

FEBRUARY and MARCH SERVICE ROTA

2 nd February Presentation of Christ	9 th February	16 th February	23 rd February (NG away)	1 st March 1 st Sunday of Lent
9.30am: Holy Communion, Stoke Rochford 11am: Holy Communion, Colsterworth	9.30am: Holy Communion, Great Ponton 11am: Holy Communion, Colsterworth 6pm: Evensong, Colsterworth	9.30am: Holy Communion, Skillington 11am: Holy Communion, Colsterworth	11am: Group Holy Communion, Little Ponton	9.30am: Holy Communion, Stoke Rochford 11am: Holy Communion, Colsterworth
8 th March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	15 th March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	22 nd March Mothering Sunday	29 th March 5 th Sunday of Lent	5 th April Palm Sunday
9.30am: Holy Communion, Great Ponton 11am: Holy Communion, Colsterworth 6pm: Deanery Evensong for Lent, Colsterworth	9.30am: Holy Communion, Little Ponton 11am: Holy Communion, Colsterworth 6pm: Songs of Praise, Stoke Rochford	9.30am: Holy Communion, Skillington 11am: All Age Morning Prayer for Mothering Sunday	11am: Group joint service with Colsterworth Methodist Church, at Colsterworth Methodist Church	9.30am: Holy Communion, Stoke Rochford 11am: Holy Communion, Colsterworth
Seasonal Services				
26 th February Ash Wednesday	9 th April Maundy Thursday	10 th April Good Friday	12 th April Easter Sunday	
6pm: Holy Communion and Ashing, Colsterworth	6pm: Holy Communion, Colsterworth, with foot washing	Good Friday meditations 2pm: Little Ponton 3.30pm: Stoke Rochford 5pm: Colsterworth	6.10am: Dawn Service of Light, Colsterworth, followed by breakfast 11am: Easter Day Holy Communion	
Holy Week Compline				
6th April 6pm	7th April 6pm	8th April 6pm		
Great Ponton	Skillington	Colsterworth		
Messy Church – 3.30pm, Colsterworth Methodist Church				
12th February		11th March		

Useful Contact Information:

Rev. Neil Griffiths - 01476 860630 email: neilgriffiths01@btinternet.com

Jo Castro (Group Administrator) – 01476 530839 email: jo@colsterworth5.org.uk

The Churchwardens: Colsterworth Simon Jowitt 07903 390151 Peter Smith 01476 860218

Stoke Rochford Neil McCorquodale 07836 707600 Jo Burroughs 01476 530359 Great Ponton Bryan Bargh 01476 530273 Skillington Graham Page 01476 330281 Little Ponton George McCorquodale 07876 653704, Gunby Irene Wearing 01476 861061 Stainby Dr. Fiona Beddoes Jones 07950 337099,

How to keep up to date with events and services:

<https://www.facebook.com/ColsterworthGroupofChurches>, www.colsterworth5.org.uk

QUINTET NEWS

Colsterworth, Skillington, Great Ponton, Stoke Rochford with Easton,
Little Ponton with Woodnook, Stainby and Gunby
FEBRUARY and MARCH 2020

Dear friends

By the time that you are reading this, hopefully changes in the time of the sunrise (about 7.30am at the beginning of February) will have become noticeable. For many people, the winter season with its lack of daylight and sunshine can seem unending. Winter celebrations, particular midwinter and solstice ones, might well have originally been a way of mitigating against these feelings.

The coming of spring can sometimes seem a long way off and even in this most scientific of ages it can seem like it might never arrive. So, for countless previous generations the arrival of spring might well have seemed like a miracle, an answer to prayers spoken at Midwinter.

I'd guess that most of us don't pray for the coming of spring anymore, but what I wonder do we pray for? I suspect that many of you do as I have seen the growing number of prayer ribbons on the railings outside the churches, in both Colsterworth and Great Ponton.

It wouldn't surprise me if many of you pray; for your children, for your families, for your friends and for your neighbours. Maybe you pray for your community or your country, maybe you pray for the world and places in need. Whatever it is, I am sure that God hears you!

I hope that collectively we might express our prayers together, and so this spring I will be establishing a Prayer Wall in church. It will be a large board hanging in Colsterworth Church, on which anyone can write or draw their prayer. Whatever you want God to know can be committed to prayer. There is nothing you can pray that God hasn't heard before, nothing God doesn't know already. If you feel happy tell God, if you feel sad tell God, if you feel angry tell God, if you feel alone tell God. Above all else share with God, and I pray you feel comfort as a result. If stepping into church feels like "a step too far" the ribbons will remain and please feel free to continue using them.

I very much look forward to seeing your prayers.

with love and prayers, Revd. Neil



STOKE ROCHFORD AND EASTON

Christmas Services

We were delighted to welcome so many people to our Christingle Service on 15th December and also to our Christmas Eve Carol Service.

The Christingle Service was put together by Julia Kerby and featured many talented children who entertained us with music, song and dancing. Our thanks go to Julia for all her hard work again this year.

We were very pleased to have the award winning Colsterworth School Choir singing this year and they performed a fitting finale to the evening.

We estimate the attendance was around 170 people many of whom stayed for refreshments after the service.

