

# **THE LINK**

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**The Newsletter for the parishes of  
Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe  
North Moreton & South Moreton**  
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<b>Rector</b>	The Revd Jason St. John Nicolle Blewbury Rectory, OX11 9QH	850267
<b>Associate</b>	The Revd Louise Butler	07837 009730
<b>Priests</b>	The Revd John Clarke	512987
<b>Science</b>	The Revd Jen Brown	01865 407167
<b>Missioner</b>		

Arrangements for weddings and baptisms should be made at the Benefice Office in Blewbury between 9am and 11am on Saturday mornings. Someone will always be there, no appointment is necessary.

**Benefice Office Email:** [office@churnchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@churnchurches.co.uk)

**Benefice Office Phone:** 01235 850267

## **Churchwardens:**

<b>The Astons</b>	Mr Tim Lake Mr Christopher Hawker	850468 850534
<b>North Moreton</b>	Mr Patrick Greene	813396
<b>South Moreton</b>	Contact Revd John	512987

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**Next Link Deadline 20 March  
Edition for April & May**  
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**February & March 2018**

## Gallery 46



Do you like looking around art galleries? The other day I was visiting the Ashmolean Museum. I came across an intriguing picture in one of the galleries devoted to European Art - Gallery 46, to be precise. The picture in question was probably painted in the 1620s by a northern European artist working in Rome.

The title of the painting is "Truth Presenting a Mirror to the Vanities of the World". The picture depicts a woman holding a pair of scales in one hand, and a mirror in the other hand. In the foreground of the picture is a table, and on the table is a book. On the top of the book is a skull, and this skull is reflected in the mirror.

This picture presents us with a dramatic and challenging message. It reminds us that death and judgment come to us all. Seen in this context, the things we tend to care so passionately about in this life - wealth, beauty, success, status - are in fact nothing more than vanity.

As I was looking at the picture, my thoughts turned to the season of Lent. Lent provides us with a time of reflection, in which we can think about our lives and our priorities. When we hold up a mirror to the reality of lives, what do we see reflected back at us? Do we like what we see? It can be painful to take a long, hard look at ourselves. We can discover that the person we have become is not the person we would like to be.

A time of self-reflection can be pretty sobering. But it can also provide the opportunity for a fresh start. We can look at our lives and think seriously about how we can change for the better. This is not only about our improvement as individuals. It is also about our improvement as a society, as we reflect on our common values, and to think how our world can be a better place for everyone.

Changing our lives for the better inevitably means saying "no" to those things which are destructive: destructive of ourselves and destructive of others. But it also means saying "yes" to all that gives life and joy and new hope. As we hold up the mirror to ourselves and our world during this season of Lent, may it be for us all a time of deep refreshment and renewal.

## ***News from South Moreton***

### ***Rev'd John writes***

Christmas, as usual, was a special time. A very big thank you to everyone who joined in cleaning and decorating the church. It looked amazing! The carol service had something for everyone, with traditional carols and readings, children's dressing up nativity, choral items by the two Helens and Simon, and of course plenty of mulled wine and mince pies. It was a good occasion, but some of us feel it might be right to have a change next year. Let me know if you have any thoughts. In addition the Christmas Day service went well, led by Canon Hill, and our carol singers went to parts of the village off our normal track which haven't been sung to for many years.

January was a quiet time for the church, but not the village. More than 200 attended a pig roast at Hall Farm to hear about the 'Save our Pub' appeal. The committee have done inspiring work, and it will be great for our village if a community pub proves possible.

Looking ahead we have a Candlemas service on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Both this and the Mothering Sunday service on 11<sup>th</sup> March will be good for all the family. Talking of families, the next Messy Church is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm in North Moreton Church. Also our first monthly coffee morning is coming up soon, 10.30 – 12.30am on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at Old Cottage on the north end of the High Street. All welcome, but it would be helpful if you let Angela Watkins Rowe know if you are coming on 01235 813311.

And finally our next main social event. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a village quiz. 7 for 7.30pm in the SM School Hall with fish and chips or sausage or vegetarian alternatives. £15 or £10 without food. – Tables of 6 max, spaces limited so book soon. Enquiries to helenball42@aol.com.



### ***Ash Wednesday Service***

14<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**8pm Benefice Eucharist  
with Imposition of Ashes  
at St. Michael's Blewbury**

## ***News from North Moreton***

***Keith Hutchence writes on behalf of the PCC.***

We have much to look forward to in the coming months, now that the days are getting longer.

