



# The Hexagon

## Benefice Magazine

MARCH 2024

### The Spirituality of the Tortoise

I have discovered that the tortoise has a lot to teach us about the Christian life. Let me start this reflection with a story. My Mom and Dad once moved into a house and found that the previous owners had left behind a rather odd garden ornament - a lifestyle and very realistic model of a tortoise. Now, my mother has a somewhat twisted sense of humour and the temptation to have some fun was just too great. She put this tortoise in the front garden, where passing neighbours would see it and every day, she would move it just a few feet.

It gradually became an object of fascination to the neighbours who couldn't quite make up their minds whether it was a real tortoise or not. Couples would stop and begin arguing amongst themselves, one pointing out that it was over there yesterday, and the other saying look it's clearly just a model. And my mother would be peeking out from behind the curtains doubled up laughing!

As I reflected on Mom and her practical joke, I thought there are some lessons here about Christian spiritual life.

A lot of Christians are a bit like the tortoise - not much in the way of evidence of life, not much growth, not much movement. So, the first challenge of the tortoise is to examine the state of our spiritual lives, and if necessary to shake ourselves up, embrace the challenge and adventure of Christian discipleship.

The second spiritual lesson that we can learn from the tortoise concerns its defence system. When the tortoise gets into its defensive posture it is hard to hurt. When it pulls its head and its legs inside its shell there is not much you can do to it. It is safe. The big disadvantage that it faces in this defensive posture is that it can't do very much. In our Christian life there is often the temptation to be a bit tortoise-like - to withdraw when things look a little threatening, or scary, when they require us to venture a bit outside of our comfort zone.

The final lesson we can learn from the tortoise is related to its lifestyle. I mean you buy them; give them a kind and loving home and they then have the audacity to spend half the year asleep!

So, these are the three spiritual lessons we can learn from the tortoise. Three dangers we must be aware of:

Don't be alive but dead looking.

Don't choose safe over useful.

Don't spiritually hibernate.

**Rev Stephen John MARCH, Pioneer Curate Hexagon Benefice**

[www.fuelforpilgrims.org](http://www.fuelforpilgrims.org)

### Ministers and Churchwardens

Curate: Rev Stephen March  
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Brian Spriggs 0116 247 8559

St Mary's Church, Bruntingthorpe:  
Andy White 07595 252030

All Saints Church, Husbands Bosworth:  
Di Jones 01858 880741

St Nicholas Church, Mowsley:  
Janet Skinner 01858 880276  
Erica Hearnshaw 0116 240 4054

St Mary Magdalen Church, Shearsby:  
David Durran 0116 247 8708

All Saints Church, Theddingworth:  
Avril Bailey 01858 880236  
Janet Lewis 01858 881188

## HEXAGON NEWS

### Foodbank

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Foodbank for the 101kg of food (Arnesby - 79kg / Shearsby - 22kg) donated by your Churches during January.

**Barry McHugh**

**Lutterworth & Villages Foodbank**

### St. Peter's Church, Arnesby

Church Warden: Brian Spriggs - 0116 2478559

**"Flicks in the Sticks" is back! All films are in Arnesby Village Hall @ 7.30 pm and are FREE**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 **My house in Umbria** (A group of travellers in Italy find solace and friendship after being thrown together by tragedy.)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 **The Fall** (Two girls who like to push the limits get stranded on top of a 2000ft abandoned radio tower.)

**Compline** at 7 pm on Wednesdays in Lent, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Concert by "Group Therapy"

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm.** 3 local musicians in St Peter's Church - Music from Bach to the Beatles. Proceeds to The Friends of St Peter's Tickets £10 (to include interval refreshments) from Brian & Sue Spriggs or Graham & Cathy Roberts

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10.30 Holy Communion

### Arnesby Baptist Church

Sunday morning service 10.45am

Evening service 6pm (both weekly) - all welcome.

Monday evening 7.30pm - 9pm, Ladies meeting.

Tuesday - Evergreen Coffee Time, 10.30am -12pm.

Tuesday 7.30pm, fortnightly, Men's Bible study.

Tuesday prayers, (3rd Tuesday in month) 7.30pm.

Wednesday ABC Parent Baby & Toddlers - 10am - 12pm, The Barn (behind Chapel).

