

Woolstone with Gotherington & Oxenton

PARISH MAGAZINE



**St Martin de Tours,
Woolstone**



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, OXENTON

INSIDE THIS MONTH

The Vicar's Letter
St Valentine's Day
Ash Wednesday
Nature Notes
Service information

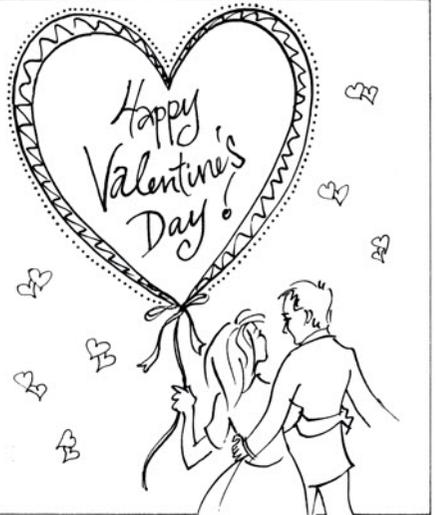
PLUS

Cartoons, humour, quotes and graphics of the month

February



2016



LEN⁺

INFORMATION

Weddings, Funerals & Baptisms

Our churches are beautiful buildings which were built to serve our communities. Over the years they have witnessed countless services, commemorating births, marriages and deaths.

Fees for marriages and funerals are governed by statute plus additional costs e.g. organist.

There is no charge for Baptism.

If you would like more information speak to our clergy or members of the Church Council.

Bookings for baptisms and weddings should be made with Bishops Cleeve Church Office on Tel. 673612. Open Monday to Friday 9-12 answer-phone available for messages. Funeral enquiries to Rev. Richard Reakes (see back page for contact details).

St Michael's and Southam church services are detailed on the website:

<http://www.stmichaelsbishopsleeve.co.uk>

Sunday Services

On Sunday mornings we usually have two or three services : a simple 'said' Communion at 08.00; a 'classic' sung Holy Communion at 09.30, and a less formal Morning Worship at 11.15. On the first Sunday of the month we sometimes have Evensong at 18.30, though this sometimes moves by a week or two for special events like Easter, All Souls or Advent and Cafe Church at 18.00 on the 2nd Sunday in the month.

The 11.15 services follow the pattern below:

1st Sunday: All-age worship - 2nd Sunday: Morning Prayer

3rd Sunday: Morning Prayer - 4th Sunday: Holy

Communion - 5th Sunday: Varied

Apart from on the 1st Sunday of the month, children usually have their own activities at the 11.15 service.



Woodmancote Church Regular services:

Church services are held on Sunday mornings, commencing at 10:30am.

Communion is held during the third Sunday morning service. A listing of future services is provided on the website: <http://http://www.woodmancotechurch.org.uk>

The Methodist Church has Morning Worship at 10.30 am plus other services.

See www.Methodist-BishpsCleeve.co.uk

Roman Catholic Church (in St Michael's)

Saturdays 5.30 pm Holy Mass

Tuesday, Thursday & Holy Days

9.30 am Mass.

Saints Days as announced

Dear Friends

What's your favourite book in the Bible? Would it be one of the Gospels telling of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus? Or would you choose one of St Paul's letters which encouraged the early church and even, at times, told them off or would you look into the Old Testament and choose one of the prophets like Isaiah or Nehemiah.

If there is one book I constantly turn to with all of life's ups and downs it is the book of Psalms. It is a very honest book, it covers all of human emotion from joy to despair from laughter to anger, from praise to lament.

The Psalms is the ancient hymnbook of the church and sadly we don't use it often enough in our regular Sunday worship. However, during the week, for those who use the morning and evening office (two short services that are said at the beginning and end of each day - go to any Cathedral and you will see this done magnificently) the psalms are an integral part of the worship.

I'm sure most people know at least one of the Psalms. The most famous, most probably, is Psalm 23, commonly called 'The Lord is my Shepherd.' There is also Psalm 121 'I lift up my eyes to the hills,' Psalm 139 which talks of how God knows each of us intimately and Psalm 150 with its call to praise.

