

Childs Ercall February Newsletter



Follow us on
Facebook
[www.facebook.com/
theunitedbenefice](http://www.facebook.com/theunitedbenefice)

Contacts

Rev Becky Richards
01630 661204

Churchwardens

Barbara Weston
01952 840320
Judy Warrilow
01952 541059

Secretary

Gill Mellor
01952 840334

Services

4th 11:00am Holy Communion

11th 9:30am Sunday School

18th 11:00am Service at St Peters

25th 4:00pm Family Service

Our church is open every day for everyone



Join us in St Peter's
Stoke on Tern
for pancakes.
13th February 12-2pm
All are welcome

Riddle: What has a head, a tail, is brown, and has no legs?
(Answer Next month)

Sunday School

11th February @ 9:30am

Annette Moore our Sunday School Teacher is brilliant and I would encourage all families to come along.

There are plenty of refreshments for the adults and fun for the children, always a lovely morning.

February 2024 Clergy Letter



A Fusion of Festivals

I recall one of our pre-school children saying at Easter, as we told the story of Jesus dying on the cross...“But he’s only just been born!” Even for us more mature church-goers we seem to be thrown into Lent unusually early this year. Perhaps it is a reminder that this baby in a manger was born to die on the cross. In one Christian hymn by D.T.Niles of Sri Lanka there is the line, “Christmas shines with Easter glory.” I wonder how many of you spotted the cross within the Christmas Tree on this year’s Benefice Christmas Card. Some churches and cathedrals even make their stripped Christmas trees into the Good Friday cross.

In 2024 we are faced with another puzzling coincidence, **Ash Wednesday** falls on 14th February, **Valentine’s Day**. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday when many Christians receive a small cross of ash (Traditionally made from last years Palm crosses) on their foreheads as a reminder of the dust from which we were made and to which we return. In our scientific world we no longer think of God shaping soil into a person and breathing life into him (Genesis 2), but we know well that we are made of organic molecules which break down and return to the environment on our demise.

St Valentine was a 3rd Century Priest or Bishop martyred in Rome under Emperor Claudius. Nobody knows why his feast day is associated with lovers, apart from the Medieval tradition, recorded in Chaucer, that birds paired on this day in Spring. However, it is more likely derived from the pagan festival of Lupercalia, held in ancient Rome from 13-15th February to promote health and fertility. Sacrifices were offered to purify the city and rituals performed to celebrate love.

As we receive our ashes, a reminder of our human frailty and mortality, they are given as a cross, the symbol and centre of our faith in a God who *‘loved the world so much, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may NOT perish, but have eternal life.’* (John 3 v.16). Jesus was that sacrifice which purified the city and brought spiritual health and well-being or **Shalom**. He started a movement of people devoted to love and reconciliation *‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.’* (John 15 v.12).



This congruence of dates brings much food for thought...perhaps this leap year we should receive ash hearts on our foreheads instead of crosses!

Rev Becky (January 19th 2024)



A S H
WEDNESDAY
SERVICES

Ash Wednesday—14th February 2024

Holy Communion - St Peters at 9:30am

Holy Communion –St Lukes, Hodnet at 7:00pm

 **The Food Bank collection point is in the church porch. All donations gratefully received**

The food left with us is sent on to Market Drayton where it is distributed back to local families

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**PCC 1st February 2024
Forest Church in Sambrook
Saturday 23rd March 2-4pm**

Soup & Stories

**Every Friday lunchtime
during Lent
12:30pm at St Peter's
Starting on 23rd February**



Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter.

The ancient Greeks and Romans ate pancakes, sweetened with honey; the Elizabethans ate them flavored with spices, rosewater, sherry, and apples. They were traditionally eaten in quantity on Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day, a day of feasting and partying before the beginning of Lent.

What the English call a pancake is what Americans would call a crepe, and American pancakes, which are fluffier and more leavened, are called "American pancakes." The main difference is that American pancakes are thick and fluffy, and they usually have baking powder as part of their ingredients. British pancakes are thin and larger, and they're usually rolled up or folded into triangles. They're very similar to French crepes, just slightly thicker and a bit smaller. Scottish pancakes, on the other hand, are fairly close to American pancakes. Enjoy them however they are presented!



