



Being With

SPREADING GOD'S LOVE

Being With Course - Starting Feb 2024

The 'Being With' Course is an invitation to invest in becoming the type of person who knows how to be with yourself, others, the world around us and through this to be with God. It is an invitation to discover faith in the context of discovering friendship. The heart of this course is that Being With is what God is all about so we've designed a course that should feel like that.

Perhaps you've never given much thought to the idea of God since leaving primary school, or the church has hurt you in some way (I'm sorry). Perhaps you feel deep in your bones or soul that there are some bigger questions to consider. Maybe you've gone to church all your life but you'd like to explore faith with new eyes and perspectives.

We'll be running this new course in our Benefice for the first time in Feb 2024. We'll be advertising it during our Christmas services but the most important thing will be for you to speak to and invite people along. There will be flyers to promote this soon.

Children's Work

This year I would like to see us develop our outreach to children and families. Last year we tried something at Easter which sadly fell through. This year I would like to develop a small team who would be willing to gather together, firstly to pray for the children of our Benefice and to dream about what may be possible. I hope that we can continue to support our school through Messy Church, Assemblies, and Prayer Spaces. First time of dreaming, chatting & and praying will be at The Rectory in Stickland on Saturday 18th Nov 10:30am with coffee and pastries.



RESOURCING

Thank you to all of you who give so generously of your time, your talents, and your money to support our ministry. Financial giving can be a taboo subject in churches and clergy are often nervous to speak about the subject but it is important to do so if we are going to resource our parishes for the future. In the coming months I will grasp the nettle and try to provide some opportunities to reflect upon giving, how church finances work and what can we learn about giving from the Bible?

HAVE I GOT PEWS NEWS FOR YOU



WINTERBORNE VALLEY & MILTON ABBAS BENEFICE 2023/2024



Welcome to our second Have I Got Pews News For You. The idea is that these occasional publications will give space to say something about the direction of travel for our Benefice. This one is about how I see our shared life together over the coming year (although God is often in the business of surprises and we should always be prepared for the unexpected). There is so much that goes on day to day in each of our parishes serving God in different ways. This booklet is focussed more upon what we can do together. These are starting points to work from, to add your thoughts and ideas to, a shared journey. The main areas it will explore are discipleship (how we become more like Jesus) and outreach or mission (how we spread news of God's love, joining in with God is already doing. We must be adaptable and put our trust in God to become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church.

Rev'd Lewis

BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

Home Groups

Over the past year a couple of home groups have started (or re-started) in our Benefice. These groups provide the chance to explore the Christian faith with others, digging a bit deeper into the Bible and different topics. Get in touch with Lewis if you'd like more information.



Lent 2024 The Chosen

The Chosen is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus (Jonathan Roumie), seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the seven-season show shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings. In Lent there will be an opportunity together to watch some episodes and talk together.

The Gospel according to Mark.....

Following on from this moving and popular time in 2023 we will spend a morning reading through Mark's Gospel on a Sat morning in Lent as Mark will be the Gospel we focus upon in 2024. Date TBC



Podcast

In the summer I spent some time thinking about how people might find connection with the Jesus story. Those people who I so often meet at weddings, baptisms, funerals, down the pub, walking the dog. Those people who have a sense of something spiritual, they might call it God they might not. Maybe those on the fringes of faith or church, those who have dipped a toe in, or those who have been burnt. Those who are part of church and have deep honest questions. Or people who have shall we say have a complicated relationship with church. Maybe people like me who enjoy hearing a few people chew the cud, in a honest warts and all type of conversation. Those of us who like nothing more to listen to a podcast when driving the car, walking the dog or cleaning the kitchen. And so here comes the birth of 'A Little Less Confirmation' podcast.

A podcast for people who want to explore the Christian faith, without the religious jargon, without being preached at. We have some great guests lined up to join us. More details to follow soon.