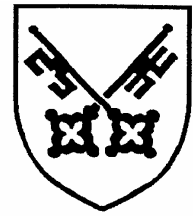


St Peter's Church Magazine



March 2016 issue ❖ 75p (£7 subscription for one year)
St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot ❖ www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk
Follow us on Twitter @StPetersDidcot



Prospects is the lead Christian charity supporting people with learning disabilities in the UK. The charity was founded by the Revd David Potter MBE, a Reading based church leader, in 1976 to shine a light on the care provision for people with learning disabilities, then called mental handicap. Then, people with learning disabilities were often locked away in state institutions. David became aware, following the birth of his own daughter (Rachel was born with Down's syndrome), that many Christian families kept their children at home. The one concern these families had was who would provide the care when they were no longer able. So the charity 'Christian Concern for the Mentally Handicapped' was formed, today called Prospects. Over the years hundreds of families have been supported as Prospects has opened care homes across the UK with the support of local churches. Care has been provided by Christian care workers drawn from local churches. Today

Prospects employs over 500 Christian staff and has services in 64 locations across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Very early on in the charity's life, Madeline Potter, David's wife, started taking people from its care home in Reading to church. Then, people with learning disabilities (mental handicap) were not seen in churches. Madeleine wondered how much they understood and so started finding ways of teaching the gospel using simple, but not childish, language. She developed teaching resources. Soon that teaching spread from one church in Reading to four. David and Madeleine were invited to run a special needs stream of Bible teaching at Spring Harvest. 35 years later that partnership continues and over the years many thousands of people with learning disabilities have come to Spring Harvest as a result. Churches saw what was happening at Spring Harvest and asked for help to do the same in their own churches and

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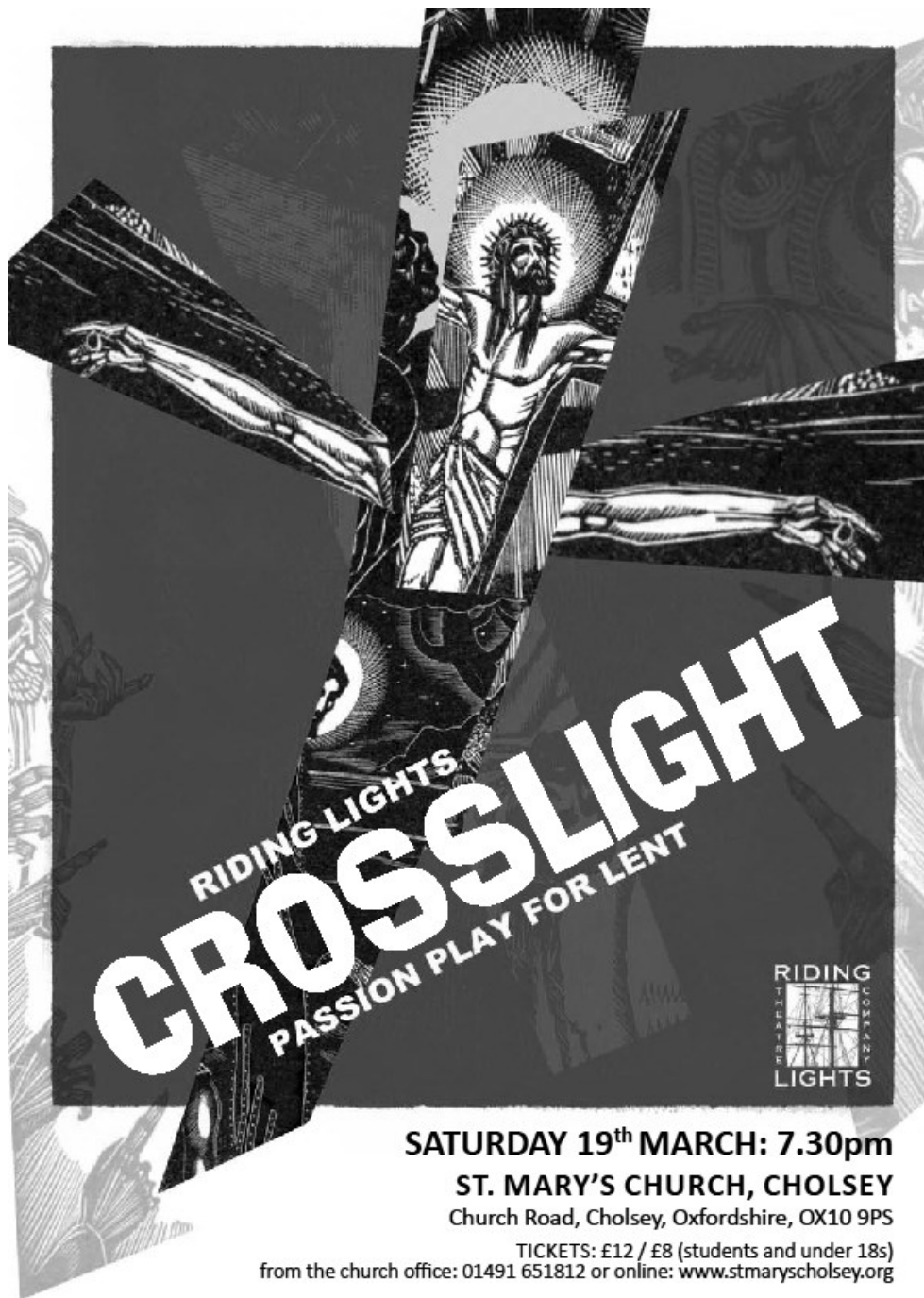
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SATURDAY 19th MARCH: 7.30pm

