



The Hexagon

Benefice Magazine

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

Christmas – The Moment the Universe Changed

At Christmas we celebrate the moment the universe changed. We celebrate the unveiling of a “momentous possibility” offered to all in Jesus.

At Christmas, humankind - spiritually dead, physically dying and eternally doomed - find ourselves offered, against logic, against hope, and against expectation, the opportunity for salvation, for restoration and for glorification! That changes everything.

As St. Augustine said,

“Sons of men, how long will you be slow of heart? Will you not now, after life has come down to you, rise up and live!” (Confessions Book 4 Chapter XII)

At Christmas God broke into our universe.

Yet He did so in a totally unexpected way. In a way of unthinkable weakness and fragility. Yet His presence with us, changes everything.

In Christ our hope was born. Once God is present in a situation – there is always hope.

Christmas is certainly a time to celebrate! But we need to make sure we are celebrating the right thing. And the right thing to celebrate is this awesome reality of our universe being turned upside down, because now God is with us – Immanuel. And His presence makes anything possible!

What's more He has now given us a means through which we can invite His presence into specific situations – by our prayers. Which is why praying is the most significant act a human being can perform.

What a privilege God grants us, that of inviting the transforming presence of God into situations and into the lives of those around us.

Let us not miss the target in our celebrations this Christmas. Let us not get caught up in the “nonsense” that often obscures the incredible, awesome, and wonderful reality – our universe has been transformed. It is now a place of hope!

Blessings

Rev Stephen John MARCH, Curate in the Hexagon Benefice

SPECIAL NOTICES

Dorothy Elizabeth ('Betty') Brice passed away on 8th October 2023. She was a remarkable 103-year-old lady and was a part of St Mary's Bruntingthorpe for over 75 years.

In addition to serving as Churchwarden after the death of her husband, Johnny, Betty was renowned for the fellowship she provided by way of her cooking skills. She ran a stall at the annual fete selling jams, curd, relishes and preserves for over 50 years, even in her late 80s making 250+ jars every year. She finally called it a day when she reached 90!

However, people continued to leave fruit and empty jars by her back door, and she reduced her annual production to a more manageable 20 or so jars a year, many of which were sold at the annual Harvest supper and auction. She'd also have made much of the food for the night which catered for 60 people. For around 20 years she also hosted one meeting per year of the Parochial Church Council in the summer, where she would make the most fantastic buffet for PCC members - there were never any absentees! She also continued to bake cakes and biscuits for weekly services at St Mary's beyond her 100th birthday.

Betty was a strong supporter of the Children's Society and for many years would make the 'Christingles' for the service, a time-consuming job. Her Christian faith was private but was undoubtedly very strong and her commitment to St Mary's and the wider church has been an example to us all. She attended services until only a couple of months before her death and will be missed by so many people. We are truly blessed to have known her and be a part of her long and happy life.

Andy White and all at St Mary's Church and parish Bruntingthorpe

A special Christmas message.....

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the team at the Hexagon Benefice Magazine. We thank you all for your continued support. A special mention to our distributors. The cold weather is creeping upon us and they will brave the cold to deliver our Benefice news to your door.

God Bless

Ministers and Churchwardens

Minister: Rev Stephen March
Telephone 01858 881212
stephen.march@leicestercofe.org

St Peter's Church, Arnesby:
Brian Spriggs 0116 247 8559

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

Retired Priest (PTO): Andy Rhoades
Telephone: 01455 552050
Mobile: 07531121145
Email: Rhoades_mail@btinternet.com

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

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

Area Dean: Rev Jane Micklethwaite
Telephone: 0116 2781766
Email: areadeanjane@gmail.com

All Saints Church, Husbands Bosworth:
Di Jones 01858 880741

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 205KG of food donated by your Churches (Husband Bosworth - 102kg / Shearsby - 29kg / Arnesby - 74kg) during October.

Barry McHugh

Lutterworth & Villages Foodbank

St. Peter's Church, Arnesby

Church Warden: Brian Spriggs - 0116 2478559

Sunday 10th December 2023 and 14th January 2024, 10.30 Benefice Communion

Sunday 24th December 2023 3.00pm Crib Service. All Welcome, activities for Children

Christmas Coffee morning and Book Swap

Saturday 2nd December 2023 between 10am and 12noon in the Village Hall

There will be a stall of donated board games, jigsaws & books. Mince pies, biscuits & hot drinks available.

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

Wednesday 13th December 2023 Slumdog Millionaire (Poor Indian boy from the slums defies all obstacles to become a millionaire via a game show. 8 Academy awards.)

