

Bewsborough Bulletin

The weekly church newsletter for Barfreestone, Coldred, Guston, Eythorne & Elvington, Waldershare, Shepherdswell and Whitfield



This Week

Sunday 2nd March

9.00am | BCP Communion | St. Nicholas', Barfreestone
10.30am | Holy Communion | St. Andrew's, Shepherdswell
10.30am | Community Worship | Whitfield Village Hall
6.00pm | BCP Communion | St. Martin's, Guston

Mon 3rd March

10.00am | Let's Play | Elvington Community Centre

Tues 4th March

12.30pm | Let's Eat | Elvington Community Centre

Wed 5th March

9.30am | Let's Chat | Whitfield Rec. Pavilion
11.30am | Ash Wednesday Communion | St. Andrew's
7.00pm | Ash Wednesday Communion | St. Andrew's

Thur 6th March

12.30pm | Lent Lunch | Elvington Community Centre
7.00pm | Small Group for Lent | Whitfield

Fri 7th March

9.30am | Let's Play! | Whitfield Village Hall
1.30pm | Small Group for Lent | Eythorne
7.00pm | Alpha | The Vicarage, Whitfield

For Our Prayers

Please pray for the following people, all known to God, who need our prayers and for those who tend to them and show them love and care:

Tallulah, Michael, Pauline, David, Alan Jones, Suzie, Elsie, Ian M, Mark, Nick Stanley, David B, Whitney, Tantely, Joyce C, Simisola Adededeji, Karen, Janet. B, Margaret & Robin. S, Madge and Jill.

SS Peter & Paul, Eythorne

Regular services remain suspended at St. Peter & St. Paul's until after the 12th March, when the PCC meet to discuss this difficult situation.

The worship schedule for March shows regular services returning after this date, but I will update this should a PCC decision be made otherwise.

Any baptisms, weddings or funeral services will continue to be booked, and remain booked and will be unaffected by this temporary suspension of regular services.

Please contact Rev. Sean if you have any questions.

Calling all Church Key Holders!

It is important, for insurance purposes, that we know who holds keys to each of our church buildings, and what access is offered. We are very thankful to all who are key-holders because of the work they do and offer, but we realised the other day that we do not hold a complete parish list.

To enable us to collate and keep an updated key-holder list for each church, could I ask all those who hold keys, or know of key-holders to email me and let me know which church you hold keys for, which keys (e.g. front door, vestry, safe, etc.,) and the purpose.

email me at keys@bewsboroughparish.org

Please do not allow anyone to borrow keys, or have further keys cut, without agreement from a Churchwarden, or Rev. Sean.

Also, if you need access and do not have it, please let me know so we can review.

Keep in Touch



Rector – Rev. Sean

vicar@bewsboroughparish.org
07710423432



Curate – Rev. Seb

rev.seb.lundberg@bewsboroughparish.org
07476238330

Ash Wednesday

Time for a Reset ? Finding Renewal in the Ashes

In our fast-paced digital world, the ancient practice of Ash Wednesday perhaps offers us a powerful counterpoint to our culture of constant upgrades and replacements. It wasn't that long ago that if you had a PC problem at home, if you called the help-desk the first thing the helpful tech-support person would ask, is whether you have performed a reset to get it working again (which normally involved of course switching the darned thing off and then on again!) This solemn day marks the beginning of Lent—a season that invites us to pause, reflect, and embrace a spiritual reset.

Consider your smartphone. When it becomes sluggish and unresponsive, what do you do? You might try closing apps, clearing cache, or even performing a factory reset. This digital cleansing creates space and removes the accumulated digital clutter that prevents optimal functioning.

Ash Wednesday serves a similar purpose for our souls. The ashes placed on our foreheads with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" remind us of our mortality and dependence on God. Like clearing a device's cache, these ashes symbolize our willingness to clear away what distracts us from our true purpose.

During Lent, we're invited to examine what unnecessary "apps" are running in the background of our lives—habits, attachments, or distractions that drain our spiritual energy.

What needs to be deleted to make space for God's presence?

What spiritual practices need to be reinstalled or updated?

The ashes we receive aren't meant to be a mark of shame but a badge of humility and hope. They remind us that in acknowledging our limitations, we open ourselves to God's limitless grace. Just as a reset can bring new life to a device, the Lenten journey that begins on Ash Wednesday offers us the promise of renewal and resurrection.

