

NOTICES

Coffee Stop in Colmworth Church on Wednesday 14th March. 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 **28th March** in church at 12 noon. Contact Heather on 376513 to book.

Colmworth and Neighbours History Society meet at Colmworth Village Hall on **March 16th** 7.30 – 9.30 p.m. **Kate Harwood**. Gifted with a peculiar facility: Humphry Repton, landscape gardener. All welcome.

Quiz Night in Colmworth: Saturday 31st March 7 for 8 p.m.

Tickets for Friends of St Denys second quiz are now available at £10 each, to include a fish and chip supper. Make up your own table of 6-8 if you wish, or let us know and we will put some tables together. We look forward to seeing friends from Colmworth and also from neighbouring villages for an evening of fun and challenge. **Telephone Angela/Rob: 376835**

Flowers and Brasses

Colmworth	March 4 th	Lent
	March 11 th /18 th	Lent
	March 25 th /April 1 st	Easter – help please
Ravensden	March 4 th	Lent
	March 11 th /18 th	Lent
	March 25 th /April 1 st	Easter
Wilden	March 4 th	Elizabeth Wootton*
	March 11 th /18 th	Jane Snaith * *Brasses only
	March 25 th /April 1 st	Hilary Fisher and team

We would like to say thank you for all the help received during Madeleine's unforeseen trip to Japan, to those who covered services and other events, those who prayed and to those who helped look after Roo the dog, Thank you, Madeleine and Shamsher.

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Colmworth, Ravensden & Colmworth Newsletter

March 2018

At Christmas we say 'Happy Christmas.' At Easter we say 'Happy Easter.' But have you ever heard someone greet you with the words 'Happy Lent'?

Lent is a preparatory season where we get ready for the great Christian feast of Easter. Our getting ready is a building of our spiritual preparedness. A journeying together to that wonderful celebration. A pilgrimage if you like.

Why do we do this? We do this because of Christ's Easter resurrection which causes new life to burst from the tomb and into the world.

New life will change things, will change us, if we want to be changed. Unimaginable new life is offered to us through Christ's resurrection but we must be willing to accept it. But often the prospect of being changed through Christ is deeply scary. I wonder if you might reply 'All this talk about new life, I'm perfectly happy with my old life, thank you very much.'

If all Christianity offered was a bit of a spiritual polish where we remained the same but just a bit shinier, a bit holier round the edges, it would be superficially more attractive. It would also, however, be virtually pointless. Church, being part of the family of God, would be a waste of time. Far better to stay home and have a lazy morning reading the papers and eating croissants. Or keeping warm instead of going out to a prayer meeting. Or not being made fun of because of your beliefs. Or not making sacrifices and surrendering all that you have and are to Jesus Christ.

This new life that we are offered is costly and scary, but it is wonderful, transformational, exhilarating new life. This offer is not just of a 'thanks very much and forget about it' nature. It is the offer of a lifetime. It is the offer of new life. And such an offer should not be taken lightly.

So, during Lent, Christians prepare through prayer and self-reflection and self-denial. This isn't meant to be season of misery. It is a season of sacrifice and surrender. Through such preparations, we hope to be able to grasp and accept ever more deeply the new wonderful, joyful life offered in Christ.

Happy Lent.

Madeleine

PS If you would like to find time and space to think more about what Lent means or find some space to reflect each day, why not sign up for a text or email from the CofE to help you do this - find out more info here www.churchofengland.org/lent

SERVICES FOR March 2018

Sunday 4th March

Colmworth 9.00 a.m.
Wilden 10.30 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

Benefice Holy Communion
Benefice All Together Service

Sunday 11th March

Colmworth 9.00 a.m.
A service for those who want a quieter, reflective service with the emphasis on Mothering Sunday for everyone. If you find this day hard or need space on Mothering Sunday or need a 'Mothers' day free zone' please come to this service.

Mothering Sunday 4th Sunday in Lent

Morning Prayer

Ravensden 10.30 a.m. All Together

Mother's day celebration for everyone! We give thanks for those who care for us (including Mums, Dads and God!) family friendly, interactive service for all ages especially those who like something different.

Wilden 6.00 p.m. Evensong

If you are looking for a traditional evening service with a Mothering Sunday sermon, please come to this service.

Sunday 18th March

Ravensden 9.00 a.m.
Wilden 10.30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Benefice Morning Worship
Benefice All together Service

Holy Week and Easter Day

Sunday 25th March

Ravensden 9.00 a.m.
Colmworth 10.30 a.m.
Wilden 6.00 p.m.

Palm Sunday

Communion
All Together
Evening service

Move into Holy Week using the Liturgy of the Passion. Come along to hear special readings to help us follow Jesus' footsteps into the coming week.

Monday 26th March

Wilden 7.00 p.m. A simple communion service

Tuesday 27th March

Ravensden 7.00 p.m. Reflective evening prayer

Wednesday 28th March

Colmworth 7.00 p.m. Reflective evening prayer

Maundy Thursday – Wilden Church 7.00 p.m.

This is the day that Jesus had his last supper with his disciples and when he washed the disciples feet to show he was a servant. It's the day he was arrested and taken away for trial. Come along for a special meal and service to remember the Last Supper.

Good Friday - Colmworth Church All Age activities 10a.m.-12

noon. Reflective service 2.30 p.m. This is the day that Jesus died. Between 10-12: Drop in for all age activities (and have a hot cross bun) Or come along for a short reflective service at 2.30 p.m.

Easter Day

Easter Day! A day to celebrate! Why not come along for a special breakfast at Ravensden Church at 9.30am. Everybody is welcome so invite your friends and neighbours! The Easter service will start at 10.30am. After Church, there'll be an Easter egg hunt so stay around for that too! Ravensden, breakfast, 9.30am. Service, 10.30am.

Readings

March 4th Exodus 20: 1-17 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2; 13-22
March 11th Numbers 21: 4-9 Ephesians 2: 1-10 John 3: 14-21
March 18th Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33
March 25th Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark 15: 1-47

From the Registers

Our prayers are with all the families and friends.

Funerals

31st January 2018 **Anne Hulme** at Bedford Crematorium followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Nicholas Church Wilden.

2nd February 2018 **Steve Akhurst** at Bedford Crematorium

Interment of Ashes

24th January 2018 – At Ravensden Church – **Pearl Winifred Gauna**
(Apologies for the previous typing error).

13th February 2018 – At All Saints Church Ravensden **Pamela Everall**

Notices

Prayer during Lent. Prayer changes things! It can mean we give time and space for our thoughts and hopes to become more in tune with God's. Lent is a good time to take more time to stop and pray. With this in mind, Wilden Church (in the middle of the benefice) will be open on Thursday evenings for the remainder of Lent for anyone who wants to drop in and pray. There'll be some suggestions of what to pray for and how to pray but the time and space would be available to use as you wish. The Church will be open each Thursday from 1st March - 22nd March from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.