

# Wingrave Methodist Church

## News Not in the Pews

### Issue 886: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021



It's encouraging to see early signs of spring: the evenings are becoming lighter and there were snowdrops and even daffodils when Jane and I recently walked round Waddesdon Manor grounds. And the Winslow hub seems to be making very positive progress in rolling out the vaccination programme.

However, in the immediate future we will need to continue our worship and other activities using Zoom. Looking ahead, Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent will be with us in a couple of weeks' time, and there will be a Church Council meeting and a coffee morning during the course of the month. A list of dates and times is set out below.

*Andrew*

## February Dates

**Every Sunday at 10am:** A zoom service led by Rev Donna Broadbent-Kelly

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February:** A zoom Coffee Morning With Donna (John will circulate a zoom code)

**Ash Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm:** A Circuit zoom service (more details in next week's NNITP)

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February:** Church Council meeting (agenda in the 21<sup>st</sup> February edition of NNITP)

**Lenten Bible Study:** The Circuit is planning to run a Lenten Bible Study led by the staff, looking at the film "The Kings Speech". The idea is to hold this on zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm for a maximum of an hour and a half.

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February

There will be a Zoom service at 10am, led by Rev Donna Broadbent-Kelly.

Donna will be joined by Rev Helen Cameron, Chair of Northampton District, and after the service there will be an opportunity for a natter in the Wingrave "breakout room"

For more details and/or the zoom code (which is the same as last week) please contact Donna

*Our minister is Rev Donna-marie Broadbent-Kelly, 01525 240589, rev.donnabk@gmail.com*

*"News not in the Pews" is usually published weekly for, by and on behalf of the members of Wingrave Methodist Church. Contributions and enquiries to Jane and Andrew Muir (windmillandrew@btinternet.com)*

# Circuit Prayers

*Peter Honeyball writes:* This Sunday 7 February, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is Whitchurch. It is always a pleasure to share the good news from Whitchurch, because it never fails to lift the spirits - and this edition is no exception. We stand alongside and support the lovely folk of Whitchurch as they battle against plague and pandemic and rejoice with them at every small victory, as they focus on the 'greater things'! Please remember the work and the workers here in your prayers this week.



*Roger writes:* It would be so easy to be downcast about the current situation and the Whitchurch folk, in common with the whole Circuit and Country, have to face the many challenges this poses.

At times the plagues in Exodus chapters 7 to 11 suffered by the Israelites have seemed all too real to us, as we had both a famine of collective worship, and the Church building suffered an awesome December/January fly infestation. The swarming drosophila flew around and died in droves, leaving every surface with a thick black carpet of their bodies. However, as you all know, we Methodists are resilient folk who fix their eyes on other greater things.

So during Advent our Notice Board featured Advent candles, updated each week. For a week either side of Christmas the Flat roof at the front of the Church was adorned with a floodlit lifesize Nativity tableau (thanks to Keith for the art work and Paul for the installation). A large Christmas tree was also erected at the roadside as a prayer tree. Passers-by were urged to place a bauble from a box at its base on the tree and make a prayer. It was gratifying to see both how extensively the tree became decorated and to receive the many positive comments about the tableau.

We are so grateful that from the New Year our somewhat dodgy village internet connection has enabled attendance at the Zoom services led by Keith. It is a measure of our joy at this that every regular member of the Whitchurch congregation has, despite signal dropouts, joined each of the services held so far. This, together with a bulk purchase of vacuum cleaner bags used by socially distanced workers, coupled with the ongoing vaccination programme, has meant that "our" small plagues are being gradually overcome.

As we, like the Israelites, travel toward the Promised Land we continue to pray daily for all those suffering illness, those mourning and for all those dedicated workers (including those in our congregation) who everyday put their own health and welfare at risk on behalf of all. May God Bless You All

## Candlemas

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February was Candlemas Day, a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. While Christians in many countries remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve), those in other Christian countries historically remove them after Candlemas. And on Candlemas in "normal" years, many Christians bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year. In France, Candlemas is traditionally celebrated by cooking and eating pancakes.



*"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another fight  
"If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter won't come again"*

It was dry and mild here on Candlemas Day but snowing heavily in the north of England, so are we finished with winter?