

Butlers Marston Village Newsletter

February 2019



**Chat in Church
Planning Meeting**



Mon 11th Feb 8pm

Village Breakfast!



17th Feb 9-11am

Chat in Church



Fri 1st March

7.30 - 10pm

*From St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians,
Chapter 10, Verse 31*

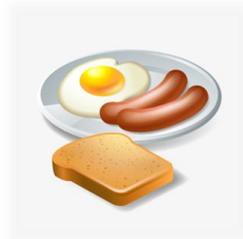
**“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the
glory of God.”**

Butlers Marston Village Breakfast!

Come along to the Butlers Marston Village Breakfast on **Sunday 17th
February**. Come any time from 9-11am at the church (heating provided!)
£5 per person, £3 for children – pay on the day. All proceeds to the church.

Vegetarian options available.

If you would like to attend, please let Sarah know by 10th February:
Sarah.J.Mountford@gmail.com – to give us an idea of how much food to
prepare!





Hello and welcome to this February edition of your Butlers Marston newsletter! In some ways, what a warm and wonderful January it has been – I know that some friends on social media were remarking on their January daffodil blooms (!) – and equally, how refreshing to have a cold snap and a dusting of snow last week.

January was a quieter month in terms of events at our church. The Church marks Epiphany, celebrating the arrival of the far-travelled, foreign Wise Men at Jesus' manger, offering their gifts of gold, francincense and myrrh, from 6th January. It is this linking of cultures, of the foreigners and this young Jewish family, of old and young, of star-following and faith that causes the Church of England to designate time for the prayer for worldwide mission and unity of the church. This does seem a far cry from the divisive political events that have been readily reported in the media. Rev. Barry Jackson of Kineton has compiled a service "Praying for our Nation" which can be found here: <http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/BrexitPrayers>

One of the hymns that has been suggested happens to be one of my favourites, beginning:

*Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.*

What a privilege it is to live for one another, in service for one another too. The newsreaders have reported the recent 'social prescriptions' on the NHS: in this era of prevalent loneliness, prescribing a holistic approach to people's health and wellbeing by connecting people to community groups, be it in gardening, exercise, dance, art or otherwise: being part of a bigger picture, or serving, if you like. Indeed, Dr Rangan Chatterjee is a familiar face on BBC Breakfast and the doctor in the BBC production of 'Doctor in the House'; he has dedicated a half of his holistic, latest (rather good!) book to both Purpose and Relationships.

Looking back to our Bible quote at the beginning of this newsletter, I rather think that St. Paul grasps it in one sentence: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Glancing at the opening pages of our newsletter, I should think that we can all be considering eating, as Sarah Mountford has had the brainwave of an invitation to our Village Breakfast – held in the church! It looks set to be a fabulous time of company, food and chatter – so do get your replies into Sarah at Sarah.J.Mountford@gmail.com by this weekend.

Chat in Church is set for a relaunch – please see Jenny's note in the middle of



this newsletter as we seek to bring a different dimension to Chat in Church. There will be a meeting in Church on Monday 11th Feb at 8pm to discuss the 'what' and 'how'. We were delighted that the Edgehill Bellringers joined us for Chat in Church on 1st Feb (and will do for most of the year too!).

Speaking of serving, in 1956, the Duke of Edinburgh set up the Duke of Edinburgh Award, as he was concerned that the youth of the day were falling subject to the *Six Declines of Modern Youth*: worries of lack of compassion, direction, fitness, enterprise, memory, skill and care and more! Sixty-three years later, the DofE award is internationally acclaimed, and participants still need to strive in four areas:

Volunteering: *undertaking service to individuals or the community.*

Physical: *improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.*

Skills: *developing practical and social skills and personal interests.*

Expedition: *planning, training for, and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.*

Joe Hodson volunteered to help Butlers Marston Church in 2016/17, and now Talia Calvert has volunteered her service too! You can find out more about Talia and her volunteering plans in the next column.

For now, I wish you a peaceful, purposeful month ahead. Do keep warm!

Very best wishes, *Lynn* (PCC Treasurer)

Getting to know Talia...

Hello!

My name is Talia and I'm 13 years old.

What are your interests? Are you in any clubs?

I enjoy baking, rockclimbing and singing. I am in the chamber choir at my school.

What motivated you to take up the Duke of Edinburgh Award?

I wanted to be involved in the Duke of Edinburgh award because it helps me to give back to my local community, it also helps me to improve my skills.