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CHOLSEY

Church Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire, OX10 9PS

TICKETS: £12 / £8 (students and under 18s)

from the church office: 01491 651812 or online: www.stmaryscholsey.org

Balsam Family Project

The Balsam Family Project is funded entirely by the generosity of individuals and local organisations. Sadly the reserves are almost exhausted and without additional funding the project will have to close at Easter 2016. The trustees have decided to postpone the celebration on March 4th and, instead, hold a prayer meeting.

Reproduced below for information is an extract from a letter that went out to Balsam supporters on 19 February:

*'We wish to update you that the Prayer Meeting is now confirmed to take place at **The Methodist Church** on the Broadway, Didcot, 4th*

March, 7:30 to 9pm. There is limited parking behind the church but there will be parking outside Boots (opp. The Methodist Church) and some parking available in Baptist House car park (entrance on Mereland Rd).'

That is simply the basic information. To understand the motivation behind holding this prayer meeting, please visit our website: <http://www.balsamfamilyproject.co.uk/news/> and read the news article entitled 'Balsam Family Project Financial Challenge'.

Prospects

(Continued from page 1)

so a ministry was born training, equipping and resourcing church leaders. Today over 400 churches are working in partnership with Prospects. Over 3,000 adults with learning disabilities attend Prospects' ministry groups in churches. Prospects now leads special needs Bible teaching at nine Christian holiday conferences, including Spring Harvest and the Keswick Convention. Our Deanery Lay Chair, Gordon Gill, is a Director of Prospects and has headed up the church-based ministry. Gordon is currently developing an accessible version of the Alpha Course for HTB. When published, this will course entitled 'Access to life in Jesus – based on Alpha' will run out to churches in 170 countries.

A Time for Reconciliation

We're now half way through Lent and will soon be celebrating Easter. The long-held tradition of fasting during Lent has been replaced of late with the giving-up of chocolate, caffeine and smoking and other varieties of life's comforts. Others see it as a time for 'taking-up' – of exercise, charity work or prayer. Lent is a penitential season, when the Church invites us to examine ourselves and our lives dispassionately and remove from it anything that gets in the way of a loving relationship with God and with others.

Although our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ sets us on the path to being the new, perfect person God intended us to be, we live in an imperfect world and are surrounded by other imperfect people and so we sin – say and do things that harm our relationships with God and with each other.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son, told by Jesus in Luke 15 verses 11-32, gives us an idea of the unfailingly loving and forgiving nature of God and his eagerness to welcome us all back into a loving relationship with him, even after we have turned our backs on him. Making the first steps to return to a loving relationship with anyone is hard: God did it by becoming fully human and suffering and dying for us on the Cross. All we are asked to do is to repent – to be truly sorry for what we have done, to seek to make amends and to change our hearts and lives.