INTERESTING FACTS AND DATES ABOUT OUR CHURCH

The beautiful Lych-gate was the gift of Mr Edward Bourne of the Manor House. The Porch over the south door was erected by subscription in 1901. The East Window picturing the Ascension of our Lord was inserted in 1895 by many friends and parishioners to mark their loving appreciation of all that the Rev J Padmore-Noble had done for the Church and Parish. The church clock and the tablet on the wall inside the Church were put in by subscription in 1920 as a War Memorial in memory of those who laid down their lives during the Great War

Thank you to all 100 £10 donations that have helped keep this fundraiser going for so many years. It was the idea from a couple of guys who suggested a way of raising just over £500 for the church. Sadly, both have passed away, but their idea lives on.



Can we thank Barbara and Carol for their work collecting from interested parties. We will be visiting you soon. A few people have left the village during 2023 so we have some spare numbers.

If you would like to join please contact Gill on 01952 840 334

DRAW 5 - 1st £25 A Annandale, 2nd £15 L Sambrook, 3rd £10 Richard & Rachel

DRAW 6 –1st £50 J Poole, 2nd £50 J McPhie, 3rd £10 S Harfield

February 2024

Church	4th February 2 nd before Lent <i>Colossians 1:1-15</i> <i>John 1:1-14</i>	11 th February 1 st before Lent <i>2 Corinthians 4:3-6</i> <i>Mark 9:2-9</i>	18th February Lent 1 <i>1 Peter 3:18-the end</i> <i>Mark 1:9-15</i>	25th February Lent 2 <i>Romans 4:13-end</i> <i>Mark 8:31-end</i>
St Peter Stoke on Tern		11 am Café church Rob Richards	11.00am Holy Communion Rev B Richards	11 am Morning Prayer Rev Chris Simpson
St Michael Childs Ercall	11.00am Holy Communion Rev C Simpson	9.30am Sunday School Lay lead		4.00pm Family Service Rev B Richards Barney Reeve
St Luke Sambrook	9.30am Holy Communion Rev C Simpson Rev C Alexander(P)		9.30am Village Service Lay lead	
St Oswald Hinstock		10.00am Café Church Rev C Alexander Jenny Evans	10.00am Holy Communion Rev B Richards	10.00am Morning Prayer Lay lead
St Swithun Cheswardine	10.00am Morning Worship Barney Reeve	10.00am Holy Communion Rev Janet Holmes	10.00am Family Worship Rob Richards Rev C Alexander	6.00pm Evensong John Naylor
St Mary Hales	6.00pm Evensong Rev M Griffiths Barney Reeve			10.00am Holy Communion Rev M Griffiths Rev B Richards(P)
St Lukes Hodnet	11.00 Morning Prayer Rev C Alexander	11.00am Holy Communion Rev B Richards	11.00am Holy Communion Rev Janet Holmes	11.00am Morning Prayer Janice Parker
The Epiphany Peplow		6.30pm Evensong Rev B Richards		11.00am Holy Communion Rev B Richards

***Family Worship Theme: Moses in the bullrushes**

WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE MONTH

Ash Wednesday 14th Holy Communion, St Peters, Stoke on Tern, 9.30am - *Rev B Richards*
St Lukes, Hodnet, 7.00pm - *Rev C Alexander & Rev B Richards*

Thursday 22nd Holy Communion, St Swithuns, Cheswardine, 10.00am - *Rev B Richards*

Morning Prayers—Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. All Welcome

LENT EVENING SERVICES (simple supper at 7pm, evening prayer at 7.30pm)

Monday 19th – Childs Ercall – Rev B Richards & Rev C Alexander ‘The serving master’ (Luke 12:35-38)

Tuesday 27th – Cheswardine – Rev C Alexander & Rev B Richards ‘The Uprooted Plant’ (Matthew 15:13)



Christmas at Childs Ercall was a truly wonderful time and we would like to thank everyone who played their part in making Childs Ercall a special place to be. Thank you to you all!