

## NOTICES

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

10.30 Calstone: Benefice Communion

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

10.00 Heddington Coffee Morning

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

9.15 Little Fishes

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

9.30 Cherhill: Midweek Communion  
10.15 Cherhill Coffee Morning

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

9.45 Calstone: Holy Communion  
6.00pm Cherhill: Informal Evening Worship  
11.15 Heddington: Holy Communion

#### Contact details

**Administrator:** Emma Marsh 07821 836233

[oldburybenefice@gmail.com](mailto:oldburybenefice@gmail.com)

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, 9 am to 12 noon**

Benefice Office: 8 Court Farm Stables, Heddington, SN11 0PN

**Rector:** Rev Matthew Earwicker, 01249 821329 [mattearwicker@gmail.com](mailto:mattearwicker@gmail.com)

(Day off - Friday)

You will find contact details for the churchwardens in the Villages magazine.

**If you need help with safeguarding issues, please contact the Safeguarding Officer on  
07864 000906**

## 1<sup>st</sup> March Second Sunday of Lent Romans 4.1-5, 13-17 John 3.1-17



Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Next week:  
Third Sunday of  
Lent**

**Exodus 17.1-7  
John 4.5-42**

#### Welcome

We hope you feel welcome at our church and find it a place where you can meet with God. If you are unsure about anything, please ask the person who gave you this sheet.

We love children and we understand they will make some noise; don't worry about it! However, if you feel your youngest ones would benefit from playing quietly in a corner, do ask the people who welcomed you and they can point you in a suitable direction. We may even have the odd book or toy for them to play with.

A loop system may be provided in this church. Please ask or check by switching your hearing aid to the "T" position.

**PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU**

## **New Testament Reading: Romans 4.1-5, 13-17**

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. ...

Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

## **Gospel Reading: John 3.1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.'

Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'

'How can someone be born when they are old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!' Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.'

'How can this be?' Nicodemus asked.

'You are Israel's teacher,' said Jesus, 'and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

### **Midweek Easter Morning vigil and Sunrise service**

This year, alongside the usual services over the Easter period, we will be adding another special service for those who like something a little different:

Very early on Easter Sunday morning, (weather permitting) we will be holding a vigil around a fire in Yatesbury churchyard followed by a short service to mark the sunrise. The current plan is:

5 am – lighting of the fires  
5.30 – Vigil service around the fire  
6.30 – Sunrise celebration  
7 am - breakfast

### **Midweek Communion and Coffee in Cherhill**

Don't forget, for the next four Wednesdays there will be a short, quiet service of Holy Communion every week at 9.30 Cherhill followed shortly afterwards by coffee and cake at 10.15.

All are welcome to join us for either or both, wherever you live.

### **Bible Study**

The next Bible Study will be at 7.15pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Home Group**

The next Home Group will be on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March @ 1.30pm