



**St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury
and St John the Baptist, Eastnor
Services during March 2017**

Ledbury and Eastnor Parish Magazine

March 2017

Passion Play

On 11th and 12th April at 7.30pm the Riding Lights Theatre Company will perform their Lent 2017 play, *Crosslight*, in St. Michael's Church.

Crosslight draws us into the dramatic events of Christ's Passion and into the experience of one disciple who failed, despite everything he believed so passionately. It is a communal experience of theatre and worship.

Tickets cost £10.00 for adults and £5.00 for under 16's and may be obtained from the Group Office on 01531 631531 or from Ruth Wragg or Lucy Huxley. Group rates are available. ***Please bring your friends to a first class opportunity to hear the gospel story in an unusual and gripping way.***

Lent Study Groups

You are invited to a meeting at 6.30pm on Monday, 6th March for food, worship and fellowship and to finalise membership of the Lent study groups. The theme this year will be the ten 'Holy Habits' referred to in Acts 2 as the characteristic behaviour of the early Christians. There will be a choice of days and times of meetings. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church. If you cannot make the 6th March, please show your preference for time and dates on the sign up sheet or speak to Tony Hodder or Ian James.

Sunday 5th March

8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evensong

First Sunday of Lent (P)

Sunday 12th March

8.00am Holy Communion BCP
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion

Second Sunday of Lent (P)

Sunday 19th March

8.00am Holy Communion BCP
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
3.30pm Family Service
6.30pm Evensong

Third Sunday of Lent (P)

Sunday 26th March

8.00am Holy Communion BCP
9.30am Mothering Sunday Service
11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion
4.00pm New Service

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday**

Thursday 30th March

7.00pm Holy Communion followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Family News

From the Treasurer. 2016 proved a challenging year, with revenues falling behind budget and 2015. Figures produced by the Stewardship Committee show revenue from regular commitment to giving, including Gift Aid, was a total of £101,606, down £1,884 on 2015, generally due to a reduction in the number of givers. Expenditure, pleasingly, was below that of 2015 by just over £4,000. 2017 will undoubtedly present similar challenges, but if we all put our thoughts and prayers to how much we give, how we can encourage more people to attend services and how we can assist with revenue generating schemes, the situation will change considerably.

LEADON BANK is the venue on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 10.30am for an informal, inter-denominational Bible Study and social group hosted by Ruth Wragg (670196). The gathering ends promptly at 11.30am. Some chose to stay on for a freshly cooked lunch at a reasonable price in the restaurant.

Helpers are required for a number of activities including:

- Bell Ringing (contact Tim Keyes (thkeyes28@hotmail.com (07577 720154 /01531 579021)
- Welcoming and acting as sidespeople at occasional Sunday services (contact the churchwardens)
- Church watching stewards for two hours a week (either each week or less often), please contact Anne Tattersall (632021)

Bookstall. This is stocked with a number of new books for Lent. Spare a minute to look at what is available. Especially recommended is ***Dethroning Mammon*** by the Archbishop of Canterbury which studies the subject of money and materialism and comes to some surprising conclusions.

Ladies who Lunch. The first meeting of the year will be at the Hop Pocket on 15th March at 12 noon. There is a sign - up sheet at the back of church and if you need a lift, contact Sue Simpson on 632989.

Eastnor News

Greetings from Eastnor!

We have had our APCM. Humphrey Britton-Johnson was re-elected as our Treasurer, Sue Tandy remains our Electoral Roll Officer and organises the flowers for our church. James Hervey-Bathurst was elected Secretary and I was re-elected Churchwarden and Safeguarding Officer. Hilda Hawcutt plays the organ for us at each service and our bell ringers are led by Alan Bagworth and Cecilia Walters. Our PCC is completed by Rodney Jarrett and Caroline Layton and together we are striving to build a future for the church in Eastnor and integrate its life into that of the village.

Our recent quinquennial report did not make cheerful reading as the Tower is in urgent need of repairs. There was so much to discuss in the wake of this report that we have arranged a special, extra meeting in March just to discuss our way forward.

We delivered invitations around the village of Eastnor for our Christmas Services and this had a wonderful response. Many of the congregation stayed on afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies and there was a lovely community feel to the Services. Needless to say we are planning to do the same for Easter.