The Carols by Candlelight service was also well attended by people from all parishes in the Group and beyond and we estimate around 140 came to that service.

The Church Roof

The main part of the roof works have now been completed, and the North and South aisle roofs are now weatherproof. There only remain the ridge tiles to fix on the roofs over the chancel.

We have received some grant aid from Lincolnshire Old Churches, Marshalls Charity, The All Churches Charity and The Herbert Turner Charitable Trust. This has gone some way towards covering the cost and we are grateful to those charities for their support in our time of need.

However we have had to draw £6,000 from our reserves to pay the bills and that has left us in a difficult situation where we have very little money left in the account.

Many people have been very generous already but if you are able to help further it would be greatly appreciated.

At least we now have a Church that is dry and has a new roof.

The Future

As we move into a new decade we are hoping that more people will come to our Church. It is there for everyone of all ages to use and feel part of.

We have a very committed PCC who work so hard to maintain the fabric of your church and ensure it is accessible to everyone.

During his first year in office Rev Neil Griffiths has breathed new life into the Group and we fully support what he is doing to encourage and support our Group.

So we look forward to welcoming you to Stoke Rochford any time you wish.

SKILLINGTON NEWS

The Christmas Fayre on 7th December was a great success, raising over £700. Very many thanks to everyone who helped, made cakes or wreaths, or who donated products for hampers, books, raffle prizes and much else. The occasion also saw the first ever 100 Club Draw. The number of members had passed fifty which meant that the first prize was £250 and that there were five prizes in all. Everybody cheered when Maurice and Joan Vinter won the first prize.

There will be two further 100 Club draws in this first year and more members are welcome. Please contact Graham Page for details.

The church was nicely decorated for the Christmas services. Thanks to Buckminster Estate for their regular gift of a Christmas tree, and to those who erected it and put up the decorations - and took them down afterwards!

Volunteers are still needed for a flower rota and church cleaning, as well as for fund raising and practical help. Please contact Graham Page if you are interested or can help.

Dates for the diary:

Church Open Day: Saturday 25th July 2020.

Harvest Service and Supper: Sunday 11th October 2020.

COLSTERWORTH NEWS

As we enter the new decade, we should not just pause and take stock of recent events, but also reflect with optimism on the advances we are making into the third millennium.

Firstly, the season of Advent. The Christmas Bazaar in church. The Christmas tree festival, with over twenty trees supplied by local organisations and businesses and opened with a cheese and wine party. Special thanks to Chris Baldock and her assistants for the catering, and of course to all the stall holders who contributed to the success of the Bazaar. These were great community events. The well attended Christmas services also benefitted greatly with the backdrop of the trees and the new initiative of a 'reverse' Advent calendar raised a substantial quantity of Christmas fare that was donated to the local food bank. The trees also provided great seasonal decoration for our first wedding of 2020 with Stephen and Denice taking their vows on the 3rd January. We wish them well for a long and happy marriage.

Back to the future and the 21st century; The Newton Project continues to develop. It is being designed to bring 21st century facilities to our 1000 year old church building whilst respecting the unique reflection of the history of our

BOOK CLUB

Meets on the third Monday of every month at 8pm in the White Lion. Contact Anne Prothero 01476 860952

Colsterworth Methodist Church

CRAFT & CHAT - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 3.30pm. Everyone welcome.

OPEN DOOR LUNCH - 11am — 1pm on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. Call in for coffee, light lunch and friendship. Everyone welcome.

BROWNIES - Monday (Term-time), Colsterworth Village Hall. 5.30 - 7.00pm

BEAVERS - Thursday (Term-time) Colsterworth Village Hall 5.30 - 6.30pm for girls and boys aged 6-8. Please contact Dawn Prentice 01476 860208

CUBS - Thursday (Term-time) Colsterworth Village Hall 6.30 - 8.00pm for girls and boys aged 8-10. Please contact Dawn Prentice 860208

community, including the influence of our most notable parishioner, Sir Isaac Newton.

Finally, thank you to all you otherwise unsung heroes who have helped in various ways to keep St John the Baptist church open and up and running. Donors, flower arrangers, cleaners, gardeners, bell ringers, organists, fete organisers, poppy knitters to name but a few. Thank you all.

GREAT PONTON NEWS

Our Carol Service held on 20th December 2019 was well supported and enjoyed and a special thank you to those who undertook readings; they did this very well and were very clear – thank you.

Our thanks go to those who support our church and we wish you all a very happy 2020.

LITTLE PONTON NEWS

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas Tree service. We were delighted with the turn out and hope you all enjoyed yourselves. Thank you to the members of the PCC who provided refreshments. The star attraction was undoubtedly the homemade sausage roll. If you missed out on this feast, you had better come to our next function, you will not be disappointed!

Little Ponton PCC would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and we hope to see you at some point this year.

Date for your diary:

Snowdrop Opening - Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th February at Little Ponton Hall. 11am to 4pm. All visitors welcome. All money made from refreshments will go to the church. We hope to see you there.

GREAT PONTON'S ACTIVITIES:

NEW AGE KURLING - Friday 10.00am – 12.00 noon in Great Ponton Village Centre £1.50 includes raffle Contact Harry Watson on 530528

GREAT PONTON QUIZ NIGHT the last Friday of the month in Great Ponton Village Centre.