

St Peter & St Paul

Little Horkesley

Parish Magazine

February/March 2022



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New year resolutions January 2022

New Year resolutions, I suspect that at some point in our lives, we have all made them.

As a new year dawns, we wake up determined that somehow this year we will make better choices. Maybe we want to lose weight or exercise more, learn a new hobby, or find ways of connecting with our friends more effectively throughout the year and not just with the annual Christmas card and round robin letter.

And then as we get to the end of January and realised we aren't really making any headway or have forgotten what our resolutions were in the first place, we can feel frustrated with ourselves.

But do we have to wait another year, until we can try again?

I love these verses in Lamentations
'Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.' (Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV)

God's mercies are new every morning, every morning, we wake up with a fresh new start, with all the new opportunities that might entail.

So this New year, I hope that you will remember that there are always opportunities for a fresh start and perhaps one of those this year might be to connect or reconnect with God, and learn more of his great compassion and faithfulness.

Happy New Year and May God Bless you all.

Reverend Heather

Pet Of The Month February

Adorable Bonnie



The Rectory

with Revd Heather Wilcox

February 2022

On Wednesday the 2nd February, the focus of the Christian church begins to shift.

On this day we celebrate Candlemas, Jesus being presented in the temple and Simeon on seeing the baby Jesus at just 40 days old, recognising in this infant, just one of many who would have been brought to the temple that day, the One who would be a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of the people Israel.

From Christmas we have been in a season of light, we have celebrated the birth of the light of the world, Magi, guided by the light of a star have brought their gifts to honour the King of Kings.

In the northern hemisphere, this image of the new light coming, is reinforced for us, by the gradual lengthening of the days, barely perceptible at first, but then, by the middle of January we suddenly notice that at 4.30 it is still light, and each day stretches out just a little bit longer until in March the clocks will spring forward.

Light is such a powerful image in the Christian church, and on Candlemas, as our Christmas/Epiphany season draws to a close, we remember Jesus as a light of revelation to the Gentiles, we remember that Jesus came not just for the few, but too the many, for the whole world.

But as I mentioned earlier, at Candlemas our focus also begins to shift; we turn away, as it were, from the baby born in the manger, and we begin to look ahead to the suffering the adult Jesus is to face.

Each year the length of time before Candlemas and Ash Wednesday varies. It can be as little as a day, but this year, with Easter coming late, it will be exactly four weeks later, on Wednesday 2nd March, that Lent will begin. On Ash Wednesday we will symbolically move into a season of penitence, self-examination and prayerful approach as we journey with Jesus to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, in anticipation of his joyful resurrection on Easter Day. But we can only truly experience Easter if we have embraced that Lenten journey.

As we journey through these coming months, may we be aware of the presence of the Light of Jesus with us, and may we share that light with others in all we say and do.

May God bless you.

Heather



Prayer for this season of Light

Lord Jesus,
light of the world,
shine in our hearts and in our lives.
Expose in your unquenchable light
those things in us which need to change
in order that we may be more like you.
Help us shine Lord,
to the glory of your name

Amen



Pet Of The Month March



Ronnie Blythe's cat, Pussy Cat



MERIEL'S REPORT



As I sit down to think what to write in this issue of our church magazine, I have just read through what I put in last year's issue for the same period. I have to say, that despite this new variant of Covid, Omicron, rearing its ugly head, things do seem so much better than they were twelve months ago.

During the year, at last, the congregation was able to sing during the services and for some considerable time masks were abandoned. Unfortunately, they have had to be re-instated- hopefully for not too long.

The best thing that happened was that we welcomed our new vicar, Heather and we have been so very happy to see her on the occasions that she has taken our services.

We are also pleased, that to enable all services to be covered in the seven churches we are still able to see our Lay reader, Phyll Wood, and also our friend, Archdeacon James Ridge on occasion.



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

In 2020 we were unable to have our much-loved Advent Carol Service but on Advent Sunday 2021 we were able to have it again and it is such a lovely service. Our small but talented choir sung so well, and the service was well-attended. We have two or three extra people who kindly supplement the choir which is always a great help.

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

After a very sad 2020 Christmas, when we were not even able to have a Christmas Morning Service as our officiant felt she could not come, this Christmas was much better. The church looked quite beautiful. I hope Suzanne's photos will show it off to its full advantage. We started with the Carol Service in a beautifully decorated church, flowers, Christmas tree, crib and our lovely candleholders making it a glorious place to be. The readers and choir excelled themselves and I hope that everyone there, and there were many, thought it was a very good start to Christmas. We even managed to have mulled wine and mince pies, with everyone endeavouring to do their best with social distancing, sanitising and masks.

An evening of Nine Lessons and Carols

- Mulled wine and mince pies -



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

The Christmas Eve Communion was at Wormingford church and several members of our church were there. It is a pity that more people do not support the services which are at other churches in our Benefice. It was planned that Heather would be taking the service but she was 'covid pinged' so Revd Anne Mason stood in. (Heather's test was negative) On Christmas Day Emma Barr, our Ordinand, officiated at our Morning Service and preached a very meaningful service which I sent out to as many people as I could, so that those who were unable to be there could read what she had to say.

I am so pleased that at Little Horkesley Church we have managed to maintain a quite reasonable congregation despite all of the problems of the past year.

BRENDA'S OPEN DAY

Brenda held what she says will be her last full-scale Open Day in December. I am hoping she will write a little about this herself. See page 17.

BAPTISM OF TOBY PEARS MARCH 13TH 11.00am

Toby is the son of Alexander and Nicola Pears (nee Long-Price) who were married at our church by John Chandler. He also baptised their first child and they asked if he would officiate at Toby's baptism. Heather consented to this so we have arranged for an additional Morning Service on March 13th into which the Baptism will be incorporated.

All are invited to this special service to welcome baby Toby into the family of the Church.

PETER JONES – LITTLEGARTH LITTER WARRIOR

On his retirement in September as Headmaster of Littlegarth School, Peter decided to do a 40 hours collecting roadside litter in aid of Lizzies Fund, in memory of Lizzie Bramall who was one of his pupils and very dear to him. The 40 hours represented his 40 years of teaching.

Peter, along with his wife Claire, has a long association with our church. They married at our church in 1984 and often sing in the choir. Also, on two occasions, when John Chandler was vicar, groups of children from the

school came to our church to learn more about the building and church life. They were delightful visits.

I asked Peter if he would write us a report of his escapades and he has sent the blog he kept which is on page 13. I love the photo taken in Wales. On the subject of Peter and our choir, he had a hip replacement at the end of October which I told him was very inconvenient as it meant he was not available for the Advent Carol Service! Happily, he was, however, back for the Carol Service.

The Justgiving page is still open, so if you have not already supported Peter, it is a very worthy cause.



CHURCH MAGAZINE DONATIONS

Our Treasurer, John, is grateful to those of you who have made a donation towards the cost of the Magazine.

The suggested payment is £10 or £15 if it is sent to you. We are always pleased to receive more than this if you are able. There are three ways to pay:

DETAILS REGARDING PAYMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Payments can be made in cash or by cheque, made payable to Little Horkesley PCC, and can be given to John Sparkes or sent to his home address, 13 Keepers Green, Braiswick, Colchester, CO4 5UT.

They can also be made by Bank transfer as follows:

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Account no. 71027395

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Please do respond to this and remember to make your donation. Producing the Magazine takes a lot of work and is very costly. On the subject of the Magazine thanks are due to those valiant people who deliver it all around the village.

CHRIS TOPPLE

I had already sent my report to Suzanne when I received a phone call from Chris Topple's daughter, Ann. She told me that, sadly, Chris had died on 14th January. I had known that Chris was really unwell as I had heard from the family at Christmas.

