

<p><b>Sunday 17th</b> <b>March 2024</b></p> <p><b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Passion Sunday</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>North Severnside</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The latest news from</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Mary's Olveston &amp; Littleton</b> <b>St. Helen's Alveston</b> <b>St John's Aust and Elberton</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONTACT</p> <p>David Moss (Vicar) Tel 01454 415190</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>07890 262334 Or Email the Vicar mossds@gmail.com www.revsrcural.com</p>
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## THIS WEEK'S BENEFICE SERVICES

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	4.30 pm	REFRESH	St Mary's, Olveston
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Helen's, Alveston
	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	St John's, Elberton
	10.00 am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's, Olveston
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Helen's, Alveston
	6.00 pm	Holy Communion with Choir	St Mary's, Olveston
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Mid-week Communion	St Mary's, Olveston

## COLLECT

Most merciful God,  
 who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
 delivered and saved the world:  
 grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
 we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**BIBLE READINGS** Hebrews 5.5-10 ; Jeremiah 31 31-34; John 12.20-33  
 John 12<sup>24</sup> *Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

## **Reflection for Passion Sunday – Janet McBride**

It's hard in these last two weeks of Lent to turn from our thoughts of abstinence and self-discipline and turn to thoughts of Jesus' suffering. That's what the church encourages us to do in this run-up to Good Friday. It's Passion Sunday. The word "passion" usually means strong emotion, and there was a lot of that in the Bible stories of Jesus in the last couple of weeks of his life. But Passion, in this context, comes from the Latin *passio* which means suffering. No-one likes to focus on that for long.

As Christians, though, we can have some relief by focussing beyond the suffering to the conclusion of the story on Easter Day. As Jesus tells his followers in the gospel reading for today, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Jesus knew the end of the story and tells his followers. Death is not the ultimate reality. Jesus' death had to happen so that the penalty of sin would be paid, so that with his stripes we are healed, by his death we are forgiven and have eternal life. The passion is only bearable because of Easter; when awful suffering is transformed into astonished joy.

## **CHURCHWARDEN'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

### **Lyn Carnaby – Littleton. Meet the Neighbours**

When I moved into the village fifty years ago, I was a 32year old stay at home mum with three children, six, five and nearly one. There was a recession at the time and it had taken thirteen months to sell our home in Devon, which we'd only managed to do by reducing and reducing our price until the mortgage for our new house looked problematic. My husband took our car to work which meant I couldn't go out. It was quiet after the bus took my two boys to school. In the hope of meeting someone I walked my daughter in her pram round the village and was nearly taken out by the milk tanker speeding through Field Lane. That stopped that pursuit. In an effort to solve my loneliness I took courage and decided to ask women my age to coffee. The first person I asked

said she would have to ask her husband. The second person said 'Well maybe sometime in September.' The third person said, 'I hear Lyn you have been asking people to coffee. People in Littleton have better things to do than have coffee.' I went home and cried my eyes out and resolved that as I had a profession, I would go back to it at the first opportunity.

What a difference to today. Costel, our new publican at The White Hart, invited people to a 'Meet the Neighbours' night that included Elberton. Over 50 neighbours turned up for a warm welcome, a free drink in exchange for ideas and generous helping of delicious snacks. Old and young, new villagers and old hands, raised the roof talking. It showed how much we all need friends and companionship.

We have a village email and everyone who wants to join can be in touch with what's going on, and there is lots going on. A village auction, a Vintage Fair, art club, walking club, book club, toddler art club and many more, something of interest across the spectrum.

I still fear the rejection I experienced all those years ago. It manifests itself in having difficulty entering a room, going to a 'do' on my own, but my faith and Christian friends hold me together to overcome it. Being new to a neighbourhood is difficult and old established villagers don't always know the best way to approach it. Church coffee mornings, pub invites, good old fashioned 'knocking on the door' and asking, may be the way to go. It isn't just the young who are isolated, many older people live alone. Being aware, generous hearted and willing to actively do something will help generate the thriving community we all want to live in and perhaps asking a new neighbour to come and have a coffee

## **EASTER SERVICES @ ST HELEN'S ALVESTON**

March 24<sup>th</sup> **Palm Sunday**

8am **Sunday Communion** 10.30am **Morning Prayer**

7pm **Palm Sunday Evening Concert**

March 28<sup>th</sup> 7pm **Maundy Thursday Fish & Chip Agape Supper.**

March 29<sup>th</sup> 10am **Good Friday Messy Church**

11am **Good Friday Stations of the Cross**

March 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm. **Easter Vigil & Renewal of Baptism Vows**

March 31<sup>st</sup> 10.30am **Easter Sunday Service**

**EASTER DAY IN THE VILLAGES** 9am Littleton & Elberton 10am Aust

## **EASTER SERVICES @ ST MARY'S OLVESTON**

March 24<sup>th</sup> 10am **Palm Sunday Service**

7pm **Palm Sunday Evening Concert @StHelen's**

March 28<sup>th</sup> 7pm **Maundy Thursday Agape Supper** led by David Bone.

March 29<sup>th</sup> 2pm **Good Friday Stations of the Cross**

March 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm. **Easter Vigil & Renewal of Baptism Vows @ St. Helen's**

March 31<sup>st</sup> 10am **Easter Sunday Service with Choir.**

## **FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm CONCERT IN AID OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS APPEAL (Christian Aid)** Please join us @ St. Helen's

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm BELL RINGING recruiting night @ St Helen's**  
The bells of the Benefice are too silent. Please if have rung or never rung bells join us for our first meeting of the "Benefice Bell Ringers"

**Saturday 13<sup>TH</sup> April 10-12 noon CLASSIC CAR BREAKFAST Meet-Up @ St. Helen's** Bring your car, park up and enjoy a bacon butty.

**PCC NOTICES** Dear PCC member please make the Mental Health Training Day @ St. Helen's a priority Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2-5pm  
email [claremstephens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:claremstephens@yahoo.co.uk) to book

**April Annual Parochial Church Meetings.** Littleton 15<sup>th</sup> 10am Village Hall, Elberton 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Parish Hall, Aust 23<sup>rd</sup> April 7.30pm Boar's Head, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April St. Helen's 11.30am and St. Mary's Olveston 7pm. APCMs.

### **Prayers**

Take a moment to thank God quietly for all his blessings in life, for your and well-being...

Bring to mind your family, neighbours and friends thank God for their love and companionship.

We continue

...to pray for your world with so much pain and distress between nations and your peoples. Give wisdom, insight, and selflessness to all those involved in negotiations for peace, ceasefires, and planning elections. We know that each one of us is precious to you and we thank you for your unconditional love. Give your love and strength to all those who are afraid, in pain, or hungry assuring them that they are not alone.

Hold in your loving hands all those who are ill and bereaved, giving them your love and strength.

'May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their hearts.'

May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

### **Special Prayers**

The Revd. Sue Pm sends her love to all please remember her in your prayers. Please pray for those who grieve remembering the families of Ted Addis, Margaret Hawkins (St. Helen's 21<sup>st</sup> 12.30pm) Stan Bradburn (St. Mary's 25<sup>th</sup> 1.15pm), Beryl Pitcher (St. Mary's Olveston 27<sup>th</sup> 2pm)