As we begin this sacred season together, let us embrace this spiritual reset—not as a burdensome obligation, but as a gift that helps us reconnect with our Creator and with each other in more meaningful ways.



Our Lenten journeys begin on Wednesday 5th March, as we take the opportunity to gather together to be reminded, *'remember you are but dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'*.

There will be 2 services, which should enable everyone, we hope, to come along:

11.30am | Service of Communion with ashing
St. Andrew, Shepherdswell

7.00pm | Service of Communion with ashing
St. Andrew, Shepherdswell

Ashes remind us that our time is limited and that we should take advantage of the time we have left to continue our spiritual development. Where are you going in life?

What are you doing with yourself?

What kind of priorities do you live by?

We welcome Lent, therefore, with ashes for the opportunities it will afford us to clear our vision and reset our sights.

We have much to do before we turn to dust. Think in terms of ashes and see if it doesn't change your perspective.

Ash Wednesday by Malcolm Guite

Receive this cross of ash upon your brow,
Brought from the burning of Palm Sunday's cross.
The forests of the world are burning now
And you make late repentance for the loss.
But all the trees of God would clap their hands
The very stones themselves would shout and sing
If you could covenant to love these lands
And recognise in Christ their Lord and king.
He sees the slow destruction of those trees,
He weeps to see the ancient places burn,
And still you make what purchases you please,
And still to dust and ashes you return.
But Hope could rise from ashes even now
Beginning with this sign upon your brow.

Lent

JOIN A SMALL GROUP



Lent groups will be offered across the parish during the Lenten period. Please do come along and join one as we journey together through this important time. Currently these are being offered as follows:

Thursday 7.00pm in Whitfield

contact Rev. Sean – 07710423432

Friday 1.30pm in Eythorne

contact Jenny Groombridge – 07861183733

If neither of these are convenient then contact Rev. Sean as other evenings / afternoons may be possible.

Lent Lunches



Thursdays during Lent - 12.30pm

@ Elvington Community Centre

Starting Thursday 6th March



Loving God,
loving our communities,
growing disciples

A simple meal of homemade soup, bread
and cheese and a chance to journey together
this Lent over a shared meal.

no charge, but donations welcome

Another opportunity to gather together during Lent, and to journey with others.

Starting Thursday 6th March, our Lent lunch will be offered at Elvington Community Centre from 12.30. A lunch of soup, bread and some cheeses will be on offer with an opportunity to share conversation and fellowship, and encourage one another.

Finally, during Holy Week there will be morning and evening prayer, and other services taking place, details will follow soon.

THE WONDER OF PRAYER

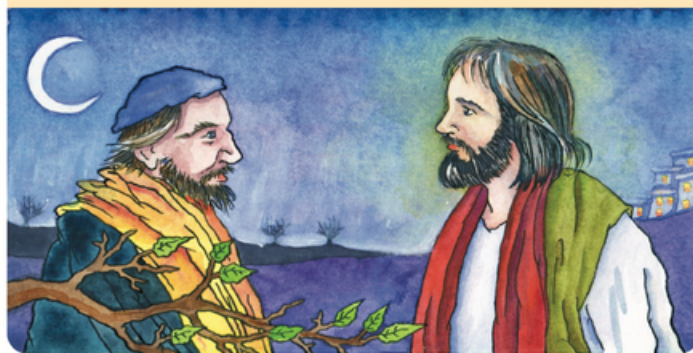
LENT – NOTICING GREEN SHOOTS



'Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.' (John 3:6 NLT)

God, Wellspring of Life -

- As we journey through Lent and the Coming of Spring, help us to notice signs of life in the wilderness places.
- As we draw near to you in worship, renew us for mission.
- As we encounter those who feel uprooted and displaced, show us how to be an oasis of refreshing.
- As the Church faces uncomfortable truths, root within us a determination to become a safer place for all.
- As our world rolls on the shifting sands of political change, bring us to faithful prayer.



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES  **CHANGING LIVES**

Jesus Christ, Saviour and Friend,

Meet with us in the night-time of our unknowing;

Sit with us in the desert of our refining;

Restore us through new birth in your Spirit,

**That your Church might become a seedbed of justice
and peace. Amen.**

Spend some time reflecting on the picture of Jesus and Nicodemus, and read the story in John 3:1-15. What new shoots might be emerging as we wrestle with tough questions?

