

Benefice News

The South Dales Benefice

MARCH 2024

A Good Clear Out

During our family time in the forces we moved house a total of thirteen times in 38 years. One of the upsides of this was it provided an opportunity on a regular basis to sort out what you needed, or really wanted to take with you before the removal men arrived. Clothes that no longer fitted our ever growing three sons, hand me downs only last so long, and lets just call it stuff that you just naturally accumulate and even stuff that you are not quite sure of its origin (*stuff – things of an indeterminate kind*). One Christmas in Plymouth we celebrated with all its trappings, tree, decorations and presents, and when the boys went to bed we packed it all up and moved out boxing day and all went to Portsmouth.

At one point we had a married quarter as well as our house in Uttoxeter, a fantastic opportunity for collecting loads of stuff. When me and the wife finally settled in the one house in Uttoxeter, the boys having long since flown the nest, we had two loads of stuff that we had not sorted out and it all was squeezed into one house.

We have been in one residence now for 16 years and never really had a clear out, to be honest we have just collected more stuff. A lot of it is the basics that you cannot do without

that we seem to have in abundance, or in all honesty in excess. Bundles of towels, Bedding, Cutlery (Who needs 18 knives), Crafting Supply's. And I have a garage full of who knows what, however when someone asks if I have an X, I know if I have and exactly where it is buried amongst the stuff.

Now we are deep into Lent it is a perfect time to have a good clear out and remove all the Stuff we do not need and find a new home for it. Whether it be to someone we know or the very many organisations that are requesting items to help others either as direct gifts or sell to raise funds for a worthy cause. And it is not hard to recycle your stuff, most organisations even give you a bag to put outside your door and they pick it up.

Over time our minds also collect stuff that we store away and our heads are filled with all sorts of thoughts and images that impinge on our daily lives. Perhaps like me you have images or events that have affected you in the past, and they just pop into your thoughts at the oddest of times. And it is difficult to remove them from our minds completely. Maybe we can use Lent as a time when we can look at these things. We cannot change the past and a lot of things that spin around our heads just make us worry.

Maybe you worry about all the conflicts going on in the world, or even the violence that goes on our streets when young lives are lost or changed forever.

We cannot as individuals do anything about the conflicts in the world, the changing economic situation or even the increasing hospital waiting lists, lack of NHS dentists.

How-ever what we can do is love our neighbours as Jesus commanded us to. If you find it difficult, to love certain people as I do, then the least we can do is be kind to them and most of all be respectful. Amen.

Alan Smith

Our virtual services can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/South-Dales-Benefice-102041281452944>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13426/>

Our YouTube Livestreaming Channel

https://youtube.com/channel/UCqcfsG84wZzSJCXzfr2q_ygh

The Lectionary in March

Third Sunday of Lent , 3rd March 2024

Special Readings for the day

Fourth Sunday of Lent/ Morthing, 10th March 2024

Exodus 2:1-10; Colossians 3:12-17; John 19:25-27

Fifth Sunday of Lent/Passion 17th March 2024

Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Palm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5: 5-10; John 12:20-33

Sixth Sunday of Lent/Palm 24th March 2024

Special Readings for the day

Easter Day 31st March 2024

Acts 10: 34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

MARCH 2024

SERVICES IN **BOLD** ARE BENEFICE SERVICES

**Sunday 3rd, 10.30am, UNITED BENEFICE EUCHARIST @
SOMERSAL HERBERT (L)**
Lent 3

Thursday 7th, COME TO THE QUIET @ SOMERSAL HERBERT (L)

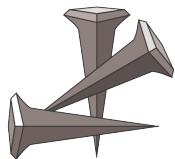
Sunday 10th
Lent 4
9.30am, MOTHERING SUNDAY @ ALKMONTON
11am, MOTHERING SUNDAY @ CUBLEY
11am, MOTHERING SUNDAY @ DOVERIDGE
11am, MOTHERING SUNDAY @ MARSTON
11am, MOTHERING SUNDAY @ SCROPTON
9.30am, MOTHERING SUNDAY @ SOMERSAL
11am, MOTHERING SUNDAY @ SUDBURY