Anyone who has read a P.D. James novel will have gathered that she herself was an Anglo-

Catholic. As well as having her most famous character, Adam Dalgliesh, a priest's son, she spent some time at St Stephen's House researching for her novel, *Death in Holy Orders* (if the goings on in the book had been based on the people at college, my Group Tutor dunnit). She used her faith as a character in all of her books, and Anglican clergy turn up throughout her work. In *A Certain Justice*, one of the characters goes to her vicar and asks for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and is murdered soon after making her confession.

Some people still believe that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a purely Roman Catholic practice, but the Church of England has made provision for this important tradition, since the introduction of the Book of Common Prayer. Another inaccurate view of Reconciliation is that a penitent can confess anything to a priest, be told to recite half a dozen 'Hail Mary's and that's that.

The sacrament is far more beneficial and constructive than that. First the penitent must think about the ways in which he or she has sinned. The types of sin which affect our relationship with God and with others have remained unchanged throughout the centuries: avarice and envy (or 'keeping up with the Joneses'), gluttony (chocaholics and many other 'holics') idolatry (those putting possessions, people and status above God) sloth (sadly, not the furry animal) lust, pride and anger. Most of these sins have to do with our ideas of our self, our self-image and our human need for status in society. Enjoying chocolate, a good life, a career and a lie-in are not in themselves sinful. It is when the chocolate or career take the place of our relationship with God or damage other people that the sin is committed: sin is what separates us from God.

“Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation ... puts an end to the separation between us and God, between us and others, between us and the natural order, and between us and our inner selves. The ministry of reconciliation is one of God's gifts to his world and that power to forgive [in God's name] is Jesus' command to his Church” Bishop David Stancliffe, The Pilgrim Prayerbook, p198

Whilst the Sacrament of Reconciliation is set within a framework of set forms of words and prayers, time is set aside for the priest and the penitent to explore the reasons behind the sinful behaviour and to discuss ways to avoid repeating the same mistakes; if appropriate, some form of reparation may be suggested. The penitent may be asked to go away and read passages of the Bible and to say some prayers. The priest will then give

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Prayer Intentions: March 2016

<p>1st: David Readings: Psalm 64; Genesis 47:28-end 48; Hebrews 5:11-6:12.</p> <p>David was 6th Century Archbishop of Wales, founder of a monastic order and lived and ascetic life.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Church Street, East Street. Little Fishes.</p>	<p>2nd: Chad Readings: Psalm 39; Genesis 49:1-32; Hebrews 6:13-end.</p> <p>A 7th Century Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Northumbria</p> <p>Prayer intentions: High Street, Bourne Street. The Wednesday Church and our Lent Appeal Charity, Prospects.</p>	<p>3rd: Readings: Psalm 59; Genesis 49:33-end of 50; Hebrews 7:1-10.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Northbourne Court, Pease Place. The work of the Mothers' Union worldwide.</p>	<p>4th: Readings: Psalm 69; Exodus 1:1-14; Hebrews 7:11-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Ridgeway Road Our choir and Director of Music.</p>
<p>5th: Readings: Psalm 116; Exodus 1:22-2:10; Hebrews 8.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Sinodun Road, Bridge Close . Those who keep the church clean and tidy.</p>	<p>6th: Mothering Sunday Readings: Psalm 30; Isaiah 40:27-41:13; 1 Peter 2:16-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Kynaston Road Our Sunday School and its leaders.</p>	<p>7th: Perpetua etc Readings: Psalm 25; Exodus 2:11-22; Hebrews 9:1-14.</p> <p>Perpetua and Companions were 3rd century Christian martyrs—arrested and executed as part of the celebrations of the Emperor's birthday.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Broadway, Vicarage Road Our PCC.</p>	<p>8th: Edward King Readings: Psalm 80; Exodus 2:23-3:20; Hebrews 9:15-end.</p> <p>One of the founders of St Stephen's House and a leader of the Anglo-Catholic movement.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: St Andrew's Road, St Peter's Road. Those who prepare and lead the intercessions in church.</p>
<p>9th: Readings: Psalm 91; Exodus 4:1-23; Hebrews 10:1-18.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Wessex Road. Wednesday fellowship and those who work to make it possible.</p>	<p>10th: Readings: Psalm 94; Exodus 4:27-6:1; Hebrews 10:19-25.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Lower Broadway, Roebuck Court. The Schools in our parish: Northbourne; Willowcroft & St Birinus</p>	<p>11th: Readings: Psalm 130; Exodus 6:2-13; Hebrews 10:26-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Hagbourne Road Didcot Police Station and its staff.</p>	<p>12th: Readings: Psalm 140; Exodus 7:8-end; Hebrews 11:1-16.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Ernest Road, Edmund's Court. Eucharistic Ministers and those receiving Home Communion.</p>
<p>13th: Passion Sunday Readings: Psalm 111; Isaiah 35; Romans 7:21-8:4.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Fairacres Road, Marlborough Court. Those who read in church.</p>	<p>14th: Readings: Psalm 26; Exodus 8:1-19; Hebrews 11:17-31.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Oatland Road, Samor Way Those attending Lent Study Groups.</p>	<p>15th: Readings: Psalm 61; Exodus 8:20-end; Hebrews 11:32-12:2.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Mereland Road, Laburnum Grove. Fr Mark Bodecker and his work on the Great Western Park.</p>	<p>16th: Readings: Psalm 62; Exodus 9:1-12; Hebrews 12:3-13.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Abbott Road, Abbott Close Those who maintain the Church grounds and Gardens.</p>

Prayer Intentions: March

<p>17th: Patrick Readings: Psalm 43; Exodus 9:13-end; Hebrews 12:14-end.</p> <p>At 16, he was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland. He escaped and eventually returned to Ireland as a missionary.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Richmere Road, The Croft; Modern-day slaves.</p>	<p>18th: Cyril Readings: Psalm 31; Exodus 10; Hebrews 13:1-16.</p> <p>A 4th century theologian, born in Caesarea, he was Bishop of Jerusalem in 350AD.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Marsh Cottages, Jubilee Way, Regent Gardens Churches Together in Didcot and District.</p>	<p>19th: Joseph Readings: Psalm 25; Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 13:54-end.</p> <p>Mary's husband and the adoptive father of Jesus.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Saxon's Way, Viking Drive Balsam Family Project.</p>	<p>20th: Palm Sunday Readings: Psalm 62; Zechariah 9:9-12; 1 Corinth 2:1-12.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Oriel Court, Lincoln Gardens. Our sides-people and Welcomers.</p>
<p>Monday of Holy Week Readings: Psalm 41; Lamentations 1:1-12a; Luke 22:1-23.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Beaufort Close, Worcester Drive. Alton Abbey Wantage Convent.</p>	<p>Tuesday of Holy Week Readings: Psalm 27; Lamentations 3:1-18; Luke 22:24-53.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Exeter Court, Magdalene Court St John's Guild.</p>	<p>Weds of Holy Week Readings: Psalm 102; Jeremiah 11:18-20; Luke 22:54-end.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Merton Close, Somerville The Sacristans and those who care for the Church linens.</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday Readings: Psalm 42,43; Leviticus 16:2-24; Luke 23:1-25.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Nuffield Close, Dirac Place Bishop Colin Archbishop Justin.</p>
<p>Good Friday Readings: Psalm 69; Genesis 22:1-18; John 18-19 or Hebrews 10:1-10.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Fleet Way, Kibble Close; Our fellow Christians in Didcot and those who see the Good Friday Act of Witness.</p>	<p>Easter Eve Readings: Psalm 142; Hosea 6:1-6; John 2:18-22.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: St John's Close, Ruskin Close All those preparing St Peter's for the Easter celebration.</p>	<p>27th: Easter Day Readings: Psalm 114; Ezekiel 47:1-12; John 2:13-22.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Shannon Road, Severn Road All those who provide refreshments after services and at events.</p>	<p>28th: Readings: Psalm 111; Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Western Avenue Newlands Avenue Children's Centre.</p>
<p>29th: Readings: Psalm 112; Exodus 12:14-36; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Kennet Place, Thames Court Our finance team.</p>	<p>30th: Readings: Psalm 113; Exodus 12:37-end; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: Tyne Square Medway Grove Didcot Community Hospital.</p>	<p>31st: Readings: Psalm 148; Exodus 13:1-16; 1 Corinthians 15:29-34.</p> <p>Prayer intentions: The Great Western Park Our healing and prayer team.</p>	

Subscription and website information

St Peter's offers a few ways in which one can keep up-to-date with events and happenings at the church—the website, the monthly magazine, the weekly news-sheet.

