

# NORTON NEWS

July  
2018

## It's all in the preparation



Well, it's going to get very busy in the Sharp household over the next week, cutting the grass, cleaning the windows at last so you can actually see out of them and even finding time to bung some Mr Muscle down the sink. Yes, we have the bishop coming, and even if he doesn't look down the plug hole, it's still best to have it done just in case. "Be prepared" as we used to say in the boy scouts; I wonder whether that motto went out of fashion with Bob a Job week (if you're too young for this last bit come and see me later).

Of course, it won't stop there as we prepare the church as well for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July and welcome Bishop Michael to preside over our confirmation service and to spend time with us. Whenever people are visiting, be it the odd bishop, not that there's anything odd about bishops, or even just a friend popping round, we don't like to be left on the hop with the washing still on the radiator and that embarrassing two days Takeaway now welded to the kitchen table. It's got so bad in our own household that we still apologise about the 'mess' when people arrive even though we've just cleared up.

Preparation is an important part of our Christian journey as well. Our 12 confirmation candidates, joined by three from Ickleford, have been preparing for their confirmation by tackling such subjects as God, Jesus the Spirit, Bible and Eucharist. Preparing them so they can confirm for themselves the vows made on their behalf during their baptisms by their parents and God parents.



Currently, one of the most popular modern hymns for baptism is One More Step along the world I Go. By being confirmed they are taking another of those steps along their journey to Christ. But, of course, it doesn't stop there. Our whole Christian journey is preparation for Christ. Not just a single step but a whole stairway to heaven. Preparing through prayer, sacrament, mission and study to discover his plans for us as individuals and as a church community. In fact each of us are kingdom preparers, making the way ready for him. Jesus paved that way for us in his ministry on earth, one man changing the world in which we live. Now, thousands of us across the world carry on that mission smoothing out the inequalities of this world and changing us as individuals and communities.

This month, we have been listening to some of the people who have been preparing the way of the Lord, with guest speakers talking to us from Food Bank; Christian aid and from the diocese on Church Growth. Rose is preparing a presentation for us on setting up a Uniform bank in this parish to support parents, so they can afford School uniform in St Nicholas and Northfields schools. All of it preparing the way to do the work of Jesus on earth. As it says in Ephesian 2.10 'For we are his workmanship, created in Jesus Christ for good works which God prepared before hand so that we would walk in them.'

*Continued overleaf*

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The Parish of Norton, Letchworth Garden City





So let us all join in those good works prepared by God to do his tasks. Let us be his work force, walking in the steps of Christ and discover a whole stairway of hope and love.

For now, I'm off to do my own preparations, now where did I leave that can of Mr Muscle...

*Rev Trev*



Rose Gregory has recently launched this exciting new project here at Norton Parish. Spurred on by listening to some of the amazing work being done in local churches at a service held in this church last January, Rose decided to set up a Uniform Bank at St Nicholas school. She is now looking to expand this to other local schools and is currently in talks with Northfields school.

The project aims to provide new and high quality second hand uniform for children for whom the school receives additional funding: those families on low incomes, supported immigration and asylum seekers and those referred through the school.

The vision of the project is to sponsor a school and work in partnership with them to collect donations of uniform and hold 'pop-up shops' in local schools.

Rose is already seeing growing support for the scheme, she explains, 'With help from some incredible parents at the school gate, we have washed and ironed 15 bags of uniform and have now hung it on the rail ready to give away'.

It's a project where everyone can get involved, as Rose enthuses, 'What I love about this project is that there is so much to do. Lots of lovely little things to do to show God's love in action.'

So how can you help?

Well why not:

- ◆ Take home a bag of washing
- ◆ Iron some shirts and dresses
- ◆ Buy a pack of white school tee shirts
- ◆ Buy a child's coat
- ◆ Provide spare plastic containers or storage space in your house



Or, why not play shop and help run one of the pop-up shops?

