

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

BUSCOT

Our annual All Souls Service for the Badbury Group of Churches was held at St. Mary's Buscot on November 4th and was attended this year by over 40 people. It is an opportunity for families and friends to remember departed loved ones in a special way, to hear their names read, and to light candles in their memory. This year David Williams shared some reflections in his sermon by the 14th century spiritual writer Julian of Norwich, from her beautiful visionary book entitled *Revelations of Divine Love*.

COLESHILL

The baptism of baby Daniel Burnett took place in on November 25th. It was the Feast of Christ the King, when we give thanks for God's coming kingdom of justice and peace – so together with Daniel's christening it was a joyful, double celebration. Daniel's brother Alfie, and sisters Maddie and Poppie have all been christened in All Saints Coleshill over the past eight years – and there is a long family connection with the church.

EATON HASTINGS

As we commemorated the centenary of the Armistice and remembered especially all those who gave their lives in two World Wars, we were also reminded that in the midst of the First World War, Eaton Hastings church was presented with the handsome bound copy of the Authorised Version of the Bible which is still used at all our services. On the cover is stamped the words 'This Bible was presented and used in this church on Easter Day 1915' with the names of the rector and churchwardens – a powerful symbol of God's word proclaimed in the midst of war-time.

GREAT COXWELL

On September 1st, there took place a very special wedding, because not only were Martin and Katy Blenkinsopp married in St. Giles Church but also the christening of their baby boy George took place in the same service. It was a wonderful combined celebration of marriage and baptism and of God's blessing upon three people in one family. The photographs show the two different aspects of the service.



THE BADBURY BUGLE

Newsletter for the churches of Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings and Great Coxwell

Jan - April 2019



LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

Over the past few months we have been particularly reminded of the way in which the Church's ministry and outreach encompasses the whole of our earthly lives – and reflects the natural cycle of birth, death and new life.

In the Badbury Group of Churches we have welcomed a large number of families for the baptism of their baby boys and girls in the summer and autumn of 2018. For some, I have already christened one or more of their brothers and sisters – so I have got to know the families over several years. It is always heart-warming to conduct the baptism of a young child (and sometimes older children and adults), as this is a reminder of God's blessing of new life and the beginning of a spiritual journey which begins at baptism.

By contrast, this autumn has given us a particular focus on remembrance, as we commemorated the centenary of the Armistice on November 11th. Two hundred people came to our four village Remembrance Sunday services, which was a sign that this occasion spoke to the hearts of many. The services this year included special readings and tributes; and in the evening

church bells were rung throughout the Vale of the White Horse. The theme of remembrance also underpinned our service of All Souls on the preceding Sunday, as we remembered departed loved ones known to us personally.

The whole of human life is held by Almighty God - who created us, who offers us forgiveness and restores us to new life through his Son Jesus Christ, and who inspires us and sustains us in our daily lives through his Holy Spirit. Although we may not always feel God's presence in our lives, he is with us throughout life's journey. He holds out his loving arms to greet us, if we are ready to look beyond ourselves and recognise him. He is with us in our times of joy and of sadness, of new life and bereavement, of loss and gain.

At this season of Christmas may we remember that the Christ-child of Bethlehem is the one who grew to be a courageous teacher and healer, but above all he is the one who died for us and was raised victoriously from the dead. He offers us the gift of eternal life - with the simple invitation that we love God and that we love our neighbour as ourselves.

With warmest good wishes,
Your friend and vicar, David



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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*



PLOUGH SUNDAY*

Sunday January 13th 9.00am A service for all the family at Coleshill, in which we bless the plough and the seed for the New Year.



CANDLEMAS *

Sunday January 27th 10.30am Family Communion service at Coleshill, in which we mark the end of the Christmas season, and celebrate the light of Christ and his first appearance as a child in the Temple



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday March 6th 7.30pm Communion service at Great Coxwell, marking the beginning of Lent, when we prepare ourselves for Easter



LENT STUDY COURSE

Wednesdays March 13th, 20th, 27th, April 3rd and 10th
Study group for the Badbury Group of Churches, on the mornings and evenings on the five Wednesdays of Lent - details from the Revd. David Williams



MOTHERING SUNDAY*

Sunday March 31st 10.30am Family Communion service at Coleshill (with distribution of posies).



PALM SUNDAY*

Sunday April 14th 10.00am Palm Sunday Procession, beginning at the crossroads in the centre of Great Coxwell and proceeding to the church, as we remember (at the beginning of Holy Week) Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday April 19th 7.30pm Communion service at Coleshill: a special commemoration of the Last Supper on the Thursday of Holy Week



Friday April 19th

9.30am
11.30am
2.00pm
3.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

We remember Jesus' death on the Cross in our four churches

Good Friday Liturgy at Great Coxwell
Morning Prayer at Eaton Hastings
Stations of the Cross at Buscot
Telling the Easter Story: a service for all the family



EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday April 21st We celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead
9.00am Easter Communion at Eaton Hastings*
10.30am Easter Communion at Buscot*

There will be no Morning Prayer at Buscot on January 6th at Coleshill on April 14th.

PATTERN OF SERVICES

	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

Each Wednesday: 9am Morning Prayer at Great Coxwell.