



### **Welcome to May's edition of our Newsletter**

There's an interesting parallel (well interesting to me anyway) between reaching the next stage of opening up after lockdown and the events we see unfold at Pentecost in the book of Acts. When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they literally came rushing out onto the streets joyfully sharing the Gospel with everyone they met. After May 17, we will be much more free to mix socially inside and out and many more venues for getting together will be open. Already, people are making arrangements to meet up with family and friends – reunions that have been “on hold” for many months. So, similar scenes of rejoicing and mixing, laughter and hugging, sharing and caring. At the same time, many churches will be reopening for the first time in months and no doubt there will also be joy in meeting up with friends in person that you have only seen on Zoom for so long. However, at this point, will the 21<sup>st</sup> Century church retreat into their church buildings, and go back to old familiar patterns? Or will they be filled with the Spirit of Pentecost, and join in with their friends, neighbours and family in celebrating their rediscovered freedom in homes, gardens, parks, pubs, restaurants, tea rooms, sports matches and so on - sharing their own particular, unique brand of “Good News”?

We would very much appreciate your comments and feedback which can be sent to Julie Leefe at [Cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com](mailto:Cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com).

### **Re-opening of Church Services**

You'll be pleased to know that live services will be restarting mid-May in some of the benefice churches. Online services will be continuing as well for the time being. Annual Parochial Church meetings (APCM) are being held during morning services at Cottesmore, Exton and Greetham this month, as shown below.

#### **May 16**

9:30 AM Cottesmore – Holy Communion and APCM

9:30 AM Greetham

### **May 23 Pentecost**

9:30 AM Cottesmore  
9:30 AM Greetham  
11:15 AM Exton APCM

### **May 30 Trinity**

9:30 AM Cottesmore  
9:30 AM Greetham Holy Communion and APCM

Covid precautions - social distancing, mask wearing etc will continue for a few more weeks.

### **Christian Aid Week May 10 - 16**

In **Greetham**, an envelope should come with your village newsletter. Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency of 41 Christian (Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox) churches in the UK and Ireland, and works to support sustainable development, eradicate poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia regardless of religion, race or gender. If you would like to help this charity, please return the envelope to The Greetham Village Shop/Post Office. Once again sincere thanks to Nicole at the Village Shop and the many distributors of the newsletter for making this possible.

If you are within the benefice but your parish does not have an organiser from your church, but you would like to contribute to this charity, please write a cheque to 'Christian Aid' and send it to:- Peter Hitchcox, The Walnuts 69 Main Street Greetham Oakham LE15 7NJ **or** to your Rector or whoever takes your Sunday Services on May 16 or you can give online:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/give-money>.

Thank you for your help.

Peter Hitchcox  
Greetham Christian Aid Organiser

### **Thy Kingdom Come – PRAYER WALKS & VIDEO**

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. They have recorded a new worship song.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/we-seek-your-kingdom-song-licc>

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come (May 13 to 23) it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.*

There will a short video exploring what it means to pray “Thy Kingdom Come” which you can find on the Cottesmore benefice YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-7hlzueF5UT8kQbvvQVvbg> from May 13.

And you are invited to join us on three **Prayer Walks** during this season of prayer. Each will begin at the church porch and consist of a leisurely 20-minute stroll around the village pausing to pray, either silently, or out loud, as you wish. Contact Julie Leefe on [cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com](mailto:cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com) for more details.

Stretton – Saturday May 15 at 10 AM  
Cottesmore – Monday May 17 at 4 PM  
Greetham – Tuesday May 18 at 2 PM

Why not print out this page of the newsletter and write in the names of five people you see regularly who don’t yet know Jesus that you are going to pray for to become Christians and put it on your fridge or tuck it in your bible?

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....

### Tech help

Most of us are unaware of how much effort goes into producing online services and content. As online content is still likely to be needed in the future, we are looking for a volunteer or two with or without an IT background to help Anthony produce the kind of online services we have been enjoying for the past months. Please contact [cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com](mailto:cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com) for more information.

### Recovery

As lockdown starts to unwind, we may be able to begin to reflect on how we have each been affected by this devastating time of pandemic. We are not yet free of its effects but we might be able to see that we are now entering a time of “recovery”. As a body of believers, we are well-placed to help each other and the wider community to process what we have been through and the losses, pain, and difficulties we have suffered. At heart what we are wanting to help people do is walk through three stages to recovery:

- Remembering: involves remembering loss (people and things). And also remembering with thanks (people and things).
- Reflecting: on what experienced, what learnt, what will we do differently

- Recuperating: what are we looking forward to (reconnecting with family and friends) , what will restore us (getting away, sport, coffee shops)

We will be speaking more about this in the coming weeks and planning a services of celebration and reflection in June and July.

### What's coming up soon

Please check the benefice web site for more details

<https://northrutlandchurches.org.uk/calendar/page1/>

In brief:

- There will be services of reflection, lament and celebration in Greetham and Cottesmore churches on June 26 and July 4 respectively.
- Greetham Fete will be held on July 10
- St Nicholas, Stretton is planned to be re-opening July 17 & 18
- The St Peter's Way Walks will happening during July and August. Please contact Julie Bertuzzi for details [julie.bertuzzi@medasun.com](mailto:julie.bertuzzi@medasun.com)

### Feedback

This newsletter is a work-in-progress. It serves to open up a conversation on what kind of communications we want to see in the benefice, what it should look like and, indeed, what it should be called. Do you have any suggestions for a name for this new newsletter? Please email Julie Leefe at [Cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com](mailto:Cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com).

### CONTACTS

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