As we enter into the season of Lent we shall be holding a Lent Course which will be looking at some of the Psalms and the way we can use them in our journey of faith and also for our personal prayers as we lead up to Easter. If you would like to find out more just get in touch with me.

So let me encourage all of you to take another look at the book of Psalms, I'm sure you will resonate with some of them and try and turn them into your own prayer to God this Lent.

With kindest regards

Richard

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2016

St John the Baptist, Oxenton and St Martin de Tours, Woolstone

5.00 pm	Wednesday	Weekly Evening Prayer at the Vicarage	
11.15 am	7th February	Parish Communion Oxenton	
7.30 pm	10th	Ash Wednesday Service at St Michael's	
11.15 am	14th	Parish Communion Woolstone	
8.00 am	21st	Said Communion Oxenton	
11.15 am	21st	Village Praise Gotherington Church Centre	
11.15 am	28th	Parish Communion Woolstone	
11.15 am	6th March	Mothering Sunday Service Gotherington Church Centre	
11.15 am	13th	Parish Communion Woolstone	
10.30 am	20th	Palm Sunday Benefice Service St Michael's No service in this parish	
7.30 pm	24th	Maundy Thursday St Michael's	
10.30 am	25th	Good Friday Service Oxenton or Church Centre	
11.15 am	27th	Easter Day Communion Woolstone	


EASTER



**9th
February -
Shrove
Tuesday**

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH SERVICES

Lifts are available to all of our services. To put a regular understanding in place or arrange a one-off, call Vera Goodhind (672894) or Sarah Whitehead (674489).

Weekday Services

Wednesdays	9:00 am	Ecumenical Communion at Methodist Church
Wednesdays	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer Gotherington Vicarage
Thursdays	10.45 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship Traditional Language) at St Michael's

**THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR THE
MARCH 2016 MAGAZINE**

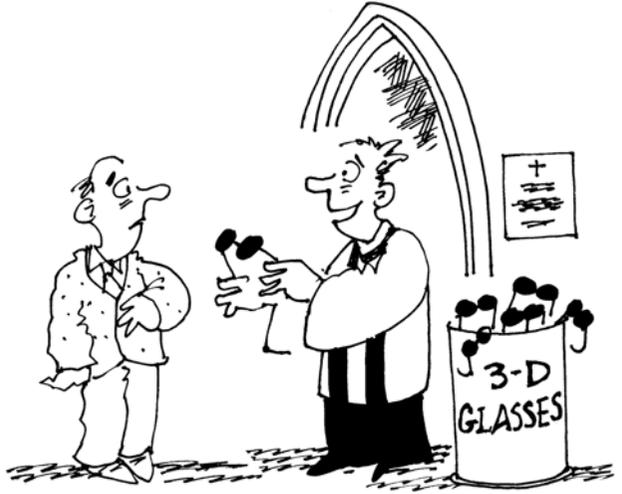
is 15th February 2016

Please e-mail to: mag@thecookes.me.uk

OUR COMMUNITY

We remember with
gratitude the lives of
Bob CLIFFORD
Barbara CROOK

Lent Course to start on
Tuesday 16th Feb for five
weeks. 1st session at 3pm-
4.30pm, next four 2 pm-
4.30pm. Venue Claire
Newsum's home, 17 Malle-
son Road . Theme will be
The Psalms.



*...you will, of course, need a pair of these
if you want the full 'Lord's Prayer experience'...*

THE CHARITY FOR FEBRUARY IS MISSIONS TO SEAFARERS

ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH CENTRE

The next monthly lunch at Gotherington Church Centre will be on Thursday 18th February at 12.30pm. Please book your place with Sarah Whitehead 674489 or Ellen Cooke 673170. The Connexion provides a welcome afternoon of entertainment with good company on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month from 2-4 pm. Drop in and try it.

Farewell message from the Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Rt Revd Martyn Snow

“This is my last time writing for the Messenger. In March my family and I will be packing boxes and setting off for Leicester where I will be welcomed as their bishop after Easter.

“So this is a perfect opportunity to say a heart-felt thank you to you all for showing me such kindness and generosity during my all-too-brief stay in Gloucestershire.

