



# Windmill United Benefice

*The parishes of Burstow, Horne and Outwood*

Rector: Revd Nicholas Calver  
([nicholas.calver@btinternet.com](mailto:nicholas.calver@btinternet.com))

*Easter 2018*

Maggie Leventoglu



## **It will remain in my heart...**

**Maggie Leventoglu joined the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, led by Bishop Christopher. She shares some of the sights and impressions from the trip**

Back in the summer of 2017, Judith Calver handed me a copy of *The Bridge*. I admit I don't always read it, but this time I did and I saw details of the trip to Israel. And so my story begins:

On Monday 19 February, I set off for Heathrow to join the other pilgrims from the Southwark Diocese. I didn't know anyone else, but soon felt part of the group. I had quite an ordeal getting through the Israeli security and was questioned by four different officials (I suspect due to my surname). Eventually I was able to check in my

suitcase, but still had to have my hand luggage searched and swabbed.

At last, we boarded the El Al 'Dreamliner' for the four-hour flight to Tel Aviv. On arrival there was approximately an hour's coach drive to our hotel in Jerusalem. Here, I met my room-mate, Juliet. She is very nice and we had a lot of laughs together.

The seven-day itinerary ensured that we would see as much as possible.

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***The picture above shows sunrise over the Sea of Galilee and some early birds***

# A journey through Holy Week

As Nicholas said, the services of Holy Week provided the opportunity to enter into the last days of Jesus' journey and helped us to see that his journey is also our journey. The services and events offered a vivid recreation of the Easter story

On Palm Sunday, the joint Benefice service was at Outwood and began with a procession from the Church Room before a powerful dramatised reading of the Gospel. "Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing; resounding all the day Hosannas to their King. Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry."



Messy Church on Palm Sunday afternoon also resounded to the sound of Hosanna with specially made palms – as well as the Easter story told in Rocky Road cakes, green hill gardens, casting of lots and a large painted cross



The Seder meal, making the connection between the Jewish Passover and the Christian Eucharist, was held at Horne this year (below and below right). Having remembered the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples, everyone walked over to the church for the stripping of the altar, and a vigil, remembering Jesus's time in the Garden of Gethsamene.



In Burstow on Easter Eve (above) the lighting of the new fire, from which the Paschal Candles for all three churches were lit, was a dramatic symbol of Christ's risen presence shining through the darkness. A 7am service on Outwood Common recalled the women arriving at the empty tomb (below). Then we met the risen Christ at the Easter communions in all the three churches of the benefice



There was a buzz of busy-ness at the all-age workshop in Horne church on Good Friday morning (above). This was followed by a short service, and later by the Good Friday liturgy before a community hot cross bun tea in Smallfield Hall (top left)

# Reflecting on this year's Lent Course

The Windmill United Benefice  
Lent Course 2018



Finding  
Sanctuary

With sincere thanks to Revd Nicholas Calver, for a very interesting five-week Lent course 'Finding Sanctuary'. This was based on the experiences of five men staying 40 days and nights with the monks in Worth Abbey, Sussex, and living every day as they do. It brought out lots of emotions, not just for the five men, but for ourselves, as we watched and listened to extracts from the TV series. Then we gave our own thoughts to what we had seen and heard. Thank you to Rosemary and David Spruce, and the Revd and Judith Calver for their hospitality.

*Sylvia Thompson*

From contemplating the value of silence as a spiritual bath and learning to understand how we value and undervalue silence in our everyday lives, we were prompted by video extracts from "The Monastery" to think deeply and to share personal emotions and experiences.

**This year's Lent Course has encouraged me to focus on who I am and who I should be. We can learn about ourselves through interacting with others, and I find that I do not like myself. This is a challenge that I must face and I need to work through it to find how to give glory to God by being myself. The men in the monastery went through this process, which encourages me to do the same and to discover what place I should be taking in the world.**

Our discussions were often formed around some memorable quotes, for example, "Humility is about our struggle to be fully human", leading us to consider how we can learn to better know our own character when we see ourselves through the eyes of other people and the importance of being a

part of a community.

