

Notices – 21st February 2024

I hope you are well and enjoying the half term break. Thank you and well done to everyone who took part in the litter pick last Saturday. More information on environmental/eco issues later on.



Over the last couple of weeks, we have been praying for the most dangerous countries to be a Christian in. Here are the next 10 countries from Open Doors, World Watch list 2024 showing the top 50 countries who do not share the luxury of freedom of faith with us. As you read their names please do pray for the Christians who live in fear and for their oppressors.

- 31 Oman
- 32 Ethiopia
- 33 Tunisia
- 34 Colombia
- 35 Vietnam
- 36 Bhutan
- 37 Mexico
- 38 Egypt
- 39 Mozambique
- 40 Qatar

Next Sunday is the second Sunday in Lent. The theme for the service is “Promise realised through faith”. Our readings will be Genesis 17 v 1-7 and 15-16, Romans 4 v 13 to the end and Mark 8 v 31 to the end. We will be welcoming Revd George Rogers who will be preaching and presiding over Holy Communion. Please pray for him as he prepares to bring god’s word to us.

Notices

A Message from Richard our Church Warden

Update on Recruitment of the Whitefriars Vicar

When our vicar’s post was advertised in January, sadly there were no applicants. I suppose that I shouldn’t have been surprised by this as the history of most recent, local CofE vacancies is that they have all taken some time to be filled. Whilst I think we are an attractive proposition, there seems to be a shortage of candidates currently wanting to move.

CPAS have agreed to re-advertise the post in April, which might be a better timescale for the recruitment. In the meantime, please continue to pray for God to encourage His chosen person to apply. The PCC will have an extra meeting early March to discuss whether and how to update the parish profile, etc.

Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone who continues to help keep our church operating and moving forward. We are very blessed to have such a dedicated and talented team running the church. Please consider volunteering to do what jobs need to be done. Richard

Prayers for the New Vicar

We are still praying each Sunday at 9.45am for our new vicar. Please join us before the service.

LZ7 Illuminate Tour

Really good news, the teams are filling fast but we particularly need Street Safety Team Stewards. For more information, just chat with Matt on Sunday.

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/202541202018/false#/invitation>

A Message from Hannah Barker

Hello everyone. The discipleship group and Stepping Out leaders met on Monday evening. Following our discussions, we are wondering if there is enough scope to hold a daytime discipleship group again as we previously have. There are a number of people who are not in groups; this may be for a variety of reasons: young children, evening commitments, not wanting to go out or drive in the evenings, etc. I am trying to gain a register of interest for people who might like to attend a daytime group. Please let me know if you are interested in joining a discipleship group that meets in the daytime. Many thanks, Hannah Barker.

A couple of messages from Andrew Presland

One of the 4th Rushden (Whitefriars) Scout Group leaders who came to the church litter pick last Saturday is an active collector of **aluminium cans**, which she crushes and passes on to the **Helipads for Hospitals** charity. She is keen to pick up, each Sunday morning from the school, any that we have collected as a church (if it turns out that we are big enough can users to make this worthwhile). Although she isn't due to start coming on Sunday mornings yet, please can you hang on to any cans that you have - or that you collect - until she does start fetching them please? Thanks - Andrew Presland.

You are invited to hear Chad talk about Wild Church and Eco church at St Mary the Virgin Church, Finedon at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th March. This will be the first part of the Higham Deanery Synod meeting and is open to all.

Can you help please?

Lent Lunches

This is now getting urgent!

We now have the dates for the Lent lunches. They are on Wednesday 21st, 28th February and 6th, 13th and 20th March. **Whitefriars has been asked to make and serve soup on the 13th March.** We have one offer for making soup so far, but ideally need three more. Could you make soup for approximately 10 people? Also we need people to help serve. Are you available on the 13th to serve and wash up afterwards?

Refreshments setting up rota

One very kind person has volunteered to join the refreshments setting up rota. We really do need two more people to join that rota. Is this something you could do?

Cleaning Rota

We now only have two people on the cleaning rota. Could you share the load? Thank you.

If you would like more details about the different rotas and what each job entails, please chat to me on Sunday.

With blessings,

Sara Owst
Ministry Resources Manager