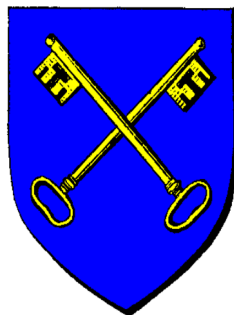




St Peter's Church, Raunds Newsletter No. 30 April 2020



I hope you are all keeping well and positive in these difficult times. It is almost unbelievable how quickly our lives have changed in the past month. Last month we were looking forward to an end to the long, wet winter and lots of events planned. Since then we have had our monthly uplifting worship service, this time at Ringstead, and our APCM. Maureen Windust and Mike Turner remain as Churchwardens. The APCM followed the last church service at St Peter's for the time being and already there were signs of change. I hope that our faith remains as firm as ever and we can use the time for prayer for each other, our community and the world. Rev Jon is going to conduct a Holy Communion service at 10am every Sunday at one of our church's. (He will be alone but we can join him in thought and prayer.

Obviously, there are no events or church services to promote but we can look forward to a wonderful time of celebration when we come out of this period. There is much positivity around. Spring is definitely coming. The daffodils have been wonderful this year, and so many other spring flowers are out. The sun is out. For myself, there is so much to be thankful. The first calves of the year were born yesterday and hopefully there will be lambs in a week or so.

Despite the media there has been some wonderful pulling together of communities, and offers of help. Rev Jon has produced a card, being delivered to most houses in the benefice - giving contact details for shopping, chatting etc and, on the other side a prayer.

Raunds Area Volunteers is another group offering help and Raunds Food Bank will remain open, hopefully. The Town Council is co-ordinating these groups and issuing a list of contact numbers to all houses.

The next few newsletters will be very short unless we have contributions from you. So, if you hear of acts of kindness, tips of how to make a basic meal, an amusing article, a prayer you would like to share or you have a surplus of anything e.g. bedding plants please let us know. Make the most of this link with each other, especially for those in isolation.

Keep the faith,
Judy



We are praying for you.

Due to the Coronavirus, following the latest government and church guidelines all church services are currently suspended until further notice. You are invited to join us in prayer from your own homes at 7pm on Sunday evening. Light a candle and pray for our communities.

We are holding you all in our prayers, as we are all affected by the Coronavirus outbreak.

If you need practical help with shopping or collecting prescription medication etc or you know an elderly neighbour who needs help, or even if you would like to speak with someone on the phone. Please send your contact details via email to revjonaldwinckle@btconnect.com, via our website www.4spires.org or phone 07591 225766.

God bless.

Pray for family and friends.

Pray for neighbours.

Pray for community.

Pray for the work of the Church.

Pray for doctors, nurses, NHS staff.

Pray for yourself.

Merciful Lord, hear our prayers, Amen.





Friday Club

Regrettably, Friday club has been cancelled until further notice.

Pat Stuart

In the hope that things look up soon, these are the provisional dates for the rest of the year.

- May 15thA church visit – probably Kimbolton this time; there is a Tiffany Window.
- June 19thVillage or Park walk.
- July 17thTalk. By Nicki Philips
- August 21st. Meal out.
- Sept 18th. ...Social Evening

Raunds Community Café and Food Bank

Sadly we have closed the Community Cafe but the Foodbank will continue to operate as long as possible. It is open Thursday mornings at the Community Centre from 9.30 till 11.30. We can also offer use of the internet and hopefully help apply for emergency benefits.

For further details contact 01933 730 160

Future Newsletter Publications

To ensure you receive future copies promptly you can opt to receive yours by email.

Simply register this preference along with your email address to:-
stephen_clements@btinternet.com

May Newsletter

Just a quick reminder that the closing date for the next issue is
Sunday 27th April.



Ginny Pledger— Child & Family Worker

I started off the month with lots of events planned for the coming weeks in the run up to Easter, unfortunately these have now had to be cancelled but below is a list of the activities that were able to happen before the lock down occurred.

Please see below my report for February and March:

- St Peter's Academy Assembly, Raunds – the value was 'Forgiveness' and Jon and I took the assembly together. We did a little skit together where I had broken Jon's favourite mug. We discussed with the children why Jon should forgive me even if he doesn't feel like he wants to straight away. We looked at the story of Nathan in 2 Samuel and what Jesus says about forgiveness.
- Messy Church, Raunds – our theme for February was God's love. We shared the story of David and Jonathan and their deep love for each other as friends. We then had a team game of 'spreading God's love' around. Each team had to transfer little confetti hearts from bowl to bowl, the first team to finish was the winner. However, there was considerable cheating within the teams especially from Rev. Jon!! I think most teams ended up disqualified with only Hazel being very diligent with the confetti hearts. Lots of laughs and giggles ensued. I'm fairly sure that I am still finding the confetti hearts around the church!
- St Peter's Academy Assembly, Raunds – this was the final assembly with the value of 'Forgiveness'. I decided to hold a quiz to see what they could remember about all the different Bible stories that we had covered on forgiveness. The children were amazing with the amount of knowledge that they understood. I was very impressed. It was a fun way to end that value.



Ginny Pledger— continued

- New Wine, Harrogate – Rev. Jon, Wendy and I went to the New Wine Leaders Conference in Harrogate for 3 days. This was a great way of people from many different faith backgrounds to come together to worship the lord, pray together and share resources and ideas. We were able to attend some fascinating and inspiring seminars which has given us all some great tips and inspiration to implement useful things within our own Benefice.

That was basically the last event that we were able to attend/run due to COVID-19 Coronavirus. This basically means now that schools are mainly closed (except for key workers' children and vulnerable children) that I am not able to plan my usual events for the children and families of the Benefice. This means my work needs to shift its focus so Rev. Jon, Wendy and I have turned Jon's study into a command centre so that we can work out how best to serve the needs of our community through this difficult time. Wendy has produced a card with a prayer on one side and contact details on the other so people can contact us if they need help with shopping or collecting prescription medication etc. or even if they need a phone call to talk to someone. We have been in contact with people who can help with practical needs or if people are in isolation they can help by being a phone contact. We have been compiling a list (if you are able to offer help in any way please do get in contact). Over the next few days we will be delivering these cards to hopefully each house in our Benefice (thank you to all those people helping us deliver the cards). It is important that our communities know that we are still here for them and that we are praying for them too. If you or someone that you know needs help please do get in touch and we can make sure that your needs are met.

The next few weeks and months will be a challenge but God will provide us with ways to help one another. Until next month stay safe and please remember that you can light a candle at 7pm on Sunday evening in your own homes and join us in prayer.

God bless

Ginny Pledger, Child & Family Worker

4 Spires Benefice – Raunds, Hargrave, Ringstead & Stanwick

