

NOTICES

Services

Sunday 2nd May

10.30am Heddington Benefice Communion, join by zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/oldbury-benefice-2may>

Sunday Coffee morning 12 noon, join by zoom
<https://tinyurl.com/oldbury-zoom-2may>

Wednesday Midweek coffee and discussion about issues raised in the Sunday sermon, or any questions or comments you have, on Wednesday at the new time of 12 noon, join by zoom
<https://tinyurl.com/oldbury-Wednesdays>

Sunday 9th May

9.45am Calstone Holy Communion

10.00am Cherhill Morning Worship,

11.15am Heddington Morning Worship, join by zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/oldbury-mw-9may>

You can also join by phone:

0208 080 6591 or 0208 080 6592

Meeting ID 872 8603 3019 Passcode 557763

If you don't have internet access, or would prefer to join using your phone, you can call one of the following numbers:

0208 080 6591 or 0208 080 6592

At the prompt, the meeting ID is 875 7540 7195

At the next prompt, the passcode is 410916

Little fishes meeting on Wednesday - numbers limited, so please contact Matt or Jane if you wish to come.

Contact details

Administrator: Lorraine Stewart 01249 815198

oldburybenefice@gmail.com

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.00am to 3.00pm

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

Rector: Rev Matthew Earwicker, 01249 821329 mattearwicker@gmail.com
(Day off - Friday)

Associate Priest: Rev Linda Dytham, 01380 859571

ladytham@btinternet.com

(Work days Thursday, Friday, Sunday)

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

Sunday 2nd May 2021

Acts 8.26-40, John 15.1-8
5th Sunday of Easter
Grafting on new branches



Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

Next Sunday
9th May
6th Sunday of Easter

Jesus' church,
Jesus' rules

Staying safe at services COVID-19

We are excited to be able to welcome you back into our churches, but we want to make sure that no one is at risk in doing so. We will do our best to keep you safe, but you can help us by following these simple rules:



Wash your hands before and after coming to church, and use sanitiser when you enter the church building



Keep 2m apart wherever possible



Please wear a face covering unless you are exempt - you will be protecting others



Please do not shake hands or hug, either during the service or afterwards



Please follow the instructions of the wardens at all time, especially if going forward for



Please do not arrive very early or hang around for long after the service

Children are always welcome in our churches, but unfortunately, we cannot provide toys or books at this time.

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

Readings:

Gospel Reading: John 15.1-8 NIV

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

New Testament Reading: Acts 8.26-40 NIV

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Questions from Matt

Q1 Do you feel that you are at the moment in a time of fruitfulness or a time of pruning?

Q2 What helps you “remain in the vine”?

If you have answers to either or both questions you would like to share, please email them to me - I’d love to hear your views.

Reading continued

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.