The website—www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk is updated on a weekly basis.

If you would like to subscribe to the monthly magazine or electronically receive the weekly news-sheet, please contact the editor, Margaret Meardon, on 01235 210525 or email maurice.meardon@ntlworld.com.

Didcot Choral Society

This Easter, Didcot Choral Society invites you to experience *Easter Reflections*, an evening of the most sublime Easter music, from composers such as Tallis, Bruckner, Victoria and Poulenc. *Easter Reflections* will showcase uplifting and moving Easter music drawn from the 16th century to the 21st (including Paul Mealor's *Ubi Caritas*, composed for the Royal Wedding in 2012), in an atmospheric setting. Saturday 19th March at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue Didcot. Tickets £10 and £8 (conc) – free to accompanied school aged children, available on the door, from the Didcot One Stop Shop or call 07915 094842. Please visit our website to hear an excerpt of music we will be performing:

<http://www.didcotchoralsociety.org/>

St John's Guild

On Tuesday 22nd March we will be entertained by Hazel Brunier on her accordion.

On Tuesday 26th April, we will have a talk by Nickless the honey producer. There will be items for sale.

Next issue

Wednesday 23 March 2016 is the next magazine deadline. Please telephone or email the editor with any articles—210525 or maurice.meardon@ntlworld.com

Didcot All Saints' & The Ladygrove Church Services

All Saints'

Sunday 8:00 AM	The Holy Eucharist (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language)
10:00 AM	The Parish Eucharist (Except first Sunday of Month)
10:00 AM	Family Service (First Sunday of Month)
6:30 PM	The Holy Eucharist with a hymn and Prayer for Healing (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language, First Sunday of Month)
Tuesday 9:30 AM	The Holy Eucharist (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language)

The Ladygrove Church

Sunday 9.00 AM	Morning worship
Sunday 10:00 AM	Refreshments for those attending either service.
Sunday 10.30 AM	Morning worship with children's groups (changes each Sunday—see notice sheet)
Last Sunday of the month: 7.00 PM	Evening service

A Time for Reconciliation

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absolution – forgiveness in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

There is no doubt that the process involved in making a formal confession works. It is no accident that post-apartheid South Africa used a formal process for peace and reconciliation, which followed a similar pattern to that of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, involving one of the most inspirational and holy Church leaders of our times, Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Whether or not you chose to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which may be done at any time and not only in Lent, the penitential season is an opportunity for us to reflect upon our relationships with God, with each other and with ourselves and, with the help of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to change what keeps us from the healthy, loving relationship God wants for us all.

Revd. Hannah

Services

Sundays

8.00AM Book of
Common Prayer Holy
Communion.
10.00AM Parish Sung
Eucharist
6.00PM Evensong
(1st Sunday in month)

Weekday Offices

Morning Prayer:
usually said at 8.30AM
on weekdays (except
Fridays) & Saturday.

Weekday Services

Tuesday 12.00NOON
Little Fishes Eucharist

Thursday 9.30AM
Eucharist

**The Sacrament is
reserved at St Peter's
and is available to any
who wish to receive it
in their home or in the
hospital.**

Registers

Baptisms 'made one with Christ'

Holly Shephard



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF
THE THIRD AGE meetings are held on the
third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at
Didcot Civil Hall. Visitors are welcome to
come to a meeting as a taster before joining.

**On 15th March 2016 our speaker will be
Andy Robertshaw with a talk entitled
'Animals on the Western Front'.**

It's never too late to expand your horizons.....

The University of the Third Age offers the
opportunity to share your knowledge, experience and
talents with others and learn from them in friendly
surroundings. Why not come along to the next
meeting of the Didcot & District U3A and find out
what we are all about. A member of our committee
will be on hand to make you welcome.

