



**EXPLORING
SPIRITUALITY
PROGRAMME
2019**

Introduction from the Rev'd Ness Whiffin, Team Vicar

In this Booklet you will find a variety of events, together with details of Sunday Services and Prayer through the week across the Benefice.

Throughout the entire history of Christianity, we witness the faithful who have gone before us as pilgrims on a spiritual journey.

In that same manner we too are pilgrims, constantly searching to deepen our faith.

I invite you to join in the journey.

To get the most benefit out of the time spent together in groups, some background reading will help; other events don't require this and you're welcome to just come along and participate as you wish.

It's always the case though that the more we invest in a group, the more we get out of it - and we're able to help others on their faith journey.

If you're planning on attending a group please contact the relevant person leading as detailed in the Booklet, so we know to expect you. Should financial concern inhibit your attending any of the courses where a book needs to be purchased, please let me know; assistance is available.

Feedback is always welcomed so please tell us about your experiences of attending an event.

Thank you to all who are helping lead sessions during 2019.

Without their expertise and enthusiasm, usually offered voluntarily, very little of this would be possible.

CONTENTS

| | Page no. |
|---|----------|
| Prayer during the week | 5 |
| Midweek Eucharist | 6 |
| Mental Health and Spirituality | 7 |
| Prayer Breakfast | 7 |
| Prayer Shawls | 8 |
| Quite Days | 8 |
| Lent courses on 'Broken', Colossians and 'The Greatest Showman' | 9 - 10 |
| Annual Retreat | 11 |
| Joy: the sign and seal of the Holy Spirit | 11 |
| Bereavement group | 12 |
| Table talk | 12 |
| Intercessor training | 13 |
| Live reading of a book of the Bible | 13 |
| Bible in a year challenge | 14 |
| Confirmation | 15 |
| Film nights | 16 |
| Children's Groups | 17 – 19 |
| Men's Group | 20 |
| Women's Group | 20 |
| Prayer and my Personality | 21 |
| What is prayer? | 21 |
| Dementia awareness | 22 |
| Godly play | 22 |
| Advent | 23 |
| Litany for the Holy Land | 24 |
| Music as worship and prayer | 24 |

| | |
|--|----|
| PDP: Personal discipleship plan | 25 |
| Mercy and Kindness: Explore your calling | 26 |
| Minor prophets | 26 |
| Seniors' lunches | 27 |
| Vocations and discernment | 27 |

Prayer during the Week

The Daily Office in St Mary the Virgin Witney

Every morning at 9 am (except Sundays)
Every evening at 5.30 pm



Silent Prayer

A short reading followed by silent meditation.
All welcome; refreshments served afterwards

When: Wednesdays 4.30 – 5 pm

Where: Winchester Room

Contact: Esther Partridge 01993 864926

Midweek Eucharist



Tuesday

11.00 am Holy Trinity Woodgreen

Wednesday

10 am St Kenelm's Minster Lovell
(first Wednesday of the month only)

11 am St Mary the Virgin
(weekly)

Thursday

10 am on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in
Middletown Grange Care Home Hailey
alternating with the 2nd & 4th Thursdays in
St John's Hailey

1st Saturday of the month

10 am in St Mary the Virgin

*Refreshments are usually served
following each Midweek Eucharist*

Mental Health and Spirituality with Dr Andrew Clark

This will be an opportunity to explore some of ways in which suffering, and in particular psychological suffering, can be viewed and worked with within the context of our spiritual journeys.

Andrew Clark worked for 30 years as a psychiatrist and psychotherapist in the NHS and retired in 2017.

Since then he has trained as a Spiritual Director and has led training events for clergy on Mental Health.

When: Saturday 9th March 2019, 10.30 – 12.30

Where: Winchester Room

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin

Prayer Breakfast

This takes place on an intermittent basis, usually Wednesday mornings, 8 – 8.45 am.

Please add your contact details to the Prayer Breakfast list in St Mary the Virgin and we will let you know the date, time and venue of the next gathering.

