

Dear All,

As we progress through Lent we have several services which may be of interest to you, and as always, we are grateful to all clergy from beyond the Benefice, and all lay leaders for supporting our churches during the interregnum. Mid Lent Sunday on **11th March** is, of course, **Mothering Sunday** and all our services will be suitable for families and children. The third in a series of three talks at Brabourne Church on **The Relevance of Christianity Today, will be led by Rev Canon Tim Wilson on 18th**. Tim is an enthusiastic speaker and we look forward to his perspectives on the subject in hand. Please do try to come along and please note the 9.30am start. There'll be coffee to wake you up!

We are delighted that **Bishop Trevor is to take so many of our services in Holy Week. On Palm Sunday (25th March), he celebrates Holy Communion at Stowting at 8am, at Mersham at 9.30am and at Brabourne at 11am. Evensong and Holy Communion at Monks Horton** on the same evening will be celebrated by Rev Canon Caroline Pinchbeck, now an established friend in all our churches. **Bishop Trevor will also celebrate Holy Communion at Brabourne on Maundy Thursday (29th) at 7.30pm; lead the Walk of Witness from Sellindge Church on Good Friday (30th) at 10am, and celebrate Holy Communion at Smeeth on Easter Sunday (1st April) at 9.30am.** We hope you will come to some of these services as the Bishop never fails to combine depth of message with humility, warmth and gentle humour. He is not in the least a remote figure and all our churches look forward to welcoming him. I would add that there are also many other services being held in the Benefice throughout March, and for details of these, please refer to the Diary.

Regarding social events in March, we begin with **First Friday (FF) at Brabourne Church on 2nd**. Following its makeover of heating and lighting, Brabourne Church (in my view) now looks spectacular. The restored War Memorial will be back in its place so you can enjoy all this at FF. We do hope to see you there and thank Maggie Radcliffe and Sue Bartholomew who will be hosting the evening. On **Saturday 3rd Mersham has its Progressive Supper**. At £25, tickets for a three-course meal seem excellent value – and all in a good cause. Much fun is bound to be had as diners move from one house to another in Mersham for each of their three courses. There is still time to get tickets so please contact Liz Richardson for these (details in Diary).

Knit and Natter meets in Smeeth Oak Room on 9th March and Di Dawson adds that knitting wool and needles are available in the Oak Room should you not have any craftwork on the go. If you don't fancy knitting and don't really want to do anything please just come along for a chat. **On Tuesday 13th, Smeeth's monthly coffee morning will take place at Cherry Trees, Lily Vale, Smeeth, courtesy of Lorne and Jeremy Secker**. If you haven't been before, please make sure you join in because good coffee, good cheer and a great deal more makes these coffee mornings a monthly 'Must' in your calendar. **On the evening of 16th Mersham has another of its Film Evenings**. It's bound to be a Classic but if you'd like to know what film is being shown please contact Judy Hawkins (details in Diary). Alternatively, just turn up and enjoy coffee, popcorn and choc ices while you watch. The atmosphere is lovely and the event is free, though donations are always appreciated.

On Sunday 18th there's an Afternoon Tea and Cake Sale at Sellindge church where you can enjoy delicious home baked goodies from scones and sausage rolls to cakes, washed down with abundant tea and coffee. Please bring friends and make sure this is in your own diary as all proceeds go to Sellindge Church. Our final event of the month is **Fridays@3 on Good Friday. A short talk by a Nordic Walking Trainer on 'Celebrating the World God Gave Us', will be followed, as usual, by a lovely tea**. Please try and come along and if you'd like transport please let Di Dawson know (01303-813398).

As always, thank you for all your support. This is essential if our churches are to prosper so please make a note of services and events in March and April listed in the attached Benefice Diary. And if you have any thoughts on other things that the church might do to engage with the local community, please do get in touch.

Thank you, and warmest wishes in this cold weather,
Kathy

Kathy Embleton-Smith, Acting Chair, Brabourne PCC