“I truly give thanks to God for bringing me to this Diocese. I have learnt so much during my time here. In particular, I have seen clearly that when Christians show genuine love for one another and for their neighbours, and when the gospel of Jesus Christ is faithfully preached, people of all backgrounds will respond. The transforming power of this good news is not just for the wealthy or the poor, not just for people in urban areas or rural areas, but for all people.

“So please go on faithfully serving in this way and know that I will go on praying for you. It would be lovely to see many of you at my farewell service which will be at Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 12 March at 4.30pm. May God richly bless you.”

This winter has been especially mild but that wasn't the case in 2002 as the item contributed by the late Stan Coles for the February 2002 magazine shows.

COUNTRY DIARY

Certainly the old saying "As the day lengthens the cold strengthens" has been borne out this year. Over the Christmas period into the New Year frost has been quite severe and birds have been having a hard time; certainly none more so than tiny birds such as wrens which have great difficulty in keeping up their body-weights sufficiently to survive.

One wren seems to have taken up permanent residence in our garden and the surrounding area and at the time of writing seems to have managed fairly well. Watching birds at this time of year makes one wonder if there is some design fault in their bodies construction. Birds can fluff out their plumage for extra insulation and can almost double extra insulation to reduce heat loss. But what of their legs and feet which are exposed to the elements? This applies particularly to duck, moorhens, herons and others which habitually stand or swim in cold water for long periods. Birds can preserve heat to a certain extent by standing on one leg (or hopping about) with one leg tucked into their feather. In addition, they have a special heat-preserving mechanism which by transferring heat through veins and arteries ensures that the heat lost can be carried back into the body and by a sort of natural thermostat keeps feet and body just warm enough to protect their flesh from freezing and so what appears to be a fault is in fact catered for.



Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 4 March 2016



The Women's World Day of Prayer Service this year is at the Gotherington Church Centre at 2pm on Friday 4 March.

On Friday 4 March an estimated 3 million people in over 170 countries and islands will gather to observe the day of prayer, using an order of service written by Christian women in Cuba and translated into over 60 languages and 1000 dialects. In the British Isles alone over 6,000 services will be held. The day begins as the sun rises over the island of Samoa and continues until it sets off the coast of American Samoa, some 35 hours later.

The theme 'Receive children. Receive me' reflects St Mark's Gospel, chapter 10 verses 13-16, which is the focus of the service and a reminder that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect.

This is not a day of prayer just for women - everyone is welcome to attend the service and for further information and resources, together with details of the services in your area, please see the WWDP website: www.wwdp.org.uk.

10 February Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

14 February St Valentine’s Day

The very first Valentine card - a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn’t. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine’s prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed ‘From your Valentine.’

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

The modern mention of Valentine’s Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784).

The rose is red, the violet’s blue
The honey’s sweet, and so are you
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.



W.I. Report

Imagine travelling 2,674 miles around England, visiting 309 cathedrals on the way, on horseback, with no back up vehicle or crew. That's what William Reddaway did for seven months in 2013 on his horse, Strider and he gave us a most interesting and amusing account of his journey at our November meeting. He made the journey to raise money for the Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre, Riding for the Disabled Association and the Family Holiday Association. He actually had to walk for several hundred miles leading his horse when Strider developed a saddle sore. To date he has raised £75,000.



We had a busy Christmas period with the G.F.W.I. Christmas Concert in the Town Hall, a lovely meal at Dumbleton Hall and our own Christmas party where members provided savouries and the committee made a tempting array of desserts. We were entertained at the party by Matthew Sproston and his ukelele. He sang a medley of George Formby songs plus old favourites and Christmas numbers and we all enjoyed singing along with him.

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month in Gotherington Village Hall and have a varied programme planned for 2016. Do come and join us at 7.30 pm, visitors and new members are always very welcome.

JP

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

The annual subscription (a mere £3 for 10 copies of Church and local news) is now due and should be given to your friendly distributor during this period if you have not already paid.



TEWKESBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

www.tewkesburychoral.org.uk
Registered Charity
260811

Performing for Tewkesbury and District since 1844



Monthly Draw for December 2015

Total of Prizes £80.00
Monthly Payment to Church Funds £100.00

If you are not yet a member and would like to join please contact Dawn Maisey on 01242 673686, or maisey254@fsmail.net

Woolstone with Gotherington & Oxenton PCC			
1st	£50	79	Mrs J Collins
2nd	£20	68	Mrs S Washbourne
3rd	£10	143	Mrs J Keyte
	£80		

PARISH COUNCIL

Details of the temporary closure of Shutter Lane have now been received. This will run from 22nd February until 30th March, with the latter part of the period involving only partial closure for tidying up and finishing operations. The stretch affected runs from The Shutter to Shady Nook and it is hoped that pedestrian access can be maintained throughout. Councillors have asked for details of how this will be managed in respect of bus and refuse collection access, and welcomed the offer made by the developers to help residents with reduced mobility. Once the work is completed, the access to the new development will have road priority at the junction with the original Shutter Lane.

The parish council has also asked for an update to the lengthy closure of the coffin path (AGO21 and ABC11). The latest news is as follows:

The public footpath is closed by legal order until 1st March 2016 and the developers have now asked to extend this by a further six months in the interest of public safety in connection with the ongoing construction works.

However, our informant has spoken to the developers with regards to supplying a temporary permissive route around the site and they are hoping to confirm an alternative route on site around the time the new temporary closure commences. They have promised to forward a plan imminently, outlining this alternative route. Some minor changes to the path within the Homelands developments will become permanent as a result of the positioning of new houses.

The consultation period for the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been extended to comply with all the legal requirements involved. There is still time to return any response forms to the shop or complete the questionnaire online.

Once again the council has vacancies for two support staff. The Clerk manages the administration and the website, and the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) handles all financial matters. Both posts require computer proficiency and would suit local people seeking part-time posts with flexible hours and good pay. Training is provided. Details can be obtained from the chairman, David Hearn, at david@hearn.demon.co.uk

GOTHERINGTON FETE 12TH JUNE

This promises to be a spectacular event for all ages. Plans are progressing well and as always there is room for lots of helpers. Contact Bev Osborne or Howard Samuels to see how you could be involved.

Keep up to date with progress on the Gotherington Summer Fete through the website, Topics, notices at the Village Hall coffee mornings as well as via Twitter and Facebook.

NEWS FROM MARCHANTS BUS SERVICE

We are pleased to announce the launch of our NEW Early Riser Ticket for holders of English National Concessionary bus passes travelling before 09:30 Monday – Friday on all Marchants local bus services. Please present your pass to the driver to receive a special discounted flat fare of £1 for each single journey made on the W1 and W2 routes. This rate applies whether you are travelling to or from Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, or any point between.

On the T route between Bishops Cleeve and Tewkesbury, and the W1 and W2 routes between Gotherington and Winchcombe, bus pass holders can travel for £1.50 per journey before 9.30am.

BBC ANTIQUES ROADSHOW TO VISIT TEWKESBURY ABBEY.

BBC One's Antiques Roadshow has announced that it will be filming at Tewkesbury Abbey on Thursday 12 May. Everyone is welcome to bring their treasures to an Antiques Roadshow filming day. It is a great, free day out and no pre-registration, tickets or appointments are required.

The Children's Society

Thank you to everyone who has supported this charity during 2015. This year we raised £431, an amount down on previous years but still a significant donation to support vulnerable children throughout Britain. Collecting loose change in a box is a valuable way of raising money over the course of a year so if you don't already support this scheme and would like to help please get in touch.

