

Evenlode Vale Churches: Personnel & Administration
Benefice Website: www.evenlodevalechurches.org

EVENLODE VALE CHURCHES

Churchwardens:

Adlestrop	Lesley Bishop Milnes 01608 659114 royandlesley1@btinternet.com
Bledington	Aloyse Packe 01608 658447 aapacke@btinternet.com Barry Way 01608 658542 barry.e.way@gmail.com
Broadwell	William Neill 01451 830656 dwshaneill@btinternet.com Julian Beale (Deputy Churchwarden) 01451 831573 julianbeale@gmail.com
Evenlode	Virginia Symons 01608 650608 john.gina1@btinternet.com Mark Dancer 01608 651653 mark.dancer@portland-wealth.co.uk
Icomb	Sue Nock 01451 831688 susannock@hotmail.co.uk David Cowdery (Lay Chair) davidcowdery@hotmail.com
Oddington	Peter Davis 01451 833520 peter.davis@benwellhouse.com Camy Aston 01608 659263
Westcote	Trevor Bigg 01993 830624 trevorbigg1@gmail.com

Staff Team:

Rector	Vacant
Curate	Revd Helkias Mapimhidze 01608 658500 Email: curate@evenlodevalechurches.org
Day off:	Saturday
Associate Minister	Revd Stephen Blake email: sb@evenlodevalechurches.org
Day Off:	Thursday
Youth Minister:	Mark Smallwood 07584 561378 Email: ms@evenlodevalechurches.org
Day off:	Saturday
Administrator	Kirsten Turner
Office	Church Office, Holy Ascension Oddington, Gloucestershire GL56 0XA 01451 831424 email: office@evenlodevalechurches.org Monday 9am to 2pm, Wednesday 9am to 2pm Friday 9am to 2pm

PEW NOTES

Sunday 28th February

The Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP) Icomb	Mrs Dilys Neill
10.30am	Morning Prayer (CW) Bledington	Canon David Cook
11am	Holy Communion (BCP) Evenlode	Rev Dr Stephen Blake
6pm	Holy Communion (CW) Westcote	Rev Dr Stephen Blake

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 7th March

The Third Sunday of Lent

10.30am	United Communion Service Holy Ascension Oddington	Rev Dr Stephen Blake Speaker Rev Helkias Mapimhidze
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Sunday 14th March

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

9.30am	Holy Communion (CW) Adlestrop	Canon Tim Sedgley
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP) Icomb	Rev Helkias Mapimhidze
11am	Morning Service (CW) Evenlode	Rev Dr Stephen Blake Speaker: Mr Allan Baird
11am	Morning Service (CW) Westcote	Mrs Anita Ferrero
6pm	Evening Prayer (BCP) Bledington	Mrs Dilys Neill

Sunday 21st March

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

9am	Holy Communion (BCP) Bledington	Canon Tim Sedgley
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Icomb	Rev Peter Goodwin-Hudson
10.30am	Online Morning Prayer Bledington	Rev Dr Stephen Blake Speaker: Rev Helkias Mapimhidze
11am	Morning Service (CW) Westcote	Canon David Cook

For those who do not feel able to attend public worship, our churches in Bledington, Evenlode, Icomb, Oddington (St Nicholas) and Westcote remain open for private prayer.

Dates for Your Diary

Every Wednesday and Saturday – 10am *Lent Prayers at St Mary, Adlestrop*, led by Gordon Harris. (Weekly until 31st March)

Tuesday 2nd March – 7.30pm to 8.30pm *Lent Course Online (weekly until 23rd March)* *Passion* by Mike McKinley. If you wish to join in please contact the church office and we will send you a link. See more details below.

Wednesday 3rd March – 7.30pm *North Cotswold Gospel Partnership Prayer Meeting*. Please email office@evenlodevalechurches.org for a link for this online prayer meeting. Open to all churches in the North Cotswolds.

Friday 5th March – World Day of Prayer. See details below.

Saturday 6th March – 9am to 10am *Central Prayer at Holy Ascension, Oddington*
Please note new time for this month only. (All welcome for socially distanced prayer for our villages. You will not be asked to read or pray aloud).

Monday 8th March – 10.30am *Benefice Standing Committee Meeting (online)*.

Tuesday 9th March – 7.30pm to 8.30pm *Lent Course Online (weekly until 23rd March)* *Passion* by Mike McKinley. If you wish to join in please contact the church office and we will send you a link. See more details below.

World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) will be hosted by the islanders of Vanuatu in the South Pacific on Friday March 5th. This year all local services will be held virtually via Zoom or YouTube; our nearest services will be hosted in:

- Moreton-in-Marsh at 11am on YouTube via [YouTube.stdavids.org.uk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stdavids.org.uk)
- Stow-on-the-Wold at 09:30am on Zoom – via <https://www.scats.org.uk/zoom-links-to-services-and-meetings/>

The Moreton service should remain on YouTube afterwards if 11am is inconvenient.

There is also a half-hour pre-recorded service from Vanuatu viewable now at <https://youtu.be/edQMgNFdRdo>

LENT 2021

It's not too late to join our Lent course. We had a successful start last Tuesday evening with approx. 15 participants. Despite being online we were able to use break out rooms to discuss our book 'Passion' by Mike McKinley in smaller groups.

Until the end of the month, The Good Book Company are providing an e-copy of our study book FREE to download. **You can find more details and links on the benefice website: www.evenlodevalechurches.org.**

Thought for the week –Consumed by Stillness.

Written by Rev Dr Stephen Blake

Psalm 37:7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

I got stressed today when Boris didn't announce the speedy release of Covid restrictions that we were all hoping for. Once again my hopes for a spring holiday may be dashed.

In the grand scheme of things, whether I get a holiday or not is hardly a disaster. But for most of us, the main source of stress is that feeling of not being in control of some area of our lives. So for the farmer, that's often about unpredictable weather; for the businessman, it may be a volatile boss; and for those in poverty, it's how to find the next meal. We have endured a whole raft of new stresses over the past year - new things that we can't control. Like being unable to connect with friends and families; being deprived of gathering together in church; having long-awaited wedding plans dashed or holidays cancelled.

And it's in those situations we're inclined to fret. But what does it mean to fret? The word comes from an ancient word 'fretan', meaning to 'eat up' or 'devour'; there's also a sense of 'wearing away'. And that's exactly what fretting does to us. It wears us away. It eats us up inside. And it's exhausting.

The psychologists call it 'ruminating' - chewing something over and over like a cow chewing the cud. Going back over the same stuff. Replaying the situation over and over in our mind. Rehearsing what we might have done differently. Re-living the bad dream. All of which fretting gives us nothing but a stomach ulcer.

But there is an alternative. Psalm 37 exhorts us not to fret but rather 'to be still before the Lord'. To sit quietly and turn our problem over to him. To share it with him. To let it go - not to be worn away or devoured by it - but to hand it over to God and to sit patiently waiting for him. To put it under his loving control. Under his mighty hand.

So when we're tempted to fret, there is an alternative: it's being still. Before the Lord.

