

NOTICES

Coffee Stop in Colmworth Church on Wednesday 14th February. Come and join us for a coffee and a chat - 10.30 a.m to noon. All welcome.

Colmworth guided walks will continue at 10 a.m. on **Wednesday mornings**, meeting at the triangle near the church. All welcome.

Colmworth Community Lunch takes place on **February 28th** in church at 12 noon. Contact Heather on 376513 to book.

Colmworth and Neighbours History Society meet at Colmworth Village Hall on **February 16th** 7.30 – 9.30 p.m. **Mark Steinhardt** – Letters Home of Corporal Croft: WW1. All welcome.

Saturday 24th February at 7.30 p.m. Bedford School Chapel. Join us for a candlelit performance of Gregorio Allegri's iconic **Miserere** and James MacyMillan's haunting and highly personal response to it. Tickets £15. (<18 £5) gaude.org.uk or on the door. A thrilling evening of unaccompanied singing awaits.

Saturday 24th February 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Giant Book Sale. Come to our browse and buy second hand **Giant Book Sale** at Blunham Parish Church, (St Edmunds or St James, Park Lane, Beds MK44 3NQ) Selection of second hand/nearly new books, homemade cakes, teas and coffees, homemade soup and a raffle. All proceeds to Blunham Church Fabric Fund.

Children's Society Boxes: This year £508.59 was raised for the Children's Society from the boxes collected at Wilden on Christmas Eve. Many thanks to all who have a box each year. Jane Harrison has been Children's Society Box Co-ordinator for many years and feels it is time for someone else to take on this responsibility. We thank Jane very much indeed for her service and we are now sending out the message "Is there anyone there who can help." Please get in touch with Jane (01234 772448) if you need further details.

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Wilden, Babensden & Colmworth Newsletter

February 2018

This is the first newsletter of 2018 and already we are thinking about Lent! Lent is a time when we reflect and say sorry to God for times when we have turned away from him, both unintentionally and with clear intent. Lent is a time to recognise this and to look for God's will for us and for our world.

It's a time to grieve over our losses and regrets and yet also look forward to the new life breaking through on Easter day.

I'm sure that we are all aware of the life and death that goes on around us. Depending on where we are in our lives and what thoughts are uppermost in our minds, we may be particularly focussed on the bits that reflect new life, joy, the future or we may, for this time be particularly focussed on the bits that reflect death, sorrow, loss.

So often in our lives, these things go hand in hand. Two sides of a coin. Things that go together. Joy and sorrow. Hope and future. Now and not yet. Life and death. As we welcome spring, we see the fading away of winter.

Perhaps we could also think about regret, lost opportunities to do the right thing, the loss of plans and dreams. But amidst all of this, we are reminded that Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet, tells us not to focus the former things, the things of old but to focus on the new thing that God is doing, will be doing. A new thing, that not only is going to happen, but will spring forth!

And the new thing that God is going to do changes everything and provides life for people.

So this Lent, what are the things that you would have done differently or the things that you regret or grieve for? What are the things that you can ask God to change? And where is the new life and plans that God has for you and your family?

To help people think about this, this Lent, we will be following the Church of England's reflections *#LiveLent – Let your light shine*. And rather than giving up something for Lent, perhaps think about what you could add into your lives to let your light (and God's light) shine. Look out for the fliers (in Churches or ask for one) and posters for more info on this.

Madeleine.

SERVICES FOR February 2018

Sunday 4th February **5th Sunday after the Epiphany**
 Colmworth 9.00 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion
 Wilden 10.30 a.m. Benefice All together Service

Sunday 11th February **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**
 Colmworth 9.00 a.m. Benefice Morning Worship
 Ravensden 10.30 a.m. Benefice All together Service
 Wilden 6.00 p.m. Benefice Evensong

Wednesday 14th February **Ash Wednesday**
 Wilden 7.30am communion service with ashing
 Ravensden 7.30pm reflective evening prayer with ashing

Sunday 18th February **First Sunday in Lent**
 Ravensden 9.00 a.m. Benefice Morning Worship
 Wilden 10.30 a.m. Benefice All Together service with communion

Sunday 25th February **Second Sunday in Lent**
 Ravensden 9.00 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion
 Colmworth 10.30 a.m. Benefice All Together service
 Wilden 6.00 p.m. Benefice Evensong

Readings

Feb. 4 th	Isaiah 40: 21-31	1 Corinthians 9: 16-23	Mark 1: 29-39
Feb. 11 th	2 Kings 2: 1-12	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6	Mark 9: 2-9
Feb. 18 th	Genesis 9: 8-17	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
Feb. 25 th	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16	Romans 4: 13-25	Mark 8: 31-38

Flowers and Brasses

Colmworth	February 4 th /11 th	Felicity Evans
	February 18 th /25 th	Lent
Ravensden	February 11 th	Helena Walker
Wilden	February 4 th	Di Parkin
	February 11 th /18 th *	Louise Mardlin
	February 25 th /March 4 th *	Elizabeth Wootton

*Brasses only

From the Registers

Baptisms

5th November – Charlotte Lily Owen was baptised at Wilden. Welcome to the Church Family. Apologies for the wrong entry in the last newsletter.

Funerals

6th December – at Wilden Church - Doris Emma Harrison
 7th December – at Ravensden Church - Jennifer Ciceley Rawlins
 Our prayers are with the families and friends at this sad time.

Interment of Ashes

24th January 2018 – At Ravensden Church – Pearl Winifred Gaung

Dates for your Diary

7th May 2018 Wilden May Day will take place once again – a fun day for the whole community with children Maypole dancing. Stalls. Refreshments, Games, BBQ. Beer tent and Pimms Bar. Competitions and the crowning of the May Queen. More details next month.