Eastnor has sometimes been seen as the poor relative with a chequered past. We are moving forward and are proud to be your sister church and we extend a warm welcome to you to visit us. Although we are a small congregation, we are a friendly lot and make good coffee!

Beverly Jones
Churchwarden

Churches Working Together in Ledbury

Prayer and Worship. The regular prayer meetings on Thursday at 7.00am, noon and 7.00pm continue. They have led to greater co-operation between the churches and a realisation that we are all working together in Ledbury. As has been the case in recent years, there will be a 24-hour prayer vigil stretching from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday.

Ecumenical praise at Pool Barn on Monday evenings at 8.00pm also continues to be well supported. There is a real sense of unity and Gods presence at the meetings.

Youth Drop-ins. These continue at the Browning Institute on Wednesday evenings for 13-17 year olds, and are becoming well established. Meetings are now also being held on Monday evenings for 13-14 year olds.

Women's World Day of Prayer. The annual service will be held on Friday, 3rd March at 2.00pm at St Michael's. The service has been prepared by Christian women in the Philippines. Women, men and children all welcome.

Men's Breakfast. This will be held at the Seven Stars in the Homend on Saturday 4th March at 9.15am for 9.30am. Price £7.00 for a full English breakfast. Revd David Price will speak about his time as a vicar in Jerusalem.

Open the Book. OTB is a nationwide project to introduce the Bible to primary school children, and is now part of the Bible Society. A team of Christians is invited into a primary school to give dramatised presentations of Bible stories at school assemblies. Both the local schools at Eastnor and Ledbury have welcomed us and the children seem to really enjoy the stories, especially when they are invited to help tell the stories. Ledbury Primary School has made time after the OTB session for the children to stay behind to ask any questions or make any comments about the story. We are always looking for more team members (particularly at Eastnor). If you would like to join us have a word with Heather Lucas or Mary Anne Keyes.

Open the Book is great fun for everyone. Please pray that it will give these children a foundation on which they can build a real faith.

A NEWCOMER TO LEDBURY

We moved to Ledbury in June 2016 having lived on the Isle of Wight for the past 40 years. We definitely needed to downsize. Our three daughters and ten grandchildren all live on the mainland and we wanted to be nearer to them. We wanted a change – a new adventure maybe, but certainly less garden and the ability to walk into town. We had no reason not to move; no aged parents living.

So why Ledbury? Liz grew up in Worcester and loved seeing the Malvern Hills from her primary school. Ledbury provides easy access for all our family. We are delighted to have moved from an Island surrounded by the sea to a lovely, friendly town surrounded by hills and with a good tennis club.

I went to sea as an Apprentice at the age of 16. I served in cargo liners running to the Far East and to West Africa, and later on car ferries. Liz and I were married in 1962 after she had finished her nurse's training and I was home studying for my Master's Certificate. I rang 'Finished with Engines' for the last time on 14th February 1997. I was licensed as a Reader in 1984 and currently hold PTO which is being transferred to Hereford Diocese. We have both grown up with a church background – we have always shared our faith for which we are extremely thankful.

Brian Bowers

Church Officers

Clergy - Rector: Revd. Keith Hilton-Turvey (07796 585407)
Others: Revd. Tony Hodder (01531 636840)
Revd. William Simmonds (01531 635796)

Churchwardens: Ian James (01531 637376), Lois Pratt (01531 636849)

PCC Secretary: Alan Pratt (01531 636849)

Treasurer: Bruce Wragg (01531 670196)

Office Secretary: Sarah Williams Tel. 01531 631531
Email: ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net

***For further information look on the church web site
www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk or ring the church office.***

APCM. The Annual Church meeting will be held on 30th March at 7.30pm. Wardens, Deputy Church Wardens, Deanery Synod representatives and a whole new PCC will be elected. This is your chance to hear what has been happening in the church and what is planned and to make your views known.

Advance warning

- There will be a confirmation service at St Michael's on Sunday, 7th May at 10.30am. Anyone interested should contact the Rector.
- Following the Church Away Day in December, details of the follow-up meeting and subjects to be discussed will be available shortly. Notes of the previous meeting are available at the back of the church.

This is the first issue of what is hoped will be a regular monthly magazine. It is rudimentary in format and it is hoped that it will evolve into something more attractive. The thing which struck the compiler was how much was going on in our church life. However, too much is being done by too few people. We all need to look at how we use our time. We were not asked to give our left-over time to the Lord's service but all of our time.