What do you want to gain / learn from the DofE?

At the moment I i'm participating in the Duke of Edinburgh award. As part of this, I am volunteering at the church. I have had some good ideas about how we could make our village even better. I would love to establish a community recycling point the items that can't be recycled with the council like crisp packets and pet food wrappers. I would like to send out a short survey about this recycling scheme to the village soon.

Where is your favourite place in the village and why?

My favourite place is down by the brook at the bottom of Bill's orchard, particularly to read or revise down there in the summer.

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

Thank you for taking the time to read a little something about me and I hope to see everyone around the village.

Talia.

Chat in Church Relaunch

Chat in Church has been running for four years now, raising nearly £4000 for the church. It aims to provide opportunities for everyone in the village to get together in a relaxed atmosphere to socialise while raising funds for the church.

We are planning to relaunch Chat in Church to include a variety of family friendly themed evenings. Suggestions have included:

- Quiz
- Pudding night
- Fish and chip suppers
- Beetle drive
- Treasure Hunt

We are looking for ideas and volunteers to help run these evenings. If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch or come along to a meeting on **Monday 11th February at the Church at 8pm.**

Jenny



From Rev. Sharon Goble



February invites us to celebrate relationships and especially romance, both actual and aspirational! Despite the hype, romance is not the only kind of relationship that defines a person. Many people lead full and fulfilling lives as singles. In reality some no doubt wish things were different, both from the perspective of being in a relationship as well as not. In the spirit of the season though, on the Sunday before Valentine's day, we are inviting couples getting married in the coming year in one of our six churches for a marriage preparation afternoon. Those of us who will conduct the weddings are simply encouraging some time out of the busy preparations for a big day to invest in their lifelong future. Marriage, family, friendships – all these loving relationships shape who we are and give meaning to our lives. We should make time and effort to celebrate those we love.

February is a good time to think about all the relationships that make us who we are. As signs of spring emerge, we may find ourselves more ready to connect with the world around us and appreciate its beauty. We look with fresh eyes inside as well as out, in spring cleaning, decluttering and gardening. The relationship we have with the world around us also needs

care and attention, and shapes who and how we are.

Although Lent does not begin until next month, this year, it is often around about this time that some serious thinking, and possibly determined action, goes into our wellbeing, diet and exercise (or lack of!) As winter turns to spring, we may well consider how we have been looking after our bodies, minds and spirits. So for some, Lent might be about giving up an otherwise regular indulgence, for others about finding more discipline and structure to our lives.

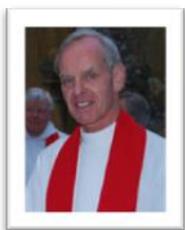
Every year the Archbishop of Canterbury recommends a Lent book, and this year it is by Muthuraj Swamy, entitled Reconciliation, its theme acknowledging that mending broken relationships and building new ones is essential for our life together as human beings. In our churches throughout Lent I will use the chapter themes of his book to create a prayer station in each church. A prayer station invites a stopping off point with resources to read, reflect on and, for those it helps, to do something to help us in our praying. I hope that you can stop off, however briefly, at any or all these six stations, to invest a bit more time into the most defining of all relationships open to us – with God, through Jesus.

Sharon, Reverend Sharon Goble.

Contact the Clergy Team



Rev. Sharon Goble
07799 220407 /
Sharon.goble@btinternet.com



Rev. John Horton
01789 459241 /
john.horton@stourdene.org

Carers4Carers

Friday 22nd February 10.30 – 12 noon

Come and join us for coffee, biscuits and friendly chat at Kinton Village Hall. This month we will have a visit from Rekha Tanna Hirani, our local Parkinson's Adviser. Please let us know in advance if you would like us to look after your loved one in our Companionship Group. For more details, including help with transport, please phone Gillian on 01926 640203/07947 893504.

Deanery Synod will be meeting on February, 12th at 7.30 pm in St. Edmund's Shipston.

The theme of the evening will be *Giving Well, Living Well* during Lent, when we explore the concepts of greener living and living well during the 40 days of Lent, drawing on the experiences of members of Synod. Anyone who is interested in living in a more sustainable fashion during Lent, taking care of God's creation, is welcome to join us and share their experiences with us.

Rev. Jill Tucker
Area Dean

Shipston Deanery Lent Services

**Tuesdays During Lent
19:30pm**

Saints of these Isles

March 12 – April 16th

