

Dear All,

We barely seem to have got past Christmas, and here we are, in Lent by mid- February. It hardly seems possible. In the interregnum services throughout the Benefice continue to be taken by a good mix of priests and lay members, yielding a very healthy and enjoyable mix. Looking at the list of services throughout February, I believe it is possible for worshippers to find something somewhere in the Benefice to suit them every Sunday. Perhaps we could do with more weekday services?? Please let me know if you think this would be a good idea. Di Dawson must be thanked for all the hard work that she does to secure excellent priests for our rota of services. Though we'd love a new Vicar things do seem to be ticking over remarkably well at the moment.

For weekly services please take a look at the Diary attached. This month's **Special Services** include a service for **Candlemas at Smeeth on Friday, 2nd Feb at 7pm**. This will include quiet reflection, a perfect end to a busy week. And on **Ash Wednesday, 14th, there will be a Holy Communion service at Mersham at 7.30pm** led by Canon Caroline Pinchbeck.

A major change when it comes to services in February is at Brabourne and apologies for the depth of detail on this. Owing to electrical work to make the church warmer and brighter (don't we need it!) Brabourne Church will be closed for much of February.

Changes to services at Brabourne are as follows:

11th Feb, 11am Holy Communion - Cancelled - but this should not deter regulars from attending either Family Communion at Mersham at 9.30am or Second Sunday Special at Smeeth, also at 9.30am.

4th Feb 10am, Family Service - at Penstock Barn (by kind permission of George and Vicki Jessel). By coincidence George was due to give the address at this service and will be talking about his work as High Sheriff of Kent. Should be interesting so please come along whether or not you are a regular worshipper.

18th Feb.10am - Second of three talks on the Relevance of Christianity to Our Lives Today - at Penstock Barn. The speaker will be Mr Derek Goodwin, Reader at Great Chart. The first talk by Canon Noelle Hall was excellent and generated a lively and friendly discussion – in spite of temperatures which I'm sure were sub-zero.

Regarding Events in February, we start with **Brabourne's First Friday from 6-7pm on 2nd – at Penstock Barn** when Sue and Bernard Farrant will be our hosts for the evening. Again, thank you to George and Vicki for sharing their beautiful Barn. Look forward to seeing you all there. On **9th there's a Coffee Morning in aid of Smeeth Church at Bankcroft, The Ridgeway, Smeeth.** We can all be assured of a warm welcome by Jan and Mike Courage, plenty of coffee, friends to meet, produce and books to buy, and all in a good cause. Please support it. On the same afternoon **Knit and Natter meets in the Oak Room, Smeeth**, so please bring your craft work there and watch it progress as you chat to friends. And to end the month, on Friday 23rd, **Fridays@3 will meet as usual for a short talk which will be followed by a lovely tea.** If you'd like to go to Fridays@3 and need transport, please contact Di Dawson (01303-813398).

Finally, **a message from Stowting who are still selling the very beautiful Stowting Notecards.** You now have the option of creating your own bespoke packs of cards at the **Special Price of 2 packs for £5**, with all proceeds to Stowting Church. **Please see the attachment to choose your cards.** What a brilliant offer. Don't miss out!

All good wishes.

Kathy

Kathy Embleton-Smith
Acting Chair Brabourne PCC