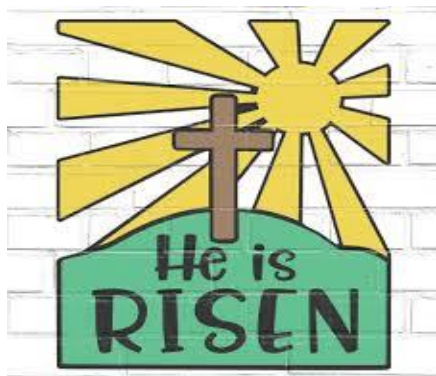


REACHING OUT from the Cockfield Benefice

Covering the villages of:

Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield
St George w Lt Whelnetham,
Bradfield Combust, Cockfield,
Felsham, Gedding,
Gt Whelnetham &
Stanningfield



April 2024

Issue 116

Dear Friends

I'm writing this as we approach Easter Day and I do hope your Easter celebrations were joyful and filled with the love of families and friends. Over the next few weeks in our services we will be hearing from the book of the Acts of the Apostles, and as we move towards Ascension Day and Pentecost, we begin to grapple with the consequences of Jesus' death and resurrection, both for the early church, and for our own church.

For me, what is so wonderful about the Acts of the Apostles is at the beginning of the book, the Christian faith appeared to be just another Jewish sect, but by the end it was well on the way to being an international faith that could speak to the whole world. One of the important aspects of this was the fact that non-Jews were being admitted to the church, and they were not having to become Jews first. And then enter Paul, with the conversion story of all time.

And throughout Acts the activity of the Holy Spirit is so prevalent. Paul and his companion Barnabus were sent out by the Holy Spirit to preach in what is now Turkey. It was the start of a journey to the ends of the

earth. And each breakthrough in the church's mission came through the continual outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit guided the early church, it led Peter to Cornelius, it prompted Saul on his first journey, and it sent Paul into Europe and ordered Paul to Jerusalem.

At the end of Acts (following an exciting storm at sea in Acts 27) we see Paul under house arrest, in Rome, awaiting trial. A rather dispiriting end you may think, but, looked at another way, it ends with the Good News being preached on the streets of Rome, the heart of the empire. And this was only the beginning....

Acts inspires us to recapture the enthusiasm of those early Christians, many suffering and even dying for their faith. We are not tested to this extreme, but there are those in our world who are. There are areas in the world, such as in North Korea and Nigeria, where Christians are not free to express their love of the Lord, and those who do are at risk of imprisonment, or even death. And yet, the persecuted church continues to praise and worship our Lord, setting an example to us all.

And so, I invite you to join us in all our services across the benefice this month, praising and thanking God for all that he has given us, breaking bread together, hearing the word of God, equipping us to continue to witness to him in our everyday lives.

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com 01284 828599 or 07825 086063,

Rev Richard Stainer, our assistant priest can be contacted at richard.stainer14@gmail.com or tel: 01284 388175

Rev Helen Grover, our assistant curate can be contacted at revhelengrover@gmail.com or tel: 01787 269223.

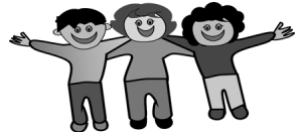
**Bishop's Lent Appeal 2024 - Faith in Action - Prayer and Giving,
Transforming lives in Kagera**

A big 'thank you' to all who came to the coffee morning at Cockfield Rectory on Saturday 16 March. A grand total of £310 is being sent to the appeal, which is a magnificent effort. I know that others in the benefice have also been raising funds for this worthy cause too. I enjoyed the weekly themes to think and pray about and it is very interesting to compare our diocese with the diocese of Kagera, where there are challenges too - but quite different ones!

Village Friends (*our over 65's friendship group*)

The April Village Friends meeting will take place on **Thursday 18 April** at Felsham Village Hall from 2-4pm. This month we will be enjoying a St George's Day Quiz - not necessarily all the questions will be related to St George though!

Please let Sue Metcalf or Canon Sharon know if you'd like to come and if you'd also like transport. Contact Sue Metcalf at st.metcalf@btinternet.com, or telephone 01284 828581 or 07925 867221 or Canon Sharon on 01284 828599 or 07825 086063, revsharon2@gmail.com.



There will be a
Plant & Vintage Tools Sale
on **Saturday 13 April 10am-12.30pm**
at Gt Whelnetham Church.

Refreshments and cakes available.
In aid of the Church and Bury Drop-in Centre.
You are welcome to bring and buy either plants or tools.
If you'd like your tools to be picked up, please contact
Duncan Green on 07927 402405.

This month's 'Big Green Challenge'



Atmospheric CO₂ levels are continuing to rise. In the past 50 years we have added 100ppm of CO₂ to the atmosphere according to Martin Siegart, co-director of the Grantham Institute. 'It's going up about two points every year so in 100 years we'd end up at 600ppm and that would be just crazy,' he says.

