

# Badbury Parish News



Spring Edition | Issue 5 | March 2024

## Vicar's Letter



Nature and creation celebrate a parallel resurrection story at this time of the year. The milder weather has set off a spring of new life and colour around the place. This welcome sight sweeps away the dreariness of winter. As Martin Luther wrote: "God has written the Resurrection story not in books, but in every leaf of Springtime!"

As buds and flowers open to gladden our hearts, we are reminded that Easter is a time of openness too. The great stone which sealed Christ's tomb on the Friday, has been rolled back on that first Easter morning. The tomb is open. The crucified Christ is no longer hidden away under the earth but has been resurrected. The cross of defeat has now become the empty cross of victory. In the words of poet Robert Herrick "We need fear the cross no more!"

Easter expresses eloquently the inexhaustible love, openness, and generosity of God. The event is a divine opening to new beginnings. Easter calls us to an openness with God and with our fellow human beings. The cross that once held outstretched hands in suffering is replaced by the

risen Christ whose outstretched arms of welcome and love extend to include everyone.

We all have access to the empty tomb and the new life that its symbolism brings. Let us not try to block the entrance with our human prejudices and pre-conceived false ideologies but keep it clear and open to allow others to peer in and experience the joy of the risen Christ for themselves. Together, when we are open and honest with God, and with one another, we can create a wonderful world of colour, imagination, and new life.

"Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia".

May you all have a Blessed Easter.

Reverend Maureen Turner



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Newsletter for Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings and Great Coxwell Churches 1

Reverend Maureen Turner, The Vicarage, Great Coxwell, Faringdon, SN7 7NG Tel: 01367 240875

## Easter Prayer

May the joy of the risen Christ fill our hearts and homes.

May His blessings be upon us,  
and may we share the love and grace  
that He has bestowed upon us with others.  
In Jesus' name, we pray.  
Amen.

*Date for Your Diary*

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Christ Church  
Cathedral, Oxford will  
be hosting a service of  
celebration to mark the  
30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
ordination of women to  
the priesthood.



Parish churches are encouraged to mark  
this event in their own services and  
prayers.

## Welcoming Visitors To Our Church

*All our churches in the Benefice are open to visitors throughout the year. Here are some comments from St. Mary's visitor's book.*

St. Mary's is open to visitors throughout the summer courtesy of our dedicated volunteers. Each morning through British Summer Time our volunteers unlock the church to welcome visitors ensuring to switch on the beacon of light that hangs above the south door. Our visitors book records that our first visitors in March 2023 were from Chelmsford, Essex, through to our last entrant from Lechlade on October 26th. In all we had 184 visitors who recorded their visit during last summer. Many were from local towns but a significant number from much further afield including Fort Worth Texas, Monterey California, and Cleveland Ohio in the USA. Other visitors came from around the world including France, Holland, Germany,

Ireland and even as far as Australia and New Zealand!

Many people remarked on the beauty and serenity of St. Mary's. The words "beautiful", "lovely" "peaceful" feature frequently in the comments. Also, there were many words of gratitude for the church being open, so clean and well-kept an endorsement for those volunteers who keep our church so clean and tidy. Several of the visitors were returning to Buscot because of family connections. A few entries stand out; Simon and Marion's grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett ran the village shop and smithy for instance. David from West Virginia was confirmed at St. Mary's. Sophie from Bournemouth wrote: "Came to visit where my great-great-great-great grandparents were married in 1846." Another entry from a couple in Essex asked for prayer for three members of their family. All the comments and requests for prayer emphasize that the Church is part of a worldwide family.

**Jonny Farnol, Churchwarden**

## Special Floral Displays

We are fortunate to have talented flower arrangers in all our churches whose beautiful displays enhance our special services in so many ways. Here is a picture of a poppy display by Joan Craigie for Remembrance Sunday at All Saint's Coleshill.



