

REACHING OUT...

FOR
GOD
SO
LOVED THE WORLD
HE
GAVE
HIS
ONLY
SON

.....on behalf of the
Benefice Churches of
Bradfield St Clare,
Bradfield St George with
Little Wheltnetham,
Cockfield, Felsham and
Gedding

Issue 76
May 2019

Dear Friends,

After a very successful "Tea and Tulips" at Bradfield St Clare on Easter Monday, I've finally sat down to write this monthly letter for May's Reaching Out. It was a memorable Holy Week and Easter this year. We began on Palm Sunday, when our walk of witness turned into a bit of a trek (Yours Truly got a bit confused with the route!) - but we had been sustained by hot cross buns and coffee at Gedding, and were met with more refreshments at Felsham, followed by a well attended communion service.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week we held compline at Bradfield St Clare, and were blessed by Archdeacon David's reflections on 'hospitality' each night. On Maundy Thursday I symbolically washed the feet of four members of the congregation as we reflected on the last supper. It was a truly moving occasion. Then on Good Friday, a few of us gathered at Bradfield St George and heard some reflections from Bishop Stephen Cottrell on the crucifixion. And then Easter Sunday arrived, and what a joyous Sunday it was. The sun

shone, and we praised the Lord in good numbers. We also thanked Henry Ford for his contribution to the life of the benefice, and the wider diocese as he stepped down from public ministry.

As I write this letter we are preparing for our benefice annual parochial church meeting, where we elect churchwardens, PCC members, treasurers and secretaries. All positions of responsibility that in today's climate churches find hard to fill. I would like to thank all those who have served on our PCCs this last year, and I am very grateful that there are many people in our benefice who are willing to serve our church in this way, and I hope that they will continue to do so. If you are reading this letter before 30th April, please do come along to the APCM on Tuesday 30th at 7pm at Cockfield Village Hall to hear about what has happened this past year in our benefice, and to share in fellowship at the end of the meeting. This is your chance to have your say about what we do in the benefice, come and have a voice.

I do hope that you have had a blessed Easter,
Yours in Christ,



Rev Sharon Potter

revsharon@btinternet.com

tel: 01284 828599 or 07825 086063

A BIG THANK YOU!

Lucyann and James Ashdown would like to thank the benefice for the very kind gift which they were presented with at their last service before relocating to Dorset.

Launch of Worshipping Together 25 May

Over the last six months Revd Sharon and I have been developing a distinctive new service for the St George morning slot on the 4th Sunday of the month. It is to be called “Worshipping Together” to emphasise its inclusive nature and the first service will be on 25 May.

The principle features of this service are:-

- A distinctively different service, without Communion, to attract those on the fringe of the church and who are sympathetic to it, without putting off regulars.
- The Anglican liturgy will be drawn from New Patterns For Worship, part of the Common Worship series.
- It will be a collaborative ministry with a team drawn from within the benefice, regardless of actual parish, under the chairmanship of Revd Sharon with team led by William.
- It will complement, not compete with, other benefice services, but may adopt successful ideas.
- It will develop an environment where people want to learn more, grow spiritually and enjoy worship in all its forms. Listening to people and answering questions will be key.
- Welcoming newcomers and outreach into the community will be a priority.
- Depending on the profile of attenders and their wishes, Worshipping Together may evolve over time, but without abandoning the principles set out above.

The ministry team have approved the new service and Revd Sharon is finalising an attractive service sheet. We are all excited by the potential for Worshipping Together. If you feel this is your kind of service or if you believe you have some skills that could be useful on the team, come along or volunteer your services. It is open to all.

William Cardale
Reader



Village Friends

The next meeting is on **Thursday 16 May** with handbells and tea at Felsham Village Hall, 2-4pm. The meeting is open to anyone over the age of 60, and is a place to relax with friends over a cup of tea. Please contact Lynn Cardale on 01284 386327 for more details.

Growing Together Group

The next meeting of the Growing Together group takes place on **Tuesday 21 May** at Bradfield St George Village Hall 7.30pm-9pm. Dates for future meetings are **3 July, 24 September, 19 November**. All at Bradfield St George Village Hall. Anyone can attend, just turn up on the night. For more information speak to William or Lynn Cardale



It will soon be Mid May and in our 6 Villages we shall again be doing a House to House Collection for Christian Aid. We try to cover every house but this is not always possible so if you don't get a red envelope posted through your door and would like to be included, please get in touch with Brian Deards, 01449 737364, Georgina Ford 01284 828479, Duncan McLaren 01284 388046, Beryl Meed 01449 737818, Margaret Newlands 01284 388637, or our Rector, Sharon.

