

In & around the Benefice....

16th May | The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Our Rector is The Reverend Morna Simpson
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Our Associate Priest is The Reverend Janet Tebby
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Our Curate is The Reverend Amanda Oliver
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Our Benefice Reader is Liz Taylor, Email: liztyardley@aol.com



@BeneficeYardley

www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.org



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



Note our new website!!

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:

10.00am Holy Communion St Mary's, Grendon with Rev Morna

10.00am Zoom Church with Benefice Reader Liz, Join Zoom Meeting with a computer or tablet:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82820105408?pwd=cEUvNkZqbHhNSE5laFI0eIFXNkxhZz09>

Meeting ID: 828 2010 5408, Passcode: 779522

Or by telephone: **0131 460 1196** with Meeting ID: 828 2010 5408 and Passcode: 779522

Dial-a-Sermon is available this Sunday on **01604 263361** where you will be able to hear from Liz

MIDWEEK SERVICES:

18th May 6.30pm Evening Prayer St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings with Rev Morna
Followed by APCM at 7.00pm

19th May 9.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Grendon with Rev Morna

This service may be held outdoors, weather permitting, due to possible disruption from ongoing building work inside the church. Please contact grendonchurchwardens@gmail.com for information.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES:

23rd May 8.00am Holy Communion St Mary the Virgin, Whiston with Rev Janet

23rd May 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby with Rev Amanda

23rd May 5.00pm Evening Prayer St Mary's, Grendon with Rev Morna

APCM's will follow these services and all are invited to attend.

These will be as quick as possible, to keep us all safe.

Between 30th May and 20th June, Rev Amanda will be taking services in each of our churches as part of her farewell:

30th May 10.00am Holy Communion St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings

6th June 10.00am Holy Communion St Margaret's, Denton

13th June 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby

20th June 8.00am Holy Communion St Mary the Virgin, Whiston

20th June 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary's, Grendon

Please watch this space for further details of a less formal farewell on Sunday 20th June in the afternoon.

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- Our village communities as people begin to venture out
- Those who are lonely, fearful or anxious
- All who have been, and continue to be, affected by COVID-19
- Children, teachers and staff returning to school
- Schools in our benefice (Grendon C of E, Denton and Yardley Hastings Primary Schools)
- Young people struggling with mental health
- Those who are in residential care or housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Ann and Colin Dix
- Those struggling in body, mind or spirit, among them: Cooper Johnson (Denton), Jenny Payne, Judith Keggins, Jane Cave, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Jo Cawley, Michelle Wright
- The recently departed, amongst them David Jeffery (Castle Ashby), Gwen York and John Payne (Yardley Hastings URC), and all who grieve at this time, including Jenny Payne and family.

Cooper Johnson

2 weeks after his operation, Cooper is well on his way to making a full recovery.
In the last few days he has started to play with his toys again and smile.
Cooper's family would like to thank everyone for your prayers; they have surely been answered.



APCMs

We are very much hoping that these will take place as follows:

St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings	Tuesday 18th May
Evening Prayer @6:30pm with the meeting following the service from 7pm.	
St Mary the Virgin, Whiston	Sunday 23rd May
BCP Communion @8am with the meeting following the service from 8:45am.	
St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby	Sunday 23rd May
Holy Communion @10am with the meeting following the service from 10:45am.	
St Mary's, Grendon	Sunday 23rd May
Evening Prayer @5pm with the meeting following the service from 5:30pm.	
St Margaret of Antioch, Denton	Sunday 30th May
Holy Communion @10am with the meeting following the service from 10:45am.	

The Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

First reading

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.'

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 John 5: 9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.

And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 17: 6-19

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

'Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

REFLECTION

“Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” John 17:11b

This week has been Mental Health Awareness Week and the Mental Health Foundation has issued a short video about how our mental health can be improved by being closer to nature. You can watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/TdDioDtjkis>

Becky and I took a walk last Saturday, at the end of our work days, just up the Whiston Road out of Denton, in the rain. It certainly wasn't anything special, and yet it really was. As we walked we could hear the birdsong following us along the road, the rain on the hedges, the pheasants calling in the surrounding fields and the lambs at the end of the road, hopping along with one another. As we walked and talked, stopping to notice the life and nature around us, we got wetter and wetter!