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**

Newsletter for Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings and Great Coxwell Churches 2

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## Lady Judy Martin, M.B.E - Tribute



It was with great sadness that we reported the death of Lady Martin, Judy as she was known to many. She, and the late Sir George, lived in Coleshill for more than 50 years and were a very active presence in the village. Their quiet generosity of help to so many, advice, care, assistance and friendship had endeared them and their family to the community in so many ways. Judy was always first in line to offer assistance, host and run annual garden parties, arrange swimming sessions for the children, join in campaigns to counteract stupidities by authorities and fundraise for additional facilities and ensure all of our safety with a defibrillator.

She was very active in the church both here and in London and tirelessly raised funds for music and sports facilities for the young. She supported many charities both educational and environmental.

She is sorely missed.

**Sue Homersham, Churchwarden**

## Christmas Celebrations

Our Christmas services were so moving and joyful – a big thank you to all who made the celebrations possible. Here is a summary from around our churches.

**Great Coxwell Christmas Eve:** A record number of villagers and friends joined in the village procession, led ably by our very own Mary, Joseph, and Innkeeper. When we entered the barn for the carol service, there was an air of anticipation and excitement. We heard again the story of the birth of Jesus and sang carols with gusto. Our thanks to all our wonderful villagers who organised and prepared this annual event.

**Coleshill Nativity:** Playing to a packed house in church the children both read, sang, and performed the Nativity with consummate professionalism. 25 very small children dressed as an assortment of shepherds, shepherdesses, kings (and queens) beautiful angels and of course the Holy Family made a magical nativity scene. The older children and teenagers all read so well and sang beautifully. It was a lovely start to our Christmas in Coleshill.

**Buscot Carol service:** In a beautifully decorated church, with dimmed lighting, our service was very moving and atmospheric as we listened to the Christmastide lessons and joined in with the singing of the carols. Our guest choir, The Military Wives, enhanced the carol singing and treated us to two beautiful carols “O Holy Night” and “Christmas Blessing”.

**Eaton Hastings Christmas Morning:** It was standing room only in this bustling, happy service. To see so many people, of all ages, joining together in church to worship the newborn king was a real joy. Our guest organist Dora accompanied the singing so well.

Thanks to everyone from all the villagers who helped with the Christmas celebrations.



*Packing the angel away until next year*



## Stonevale Concerts St. Giles' Great Coxwell

St. Giles' are now hosting regular classical concerts that, for many years, were held in the front room of villager Lynette Stulting's home. The first concert started in 2006 and was supposed to be a one-off fundraising concert. But, due to its success and popularity, the concerts kept going. Lynette hosted over 150 concerts.

St. Giles' is a larger venue, seating up to 100 and has a great acoustic. We were pleased to be asked to host some of the future concerts. Some of the received donations from the concerts will go towards church roof repairs. Many successful musicians have performed at Stonevale, including; Ben Schoeman, Mami Shikimori, Manus Noble, Emanuel Salvador, and Stephanie Childress.

### Concert Dates in St. Giles' Church

**Friday 8th March at 7 pm** - The Scholars of Abingdon School. The concert is free, but we are asking for donations to give to the church.

**Sunday 10th March at 4 pm** - The world renowned guitarist, Manus Noble. This concert forms part of his latest tour "A Bard's Tale" when he will play a few instruments and recite poetry that goes with the music.

**Sunday 21st April at 4 pm** - two of the Greek Musical Odyssey prize winners will play in Great Coxwell, as part of their prize.

**Sunday 19th of May at 4.00pm** - Alexei Demchenko and Lynette Stulting will perform a Duet Concert on the piano.

### Buying Tickets/Donations

Here is a link to buy tickets although no-one will be turned away at the door. Ticket sales give us an idea on numbers who are attending. Please visit - [https://](https://www.whitehorseconcerts.co.uk/stonevaleconcerts)

[www.whitehorseconcerts.co.uk/stonevaleconcerts](https://www.whitehorseconcerts.co.uk/stonevaleconcerts) or click [here](#).



## Childrens Quiz



Answer the following questions, then rearrange the first letters of each answer to a Christian festival.

