

Cockfield Benefice



Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 18th October 2020

Each year I write to all those who worship with us here in the Cockfield Benefice, as we come to our annual review of giving and thanksgiving. Can I begin by thanking you for your personal commitment to the life of our churches this past year.

It is good to be part of a living church but, as you know, life costs. Every year the costs increase for our homes and our benefice is no different. Our costs increase every year and so do our opportunities to serve our community here in each of our benefice parishes, in Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield St George, Lt Whelneham, Cockfield, Felsham and Gedding.

This year especially, I am asking you to join with me and all our Church family to review our giving. Covid-19 has hit many people, both through the loss of loved ones and severe sickness, but also in our ability to hold fundraising events so that we can meet all the expenses that we have as Churches. Our main goal this year is simply to be able to balance the books, as this has become increasingly difficult for some of our Churches in the benefice.

So I am writing to ask you to join with me and all of our church family as we review our giving. Our Annual Review today is our opportunity to do this together.

We are part of a living church. With God's help and your support we can achieve great things. Can I thank you for the thoughtful way in which I know you will consider this matter.

The regular, faithful and committed giving of our church family maintains our much loved churches, pays our bills, makes ministry possible and expresses our love and gratitude to God. Thank you for playing your part.

I hope that you enjoy this service of Thanksgiving and I remain yours in Christ,

Revd Sharon Potter
Rector

Opening Sentence

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness..

Lamentations 3:22-23

Call to worship

We draw near to worship God,
who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Open our hearts to receive your love

Open our minds to reflect on your word

Open our hands to respond to your gifts

For God is faithful

**And in his time, in due season,
he will complete his work in us.**

We confess to God

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

you have called us into the fellowship of your Son.

We have given our lives, yet at times hold back all that we are;
release in us a freedom to serve you.

We have given of our worldly goods,
yet at times have held back that which is yours;
help us to be more generous.

We serve you with those gifts you have given us;
call us deeper into your love.

By the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us,
**we offer ourselves afresh in your service.
in response to your love and faithfulness.**

And may God who is faithful forgive, cleanse and renew us that he
may complete his good work within us.

Amen.

Hymn:

1. Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
you are one with us, Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, now and ev'ry day
teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance Lord of you.
Into our lives your pow'r breaks through,
living Lord.
3. Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
born as one of us, Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord.
4. Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you,
live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your pow'r breaks through,
living Lord.

Collect

Generous God, whose hand is open to fill all things with plenteousness; make us ever thankful of your goodness, and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 **For he has founded it upon the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 **'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;**
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 **Such is the company of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 **'Who is the King of glory?'**
**'The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'**
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 **'Who is this King of glory?'**
**'The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.'**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading: Luke 15.11-32

Then Jesus said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I

have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” ’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Address: The generosity of God

Prayers

Lord you are the faithful one,
complete in us your will.

Lord God, as we look back, we see your faithfulness to us. We celebrate your goodness in leading and guiding us to this place in our lives and for your provision in all that you have called us to do. Lord you are the faithful one,
complete in us your will.

Lord God, we give thanks for those who lead your church, for the way that you have guided them and blessed us in the past year.

We give thanks especially for all those who minister in our benefice on behalf of your Church.

Lord you are the faithful one,
complete in us your will.

Lord God we lay our plans before you, continue to reveal your will that we may be faithful to our calling.

Lord you are the faithful one,
complete in us your will.

Lord God, who reveals your will to your servants,
we seek your will for our lives.

Open our hearts to receive your blessing,
open our hands to release those gifts within us,
that we may be liberal with the blessings you give to us.

Lord you are the faithful one,
complete in us your will.

Lord God, we look at our broken world,
With nations and families divided by enmity, injustice and greed.
Release in us your love that we may be instruments of peace. We
pray for the coming of your kingdom, when your rule of peace is
established for ever.

Lord you are the faithful one,
complete in us your will.

Lord you are the faithful one who makes whole those who are
broken. We remember before you those who are ill.....
Restore them to wholeness of life.

Lord you are the faithful one,
complete in us your will.

Lord we remember before you all who have gone before us, to
them you revealed your will,
and released in them your gifts
so that they were faithful to your calling.
We give thanks for those who
by their life and ministry have helped us.

Lord you are the faithful one,
complete in us your will
that in the days to come we may
continue to celebrate your goodness. Amen.

Hymn:

1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.
2. O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmers of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen,
thou gardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, thou hast promised,
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.

5. O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heav'n receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

Blessing of the Shoeboxe

Blessing

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,
may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,
may the seasons of the Spirit mature you
and may the gifts of the Spirit equip you
to serve and worship God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Adapted from 'Giving in Grace' materials 2020
Hymn words printed under CCLI licence no. 1979146*

Praying through the week

A personal prayer:

Lord Jesus, in my quiet moments, may I offer my innermost desires and yearnings to you, that I may more and more walk my path in life conscious of you being at my side. Amen.

In our world we pray for:

the end of unrest in the Middle East. Pray for the one in every four people living in Lebanon who is a refugee and for the thousands of refugees whose homes were destroyed in the Beirut explosion.

In our Diocese we pray for:

- Ipswich Deanery: Ipswich All Hallows: the Revd Carol Mansell, the Revd Kiran Lotay
- Suffolk Family Carers

In our Benefice we pray for:

- all those who are sick, or recovering from illness, remembering Lewis Woolnough, Carol Dixey, Margaret Ratcliff, Catherine Meed and Val Offord
- those who have died, we remember Richard Goldstone and Pat Mills, and for those who mourn them.

NOTICES

Next week's service: 10am Worshipping Together in Cockfield Church and online - 'Living as a Christian and Growing'

APCMs continue this week:

Bradfield St George - 7pm at Bradfield St George Church

Felsham St Peeter - 7pm at Felsham Church

Gedding St Mary - 7pm at Gedding Church

Pat Hipwell is busy knitting again! She is knitting poppies for remembrance, both red and white, and these will be on sale very soon, both from her and at the back of the Churches where Remembrance Services are taking place. They cost £2.50 each and all proceeds will go to the British Legion. Please do contact her if you would like to order one on 01284 386636.

If you have any notices please do let Revd Sharon know at revsharon@btinternet.com, or telephone: 01284 828599, mobile: 07825 086063, or for any other information.

Do visit our website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com and our facebook page at www.facebook.com/cockfieldbenefice.

**Please take this service sheet home with you.
Thank you!**