All Saints' will host a **Gala Concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 3 March**. The early music trio, *Musical Banquet*, will be taking us up to 500 years back in time for a feast of vocal and instrumental works from the finest early English - and dare I say it? - European composers. You will get the opportunity to hear the music played on period instruments and sung with a countertenor, much as a 16th or 17th Century audience might have heard them. One delicacy from this musical spread will be some Spanish numbers, accompanied by baroque guitar. Another appetiser will be some period anecdotes about the pieces played and the chance to talk to the performers during the interval.

Of course, no banquet would be complete without some refreshments and a glass of something cheering. Tickets are just £10 each (£8 concessions, £5 for u-16s). Funds raised will go towards the maintenance of our church. For this feast of music, *book your place now from Mary Greene: on 813396 or [maryclaregreene@btinternet.com](mailto:maryclaregreene@btinternet.com).*

In the meantime, a committee is now being formed to plan our **Village Fete on Sunday 13 May at 2pm**. We are very grateful that several new organisers have come forward. If you have any ideas for attractions or can help out on the day, please contact Philippa Burton: [phil@northmoretonlodge.co.uk](mailto:phil@northmoretonlodge.co.uk). Bridget MacFarlane, Liz Vallance and Mia West have also joined the team. We particularly need some assistance with setting up the Raffle.

Jill Fletcher and Libby Macdonald will be holding **Coffee Mornings at All Saints' from 1030-1200 on Tuesday 13 February, Wednesday 14 March and Wednesday 25 April**. Please do drop in and catch up with what is going on in the village.

For our younger parishioners, there will be **Messy Church at All Saints' at 3pm on Saturday 10 March**. Families are invited to come along for fun with paint, paper and food as they look ahead to the story of Easter. For more details, contact Vickie Squires: [victoriacreates@btinternet.com](mailto:victoriacreates@btinternet.com).

A list of services can be found on the back of *The Link*. You will see that All Saints' has services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day. We hope that you and your families will be able to join in for the main celebration of the Christian Year.

## ***News from the Astons***

### ***Flowers and Cleaning during February & March***

Thank you all so much for all your help at Christmas time. Amanda and Naomi decorated All Saints. The flowers looked lovely and still do! Thanks to Biddy for keeping the churches clean. Thanks too to Claire and Tasha and their children for decorating the Tree and to the Wakefield girls for flowers on the font.

Amberley and Jo are going to keep them going until Lent (14th February) and then we all meet again at Easter.

Biddy kept our churches clean in December and in January. Katharine and Christina are in charge of cleaning in February.

Thanks to Amanda and Naomi and Amberley and Jo for flowers in our churches in January and February. Lent begins in mid Feb and Easter Day is 1st April, so there will be no flowers during March. We will all join to fill the church with flowers for Easter, probably on Saturday 31st March. We welcome any gifts of flowers and any help anyone might like to offer - just get in touch!

Thanks to Katharine and Christina for cleaning our churches. In March, Biddy is in charge once again!

Thank you all very much.

Penelope Curtis (850794) [penelcurtiso11@gmail.com](mailto:penelcurtiso11@gmail.com)



## ***Lent Courses***

will start the week beginning  
Sunday 18 February.

Further details will be available  
shortly in the Churn and leaflets available in Church.

## ***South & North Moreton WI News***



For our January meeting and to celebrate the New Year, we had a most enjoyable meal at 'The Bear' at North Moreton.

The February meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> will be a talk by Rachel Pettit-Smith on the 'History of Pettits'

The 14<sup>th</sup> of March meeting will be a very important one as South & North Moreton WI will be celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

At a meeting in January 1928, the women of North Moreton resolved to start a social club in the village with a view to perhaps joining the WI at a later date. Shortly after this some ladies from South Moreton expressed an interest in attending the club and it was decided to invite a representative from the Berkshire WI to speak at the March meeting. At the end of the evening, a show of hands approved the proposal that the club become part of the WI. Monthly meetings have been held ever since, even through the war years where the minutes record one speaker unable to attend due to the petrol shortage and refreshments being provided for the Home Guard.

We shall be holding a party to mark this momentous occasion and would like to invite any former members to come and join us.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month in North Moreton Village Hall. We are always pleased to welcome visitors and new members. Please contact Sue Harrison on 817042 for details.



### ***From the Science Missioner***

The next Science & Religion Lecture will be on **Thursday 8 February, 7.30pm** at Ripon College Cuddesdon.

