

## REACHING OUT from the Cockfield Benefice



### Covering the villages of:

Bradfield St Clare,  
Bradfield St George  
w Lt Whelnetham,  
Bradfield Combust,  
Cockfield, Felsham,  
Gedding, Gt  
Whelnetham &  
Stanningfield

**Issue 96**  
**April 2022**

Dear Friends

As I write this letter, we are over half-way through Lent, still wondering when the conflict in Ukraine will cease. It has been difficult to think of much else whilst people have been sacrificing their lives and homes for the sake of democracy. We continue to pray for those involved in the conflict and ask God to guide the peacemakers.

As we move towards Holy Week and Easter, our thoughts turn to the events in Jerusalem, where Jesus was to meet his death in such a cruel way. Jesus knows what it feels like to suffer and to die, and therefore can walk alongside all who are going through pain, whatever that pain may be.

In all his pain and suffering Jesus did not blame those who crucified him. Instead, he said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." *Luke 23.34*

In our society today we often hear people talking about the need to hear someone say sorry. Prince William has just expressed his 'profound sorrow' over slavery during a speech at a dinner in Jamaica. It feels as if someone must apologize before we think about forgiving them. One of the shocking things

about the story of Jesus' death on Good Friday is that he asks God to forgive those who have tortured him, when they haven't even had a chance to say sorry.

So, God steps in even before we know what the problem is. God does not wait for an apology but steps towards us with forgiveness and love. Of course, saying sorry is a good thing to do if we have messed up. But sometimes it doesn't feel safe to say sorry. Only when there is forgiveness on both sides can we move on, and real healing can begin.

This is the message of Good Friday, that God always forgives, no matter what has happened, all we have to do is to turn to him, receive his forgiveness, and we will become true Resurrection people.

I pray that we can all become better at forgiving others, as well as ourselves.

May you and your families have a blessed Easter!

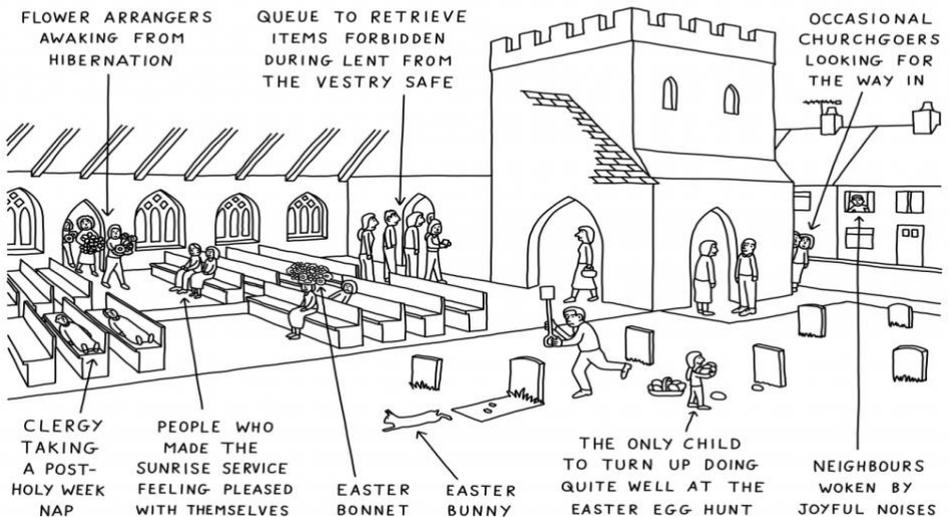
Sharon

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## THE EASTER SERVICE



CartoonChurch.com



## Holy Week and Easter Services

This month we will be once again walking the way of the cross with Jesus throughout Holy week, and then celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Do please consider attending our Holy Week services, starting on Palm Sunday with our walk of witness from Gedding to Felsham, through to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, before the great feast of Easter. For details of all the services see the back page of this issue of Reaching Out.

## The Worship and Praise service in Great Welnetham

Canon Sharon and the ministry team have asked me to write a little piece trying to explain what this service involves.

This informal worship service has long been a tradition in Great Welnetham.

I first became involved with the service when my daughter started to play the recorder about 20 years ago. This time of worship, which is on a Sunday evening, follows an informal pattern of worship songs, readings and prayers. It's based around a theme, for example something from the Gospel reading of the day or relating to a festival or season. In May we will be joining together hopefully outside to celebrate Rogation Tide; in Lent we followed a Lenten prayer journey.



The music varies in style with modern worship songs as well as traditional hymns and is usually led by a music group.

All are welcome to join in and is a perfect way to end a Sunday evening!

Cherry Clements  
Worship Elder

## Big Green Tip for April

For those of us who are gardeners this is the time for planting out and planting seeds. It can be a bit risky as there is still a chance of late frost, but if you are prepared to cover anything that is very delicate if a frost is forecast you can make a start. There is nothing as



tasty and as convenient as growing your own produce and you don't need a large garden to grow quite a lot over the course of a year. You will save trips to the shops and cut down on air and road miles if your vegetables and fruit come from outside your back door. If you only have a window box, you can still grow your tomatoes and lettuces. In some villages and towns allotments are available to rent – contact your local Council. Growing your own is good for your pocket, good for your body and good for the planet.

