



October 2023

Newsletter of the Churches of Ashby St. Ledgers, Braunston and Welton

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

1 st October	Braunston	Holy Communion	10-30am
8 th October	Ashby	Holy Communion	10-30am
15 th October	Braunston	BCP Holy Communion	9-00am
15 th October	Braunston	Harvest Service	10-30am
22 nd October	Welton	Holy Communion	10-30am
29 th October	Braunston	Holy Communion	10-30am

Tea/coffee is served before and after all Sunday 10.30am services.

Mid-Week Services

Wednesdays	6.30pm	<i>Ashby St. Ledgers</i>	Evening Prayer (NOTE CHANGE OF DAY/TIME)
Thursdays	9.30am	<i>Welton</i>	Morning Prayer (except 19 th)
Saturdays	10.00am	<i>Braunston</i>	Celtic Morning Prayer

Ashby St. Ledgers patronal service Saturday 7th October at 11am

Prayer and Praise:

October 15 th	6pm @ Braunston
Nov 19 th	6pm @ Holy Cross Daventry

Outdoor Family Church

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life!

Saturday 4th November
11am-1pm
Outdoor (and indoor) games, stories, lunch, and a camp fire if weather allows.
Meet at Ashby St. Ledgers Village Hall

Dear friends,

As you probably know, I've spent this year writing my MA dissertation. I finished and submitted it last Friday, which is such a relief! I took the opportunity to include an 'Acknowledgements' section, which included the following:

“Thanks to the church communities of Ashby St Ledgers, Braunston, and Welton for releasing me to study and write, for their encouragement and support, and for singing with me.”

My dissertation was on the spiritual significance of singing in Christianity. I mention this now because, at Ashby and Welton, we are resuming singing some of the parts of our Communion services that have been said for a number of years. I thought this would be a good opportunity to say a little something about it.

Have you ever noticed that singing in church is often a bit of a tricky issue? It can cause strong feelings, and rightly so because it is a very powerful thing. Part of my dissertation has been exploring more about what we can learn about it in the Bible. The second thing I've looked at is how the Church has handled this gift from God over the last two thousand years, and how we came to have a lot of different opinions about it – even divisions. The third part of my project was looking at how we might bridge the gap between what the Bible points to and the divisions we've ended up with, and how to have better discussions about it.

I know that returning to singing “Glory to God in the Highest” has filled many of you with joy. But for those of you who may be a little unsure, I'd just like to reassure you a little if I may. It's not about a polished performance or anything stuffy. Singing in church was turned into something elite in about the 4th Century AD, but the people of God have been singing Psalms and prayers for thousands of years. It does not belong to cathedrals or robed choirs; it belongs to all of us as the body of Christ.

In the Bible, it is assumed that praise is sung. The book of Hebrews 3:10-12 talks about Jesus leading all of us in sung worship to the Father. When the Reformation came along, things had gone wrong, and the reformers gave us back the prayers, but they didn't really know what to do with the singing anymore, partly because everything had become about words at that time.

Some people worry that singing the prayers is old-fashioned, or not welcoming to newcomers. It's great that we have a balance between traditional and modern worship. That helps us, which is great, but it's not really about us. It's about worshipping God, and singing is important. But drawing people to God is the Holy Spirit's role. Our role is to worship, to pray, and to join in with the action of God. When God inhabits our praises, what better time for visitors to encounter the risen Jesus? And we can't always anticipate how visitors will respond.

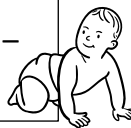
It might feel uncomfortable to some of us. Singing isn't as much a part of our culture as it once was, so we'll need to work through that. I am convinced that offering sung worship to God is an important and beneficial thing, and that this is taught in the Bible. If anyone would like to talk further about this, I'm very happy to. There's also a really good short series of “guided conversation” about music and worship in the Church that we could explore together if enough people tell me that would be helpful. And if you're *really* interested, I'd be happy to email my dissertation to you!

Every blessing,

Kathryn

Calling all Toddlers (and their parent/carer)

“Tiny Treasures” Toddler Group takes place every Tuesday 9.00-11.00am for pre-school children and their parents/carers. We meet in Braunston Church – the door is open, just come on in!!



SAVE THE DATE: 1st October after the morning service in Braunston, training/refresher for Eucharist Assistants and would-be Eucharist Assistants for all churches. Let your church warden know if you are attending.

AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES IN WELTON!

WE DESPERATELY NEED VOLUNTEERS:

- For our cleaning rota (you'd be on it probably twice a year with someone else).
- For our flower rota (no arrangement experience necessary, just buy a bunch of flowers and put them in a vase)
- To be a Foundation (church) Governor at Welton School (which is the school for both Welton and Ashby St. Ledgers). No experience of education necessary (except it is assumed that you went to school when you were young!).

Do you like talking with children? Could you be a School Governor representing the Church?

Welton C.E. Academy needs a Foundation Governor. Being a Foundation Governor (representing the Church) is very rewarding. It is a voluntary position which involves visiting the school to talk with staff, pupils and other Foundation Governors (about 3 times a year), attending some Collective Worship (assemblies) and going to Governor meetings (about 6 a year). It helps to provide an important link between Church and School. The Church of England gives you training, and often your input can give that all important Christian context that a Church of England School needs.

If you would like to find out more about these amazing opportunities, talk to Jackie Hibbert or e-mail her at: churchwarden@stmartinswelton.org.uk

Please send all contributions for the October Edition of the Newsletter to safeguarding@stmartinswelton.org.uk by **18th October**. Let me know if you would like to receive the Newsletter electronically. *Jackie*

Singing for wellbeing

First Saturday of each month.

Braunston Church Parish Room.

3pm – 4pm

Starts 7th October

No singing ability necessary; just a good old sing and a cup of tea!



“wellbeeing” – editors pun (sorry!)

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH , BRAUNSTON
2 - 4PM IN THE CHURCH, SATURDAY
7TH OCTOBER



Keep the winter blues at bay
with an afternoon cream tea!



£3.50 for tea and scone.
Have a chat and browse
the books/jigsaws and
craft/jewellery stalls plus
have a go at the raffle. All
proceeds towards the cost
of running the church.

Rector:

Rev. Kathryn Evans

Phone 01788 726912

Email: revkathryn@outlook.com

**A verse for reflection in
October:**

“Speak to each other with
psalms, hymns and
spiritual songs. Sing and
make music in your heart
to the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:19

STOP PRESS

A new monthly house
communion group is starting
in Welton, meeting in
someone's house on the first
Friday of the month at 3pm. (A
different venue each month)

Transport can be arranged for
those living in Welton and
probably from the edge of
Daventry.

If you would like to be
included, please contact
churchwarden@stmartins.org.uk
or speak to Rev. Kathryn.

**DO YOUR LITTLE
BIT OF GOOD
WHERE YOU ARE;
IT'S THOSE LITTLE
BITS OF GOOD THAT
OVERWHELM THE WORLD.**

**An Invitation to support the 10th
Baby Project Christmas
Challenge 2023**

Our Baby Project Newsletters
from now until December will
contain full details for all your
family, friends and neighbours
stmartinswelton.org.uk



A quote from Archbishop Tutu as we, “Reach for the stars.”