

Weston Bampfylde and Little Weston

Newsletter July/August 2024

Here is the newsletter for July and August. I will publish an update at the beginning of August with any changes and news. If you have not let us know if you are coming to the licencing service for The Revd. Caroline Walker, please add your name to the list in the church or send us an email as soon as possible. We do need numbers for catering purposes. Parking for the service will be at The Old School or The Open Pathway. Please note that there are two services in the benefice this coming Sunday. A service of Morning Prayer at Weston Bampfylde at 10.00am, and a United Service with the Methodists at West Camel at 6.00pm. Chris Hemborough will be the speaker at this service, giving an update on the work of Project Mozambique.

Contact for the Village Hall

Booking secretary and Treasurer

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Contacts for Holy Cross Church

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Cam Vale Benefice Services July/August 2024

Sunday 7th July

9.30am All Age Service at Queen Camel
10.00am Morning Prayer at Corton Denham
4.00pm Tea @ Four at West Camel

Sunday 14th July

9.30 BCP Holy Communion at West Camel
10.00am Morning Prayer at Weston Bampfylde
10.00am Morning Prayer at Sutton Montis

Sunday 21st July

9.30am Common Worship Holy Communion at Queen Camel
9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Sparkford
10.00am "Lego" Service at West Camel

Sunday 28th July

10.00am Together at Ten at Corton Denham

Thursday 1st August

7.00pm "Celebration for a New Ministry" Welcome and Licencing Service for The Revd Caroline Walker by the Acting Archdeacon of Wells (Revd Charlie Peer)

Sunday 4th August

9.30am Morning Prayer at Queen Camel
10.00am Morning Prayer at Corton Denham
4.00pm Tea @ Four at West Camel

Sunday 11th August

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at West Camel
10.00am Common Worship Holy Communion at Weston Bampfylde (Rose will officiate at this service, Caroline Walker will be in attendance)

Sunday 18th August

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at Queen Camel

Sunday 25th August

10.00am Together at Ten at Sparkford

Candles for Ukraine.



**A big thank you to all who generously
donated to our**

Candles for Ukraine Appeal.

**We collected 117kg of candles from our
6 churches.**

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Village Hall date

This is just to confirm the date of the cheese and wine tasting evening on Saturday 13th July. Further details will be delivered by leaflet nearer the date of the event.

Parish Letter

I often take part in online debates, mainly on Facebook, and have discovered that people say things online that they would never say to someone face-to-face. Many comments are insulting, even obscene, and this is especially so if one dares to mention God, Christianity or the Bible. Believers like myself are often accused of being uneducated, idiotic, mentally deficient, or worse. The trolls claim we believe in a "sky fairy", and the Bible is often described as a book of fairy tales written by "Bronze Age goat-herders." When people say things like that it's obvious that they have absolutely no idea what they are talking about! There is abundant evidence for the truth of the Bible from archaeology and secular history, and it's still the world's best-selling book.

I suspect that these trolls only represent a minority, and that most people aren't that bothered. However, I am quite convinced that most unbelievers don't really understand Christianity. Many believe it's a negative life of keeping lots of rules and denying yourself life's pleasures. Someone on Facebook recently expressed her pity for me because she claimed I was living in fear of God's disapproval and wasting my life. I've been a Christian for around 70 years, and such comments amuse me. Have I really been deluded for most of my life? Certainly not! In fact, I can't imagine life without my faith in Jesus Christ, and I've proved its reality over and over again.

People often demand proof of God's existence. I believe there is plenty of *evidence*, but *proof* involves a step of faith. The Bible says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." (*Hebrews 11: 6*). Jesus promised that those who seek will find. The rewards come to those who sincerely seek.

We live in a very troubled world, and many people look to the future with anxiety, even fear. Being a Christian is no insurance policy against trouble, but Jesus did say to His followers, "Do not let your hearts be troubled.... In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (*John 14: 1 and 16:33*). Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus can give us that peace, forgiveness for all our sins, past and present, and a full and purposeful life that will continue when this life is over. So I don't much care what the internet trolls say, it seems like a very good deal to me, and I wouldn't trade my faith for anything.

If you really want to find out what Christians believe, rather than the caricature often presented, please do ask your church minister, or a Christian friend, to tell you more. You have nothing to lose, but so much to gain!

—Geoff Chapman. West Camel Independent Methodist Church.