Tuesday 23rd January 2024 The Balloon (2 families desperate to flee East Germany in a self-made hot air balloon.)

Arnesby Chapel

Sunday morning weekly service 10.45am

Evening service 6pm

Specials for December:

Saturday 2nd December 2023 Ladies Craft & Wreath-making afternoon, 1.30 for 2pm start till 5pm. Please book via our website: www.arnesbybc.co.uk/christmas.

Friday 15th December 2023 Family Carols 6pm.

Sunday 24th December 2023, Christmas Eve, Carols by candlelight at 4.30pm.

Monday 25th December 2023, Christmas Day, Family service at 10.30am, all welcome at Arnesby Chapel.

St Mary's Church, Bruntingthorpe

Church Warden: Andy White - 07595 252030

All Saints Church, Husbands Bosworth

Church Warden: Di Jones - 01858 880741

Christmas Trail and Market Husbands Bosworth

Saturday 9th December 2023 and Sunday 10th December 2023 between 2.30pm and 6.00pm

Please come and support your beautiful Parish Church. It is our main fundraiser for the year.

Crafts, Bric-a-brac, Tombola, Raffle and other stalls to pick-up last-minute Christmas presents and of course refreshments.

Christmas Trail Map £3.00. There is still time to enter your window or garden display. Let's light up Bosworth.

Come and get to know us and hear about future plans. We would be delighted with offers of help, gifts for all the stalls and of course your support. Di Jones 01858 880741.



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All Saints Husbands Bosworth Carol Service

Carol service All Saints Church Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7.00pm

Discover the true meaning of Christmas. For the best way to start Christmas please come and join us for our Carols by Candle-light. Carols and readings followed by Mulled wine and Mince pies. Make this a village event and let us all celebrate together. Further info Di Jones 01858 880741.

Sunday 24th December 2023 Christmas Eve at All Saints Family Communion 10.30am.

A family service for all in the village to join us and will include a Baptism.

Coffee after the service.

There will be no service on 31st December 2023 anywhere.
No Wednesday services on 27th December 2023 or 3rd January 2024.

St. Nicholas Church, Mowsley

Church Warden: Janet Skinner - 01858 880276

Erica Hearnshaw - 0116 2404054

Advent Windows

The Village Hall Cttee. are once again organising the Advent Windows which brighten up the long Winter evenings.

Mowsley Benefice Communion

Sunday 17th December 2023 at 10.30am.

Mowsley Library Van

The Library Van will be near the kiosk at 9.45am on Tuesday 19th December 2023, and Tuesday 16th January 2024. **We should use it or lose it.**

Mowsley Carol Service

Our Carol Service is Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 7pm. The renowned Gospel Choir will be with us once again. Mulled wine and mince pies will be provided, a pleasant start to the festive season. **A Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to everyone.**

St Mary Magdalen Church, Shearsby

Church Warden: David Durran - 0116 247 8708

All Saints Church, Theddingworth

Church Warden: Janet Lewis - 01858 881188 or 07847138865

Church Warden: Avril Bailey - 01858 880236 or 07977098666

The Christmas Cafe in Church on Saturday 2nd December 2023 at 10:30 12:30. Look forward to seeing you there.

Carol Service

Our Carol Service is on Sunday 17th December 2023 at 11:30 am.



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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 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

DECEMBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024

Sunday 3rd December 2023, 10.30am Shearsby
Sunday 10th December 2023, 10.30am Arnesby
Sunday 17th December 2023, 10.30am Mowsley
Sunday 17th December 2023, 11.30am Theddingworth
Sunday 17th December 2023, 6pm Shearsby

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday 24th December 2023, 10.30am Husbands Bosworth
Sunday 24th December 2023, 3pm Arnesby

Christmas Day

Monday 25th December 2023, 10.30am Shearsby

NO SERVICE 31st December 2023

Sunday 7th January 2024, 10.30am Theddingworth
Sunday 14th January 2024, 10.30am Arnesby
Sunday 21st January 2024, 10.30am Husbands Bosworth
Sunday 28th January 2024, 10.30am Mowsley

Sunday 4th February 2024, 10.30am Shearsby

Midweek Service 10:00am every Wednesday
at

Husbands Bosworth

NO SERVICE Wednesday 27th December 2023 or Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Coffee and biscuits after the service at 10.45am.

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Hexagon Benefice Team

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

Stephanie Mallon-Carter - Compositor

e:hexagonbenefice@gmail.com

t: 01858 880530

All FEBRUARY 2024 issue submissions by: 10TH JANUARY 2024