

In & around the Benefice....
24th October | The Last Sunday after Trinity
- Bible Sunday



Our Rector is The Reverend Morna Simpson
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www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.org



<https://www.facebook.com/YardleyHastingsBenefice>

The good news of Jesus Christ speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.

TODAY'S SERVICES:

10.30am Benefice Service of Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby with Rev Janet

10.30am Sunday Breakfast St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings

4.00pm Harvest Evening Prayer St Margaret's, Denton with Rev Morna

- followed by Harvest Supper, 5.00pm at The Village Hall

Please book your place by contacting [Carole Clarke, 890170](tel:01604319902) or [Pat Terry, 890078](tel:01604319902)

MIDWEEK WORSHIP:

27th Oct 9.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Grendon with Rev Janet

REV'D MORNA'S INDUCTION

Bishop Donald licensed Rev'd Morna as our Rector last October, but she is yet to be inducted (literally, shown to the Rector's seat).

This special service will be taking place on

**Sunday 31st October from 10:30am at
St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings**

Archdeacon Richard will be joining us to induct Rev'd Morna and he will be preaching - please do come!

To give us an idea of numbers, please email Ann Williams at yardleyhastingsbenefice@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES:
14TH NOVEMBER

10.00am Holy Communion
St Andrew's,
Yardley Hastings

10.30am Holy Communion
St Margaret of Antioch,
Denton

10.45am Remembrance Service of
the Word
St Mary's, Grendon

11.00am Act of Remembrance at
the War Memorial,
Castle Ashby

2.00pm Wild Church, St Mary's
Churchyard, Grendon

The Collect

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First reading

Isaiah 55: 1-11

The Lord says this:

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4: 5

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that

everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 5: 36-47

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus said to the Jews:

'I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ, fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

REFLECTION

Bible Sunday.



Everyone needs a little help when reading the Bible. Sometimes the poetry and prose, history and revelation, or parables and proverbs need some explanation. There is a myriad of Bible reading notes produced to give that help, some more helpful than others! Do ask Morna, Janet or Liz if you'd like to try one out. You might like to investigate these websites and their notes (most are available as either physical booklets or online downloads, some as apps to download).

www.brfonline.org.uk

www.content.scriptureunion.org.uk (click on Menu, Resources, then Bible)

The Church of England also produces an app: **Reflections for Daily Prayer**, which is a shortened form of Morning Prayer with a reflection on one of the Lectionary readings for the day. Really easy to use, with an interesting range of writers.



And of course, we sometimes just read the Bible and let it speak to us! The Archbishop of York writes about one way of doing that:

Lectio Divina is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. It dates back to the early centuries of the Christian Church. It is a way of praying the scriptures that leads us deeper into God's word. We slow down. We read a short passage more than once. We chew it over slowly and carefully. Scripture begins to speak to us in a new way. It speaks to us personally, and aids that union we have with God through Christ who is himself the Living Word.

Make sure you are sitting comfortably. Breathe slowly and deeply. Ask God to speak to you through the passage that you are about to read.

This way of praying starts with our silence. We often make the mistake of thinking prayer is about what we say to God. It is actually the other way round. God wants to speak to us. He will do this through the scriptures. So don't worry about what to say. Don't worry if nothing jumps out at you at first. God is patient. He will wait for the opportunity to get in. He will give you a word and lead you to understand its meaning for you today.

First reading: Listen

As you read the passage, listen for a word or phrase that attracts you. Allow it to arise from the passage as if it is God's word for you today. Sit in silence repeating the word or phrase in your head. Then say the word or phrase aloud.

Second reading: Ponder

As you read the passage again, ask how this word or phrase speaks to your life and why it has connected with you. Ponder it carefully. Don't worry if you get distracted – it may be part of your response to offer to God. Sit in silence and then frame a single sentence that begins to say aloud what this word or phrase says to you.

Third reading: Pray

As you read the passage for the last time, ask what Christ is calling from you. What is it that you need to do or consider or relinquish or take on as a result of what God is saying to you in this word or phrase? In the silence that follows the reading, pray for the grace of the Spirit to plant this word in your heart. Speak your prayer to God either aloud or in the silence of your heart.

If there is time, you may even want to read the passage a fourth time, and then end with the same silence before God with which you began.

Stephen Cottrell (Archbishop of York)

Blessings,

Revd Janet

This week we had Grendon C of E Primary School in church for their Harvest service



Please hold in your prayers this week:

- Our PCCs due to meet this month
- Our churchwardens, also thanking God for their ministry amongst us.
- Our Ministry Team as they make preparations for the autumn.
- Schools - both staff and pupils as COVID cases increase significantly in our local primary and secondary schools
- All who are afraid and in danger, as well as those who are seeking asylum, following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan.
- Those who continue to feel very anxious about the lifting of restrictions and the rising number of COVID cases.
- Those struggling in body, mind or spirit, among them: Mary Evans, Ruth Williams, Colin and Ann Dix, Derek and Janette Hopkins, Audrey Desborough, Jenny Payne, Judith Keggins, Jane Cave, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Jo Cawley and Michelle Wright.
- Those recently departed, and all who grieve at this time.

FREE WILL WRITING SERVICE - LIMITED TIME OFFER

Leaving a gift in your will to your local church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support its mission and ministry in your community.

Making a will and keeping it updated is the only way to make sure your wishes are carried out after your death, giving you peace of mind that you can continue to support the family, friends and charities you love.

