

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

Our Mission Statement

## SERVICES SCHEDULE AND NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024



Rector: Revd Stephen Burrow 01327 344436

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday before Lent

8:00am	BCP Communion Service	Flore Church
10:00am	Holy Communion	Church Stowe
11:00am	United First Sunday Service	Flore Church
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Heyford Church

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February

2:00pm	Messy Church – Lent - in the Church Rooms	Heyford Church
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### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday next before Lent

10:00am	Benefice Holy Communion Service	Church Stowe
10:00am	Morning Worship	Flore Chapel

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday

7:30pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	Heyford Church
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### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Lent 1

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

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Lent 2

10:00am	Holy Communion	Brockhall Church
10:00am	Family Service	Upper Stowe
10:00am	Morning Worship	Flore Chapel
4:00pm	Café Church	Heyford Church

### Wednesdays

9.30am	Morning Prayer via “Why Pay” telephone conference system (Not 21 <sup>st</sup> ) Contact the Rector or churchwardens for numbers to use.	
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### Thursdays

10.00am	Holy Communion (Not 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> or 22 <sup>nd</sup> )	Flore Church
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### Fridays

9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom	All Welcome
	Contact the Rector by <a href="mailto:s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk">email: s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk</a> to get an invitation that will enable you to connect.	

## LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends.

This month, we seem to rush headlong towards an early Easter at the end of March. The glory of Christmas and Epiphany quickly give way to the penitence, preparation, and solemnity of Lent. At the same time, in the natural world, we move from the cold and dark of Winter towards the new light and life of Spring. Already, in the Rectory Garden, shoots are beginning to appear, peeping through the frost-hardened earth. Bright yellow aconites and tiny clumps of snowdrops are also blossoming, heralding the longer days and warmer weather of Spring.

These words from a prayer/poem by Jan Sutch Pickard seem to reflect our twofold journey through the seasons of both Church and nature, whilst challenging us to live more Christ-like lives:

God of creation, you greet us every new day,  
and, as the days lengthen, we see green shoots of spring;  
snowdrops, faithful in their presence year by year;  
lengthening days and sunlit moments,  
all these speak to us of your love.  
We praise you for these signs of your life-giving Spirit  
and for Jesus, who embodied that love,  
who came to share our human lives,  
calling men and women to follow him,  
and to be salt and light in their communities;  
Jesus who listened and shared meals, taught and healed,  
who walked country paths and city streets in the land we call Holy;  
who kept the faith and challenged apathy and abuse of power;  
who was rejected and reviled, tortured and nailed to a cross.  
Who died.  
And rose again, like the sun in the morning,  
so all the world can see that your love is stronger than death.  
We praise you now in the power of the Spirit,  
enlivening, encouraging – and present with us now. Amen

*(From 'Spring' by Jan Burgess)*

With every blessing,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)

### **Lent Course 2024 – Beyond Consumerism – Feasting and Fasting**

Our Lent course for this year will begin on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Subsequently, we'll get together on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We'll meet at The Rectory, Church Lane, Nether Heyford for breakfast at 8:30AM, before tackling the material about 9:00AM-ish. The material we'll be using will take about an hour, and has been prepared by the Arthur Rank Centre, who are great supporters of rural ministry. Using this resource 'we will be asking questions like: How can Christians make their diet sustainable and ethical? What do we learn from Jesus' teaching about food? How does our grocery basket help, or harm, God's creation?' There will be plenty of 'food for thought'! If you'd like to come along, please let the Rector know.

### **Praying for our Villages**

During February we shall be praying for people living in Hillside Rd and Hillside Crescent in Heyford, Sutton St, Yew Tree Gardens and Sutton Acre in Flore, The Manor in Church Stowe and the Gate House and the Old Dairy in Brockhall.