

ALDERMASTON AND WOOLHAMPTON BENEFICE

MAY 2024

BENEFICE

MAGAZINE

The Pew News



SPRING
HAS
ARRIVED

SERVING THE PARISHES OF ALDERMASTON & WASING
BEENHAM-BRIMPTON-MIDGHAM AND WOOLHAMPTON

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

NEWS PAGES

For this month's letter from our Rector, the Reverend Jane Manley, or news and articles from our churches and communities, Eco Church, food bank or benefice administration.

SERVICES

Services throughout the benefice, Special events in Church and details of readings.

LIFE EVENTS

Here you'll find details of all the weddings, baptisms and funerals that have taken place across the benefice.

CHILDREN

News from our schools, special events, competitions, information and lots more for our younger, and young at heart, readers.

NEWS FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends

‘Jesus says: ‘the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name’ (John 15.16)

The idea that God wants us to ask for things in prayer is what lies behind the Christian tradition of Rogation Sunday (5th May) and the Rogation Days that then follow leading up to Ascension Day on Thursday 9th May. Rogation is all about asking: the word comes from the Latin ‘to ask’: we are encouraged to ask God’s blessing, to ask for God’s help and goodness for those we live amongst, and as a group of churches we ask and pray especially for all who live in our benefice.

Traditionally Rogation walks and Rogation prayers were for God’s blessing on the crops and to ensure a good harvest. The practice goes back to very early in the Christian era, taking over a Roman spring festival of walking through the fields to pray that the crops be spared from mildew and blight. If there had been a calamity, Rogation was also a time to give thanks for God’s deliverance and protection. A Bishop in Gaul ordered his whole diocese to go out in procession after it had been spared from a series of volcanic eruptions. In the early Church, Rogation processions in this country had parishioners carrying banners representing Biblical characters, with a dragon at the front and the banner of a lion representing Christ in the middle, followed by images of saints carried by the rest of the congregation – what a wonderful display this must have been going through the villages.

At the Reformation in this country, the practice of ‘processions’ was suppressed, but parish ‘perambulations’ were still encouraged! In the time of Elizabeth I, a Royal Injunction ordered the perambulation of every parish at Rogationtide and two special Homilies for Rogation Days were printed so clergy could be sure to explain to their congregations what this was all about. One of these homilies say how: ‘in our walks on these days, people have occasion to behold the fields and countryside and to ask God in prayer for their fruitfulness and for seasonable weather.’ Also, as people go about the parish boundaries, they are reminded to be content rather than greedy, and not to ‘covet or contentiously strive’ for what belongs to their next door neighbour or next door parish.

In addition, a wonderfully practical point is made about noticing the need for road repairs: ‘Your highways should be considered in your walks, to understand where to bestow your day’s work according to the good statutes provided for the same’. Tudor law required labourers to give four days work each year to the repair and maintenance of the roads of the parish. So, the Rogation walk helped people notice what needed doing. ‘It is a good deed of mercy to amend the dangerous and noisome ways, whereby thy poor neighbour, sitting upon his silly weak beast, foundereth not in the deep thereof and so the market be the worse served for discouraging poor victuallers to resort thither for the same cause’.

In our Benefice, we will have a walk around the Bowden farm during the service at Brimpton and another service in Woolhampton in the barn at Ferris. These services help to link our churches more with the reality of the world and the villages we serve.

The core meaning of rogation is about asking, but it is also about generosity, because we are not simply asking for ourselves but for others in our parishes and for all on whom we depend for our food and wellbeing. We are praying ‘as well for others as for ourselves.’ God longs for us to ask as a way of showing we are receptive to that blessing and willing help those around us to receive blessing too. Once we become too self-sufficient, we forget how to ask and how to trust. Rogation reminds us that God longs to bless us and to bless the world through us.

‘Ask and you will receive’, Jesus tells us. But that Rogation homily from the time of Elizabeth I suggests that Rogation also demonstrates the truth of: give and you will receive. If we give to others, then God will give to us: or as Jesus says elsewhere in the Gospel, ‘Give and it will be given to you.’ (Luke 6.38)

We would love to see you at one of our Rogation services, otherwise do take time to go for a walk and enjoy the beauty of the countryside which surrounds us.

Peace and grace, Revd Jane

COFFEE MORNING

(SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)
IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN
10:00 am-11:30 am

WEDNESDAY 8th May 2024
WEDNESDAY 12th June 2024
WEDNESDAY 10th July 2024

Everyone (including dogs) welcome



St Peter's Church, Brimpton Churchyard Working Party



Tuesday 7th May, 10am – 1pm

Can you spare an hour or two to tidy up round the church? We would be very glad of your help!

