

BIG EASTER EVENT AND ABINGDON PASSION PLAY - 6 April 12.30pm in the Abbey Gardens The Big Easter Event is a free community fete - a great opportunity for the churches in Abingdon to come together to witness to our community. At its heart, the Abingdon Passion Play (2pm) tells the last few days of Jesus' life in an accessible contemporary style blending professional and community actors with a large choir.

Get involved as much as you want in the Abingdon Churches' biggest community event...

- Help with Christ Church's space-themed prayer tent
 - Join in as a singer or actor - any level of experience welcome.
 - Pray that people would come and take part and see the performance.
 - Run a stall at the Big Easter Event - craft/game/any fete type activity would be great!
 - Volunteer as a steward to help everyone be safe and welcome.
 - Publicise: distribute leaflets to your local roads; host an estate agents advertising board; put up posters; invite your friends and colleagues.
- To help with any of these or for queries, contact Katharine de Villiers: katharine@devilliersfamily.net or 07768022684.

PRIME TIME WALKS 2019

Meet at Church by 10am. Shared transport. Pub lunch after walk. Please wear good footwear and bring waterproofs and water. Tuesday 26 March, Monday 29 April, Wednesday 22 May, Tuesday 18 June, Friday 19 July, Thursday 8 August, Friday 16 August, Monday 23 September, Tuesday 15 October, Wednesday 6 November. Please put the dates in your diaries. Any queries Maggie 527673.

WYCLIFFE HALL is seeking an Executive Assistant to the Principal. See the website for details: <https://www.wycliffehall.org.uk/job-vacancies>

GEMMA FURLONG (daughter of Simon and Mission partner Sheila Furlong) is doing a hairdressing apprenticeship at Mahogany Salon in Oxford. Every Monday at 9am in Oxford she needs a model to practice on. Don't worry no scissors involved until she is more experienced. Just washing, conditioning, drying, styling etc). If you are interested in some hair pampering whilst helping Gemma to achieve her qualification she would be delighted to hear from you. Please email gemmalesanne@gmail.com or call Simon and Sheila on 01235 533042. Thank you.

CHILDREN IN THE PLAYGROUND

Parents, please could you ensure that your children are supervised in the playground after the service and do not go into the fenced areas to the left and right of the main play area. They are your responsibility!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Caroline Craig, Louis Furlong, David Robertson, Rachel Robertson, Logan Mazie (Jane J's great nephew), Nessa Watts, Cynthia Holland.

If you have any items for the newsletter or for prayers, please contact Anne Taylor annejbtaylor61@gmail.com or 528505.

Notices now on the web at www.longfurlongchurch.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook at "Christ Church Long Furlong"



3 March 2019

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Mon 4th March: Meeting God in the Silence, 9 am, 7 pm, The Barns, NR
Mon 4th March: Prayers for new estate, 8 pm, Lounge, NR
Tue 5th March: Coffee Break, 10.15 am, 46 Coleridge Drive
Tue 5th March: Apprentice, 4.30 pm, Prayer Room, NR
Wed 6th March: Link, 10 am, Hall, NR
Wed 6th March: Ash Wednesday Communion, 8 pm, Church, NR
Thu 7th March: Singing Circle, 10.30 am, LFCC
Thu 7th March: Bible Journalling, 7 pm, 3 The Spinney

SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER - Christ Church Long Furlong 25 Year Celebration - more details to follow.

LF QUIET DAY - SATURDAY 23 MARCH 10am-4pm at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Time to pray, listen, rest & relax - have space with God. Reflections will be led by Sister Mary Stephen on the theme of: *That's how the light gets in*. Come for morning, afternoon or whole day, £10 per person, lifts can be arranged - all welcome. More details on leaflet available today, or contact Kath & Phil - kath@cca.uk.net

ELECTORAL ROLL

Every six years we have to prepare a brand new church Electoral Roll, and this year is one of those years! Being on the Electoral Roll enables you to vote in the Annual Church Meeting in April when we elect church wardens and PCC members; it also signifies you are a member of Christ Church. There are enrolment forms in the Church foyer and in the Church offices. Please place completed forms in the box in the Church foyer not later than 31 March 2019. For more info, please speak to Clint in the office.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – 8pm WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

Do join us as we mark the beginning of our journey together through Lent with this special service of Holy Communion. The service will include the powerful symbol of 'ashing' - the marking in ash of the cross on the forehead - for those who would like. This is a reminder that in Lent we seek to walk the way of the cross with Jesus. *Ros & Nessa*

LONG FURLONG PRAYER EVENING - Thursday 14 March from 7.30pm at LF School.

LENT CHALLENGE

Our EcoChurch group are launching a Lent Challenge next Sunday – Go Veggie for Lent (or even a day a week in Lent). More details next Sunday!

TERM CARDS

The new term cards for March to early June are available today. Take one home, and take another for a friend or neighbour.

VISION PROCESS UPDATE

Please pray for the working group from the PCC as they meet on Tuesday evening reviewing the feedback from church members on the working draft of the Vision.

JIT AND BRIDGET MARRYING

Jit Patel, our former curate, is marrying Bridget next Saturday at Holy Trinity Church, Leicester. Join us in thanking God for them and praying for them as they start out on married life together.

