

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 Office open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am to 2pm (Please note closure on Fri 19 th March)

PEW NOTES

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

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

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	<i>Rev Dr Stephen Blake</i> <i>Speaker: Rev Helkias Mapimhidze</i>
11am	Morning Service (CW) Westcote	Canon David Cook

Sunday 28th March

Palm Sunday

9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP) Adlestrop	Mrs Anita Ferrero
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP) Icomb	Mrs Dilys Neill
10.30am	Morning Prayer (CW) Bledington	Rev Peter Godwin-Hudson
6pm	Holy Communion (CW) Westcote	Rev Dr Stephen Blake

Thursday 1st April

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm	United Communion Service Westcote	Rev Dr Stephen Blake
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Friday 2nd April

Good Friday

11.30am	March of Witness Westcote	Rev Dr Stephen Blake
12 noon	Good Friday Meditation Holy Ascension, Oddington	Rev Helkias Mapimhidze

For those who do not feel able to attend public worship, our churches in Adlestrop, 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 – **please note change of time to 9.30am on 13th March**)

Tuesday 16th 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.

Friday 19th March – Church office CLOSED

Tuesday 23rd March – 7.30pm to 8.30pm *Lent Course Online (final session)* *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.

Saturday 3rd April – 9.30am to 10.30am *Central Prayer at Holy Ascension Oddington*. All welcome for socially distanced prayer. You will not be asked to read or pray aloud.

Monday 12th April – 10.30am *Benefice Standing Committee Meeting (online)*.

Online Services

Our next online service will be streamed on **Sunday 21st March**.

Recorded at: St Leonard's Bledington

Speaker: Rev Helkias Mapimhidze

Time: 10.30am

You can watch the service from our Evenlode Vale Churches YouTube page or from links on the benefice website:
evenlodevalechurches.org.

LENT 2021

It's not too late to join our Lent course. We have had a good attendance over the last two weeks with approx. 16-19 participants. Despite being online we are able to use break out rooms to discuss our book 'Passion' by Mike McKinley in smaller groups.

**You can find more details and links on the benefice website:
www.evenlodevalechurches.org.**

Thought for the week – Passion

Written by Rev Dr Stephen Blake

Luke 22:44 And being in anguish, Jesus prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

I'm a bit of a nerd about some aspects of the English language. I get irritated by the incorrect use of the apostrophe, and I'm fussy about the overuse of words like 'iconic', 'gutted' and 'fantastic'. We risk obscuring their real meaning, to the impoverishment of our language.

A word we hear almost daily is passionate. We can't just 'like' something, or just 'be interested' in something - we have to be passionate about it. I must be passionate about football, or sketching, or ecology, or politics. It's no longer sufficient to have interests - I have to have 'passions'.

But if we stop a moment to think of its true meaning, we reach a slightly surprising conclusion. Passion derives from the Latin word *passio* - meaning 'I suffer'. So in its strict sense, passion is about suffering. That's why we talk about Jesus' last hours of crucifixion as his Passion.

In modern usage the word has become diluted, so passionate can mean 'having extreme emotions' - grief, fear, pain, or love. It may indeed be possible to have extreme emotions about sport or art, but when we use the word passionate we often mean simply that we like something a lot - not that we are moved about it from the very depths of our being.

But in its true sense, passion takes us back to Gethsemane, where Jesus' emotions were so extreme that it was as if he were sweating blood. A place where he declared his love for you and me with such passion that he was prepared to suffer a hideous death in our place.

Is Jesus interested in you and me? More: he is truly passionate about us.

