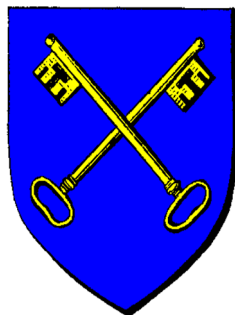


St Peter's Church, Raunds

Newsletter No. 34
October 2020



Sadly there were not enough contributions to be worthwhile sending out a newsletter last month. An update for the news last month - There were about 20 people calling at St Peters Church, some walkers and some cyclists as part of the Ride and Stride. The Town Garage Sale proved very popular with 67 stalls. It was a beautiful day and the atmosphere was good, with social distancing etc observed. Last weekend Ginny was licensed, by Zoom, as a Lay Minister.

July and August have flown past and Autumn is on its way and the nights are drawing in. There have been many changes over the past couple of months, not least with the weather. Churches were open for services from July 4th and in our benefice each church is open for a Communion Service once a month, just for people in that parish. A Communion service is available on YouTube at 10 am each Sunday and other services are held via Zoom. Check out the website or contact Rev Jon for more information. It is likely that this will continue till Christmas but hopefully other services can be held remotely, such as the Christingle.

Northamptonshire Historic Churches annual Ride and Stride is currently planned to go ahead on Saturday September 12th. St Peters church will not be open but there will be a register for participants on the door.

As some of you will be aware, the church clock has been repaired and can be heard around the town, keeping to the correct time! There have been several comments on how nice it is to hear the chimes once again. Fortunately it doesn't need winding up by hand nowadays! Thanks to those who kindly donated to the automatic winding mechanism.

Sadly town events, such as the Festival of Transport, have been cancelled. However the annual Town Garage Sale, postponed from April, is

planned for Saturday 19th September. This is the same day as the Town market when people will be out and about. It is outdoors and various protocols have been put in place to minimise risk. Application forms are available from the Post Office, Brook Street Newsagents and the Community Centre. Maps will be available a couple of days before.

The "49 Club" finished at the end of May but Mike Turner is looking to restart it. He would like somebody to help him (not much work involved). If you can help or would like to participate please contact Mike. This is a good fundraiser, and the church needs all the help it can get financially. If you have any other ideas please get in touch with Rev Jon.

In the meantime, stay safe, keep the faith and in particular, remember all those children going back to school in these uncertain times.

Judy



Baby Basics

A big thank you for those who have donated items for Baby Basics over the past months - thanks to Ginny several bags full will be delivered to the Baby Basics collection point at Weston Favell food bank (all other collection points still being closed).

Nicki

<https://baby-basics.org.uk/>

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



Rev. Jon

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Autumn in these strange times, one of the things we find most challenging in the church is how difficult it is to plan things.

I like to have a plan and to order events as far as possible and in these times this has proved to be a real test. There are normally fixed events and services based on the church's year, but we are discovering that we need to learn to do all these things in a new way.

This time of the year sees a number of such events and while we are thinking about how best to do them, we are conscious that our plans may have to change according to the ever-changing regulations and Government guidelines.

The first event I'm thinking of is our Harvest Thanksgiving services. This year we are holding them on October 4th in Hargrave and online on YouTube channel 4 Spires Benefice both at 10.00am.

We are mindful that normally our churches would be decorated for this occasion with flowers vegetables, groceries and fruits which would then be distributed to the foodbank or auctioned off. This year however with the restrictions around COVID-19, it will not be possible to decorate the church in the usual way. We hope to have one or two floral displays. We really miss our singing in church, I feel it is especially sad on this festival when we would be singing such favourites as "We plough the fields and scatter"

Then we need to rethink our annual Service for All Souls day (2nd November). We usually write to members of our communities who have lost a loved one during the past year and invite them to this special service in which we name those who have gone before us and give thanks for



Rev. Jon (cont)

their lives and honour their memories and Remembrance Sunday (8th November).

Because of the current restrictions, these services too will be happening in a different way.

We recognise how uncertain and challenging this is for our organisations and parishioners who find their activities a real source of fellowship and community. It is not easy to restrict things, but we have a duty of care not just to ourselves but to all who cross our doors and people's safety is paramount.

In the midst of the planning challenges and thinking through doing things in new ways, we are mindful too of new opportunities. We see people's pastoral gifts shining through as they care for each other. We see servant hearted people helping in practical ways with cleaning, stewarding and technology. We are seeing spiritual engagement through the online services. We see regular children's activities posted on the website and Facebook page. In these strange times we do have one constant, the love of God a God who walks beside us not only in the good times but also in the sad inconsistent times, if only we seek him. I would love to say thank you to all who are praying for the life of our Benefice in these days.

With love and prayers, Rev Jon.

