

Study

Prayer is an important component of our seasonal study groups, which now meet for five weeks in Lent, and three weeks each in the Summer and Advent. The groups have grown steadily over the past eight years and there are now over twenty people who regularly attend the morning and evening study courses in order to deepen their faith, reflect on their Christian discipleship, share in fellowship and develop their understanding of the Bible as well as exploring different approaches to prayer. The model that Jan and I have developed draws on a range of materials and has a clear framework with a flexibility of content and an inclusive approach; and its effectiveness has attracted the attention of the diocese. Happily, Jan plans to continue with the groups after I leave.

Fellowship and Outreach

It has been heart-warming to see the quality of fellowship and pastoral care in our churches; and the forthcoming vacancy gives an opportunity for this to develop further. Special occasions such as our Buscot-Coleshill Flower Festival in 2016 and concerts at all our four churches, as well as our much valued, regular contact with the Bowood School, have helped the engagement of the church and local community. Social occasions like the Parish Ramble and the Vicar's Garden Party are good opportunities to share in recreation and enjoyment, and it was wonderful to see so many people at my Farewell Garden Party at Buscot Park on July 20th, which was generously hosted by Lord and Lady Faringdon (*see illustration*). This year we raised £279 for Helen and Douglas House, and the grand total donated over the past eight years for this much-loved Oxford-based hospice for children is a magnificent. £2,220 – and a reminder of the importance of our outward giving.

Shared Heritage

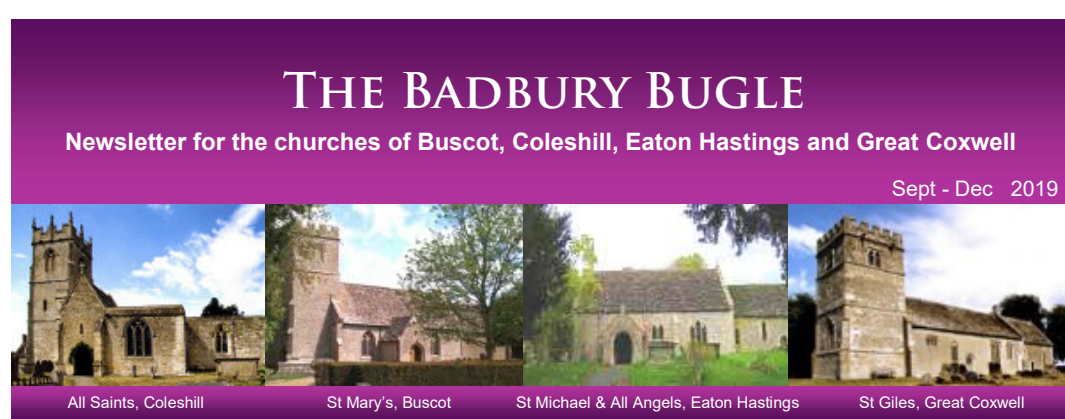
We are blessed with four beautiful, well maintained listed Grade 1 or 2* church buildings. Over the past eight years there have been a number of modest but effective projects which have sought to embellish our churches and churchyards, such as the handsome new notice-board and wild-flower garden of remembrance at Great Coxwell, the new light fittings and set of seasonal altar frontals at Coleshill, significant conservation work at Buscot and a CCTV system which enables us to protect the valuable furnishings there, and improved access for the disabled at Eaton Hastings and Buscot. We are blessed with churchwardens and others who help to care for our churches, whose stewardship of the buildings, furnishings and churchyards is exemplary and much appreciated. Above all, we are able to keep all our churches open daily for prayer and for visitors to enjoy.

Envoi

Recently, when I was doing an interview for the Highworth Link about my eight years here, the editor Sarah Gardiner asked me what message I would like to leave my parishioners. The message that I offered her is my final word to you:

Have confidence in yourself; trust in God's provision for you; be good stewards of what has been given to you; and pray that you may discern what God is calling you to do in his service.

Your friend and vicar, David



LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear Friends,

Retirement beckons, and sadly this will be my last Badbury Bugle. My last service will be at Eaton Hastings on September 29th, and I will move back to my Surrey home in Dorking in November, where I will assist as a retired priest in a couple of the local churches. This issue of the Bugle gives me an opportunity to reflect on eight happy and rewarding years as Vicar of the Badbury Group of Churches and to draw out some themes and some hopes for the future. This issue of the Bugle will be a little different to usual as my farewell letter to you will span the front and back pages.