1. How many commandments are there? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did God do on the 7th day? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which Queen has a book named after her? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which book of the bible tells of Paul's conversion? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who was the wise King? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the name of the first woman? \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 7**

## What's in a date? - 23rd April

April 23rd is a commemorative date. Not only is it the birth and death date of our greatest English playwright, William Shakespeare, but it is also the feast day of Saint George, England's patron saint. Though important anniversaries, our Reverend Maureen also celebrates a special historical event on this date. Thirty years ago on Saturday 23rd April, she was ordained priest in Coventry Cathedral, whilst serving as Associate Minister at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon. It was at "Shakespeare's Church" that she was privileged to celebrate her first mass on the Sunday following. As she says of herself:

*"I may not have fought dragons nor written masterful sermons, but my celebration is just as memorable."*

Congratulations to all who are celebrating this day.

*St Michael  
and the devil,  
Coventry Cathedral*



THE CHURCH  
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Newsletter for Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings and Great Coxwell Churches

4

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## Coleshill

Lady Judy Martin, M.B.E. was laid to rest in Coleshill cemetery following a service at All Saints Church on 2nd November 2023.



## Great Coxwell

Ann Hayler was laid to rest in St. Giles' Churchyard on 22nd January 2024 following a service in Church.

*"May they rest in peace and rise in glory."*

**Jonny Farnol, Churchwarden**

## Caring for God's Creation 2024 Project at St. Mary's



*Photograph by Jonny Farnol*

Throughout 2024 St. Mary's Buscot is undertaking a project to record the flora and fauna within the boundaries of the churchyard. It is the start of our contribution to 'caring for God's creation' which is a Church of England objective to improve environmental awareness. The natural beauty that surrounds St. Mary's and lies within the churchyard impresses upon us our responsibilities in acting as caretakers for future generations.

In order to look after our surroundings, we need to understand what we have - what plants, trees, lichens, mosses, fungi and grasses, birds, mammals, amphibians and insects.

To help us in this project, Dr Olly Fox our fabulous organist and renowned wildlife expert has suggested we use our smart phones. There exists a downloadable application called 'iRecord' which allows us to take notes and or photographs using a smartphone of what we see in the churchyard throughout the year. The data we collect is then uploaded to iRecord and logged as a record. All we need do beyond that is to ensure that we record the observation as one made in 'Buscot Churchyard'.

## Christingle Plough Service in Coleshill

We had a happy time in January celebrating both Christingle and Plough Sunday 2024. We started in the church and we learned about the significance of the Christingles and linked the fruits of the earth to Plough Sunday. We then went outside to bless the tractor, which was driven to church by a local farmer. Not wanting to miss a photo opportunity, the children were excited to pose in the cab. ([More photographs on next page](#)). With many thanks and our appreciation to Andy Cato who brought along his tractor.



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5

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## Taking responsibility for your Village Church

"In the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having the gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with the gifts of administration and those speaking in different kinds of tongues."

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

Most people living in villages appreciate having a Church in their community. Though many may not attend church regularly or have any specific faith, they see the Church as their spiritual home. It is a venue for important moments in people's lives – baptisms, weddings, and funerals. If a church is closed down, then they lose that sense of spiritual presence, heritage and tradition.

All of our four churches in Badbury Benefice, though not under threat of closure, still need help and money to keep them safe and relevant for modern living. Also important is the enhancement of worship through re-ordering projects, which then allows more use of the building for concerts, fundraising and other events.

The Church needs people to help support these and other initiatives. Using local gifts and talents is

encouraged, but to make a real difference in the direction and future of our parish churches, we need committed people to come onto the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Together PCC members have responsibility for the Church, ensuring it is cared for and maintained to a high standard, and kept open.

If interested in joining the Church Council and have gifts and talents to offer, then let the vicar or your Church warden know as soon as possible. Elections are held in the Spring at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM). The dates of meetings are:

- All Saints, Coleshill on Sunday 24th March 2024 at 11.30am (after the Palm Sunday Service)
- St Giles, Great Coxwell on Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7.00pm in the Reading Room
- St Mary's, Buscot on Saturday 11th May 2024 at 10.00am at Buscot Village Hall
- St Michael's and all Angel's, Eaton Hastings on Thursday 18th April 2023 at 7.30pm at Rhodes Farm

Further information on the roles of PCC members can be found in the leaflet: "Serving your Church" downloadable from the Oxford Diocesan website or alternatively click this link [here](#).