Tel: 07802 237963

Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com

Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

Year's Mind for March

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Eric Stratford | 16 Ernest Pease |
| Edith Jean Turner | 17 John Pruett |
| 2 Christopher Preece | Stella Scott |
| 3 Edwin Gibbens | 18 Audrey Johansen |
| Samuel Lane | Arthur Goodall |
| Daisy Culliford | 19 Elizabeth Keep |
| 4 Gertrude Edmonds | 20 Cyril Goodgen |
| Vera Cook | Bernerd Measor |
| 5 James East | 21 Ernest Bennell |
| Ernest Cox | Rose Burrows |
| Lizzie Humphreys | Roderick Harper |
| 6 Phyllis Waddicor | John Luke |
| Eliza Turner | 22 Sarah Mathews |
| 7 Bernard Powell | Edward Knights |
| 8 Harold Cooper | Sylvia Ann Hughes |
| Jack Weston | 23 William James |
| Maurice Engle | Millicent Grimes |
| Charlotte Denwood | John Hall |
| 9 Charles Wood | Doris Fisher |
| 10 Margery Buckingham | 24 Ted Hillier |
| Dorothy Belcher | Stephen Mitchell |
| Timothy Hartnett | Edgar Bean |
| Frederick Hatt | 25 Anton Janiw |
| 11 Priscilla Grimes | 26 Peter Williams |
| Edward Taylor | 27 Alfred Ball |
| 12 Ethel James | Ernest Edmonds |
| Stasia James | George Jones |
| Elisabeth Smith | Alice Daniels |
| 13 Elizabeth Jarvis | David Welch |
| Henry Stone | Barbara Varney |
| Gwilym Evans | 28 |
| 14 Valerie Kelly | 29 Frederick Cleverly |
| Arthur | Ted Sharp |
| Kestell-Cornish | 30 William Howell |
| Edwin Reid | William Nicholls |
| Sheila Burnham | Muriel Cullen |
| 15 Gladys Andrews | 31 Irene Belton |
| Peter Brown | Eva Peall |

Church Calendar for March 2016

Tuesday 1 *David*

12.00NOON Little Fishes
7.30PM Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Wednesday 2 *Chad*

10.00AM Wednesday Church.
7.30PM Didcot Community Gospel Choir rehearsal.

Thursday 3

9.30AM Said Mass (MU)

Friday 4

6.45PM Choir Practice

Sunday 6 Fourth Sunday of Lent

8.00AM Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist.

10.00AM Sunday school.

6.00PM Evensong.

Monday 7

9.30-11.30AM Rhymes and Signs.

Tuesday 8 *Edward King*

12.00NOON Little Fishes.
2.30PM Prayer Group.
7.30PM Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Wednesday 9

11.45AM Wednesday Fellowship

Thursday 10

9.30AM Said Mass

Friday 11

6.45PM Choir practice.

Sunday 13 Passiontide

8.00AM BCP Holy Communion.

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist.

Monday 14

9.30-11.30AM Rhymes and Signs

Tuesday 15

12.00NOON Little Fishes.
7.30PM Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Wednesday 16

7.30PM Didcot Community Gospel Choir rehearsal.

Thursday 17 *Patrick*

9.30AM Healing Mass.

Friday 18

6.45PM Choir practice.

Saturday 19

7.30PM Didcot Choral Society Concert (Rehearsal from 1.30PM).

Sunday 20 Palm Sunday

8.00AM Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist.

10.00AM Sunday school.

Monday 21

9.30-11.30AM Rhymes and Signs.
2.00PM Willowcroft Easter Service.
6.00PM Stations of the Cross.

Tuesday 22

2.30PM St John's Guild.

Wednesday 23

10.00AM Northbourne School Easter Service.
6.00PM Stations of the Cross.

Thursday 24 *Maundy Thursday*

9.30AM Said Mass.

7.30PM Institution of the lord's Supper and watch till midnight.

Friday 25 Good Friday

2.00PM Liturgy of the Cross.

Saturday 26 Easter Vigil

7.30PM Easter Vigil

Sunday 27 Easter Day

10.00AM Sung Eucharist.

Thursday 31

NO MASS—LOW WEEK.



Priest-in-Charge

The Revd. Hannah Reynolds
The Vicarage,
47A Newlands Avenue, Didcot
01235 812114

Email:
priest-in-charge@stpeters-didcot.org.uk

Church Wardens



Hugh Collins-Rice
01235 811465



Derek Smith
01235 811862