Raunds Foodbank

The small team of volunteers at the Foodbank have been extremely busy during July and August. We have received a lot of food, which has needed dating. Also some fresh produce from individuals and Stanwick Allotments. There are few clients calling in at the Community Centre as we are arranging delivery (and the majority are referrals) to aid social distancing.

We have been running Holiday Hunger in conjunction with RAV during the school holidays. This is a packed lunch for 100 children in need in Raunds, Thrapston and the villages. The lunches have been either delivered or collected on Mondays, Wednesday's and Friday's so quite a commitment! Free sandwiches have been supplied by Greencore from Northampton and these were supplemented with drinks, fruit, crisps and cakes from Cakes for Carers. We have had to improvise during the last week (baked beans, eggs, tinned soup, bread) as Greencore closed their factory due to Covid for 2 weeks. However they managed to source 200 sandwiches for our final day from another factory. We are most grateful to Greencore and all those who donated financially to this project.

Another project has been the Uniform Bank where people could donate, swap or buy school uniform. This has been a great success and operated from the Centre on the mornings when Holiday Hunger was on. We have had uniforms from all local schools and Caroline's Treasure Trove has given vouchers for socks and underwear from her shop. The Uniform Bank will now only be available on Thursdays during the Foodbank hours but we plan to draw up an inventory of the stock, which will be mainly kept in storage.

Although it is called Raunds Foodbank we have had clients from Thrapston and the villages ever since Thrapston Foodbank closed over 5 years ago. Since the lack of public transport, and then Covid, have made it difficult for clients to come to Raunds we have been looking for a drop in place in Thrapston. I am pleased to say that there will now be a Thrapston Foodbank, operating under the ENCS umbrella like Raunds, starting on September 8th at the Baptist Church on a Tuesday afternoon.

For further information contact Judy or look at the Raunds Foodbank Facebook page.

Ginny Pledger— Child & Family Worker

Hello everyone, I hope that you all had a good summer even during these strange times. The weather is certainly a lot more autumnal and the nights are drawing in much quicker now. The children have gone back to school, but school looks very different from what they are used to. Children are having to keep to their own class bubbles, collective worship cannot take place in the hall and staggered start times are in place. These are just a few of the many restrictions which the children are having to get used to. So how do you manage to do an assembly if you can't gather together in person? Well Rev. Jon and I, along with Billy & Lilly (two puppets) are recording assemblies which are then sent to the schools for the children to watch in their classrooms. It looks very similar to the Benefice Services on YouTube. Both Rev. Jon and I have been having lots of fun playing with the puppets!! It is all in the name of work, honest!

Assemblies – St Peter's, Ringstead Primary, Park Infants, Windmill & Stanwick. Our theme was Teamwork & Resilience. We looked at Luke 6:13-16, we discussed the disciples that Jesus chose and how they had to be resilient even when it was difficult for them. We looked at different things that children might be good at such as football or riding a bike and how others need more practise at certain skills. We looked at how working as a team means that we support each other and encourage one another. We then reflected on how Jesus encouraged his disciples to work together as a team.

Assemblies – St Peter's & Ringstead Primary. Our theme was Friendship & Respect. -We looked at Matthew 22:37-40. We started by looking at some of the rules that we have to follow, not just as

Ginny Pledger— Child & Family Worker (cont.)

Assemblies – St Peter’s & Ringstead Primary. Our theme was Friendship & Respect. -We looked at Matthew 22:37-40. We started by looking at some of the rules that we have to follow, not just as children but also as adults. We then looked at the 10 Commandments and how that was a lot of rules to remember but then Jesus came along he simplified it all for us by saying to love God and love our neighbour. We reflected on how if we all did these 2 simple rules which actually incorporates all the 10 commandments then how wonderful our world would be.

COVID-19 Community Care – this service is still continuing with the team of volunteers across our Benefice helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions and telephone contact. Although things have settled down we still have our regular customers and we have also picked up a number of new ones too. Maintaining this contact with our community is so important.

That about wraps it up for this month. I hope to be able to report some Harvest celebrations next month. So until then stay safe and God bless.

Ginny Pledger

Child & Family Worker

4 Spires Benefice – Raunds, Hargrave, Ringstead & Stanwick

Pat Stuart

There isn't much I can report on - Friday Club still can't meet- too many households.

Our monthly Prayer Meeting still goes ahead with us all praying at the same time in our own homes, so at least we are together in spirit. Last Tuesday , as well as our own prayers we prayed for the state of the world. I send out any themes before our meeting on the 4th Tuesday, so the next one will be on October 27th. Everyone is very welcome to join in.

Future Newsletter Publications

To ensure you receive future copies promptly you can opt to receive yours by email.

Simply register this preference along with your email address to:-
stephen_clements@btinternet.com

November Newsletter

Just a quick reminder that the closing date for the next issue is Sunday 25th October.

Please get your contributions in promptly.

Don't forget, the clocks go back on the 25th.