A quote from Francis de Sales, "Do not wish to be anything but what you are and try to be that perfectly," also gave us much food for thought, including how we must learn to work

The streets were busy,  
Traders selling their wares.  
Food, clothes, trinkets and much more.  
All you could want was there.  
People pushing to pass us,  
For we were too slow  
As we stopped at the Stations  
To pray and sing as we go.  
In the footsteps of Jesus,  
Carrying the cross as he did there,  
Tired, beaten, humiliated, afraid.  
We felt his despair.  
But he did it for us,  
That we might be saved.  
So keep in your hearts  
what we did today.

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The hotel overlooked the walls of old Jerusalem. We went into the city via Herod's Gate and the cobbled path led us down and down towards the renowned areas. The first stop was at the Church of St Anne, beside the Pool of Bethesda. There is no longer any water there, just ruins of previous ancient buildings. This is where Jesus told the lame man to get up and walk. After morning worship we made our way to The Via Dolorosa. We followed the path that Jesus took as he carried the cross. At each 'station' we said a prayer and sang a verse of the hymn

**A thought-provoking Course, very much enjoyed. It was especially fascinating seeing a little of how the Monks of Worth Abbey live. I also found it good to get to know the Burstow and Horne members of our group.**

*Shân Daniels*

through loss and failure in order to appreciate and achieve true success and happiness.

I am sure every one of us gave great thought to how we live our lives each time we attended a session. Thanks to all our hosts.

*Helen Goudie*

It was lovely to be part of a group for the Lent Course. Being new to the benefice, it was good to get to know some people from all three churches.

For me, finding sanctuary is all about knowing who I am and being true to myself. I don't believe that we can really change who we are, but I do believe that we need to take time to find out more truly who we are and become a better version of that person. There is

**The Lent course this year was very challenging, or so I found. Learning to be together as a community is sometimes very difficult but recognising our own need to change is so much more profound than trying to change others. We need each other to grow in the love of Christ. I am so grateful for the love in our church community and the gentle loving guidance we receive**

*Jo Coulson Davis*

'Were you there?' It was very moving.

Then on to The Holy Sepulchre. I climbed the stairs to Calvary and Mount Golgotha. I put my hand into the rock where the cross had been. It felt very special and brought everything to a better understanding. There is a beautiful mosaic depicting Mary after Jesus had died. I felt her pain, having lost my own son 12 years ago.

In the afternoon we went to the Western Wall (the Wailing Wall), men to the left and women to the right. I put my hand on the wall and prayed for peace.

The next day we drove to Bethany to visit Jeel al Amal, a school and

always room for improvement and the course has given me time to consider what I need to improve and what I can realistically work on right now. I need to work harder at making time to be silent and reflect on these things.

Through the experience of the five men, we can be reassured that what we have been is not what we have to be forever. With a desire to change, we can learn how to be a better version of who we really are. This should enable us to be kinder to our fellow human beings. I am reminded of the prayer:

*In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.*

*Ginette Nye*

orphanage. The children come from broken homes, may have been abused etc. They always try to keep siblings together. There were many murals on the walls. One inscription said 'A child cries in the same language as any child'. We remarked that they also smiled and laughed in the same language.

We then continued on to Beit Sahur and the Shepherd's Fields, where the shepherds were told about the birth of Jesus. During a service there we sang 'While shepherds watched' and 'O come all ye faithful'.

It was then on to Bethlehem's

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Manger Square and the Basilica of the Nativity. There is a grotto, below the church, which is said to be Jesus' birthplace. Not a stable, but a cavern hewn out of the rocky hills.

The next day we visited Neve el Shalom (Oasis of Peace), a community of Palestinians and Jews. They are showing that it is possible to live together in harmony. We then went through the West Bank to Nablus and Jacob's Well. Here Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water.

