

# The Bewsborough Parish Post

A newsletter for the Churches in Barfrestone,  
Coldred, Eythorne & Elvington with Waldershare,  
Shepherdswell and Whitfield



Issue 46 | 30th January 2022



# Bewsborough Parish



## Covid arrangements from 27<sup>th</sup> January\*



Face masks are no longer mandatory, but please wear one if you feel more comfortable doing so.



Social distancing between pews and seating areas has now been removed. However in all of our Church buildings areas that offer social distancing will be available.

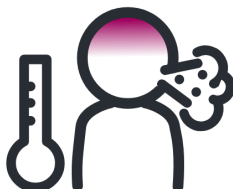


Singing is now allowed, and we will return to a full offering of hymns/songs in our services of worship.



Communion will now be distributed from the altar area or a specified area near the altar, depending on space in each of our Church buildings. Guidance will be offered locally at services.

**The common cup is still not being reinstated at this time.**



Please stay at home if you have Covid symptoms, have tested positive, or have been asked to isolate.

\* All arrangements are subject to change based on further guidance from the Government and the Church of England. Anyone wishing to take a more cautious approach to face masks or social distancing is welcome to do so, and those choices will be respected by everyone.

**This guidance will be reviewed again at the March 2022 PCC meeting and further steps taken as we feel able to.**

**Thank you for your co-operation in keeping everyone safe.**

# Weekly Reflection

## Bringing the Bible alive for others

I stumbled across some interesting statistics recently. They're a couple of years old now, but I think they make an interesting, and indeed perhaps worrying point.

In a survey 59% of school children in this country did not know that the story of Jonah and the Whale (or should I say the large fish) is from the Bible. Added to that, 29% of the same children didn't know that the nativity story was from the Bible either. But perhaps slightly more worrying was that 27% of those children's parents thought that the stories of Superman and Lord of the Rings were in the Bible.

And perhaps there is a reality that we need to face here, that those people who might honestly believe that Superman, or those characters from Lord of the Rings are in fact Bible characters aren't likely to set foot inside a church anytime soon, are they? And if we are really honest with ourselves, we don't have to look too hard to realise that they certainly haven't over the past few years either. There is of course another reality. The fact is, there's nobody better placed to encourage our friends, our families, our colleagues, our neighbours to pick up the Bible than us. Put simply, it's up to us, up to me and up to you. We need to meet these people where they are and we need to personalise the Bible for them and to them. We need to excite them about what the Bible can offer them, what Jesus can offer them. We need to offer those around us who have yet to encounter Jesus an opportunity to encounter him through the living word of scripture.

And I don't mean the big picture stuff, not to talk about 'the Christian view' of this and that. Or, those issues that are presented as burning platforms by our media, like sexuality or gender, for example, which seem to be constantly headline news. But to tell the people we know and love how the Bible speaks to us individually, how we struggle with it sometimes, how it can in the same chapter appear harsh and uncompromising and yet speak to us personally, of redemption and a love for us displayed by a God that I, you, we ....can't begin to explain. But we know deep in ourselves that it is true, it has authority, it speaks to us, our situation, it changes things, it changes lives. So, we have a responsibility. To excite our friends, colleagues, our families about a book that is not just a darn good yarn written quite some time ago in a land far, far away..... or even better than the odd film they might have stumbled across on Netflix, like Mary Magdalene or the Passion of the Christ.

The Bible is not just about information, but about transformation. Transformation of lives, of community. Through this people will meet Jesus. I've said it before to some of you, and I'll say it again, (and no doubt again, and again...) we might be the only Bibles that some people have access to, might have the chance to open, interrogate, we might be the only Bibles that stir the souls of others. As we have encountered Jesus through the words breathed into the Bible, we need to bring it alive for others.

**Reverend Sean Sheffield**

# Worship Services - February

<b>Wednesday February 2nd</b>			
19.30	St. Pancras, Coldred	Holy Communion for Candlemas	Rev. Sean Sheffield
<b>Sunday February 6th</b>			
9.00	St. Nicholas, Barfreston	Morning Worship	Jenny Groombridge
10.30	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	Holy Communion	Rev. Stewart Carolan-Evans
10.30	Whitfield Village Hall	Let's Celebrate! Family Worship	Derek Bilbrough Rev. Sean Sheffield
<b>Sunday February 13th</b>			
9.00	St. Pancras, Coldred	Holy Communion	Rev. Stewart Carolan-Evans
10.30	St. Andrew, Shepherdswell	Methodist Service	Rev. Catherine Wagstaff
10.30	St. Peter & St. Paul, Eythorne & Elvington	Morning Worship	Derek Bilbrough
<b>Sunday February 20th</b>			
9.00	St. Nicholas, Barfreston	Holy Communion	Rev. Sean Sheffield
10.30	St. Peter & St. Paul, Eythorne & Elvington	Morning Worship	Rev. Sean Sheffield
10.30	St. Peter, Whitfield	Holy Communion	Rev. Brian Duckworth
<b>Sunday February 27th</b>			
10.30	Church location to be confirmed	Parish Service	Rev. Canon Roger Morgan Rev. Sean Sheffield