Saturday 16th
9.30am, VILLAGE PRAISE @ ALKMONTON

Sunday 17th
Lent 5/Passion 1
11am, EUCHARIST @ CUBLEY
11am, EUCHARIST @ DOVERIDGE
11am, EUCHARIST @ MARSTON
11am, MORNING PRAYER @ SUDBURY

Thursday 21st
10am, VIRTUAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS @
SOMERSAL FOLLOWED BY
REFRESHMENTS (L)

Sunday 24th
Palm Sunday/Passion 2
**10.30am, UNITED BENEFICE EUCHARIST &
READING OF THE PASSION GOSPEL @
CUBLEY**



Holy Week

Monday 25th	6pm, EVENING PRAYER @ HOMILY @ SOMERSAL HERBERT (L)
Tuesday 26th	6pm, EVENING PRAYER @ HOMILY@ SOMERSAL HERBERT
Wednesday 27th	6pm, EVENING PRAYER @ HOMILY @ SOMERSAL HERBERT (L)
Thursday 28th	7.30am, EUCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER & TENEBRAE @ CUBLEY
Friday 29th	10am, HOT CROSS BUN SERVICE @ DOVERIDGE 2pm, GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ MARSTON 2pm, GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ SOMERSAL HERBERT (L) 6pm, HYMNS & READINGS @ SUDBURY
Saturday 30th	4pm, EASTER FAMILY WORSHIP @ MARSTON MONTGOMERY 4pm, EASTER FAMILY WORSHIP @ SCROPTON
Sunday 31st <i>EASTER DAY</i>	9.30am, EASTER EUCHARIST @ ALKMONTON 11am, EASTER EUCHARIST @ CUBLEY 11am, EASTER EUCHARIST @ DOVERIDGE 6am, THE GREAT VIGIL @ SOMERSAL HERBERT (NB. This service is online only) 11am, EASTER EUCHARIST @ SUDBURY

APRIL 2024

SERVICES IN **BOLD** ARE BENEFICE SERVICES

Thursday 4th **7.30pm, COME TO THE QUIET @ SOMERSAL**

Sunday 7th **10.30am, UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE**
Divine Mercy **@ SCROPTON**

Sunday 14th 9.30am, EUCHARIST @ ALKMONTON
Easter 3 11am, FAMILY SERVICE @ CUBLEY
 11am, EUCHARIST @ DOVERIDGE
 11am, MORNING PRAYER @ MARSTON
 9.30am, MORNING PRAYER @ SCROPTON
 6pm, DIVINE MERCY SERVICE @
 SOMERSAL HERBERT
 11am, FAMILY SERVICE @ SUDBURY

Thursday 18th **10am, THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY @**
 SOMERSAL HERBERT

Saturday 20th 6pm, VILLAGE PRAISE @ ALKMONTON

Sunday 21st 11am, EUCHARIST @ CUBLEY
Easter 4 11am, FAMILY SERVICE @ DOVERIDGE
 11am, EUCHARIST @ MARSTON
 11am, MORNING PRAYER @ SUDBURY

Sunday 28th 9.30am, FAMILY SERVICE @ ALKMONTON
Easter 5 6pm, EVENING PRAYER @ CUBLEY
 11am, MORNING PRAYER @ DOVERIDGE
 11am, FAMILY SERVICE @ MARSTON
 9.30am, EUCHARIST @ SCROPTON
 9.30am, EUCHARIST @ SOMERSAL HERBERT

Prayer for March - the month of growth

Heavenly Father, as we enter the month of March, we march forward with prayerful hearts. May this month be a time of divine connection, growth, and purpose. Guide us through the days ahead and grant us the wisdom to navigate the journey with grace.
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (1 Corinthians 5: 17)

Communications

Requests for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or Interment of Ashes to:

The Rector Revd Dr John Vickerstaff

Email: drjohn.vickerstaff@gmail.com

Mobile: 07565 825250

INPUT FOR:

Benefice News, A Church Near You, & Benefice

Facebook Page: drjohn.vickerstaff@gmail.com or
thesouthdalesparishes@gmail.com

Doveridge Parish Magazine:

Jane Sedrak: janeshouksmith@hotmail.com

(articles in .doc, .jpg and .pdf formats)

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