If you can deliver and collect envelopes during the week, we should welcome your help. Christian Aid is one of the major Aid Agencies in this country which day in and day out brings help to millions of people who are in dire need either through natural disasters, Conflict, bad harvests and lack of the basic needs of life, conditions which we can hardly imagine. Farmers are helped to make better use of their land, families are enabled to send their children to school and lives are enriched irrespective of creed or colour. Please help in whatever way you can, by prayer, by learning about other people's lives and by giving as much as you can. Thank you.

Growing.....?

“Growing In God” is the title that has been given to our Diocesan aims. Growing deeper. Growing in number. Growing in influence. Growing younger. Growing younger?

This last one is the one that is perhaps least apparent when walking into one of the churches in the Cockfield Benefice on a “normal” Sunday.

However, there are events happening outside of the traditional Sunday services that may suggest otherwise.

Firstly, Messy Church takes place every other month with the latest one, in March, presenting the Easter story in a creative and fun way. To begin with the families made their way around an Easter Egg hunt that told the Easter story hidden inside 12 coloured plastic eggs. From “palm” leaves of Palm Sunday, bread and “wine” of the Last Supper, nails from the cross to the last egg which was empty: representing the Resurrection. Other activities included making balloon swords (the soldiers in the Garden of gethsemane), egg shaped biscuits, “new life” butterflies, the Easter morning sunrise from coffee filter papers and food colouring and almost life size crosses using saws, wood, nails and drills.



Hopefully you will have seen the finished articles in Felsham, St George and Cockfield Church over the Easter season. After the activities we all gathered together to read the Easter story from an illustrated version and seeing where each egg from the hunt fitted into the story. The afternoon finished, as usual, with everyone sharing tea which included hot cross buns and Easter cupcakes.

The next Messy Church takes place in **Felsham Church** on **Saturday May 18 from 3 – 5 pm**. Do come along. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Also, in March a group from the benefice organised an event called “**Experience Easter**” for **all** the children of Cockfield School. This comprised 6 “stations” around the church which the children visited in turn. Firstly, there was “Hopes and Dreams” during which the

events of Palm Sunday were explored, then “The Servant King” looking at Jesus washing his disciples’ feet before going onto “Remember Me” telling about the Last Supper. From there the children progressed to “Alone” where they thought about Jesus being alone in the dark and what they are afraid of in the dark. Then they sat around the foot cross before we all came together around the empty “tomb” and the telling of the Easter story. The event concluded with an Easter egg hunt in the sunshine in Cockfield Church yard.

You may have seen the stations around Cockfield Church and wondered what they were all about. Hopefully you are now wiser but please do ask me if you would like to know more.

The event was enjoyed by all who took part: the children, staff and volunteers. And hopefully the children went away with a greater understanding of what Easter means to Christians.



Lastly, and more recently was the **Family @ Felsham Easter Sunday** service which saw a packed church of families including 21 children to celebrate the Resurrection with Hot Cross buns, hearty



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singing, a short but pithy talk and ending with an Easter Egg hunt!

So, maybe we **are** growing younger.

Christine Stainer

Preparing for the Chelsea Flower Show

Friday 10 May 2019, 7 for 7.30pm

Bradfield St George Village Hall

Talk and Supper £17.50 - Bar



Harveys
Garden Plants

A fascinating talk by Roger Harvey on preparations for Chelsea where he exhibits award winning Hellebores, followed by supper. Harvey's Garden Plants is a family run nursery in Suffolk, growing an extensive range of hardy herbaceous plants and has been awarded RHS Gold Medals for displays of rare and unusual shade and woodland plants at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2017 & 2018.

For more details and tickets contact:

Lynn Cardale lcardale@hotmail.com 01284 386327

or Christine Stainer christinestainer57@gmail.com 01284 388175

Special dietary requirements? Just let us know in advance



Tea & Tulips at St Clare. Bradfield St Clare PCC would like to thank everyone who came to The Lodge on Easter Monday. We had fabulous weather, gorgeous tulips and food but most of all lots of wonderful visitors. Thank you for your generous support!



Bradfield Breakfasts

When: Sunday 12 May, 8-10am

Where: Bradfield St George Village Hall

Eat what you like, pay what you like!

