

Community Help Initiative:

If you need help during this difficult time contact:

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|---------------|--|
| for Wilden | Martin & Susie Cooper wildennews@hotmail.com |
| for Colmworth | Jeremy & Gillian Freedman j.freedman@sky.com |
| for Ravensden | <ravensdenhelpline@gmail.com> or phone 772230 |
| for Keysoe | Laura Barry PcllrLaura@outlook.com |
| for Bolnhurst | Jane Browning janebrowning50@gmail.com |

Annual Parish Church Meetings:

Bolnhurst – Thursday 8th October 2pm St Dunstan’s Church

Keysoe – Sunday 11th October following the 10am Communion Service at St Mary’s Church

Colmworth – Thursday 15th October 6pm at St Deny’s Church

Wilden – Monday 19th October 7pm by on-line Zoom – details and agenda via the Website www.wcrchurches.org and Church Notice Board.

(Ravensden’s Meeting was held in early March before the pandemic).

From the Registers

Wedding: On 12th September **Kevin Cook and Heather Field** were married at All Saints Church Ravensden. We wish them every happiness in their new life together.

Junior Choir on Zoom Wednesdays 5:45-6:15 For Zoom links contact us via the Website www.wcrchurches.org

Don't forget to go on line and participate in our “Words of Hope” service each Sunday. www.wcrchurches.org

We also have a 'Zoom gathering' every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. Leave a message on the website or email Tim for the Zoom link or join by phone. All welcome to join us.

Circumstances change very quickly during this trying time so do check on the website which is kept up-to-date.

Editors: Revd. Timothy Wilson revtimwilson@wcrchurches.org
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Wilden with Colmworth & Ravensden St Mary Keysoe with St Dunstan Bolnhurst

www.wcrchurches.org

NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Harvest Festival

Whilst it is right that we should always be thankful for ‘...all God’s gifts around us are sent from Heaven above...’ and that we should ‘...then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love’, this feast has always been called Harvest Festival and ‘Harvest Thanksgiving’ is something quite different.

It is hard to be thankful in tough times such as the world is going through in this Pandemic. And whilst we are also reminded in another old hymn to ‘count your blessings name them one by one...and it will surprise you what the Lord has done’, celebrating with happy thankfulness doesn’t always come easily. We’ve also had very strange weather this year that most would see as evidence of climate change, and we know from the news that nationally (and in our Parishes locally) our farmers have struggled with the Harvest, especially wheat, and we are warned the price of bread and other flour based products may well increase.

But the church uses the words ‘Festival’ and ‘Feast’ to mark all sorts of occasions in the church’s year. The ‘Easter Anthems’ inspired by words from the New and Old Testaments in the Bible state ‘Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us – therefore let us celebrate the feast’. It always seemed strange to me as I was growing up hearing these Easter Anthems that we should *celebrate* a sacrifice, especially a human sacrifice, and most especially the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But we celebrate and mark the Festivals of the church whether they are joyful and happy like Easter and Christmas, or sad like Good Friday when Jesus was crucified, or many saints days remembering those martyrs who died for their faith – St Paul, St Peter, St George, St Margaret to name a few of the many who suffered. And as I lead Holy Communion Services, I am reminded I am the ‘Celebrant’ even as we mark the death of Jesus in His broken body and shed blood. So this year, as we celebrate Harvest Festival perhaps more soberly than usual in these difficult times, we can still be thankful for all God’s love and blessings to us. But also the hope that is at the heart of the Christian faith that even in suffering and death there is also glorious resurrection and eternal life.

As the ‘Easter Anthems’ continue – ‘Christ has been raised from the dead; the first fruits of them that sleep. For as by man came death; by man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die; even so in Christ shall all be made alive!’

So I continue to pray and wish you God’s peace and His blessings at this time and especially as we celebrate together our Harvest Festival.

Timothy Wilson

During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic, please look at our website: www.wcrchurches.org which will give you the days and times our churches are open.

Each Sunday there will be a short 'Message of Hope' on the website led by Tim, Geraldine & David

Nicholas Church Wilden is open for Private Prayer on Sundays (if no service) 10.30 - 11.30 am. and Wednesdays 2 – 3 pm.

Services and Readings for October

Sunday 4th October Harvest 2 & Trinity 17

10am Harvest Festival at All Saints Ravensden

11am Harvest Festival at St Marys Keysoe

Psalm 65; Deuteronomy 8:7-18; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Harvest Collect:

Eternal God, You crown the year with Your goodness and You give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to Your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

On-line Website 'Words of Hope' will mark Trinity 17

Exodus 20.1-4, 7-9,12-20 Psalm 19; Philippians 3.4b-14

Matthew 21.33-46

Collect:

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

'Words of Hope' for Harvest Festival on 27th September is still on the Website as are all previous 'Words of Hope'.

Wednesday 7th October

10am Holy Communion at St Marys Keysoe

Sunday 11th October Trinity 18

10am Holy Communion at St Mary's Keysoe (followed by their Annual Parish Church Meetings)

Exodus 32.1-14 Psalm 106.1-6,19-23* Philippians 4.1-9

Matthew 22.1-14

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 18th October St Luke's Day

10am Holy Communion at St Denys Colmworth

6pm Evensong at St Nicholas Wilden

Isaiah 35.3-6; Psalm 147.1-7; 2 Timothy 4.5-17; Luke 10.1-9

Collect:

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Wednesday 21st October

11am Holy Communion at All Saints Ravensden

Sunday 25th October Bible Sunday & Last after Trinity

10am Morning Prayer at St Dunstan's Bolnhurst

Nehemiah 8.1-6 & 8-12; Psalm 119.9-16; Colossians 3.12-17;

Matthew 24.30-35

Collect:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.