I was reminded of something a prisoner said to me when I was working with them as part of my training. It was raining and I was worried about walking him across the yard in the rain as he only had a t-shirt on. He said, “Miss, I am inside for most of the day, often in my cell - feeling the rain on my face is a small pleasure that I rarely experience in here.” On our walk last weekend, I could really relate to his words - the feeling of rain on my face gave me great joy, and caused us to laugh! I felt in some way connected! It always helps to know that you are returning to a warm house and can dry off and change out of wet clothes, but being out and connected with nature is really important for us and for our well-being. As the Mental Health Foundation says, “It can bring calm, joy and wonder to our daily lives.”

The last 15 months has been the most challenging of times for all of us. It has also been an opportunity for us to rediscover life outside our homes. I heard that just over a century ago, as people emerged from the Spanish Flu epidemic, they had a new appreciation of fresh air and its healing powers - I wonder if that will be true of us also as we begin to think of life after COVID?

In our gospel passage we read of Jesus' prayer for the disciples to God the Father, asking that they receive the protection of God, I can't help but wonder whether this protection for our well-being is part of God's great design and threaded through our natural world. In my experience it is there that we find harmony with one another and with God. I encourage you to go out and feel the fresh air on your face as you ponder on the greatness of God.

If you are feeling anxious, lonely or isolated, please do reach out to someone in the parish who you feel comfortable speaking to about your concerns. Alternatively call me, and I would be more than happy to listen to you and share a cup of tea or a walk with you.

Every blessing,

Morna

What Can I join in with in our Benefice?

Sunday: Church Service 10am at Grendon, Zoom church at 10am

Monday: Julian Group at 7.30pm Join Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89864802906?pwd=T2U0amFZaHo5NFdzekdyTjdqd1RrUT09>
with Meeting ID: 898 6480 2906 and Passcode: 054630

Tuesday: Evening Prayer at 6.30pm, St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings

Wednesday: Midweek Communion at 9.30am, St Mary's Grendon

What Can I join in with further afield?

A virtual prayer walk from Turvey Abbey <https://youtu.be/Y37XaiKi6A8>

Services at Peterborough Cathedral - for more information please click here:

<https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/services.aspx>

Church of England Church Online - for more information please click here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online>

The Church of England's free phone line with hymns, reflections and prayers - call 0800 804 8044

Listen and sing along to the hymn for the day - <https://www.rscm.org.uk/our-resources/hftd/>

Download the Daily Prayer app or Time to Pray app from your App Store which gives you services of prayer with set readings for the day.

BBC Radio 4 Prayer for the Day - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App, here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000r3q5> or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 5:43 each morning.

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 9:45 each weekday morning.

BBC Radio 4 - Sunday Worship, live at 8.10 each Sunday

BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought - Listen each weekday on the BBC Sounds App, here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p015nm0y/clips> or live on BBC Radio 2 at 9:20am.

BBC Radio 2 Good Morning Sunday - Listen each Sunday on the BBC Sounds App, here

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wqvh> or live on BBC Radio 2 each Sunday at 6:50am.

Songs of Praise - Watch on BBC Two at 1:15 each Sunday, or catch up on iPlayer.

Something Interesting to Read or Listen to?

If you haven't discovered it yet, please take a look at Rev Morna's blog, which she's aiming to keep up to date with a mixture of photographs, reflections and poems: <https://teaandtheology.org>

On Being (<https://onbeing.org/>) is full of interesting things to read or listen to with interviews from so many marvellous minds.

Poetry Unbound (<https://onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound/>) is a series of podcasts with Pádraig O Tuama reading and exploring a poem - they are wonderful and Rev Morna highly recommends them to you.

Great is Thy Faithfulness by the World Vision Choir: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRXRs2O_JBU&list=RDMM&start_radio=1

Blogpost on domestic abuse research in churches in Cumbria: https://www.restored-uk.org/blog/domestic-abuse-and-power-silence-why-talking-about-domestic-abuse-first-step-forward-churches/?fbclid=IwAR3W_wUS5q6hkWkJkefuVN2QdwmxeCHT9KI5wJrfqIMxdhwX97fAts2Rvno

If anyone is affected by this article, please do speak to Rev'd Morna or Deborah Rush who is our Benefice Safeguarding Officer.