**Aldermaston and Woolhampton Benefice News**

**(the parishes of Aldermaston & Wasing, Beenham, Brimpton, Midgham and Woolhampton)**

 **Sunday 21st April 2024: The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**COLLECT** Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

**FIRST READING** *Acts 4.5–12*

The followers of Jesus soon antagonised the Jewish authorities by preaching his resurrection. Peter explained to them how the power of Jesus lives on because God raised him from the dead.

**GOSPEL READING** *John 10.11–18*

The ancient idea of the leader as a good shepherd of his people has been fulfilled in Jesus. He knows us intimately, and loves us enough to die for us.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**  Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Services this Sunday : The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

St Mary’s, Aldermaston 10.45am Holy Communion

St Peter’s Brimpton 9.15am Holy Communion

St Matthew’s, Midgham 9.15am Holy Communion

St Peter’s, Woolhampton 10.45am Holy Communion

**Services next week: 28th April: The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

St Mary’s, Beenham 9.15am Holy Communion

St Peter’s, Brimpton 10.45am Holy Communion

St Matthew’s, Midgham 5pm Sung Evensong

St Peter’s, Woolhampton 10.45am Holy Communion

**Electoral Roll Revision**

In preparation for the APCMs across the benefice next month, the Electoral Rolls are been updated. If you are eligible to be included on the roll, please complete one of the forms found at the back of the churches.

The dates for closure of the rolls are as follows:

Aldermaston and Wasing closed

Beenham 2nd May

Brimpton 26th April

Midgham 26th April

Woolhampton 6th May

**Date for your diary:**

**Celebration of conferring of a doctorate on the Revd Dr Derek Spears**

On the 12th May at 5pm we will be holding a Songs of Praise service at St Matthew’s Midgham to celebrate Derek becoming the Revd Dr Derek Spears. This will be following by a reception. Everyone in the benefice is warmly invited. **Please sign the list at the back of each of the churches to indicate that you are coming to help with arrangements.**

**Help with refreshments would be much appreciated, please speak to the Churchwardens.**

***We pray for our planet***

Heavenly Father, we ask you to stir our hearts into action. As global temperatures increase, inspire us with ways, we can make a difference in our homes, church congregations, communities, and the world around us. We pray for your prompting where we can do more to love our neighbour. Amen.

 **Prayers and Pastoral Care** In the Benefice we seek to offer care for everyone in our churches and our communites, especially when they are in a difficult period in their lives. If you need to talk to a someone or would like a home visit, please contact the Rector on 0118 9712 891
You might just need to talk to someone in complete confidence about a personal or family crisis. We will always listen and help if we can. If you would like prayers included in our services on a Sunday for someone who is ill or in need, (providing the person is aware that they are being prayed for), has recently died or on the anniversary of their death, please do let me know. Revd Jane

We pray for those who are ill at this time:

Sue Storey (Brimpton)

Evelyn Weston (Brimpton)

We remember those who have recently died and pray for those who grieve

Please print this newsletter and hand on to anyone you know who does not have internet access

**Rector:** The Rev’d Jane Manley jmanley.awb@gmail.com

01189712 891

**Assistant Priest**

The Revd Derek Spears dspears.awb@gmail.com