*Bring your own garden tools
Tea, coffee, cake and good company will be provided*

www.awb.org.uk

Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month

Thursday May 2nd

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm
at 1 Church Lane, Brimpton RG7 4TJ (because of elections in church)

Thursday June 6th in the church
Thursday July 4th in the church

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information
henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

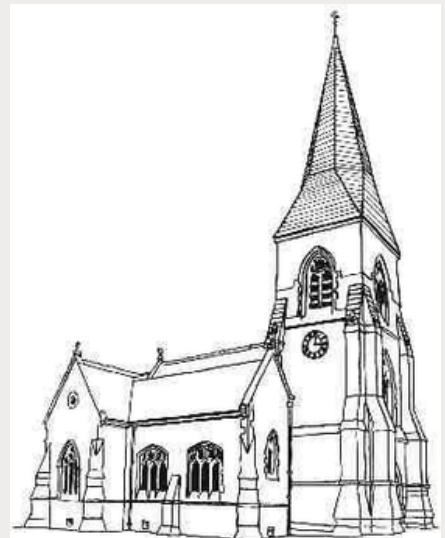


ROGATION SERVICE

On the farm.

Come and join us to walk round Manor Farm and bless the crops and the livestock in the coming year.

Sunday 5th May
at 10.00am
Manor Farm, Brimpton
by kind invitation of
Mike and Mandy Bowden



Summer Music @ St Marys



**Come and listen to glorious
music in a fabulous setting**

Friday May 17th ,7pm

Kate Rittson-Thomas

Aldermaston CoE School Choir

Saturday May 18th , 7pm



Kingsclere Performing Arts College

£20 Adult Ticket, £5 Children in full time education, under 12s free

Both nights: £30 adult, £10 children, under 12s free

includes refreshments

All to raise funds for St Mary's Church, Aldermaston

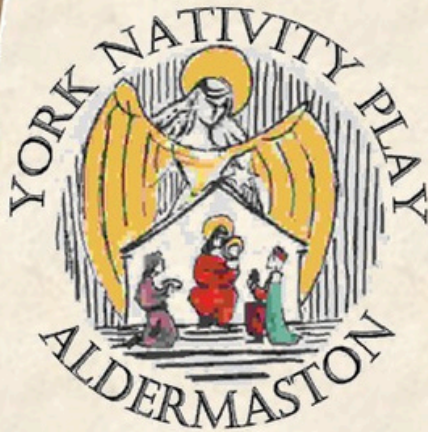
Box office & more information :

<https://concerts.project-stmarys.uk>

SCAN ME



St Mary the Virgin, Church Rd, Aldermaston, RG7 4HR



We are looking for a volunteer to join the **lighting and sound team** that covers both the Nativity Play, at St. Mary's Church, and the Aldermaston Players at the Parish Hall.

Its not essential but helpful to have an understanding of electrics and computer systems.

If you are interested or just want to find out more please contact Chris Boott:
chris@aldermastonplayers.co.uk

07717 666557

INDIGENOUS CULTURES

Spirituality and Sustainability



A talk by **Dr** Carolyn Boulter



Dr Carolyn Boulter has had a distinguished academic career at London and Reading Universities, with a focus on the teaching of science at all levels. She has a particular interest in the relationship between environmental science and spirituality and especially the need to pay attention to the natural world in the quest to achieve a sustainable future for the planet.

Dr Boulter has spoken before about Darwin and Christianity and in this talk she will develop her ideas in light of recent experiences of indigenous cultures and interfaith spirituality. On the way, she will raise the need for a radical transformation of consciousness.

Tuesday 14th May – 7:30pm
at The Music Room,
Bradfield College

Car Parking is available at Bradfield College Sports Complex, RG7 6BZ



Spiritual Development Group BRADFELD DEANERY

PUBLICITY OFFICER – Gordon Patterson E: gnpatterson@btconnect.com M: 07764 476361



NEWBURY Spring FESTIVAL

11 - 25 May 2024

two weeks of world-class music
newburyspringfestival.org.uk



www.awb.org.uk

BRIMPTON CHURCH 100 CLUB

**APRIL WINNER:
NO. 58 EVELYN WESTON**

THAT WAS THE LAST DRAW OF THE YEAR.
WE START AGAIN IN MAY, AND IT'S NOT
TOO LATE TO TAKE A NUMBER IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO JOIN. PLEASE CONTACT
PATRICIA BRIMS PCBRIMS@HOTMAIL.COM.

THE 100 CLUB RAISES OVER £1400 FOR THE CHURCH EACH YEAR,
WHICH MAKES A FANTASTIC DIFFERENCE.





