

The Herald

*Telling you all you need to know in our
Benefice
April 2018*

For general enquiries please telephone: 01572 812202 (answer phone only) or e-mail cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com.

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Important - Please Note

For all information re the Herald and to send any items for inclusion by e-mail, please use the benefice office address - cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com.

Please leave anything in writing in the Cottesmore tray at the back of St Nicholas Church. For the May edition of the Herald, please may I have items by 20th April. Thanks. Val.



Jesus Christ is risen today!

...and tomorrow...and tomorrow...and every day! Alleluia!

Resurrection means rebirth, a coming back to life after death, and it's not just confined to Easter Sunday as I witnessed for myself 10 days ago in Stocken Prison.

On Monday 12th March a team of 25 of us went into Stocken Prison to lead a Christian Mission called Kairos. Kairos means 'the right time' and for many, being in prison is the right time to hear the voice of God calling. 21 inmates had either

volunteered or been selected by the prison Chaplain to join the 5 day mission. They came into the chapel on that first day apprehensive, fearful, defensive, sceptical – not sure what to expect from us or from the experience ahead of them. Kairos is an intensive 5 day programme made up of deeply personal and very powerful testimonies given by team members, two of whom have been in prison themselves; meditations to help the men reflect on past experiences; discussions in small groups of inmates and team members. As the week progresses the men's defences begin to break down, confidences are shared and healing begins to take place. On the Thursday there is a service of forgiveness when the inmates are given the opportunity to forgive those who have hurt them and to receive forgiveness themselves for those they have hurt. To see men hardened by years of rejection and isolation, break down in tears of remorse and release is to see resurrection, and this all happens through the love of Jesus. The Kairos team go into the prison as the hands, feet and heart of Jesus Christ, not in our own strength but in the strength of the Holy Spirit. Few of those men have ever experienced unconditional love, and when they understand that Jesus died for each one of them, as sinful and as damaged as each one of them is, they are completely changed. Witnessing their rebirth was like witnessing the miracles of the New Testament. It was like a light had been switched on in their souls – the light of Christ. Jesus met with each one of them in all their mess and their hurt and their pain and, as one of them said to me as he left for his cell on the Friday afternoon, "I will never be the same again."

It's easy to sing the same joyous Easter hymns and read the familiar Easter readings without actually really understanding the full meaning of Resurrection. Jesus lives today, in the rebirth of lives transformed by his love

and grace: in the lives of 21 men in Stocken Prison, and in the lives of every other man or woman who comes to know the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ **is** risen today. Alleluia!

A very happy and blessed Easter to you all.

Many thanks to all those of you who baked cookies, prayed and hosted team members. You have all contributed to the transformation of those men, who cannot believe that people on the outside care about them and who send their profound gratitude to you all.

Cathy Dyson

Our loss, their gain

About 30 of us went on 25th February in various private vehicles to St Wendreda's in March for Marcus' licensing and installation. (What does that mean, you ask? Licensing gives permission – in this case to serve as leader of a church. The licensing part of the service is led by the area bishop.

Installation has the idea of being given your place as leader of a particular church. This part is led by the local archdeacon, who places the minister in his customary seat or 'stall')

Marcus was welcomed by representatives of various groups in his new church, and all present joined in the prayers for their ministry. A bowl of water, an open Bible, and a loaf and wine bottle/chalice and pattern were visual reminders of various aspects of their work. The Deanery Lay Chair invited representatives of the local community and ecumenical partners to add their welcome

The service included familiar things: we sang hymns and songs old and new, we listened to Bible readings and to a sermon, preached by the Bishop of Ely, and we prayed. Music was led by both organ and worship band. Marcus led the prayers at the end: a new minister's traditional beginning to a new ministry.

For people who haven't been to St Wendreda's – and haven't 'googled' it - the building is quite large, with pews in the main aisles and chairs in the side aisles. The roof is high and is famous for its carved angels. It is grade 1 listed, which hasn't prevented the installation of underfloor heating!

As we pray about our own future as a group of churches, let's also continue to pray for Marcus and his family as Marcus shoulders his new appointment as Team Vicar for St Wendredas' and Team Leader in Mission in the March Team ministry. One of the final prayers was:

"We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
For all your gifts to us in the past.
We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.
Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety;
Give us grace to let go of all that holds us back;
And grant us courage to meet the new life you have promised us, in Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Amen!"



A bit about St Wendreda

St. Wendreda was the daughter of seventh-century King Anna, one of the earliest Christian kings. At a time when Christianity was putting down roots among the Anglo-Saxon peoples of England, St. Wendreda and her sisters, Etheldred and Sexburga, were enthusiastic missionaries spreading the Gospel of Christ.

Shunning the life of a princess, Wendreda dedicated herself to healing. She eventually settled in a small settlement called Merchford, where some humble fisherman resided. Her sister, Etheldred, went on to found the monastery at Ely, while her other sibling, Sexburga, became abbess of a monastery in Minster.

