

# Woburn Benefice Weekly News

Serving the parishes of Battlesden with Potsgrove, Eversholt, Milton Bryan, Woburn and our neighbouring communities

Week commencing 24th March 2024



## Update from Rachel



Let me begin with a huge thank you to everyone, in particular the churchwardens, treasurers, PCC secretaries and Benefice administrator, but also to so many of you from our church family, who have kept everything going so

smoothly across the Benefice while I have been off sick. I'm grateful too for the time and planning that people contributed to ensure the success of our special services and events, such as the Christmas Carol Concerts and recent St Albans Cathedral Choir Concert at Woburn. A big thank you to all involved. I won't start naming people as there are so many of you, and I don't want to leave anyone out!

I've also been very touched by the messages of love and support, cards and flowers that I've received, as well as your prayers for my healing and recovery, when I was first signed off and again, after the major eye surgery. I have missed you all and I am delighted to finally be back at work, albeit on reduced hours. So please bear with me as I catch up on things. There are also the preparations for Easter services and APCMs to complete, though again, thank you to all those who have done so much in my absence to make sure these all run smoothly. I have a simple cataract surgery scheduled for after Easter, then hope to be back to full hours mid-April. Then I can resume my full duties including home communion visits and school assemblies. Looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming services.

God bless, Rachel.

## News from Woburn PCC Volunteers needed!

There are lots of things going on at Woburn Church at the moment and the PCC are going to need your help with some of them.

We will be looking for a new **Church Warden** to step into George's very large shoes in April at the APCM. To see what the role entails please click here <https://www.woburnparishchurch.co.uk/2024/01/13/churchwardens-for-st-marys-woburn/>

If you would like to discuss the role above, please contact George [g.atkinsonclark@gmail.com](mailto:g.atkinsonclark@gmail.com) or Steve [s.apted@sky.com](mailto:s.apted@sky.com)

## Save the date!



On Saturday 16th November 2024 the Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting St Albans Diocese. We have been asked to host him in the afternoon.

The focus for Archbishop Justin's visit will be around prayer and this will launch our diocesan year of "Spirituality and Renewal for 2025".

The plan is to hold an event in St Albans Cathedral in the morning, and then repeat that event (with a few adjustments) in the afternoon at St Mary's. The 'event' will involve some input from Archbishop Justin and then some workshops etc, as well as the need to serve refreshments (tea, coffee, etc). A group is being formed at diocese level to plan the event and ensure there is a team in place to deliver this.

There are no more details at this stage. We have been promised physical help from the diocese to help run it but we will need to mobilise a team of volunteers.

More to follow, but you may want to keep that weekend free...

## Foodbank



St Mary's has had a long association with the Food Bank MK going back many years. Donations are needed now, perhaps more than ever. The need is there, and is continuing to grow, so please think about donating an item or two from your weekly shop. You can bring your donations to the service at St Mary's Church, Woburn for delivery on a regular basis.

Items most needed change from time to time, and you can always check this on the MK Foodbank website, but currently they are asking for: Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Long Life Milk, Juice or Squash, Cooking Oil, Spreads – Jams, Peanut Butter, or Chocolate Spread, Tinned Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Fruit, Dried Rice – 500g, Tinned Veg, Dried Pasta, Tinned Soups, Savoury Snacks/ Cereal Bars, Toiletries

The Benefice also has a new food donation box in the porch of St John's, Eversholt, where food can be dropped off at any time. Donations here will go to the Need Project, another food bank in Central Beds that we are keen to support.

## St Mary's APCM

St Mary's Woburn APCM this year will be on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 11.30 am, following the morning service. Please save the date.

## Woburn Benefice Connect Groups Monthly Dog Walk

A Huge Thank You to all the regulars and New Faces who joined us for our third Monthly Connect Groups Dog Walk last Saturday at the Marston Forest Centre. The weather was dry, the skies blue and a great time was had by all, including the dogs!



*(Walking in fellowship  
with our four-legged  
friends)*

Our next walk will be at Ampthill Great Park on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024. If you'd like to join us, even without a dog, please email below and we can add you to our new WhatsApp group too!

Email us: [christian.sawers@gmail.com](mailto:christian.sawers@gmail.com)  
*Christian & Paula Sawers (and Bailey)*

## Upcoming Services and Events

### Battlesden

14 Apr 9.00 am Holy Communion

### Eversholt

31 Mar 9.00am Holy Communion

7 Apr 9.00 am Holy Communion

### Milton Bryan

24 Mar 9.00 am Songs of Praise

### Woburn

24 Mar 10.30 am Formal Communion

28 Mar 7.30 pm Holy Communion

29 Mar 10.30 am Morning Worship

29 Mar 2.00 pm Hour at the Cross

31 Mar 10.30 am Holy Communion

4 Apr 10.00 am BCP Communion

7 Apr 10.30 am Informal Communion

7 Apr 11.30 am Woburn Church APCM

7 Apr 6.00 pm Choral Evensong

14 Apr 10.30 am Formal Communion

### Easter Sunday services

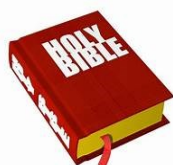
There is a slight change to our advertised services for Easter Sunday. There will now be two services taking place, 9.00 am at St John's, Eversholt, and 10.30 am at St Mary's, Woburn, rather than one United Benefice Service. Everybody from across the Benefice is welcome to join us at one of these two services, to celebrate the risen Christ!

## Preparation for Confirmation

We are delighted that six candidates (a number of whom have been part of the St Mary's youth work) are being prepared for confirmation by Rev Nigel Washington. We are really grateful to Nigel for stepping in to do this while Rachel was off work.

Four of the group are being confirmed this Easter Saturday - please do keep them in your prayers. The others will be confirmed at local churches in the near future.

## Readings for this Sunday



The readings for this Sunday are shown below if you would like to follow them even if you were not able to get to church—or you would like to re-read them if you did.

Readings:

John 12 v 12-16

Isaiah 50 v 4-9a

Contact: Benefice Office: (Part time hours)  
Rector: Rev'd Rachel Snow

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