**Zoom Sunday Morning Worship Livestream:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86183362900?  
pwd=SE9nSCtyaE5tbGticzZBVnA5Ty9oQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86183362900?pwd=SE9nSCtyaE5tbGticzZBVnA5Ty9oQT09)

**Meeting ID: 861 8336 2900 Passcode: 558371**



Calling all parents & carers of little ones, from babies to preschoolers, we'd love for you to join us at our stay and play sessions! Plenty for little ones to do and a great opportunity to meet other parents & carers. We promise a warm and friendly welcome, so come along and give us a try!

**ELVINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Tuesday mornings (Term-time)**

**10.00am–12.00pm**

**WHITFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

**Friday mornings (Term-time)**

**9.30am-11.30am**

We work on a donation basis and everyone is welcome, whether they can donate or not. For those who are able to contribute, the suggested donation is £2 per family per session.

For more information, find us on Facebook by searching for 'Let's Play Eythorne & Elvington' or 'Let's Play Whitfield', or contact Ruth Sheffield on 07736 243528.

**Coming soon**

## **PARISH AWAY DAY!**

**Saturday 26th February: 9.30am to 3pm, Wootton Village Hall**

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a Parish and gain some insight on the subject of prayer, with our inspirational guest leader for the day, Canon Roger Morgan. We hope to have as many people as possible at this event, so please do get in touch with Ruth to book your place, either by calling 07736 243528, or by emailing [parish.office@bewsboroughparish.org](mailto:parish.office@bewsboroughparish.org)

# **LENT LUNCHESES**

**Thursdays at 12.30pm during Lent  
Elvington Community Centre**



### **Starting Thursday 3rd March**

Lent Lunches continue a tradition that has been a practice in the Parish for some years.

A frugal lunch of soup, cheese, bread and butter, followed by tea/coffee, a short reflection and some good conversation with friends.

Offered on a donation basis (pay what you can, if you can) all proceeds will go to a local charity to help those in need.

It would be really helpful to get an idea of numbers in advance, so if you're likely to be joining us, please let Ruth know either by emailing [parish.office@bewsboroughparish.org](mailto:parish.office@bewsboroughparish.org) or by calling/texting 07736 243528.

### **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

Details will be shared very soon about our Lent Groups, starting week commencing 28th February. We're working on the days and times and will communicate these ASAP.



# DEEPENING Discipleship

*Everyday faith in the making!*

## Dover Deanery Course

An 8 session course to grow  
our capacity to follow Jesus  
in the everyday

*Deepening Discipleship* is a stand-alone course for anyone who wants to grow as a disciple of Jesus. For those discerning ministry it is a valuable way to consider how your gifts and skills can develop in God's service within your family, communities or church based ministries.

If you think *Deepening Discipleship* is for you, then we would like you to find a course accompanier before the course starts. The Course Accompanier is someone you will meet with at least twice during the course to reflect on its application to your discipleship journey. More information about the role of the course accompanier can be found on the *Deepening Discipleship* web page:

[www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/spirituality-discipleship/explore-discipleship/deepening-discipleship/](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/spirituality-discipleship/explore-discipleship/deepening-discipleship/)

### Deepening Discipleship Course - Dover Deanery

When: Wednesday evenings, 7.15pm-9.15pm  
9, 16, 23, 30 March, 20, 27 April, 4, 11 May

Where: Charlton Hall, St Alphege Rd, Dover, CT16 2PU

Led by: Nigel Collins and Margaret Bowers

To register please complete and return an application form by 25 February 2022. Applications available from Sarah Lucas ([slucas@diocant.org](mailto:slucas@diocant.org)) or download from [www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/spirituality-discipleship/explore-discipleship/deepening-discipleship/](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/spirituality-discipleship/explore-discipleship/deepening-discipleship/)



Diocese of Canterbury  
CHANGED LIVES • CHANGING LIVES

*Deepening Discipleship* invites us to explore the calling to follow Jesus. The course is modelled on the account of Jesus' own call in Mark's gospel. It focuses on the journey of discipleship and how an individual's unique calling fits within a Christian community's calling to live the Kingdom of God day by day. It develops some key, whole life discipleship practices as a basis for a life that continually seeks, and honours, God.

