

Dates for your Diary

Colmworth Garden Club are holding an Open Gardens event on **June 4th** from 1 p.m. until 5p.m. starting from the Village Hall. Admission is £4 (accompanied children under 16 free) and is by programme obtainable from the Village Hall. Refreshments will be available in the Village Hall.

Saturday 10th June 7.30 p.m. The Ensemble of Friends will perform an evening of choral and light music in Colmworth Church. Doors open 7.00 p.m. Bar available. Concert tickets £10.00 under 16s £5.00 from Heather Smith 376513 or Felicity Evans 376887. Organised by the Friends of St Denys' church in aid of the Church Restoration Fund.

Sunday 25th June is the date for the Teddy Bear Parachute Drop and zip wire event at Wilden Church when there will be refreshments and music to entertain you. The one event Teddy Bears have the limelight!

Sunday 9th July Garden Party at The Manor House, Colmworth. Proceeds in aid of St Denys Church funds.

CPRE Bedfordshire, a local countryside charity, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. To mark this, the charity is running a photography competition open to all, to build a picture of Bedfordshire's much-loved countryside and green spaces, and glimpse how these are changing. The theme is: Bedfordshire - A Changing Landscape.

Entrants are encouraged to consider the ways that Bedfordshire's landscape, countryside and greenspaces can be seen to change, throughout the year and over time, through natural or human factors. We hope people will be inspired by the theme and that we get entries from across Bedfordshire.

The competition is free and open to all - first prize - £100, second prize - £50 M&S vouchers. The deadline for entries is 16th October 2017. Full details about how to enter can be found on www.cprebeds.org.uk.

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Wilden, Ravensden & Colmworth Newsletter

May 2017

One of the questions that I keep being asked is "How are you settling in?" It's lovely that people have been so welcoming and recognise the big change when you move to a completely new place to do a completely new thing. The answer is; "I think we are getting there" 'though there might always be pots of paint on the landing and we may never get all the painting finished.

But this whole idea of 'settling in' got me thinking and I wondered how much 'settling in' it is right to do.

If you have ever watched a reality TV show like X factor or Strictly Come Dancing, you will have heard one of the contestants saying (usually as they get voted out) "Well, I've had a wonderful journey." As unoriginal as this is, 'journey' is one of the ways that we use to talk about our lives... ups, downs, good, bad, busy, quiet. And I think that the idea of journey or, to use an even more churchy phrase, a pilgrimage, is a theme that comes into our lives both as Christians and as Churches.

As followers of Jesus, we never really 'settle in'. Yes, we commit to our communities and our lives where they are, but this is always against the backdrop of following Jesus. So whether we move physically from one place to another or whether we move on in our 'journey' as disciples, as we get to know Jesus more and seek to show God's love around us, we are always changing, we never truly settle down.

My first role after I left home was working as a volunteer in a Church. It was a huge change for me, moving from a village in Cheshire to Gillingham. But I loved the work and it helped me become who I am today. As I left that role to go to university, I was given a scrap book with photos and messages from the people I had worked with. The final page had a bookmark stuck on it. The bookmark had a picture of someone packing up their car ready to move house. The words underneath it said; "Wherever you go, Jesus will take care of you". We could spend ages talking about what that phrase means! But, I think at its heart, the idea that Jesus goes ahead of us wherever we end up, is true. As we think about how we 'journey' together as individuals and a benefice, as we come upon changes and differences, we can know that this is part of our wider journey of following Jesus. So maybe we need to ask ourselves not "how are we settling in?" but, "How is the journey going".

Madeleine.

NOTICES

SERVICES FOR MAY 2017

Sunday 7th May

Colmworth	9.00 a.m.	Benefice Holy Communion
Wilden	10.30 a.m.	Benefice All together Service

Sunday 14th May

Colmworth	9.00 a.m.	Benefice Morning Worship
Ravensden	10.30 a.m.	Benefice All together Service
Wilden	6.00 p.m.	Benefice Evensong

Sunday 21st May

Ravensden	9.00 a.m.	Benefice Morning Worship
Wilden	10.30 a.m.	Benefice All Together service with communion

Sunday 28th May

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

May 7 th	Acts 2. 42 - end	John 10. 1 - 10
May 14 th	Acts 7. 55 - end	John 14. 1 - 14
May 21 st	Acts 17. 22 - 31	John 14. 15 - 21
May 28 th	Acts 1. 6 - 12	John 17. 1 - 11

Flowers and Brasses

Colmworth	May 7 th /21 st	Thelma Marks
	May 28 th	Kate Thorogood
Ravensden	May 14 th /28 th	Chris Bertram
Wilden	May 7 th /14 th	Heather Griffiths
	May 21 st /28 th	Hilary Fisher

Ravensden Community Cuppa is on **Tuesday 2nd May at 2 to 4 pm in Ravensden Village hall.** Entrance £2 for tea and cake. This month we will have a quiz as well as our normal book swap. Everyone welcome.

Coffee Stop in Colmworth Church Wednesday 10th May. 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.

Message from Heather: There will be NO Community Lunch at Colmworth Church on Wednesday 24th May.

Colmworth and Neighbours History Society meet on **May 19th** when **Brian Kerr** will be talking about “The Making of the Bedfordshire Countryside” at Colmworth Village Hall 7.30 p.m. All welcome.

Wilden May Day will take place on **Monday 1st May** at Wilden Village Hall with all the old favourites and some new ones. Come along for a fun day out with all the family. The May Queen's procession leaves Wilden School at 12.45 pm to arrive at the Village Hall at 1 o'clock. The Village Hall will be open on **Saturday 29th April** to receive donations of bottles, books, pretty things, bric a brac and Grand Draw prizes. Cakes for the Cake Stall and small cakes for Refreshments would be appreciated on **Monday morning.**

Friends of Colmworth Church: “Quiz Night in the church 7.00pm for 7.30pm on Friday **5th May.** Teams up to 6 persons (might squeeze in a couple of 8's). Tickets £10 per head including fish and chip supper. A bar will be available.

Save the Date: On **7th May** Ravensden Village Hall and the Friends of Ravensden Church are having a delicious big breakfast. Everyone welcome. More details next month.

Jigsaw Challenge – Colmworth Village Hall on **Friday May 12th** at 7.00 pm. Teams of 4 or come along on your own and make up a team on the night. Tickets £10 (meal included) from Kate (378132) or Heather (376513).

Ravensden Annual Parish Meeting is on **Tuesday 9th May** at 7.00 p.m. followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m. at Ravensden Village Hall.