

## Looking ahead as restrictions begin to be eased:

### Planned Dates and Events (subject to change)

Wednesday **7th July Colmworth** Coffee Stop restarts 10:30am (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) hopefully outside!

**Wednesday afternoons Keysoe** open 2-4pm throughout the summer – cup of tea always available!

Saturday **17th July Keysoe** Open Gardens 2-5pm

Wednesday **21st July Colmworth** Coffee Stop 10:30am

Sunday **25th July Bolnhurst** afternoon tea 2:30pm - Sunset Cottage (Judith Norfolk's home)

**31<sup>st</sup> July 2.00 pm END OF LOCKDOWN GET TOGETHER.** Ravensden Village Hall. Residents are welcome to join us for an end of lockdown picnic. This is a free event and you will need to bring your own food, drink, glasses, plates and cutlery. Celebratory glass of prosecco, cake and games for children (and young at heart) will be provided. Raffle with proceeds to the Food Bank.

**Help:** Help to set up tables and chairs from 9.30 a.m. on 31<sup>st</sup> would be appreciated as would loans of Gazeboes. **RSVP** to EBB to tell her if you can lend a gazebo and how many there will be in your party. **TEXT: 07906 780679 EMAIL: [ebb.smith@ntlworld.com](mailto:ebb.smith@ntlworld.com)**

**Ravensden Open Church Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August 12 – 4.30 pm.**

Come and meet 'old' friends and new neighbours. History of the village display as well as burgers from the bbq and tea and homemade cakes. If you have anything you would like to display or any questions please contact Chris on 771139.

**Colmworth** Manor Farm Garden Party postponed to Bank Holiday Monday **30th August** 2-4:30pm

**Wilden** Teddy Bear Parachute Drop in the Churchyard with the Salvation Army Band has unfortunately been postponed to September when we will be pleased to welcome all teddy bears and their owners.

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

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

## NEWSLETTER

July 2021

### Life – and death?

I love showing children from schools and uniformed groups around our churches. I start by saying churches are all about life and death. You come through the graveyard reminding us of death, but that Christians believe that's not the end as there is new life in heaven. We come inside to the font. A place where we go under the water to die forgiven to the old life and rise washed clean and refreshed to new life in Christ. We approach the Communion Table where bread and wine remind us of Jesus body broken and blood shed when He died on the cross for us, but He was raised again from the dead for everlasting life.

We all struggle with both life and death. Life itself is tough and pressured. We wish our time away hoping things will get better. And we cannot quite cope with death being the end of this life. That we leave this life and go to another place. The popular poem often read at funerals 'Death is nothing at all' was written by a former Dean of St Pauls in London, but is often misunderstood. For Christians, death is nothing at all, because Jesus has conquered the old power of sin and death by His death on the cross, bringing us forgiveness, and being raised to life again conquering the power of death for us all.

But 'death is nothing at all' doesn't mean death doesn't matter. Death is a terrible reality we all face after this life. We've all known bereavements especially during this pandemic. Death brings a great and powerful, and terrible separation. And yet we pretend it's not really a separation. I lead many funerals where people talk of the deceased's spirit still living on with us. Or they 'address' the deceased as if they are still here and listening and watching us, even though we can't see them.

But there is hope after death. The Christian faith teaches us that by faith and trust in Jesus we can receive the free gift of eternal life in heaven for ever after this life. But we have to leave this life to obtain that great prize. And it is so hard for those of us left behind without those who have died.

God in His love and care draws close to us and comforts us and strengthens us to face the future without our deceased loved ones by the power of His Holy Spirit. When we feel a presence with us when we have been bereaved, it is God Himself who comes alongside us. When you are bereaved (as sadly we all will be at some time), remember that God by His Holy Spirit comes alongside you to comfort and strengthen you to face a tough future. We may not always feel it, but we can trust in a loving God who is always with us. We can leave our loved ones confidently in God's safekeeping. It is very hard to let go, and we never forget our loved ones and we must always thank God for them. But we know and trust that God is always with us to support, care, strengthen and comfort us, and will somehow give us the strength to go on.

Timothy Wilson

## Readings & Prayers for July:

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 5<sup>th</sup> after Trinity**

Ravensden 10am Holy Communion

Keysoe 10am Morning Praise for 'Feast Sunday'

Wilden 6pm Evensong

Ezekiel 2.1-5 Psalm 123 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13

**Collect:** Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

Ravensden 11am Holy Communion

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 6<sup>th</sup> after Trinity**

Keysoe 10am Holy Communion

Amos 7.7-15 Psalm 85.8-13 Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29

**Collect:** Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 14<sup>th</sup> July**

Colmworth 11am Holy Communion

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 7<sup>th</sup> after Trinity**

Bolnhurst 10am Holy Communion

Wilden 6pm Evensong

Jeremiah 23.1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2.11-22 Mark 6.30-34,53-56

**Collect:** Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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 21<sup>st</sup> July**

Keysoe 10am Holy Communion

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 8<sup>th</sup> after Trinity & St James' Day**

Colmworth 10am Holy Communion

2 Kings 4.42-44 Psalm 145.10-19 Ephesians 3.14-21 John 6.1-21

**Collect:** Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

Wilden 11am Holy Communion

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 9<sup>th</sup> after Trinity**

Ravensden 10am Holy Communion

Wilden 6pm Evensong

Exodus 16.2-4,9-15 Psalm 78.23-29 Ephesians 4.1-16 John 6.24-35

**Collect:** Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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.

### **Additional Church openings:**

**Wilden** Sunday mornings 10:30-11:30am  
Wednesday afternoons 2-3pm

**Colmworth** open most days

**Keysoe** Wednesday afternoons 2-4pm serving tea & cake!