

## **From Our Wilden Village Agent**

Our Village Agent, Teresa Moon, is here to help older people in Bedford Borough villages to access the services and support they might need. Her services are free. Leave your contact details on Freephone 0800 039 1234 and she will return your call.

### **Need help with transport to vaccinations in Bedford or further afield?**

Good news for people who aren't able to drive themselves to get their vaccine in Bedford or beyond. The Door2Door transport service, who operate minibuses for people with limited mobility, is now open to all and is free! Please pass this information on to any older neighbours, as some people have been very worried about this.

Door2Door is now available to anyone who has transport difficulties getting to vaccinations. You don't need to sign up as a member, you don't need to have limited mobility, you don't need to pay (although a donation on the bus would be welcomed). They have extended their operating hours. AND will take people to Milton Keynes, Luton & Dunstable and even Stevenage, if required. This service is available to people living within Bedford Borough or Central Bedfordshire. If in doubt, just check with Parvin or Naomi on [communitytransport@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:communitytransport@bedsrcc.org.uk) or 01234 834933.

All vehicles have been made as Covid-secure as possible. Socially distant seating, screens to separate the clients from drivers, masks, hand sanitizer, disposable seat covers, regular cleaning regime that includes both daily of grab rails, headrests, etc and occasional anti-bacterial spraying by an outside organisation.

To book, contact the bookings line on 01234 832611, 9am-4pm Mondays-Fridays.

### **Would a helpful gadget make your life easier?**

We have a range of handy gadgets to distribute to people who may be struggling to manage on their own during the Covid crisis, including a jar opener, button hook and zip puller; automatic night light; personal alarm; digital room thermometer; seat belt helper or disabled toilet key. Just call and ask for the item you would like.

### **Do you need a washable mask?**

Once again we are able to offer free washable cotton masks – now with adjustable ties. Our masks are made locally, in coloured floral fabrics and also black prints, with an aluminium strip which shapes them over the nose - to help reduce misted glasses.

### **Need help with filling in forms?**

If you are struggling with paperwork, such as Blue Badge, Bus Pass or Attendance Allowance applications, our Village Agent is happy to help you.

**Contact our Village Agent on Freephone 0800 039 1234  
(This is an answerphone service, so please be ready to  
leave your name, address & telephone number, & we will  
aim to call you back within 48 hours.)**

# Wilden with Colmworth & Ravensden St Mary Keysoe with St Dunstan Bolnhurst

[www.wcrchurches.org](http://www.wcrchurches.org)

## NEWSLETTER

February 2021

### The Next Stage

Most of you will have heard by now that I am staying on as Priest in Charge of Wilden, Colmworth, Ravensden, Keysoe and Bolnhurst, but I write quite wistfully on 22<sup>nd</sup> January – the day when my interim 2-year post would have ended. And reflecting on the two years I've been with you.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February the Archdeacon of Bedford is coming to Commission me and all of us for the next stage of our journey together as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus, we hope at a 'live' service at 10am at Colmworth, but it will also be online hopefully live streamed if we can sort out the technology!

As my initial role was time limited, after 6 months we had an open review on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 on a beautiful hot summers evening! After 12 months I wrote a mid-term report for the Bishop on progress and possible ways ahead. On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 Bishop Richard and Archdeacon Dave joined us for a ZOOM (how else?!) gathering to share and reflect on us a way ahead. So here we are still here together which is great! God has blessed, guided and provided for us.

But as Priest in Charge there is still an element of non-permanence to our work and ministry, and COVID19 has reminded us this is true of life of course. So, whilst I don't intend us to continue with 6 monthly reviews, the Diocese have set us a target of 2 years to find a long-term way for these Parishes to be viable and sustainable in the long term. Jesus tells us He is the Vine, we are the branches, but a vine needs something on which to grow – a trellis - as God has given us His church.

In my report to the Bishop last Spring which we shared on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, I set out 4 priorities and challenges for our churches as we move forward:

- Effective Governance – both as 5 individual parishes and together.
- Increasing the usage of our 5 beautiful Grade 1 listed Parish Churches.
- Partnerships with other churches and groups around us
- 'Growing younger' – not only children and young people but serving all ages.

As Parishes we've considered our 'MAPS' 'Mission Action Plans' - we've wanted to be more welcoming; outward looking, working in partnerships, commitment to continuing to hold services, and use music and the arts as well as hospitality to reach and draw more people especially into our buildings.

So I look forward greatly to the challenges before us in the next 2 years and hope you will want to participate fully with us in the Church of Jesus Christ.

Timothy Wilson

**Due to the current severity of the Pandemic, Public Worship Services on Sundays and Wednesdays have been suspended during February in Wilden, Ravensden, Keysoe and Bolnhurst.**

**But as Colmworth is a large, airy well ventilated building we plan to hold 3 socially distanced services during February, but not Holy Communion**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February at Colmworth**

10am Commissioning Service with Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook.

**Ash Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at Colmworth**

11am short service of prayers and readings

There will also be an Ash Wednesday online ZOOM Service at 7:30pm including an Act of Communion – visit our website for the ZOOM link [www.wcrchurches.org](http://www.wcrchurches.org)

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February at Colmworth**

10am Morning Prayer

Masks must be worn and please contact us via the website or e mail Kate Abraham at [kateabrahams1@yahoo.com](mailto:kateabrahams1@yahoo.com) if you are coming

‘**Words of Hope**’ will continue on line on our website from early every Sunday morning [www.wcrchurches.org](http://www.wcrchurches.org)

We hope and pray to return to more ‘live’ services in our 5 churches in March but will review this towards the end of February. Please see our website for regular updates

**Readings and Collects for February:**

**7<sup>th</sup> February** – Sexagesima – 60 days before Easter

Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Psalm 104.26-37 Colossians 1.15-20 John 1.1-14

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

**14<sup>th</sup> February Sunday next before Lent** – Quinquagesima – 50 days before Easter

2 Kings 2.1-12 Psalm 50.1-6 2 Corinthians 4.3-6 Mark 9.2-9

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**17<sup>th</sup> February Ash Wednesday**

Isaiah 58.1-12 Psalm 51.1-18 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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.

**21<sup>st</sup> February 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 9.8-17 Psalm 25.1-9 1 Peter 3.18-22 Mark 1.9-15

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 17.1-7,15,16 Psalm 22.23-31 Romans 4.13-25 Mark 8.31-38

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ’s religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Community Help Initiative:**

If you need help during this difficult time contact:

for Wilden	Martin & Susie Cooper <a href="mailto:wildennews@hotmail.com">wildennews@hotmail.com</a>
for Colmworth	Jeremy & Gillian Freedman <a href="mailto:j.freedman@sky.com">j.freedman@sky.com</a>
for Ravensden	< <a href="mailto:ravensdenhelpline@gmail.com">ravensdenhelpline@gmail.com</a> > or phone 772230
for Keysoe	Laura Barry <a href="mailto:PcllrLaura@outlook.co">PcllrLaura@outlook.co</a>
for Bolnhurst	Jane Browning <a href="mailto:janebrowning50@gmail.com">janebrowning50@gmail.com</a>

**Editors: Revd. Timothy Wilson** [revtimwilson@wcrchurches.org](mailto:revtimwilson@wcrchurches.org)  
**Eunice Welbourn** [ewwilden@wcrchurches.org](mailto:ewwilden@wcrchurches.org) 01234 771583