To find out more about the Changing Lives Prayer network, visit canterburydiocese.org/prayer or email Lbywater@diocant.org

Image: 'Nicodemus & Jesus' by Primrose Northrop 2025

Sunday and Mid-Week Worship for March

2nd March Sunday next before Lent Green	St. Nicholas, Barfreestone	9.00am BCP Communion
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	10.30am Holy Communion
	St. Peter's, Whitfield	10.30 Whitfield Village Hall Let's Worship
	St. Martin's, Guston	6.00pm Communion
Wed 5th March ASH WEDNESDAY Purple	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	11.30am Communion for Ash Wednesday
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	7.00pm Communion for Ash Wednesday
9th March Lent 1 Purple	St. Pancras, Coldred	9.00am BCP Communion
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	10.30am Holy Communion
	St. Peter's, Whitfield	10.30am Holy Communion
Thur 13th March	SS Peter & Paul's, Eythorne & Elvington	11.30am Informal Communion
16th March Lent 2 Purple	St. Nicholas, Barfreestone	9.00am Morning Worship
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	10.30am Holy Communion
	Shepherdswell Village Hall	3.00pm Messy Church
	St. Peter's, Whitfield	10.30am Whitfield School Let's Worship
	St. Martin's, Guston	6.00pm Evensong
Thur 20th March	SS Peter & Paul's, Eythorne & Elvington	11.30am Informal Communion
23rd March Lent 3 Purple	St. Pancras, Coldred	9.00am BCP Communion
	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	10.30am Morning Worship
	St. Peter, Whitfield	10.30am Whitfield School Let's Worship
	SS Peter & Paul's, Eythorne & Elvington	10.30am Morning Worship
Thur 27th March	SS Peter & Paul's, Eythorne & Elvington	11.30am Informal Communion
30th March MOTHERING SUNDAY Purple	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	10.30am Let's Worship Communion



Celebrating 100 Years

Coldred Church Fete 2025

Each year on the last Friday evening in June, Coldred Church holds its annual fete on the village green.

This year on **Friday 27th June at 5.00pm** will be the 100th anniversary of this popular event and we hope it will be one of the most enjoyable yet.

We would very much welcome your help to make it a success.

If you feel able to offer your time to run a stall, to help in the tea tent, organise a new activity or help others with their activity please contact either Jonathan Bates on 07579 042061 or Sue Wadey on 07941 733303.

And whether you are able to help or not, please put the date in your diary now and make sure you come and support us!

To commemorate this centenary event, we are also producing a short booklet about life in Coldred over the last 100 years. If you have photographs, stories or anecdotes that you would like to share covering events in the village please contact Grahame Hood (grahamehood@btinternet.com) or Jonathan or Sue. Photographs of previous Fetes would be particularly interesting!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Jonathan Bates : jonathanguybates@gmail.com : tel: 07579 042061

Sue Wadey : newsole@tiscali.co.uk : tel: 07941 733303



MY GREATEST ADVENTURE

EXPLORE

LIFE
FAITH
MEANING



Explore Alpha

Starting FRIDAY

28th February 7.30pm

For more information or to register contact:

*Rev. Sean - 07710423432 or
rev.sean.sheffield@gmail.com*

What is Alpha?

The Alpha course is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the meaning of life and the basics of the Christian faith through and small group discussion.

For the
explorers,
open-minded,
still thinking,
curious.

Each week begins with some food with an opportunity to get to know one another, followed by a video and a chance to listen, discuss, and discover!



Why not come along and join the journey.

Contact Rev. Sean for more information or to register.

QUIZ TIME

FRIDAY APRIL 11TH 2025

Shepherdswell Village Hall

7-00pm for 7-30pm start

**To book a table of up to 8 persons
contact Jane Hartridge**

on

01304 824944

or

janemary52@btinternet.com

£6-00 pp (payable on the night)

Quizmaster Adrian Newell

Please bring your own 'nibbles', drinks and glasses

Raffle and Heads 'n' Tails

Raising funds for St. Andrews, Shepherdswell



Sunday Before Lent

Exodus 34 : 29 – 35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

2 Corinthians 3 : 12 – 4:2

Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy.

Psalm 99:1-3

Luke 9 : 28 – 43

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' Peter did not know what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And the disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God. Everyone was amazed at all that he was doing.