Caroline Meller

677 489 / cmbmeller@gmail.com

An Armchair Tour of Gotherington

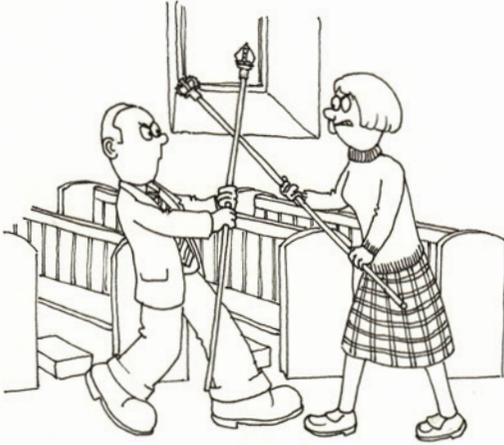
What better way could there be of exploring the history of the village on a winter's afternoon than from the comfort of a chair? Take a trip around Gotherington without even leaving the Church Centre. Geoff Newsum and Caroline Meller will be delving into the many facets of the village on Sunday 13th March, beginning at 2.30pm, at the Church Centre. Tickets (to include light refreshments) are £2 each, available from: Geoff, Caroline, Gotherington Stores or at the Local History meeting on Tuesday 23rd February.

Geoff 673 651 & Caroline 677 489

Alderton Allotments

Various sized plots with reasonable rents now available. Waiting list is open to both residents of Alderton and the surrounding villages.

For further details please contact: Tamsin James, Clerk to Alderton Parish Council, 01684 290392 or tamsin.james1@btinternet.com



In a tradition dating back to 1977, the churchwardens re-enacted "Star Wars"

OUR NEW VILLAGE AGENT

Lesley Wall covers Tewkesbury and the surrounding parishes of: Alderton, Ashchurch, Dumbleton, Gotherington, Gretton, Oxenton, Prescott, Teddington, Toddington and Twyning.

To contact Lesley call 01452 528491 or

email lesleyw@villageagent.grc.org.uk

GOWNS
07752
152485



John and Sally Barrand would like to extend most grateful thanks to all those extremely kind members of GOWNS who helped them with lifts to hospital and surgery whilst John was unable to drive. We also wish you all a Very Healthy New Year and may GOWNS continue with its wonderful work.

FOODBANK UPDATE

We are continuing to provide foodbank support for the local community. If you want to contribute then please see the regular shopping list for food donations available from the North Cotswold foodbank website <http://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/>. At present there are some shortages; sauces especially tomato ketchup, various sizes of bags of sugar, packets of mash, coffee, sponge puddings, and packet rice. Food donations can be left in the collection box at the back of St Michael's Church or at the Church Office any weekday morning. If you prefer to make a cash donation to the foodbank please can you leave it at the Church Office in an envelope marked "Foodbank Donation".

If you want to find out more about being involved then please contact Philip Cule through the Church Office. We are currently recruiting extra volunteers to help meet peaks in demand, and are planning to run a new volunteer half day training session in the next few weeks. The foodbank has a stocking session on Tuesday mornings and is open every Friday morning.

WHO'S WHO		
BC Team Rector	Malc. Allen (day off Friday)	01242 677851
BC Team Vicar	Richard Reakes (day off Monday) richard.vicarage@gmail.com	01242 675559
Church Office	(Office Hours)	01242 673612
Woolstone with Gotherington & Oxenton		
Churchwardens	Michael Bower	01242 672900
	Sarah Whitehead	01242 674489
PCC Secretary	Sarah Whitehead	01242 674489
PCC Treasurer	John Bishton	01242 677290
Gotherington Church Centre bookings	Ellen Cooke	01242 673170
Bells	Pauline Bower	01242 672900
Junior Church	Claire Newsum	01242 673651
Organist	Paul Maisey	01242 673686
Church Flowers: Woolstone	Joan Hocken	01242 674453
Church Flowers: Oxenton	Valerie Martin	01242 673233
Magazine Representative	Gill Lofts	01242 674129
Weekly Sheets	Adrian Cooke	01242 673170
Intercession Rota	Pat Pearson	01242 675708
Deanery Synod Representative	Michael Bower	01242 672900
Deanery Synod Representative	Vera Goodhind	01242 672894
Safeguarding representative for children and adults at risk	Pauline Bower	01242 672900
Magazine Editors (Items for inclusion in the Parish Magazine to reach the editors by the 15th of the month).	Adrian & Ellen Cooke, 3 Yew Tree Drive, Gotherington, GL52 9HB. E-mail mag@thecookes.me.uk	01242 673170
The Parish Magazine Printed and Published by Adrian & Ellen Cooke		