



Rector: Nick Leggett 07925 419068 Email: leggett1uwe@yahoo.co.uk

Please send your news, thoughts, messages, helpful suggestions, requests etc. to Claire Wilks by Wednesday lunchtime. Either by phone on 01295 711516 or email clairewilks@hotmail.co.uk

Services

Sunday 29th January

10.30am Benefice Communion at Middleton Cheney

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd January

10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints

Sunday 5th February

9.00am Holy Communion at Chacombe

10.30am Morning Praise at Middleton Cheney

10.45am Holy Communion at Greatworth

11.00am BCP Communion at Thorpe Mandeville

Rev. Nick will be away on annual leave from 28th January until 4th February.

If you have any queries during that time please contact me (Claire) or one of your Churchwardens.

Diocesan News

This week **Bishop Donald** moved to Edinburgh. As we continue to remember with gratitude his time as our diocesan bishop, please pray for him and Janice as they adjust to life and ministry in retirement. Below is a message from him which Bishop John shares with us

Wednesdays at All Saints

The church will be open every

Wednesday from 10am until 4pm

10 – 10.30am Said Communion service

10.30am – 12.30pm **Jolly Teapot!**

A chance to chat over coffee/tea, cakes and biscuits

First Steps is our weekly service for babies and toddlers with their parents or carers and is on every Wednesday from 2 – 3pm during term time.

*At all other times between 10am and 4pm church will be open and there will be a **warm space** in the side chapel. Refreshments will be available.*

Foodbank



If you know of an individual or family that would benefit from a food parcel please do let me (Claire) or Rev. Nick know.

Parcels may be collected on Wednesdays from All Saints during 'Warm Space' opening times – see above.

After giving thanks to all those involved in, and contributing to, his farewell service, Bishop Donald writes:

We have spent the last fortnight sorting, packing, and "downsizing" a lifetime's collection of books, music, and much else, as we prepare to move from The Palace to our two-bedroom flat in Edinburgh. That has been a challenge! Tomorrow (Monday 23 January) our removers arrive to load up. On Tuesday we actually move away and to a new life.

People have asked "Do you have to move away?" Moving is painful. This is my sixth church job, and we've moved away after each one, so in a sense we are used to it - though it seems a bit harder at retirement. There is no absolute rule, but it is a convention for clergy who are paid and live in church property to move right away from where they have ministered, and I think it is a wise one. I should have no influence on the process of choosing my successor, no opportunity to comment on his or her policies, and no availability to any who want to complain about the changes a new Bishop will inevitably bring. So I shall be well out of the way, but still missing the places and people I have grown to love. This was part of the deal when I signed on as a curate in 1976, and it is right.

It is also something of a model or picture of the Christian life. We are "citizens of heaven", and here "we have no abiding city" (read up Ephesians and Hebrews if those words don't ring any bells). As I tried to say a fortnight ago, our fellowship, affection, unity are all in Jesus - and we can never be separated from him.

So, with love, in Jesus,
thank you, and bless you.

Donald

For those who worship at home

Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:24

Christ (is) the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Hymn: "Christ is our Cornerstone" v. 3 early Latin Hymn tr J. Chandler

Here, Gracious God, do thou
for evermore draw nigh;
accept each faithful vow,
and mark each suppliant sigh;
in copious shower
on all who pray
Each holy day
thy blessings pour.

Reflection:

In 1 Corinthians 1, St Paul tells his rather divided and uncertain congregation in Corinth to put their trust in Jesus and that most of them were not socially high up, or clever. They were a mixture of Greek gentiles and Jewish converts, in a very diverse seaport. Trying to integrate them was a difficult task. Greek gentiles prized wisdom above everything. Commenting on Paul's not very successful visit to Athens in Acts, St Luke comments: *'Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.'* (Acts 17.21)

Wisdom was highly prized in the ancient world, in most cultures. There's plenty of it in the Old Testament – advice on how to rule, to live a godly life and to listen to advice. But being a follower of Jesus should mean more than that. Even though the Corinthian Christians' way of life and belief seemed ridiculous to their fellow citizens, as ours does to most people in Britain today, Paul tells his hearers to focus on Jesus, and what is seemingly illogical to many; to see the purposes of God at work in their lives through the extraordinary love and sacrifice of Jesus, through the cross and in the message of resurrection is the real foundation of Christian faith and living. So it is for us.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
as we sit at your feet,
teach us your living way;
for you are our Way and Wisdom
one God with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen