

The Upper Nene Benefice
SERVICES SCHEDULE AND NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

Rector: Revd Stephen Burrow 07415 691541

Sunday 1st March – Lent 2 - Purple

9:30am	Family Worship	Weedon Church
10:00am	Holy Communion	Church Stowe
11:00am	United First Sunday Service	Flore Chapel
11:00am	Holy Communion	Dodford Church
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Heyford Church

Sunday 8th March – Lent 3 – Purple

9:30am	Worship Service	Weedon Church
10:00am	Morning Worship	Flore Chapel
10:30am	Benefice Holy Communion Service	Flore Church

Sunday 15th March – Lent 4 – Purple – Mothering Sunday

9:30am	Breakfast Church	Weedon Church
10:00am	Holy Communion (with reaffirmation of Baptism Promises)	Heyford Church
10:00am	Mothering Sunday Coffee Church	Flore Chapel
10:00am	Family Service for Mothering Sunday	Upper Stowe

Saturday 21st March

2:00pm	Messy Church	Flore Church
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Sunday 22nd March – Lent 5 - Purple

9:30am	Holy Communion	Weedon Church
10:00am	Holy Communion (with Baptism)	Flore Church
10:00am	Morning Worship	Flore Chapel
10:00am	Family Service	Upper Stowe
4:00pm	Café Church	Heyford Church

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday - Red

10:00am	Benefice Holy Communion	Flore Church
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Midweek Services

Wednesday 4 th March – 10:30am	Holy Communion & Bible Study	Weedon Church
Wednesday 18 th March – 10:30am	Prayer & Praise at Riverside Court,	Weedon
Thursdays 10:00am	- Holy Communion	Flore Church
	2.30pm - 3.30pm - Private prayer	Flore Church
Fridays 9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom	All Welcome

Contact the Rector by [email: s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk) for an invitation.

A Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends.

Twelve months ago, I wrote about impending changes affecting the wider Deanery and the benefices of Heyford with Stowe-nine-Churches and Flore with Brockhall, Weedon, Everdon and Dodford, and the Knightley Benefice. After a year going through the necessary Church processes, those changes were signed off by the Church Commissioners in February, and take effect from 1st March 2026. From that day, the six parishes of Heyford, Stowe-nine-Churches, Flore, Brockhall, Weedon and Dodford become one larger benefice, known as the Upper Nene Benefice. Everdon joins the Knightley Benefice, creating a second enlarged benefice of six parishes.

Perhaps a little later than we might have hoped or expected, we can now begin the process of working together as an enlarged benefice to create a strong union, growing confident disciples. Again, this will take time and require grace, patience and a little compromise as we begin to move forward together. March 1st will mark the beginning of a period of transition, as we move from our two existing patterns of services to a new pattern across the six parishes. Some timings will inevitably change, especially on Sunday mornings. We hope that the new service pattern will be established by the middle of April, but in the meantime please pay particular attention to the venues and timings of services as we go forward over the next five or six weeks. Other changes, perhaps to the way we govern ourselves or communicate internally and externally might take a little longer.

I'd especially like to draw your attention to the Benefice Communion Service at Flore Church on Sunday 8th March, which will begin at 10:30AM. The later start will allow people to join us from Weedon and Dodford to hear the visiting preacher, Rev'd Haydon Spenceley, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands. He will be speaking to us about nurturing new ministry, with particular reference to our prospective curate, who will be joining the benefice at the end of June.

As always, please hold the parishes and processes in your prayers, as we get to know one another and find new ways to work together to build God's Church and advance his Kingdom in this place. These are challenging, exciting and hopeful times, in which St Paul's words to Timothy again remind us where our true hopes lay, *"we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe"* (1 Timothy 4:10). In these times of change, our hope is in God, and that hope does not and will not disappoint us.

With prayers and blessings,

Rev'd Stephen (Tel: 07415 691541)

Holy Week Services in March

Monday 30th March

5:00pm Evening Prayer
7:30pm Holy Communion

Weedon Church
Upper Stowe

Tuesday 31st March

5:00pm Evening Prayer
7:30pm Compline

Weedon Church
Brockhall

Praying for our Villages

The Streets we shall be praying for during March are: Close Rd, The Pound and The Peak in Heyford, The Avenue and The Glebe in Flore, The Old Dairy Farm in Upper Stowe and the outlying farms around Stowe and the Mews Houses in Brockhall.