Plant Sale

St Peter's Church

Brimpton

Saturday 11th May

10am - Noon

Please note change of date

**Donations of labelled plants welcome,
Please deliver to the church on Friday 10th May after
3.30pm
Refreshments and raffle - Proceeds to St Peter's
Church and Macmillan Cancer Care**

ORGAN RECITAL

SATURDAY

**1ST | 6
JUNE | PM**

BY GILL BLYTHMAN

ST MATTHEWS MIDGHAM

Followed by refreshments

ALL WELCOME

**THE CONCERT WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 40MINUTES
WORKS TO INCLUDE**

FUGA IN C: D BUXTEHUDE

PIECE D'ORGUE: J S BACH

INTERMEZZO ON AN IRISH AIR: C V STANFORD

CHORAL SONG: S S WESLEY

TOCCATA FOR UKRAINE: MATTHIAS NAGEL

MARCH IN E FLAT: LEFEBURE-WELY

FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

RETIRING COLLECTION



West Berkshire Food Bank

0808 208 2138

Free phone service open
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Closed on public holidays

The Help through Hardship helpline is
a free phone service
delivered in partnership with Trussell
Trust and Citizens Advice.

If you're worried about money and struggling to afford
essentials, call our free helpline for personalised support

www.awb.org.uk



URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

Details of items urgently needed and low in stock can be found by visiting
<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

**WHEN PEOPLE ARE GOING WITHOUT....
IT IS TIME TO GUARANTEE THEIR ESSENTIALS**

Drop off locations:

Aldermaston and Wasing: The Rectory, Wasing Lane
and 19 Swan Drive, The Wharf.

Beenham: Inside the gate at Beenham Primary School

Brimpton: Inside the porch at St Peter's Church and Georgina
Hairdressers

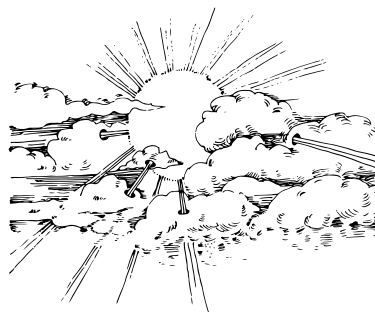
Midgham: St Matthew's Church. Open daily between 09:00-15:00

Woolhampton: Inside the porch at St Peter's Church

www.awb.org.uk

ALDERMASTON AND WOOLHAMPTON BENEFICE

Services during May



**ALDERMASTON
BEENHAM
BRIMPTON
MIDGHAM
WASING
WOOLHAMPTON**

www.awb.org.uk



Sunday 5th May: Rogation Sunday

St Mary's, Beenham 9.15am Morning Praise
St Peter's, Brimpton 10am Rogation Service on Manor Farm
St Matthew's, Midgham 9.15am BCP Communion
St Nicholas, Wasing 10.45am Morning Praise
St Peter's, Woolhampton 10.45am Rogation Service at Ferris

Sunday 12th May: The Sunday after Ascension

St Mary's, Aldermaston 10.45am Holy Communion
St Matthew's, Midgham 5pm Songs of Praise
Service for the Revd Dr Derek Spears

Sunday 19th May: Pentecost

St Mary's, Aldermaston 10.45am Holy Communion
St Peter's, Brimpton 9.15am Holy Communion
St Matthew's, Midgham 10.45am Informal Holy Communion
St Peter's, Woolhampton 10.45am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th May: Trinity Sunday

St Mary's Beenham 9.15am Holy Communion
St Peter's, Brimpton 10.45am Holy Communion
St Matthew's, Midgham 5pm Sung Evensong
St Peter's, Woolhampton 10.45am Holy Communion

For further details contact: The Rev'd Jane Manley 01189 712 891

www.awb.org.uk

PET SERVICE

Calling all dogs, cats, fish, horses, chickens, beaded dragons,
pigs, hamsters, etc, etc

We are holding a Pet Service
at St Matthew's, Midgham
on Sunday 16th June 2024 at 3pm
in the church grounds

Tell your owners to put the date into their diary



Pets, please bring your human with you.

Refreshments and dog biscuits to enjoy after the service

For further details contact

Revd Jane 0118 9712 891 jmanley.awb@gmail.com

www.awb.org.uk

ROGATION



5th May 2024

Join us at one of our Rogation Services across the Benefice, as we ask God for his blessing upon our land.