**\*POP UP\***

**Special Coffee & Cake Morning**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

**10am-12noon**

**St Peter's Church, Cockfield**

**All welcome!**

**Please have dogs on leads**

**'donations only'**

***For Ukrainian appeal***



## **It's that time of year again..... the Annual Parochial Church Meeting!**



Every year I give notice in Reaching Out of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – aka the APCM! This year we will be able to revert to our joint benefice APCM and will be welcoming the two PCC's who have joined our benefice, Gt Whelnetham and Stanningfield.

We will be meeting in Cockfield Church at **7pm on Tuesday 26 April**. This year we have a guest speaker, Diane Grano, who runs the Red Lodge Rural Resourcing Church. Red Lodge is a village which sits between Mildenhall and Newmarket, and Diane is going to speak to us about her outreach work. With all the development that is going on in and around our villages I'm sure that we will gain some valuable insights for our own ministry and mission.

We will, of course, be holding the normal Churchwarden and PCC elections. I am always very grateful to those who volunteer to serve as Churchwardens and as PCC members. These past two years have been very challenging and all our PCCs have worked very hard to keep our Churches open, vibrant and financially secure. It's work in progress for some though, and we need more help in making a difference in our communities.

So, if you would like to become a PCC member, or be more involved in our Church activities, why not speak to a Churchwarden, or a member of the ministry team? (More about our ministry team in this issue of Reaching Out). We all have gifts that can be used by God, and the greatest gift we can give is ourselves.

Canon Sharon

## **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning Saturday 30 April 10am – 12noon**



A coffee morning and plant sale in aid of funds for St Peter's Church will be held at **Orchard House, Chapel Road** on Saturday 30 April. There will be cakes and books on sale and plenty of coffee and chat.

Do join us!

## **Update on Pastoral Reorganisation**

- What is pastoral reorganization? It's where parishes are re-organized into different benefices, groups or teams
- Who is being reorganized? The benefice of St Edmund Way, which lies just over the other side of the A134 which is a six-parish benefice.
- What will be the result of the reorganization? Once the Pastoral Scheme has been approved by the Church Commissioners, the St Edmund Way benefice will cease to exist. Three of the parishes that currently sit within its benefice will officially become part of the Cockfield benefice.
- What else is happening in the reorganization? The Parishes of Felsham and Gedding will be united to form a single parish, with both the Church buildings continuing to operate as parish churches.
- What difference will the reorganization make to the benefice? It has brought more people into our benefice and more ministers to add to the ministry team. Which is great! It means also that there are more parishes giving towards the parish share, which is the money that we contribute towards the ministry and mission of our diocese and pays to keep a Rector in post here.

I am very grateful to all those who have been so welcoming to our new benefice members, and I pray that our work and future together will be blessed.

Canon Sharon

## News from our diocese

**Warm Home scheme:** if you know anyone is struggling with their heating, this Suffolk-wide scheme has been set up to help as funding is available. Please visit [www.warmhomessuffolk.org](http://www.warmhomessuffolk.org) for more details.

Bishop Martin said in his recent Diocesan Synod Presidential address *"I am so grateful for the numbers of people across this diocese who have signed up to the scheme (offering a home to Ukrainian refugees), the number of clergy that have signed up and the number of parishes that have offered help. As of last Friday, our donations to the disaster (Crisis in Ukraine) through World Vision had reached a wonderful £29,000".*

If you would like to support Ukrainian refugees, homeowners can [register their interest](#) and the Church of England toolkit is available [here](#).

### **Disability and Inclusion working group**

The Diocesan Synod agreed to move forward with a diocesan-wide disability and inclusion working group to raise awareness and support our churches and worshipping communities in improving access and inclusion for all.

We are looking for people who might like to be considered for membership. We want a wide range of people who are willing to commit to the group initially for two years – lay and ordained, those who have disabilities or experience of living or working with people with a disability, related, for example, to sight or hearing loss, mobility difficulties, learning disability, neuro-diversity, dementia or mental ill-health. If you are interested, please email Archdeacon [Jeanette Gosney](#) by 8 April explaining your interest.

If you'd like to receive regular 'enews' from the diocese, then do visit the website at [www.cofesuffolk.org](http://www.cofesuffolk.org), click on 'contacts' in the right-hand top corner, and then 'subscribe to enews' on the drop-down menu.

*If you'd like to contribute to the May issue of 'Reaching Out', then please do let Canon Sharon have your article, around 300-350 words by 15<sup>th</sup> April.*

## Cockfield Benefice Services & Events – April 2022

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April Passion Sunday	9.30am Morning Prayer – Stanningfield 10am Communion – Bradfield St George 10am Morning Prayer – Cockfield 6pm Celtic-style communion – Felsham
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday	9.30am Palm Sunday procession from Gedding to Felsham 10am Communion at Felsham
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm Compline in Holy Week – Bradfield St Clare
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm Compline in Holy Week – Bradfield St Clare
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm Compline in Holy Week – Bradfield St Clare
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion & stripping of the altar – Bradfield St George
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April Good Friday	2pm Good Friday Reflections – Stanningfield 3-5pm Messy Church – Cockfield Village Hall (for all families)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday	10am Communion - Cockfield 10am Communion BCP - Gedding 10am Family@Church – Felsham 10am Communion – Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April Easter 2	10am Communion – Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together – Bradfield St George 10am Morning Prayer – Gedding

*Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at [www.cockfieldbenefice.com](http://www.cockfieldbenefice.com)*

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am  
A prayer group meets via zoom every Wednesday at 2pm via zoom. For more details contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter at [revsharon2@gmail.com](mailto:revsharon2@gmail.com) or phone 01284 828599 or 07825-086063