Later, Wendreda founded a community at March, Cambridgeshire, dedicated to healing. She passed peacefully into the heavenly kingdom, and her relics, enshrined in gold, were buried in the Ely Cathedral.

However, in 1016, the relics were carried off in battle in the hopes they would bring victory. At the Battle of Ashingdon, the conquering Danish king, a pagan, seized the relics, but soon was converted to Christianity. He took the relics to the Canterbury Cathedral where they rested for the next 300 years. In 1343, St. Wendreda was returned to March and enshrined in the church dedicated to her memory. The St. Wendreda Church stands to this day, and is world famous for its magnificent double-hammer beam roof along with 120 carved angels.

Home Holy Communion

Do you have, or do you know, somebody who is house bound and would like to receive Holy Communion in their home. If you would like this for them, please contact Colin Johns in person or on telephone No.01572 812221

What's on every week

Mon to Fri 08.00 <i>Every week</i>	Morning Bible Study & Prayer, Greetham Church With a cup of tea
Monday 10.30 Weeks 2 & 4	Prayer Meeting in Cottesmore Church For more info please contact Di Toy on 812355
Monday 14.30 Weekly term time	Barrow Home Group Duncan Ball (812428) cduncanball@gmail.com
Monday 14.30 Weekly	House group meets every week in various homes. Contact Cathy 01572 812497 07970568305 cathydyson@outlook.com
Monday 19.00, Weekly	Hand Bell ringing Cottesmore Church 7pm
Tuesday 08.30 Weekly	Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church
Tues 09.30 - 11.30 Term time only	Sparklers toddlers group ALL WELCOME
Tuesday 10.00 Every week	Holy Communion at Gainsboro' Ct Refreshments served afterwards
Thursday 08.30 Weekly	Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church
Thursday 19.30 Weekly term time	Bible Fellowship Contact Anne Adamson on 812816 for more info
Friday 19.45 Weekly	An ecumenical house group open to everyone. Contact Cathy 01572 812497 07970568305 cathydyson@outlook.com

April Events at Thistleton

We are celebrating Easter
with



Afternoon Tea

1.30 – 4.00pm

Sunday 1st April

St Nicholas Church,



Coffee and Cake

Every Saturday from
April 7th



10.00 – 12.00

Spring Fayre

Saturday 21st April

1.00 – 3.00pm

Crafts, cake stall, jams and chutneys, competitions,

Refreshments.

Proceeds in aid of Friends of Thistleton Church

A letter from Madagascar

Back to School! Half Term Report!

Dear friends,

We are half way through our three month language course in Antsirabe which is in the beautiful, cool and rainy highlands of Madagascar. This seemed a good time to give you a brief report – though we won't tell you what our teacher, Mamia, makes of us!

Mamia has told us to our surprise that she has now taught us 90% of the grammar we need. This comes as a relief because we're not sure we could have coped with more actives, passives, relatives, imperatives, passive imperatives..... At times our brains have felt in overload with the volume and complexity of Malagasy grammar and vocabulary. For example, the subject comes at the end of the sentence and by the time we have worked out the rest of the sentence we have often forgotten to add it!

Thankfully, we are now concentrating on listening and speaking. Slowly we're gaining confidence in communicating in this strange tongue. Malagasy is a fascinating and beautiful language with many fun words. So a butterfly is a "lulu" and words are often doubled but in a different way to English: so "fotsy" is white, while "fotsifotsy" is off white.

We know that we have a long way to go and the weeks ahead will continue to stretch us but the prize of both being able to share more deeply in the lives of the delightful Malagasy people and to share God's love in Christ is a great spur. Thank you for your prayers. Please continue to pray for God's gift of grace.

The peace of the Lord, Derek and Jane



For parents, grandparents and carers of preschool children. We meet during term time on Tuesday Mornings between 9.30am – 11.00am in Cottesmore Church. A warm welcome awaits with crafts, refreshments, lots of varied play/toys and singing. £1 per family.

Bernie Wallace Tel: 01572 812956 or Maureen Hubbert Tel: 01572 813061

Services in our Benefice, April 2018

Sunday 1 Easter Sunday	0545	Dawn Service	Greetham
	0930	Holy Communion	Cottesmore
	9:30	Holy Communion	Greetham
	1015	Holy Communion	Exton
	1115	Holy Communion	Clipsham
	1115	Holy Communion	Stretton
Tuesday 3	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Sunday 8	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning Worship with 9:00 breakfast	Greetham
	1115	Holy Communion	Clipsham
	1115	Morning Service	Exton
Tuesday 10	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Sunday 15	0930	Holy Communion	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning Praise	Greetham
	1115	Morning Service	Stretton
Tuesday 17	1000	Morning Service	Gainsborough Ct
Thursday 19	1200	Church Cafe	Cottesmore
Sunday 22	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Holy Communion	Greetham
	1115	BCP Morning Prayer	Clipsham
	1115	Holy Communion	Exton
Tuesday 24 10:00	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Sunday 29 10.30	1030	Benefice Service of Holy Communion	Thistleton