We continued on to Tiberius and our second hotel, which is right on the shoreline of Galilee. We could see the Golan Heights on the other side. Early the next morning we saw a beautiful sunrise over the lake.

Our next visit was to the Mount of the Beatitudes, where the Sermon on the Mount took place. We held a Eucharist in the open air, before

driving on to Tabgha and the Chapel of the Loaves and Fishes. We walked on to the shore of Galilee, where Jesus had revealed himself to some of his disciples. It felt good to be in a place where we can truly say that Jesus had also been there.

Then on to Capernaum where there is a modern looking church – someone remarked that it was a bit like the Millenium Falcon from 'Star Wars'. Inside are remains of an ancient house, believed to have been Peter's mother-in-law's house (*see picture, below*). The Bible tells us that Jesus visited the house when she was sick. He cured her and then she prepared food for them. I did have an unreligious thought: 'Typical blokes – as soon as the woman is well, she is expected to cook!'

We then drove through the Golan Heights, passing through territory which had previously been part of

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Maggie Leventoglu

## Launch of the community lunch



The weather may have been cold and snowy outside, but inside Smallfield Church Hall the atmosphere was warm as 36 diners plus a band of helpers gathered for the first community lunch. Some had come with friends, others had come on their own but all enjoyed a magnificent meal of roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, stuffing, roast potatoes and a selection of vegetables which was followed by apple pie with custard or ice cream.

The idea for the lunch came from a workshop at the Prayer and Spirituality Day at Southwark Cathedral last year, attended by Kay Hammond and Jo Coulson-Davis, in which the Bishop of Woolwich, Bishop Karowei Dorgu, offered a

practical exploration of how we can enact more authentic Christian hospitality. It is a new venture organised by Burstow Church and will take place on the third Sunday of every month in Smallfield Church Hall. There is no charge for the lunch, though donations are invited. Each month there will be a two-course meal; a vegetarian option is available if pre-booked. Water is provided but if you wish to bring your own drinks that is fine.

The next lunch will be on 15 April and everyone is welcome. Booking is helpful but not essential. If you wish to book please call Kay on 07808 322 440, or Caroline on 07795 346 675 and leave a message if the phone goes to answerphone.



Lebanon and Syria. On the way there were 'no go' areas and there were warning signs about unexploded landmines. A reminder of past and present hostilities.

We arrived at Caesarea Phillipi and Bainias, where there is a source of the River Jordan. It was very peaceful there. Here we renewed our baptismal promises and Bishop Christopher splashed water over us. He surprised us, at the end, by tipping the remaining water over Dean Andrew's head.

On our last full day, we set off to Nazareth and the Basilica of the Annunciation. Inside, there is an altar decorated with flowers and candles. It marks the spot where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary (*see, below*).



**So many memories of places seen.  
Churches, shrines, grottos,  
people and more.**

**Sometimes I wonder –  
was it a dream?**

**Why, I wonder, had I not been before?**

**But now I have, I can truly say  
It will remain in my heart  
to the end of my day.**

*ML, February 2018*

Our next stop was Christ Church, where the 90 of us joined 20 people from Arizona and the usual congregation. Standing room only for some. The service was conducted in English and Arabic (sometimes simultaneously). We almost raised the roof, especially when singing.

Next was Mount Tabor and the Church of the Transfiguration, where Jesus appeared with Moses and Elijah. We had to travel up the mountain in mini buses and negotiate around 20 tight hairpin bends. The church is beautiful inside.

All too soon our pilgrimage was drawing to a close. We boarded a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. We sang 'Be Still'. The engine was stopped halfway and we drifted in silence. Much of the landscape is unchanged from biblical times. I could almost hear the sound of oars being drawn across the water. I said a silent prayer to God and asked him to give my son David a hug. I felt a warmth in my heart and knew I had been heard.

We arrived at other side and then drove to Caesarea Maritina on the Mediterranean shore. Here we were anointed with oil and were given olive wood crosses as a memento. A short time later we set off to Tel Aviv and our flight home.