ARE YOU A HEARING AID USER? We would love to understand how we can best help you hear well during our services. So we would be very grateful for any information you can give us about what works well for you, what doesn't, and any examples of other environments where you think they have got it right. Please drop a note to, or have a chat with, Geoff Palmer, Andrew Turner, or Kath & Phil – thank you very much.

VICARAGE - We're thankful to the Lord that we've now got the keys to the new vicarage, 33 North Avenue. We're moving in on 18 and 19 March. *Keith & Lynne*

ABINGDON COURT: Correction to the entry in the Prayer Diary-The March service will be on 13 March, not 6 March, led by Maggie Baker-Rawle.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME LAUNCHES TODAY!

This new way of giving to Christ Church will bring us HUGE advantages, and the PCC (who have already trialled the system) are recommending that we all, as a church, migrate our giving to this new scheme. If you missed the services today, you can pick up a "Finance and Giving 2019" pack from the entrance hall which explains everything. Please contact Chris Hodgson, Tim Shipman or Martin Steel for more details.

REQUEST FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS ANDY AND ANDREA WARNER: The Festival Internacional de Benicassim (FIB) takes place each summer close to Castellon. The majority of the 50,000 attendees are British and Andy and Andrea are putting together a team of Christian young people to mingle among them during the day as they relax on the beach. The team hand out water, chat to people and introduce them to the idea that God exists and that He loves them. Are you over 18, a Christian, enthusiastic about chatting to people about God, and available from 14/22 July? Then Andy and Andrea need you! To find out more, please contact Andy and Andrea: andy.warner@ecmi.org or Sue Robbins susankrobbins@gmail.com (01235 529039)

PRIME TIME WALKS 2019: Meet at Church by 10am. Shared transport. Pub lunch after walk. Please wear good footwear and bring waterproofs and water. Tuesday 26 March, Monday 29 April, Wednesday 22 May, Tuesday 18 June, Friday 19 July, Thursday 8 August, Friday 16 August, Monday 23 September, Tuesday 15 October, Wednesday 6 November. Please put the dates in your diaries. Any queries Maggie 527673.

WELLSPRING

Our monthly quiet service is next Sunday 10 March in the staff room. We will look at 'the Spirit-Filled Journey', tracing the theme from Genesis to Jackie Pullinger's story as inspiration. We will have much less singing than the main service, leaving more space for bible readings, contemporary accounts and quiet reflection (and you can still catch the main talk on the website, giving you double input!). Drinks served from 9.50, service starts at 10am.

CIA LENT LECTURES 2019

Will Donaldson will be doing a series of talks on the beatitudes and countercultural lifestyle, from his book 'Living differently to make a difference' on the following five Mondays over Lent 2019 at Trinity Church, 7.45 for 8pm:

Mon 25 Feb: Genuine humility and heartfelt sadness

Mon 4 Mar: Gentle strength and driving passion

Mon 11 Mar: Healing grace and holy integrity

Mon 18 Mar: Reconciliatory love and undaunted courage

Mon 25 Mar: Salt of the earth and light of the world

Will has been in parish ministry for 25 years and is currently Chaplain and Senior Welfare Office of St Edmund Hall, Oxford University; Area Dean of Oxford; and Director of Pastoral Care at St Aldates, Oxford. Jesus calls us in the beatitudes to live an authentic, countercultural lifestyle. By being different, we can make a difference, becoming the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Through living the beatitudes, we could reflect the beauty of God's grace, grow in our likeness to Jesus and make the world a better place too. Copies of Will's book will be available or can be pre-booked (£8.99). For further info, contact Debra Mcknight, CiA Administrator, 07896 860381, or via the CiA website.

LEADERSHIP TEAM FEEDBACK:

The team met this week. Items included looking at how best to help people with ChurchSuite; new ways of supporting mission partners throughout the year; communicating Lent options and the Lent prayer evening. We also started planning for our 25th anniversary celebration on 15 September - save the date!

LENT BOOK

We recommended the book "How to Read the Bible for all its Worth" during a recent talk. This practical book shows how to read gospels, parables, letters, law and prophets, etc, as each requires a different approach. It is so highly recommended for its rich content and readability that Long Furlong has its own copy. See Derek Walker to borrow it (a copy should be in church today).

PIONEERING IN AREAS OF NEW HOUSING

1 May in High Wycombe: This course will equip clergy and church teams who may be feeling slightly daunted at the prospect of new estates to respond to the challenge. More information <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/event/pioneering-in-areas-of-new-housing/> speak to Phil or Kath if you are interested.

LONG FURLONG PASTORAL VISITING TEAM - as part of our pastoral care at LF we have been developing a visiting team, they are available to visit people who are unwell, are bereaved, have just moved house etc. If you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit from the visiting team, please contact Janice - janicewenninger@gmail.com

CHILDCARERS NEEDED (occasional or regular) to join Lifegroup

Our ladies' Lifegroup meets at 9:30 -11am on Fridays in term time at homes in North Abingdon. We are a variety of ages, nationalities & church backgrounds. We are keen to find more people of any age to join our childcare rota to enable Mums with preschoolers to be involved with a Lifegroup. Even once a term would be a great help. DBS checking will be necessary and is provided through the church. For more info please contact Hannah Hornsby at: hrhornsby@gmail.com or on: 07814 481509.