Prayer Shawls

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Group meets on the first Thursday afternoon of each month. The knitters pray at the beginning and end of each meeting. Completed shawls are blessed and then given to those in need of comfort or support.

Where: 7 Grangers Place

Contact: Georgina Evans if you would like to join this group on 01993 706942



CTiW Quiet days (Churches Together in Witney)

Rev'd Joy Hance leads three Quiet Days a year usually during Advent, Lent and on Ascension Day.

Where: The Congregational Church.

Please refer to the CTiW website via 'Witney Churches Together' or look out for the individual posters on Church Notice Boards.



Three courses for Lent

'From Now On: Hope and Redemption in The Greatest Showman' by Rachel Mann

When: Thursdays at 7.30 pm:
28th Feb, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March & 4th April

Where: TBC

Contact: Rev'd Ross Meikle
ross@witneyparish.org.uk

Bishop Steven's course on Colossians

When: Thursdays at 4pm:
28th Feb, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March & 4th April

Where: Winchester Room

Contact: Rev'd Toby Wright

Watch, Reflect, Discuss

The 6-part series 'Broken' presents vignettes of life in a parish in northern England. Compelling actor Sean Bean plays the part of Fr Michael; we witness the challenges of his public ministry and the traumas of his private life. Together with watching the series we are using Paula Gooder's resource for discussion and reflection.

Not suitable for children: rated as 15

When: Tuesdays 2.30 – 4.30 pm:
26th Feb, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March & 1st April

Where: 16 Moorland Road

Contact: Rev'd Joy Hance joy@witneyparish.org.uk

This course will be limited to 10 attendees

Lent book

Songs of the Spirit by Megan Daffern (Pub. SPCK)

Recommended reading

for any who are unable to get to a group.



Benefice Retreat

There will be a Benefice Retreat 20th – 22nd November.
This offers a wonderful opportunity for several days
away from our usual routines,
in a local Convent to devote time to
contemplation, prayer, reading, discussions,
relaxation and silence.

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin

Joy: the sign and seal of the Holy Spirit

When: Monday 24th June, 7.00pm

Where: St Kenelm's Minster Lovell

Contact: Rev'd Toby Wright



Bereavement group

A group for those who have lost a child,
meeting twice a year for food and fellowship.

When: Tuesdays at 7.30pm, May 7th & Monday October 21st

Where: Partridge House, 25 Clare Place

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin

Workshop: Table talk

This nationally recognised initiative helps people to talk
about issues which we often avoid.

When: Tuesday 22nd January 8 pm

Where: Upstairs in the Como Lounge High Street

Contact: Rev'd Tim Partridge
on 01993 864926

Intercessors' Training

Would you like to feel more confident in writing Intercessions for our Sunday Services? Come and join members of the Ministry Team for an evening of training and inspiration.

This is for anyone new to Intercessions, as well as a refresher for the more experienced.

When: January 31st 7.30 – 9 pm

Where: St John's Hailey

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin & Rev'd Joanna Collicutt

Live reading of a book of the Bible

Come and hear one of the (shorter) books of the Bible and discover the impact of hearing it in its entirety.

When: June 4th at 6.30 pm

Where: St Kenelm's Minster Lovell

Contact: Rev'd Ross Meikle
ross@witneyparish.org.uk

Bible in a Year

This group started in September 2018 and is continuing until the end of August 2019. We are using the 'NIV Bible in one Year' (Ed. Hodder & Stoughton). Why not join us part way through?

We meet once a month for tea, cake and discussion followed by Lectio Divina.

When: Usually the first Monday of the month
4.15 pm – 5.15 pm

Where: Winchester Room

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin



Confirmation Course

This course is open to anyone wanting to explore their
Baptism promises but is
essential for anyone who is wishing to be confirmed.