Friday Café at The Barn opens March 15th 2.30pm - 5pm.

Good Friday Family Special (29th March 2024) 10.30am - 12.30pm, hot cross buns & Easter treats.

Friday Explorer's Club (ages 5-10) 6pm - 7pm

Friday Youth Club - 7.30pm - 9pm.

For details of any of the above please contact Pastor Johnny: 07813 356364

### St Mary's Church, Bruntingthorpe

Church Warden: Andy White - 07595 252030

### Coffee Mornings

Pop into the village hall Bruntingthorpe Thursday mornings 10am - 12 noon

Coffee / soup / biscuits

Chat / laugh/ have a warm /swap books just a general easy morning or stay as long or as little as you wish.

Please join us.



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**All Saints Church, Husbands Bosworth**  
Church Warden: Di Jones - 01858 880741

#### Christmas Trail

A big thank you to everyone who supported, helped, provided and decorated our Christmas fundraising Trail and Church. Some wonderful exhibits, and it really gave the village a magic feel.

First Prize was won by Lauren Pendley Knights Close, 2nd Prize Jill and Tony Ribton, Hunters Close. The winner of the hamper was Mrs Frisby.

We made £1,300 for Church funds.

#### Pudding Evening

Our next fundraising event is a Pudding Evening at the Village Hall on Saturday 27th April, 2024 7.00 to 9.00pm. Details to follow next month.

#### St. Nicholas Church, Mowsley

Church Warden: Janet Skinner - 01858 880276

Erica Hearnshaw - 0116 2404054

#### Mothering Sunday

Our Service on 10th March is Mothering Sunday. We invite the children to come along. Flowers will be provided for them to give to their mother. Coffee and biscuits will be given. Everyone will be welcome.

The library van will be usual time and place on 20th March.

#### St Mary Magdalen Church, Shearsby

Church Warden: David Durran - 0116 247 8708

#### Shearsby Nature Group

A group of residents who care about nature, biodiversity and climate change, and want to do something about it.

Our next meeting is on **Saturday 20 April at 2pm** in Shearsby Village Hall.

We welcome any like-minded people to come along and together help to give wildlife a helping hand.

Other forthcoming events in 2024:

Bat talk, Moth mornings, Bee talk and walk, Apple family fun day.

For more details, please contact Man-Lan on 07368260982 or email: [shearsbynaturegroup@gmail.com](mailto:shearsbynaturegroup@gmail.com)

#### All Saints Church, Theddingworth

Church Warden: Janet Lewis - 01858 881188 or 07847138865

Church Warden: Avril Bailey - 01858 880236 or 07977098666



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## ADVERTISING WITH THE HEXAGON

We currently have space for adverts in the Hexagon Magazine. Prices start from £10 per issue. We have 10 issues per year from October. December and January, along with July and August are double issues which is why we have 10 issues instead of 12. Our advertisers are what keep the Hexagon being published and bringing the latest Benefice and community news and events to your door.

We would like to thank our loyal advertisers for making our magazine possible.

If you would like to advertise with us please get in touch by email: [hexagonbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:hexagonbenefice@gmail.com) or for urgent enquiries call 01858 880530 or 07391784168.

All advertising and community news submissions, please submit by 10th of each month for the following month. All issues will be sent to print typically by the 3rd Friday of the month.

Blessings

from

The Benefice Team

## BENEFICE COMMUNION SERVICES

MARCH 2024

Sunday 3rd March 2024 , 10.30am Arnesby

Sunday 10th March 2024, 10.30am Mowsley  
Mothering Sunday

Sunday 17th March 2024. 10.30am Shearsby

Sunday 24th March 2024, 10.30am Bruntingthorpe  
Palm Sunday

Sunday 31st March 2024, 10.30am Theddingworth  
Easter Sunday

Sunday 7th April 2024, 10.30am Husbands Bosworth

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at  
Husbands Bosworth  
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#### Hexagon Benefice Team

Rev Stephen March - Pioneer Curate | Beryl Cane - Administrator | Brian Spriggs - Treasurer | Jean Hutchings - Administrator

Stephanie Mallon-Carter - Composer

e:[hexagonbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:hexagonbenefice@gmail.com) t: 01858 880530

All MAY 2024 issue submissions by: 10TH APRIL 2024