Communication

Firstly, I am so pleased that the Badbury Bugle has become an established tool of communication in the benefice. It was launched at the beginning of 2014, and I would like to pay tribute to April Hill who has produced not only the Bugle but all our special service booklets and Christmas and Easter posters to a very high standard of design and has been a real pleasure to work with on all these projects. Jan Hall will be taking over the compilation of the Bugle until my successor arrives and the design and production will pass from April to Sam Thulin, who is an artist-designer member of our Great Coxwell congregation.

Prayer

Sam has designed our new prayer space in St. Giles Church Great Coxwell (*see illustration*) which is located under the window opposite the porch and it is handsome and eye catching. It provides an opportunity for visitors to read a selection of prayers, reflect on the display and to hang their own prayer message on the prayer tree. It is a simple concept but one that we trust will speak to people. Over the past eight years we have been developing a stronger rhythm of prayer in the benefice, and this is reflected in the regular mid-week service of Morning Prayer at Great Coxwell at which a group of us regularly join in a time of reflection and prayer each Wednesday at 9.00am, holding before God the needs of the world, the nation and the local community.



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CALENDAR OF SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

*All services are held in the respective churches unless otherwise indicated.
Services marked * are particularly suitable for children and young people.*

SONGS OF PRAISE AT BUSCOT

Sunday September 1st 6.00pm Our annual Songs of Praise service at Buscot, with hymns chosen and introduced by members of the church.

GREAT COXWELL FEAST OF DEDICATION

Sunday September 8th 10.30am Family Communion celebrating the dedication of the church to St. Giles *

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES *

Sunday September 22nd 10.30am Harvest Festival Family Communion at Coleshill

Sunday October 6th 5.00pm Harvest Festival Service at Buscot

Sunday October 13th 10.30am Harvest Festival Family Communion at Great Coxwell, followed by Harvest Lunch in the village Reading Room

EATON HASTINGS FEAST OF DEDICATION

Sunday September 29th 10.30am Family Communion for the Feast of Dedication to St. Michael and All Angels (and Harvest Festival). *David Williams' final service, with the Bishop of Dorchester preaching – please let David know if intending to come.*

ALL SAINTS *

Sunday October 27th 10.30am Family Communion service at Coleshill celebrating the dedication of the church to All Saints

ALL SOULS

Sunday November 3rd 4.00pm All Souls service at Buscot: a special occasion to remember and give thanks for departed loved ones.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10TH

9.00am at Eaton Hastings War Memorial, by Roadside Cottages

9.40am at Buscot Church (with Holy Communion)

10.50am at Coleshill, starting on the village green by the church

12 noon at Great Coxwell War Memorial, by the Reading Room

CHRISTINGLE *

Sunday December 8th 10.30am Christingle Family Communion at Great Coxwell. (We are making the Christingles for the service in the Reading Room the previous day at 10.00am)

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES *

Sunday December 15th 5.00pm at Buscot

Saturday December 21st 5.00pm at Coleshill

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

Tuesday December 24th Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass at Great Coxwell

Wednesday December 25th Christmas Day

9.00am Christmas Day Communion at Coleshill *

10.30am Christmas Day Communion at Eaton Hastings *

Sunday December 29th 10.30am Benefice Communion at Buscot

There is Evening Prayer (instead of Morning Prayer) at Buscot on the first Sunday of the month, and at Eaton Hastings on the third Sunday of the month, from April to September at 6.00pm. There will be Evening Prayer instead of Morning Prayer at 6.00pm on September 22nd at Great Coxwell.

There will be combined services of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion at Eaton Hastings on December 15th and Great Coxwell on December 22nd, with no 10.30am Communion services on those two dates.

PATTERN OF SERVICES

Each Wednesday: 9am Morning Prayer at Great Coxwell.

	9am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
1 st Sunday	Buscot	Eaton Hastings
2 nd Sunday	Coleshill	Great Coxwell
3 rd Sunday	Eaton Hastings	Buscot
4 th Sunday	Great Coxwell	Coleshill