Every bit helps to break down barriers, as Rose points out, 'We want all children to get to turn up to school with all the kit they need ready to learn'. Who can argue with that?

**For more information, contact Rose Gregory or Rev Trev.**

# ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH & SCHOOL



## WEDDINGS



Daniel Baverstock & Emma Reece  
will be married on 7th July  
John Guiney & Lauren Cunningham  
Eamon Straughn & Laura Mendes  
will be married on 21st July  
Martin ODell & Emma Maddams  
will be married on 23rd July at St Nicholas' Church Norton  
Please pray for them as they start their married life together.

## St Nicholas' School

The end of year DISCOs will be on Friday 13th July EYFS, Years 1 & 2 - 4-5pm,  
Years 3, 4 & 5 - 5.30 - 6.30pm, Year 6 Leavers 7 - 8.30pm £2.50 Entry, pay on the  
door, £1.50 Glowsticks.

As always we need parent helpers to help run this event, please let Clare Major  
know if you are able to help. Donations of squash and individual packets of crisp  
would be gratefully received and can be dropped into the office.

St Nicholas Leavers service will be held here at St George's Church on 20th July  
2018 at 9.30am all welcome to attend.

We are still collecting empty ink cartridges from printers, please bring them to the  
recycling bin by the school office to help us raise money for the school.

# ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

## Thank you's

Thanks to all those who helped in the midsummer revels, especially Sarah Cook who somehow  
managed to squeeze names into all the spaces on her roster. It is great to be able to share things  
with the school and support one another.

To all those who have helped clean, paint, tidy and garden to get Common View ready to rent out.

To the volunteers who help with St Nicholas open afternoons, for people to look round, dates on  
the website.

Can we thank all the amazing helpers who turn out every week to run the coffee shop and Friday  
lunches, all your work and effort is really appreciated and I think you all know how I like my coffee  
now (mug not cup, milk not too weak).

*If you feel there is anyone in the church who deserves a 'thank you' please get in touch with the editor (i.e.  
the vicar, but editor sounds much more cool).*

## From the Registers

### Funerals

19th June - Albert Biggs

26th June - Joyce Richardson

## **REGULAR SERVICE DETAILS**

Every Sunday	8 a.m. 9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Church Parish Communion at St George's Church Sunday School meet in St George's Hall Crèche is held in the Lady Chapel
Wednesdays	10 a.m.	Holy Communion in St George's Church
Thursdays	7.30 p.m.	Eucharist at St Nicholas Church
Morning Prayer	9 a.m.	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays St George's Church
Evening Prayer	5 p.m.	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, St George's Church

## **REGULAR EVENTS**

Mondays	7.30 p.m. 7.45 p.m. 8 p.m.	House Group at 29A Eastern Way Bellingring Practice in St Nicholas' Church Badminton in St George's Hall
Tuesdays	10 a.m. 1.30 p.m. 1.30 p.m. 8 p.m.	Bible Study Tuesday Club in the Clulow Room Tuesday Cherubs meet in the Lady Chapel (term time) Music Group in St George's Church
Wednesdays	10 a.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m.	Norton Coffee Shop Ladies Choir in St George's Church House Group at 17 Heathermere
Thursdays	1.15 p.m.	Norton Nippers Parent and Toddler Group (term time)
Fridays	12 noon 1.30 p.m. 6.15 p.m. 7 p.m. 8 p.m.	Friday Lunch in the Clulow Room House Group meet in the Clulow Room Choristers Street Dragons (last one this month) Choir Practice in St George's Church
Sundays	6.30 p.m.	In-Betweeners Norton Parish Centre

## **YOUTH EVENTS**

*Street Dragons*

*Fridays 7 p.m.*

*Norton Parish Centre*

*Norton In-Betweeners*

*Sundays 6.30 p.m.*

*Norton Parish Centre*

*Choristers*

*Fridays 6.15 p.m.*

*St George's Church*