The Revd Dr Jonathan Jong will be speaking on "Explaining Religion (Away?) - Evolution, Psychology & Christian Faith. This is a change from the previously advertised talk title. The Revd Dr Jonathan Jong is a Research Fellow at Coventry University and Assistant Curate at St Mary Magdalen Church, Oxford. He is the author (together with Jamin Halberstadt) of 'Death Anxiety and Religious Belief: An Existential Psychology of Religion'.



**Saturday 10 March  
3pm, in North Moreton Church**

***Crafty Fun for Families***

Looking ahead to Easter with paint,  
paper and food craft,  
song and Easter story.

Organised by  
All Saints North Moreton and St John's, South Moreton.

**All children must be supervised by an adult**

More information from Vickie Squires 01235 817964  
or Rev'd John Clarke 01235 512987.

# *Musical Banquet*

*A Gala Concert*

*In aid of Church Funds*

**All Saints Church, North Moreton  
Saturday 3 March 2018 at 7.30pm**

The acclaimed Oxfordshire trio Musical Banquet will be performing a themed entertainment of Early Music from Britain and Europe performed on period instruments with Countertenor voice.

*A Feast for you Ears!*

£10 (£8 concessions, £5 under 16s) including souvenir programme and light refreshments served during the interval.



Tickets available on the door and  
E: [maryclaregreene@btinternet.com](mailto:maryclaregreene@btinternet.com)  
or call 01235 813396

# Monthly Events – February & March

	<p><b>MU Pram Service</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 7 February 7 March</p>	<p>12.15</p>	<p>St. Michael's Blewbury</p>	<p>A short Eucharist service ideal for pre-school children to bring parents, grandparents, carers to. A sandwich lunch is provided by the Mothers Union after the service. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME.</p>
	<p><b>The WI</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 14 February 14 March</p>	<p>19.30</p>	<p>North Moreton Village Hall</p>	<p>Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Contact Sue Harrison 817042 or Liz Elliot 812562 for details.</p>
	<p><b>Churn Branch Eucharist</b></p>	<p>Thursday 15 February 15 March</p>	<p>10.00</p>	<p>St. Michael's Blewbury</p>	<p>On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month members are invited to attend this Eucharist Service. Followed by refreshments and discussion in the Benefice Centre</p>
	<p><b>CYGnet Youth Group</b></p>	<p>Sunday 18 February 18 March</p>	<p>18.30</p>	<p>Brookdene Benefice Centre</p>	<p>A regular Sunday evening group usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 6.30-8pm. All young people of secondary school age are welcome to come along.</p>

## ***Services for February***

<b><i>4 Feb</i></b>	<b><i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i></b>	
09.00	Parish Eucharist	Aston Upthorpe
10.30	Parish Eucharist	North Moreton
<b><i>11 Feb</i></b>	<b><i>The Sunday next before Lent</i></b>	
09.00	Parish Eucharist	Aston Tirrold
10.30	Morning Prayer	North Moreton
10.30	Candlemas Service	South Moreton
<b><i>14 Feb</i></b>	<b><i>Ash Wednesday</i></b>	
20.00	Benefice Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	Blewbury
<b><i>18 Feb</i></b>	<b><i>The First Sunday of Lent</i></b>	
09.00	Parish Eucharist	Aston Tirrold
09.00	Family Service	North Moreton
<b><i>25 Feb</i></b>	<b><i>The Second Sunday of Lent</i></b>	
09.00	Family Service	Aston Tirrold
18.00	Evening Prayer	North Moreton



### ***The Door***

is an Oxford Diocese church publication available to collect from your local church every month.

Please do pick up a copy - it's FREE.

## ***Services for March & early April***

### ***4 Mar      The Third Sunday of Lent***

09.00	Parish Eucharist	Aston Upton
10.30	Parish Eucharist	North Moreton

### ***11 Mar     Mothering Sunday***

10.30	Family Eucharist	Aston Tirrold
10.30	Morning Prayer	North Moreton
10.30	Family Eucharist	South Moreton

### ***18 Mar     The Fifth Sunday of Lent***

09.00	Parish Eucharist	Aston Tirrold
09.00	Family Service	North Moreton

### ***25 Mar     Palm Sunday***

09.00	Family Service	Aston Tirrold
18.00	Evening Prayer	North Moreton

### ***29 Mar     Maundy Thursday***

20.00	Celebration of the Last supper, Washing of Feet & Watch before	Blewbury
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### ***30 Mar     Good Friday***

14.00	One Hour at the Cross	North Moreton
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### ***1 Apr       Easter Day***

06.00	Benefice Easter Dawn Service	Blewburton Hill
10.30	Parish Eucharist	Aston Tirrold
10.30	Parish Eucharist	North Moreton
10.30	Family Eucharist	South Moreton