## Why can't Easter Sunday always be at the same time?


Christmas is easy, it is always 25th December. Obviously, the day of the week changes every year. But Easter Sunday seems to shift around all over the place, with no obvious pattern. Last year, 2023, it was on April 9th, this year it is on March 31st and next year, 2025, it is on April 20th. What pattern can there be in that?

The so called simple standard definition of Easter is that it is the first Sunday after the full Moon that

occurs on or after the spring equinox. If the full Moon falls on a Sunday, then Easter is the next Sunday. So, it depends on the lunar calendar. But why?

Easter marks the time when Jesus was crucified and then rose again. The bible tells us that this coincided with the Jewish feast of the Passover and that depended on the lunar calendar. And that is why we always need to look up the date of Easter, which can be anywhere between March 22nd and April 25th.

Jan Hall



### Lent Bible Study

This four-week course begins on  
**Wednesday 21st February 2024**  
at **2.30pm**  
at The Vicarage, Great Coxwell.  
The theme is  
**The Return of the Prodigal –  
a Story of Homecoming.**

Please let Reverend Maureen Turner or Jan Hall know if you would like to attend.

Rembrandt

### Children's Quiz - Answers

1. Ten
2. Rested
3. Esther
4. Acts
5. Solomon
6. Eve

Rearrange the first letters to spell **EASTER**.

### Wanted – Editor for the Badbury Churches Newsletter

Role includes - Collecting / Collating articles for inclusion  
Typesetting / Liaising with the printer  
Upkeep of the Church's website

Remuneration is available. If interested contact the vicar on  
**01367 240875**



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7

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# Badbury Parish Calendar of Spring Services 2024

## MARCH 2024

Date	Service	Church	Time
3 LENT 3	Morning Prayer + Holy Com.	Eaton Hastings	10.30am
10 MOTHERING SUNDAY	Holy Communion	Great Coxwell	10.30am
17 LENT 5	Holy Communion	Buscot	10.30am
24 PALM SUNDAY	Holy Communion	Coleshill	10.30am
28 MAUNDY THURSDAY	Holy Communion & <i>strip altar</i>	Coleshill	6.00pm
29 GOOD FRIDAY	Morning Prayer BCP "Last Hour" reflection Family Service	Eaton Hastings Great Coxwell Coleshill	10.30am 2.00pm 3.00pm
31 EASTER SUNDAY	Holy Communion	Buscot	10.30am

## APRIL 2024

Date	Service	Church	Time
7 EASTER 2	Morning Prayer, Holy Communion BCP	Buscot Eaton Hastings	9.00am 10.30am
14 EASTER 3	Morning Prayer, Holy Communion	Coleshill Great Coxwell	9.00am 10.30am
21 ST GEORGE	Holy Communion, Evensong	Buscot Eaton Hastings	10.30am 6.00pm
28 EASTER 5	Holy Communion, Evensong	Coleshill Great Coxwell	10.30am 6.00pm

## MAY 2024

Date	Service	Church	Time
5 ROGATION	Morning Prayer, Holy Communion BCP	Buscot Eaton Hastings	9.00am 10.30am
12 ASCENSION SUNDAY	Morning Prayer, Holy Communion	Coleshill Great Coxwell	9.00am 10.30am
19 PENTECOST	Holy Communion, Evensong	Buscot Eaton Hastings	10.30am 6.00pm
26 TRINITY SUNDAY	Holy Communion, Evensong	Coleshill Great Coxwell	10.30am 6.00pm

## JUNE 2024

Date	Service	Church	Time
2 TRINITY 1	Holy Communion BCP Evensong	Eaton Hastings Buscot	10.30am 5.00pm
9 BARNABAS	Morning Prayer, Holy Communion	Coleshill Great Coxwell	9.00am 10.30am
16 TRINITY 3	Holy Communion, Evensong	Buscot Eaton Hastings	10.30am 6.00pm
23 TRINITY 4	Holy Communion, Evensong	Coleshill Great Coxwell	10.30am 6.00pm
30 PETER AND PAUL	Benefice Holy Communion	Great Coxwell	10.30am



THE CHURCH  
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Newsletter for Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings and Great Coxwell Churches 8

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