When: Tuesday 3-4 pm June 11th, 18th, 25th, July 2nd, 9th 16th

Where: Partridge House, 25 Clare Place

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin



**The 2019 Deanery Confirmation Service is on
Sunday 8th September at 10.45 at St. Mary the Virgin with
Bishop Colin presiding. This Service marks the close of our
775 celebrations.**

Film nights

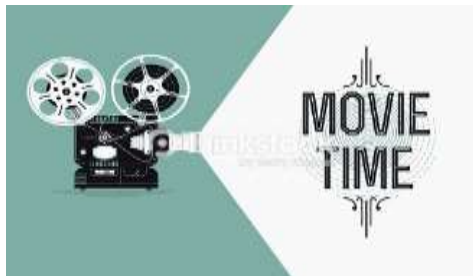
Opportunities to engage with Bible stories
as depicted on screen.

Suitable for everyone.
Bring your own Popcorn! Soft drinks provided.

When: Fridays at 6.15 pm
Feb 1st, May 24th, Sep 20th, Dec 13th

Where: Winchester Room

Contact: Rev'd Ross Meikle ross@witneyparish.org.uk





For Children

For age 7+ we offer regular preparation sessions for **First Communion** and an **'Introduction to the Bible'** with a parent / guardian present.

If your child would like to attend either of these courses, please register your interest with the Curate and dates will be arranged for Sunday afternoons.

Contact: Rev'd Ross Meikle ross@witneyparish.org.uk

Good Friday at St John's Hailey

Lots of great craft activities for children

When: Friday 19th April 10 – 11.45 am

Where: St John's Hailey

Contact: Sue Drew on 01993 702624

Family-Friendly Retreat Day

A welcome to all to explore stories and spirituality,
with opportunities to play and pray together
and grow closer to God.

When: Saturday July 13th 10 - 4 pm

Where: St Kenelm's Church and grounds Minster Lovell

Contact: Rev'd Ross Meikle ross@witneyparish.org.uk

Acorns

This group caters for Parents, Grandparents, Carers
and children under the age of 5.
We offer a listening ear, and an opportunity for the adults
to relax and chat between themselves,
whilst the children play.
Craft, toys, snacks, songs.

When: Thursday mornings, 9.45 – 11.15, term time

Where: Holy Trinity Woodgreen

Contact: Esther Partridge 01993 864926



Come and See!

Visit the Manger and read about the Nativity stories

When: All day every day throughout December and January
(except during Service times)

Where: St John's Hailey

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin

Young Disciples

A group for secondary school students to engage with faith and the world through teaching prayer and fun.

When: Sundays 6.30 – 8 pm

Where: 11 Oakfield Place

Hosted by: Rev'd Ross Meikle and Kayleigh Lucas
ross@witneyparish.org.uk

Faith with spice

Men's beer and curry nights on a Sunday evening at a local
curry house, often with a guest speaker

27th Jan, 17th Mar, 12th May, 30th June, 1st Sep, 20th Oct

The 8th December is joint with Women's group.

Contact: ross@witneyparish.org.uk



Women's group

A group for women in their 20s to 40s (or young at heart).

We meet on a Sunday evening for various events from
fellowship to spirituality, food and drink.

13th Jan, 10th Feb, 10th Mar, 14th Apr, 19th May, 23rd Jun,
22nd Sep, 27th Oct

The 8th December is joint with Faith with Spice.

Contact: kayleigh@witneyparish.org.uk

Booklet Study: Prayer and my personality by Ian Williams

A look at different styles of prayer and how they fit with differing personalities. It would help if you are able to do a Myers Briggs personality test beforehand.

When: Wednesdays at 2.30 pm October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

Where: 54 Thorney Leys

Contact: Rev'd Tim Partridge on 01993 864926

What is Prayer?

A time to talk and share insights and experiences of prayer in its many forms

When: 1st October 7.30 pm

Where: St Kenelm's, Minster Lovell

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin

Dementia Awareness

For pastoral visitors and others who may be interested.

Facilitator: Martin Whiffin

When: Saturday Sept 28th 10 – 12 noon

Where: Winchester room

Contact: Michelle Bailey-Wells

Godly Play

Often facilitated for all ages together,
this introductory session is for adults only.
Godly Play is an approach to Christian nurture.

Facilitated by Rev'ds Sally Wright & Joanna Collicutt

When: Thursday October 10th 10am-12pm.