Chris and her husband Brigadier Micky Topple came to Little Horkesley in, I think, the 1980's and soon became regulars at our church. Micky quickly became PCC Secretary and then, on the death of Major General de Havilland, he became churchwarden. Sadly, he died at an early age in 1995. Soon after this Chris decided that she would take on his role as PCC Secretary, a role which she fulfilled with great efficiency until ill-health in 2014 made her reluctantly relinquish her role. Apart from her role as Secretary she did a great deal of work with our Family Services. She had been a teacher and greatly loved any role which involved children. Her photographic records of Family services are in the vestry. She also cycled in the Ride and Stride for Friends of Essex Churches

Throughout all of the years that she was in Little Horkesley she helped with whatever she was able and supported a number of people when they were in trouble. She moved from the village to a flat in Colchester and it was not until the summer of 2021 that a fall meant that she was hospitalised and subsequently unable to return to her flat. For the past few months, she had been living in Milton Lodge in Colchester where the family say the staff treated her with loving care. I still sent the Church Magazine to her, and Ann said that she looked at the last issue with great interest. Her funeral service will be at our church on February 1st at 12 noon followed by a reception at the Village Hall.

We remember her children, Andrew, Clare and Ann and their families in our prayers.

MERIEL



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LITTLE HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Emergency Assistance & Vulnerable Persons

Little Horkesley Parish Council has an Emergency Assistance Plan, which outlines how the Parish Council would respond to a declared emergency eg Natural Disaster, Terrorism etc. As a part of the plan, the Parish Council keeps a list of “Vulnerable Persons” to ensure that they receive appropriate help in such an emergency.

If you or a member of your family would like to be included in the list, then please contact the clerk so arrangements can be made.

Only persons who have signed a consent form are included in the “Vulnerable Persons List”.

(all data held by the Parish Council is held in line with the Little Horkesley Parish Council Privacy Policy which is available on the website www.littlehorkesleypc.com)

If you would like to be added to the list of “Vulnerable Persons” then please contact the clerk, Jo Petersen
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for further information contact:

**Mrs Julia Orme
Tel: 01206 271841**

Peter Jones, the Littlegarth Litter Warrior

Peter's blog...

Day 1

Two hours of litter clearing on Chitts Hill and Halstead Road. Numerous cans, bottles and discarded facemasks combined with fast food leftovers and a range of different sweet packets filled two sacks – not a bad haul for the first day! Stopped for a chat with a former pupil and was challenged by a 'local' for collecting litter on his 'patch'! The Littlegarth Litter Warrior moves on to pastures new tomorrow!!

If you require two hours of a Litter Warrior's time in your area, make a donation and put in a postcode and I'll try to visit you sometime this month.

Tomorrow's collection will be on London Road and Peace Road, Lexden. Don't forget to HONK if you pass me in your car!

Day 2

Started on Peace Road but no litter there! Moved onto London Road which was filled with fast food cartons and cans. Cleared both sides of road from A12 roundabout by Sainsbury's through to the Lidl store in Lexden. Hoping that two hours of walking each day will start having a positive impact on the waistline soon!!

16th Aug

Week 1 complete

Twelve hours now complete following a quick break in North Wales. Have already

filled ten large litter bags with a range of items found on the roadside and in hedges. Wet-wipes, face masks and fast food waste makes up the majority of contributions from those too lazy to take their own litter home.

Have come across areas which are litter free as a consequence of the hard work of volunteers. These 'unseen Litter Warriors', who do so much to keep our neighbourhoods looking clear and tidy deserve a medal!

Have started on the A134 opposite Park Road and should have this completed by the end of the week. Also been enjoying the views of Lexden, West Bergholt and Great Horkesley.

Thank you to all those that have stopped to offer encouragement or given a sympathetic toot!

1st Sept.

Things haven't quite gone to plan as dodgy hips caused me to take a break for a few days. However twenty four hours completed in August and eighteen bags filled with litter from various parts of Lexden, West Bergholt and Great Horkesley. The approach to the Littlegarth junction on the A134 was dreadful and filled six bags but the area is now clear!

A further sixteen hours to go. Please give a toot or a wave if you see me and spread the word about the need for raising funds for this very important cause.

