

Report on Services, Worship, Teaching and Mission (in lieu of Rector's Comments during interregnum)

Katharine Bacon (Lay Reader)

2018 – April 2019

The worship pattern has continued in the pattern that was agreed with Rector Bronwen Gamble at the end of 2017. However, one exception was the extra 10.30 am Holy Communion which was arranged for Tythby on Easter Sunday after a request from their home team.

We are very grateful that retired vicars Canon Revd Keith Turner, Revs. Clare and Fred Connell and Revd Christopher Wheaton are taking the Eucharistic Services in the Parish. We are also grateful that Morning Prayer and Evensong are often led by lay people such as Hilary Tabron, Edward Hine, Gordon White and Katharine Bacon. Canon Revd Keith Turner takes Songs of Praise services at Granby on the 5th Sundays in the month which also encourages a higher attendance. All these services are organised bimonthly by Hilary Tabron while simultaneously holding down the position of Churchwarden for St Giles and editing the Wiverton News and producing the weekly 'church notices.'

Ann Mansell is organising weddings with the help of Sue Macdonald. Katharine Bacon is organising funerals and baptisms. Again, we are very grateful to all the retired vicars and other clergy for conducting weddings and baptisms for us in interregnum and for stepping in to take a funeral when our Reader can't take one.

Because of everyone working as a team, services have been able to proceed as normal although the two 3pm services of Noisy Church at St Andrew's, Langar, have not continued because the number of children attending had declined to nought. Instead, St Andrew's regained a Morning Prayer at 10.30 on the 2nd Sunday of the month and, thanks to the vision of Vivien Hall, Ray Halpin, Ann Mansell and Hilary Tabron, a 10.30 Parish service called JOY! was launched from November on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at St Giles, Cropwell Bishop, which has been specifically aimed at young children and their families. This has had a constant attendance of about 10 children or more and achieved an attendance of about 30 adults and 15+ children and Bishop Paul and his wife at a 4pm service on Easter Sunday followed by a free tea. Gareth Parker has now joined the JOY! team.

The 'special' monthly services at St John's, Colston Bassett are showing an increase of a third in congregation size to about 43 with 56 attending on Mothering Sunday.

The special 2019 Easter services went very well. The Palm Sunday service went particularly well despite Sally, the donkey, dying and being replaced by Sally, the Shetland pony. The Easter special service of Maundy Thursday was well attended. The Good Friday pilgrimage was a bit down on numbers but the 2.15pm Langar service was exceptional and the Passion Narrative at Granby had a full cast of 9, thanks to Maureen Wright organising it, so equalled the previous year. Easter Sunday services were really well attended.

All the churches in the one parish have benefitted from congregation members from the other churches travelling to attend when their own home church was not having a service that day.

The Joint Churches Choir led by David Sibley has been attending Sung Evensong once a month and usually sung an anthem. This has been particularly well-received at Granby and Tythby. They have also appeared at special Parish services, for example, Maundy Thursday to great effect.

House groups are flourishing. Granby has shrunk a little but still met despite its host suffering from a dislocating hip, which has now been almost completely replaced! We have four groups to offer to any new Christians that come to us because of the Northern Bishops' mission.

Four people have been attending the New Life Discipleship Course in West Bridgford with a view to deepening faith.

Thriving projects that combine hospitality and service include connections with Langar School, JOY!, Souperbowl, Pop-Up Café, Coffee/Cake/ Chat , Colston Café (i.e. Big Breakfast) and Time for You.

We have to thank all the churchwardens, the representatives on the PCC, the organists, the cleaners of our churches, the flower arrangers and those who provide refreshments and all those on the 'home teams' who keep the churches running. A very big thank you.

Looking forward, I think we can build on what we're achieving with God's help and present a vibrant Parish to whoever is appointed as our new Rector.