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Contacts

Rev Becky Richards **01630 661204**

Churchwardens

Barbara Weston

01952 840320

Judy Warrilow

01952 541059

Secretary

Gill Mellor

01952 840334

Services

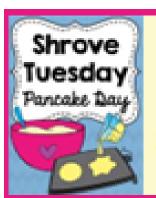
4th 11:00am Holy Communion

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 or 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)



Ash Wednesday—14th February 2024

Holy Communion - St Peters at 9:30am

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

foodbank 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

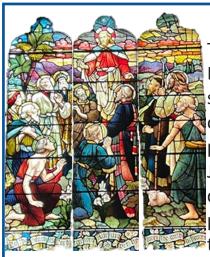




Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter.

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	11 th February	18th February	25th February
	2 nd before Lent	1 st before Lent	Lent 1	Lent 2
	Colossians 1:1-15	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	1 Peter 3:18-the end	Romans 4:13-end
	John 1:1-14	Mark 9:2-9	Mark 1:9-15	Mark 8:31-end
		11 am	11.00am	11 am
St Peter		Café church	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer
Stoke on Tern		Rob Richards	Rev B Richards	Rev Chris Simpson
	11.00am	9.30am		4.00pm
St Michael	Holy Communion	Sunday School		Family Service
Childs Ercall	Rev C Simpson	Lay lead		Rev B Richards
		10 mm		Barney Reeve
	9.30am		9.30am	
St Luke	Holy Communion		Village Service	
Sambrook	Rev C Simpson		Lay lead	
	Rev C Alexander(P)		Transcript 1 Specific Science	
	20 489	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am
St Oswald		Café Church	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer
Hinstock		Rev C Alexander	Rev B Richards	Lay lead
		Jenny Evans		
	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am	6.00pm
St Swithun	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Family Worship	Evensong
Cheswardine	Barney Reeve	Rev Janet Holmes	Rob Richards	John Naylor
			Rev C Alexander	
	6.00pm			10.00am
St Mary	Evensong			Holy Communion
Hales	Rev M Griffiths			Rev M Griffiths
	Barney Reeve			Rev B Richards(P)
St Lukes Hodnet	11.00	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am
	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer
	Rev C Alexander	Rev B Richards	Rev Janet Holmes	Janice Parker
The Epiphany Peplow		6.30pm		11.00am
		Evensong		Holy Communion
		Rev B Richards		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 Richard

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!