



Whole Benefice Service

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 'Whole Benefice' service last Sunday in whatever way. It was a very special service with a congregation I am sure we would wish to see each week. As it has been decided that on the fifth Sunday of the month there will only be one service for the whole Benefice it is something that could be repeated. The next one is this month in Hingham on 29th June.

Revd Sue Strutt

At the end of the Whole Benefice service last Sunday, Revd Prebendary Sue Strutt was presented with a card and gifts as a 'thank you' for the 8 years Sue has been our Priest Associate. Sue gives up this role from 31 May but will remain as part of the Ministry Team in her capacity as a retired minister. Here is a letter from Sue:

Dear Friends,

Thankyou so very, very much for the wonderful gifts – a rose and gorgeous container - and money I have received on my retirement from the role as Priest Associate – whatever that is, as Colin says – for the Shellrock Benefice! I am extremely appreciative but not sure I deserve it as, by the grace of God, I have just done my job, which I love, and I will still be 'working' a little.

As I said on Sunday, much as I appreciate your thanks, I should be thanking all of you; I have been very blessed by being able to work with you all and building friendships.

About 8 years ago I was asked by the Rev'd Matthew Jackson, Rural Dean, if I would meet Christina Mason who had found herself as the only priest leading a group of 5 parishes. I had been retired from a 20+ year old full-time ministry for nearly 3 years by then and was happy helping out in Attleborough and the wider Deanery when necessary. I agreed to meet her to see if I could advise and support on a way forward.

On meeting Christina I was presented with what seemed to be a lively Benefice but she outlined a variety of difficulties. Somehow, I felt a great urge, a shove in the back (probably from God), to offer my help and, encouraged by my husband, eventually stepped into the role in which you have known me ever since. It was not an easy decision as we had a few personal issues with which to deal at the time, but our family was very supportive.

The rest is history, as they say. We are now a united Benefice with a culture of listening to each other and co-operation, the latter sometimes reluctantly, but we have made it work. In addition I am gratified to see some individuals creating ideas for worship as well as those leading their parishes in every way required by the Diocese, but mainly by God.

You are now to move on to the next stage feeling, I hope, confident in what you are doing. Tori is one of the best. She has a huge task in front of her. I intend to stay in the background, encouraging and supporting as she brings the two Benefices into one. She has already had to deal with a couple of crises (not in Shellrock!), and I am sure you will give her your loyalty and love, as you have given it to me.

Which brings me full circle. Thankyou for the love, thankyou for the experience of being with you and allowing me to stay with you throughout these 8 years. You have taught me a great deal, I hope I have been able to bring you a little closer to God. As you have blessed me, I now bless you, and wish some good years ahead for each and every one of you. Sue

Events this week

Sunday 1st June, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Throughout Easter the Acts readings must be used as the first or second reading

Readings: Acts 16.16-34 Psalm 97
Revelation 22.12-14,16,17,20,21 John 17.20-26

10.30am St James, Great Ellingham Morning Prayer
10.30am Rockland St Peter Holy Communion

Tuesday 3rd June

10.00am Fellowship Group

Saturday 7th June

10.00am-12.00pm Pop up Café in St James, Great Ellingham
10.00am-12.00pm Messy Church in St James, Great Ellingham

Sunday 8th June, Day of Pentecost

Throughout Easter the Acts readings must be used as the first or second reading

Readings: Acts 2.1-21 or Genesis 11.1-9 Psalm 104.26-36,37b
Romans 8.14-17 or Acts 2.1-21 John 14.8-17[25-27]

9.30am St James, Great Ellingham Café Church
Café 9.30, Service 10.30
10.30am Rockland St Peter Family Service and Baptism
6.00pm St Peter, Little Ellingham Songs of Praise

1.00pm-5.00pm Little Ellingham Open Gardens (see advert below)

Monday 9th June

7.00pm Benefice Team Meeting in St James, Great Ellingham

Looking forward.....

18 June Choir practice
28 June Great Ellingham Teddy Festival starts
28-30 June RAS Flower Festival

If you have an event planned and wish it to be advertised, please let me know.

Contacts

Ministry Team

Priest in Charge: Revd Tori Venmore-Rowland 01953 573377 email; revdtori@outlook.com
Thursday is Tori's usual day off
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Colin Thomas

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**LITTLE ELLINGHAM
OPEN
GARDENS
SUNDAY 8TH JUNE
1-5PM**



**Tickets and refreshments
at the
Village Hall, Church Lane.**

**Flower Display
and
History Exhibition at
St Peter's Church.**

**Adults £5 Accompanied children (under 15) Free
Parking at Village Hall and off Rocklands Road**