Where: TBC

Contact: Rev'd Sally Wright 01993 704441



Advent Study Group

'A More Christ Like Church for the sake of God's world'

When: Mondays, 7.30 – 9 pm
Nov 25th, Dec 2nd, 9th, 16th

Where: Holy Trinity Woodgreen

Contact: Rev'd Ross Meikle ross@witneyparish.org.uk



Prayers for the land we call holy

Based on a Litany used in St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem

When: 5 – 5.25 pm on the following dates:

Jan 17th, Feb 14th, March 10th, April 14th, May 16th, June 13th,
July 25th, Sep 26th, Oct 24th, Nov 28th, Dec 19th.

Where: St George's Chapel, St Mary the Virgin

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin

Music as worship and prayer

An invitation to listen prayerfully to recordings of
Mahler's Symphony No. 2 'The Resurrection'
on 19th May at 2.30 pm
and Bruckner's Symphony No. 7
on Saturday 28th September at 2.30 pm

Where: Partridge House, 25 Clare Place

Contact: Rev'd Ness Whiffin

Personal Discipleship Plan

Using the acrostic of 'called' we address questions such as 'listening - where am I being guided to gain experience or insights' and 'discipleship - how am I deepening my daily spiritual life'?

With a trained 1-1 mentor to guide you through a personal plan, this is a great opportunity to consider commitment to the Christian life.

In addition to 1-1 time, there's optional group 'Firepit' sessions on the following dates in the Winchester room:

Wednesday 30th January 7pm

Tuesday 26th February 3pm

Wednesday 27th March 7pm

Tuesday 23rd April 3pm

Contact: Rev'd Toby Wright

Mercy and Kindness

A series of explorations of our calling during 2019

Session 1: 23rd Jan 7.30 pm

Mercy and Kindness I – an introduction

Session 2: 30th Apr 7.30 pm

Mercy and Kindness II – art & music

Session 3: 21st May 7.30 pm

Mercy and Kindness III – where next?

Where: Winchester Room

Contact: Rev'd Toby Wright

Israel's Prophets: Telling the truth – fearlessly

When: Thursdays 2.30 – 4 pm

Session 1 Nathan and Micaiah ben Imlah, October 31st

Session 2 Amos, November 14th

Session 3 Hosea, November 28th

Where: Holy Trinity Woodgreen

Contact: Rev'd Martin Peirce martin@witneyparish.org.uk



Seniors' Lunches

A two-course hot meal most especially for the more senior members of our communities, giving an opportunity to chat and catch up, followed by a short Talk.

When: 4th Wednesday of the month, 12-3 pm

Where: Winchester room **Cost:** £3

Contact: Rev'd Joy Hance joy@witneyparish.org.uk

Vocations and Discernment

Life is for Giving: A Toolkit for exploring your calling
using a resource by Jo Bailey Wells and Andy Rider

When: Thursdays 7.30 – 9 pm,
May 2nd, July 4th, Sep 5th, Nov 7th

Where: Partridge House, 25 Clare Place

If interested, contact:

Rev'ds Ness Whiffin or Toby Wright for an initial discussion

Contacts, addresses & resources

Rev'd Ness Whiffin ness@witneyparish.org.uk 07774 524756

Rev'd Toby Wright rector@witneyparish.org.uk 01993 704441

Parish Administrator Michelle Bailey-Wells 01993 779492

St Mary the Virgin, Church Green, Witney OX28 4AW

St John the Evangelist, Middletown, Hailey OX29 9UF

St John the Baptist, Main Road, Curbridge OX29 7NU

Holy Trinity, 9 Woodgreen, Witney OX28 1DF

St Kenelm's, Old Minster Lovell, Witney OX29

St Andrew's Book Shop, 31 High Street, Witney OX28 6HP,
01993 709429

Community of St Mary the Virgin, Denchworth Road,
Wantage Oxon OX12 9AU

Community of St Clare, St Mary's Convent, 178 Wroslyn Road,
Freeland Oxon OX29 8AJ