8th Oct.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!

40 hours of litter clearing and 36 full bags of roadside litter.

Areas covered include Avenue of Remembrance, A134 by Park Road turn off and route from there to Lexden via West Bergholt, Halstead Road, London Road and route from Tollgate to West Bergholt via Chitts Hill and Eight Ash Green.

I am delighted to announce that after collecting 36 large bags of litter from roadsides in this area, the 40 hours have now been completed and the Brain Tumour Charity has benefitted further, through Lizzie's Fund, to aid research into childhood brain tumours. Lizzie set a wonderful example through her caring approach to all who came across her and I know that she was with me in spirit throughout this challenge.

In recent months, research into childhood brain tumours has been making some progress which it is hoped will go to trial soon. Consequently, it is as important as ever that we continue to raise as much money as possible to support those who are seeking to develop treatment or even a cure for this dreadful disease. Lizzie's Fund has made such a positive impact on the funding for this research and your kind donations have further boosted this very special cause.

Thank you for your extremely generous donations, and for your encouragement throughout this process.

Peter

P.S. I think I've found a new hobby!!

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL
THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED SO
GENEROUSLY SO FAR AND
ALSO FOR YOUR KIND AND
SUPPORTIVE COMMENTS.**

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-jones142

Total raised so far £1815







Spring Word Search



Butterfly



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FLY
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 MOTH
 NECTAR
 PLANTS

PUPA
 STRAW
 WINGS



My Final Open Weekend.

Yes! I decided this one in November 21 would be my last! Prior to holding the event at Lt. Horkesley Church, they were one day events, first at Gt. Horkesley WI Hall, a lovely cosy, friendly affair, then at Langham Village Hall. Every time I had to move everything in, set up, sell and move out all in the same day, which was a mammoth, exhausting exercise!

It was such a boon being allowed to use our lovely church, which had such good light and space, plus the fact I could take two or three days either side of my chosen W/e to set up before and dismantle afterwards, which was a huge relief.

I write using the personal pronoun I. Well, of course, it should be 'WE', because NEVER could I have done any of it single-handed! I owe such a debt of gratitude to so many friends and family who, since my first event in 1998, have given me loyal and wonderful support ever since, so a HUGE THANK YOU to them all; the lifters and heavers, the seat of custom and refreshment teams, flower arrangers, electricians, picture hangers, the pot unpackers and packer-uppers, not forgetting all the hundreds of friends who came to purchase my wares, often coming every time, making each event a joyous reunion! What more could I ask?

However, I am not becoming idle as I intend, hopefully, to just find smaller outlets in the future, because I have to admit that age is taking its toll! Sad!

I realise too that this applies to all my good friends, so hence my decision!

I shall miss the camaraderie the events produced but have happy memories and unfailing gratitude for being given such friendship and support.

Bless you all!
Yours, Brenda G.



Bogus Callers/Distrraction Burglaries & Rogue Traders



Although it is the elderly that are the most likely victims of these types of crime, that is not always the case, besides if you have elderly relatives or friends you may wish to pass on this advice. You may also have elderly or vulnerable neighbours that you can help protect by watching out for suspicious activity.

It's handy to have list with telephone numbers of your water, gas, electricity, telephone etc suppliers by the phone should you need to make contact at any time.

If you have a caller - **STOP** - are you expecting anyone, is the back door locked, sometimes while you are at front door someone will slip in the back. **Have a look out of a window** by the front door and if possible, speak to them first from that window or through the closed door. If you are on your own pretend you are not by calling over your shoulder that you will answer the door. There is no longer a "Water Board or Electricity Board" they now have particular company names so if this is stated that should "ring alarm bells" - **CHAIN** put the door chain on before you open the door if you are opening it at all to them: **CHECK** ask for an ID card, if in doubt ring a telephone number from your relevant correspondence from that company to verify the identity (not a telephone number from their ID card as it may be false) , **IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT** and call the police on **999** or if you have a carer alarm activate it and speak to your control room. If you do let someone in your home always make sure **you close the door behind them** that way no one else can get in while you are busy with your visitor.

