

Notices

Colmworth Church Coffee Stop 10:30am to 12noon on **1st and 3rd Wednesdays**. Come along and meet friends and neighbours. All welcome. The Church is open most days for private prayer.

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

Ravensden Open Church Saturday 21st 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 Welcome Back Garden Party will take place on Bank Holiday Monday **30th August** 2-4:30pm. Come along and join in the fun.

‘**Community Cuppa**’ in Ravensden Village Hall is starting up again. Our first meeting will be **Tuesday 3rd August at 2 pm**. Tea, cakes, book swap and raffle. Everyone is welcome £2. entry.

Keysoe are hosting Cream Teas and Grand Draw on **Sunday 15th August** 3-5 p.m. All welcome.

Wilden Church is open every Sunday morning 10.30 – 11.30 and Wednesday afternoons 2-3 p.m. for private prayer.

From the Registers

On **June 3rd 2021** the funeral took place at St Nicholas’ Church Wilden of **Roger Pell**. He will be sadly missed in the Village and our prayers are with his family and friends at this sad time.

On the **15th July 2021 David Leslie Luckett** was laid to rest in the Churchyard of his village church, St Nicholas Wilden. His career in the motor racing industry took him all over the world and the tribute made by Peggy, his wife, in the Order of Service was a very fitting one. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peggy, Iris and all the family at this sad time.

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

www.wcrchurches.org

NEWSLETTER

August 2021

Simpler, Humbler, Bolder

I recently joined a ‘Webinar’ (now that’s a new invented word we’ve learnt in Lockdown!) from the Church of England launching their new mission strategy which was discussed last week at General Synod. It was good, but I can’t remember it all – you can look it up on the CofE Website – but what I did remember was these 3 very simple words to challenge us as a church for the future: **Simpler, Humbler, Bolder.**

We do have a very simple but vital message! God loves us all, and because of Jesus we can be forgiven if we believe, trust and obey Him. But sadly, the church seems so complicated with our listed buildings, canon law, churchyard regulations and restrictions. We long to be a welcoming church that first of all says ‘yes’! We should be a humble people as we know our weaknesses but that God still loves and calls us. Our traditions and history can make us feel arrogant. We are high profile for royal and civic occasions which can add to this feeling. We need to recognise that we are no longer at the heart of society, or first in peoples’ minds for how they mark their family rites of passage, or how they celebrate Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday, Remembrance Day etc. We are more on the edge of society. Jesus operated in this way mainly out in the countryside, and even died and rose again outside the city of Jerusalem. We should be bold and not ashamed of the great message that we have for all! People need and want - and seek – hope! Not just for this life but for the life to come. And this is what we are here for! Sadly, we are seen as irrelevant, and even in the pandemic many have asked for some hope and message from the churches, but then most haven’t listened to all that has been said and been offered by our church leaders nationally as well as locally.

Our churches are often reported for negative reasons. Just occasionally a good story like a Foodbank or other community project might give a mention to a church or cleric involved or a glimpse might be seen of a church building. Jesus’ profound effect on the world is His message. Yes, people marvelled at His miracles and healings, but they flocked to hear Him teach and the amazing stories and parables He told. **Simpler, Humbler, Bolder.** Sounds a bit like Jesus. And like Mother Teresa, and the great saints and others down the centuries including living today. These people change the world by their lives and their message. Could we as churches be **Simpler, Humbler, Bolder?** Do we still believe that people would hear the good news of Jesus and respond to Him if these words were seen as signs of our churches and us as individual people?

Timothy Wilson

Services for August:

Sunday August 1st 9th After Trinity

RAVENSDEN 10am Holy Communion

WILDEN 6pm Evensong

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

Wednesday August 4th

RAVENSDEN 11am Holy Communion

Sunday August 8th 10th After Trinity

KEYSOE 10am Holy Communion

Readings: 1 Kings 19.4-8 Psalm 34.1-8 Ephesians 4.25 - 5.2 John 6.35,41-51

Wednesday August 11th

COLMWORTH 11am Holy Communion

Sunday August 15th 11th After Trinity

COLMWORTH 10am Holy Communion

WILDEN 6pm Evensong

Readings: Proverbs 9.1-6 Psalm 34.9-14 Ephesians 5.15-20 John 6.51-58

Wednesday August 18th

KEYSOE 10am Holy Communion

Sunday August 22nd 12th After Trinity

BOLNHURST 10am Holy Communion

Readings: Joshua 24.1-2a,14-18 Psalm 34.15-22 Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6.56-69

Wednesday August 25th

WILDEN 11am Holy Communion

Sunday August 29th 13th After Trinity

WILDEN 10am Choral Sung Communion

RAVENSDEN 6pm Songs of Praise

Readings: Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9 Psalm 15 James 1.17-27 Mark 7.1-8,14,15,21-23

Wednesday September 1st

RAVENSDEN 11am Holy Communion

Sunday September 5th 14th After Trinity

KEYSOE (*not Ravensden*) 10am Holy Communion

RAVENSDEN 1:30pm Baptism

WILDEN 6pm Evensong

Readings: Isaiah 35.4-7a Psalm 146 James 2.1-10[11-13] 14-17 Mark 7.24-37

A Tribute to Heather Smith

Heather Smith died on Saturday 29th May after a long battle with cancer but she never lost her smile and warmth and continued to encourage others and help run events as she always had.

Heather's funeral and burial at St Denys Colmworth on Friday 11th June was a celebration of all she was and especially all she did in the Village, particularly in the church serving on PCC for over 40 years. Heather was also Church Warden for many years and Deanery Synod rep as well as singing in the Benefice choir. The Amici Singers (she had been a member for a long time) sang at her funeral.

Heather organised countless children and family events and social and fundraising occasions. She had that rare gift of inspiring whoever she asked to get involved even if they hadn't intended to! She always said that she didn't do much - it was others who did! Heather was also a School Governor and promoted the 'Open the Book' project in our schools and encouraged Bible study groups and personal independent Bible Reading notes.

I met Heather before I was appointed and I especially remember her kindness looking after me and Catherine on the interview day. I quickly learnt that 'ask Heather' was usually the answer to any query I had! We shall all miss her so much but our prayers and thoughts are particularly with Brian, Anita, Harvey and all the grandchildren and wider family.

What an inspiration and true servant of Jesus Christ Heather was. Another great Saint in Heaven.

Timothy Wilson (with contributions from family, friends, neighbours and other church members)

A Tribute to Heather Griffiths

It is with great sadness that we have to report that our friend and former resident of Wilden, Heather Griffiths, has lost her battle with cancer. She helped the Parish Council with footpaths and other work and helped the Church by doing the flowers and supporting all fund raising events. David and Heather's Pimms' stall on May Day will never be forgotten! She was a beautiful shining light, happy, witty and most of all, without exception, she was kind. May she rest in peace.