Any profit will go towards subsidising others who cannot afford to pay

**Please call to book a place if possible
Lynn Cardale 01284 386327**

Bacon, eggs, toast, cereal, fruit salad, yoghurt, tea, coffee, juice and more....

Organised by Bradfield St George Church

WANTED: *help with best before shop starting in July on Saturday mornings for 2 hours in Bradfield St George Village Hall.*

Anyone interested contact Lynn Cardale on 01284 386327 or email lcardale@hotmail.com. Regular or occasional commitment.



All are invited to

**Drake House, Water Lane,
Lt Whelnetham
on Monday 27 May
2-5pm**

by kind invitation of Russell and Clare Abberley

**An event for all the family!
Domestic animals to see -**

Cakes and plants to buy -

**Refreshments -
& Raffle!**

fundraising for Lt Whelnetham Church

*Contact Steve Smith 01284 388311 for
more details*



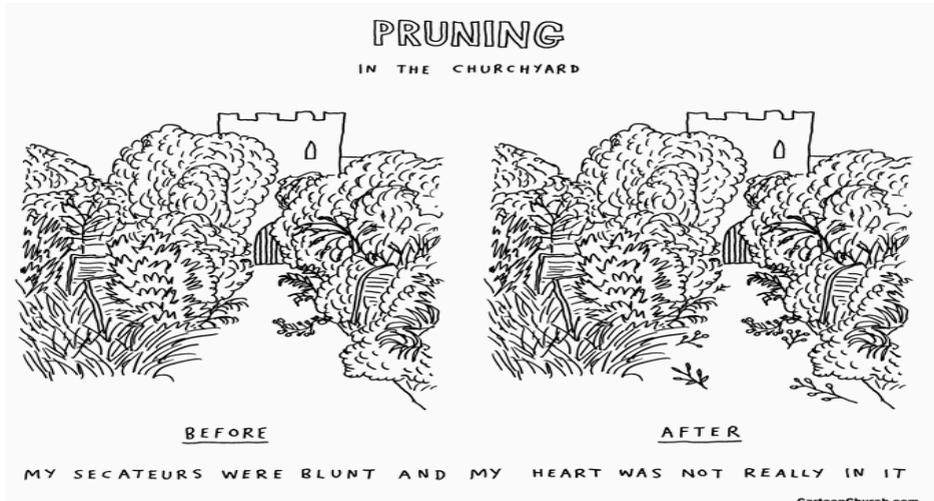
Thy Kingdom Come

30 May - 9 June 2019

Thy Kingdom Come is the call of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for people to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' from Ascension Day to Pentecost, particularly praying for people to know the love of God – to know Jesus. Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for God's spirit to work in the lives of those they know
- Come to realise that every aspect of their life is the stuff of prayer

The Church of England has produced a special daily prayer booklet that is undated so can be used from year to year. A service of said evening prayer will take place for 'Thy Kingdom Come' every evening from Ascension Day (30th May) to Pentecost (9th June) at 5pm. I hope that many of us will gather for this - and pray throughout the 'Thy Kingdom Come' time.



Cockfield Community Council
Raising funds for community projects in Cockfield

5th Annual

Cockfield Art Show

25/26/27th May 2019

10am - 4pm daily

Cockfield Village Hall

650 works for sale by 100 local artists

plus hand crafted items

Free Entry



Home Made Refreshments and Light Lunches served

Credit/debit cards accepted for art purchases

01284 828264 or www.Cockfield.org.uk

Cockfield Benefice Services – May 2019

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Sunday 5 May Easter 3 | 9.30am Communion | Bradfield St George |
| | 11am Communion | Bradfield St Clare |
| | 6pm Six2seven – with Archdeacon Sally Gaze talking about Rural Mission | Felsham |
| Sunday 12 May Easter 4 | 9.30am Communion BCP | Gedding |
| | 11am Communion | Cockfield |
| | 6pm Evening Prayer | Bradfield St Clare |
| Saturday 18 May |  3-5pm | Felsham Village Hall |
| Sunday 19 May Easter 5 | 8am Said Communion BCP | Cockfield |
| | 9.30am Family Service | Felsham |
| Sunday 25 May Easter 6 | 9.30am Worshipping Together | Bradfield St George |
| | 9.30am Morning Prayer BCP | Gedding |
| | 11am Communion | Cockfield |
| Thursday 30 May Ascension Day | 11am Communion | Felsham |

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am
 A service of Celtic Evening Prayer is held every Thursday at Bradfield St Clare at 5pm
 All are welcome – these services are approximately 15 minutes in duration.

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com