

Benefice of Heyford with Stowe-Nine-Churches
and Flore with Brockhall

Our Mission Statement

SERVICES SCHEDULE AND NEWSLETTER November 2024



Rector: Revd Stephen P Burrow 01327 344436

Sunday 3rd November – Trinity 23

10.00am	Holy Communion	Church Stowe
11:00am	United First Sunday Service	Flore Church
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Heyford Church

Sunday 10th November – Remembrance Sunday

10:15am	Remembrance Sunday Service	Heyford Church
10:50am	Act of Remembrance at Heyford War Memorial	
10:55am	Act of Remembrance at Stowe War Memorial	Church Stowe
2:15pm	Act of Remembrance at Flore War Memorial followed by Remembrance Sunday Service at the Millennium Hall	Flore

Sunday 17th November – Second Sunday before Advent

10:00am	Holy Communion	Heyford Church
10:00am	Partnership Service	Flore Chapel
6:00pm	Holy Communion	Upper Stowe

Sunday 24th November – Sunday next before Advent

10.00am	United Holy Communion and Gift Service	Flore Church
10:00am	Family Service and Gift Service	Upper Stowe
4:00pm	Café Church and Gift Service	Nether Heyford

Thursdays

10.00am	Holy Communion	Flore Church
2.30pm - 3.30pm	Church open for private prayer	Flore Church

Fridays

9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom All Welcome	
	Contact the Rector by email: s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk to get an invitation that will enable you to connect.	

Praying for our Villages

During November we shall be praying for people living in Church Street and Manor Walk in Heyford, Kings Lane and The Orchard in Flore, Main Street in Upper Stowe and the Hall Apartments in Brockhall.

-o0o-

EXPLORE

The **Peterborough Diocese Annual Vocations Day**, 'Explore', takes place on Saturday 30th November 2024 at All Saints' School, Kingsthorpe. Please see the Rector for more details.

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

Last month, at our Benefice Service, we marked Safeguarding Sunday, looking at safeguarding through the Biblical narrative, and in particular, the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan Woman at the well in Sychar (John 3:1-40). In his Grove Booklet, 'Safeguarding as Mission', Justin Humphries, Chief Executive of Thirtyone:eight, draws four key learnings for us in our approach to safeguarding.

John tells us that Jesus had to go through Samaria. Most Jews, travelling from Jerusalem to Galilee would have taken the longer route and gone around Samaria. But Jesus chose to take the more perilous route to meet someone who would not have been considered worth meeting by others. So, the first thing we note is that *Jesus went out of his way to be with those whom others chose not to, regardless of the potential consequences for himself.*

Although the passage doesn't say as much, the woman was likely in a vulnerable situation. After all, she was likely at the well at Noon, drawing water in the heat of the day, because she had been shunned by other women in the town. In the face of her vulnerability, Jesus chose to build relationship, to show value, one person to another. So, our second learning point: *Jesus valued people and was prepared to go against accepted conventions to show genuine concern and compassion for others, especially where they were disadvantaged or vulnerable.*

The picture that we have of Jesus speaking with the woman at the well shows us clearly that he knew the power of spending time with others to listen, to understand, to build trust and connect with them. This powerful connection between empathy and compassion is at the heart of safeguarding. Empathy helps us to see, feel and understand, while compassion is what ignites these and transforms them into action in meeting the needs of others. The third thing we learn, then: *Jesus demonstrated empathy and compassion and turned his encounter into an empowering experience. He showed no prejudice or judgment but offered kindness and love.*

Nobody who ever walked this earth had more power than Jesus. Yet he was able to hold it in a way that always pointed towards God the Father; always valuing others, always speaking truth, always empowering and never corrupting. Jesus himself knew the consequences of misusing power. This is what makes this interaction at the well so remarkable. He restores value, confidence, self-worth, purpose and dignity through this deep connection, person to person. So, the last learning we take from this story is that *Jesus does not use his power thoughtlessly. He restores dignity and avoids a misuse of his power when speaking with others.*

I pray that by approaching this subject through the Bible narrative, we will all be able to see safeguarding as a fundamental part of the character of God, and hence a fundamental part of our church communities. And I pray that all of us will feel empowered to play our part in ensuring our churches are safe places for all people.

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd Stephen

-o0o-

At the end of November, we have a series of **Gift Services** in aid of **Restore Northampton**, the compassion ministry of the Vineyard Church, desiring to see lives transformed in and around Northampton. The charity would particularly like gifts of board reading books for small children, cuddly toys, colouring books and colouring pencils, and Christmas selection boxes. These and similar gifts can be brought to one of the three parish gift services on Sunday 24th November. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



-o0o-



Call for Experienced Singers for the Daventry Deanery Advent Carol Service at Braunston Church at 6:00PM on Sunday 1st December 2024. For more information, please contact Rev'd Kathryn Evans: 01788 726912 or revkathryn@outlook.com