

## THE BANSFIELD BENEFICE

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**CHURCH NEWS** 

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# February 2007

### ear friends,

Jesus was at a wedding in a place called Cana, in Galilee, when the wine ran out, a major catastrophe! So, after prompting from His mother, Jesus ordered the stewards to fill six water jars with water, each holding twenty to thirty gallons — huge standing jars, still and immovable. St. John, telling the story, also points out that the jars were the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing. Furthermore, they were made of stone, the same material on which the Law itself had been

carved; the same material which Moses had split asunder with Aaron's rod to provide water for Israel in the desert.



But water was no longer sufficient. Something more was needed to slake the spiritual thirst of humankind and God had sent Jesus to provide it. Although Jesus knew the time had not yet come for this provision to take place, his mother insisted he at least save this wedding from disaster.



What happened next would serve as a trailer to the big picture to come what John calls "a sign".

Jesus told the stewards to fill the jars with water. Now as long as the water stood in those stone, ritual jars, symbols of the old religion, it was nothing but plain old water. It was only when the stewards drew the water out, at Jesus' request, and took it to the master of the banquet to drink, that it was transformed. By this movement, by this participation in the banquet, the water was glorified.

By this willingness to leave the old and take on the new, the water was transfigured into wine — not just everyday wine either: we specifically learn that it was better than all the other wines tasted at the party up to that point. The salvation offered by Jesus is not just sweeter than the water provided by

Moses but more refreshing than all the other faiths that have been tried, as many and varied as all the vintages that had probably been drunk over the several days that a Jewish wedding could last!



What Jesus did to that water, He'd already done to the disciples: He'd called them from their old life to something new. The leading disciples were fishermen; living off the water, probably knee-deep in water when Jesus strolled along the shore of Lake Galilee and called them into a new kind of faith that was dripping with the wine of the Father's grace. At this wedding in Cana the disciples have a first "sign" of how bountiful and miraculous that grace can be.

Isn't every generation called to leave the

water? Isn't it our turn now to assess honestly what we can sustain and what we need to leave behind — for some, perhaps even walking away from the building where we've always worshipped? Christ is calling us to draw the water and taste the wine. It may be painful, but our Creed is one of personal humility and sacrifice. The Body to which we belong bears the wounds of crucifixion. In Communion we drink wine that recollects the blood from those wounds.

The coming years are going to be an exciting time of sharing and learning to be the Church better. New ways of being c h u r c h i n o u r communities; new forms of Ordained and Lay Ministry developed; more



flexible use of our buildings encouraged; and possibly more creative worship devised.

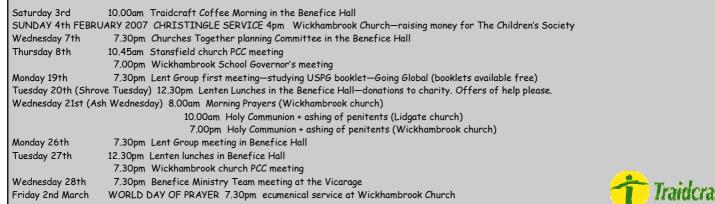
But we can't answer Christ's call if we keep the cold, stone ritual jars of water locked up tight, afraid of the Son-drenched, Spiritfilled power of the wine whose drinking celebrates a new communion with God.

Mary, Jesus' mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." - and so do we if we wish to taste the new wine which Jesus offers.

Come and join us in following Jesus and drinking of the new wine He offers.

Rev. Ian Finn

#### CHURCH & VILLAGE EVENTS : February 2007



## SERVICE ROTA FEBRUARY2007

February	St. Nicholas	All Saints	St. Margaret	All Saints	St. Margaret	St. Mary	St. Peter
2007	DENSTON	STANSFIELD	STRADISHALL	WICKHAMBROOK	COWLINGE	LIDGATE	OUSDEN
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Matins	9.30am Matins BCP		4.00pm	9.30am HC CW	9.30am HC CW	11.00am HC BCP
3 <sup>rd</sup> b. Lent	BCP	John Dennis		CHRISTINGLE	IMF	Bob Torrens	IMF
	Fiona Evans						
Tuesday 6th			10.00am HC				
Thursday 8th							10.00am HC
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Benefice						
2 <sup>nd</sup> b. Lent	HC BCP						
	IMF						
Tuesday 13th							
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>							
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am HC BCP	8.00am HC CW	3.00pm	9.30pm Family	9.30am Morning	9.30am Matins BCP	11.00am HC BCP
Next b. Lent	IMF	IMF	Evensong BCP	Paul Bevan	Prayer CW	Ann Jones	IMF
			IMF		Philip Draycott		
Tuesday 20th				LENT LUNCH		10.00am HC	
ASH				7.00pm HC CW		10.00am HC BCP	
WEDNESDAY				IMF		IMF	
Thursday 22nd		10.00am HC					
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>					10.00am Benefice		
LENT 1					HC CW		
					IMF		
Tuesday 27th	10.00am HC			LENT LUNCH			
Thursday 1st					10.00am HC		

HC = Holy Communion CW = Common Worship service BCP = Book of Common Prayer Service IMF = the Vicar







2007

## **LENT 2007**

Mondays (from 19th Feb.) in Lent

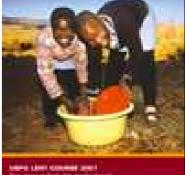
7.30pm **Lent Group** 

USPG LENT COURSE 2007 'Going Global' Booklet available. Let the vicar know if you want to use the booklet

Tuesdays (from 20<sup>th</sup> Feb) in Lent 12.30pm **Simple lunch** in Benefice Hall **Donations to charity** Volunteers to supply one lunchtime?

ASH WEDESDAY (21<sup>st</sup> February 2007) 8.00am Morning Prayer BCP (Wickhambrook Church) 10.00am Eucharist & Ashing (Lidgate Church) 7.00pm Sung Eucharist & Ashing (Wickhambrook church)

# GOING GLOBAU Make a worki of differe



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