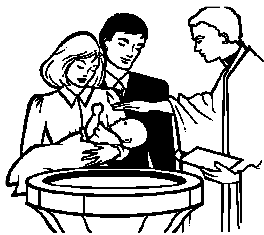


Holy Baptism



13th March

Mason John Pamphlett-Blake

In Peace



29th February

David Bourne

Mothers Union

Tues 5th April 3.30pm

Lady Day Service in Stapleford Church

Mon 18th April 7pm

Desert Island Discs

Our own version of Desert Island Discs in the Church Meeting Room at 7pm.

For more information, please speak to Ann or Rosemary.

Annual Meetings and Electoral Roll

The Vestry Meeting (to elect the Church wardens) and the Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held after Parish Communion on 10th April.

If you are not on the current electoral and would like to vote at the APCM, please fill in the electoral roll form – obtainable from the back of church, Andrew Povey-Richards or one of the Wardens

Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group meets monthly in the church meeting room, normally on the last Monday. The aim of the group is to provide an opportunity for learning, sharing ideas and getting to know each other better.

We are currently following a Scripture Union Bible study book on the parables of Jesus. These books are very easy to follow and give everyday relevance to the parables being studied. We are intending to do one of these studies every other month.

In alternate months, we are aiming to use Table Talk for Friends as a starting point for discussion: these are series of cards which prompt discussion on various topics. Everyone chooses which question to talk about: examples from the Planet Earth topic include "Which beach would you say is the best", "How do we welcome new people into our lives, family or community?" and "How is the world going to end?"

We meet from 7.45pm and start the discussion part of the evening at 8pm. This runs for an hour then we enjoy social time together with a cup of coffee or tea and cakes.

If you would like to join us or would like more information, please give me a call or get in touch by email.

Even if you are unable to make our regular Monday but are interested, please do contact us as there may be scope to change the evening.

Kath Oates

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Thy Kingdom Come

- a week of prayer is called for May

Churches across the country have been invited to spend the week before

Pentecost, 8th to 15th May, in praying together.

Writing to all the Anglican church leaders in England, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York explain: 'Throughout history any movement of the Holy Spirit to draw increasing numbers of people to faith in Christ has always begun with prayer....

"Christ's love compels us" to offer ... hope, joy and salvation to others, that the world maybe transformed by God's love. In prayer we are reminded that the "God of mission has a Church, not the Church of Mission has a God". In prayer we are reminded that when we pray for new and renewed life in others, so it must first be sparked and kindled in us.'

And so it is that the Archbishops, in partnership with 24-7 Prayer, HOPE, the World Prayer Centre, the Neighbourhood Prayer Network, the National Day of Prayer & Worship and others, are inviting the Church of England to spend focused and dedicated time in prayer in the week running up to Pentecost Sunday, 8th -15th May, as part of a united effort to see more of the Kingdom of God come in our day.

The focus for our prayer during this time will be for "all Christians to deepen their relationship with Jesus, so that we may have confidence to share our faith, that all may respond to the call of Jesus Christ to follow Him."

All serving clergy have been invited to be involved, together with their parish churches, Fresh Expressions of church, and chaplaincies.

The week of prayer will be different in every context. For some places it might be a focused single event, perhaps adapting or building on an existing group or meeting, or holding something special. The hope is that in many places Christians across denominations and streams can pray together, as the unity of the whole Body of Christ is a powerful reality and symbol to the world.

Beacon Events are to be held in five or six cathedrals (or neighbouring venues) over the Pentecost weekend, celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and praying for the renewal of the Spirit, and for Christians to deepen their relationship with Jesus and to have the confidence to share their faith. The hope is to inspire worship and intercession for a generation to rise up with a fresh passion and confidence for the proclamation of the Gospel.

The locations for 'beacon events' are to be Canterbury, St. Paul's, York, Durham, Winchester, and Coventry (in the final stages of confirmation), with Canterbury, York, Durham and St Paul's being intentionally aimed at the younger generation.



Softly

A churchwarden went to the Police Station wishing to see the burglar who had slipped in and out of the church during evensong. "You'll get your chance in court," said the Desk Sergeant.

"I don't want revenge," said the man. "I want to know how he got out of the service early without the vicar noticing. I've been trying to do that for years!"