The course is itself a kind of journey. You will be asked to reflect on the person God has created you to be, and on the experiences that have shaped you. You will need to be honest about the present condition of your spiritual life; be open to new insights from Scripture and willing to make changes. You will need to give time to work on some of this between sessions. It's not about giving you more information, but formation—discovering together resources for ongoing spiritual growth.

### PART 1: GOING DEEPER

Christian identity is shaped by God's love for us, and it is because of this belovedness that we are able to connect with God and to discern God's voice. As we learn to hear God's voice we begin to recognise God's call on our lives, and the way this call is interwoven with our unique gifts. This journey with God is naturally uneven: as we face ourselves and encounter others we are tested. By learning to listen to God and to trust in our belovedness we can become mature and grow through testing times.

#### Session 1: Identity and Origins

Who am I? What makes me who I am? How do my origins influence my identity?

#### Session 2: Belovedness and Listening

Am I as beloved as Jesus was? How can I know that I am a child of God? How can I hear God's voice?

#### Session 3: Calling and Gifting

What is God calling me to do? ...to be? What gifts and skills do I have and how is God calling me to develop those gifts?

#### Session 4: Testing and Trusting

What testing or wilderness moments have I experienced? Where did they feature in the pattern of my journey? How have they helped me grow?

### PART 2: RESPONDING FROM THE DEEP

Having explored our identity, our belovedness and even our dark times, we ask how Jesus' call to discipleship is expressed through the way we live our lives. We reflect on how we follow Jesus day by day, and how the Good News is expressed, both in our daily lives and in our churches. We explore what Jesus means by the Kingdom of God, and we ask how and where the Kingdom of God is currently evident, or could be more evident, in our communities. We ask how we can encourage God's mission in our world. The course helps us to reflect on what we discover and to be open to transformative love in every part of our lives.

#### Session 5: Discipleship and Life

What skills and patterns of life can I develop to follow Jesus Christ more closely? How can I grow in likeness to Jesus? What is a Rhythm of Life and how might it shape more fully the way I live as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

#### Session 6: Good News and Us

Who or what is the Good News? What part do I play? How does my church, my community, demonstrate the Good News?

#### Session 7: Kingdom through Church

What does the Kingdom of God look like? Is it evident anywhere: around me, my church, my community? How do our churches actively seek first the Kingdom?

#### Session 8: God's Mission and our Discipleship

What is God doing amongst those whose lives and concerns I share? How can I join in? How will I express the journey of *Deepening Discipleship*?





# Let's Eat!

**Come and join us as we enjoy food,  
friendship and conversation over a  
home-cooked two course meal!**

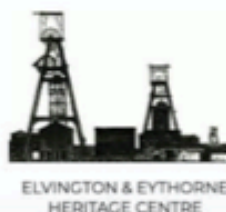
**Lunch is served at 12.30pm on  
the first Tuesday of every month at  
Elvington Community Centre**

**To book please call 07927481405  
(spaces are limited so don't delay!)**

**Everyone is welcome, so come along, and LET'S EAT!**

**We look forward to seeing you**

[when calling to book please let us know of any allergies or dietary requirements]





## From the Parish

### **Front Cover Photographs**

Many thanks indeed to Jan Griffin for this week's front cover photograph, taken in Shepherdswell. It would be wonderful to continue having photographs of scenes around the Parish for the front covers, so please do email any that you've taken that you'd be happy for me to use. The space requires a square photograph, so please can I ask you to edit any landscape or portrait photographs to your liking prior to sending these in. Alternatively, I'm very happy to edit these and send you a copy for approval prior to using if you'd prefer. *Ruth Sheffield*

### **News from Madagascar**

As many of you will know our friends in Madagascar have experienced a drought for a number of years leading to much difficulty and hardship. We have slowly been receiving news that the beginning of the cyclone season has brought torrential rain, landslides and serious flooding. So far we have heard 34 people have died, at least 7000 people are homeless, major roads are badly damaged and many schools are destroyed. Please keep them in your prayers. *Jan Griffin*

## Parish Information

### **Prayer Support**

No matter how big or small our worries are, God's help is just a prayer away. If you'd like someone to pray with you, or for you, please get in touch with Revd. Sean Sheffield on 07710 423432 or by email on [rev.sean.sheffield@bewsboroughparish.org](mailto:rev.sean.sheffield@bewsboroughparish.org) Please also get in touch if you know of others who are in need of prayer support.

### **Online Access**

You can find us on Facebook by searching for 'Bewsborough Parish' and our website can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.bewsboroughparish.org/>

### **BPP Content**

Please forward any content for the Bewsborough Parish Post to Ruth at the Parish Office email address: [parish.office@bewsboroughparish.org](mailto:parish.office@bewsboroughparish.org)