sarah won the second game, to many cries of 'fixed', which sadly couldn't be heard because we were all muted at the time.



A huge thank you to everyone who helped to organise the evening. After much hilarity, we waved goodbye and left the 'room'. Meeting online isn't ideal, but it is one way to 'be with' one another in these pandemic times and was enjoyed by all. I won't say 'let's do it again' because I really hope that we won't have to; that our next Pancake Supper will be with everyone in the village hall, laughing at the clergy's efforts at tossing pancakes and with Joanne leading our usual beetle drive. But this was definitely one for the history book.

Revd Sarah

History of the Dunsden Pancake Supper

As this is our first ever virtual Pancake Supper, using Zoom, we thought it would be good to look back at the history of this event.

“There is hardship in everything except eating pancakes”

Charles Spurgeon

Suppers in the Sixties

The first Pancake Supper was started by Jo Cutler, who was the wife of the Rev. Herbert Cutler Vicar of All Saints Dunsden 1964 -70. Jo was Canadian and full of ideas, these suppers in the Sixties just involved the Young Wives group and were held in the Dunsden Vicarage, which at the time was a small modern house next to the original Victorian Rectory. This house was sold in the late seventies and is now called “Not the Vicarage”!!



“’Tis better to have eaten a pancake than never to have eaten a pancake at all”

Alfred Lord Denny's son

Suppers from the 70's - 90's

At this time what is now the Village Hall was the village school, which closed in 1973. From 1970-1990 the parish get-togethers happened around Harvest Suppers and themed fetes. When the parishes of Shiplake and Dunsden were combined the Harvest Supper was run for the two parishes at the Shiplake Memorial Hall.

Restoring the Dunsden tradition

In 1994 members of All Saints decided to revive the idea of a Pancake Supper to raise money towards the “Organ Restoration Fund” as well as a social occasion. So on Shrove Tuesday 1994 sixty people gathered at the refurbished Village Hall for an evening of traditional food and family fun with the **Beetle Drive!** That night we were very pleased to have Jo Cutler with us. Thus the suppers have run now for 26 years, one break in 2005, and of course a very new version this year.

Supper staples

*"No matter how
flat you make
your pancake it
still has
two sides"*

Daniel Tosh

The basic plan for the evening has remained the same: home made soup and rolls, followed by pancakes with lemon and sugar or maple syrup. Entertainment was provided by the obligatory tossing of pancakes by the members of the clergy - who seem to be very talented at the task.

This is followed by a **Beetle Drive**, feared by some but all seem to enjoy it in the end! For the first 20 years the pancakes were cooked on-site, in very cramped conditions, four pans on the go, but now as age creeps on the cooking is done at home in the morning - still definitely homemade! And served in the lovely modern hall; but the format of the evening, which still seems to be popular, is the same. Oh, plus wine now!

So this year, it's pandemic pancakes, but not to be put off, we're meeting by Zoom instead. It's a case of 'bring your own' for the pancakes, but that means the possibilities for fillings are endless, sweet or savoury, hot or cold. We will have pancake poetry, a 'face-off' on fillings and **Bingo!** instead of the **Beetle Drive** because it's just not the same being in our homes instead of the hall.



Pancake Poetry

*"Pancakes don't
make the world
go 'round.
Pancakes are
what makes the
ride worthwhile"*

Frankfurterlein P Jones

This is a poem written by Christine Bland for a report in the 1995 Belfry Magazine.

The Village Hall was full of good cheer
As we all sat down in the spring of the year.
It was time for the Pancake Supper, you see,
And the folk sitting down numbered over sixty.
The ages were seven to ninety one
And all ages present were looking for fun.
Barbara, Yvonne, Angela and Pip
Had set up the food so that was a snip.
Hot homemade soup warmed cockles of the heart
Then up the pancakes flew, not one fell apart.
Martin (the strong one) then got us into teams,
And the beetle drive began to the sound of merry screams.
Prizes were awarded to the highest and the low
And at the end £110 to the organ fund did go.
Thank you to those working behind the scenes that day,
May our fellowship continue as we go on our way.

SAVE THE DATE!



SUNDAY 27TH JUNE 2021
2.30 – 4.30

A fundraiser for St Margaret's Church

A garden party with cream teas, cakes and jams, pitch and putt, music, two tree houses connected by a rope bridge, and 8 acres of beauty to stroll around.

Situated at the end of a lane off Woodlands Road, courtesy of Jeff and Tracy Ellis to whom we are all so grateful.

**More information nearer the time
from Paul Barrett, Jo Taylor
or Karen Drakeford-Lewis**

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP



The Tuesday Prayer Group is unable to meet at the moment, but if you would like someone held in prayer please contact
May Mosawi (01491 824015)



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

CHURCH WARDEN

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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.