With most of the utility companies you can now set up a password with them so that when one of their employees calls you can verify that they are genuine, speak to your relevant company.

Rogue traders may call at your door claiming to be qualified trades people offering to do work on your home. These people may claim you need services like repairs to your roof, lawn or fences, your driveways power washed or repaired or replaced, garden services, or waste clearance. They may seem friendly and persuasive but too often they target vulnerable, elderly people.

A genuine trader won't:

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- offer to take you to the bank to withdraw cash for payment.
- insist that you make a decision about work they're offering to do on the spot.
- bully or scare you into doing the work.

It's your doorstep so you can choose if you want work carried out. If you do think you need some work doing:

- Ask a friend for a recommended trader or contact a Trading Standards 'Buy with Confidence' accredited trader www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk .

- Get a number of quotes.
- Get a written estimate detailing exactly what work will be carried out, how much it will cost and what the terms of payment are.
- Take your time to make sure you're happy with what you're undertaking – ask a trusted friend/relative for advice.

Remember if you believe a crime is being committed please dial 999, otherwise dial 101 or report it online or by the 'Live Chat' at www.essex.police.uk .



LITTLE HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL



SAVE THE DATE!

Little Horkesley Parish Council is planning a
community event to celebrate the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee.

Sunday 5th June 2022

Further details to follow.



Word from Wormingford

By RONALD BLYTHE
10 FEBRUARY 2017

Ronald Blythe thinks of
lamps, and the light that
friendship brings



“ENDLESS noon-day, glorious noon-day From the Sun of suns is there.” Thomas à Kempis was a German monk who came from a poor village family near Cologne, and belonged to an order called the Brethren of the Common Life.

His life was dedicated to imitating Christ. He lived to be over 90, and wrote some beautiful poems, including “Light’s abode, celestial Salem”. He is describing a place where light lives. Jesus once called himself “the light of the world”.

There is a famous Victorian painting by Holman Hunt, *The Light of the World*. The original hangs in Keble College, Oxford, and a later version in St Paul’s Cathedral; but when some of us were young, copies of it hung everywhere; for it was enormously popular. One hung in my bedroom, but I didn’t like it much; the figure was so tall, so strange. It wore a shining robe, carried a shining lantern, and wore two crowns: one of shining gold, and one of thorns. I later discovered that it was painted in a London garden, and that the river that flows in the background is the Thames.

“Lead, kindly Light” was written years before Holman Hunt painted this picture. John Newman was far from home at this time, geographically and spiritually. Have you ever heard of the world going dark because some friend has gone away? You see them off and on, then you return to the house, and all the light which you both helped to create has drained away.

It is not only bereavement that causes this darkening of the scene: it can be the close of a holiday. You feel drained, and pull yourself together, give yourself a drink, and might switch on a favourite programme. The light is almost gone altogether, or dipped.

We had oil lamps when we were children, and one of Mother's sayings was that she couldn't bear what she called a dirty light. The lamp, a swan glass chimney, had to be polished and kept bright and the wick properly trimmed so that it didn't flame or go into points. When you carried the lamp from room to room, you turned the wick low so that the draught didn't make the flame blacken the chimney; so the light travelled from room to room, illuminating them and then leaving them black.

Why did Newman write "Lead, kindly Light"? For one reason, he was cast down, as the little holiday party he was with in the Mediterranean was broken up and he was left on his own. He had known that this would happen, because it was all planned, and at a certain point his young friends would go on, and he, the young Anglican clergyman, would make his way back to Oxford.

But no sooner had they left than all kinds of miserable things began to happen. He felt ill; he couldn't get a passage on a boat; and a journey that would take us four hours took him several weeks. He wrote on the way "The night is dark, and I am far from home." The night was dark because he and some other Oxford priests were in doubt whether they were on the right path. Soon after this, they would go into retreat, and he would go to Rome to find what he believed was the source of Christian illumination. He became a Roman Catholic in his searches, and shook off the Church of England. He took its beautiful liturgy into Roman Catholicism, and a marvellous poem, *The Dream of Gerontius*, about being old, emerged from this remarkable poet.

