The Benefice of Wantage Downs
East Hendred, West Hendred, and Ardington with Lockinge
10th – 24th September 2025

Services

14th September – Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity

9am – West Hendred – Holy Communion

10am – East Hendred – Morning Service with Children's Church

11:15am – Ardington – Holy Communion

21st September – Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity

9am – West Hendred – Holy Communion

10am – East Hendred – Holy Communion with Children's Church

6pm – Lockinge - Evensong

28th September – Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

9am – West Hendred – Holy Communion

10am – East Hendred – Family Service

11:15am – Ardington: Holy Communion

Readings for 14th September
Jeremiah 4:11-12. 22-28; Luke 15:1-10.

Readings for 21st September
Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1; Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13.

News

As we have been introducing our new service times, I have been going back and forth on how to describe what makes each of our churches and their services special. I have used words like 'traditional' and 'contemporary'. The truth of course is that all our services are a mix of traditional and contemporary: the liturgy that we follow has roots in the ancient church, while the sermon brings in present-day concerns. Some of the hymns we sing are centuries old, while others were written in the last few decades. Little has changed in the last few weeks other than what time the services take place. The service in East Hendred has been relatively 'contemporary' since long before my time, addressing God as 'you' rather than the more traditional 'thee/thou' used elsewhere in the benefice. Both are authentic and respectful ways of revering our creator.

Nikolaj

Quarterly Quodlibetal Questions

Join us for our Q&A with Nikolaj and Fr Matthew. In past sessions we have tackled questions like when the first homo sapiens began to have souls, and whether churches' doctrinal statements are important. The good thing about these sessions is: you don't have to know the answers, you don't even have to ask the questions if you don't want to, but if you do, please be assured there are no stupid questions. It's a great opportunity to be curious about what others believe, including other kinds of Christians, and appreciate the nuances that exist within each church tradition. So, come along to the Wheatsheaf, East Hendred, on Wednesday 10th September from 7:30pm.

Rotas

We're in the process of making rotas for October and November. All help is greatly appreciated. If you'd like to volunteer or have any questions please email Emma through the office email (office@wantagedowns.org).

Harvest Thanksgiving

5th October 6pm, Lockinge
12th October 9am, West Hendred
19th October 10am, East Hendred

Benefice Vision Process

Thank you to everyone who came to the benefice vision meeting. In order to start putting our ideas into practice in between the main sessions, we will have a very short meeting to discuss the ideas that were proposed and plan how we will pray for our benefice. This will take place 10:30-11:00am on Tuesday 16th September. Please get in touch if you would like to join: rector@wantagedowns.org.

For more news and updates sign up to our online newsletter:
www.wantagedowns.org/newsletters

Please remember in your prayers

Health and healing: Yvonne and Sidney H, Ewan and Colin Stutt, Louise E.

Departed: Linda Harford