This autumn, the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the National Will Writing Firm of the Year 2020, to offer an online will writing service, which you can do from the comfort of your home in less than 30 minutes.

Farewill's specialist team are available to help you over the phone or live chat 7 days a week, 9am-7pm.

There are a limited number of wills available on a first-come-first served basis.

There is no obligation for anyone to leave a gift in their will to their church. However, if you decide that you can, your gift - great or small - will make a real difference to your church's life for future generations.

To take advantage of this offer you can go to the Farewill website here:

<https://farewill.com/peterborough-diocese>

By participating in this will writing scheme, your details will not be shared with the Church of England.

If you use the Church of England will writing scheme, there is no obligation to leave a gift to a church in your Will. Your loved ones should always come first.

If you do choose to remember your local or a favourite church, thank you. Every gift, great or small will make a real difference to that church and its mission and ministry in your community for future generations.

CHURCH CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

****Please note - muddy church on Saturday 23rd October has been postponed****

Every Tuesday:

Crafter's Corner at the **URC Dining Room**, Yardley Hastings from 2:00pm - 4.00pm
Tea, coffee and home-made cakes available and we ask for a donation of £1.50. Please bring any craft you fancy doing; there will be lots of chat to go with the craft. All are welcome. See you there!

Tuesday 26th October:

Book Club, 7.30pm at Fiona's house.
The books are "Agent Sonja" by Ben Macintyre and "If only they didn't speak English" by Jon Sopal.

Wednesday 27th October:

Midweek Communion at 9:30am at St Mary's Grendon

Every Friday:

Coffee morning at St Margaret's Church, Denton from 10.00am - 12 noon with croissants, toast and friendly chat.

Friday 29th October:

Friday Night @ the Church, 7.30pm -11.00pm at St Mary's, Grendon. All welcome.
Come and catch up with friends - the ones you already know and those you have yet to meet.
Pay bar and snacks available.

FURTHER AHEAD

Sunday 31st October:

Rev Morna's induction, 10.30am at St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings.
Please email Ann at yardleyhastingsbenefice@gmail.com if you plan to attend

Monday 1st November:

All Souls Service, 6.30pm at St Mary's, Grendon. Those whose funerals have been taken over the last three years in the benefice will be remembered but please do be in touch with Ann Williams if you would like to add a loved one to the list of those whom we will read out and remember. If you would like to come to the service but are unable to get there, please do be in touch and we will arrange a lift for you.

Thursday 4th November:

Little Fishes, 9.00am at St Mary's Grendon. For under 5's and their grown-ups.
Story, craft, play & chatter. £2 per family (including refreshments).

Thursday 4th November:

Youth Group, 6.30 - 8.00pm at St Mary's, Grendon. For all in school year 6 and above.

Saturday 13th November:

Wellingborough Community Gospel Choir Concert, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Yardley Hastings. To book tickets contact charlotte.tipping@googlemail.com, or debs.yh62@gmail.com

Wednesday 17th November :

After School Club, 3.30pm at St Margaret's Church, Denton - this month's theme is light

Saturday 20th November :

PCC Away Day at Cogenhoe Village Hall, 10am - 2pm. *Please save the date - information to follow.*

Saturday 27th November:

Christmas Shopping Fair at St Mary's, Grendon from 11.00am until 4.00pm

Saturday 4th December:

Christmas Shopping Fair at St Margaret's, Denton from 11.00am until 2.00pm

Thursday 9th December:

Carols by Candlelight, 8.00pm at St Mary the Virgin, Whiston

YOU ARE INVITED TO
FRIDAY NIGHT
@ THE CHURCH

29th OCTOBER 2021

7:30pm – 11:00pm

AT ST. MARY'S GRENDON
PAY BAR WITH SNACKS

*The perfect opportunity to
catch-up with friends
and fellow village
residents*

*The best drinks are the
ones we have with
friends*

BOOK CORNER

BOOK REVIEW BY LIZ TAYLOR

"Parable and Paradox" by Malcolm Guite

This is a book of sonnets and other poems on the sayings of Jesus. Malcolm Guite is chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge and also a performance poet, singer-songwriter and lecturer. He has other books in print including *"Sounding the Seasons"*, *"Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year"*, and books for lent and advent with a poem a day called *"Word in the Wilderness"* (lent poems) and *"Waiting on the Word"* for advent.

In the preface Malcolm writes that the poems were composed over the course of a year in which he tried to respond, as honestly as he could, to lectionary readings. In particular the hard sayings of Jesus which are often less preached. He has also written about more familiar sayings the ones which 'kindle our hearts and draw us deeper into the mystery of the kingdom'.

The first part of the book is a collection of poems on a variety of topics and subjects. Then follows 50 sonnets on the sayings of Jesus.

Each sonnet is written in response to one or more verses of scripture, which is helpfully written above the sonnet. These sonnets offer a reflection on the verse/verses and allow the reader to immerse themselves into a way of interpreting them.

I find the sonnets are at first deceptively easy to read, but profound in content. Some are breath-taking, others moving. They help me to think more deeply about scripture and I also use them as a way into praying about the meaning of scripture. I don't think this is a book to read cover to cover but one to read occasionally and savour each sonnet allowing time to reflect and pray about each of the sonnets.

I invariably find on a second or third reading of a sonnet I'll notice something in the sonnet I didn't notice on first reading. Definitely a book to add to your collection.

With love and prayers,

Liz, Benefice Reader.