I think of him in these February days of drifting light, greyness and sudden streaks of sunshine, and the mists and the quietness of the Stour Valley.

Bottomgoms at night





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Polite Notice

After a particularly wet & muddy autumn and winter the church carpet has become ingrained with dirt and will need to be cleaned. So in order to preserve the life of our lovely carpet, we ask that you please remember to wipe your feet thoroughly on the big coir mat outside the church door before entering.

Thank you.

Altar Flowers

<i>Month</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Arranger</i>
	February 6	Meriel & Fionna
	13	Meriel & Fionna
	20	Meriel & Fionna
	27	Meriel & Fionna
 March No Flowers	6	Lent
	13	Lent
	20	Lent
	27	Lent

Michael J Byles

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Sidesmen & Readers : February 2022

Sunday	Sidesmen	Readers	Readings
6th February			
Morning	David Lewis Vicky Minet	David Lewis Vicky Minet	1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Luke 5: 1-11
Evening	NO EVENING SERVICE		
13th February			
Morning	NO MORNING SERVICE		
Evening	Ann Garnett John Sparkes	Ann Garnett John Sparkes	1 Corinthians 15: 12-20 Luke 6: 17-26
	<i>Intercessor: Margaret Thomas</i>		
20th February			
Morning	NO MORNING SERVICE		
Evening	HOLY COMMUNION Brian Lord Nick Hillyard	Brian Lord Nick Hillyard	Revelation 4 Luke 8: 22-25
			
27th February			
Morning	NO MORNING SERVICE		
Evening	Margaret Thomas Harold Thomas	Margaret Thomas Harold Thomas	2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4:2 Luke 9: 28-36
	<i>Intercessor: Brenda Green</i>		



Sidesmen & Readers : March 2022

Sunday	Sidesmen	Readers	Readings
2nd March Evening <u>7.30pm</u>	ASH WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION John Sparkes Brian Lord	John Sparkes Brian Lord	 2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6:10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
6th March Morning Evening	David Lewis Will Pavry NO EVENING SERVICE	David Lewis Will Pavry	Romans 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13
13th March Morning Evening	MORNING SERVICE AND BAPTISM John Sparkes Christopher Orme Nick Hillyard Sue Carbutt <i>Intercessor: Margaret Thomas</i>	John Sparkes Christopher Orme Nick Hillyard Sue Carbutt	Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1 Luke 5: 1-11 Phil 3: 17 – 4:1 Luke 13: 31-end
20th March Morning Evening	NO MORNING SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION Ann Garnett Brian Lord	Ann Garnett Brian Lord	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13:1-9
27th March Morning Evening	MOTHERING SUNDAY NO MORNING SERVICE Margaret Thomas Harold Thomas <i>Intercessor: Brian Lord</i>	Margaret Thomas Harold Thomas	Exodus 2: 1-10 Luke 2: 33-35 
3rd April Morning Evening	David Lewis Vicky Minet NO EVENING SERVICE	Sally Bramall Vicky Minet	Philippians 3: 4b-14 John 12: 1-8



Church Calendar: February & March 2022

February 6th
11.00 am

4th Sunday before Lent
Morning Service



February 13th
6.30 pm

3rd Sunday before Lent
Evening Service

February 20th
6.30 pm

2nd Sunday before Lent
Holy Communion

February 27th
6.30 pm

Sunday before Lent
Evening Service



March 2nd
7.30 pm

Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion

March 6th
11.00 am

Lent 1
Morning Service

March 13th
11.00 am

Lent 2
Morning Service and Baptism – All Welcome
See notice in Magazine regarding this extra service
Evening Service

March 20th
6.30 pm

Lent 3
Holy Communion

March 27th
6.30 pm

Mothering Sunday
Evening Service



April 3rd
11.00 am

Lent 5
Morning Service