The last time CO₂ levels exceeded 400ppm was around four million years ago when global temperatures were 2-4°C (3.6-7.2F) warmer and sea levels were 10-25m (33-82ft) higher than today.

In 2022 the IPCC warned that removing CO₂ from the atmosphere is essential because even big emissions' cuts won't be enough to limit global warming. Yet technologies such as carbon capture are only just emerging and are very expensive.

Planting more trees and protecting carbon-absorbing ecosystems is one of the most effective ways of scaling up carbon capture. But forests worldwide are shrinking at an alarming rate. According to new research, destruction of tropical rainforests is far outstripping the current rate of regrowth.

This is affecting how much carbon tropical forests retain. The loss of forest carbon in the tropics was twice as high in 2015-2019 as it was in 2001-2015, according to a 2022 study.

Source: BBC future

Holiday Club 2024 - Sport's Academy

We are planning to run Holiday Club for primary school aged children again this summer from July 29-August 2, mornings only, in a village hall in the benefice.



If you would like to be involved please contact either Canon Sharon revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599 or Christine on christinestainer57@gmail.com or 07443626499. **Thank you!**

Roman Great Whelnetham

'Exploring artefacts and burials'

A talk by archaeologist Andy Peachey

Saturday 20th April 2024 7.30pm

at Gt Whelnetham Community Centre

Cost £10 - Bar and refreshments available

For more information and to book contact:

Rosemary Currell 01284 386709

or Margaret Eley 01284 386340

Pop-Up

Afternoon Tea

Saturday 6th April

2.30pm - 5pm



St Peter's Church Cockfield

IP30 0LA



*Come and enjoy the Easter
flowers!*

(dogs welcome!) free entry



Come to the Cabaret!



AN EVENING OF SONGS AND
WORDS
IN AID OF
FREEDOM FROM TORTURE

SATURDAY 27TH APRIL
7.30PM.

WHELNETHAM
COMMUNITY CENTRE
IP30 0TX

**FREEDOM
FROM
TORTURE**
EMPLOYEES
SURVIVORS
REBUILDING
LIVES

TICKETS £10

AVAILABLE FROM:

BRIAN WESLEY 01284 705792 /brian.wesley77@gmail.com

(Refreshments Available)



Messy Church News March 2024



Easter MessyChurch took place on Saturday 23 March in Felsham Village Hall (the day before

Palm Sunday). As usual, the afternoon was taken up with lots of activities to explore and explain the Easter Story. We had 'Easter in a Bottle', Easter Gardens, decorated mirrors so that the children could look at who Jesus died for (whoever looks in the mirror!), a very large Hosanna Banner now on display in Cockfield Church, Easter Kim's game, fold out crosses, crosses made of nails and wool and rolling boulders around a course, to name a few.

There was also an Easter Egg Hunt where each egg contained objects to do with each part of the Easter story. These were then used in Rev Helen's talk at the end to explain the real meaning of Easter. Rev Helen asked lots of questions and many of the children, and one very little boy in particular, demonstrated excellent knowledge of the Easter Story.



Painted Easter Eggs



Tea time

We all then piled into the side hall for tea where everyone enjoyed, amongst other things, the now famous Messy Church sausage rolls! Some parents come just for them! Special thanks go to Rev Richard and Cherry for their sterling work in the kitchen.

On leaving each child was given a small Easter Egg and a story booklet telling the Easter Story from the Meaningful Chocolate Company.



The boulder & rolling it!

Please pray for the Messy Church families. The next M C session takes place on Saturday 11 May.

Christine & The MC Team



Rev Helen's talk

Cockfield Benefice Services and events April 2024

Saturday 6 April	2.30-5pm Afternoon Tea at Cockfield Church
Sunday 7 April Easter 2	9.30am Communion CW - Stanningfield 11am Communion CW - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic Communion - Felsham
Saturday 13 April	10am-12.30pm Plant & Vintage Tools Sale - Gt Whelnetham Church
Sunday 14 April Easter 3	10am Morning Prayer CW - Cockfield 10.30am Communion CW - Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Saturday 20 April	7pm 'The Roman Remains of Sicklesmere' talk by Andy Peachey - Gt Whelnetham Community Centre
Sunday 21 April Easter 4	9.30am Morning Prayer CW - Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together - Felsham 10.30am Communion CW - Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer CW - Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 27 April	'Knit and Natter' 2-4pm, venue tbc, contact Rev Canon Sharon for more details
Sunday 28 April Easter 5	9.30am Communion CW - Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion BCP - Gedding 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George
Sunday 5 May Easter 6	9.30am Communion CW - Stanningfield 11am Communion CW - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic Communion - Felsham

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is normally held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am. For more information contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599 or 07825086063