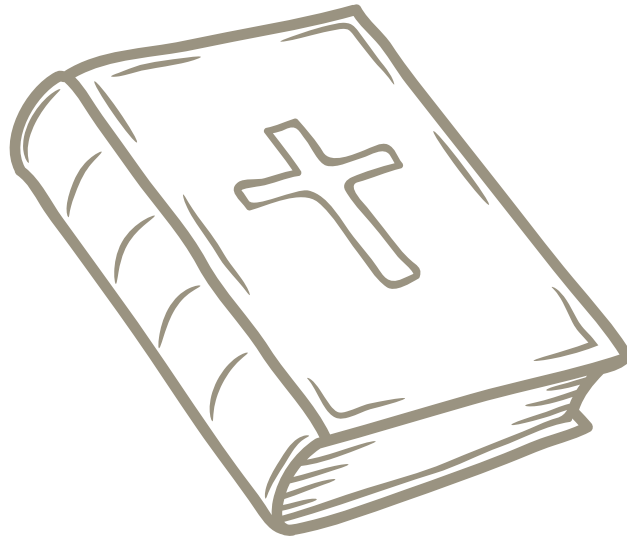
St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston 10.45am
St Mary's, Beenham 9.15am

St Peter's, Brimpton
at the Bowden's, Farm 10am

St Peter's, Woolhampton
at Ferris 10.45am

***Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord.
Let the earth be fruitful and its resources be hallowed.
Amen.***

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Sunday readings

MAY 2024

| | NEW TESTAMENT | GOSPEL | COLOUR |
|---|--|----------------------------|--------|
| 5 TH MAY - EASTER 6/ROGATION SUNDAY | ACTS 10.44-END | JOHN 15.9-17 | WHITE |
| SUNDAY 12 TH MAY THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION | ASCENSION DAY READINGS ACTS 1.1-11 | LUKE 24.44-END | WHITE |
| 19 TH MAY PENTECOST | ACTS 2.1-21 | JOHN 15.26-27; 16.4B-15 | RED |
| 26 TH MAY TRINITY | ROMANS 8.12-17 | JOHN 3.1-17 | WHITE |

March and April 2024 Occasional Services

Weddings

28 th March Michael Pearce and Sophie Cook at St Nicholas, Wasing
6 th April Bradley Cassell and Toni-Marie Kelly at St Matthew's, Midgham
18 th April Jamie Madden and Jessica Hay at St Nicholas, Wasing
20 th April Gary Willas and Lisa Krumins at St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston
20 th April Daniel Arnold and Jessica Leer at St Peter's, Woolhampton

'And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love'

Funerals and burial of ashes

27 th March The Funeral of Vince Spiller at
St Matthew's, Midgham

**'I am the resurrection and the life,' says
the Lord.**

**'I am the resurrection and the life,' says
the Lord.**



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FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES



WORSHIP ON WEEKDAYS
FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

8 th May, 5th June,

9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

St. Peter's Woolhampton, RG7 5TB

Join us as we come together for WOW!
This relaxed, informal and friendly session
starts with tea, toast and toys and a
chance for parents, grandparents and carers
to get together for a chat.

A short, informal worship starts at 9.30 am
and we finish it all off with cake! What
better way to spend a Wednesday morning?
FUN, FRIENDLY, FREE

www.awb.org.uk

SCHOOL NEWS

ALDERMASTON
CE PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Here we are now in the summer term. However, at the time of writing, it is chilly and pouring with rain, but hopefully the weather will improve as we look forward to a term full of educational, interesting and informative lessons and activities. These will include indoor and outdoor learning, trips and visits, a variety of sports on our field, our annual sports day and picnic, the KS2 production and events in commemoration of the D Day 80 Anniversary, in conjunction with the local community.

Many of you will have already heard that, after over 18 years of service, Mrs Boyden hung up her Office Manager badge at the end of last term. She is relocating with her family to another part of the country. She will be so greatly missed by all her friends here in school and in the wider community. It's hard to imagine the school office without her and every child will have their own special 'office' memory. We wish her well for the future. Although Mrs Boyden will be a hard act to follow, we are interviewing for a new Office Manager and will share the outcome of this in due course.

CATHY JONES, FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

Our wonderful, nurturing school continues its quest to 'enable all to flourish.' With a broad, balanced curriculum, exciting sporting and creative activities we encourage a passion for learning and an opportunity for every pupil to thrive.

Spending time in the beautiful wood behind our school is very much enjoyed by all pupils. Our holistic Forest School curriculum is designed to encourage critical thinking, creativity and imaginative play and works alongside the classroom curriculum.

St. Peter's Church is at the heart of our community and our core Christian values: Respect, Optimism, Compassion and Koinonia (ROCK) are embraced by all children. We have a group of talented Collective Worship Leaders who organise weekly collective worship.

Sportsmanship is alive and thriving at our school and we actively participate in various tournaments and fixtures with other schools. The whole school recently took part in a mini marathon as part of a nationwide event. They completed 2.6 miles by running, jogging or walking around the Douai Field. Well done to everyone who took part!

The much-loved Mother's Day Posies' event organised by the wonderful Woolhampton School (FoWS) team was another special day on the Woolhampton School calendar. The school's hall was transformed into a vibrant workshop with tables laden with beautiful flowers. The children arranged their floral creations in jam jars in and tied them with colourful ribbons, adding personalised cards with messages of love!

Kim Wyrley-Birch
SEND Link Governor

WOOLHAMPTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL

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