

August 2022



Benefice Newsletter

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SEVEN
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CHURCHES
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Ramblings from the Rectory – August 2022

To prepare for this article I looked through my diary for August and what dominated the pages were holidays. Mostly, not my holidays but almost everyone who helps run the church here seems to be away at some point or other this month. My first impulse is to pray for sunny weather for those holidaying in this unpredictable country.

I begin to look forward to my own holidays too. Then I start to feel this guilt for taking time off. It feels like dropping the ball, or letting the side down. The job that I do, is as much a privilege as it is a profession. I read 1 Corinthians 12 and am reminded of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit working tirelessly in God's people. As I read, I know that God never stops working in me. His love for me demands it.

Then my mind went to the stories of Jesus seeking rest and quiet, to pray and to have family time with his Father (e.g. Mark 1.35, Matthew 14.13, and Luke 5.16). Then my mind went right to the beginning of the Bible, where I read that after God had finished the work of creation he rested. He stopped to enjoy, to savour, all the beauty and wonder that he had made (Genesis 2.2). So that means that the rightness of rest is built into the very fabric of creation itself. We are called to work hard and diligently, sharing God's love with the people around us. We are also called to rest, truly rest. If, like me, you are an active person, it can be hard just to stop, but, if God commands it, then it is probably a good idea for us to obey!

The Bible makes it clear that taking a holiday and resting are basic human needs, just like sleep. Scientific studies have found that people who claim to function well with very little sleep, are actually fooling themselves. The studies show that these people have really just accepted working below par as normal. We need to rest to our allow body, mind and spirit to be refreshed. This does not mean taking time off from being with God or from doing his will. I have found it to be more like sitting silently on a bench with a close personal friend. Nothing needs to be said out loud, we can enjoy the beauty of that moment, sharing it all, resting in one another's company.

I have found that there are times when Jesus calls me to intense activity. There are also times when he leads me out to a quiet place to rest in God's presence. I am concerned about the troubles in the world, and crises facing so many good, ordinary people in this country and right here in our part of Norfolk. I want to help. I also know that to be able to see clearly and act well, I need at times to rest. I need to settle my mind and spirit. I can't do this job in my own strength alone, and it is good for me to be reminded of that fact.

So I am going to enjoy my holiday, good weather or not. I pray you have a refreshing and restoring break too. Happy August.

God bless,
Nigel.

Introduction From James

Hello, my name is James and I'm the new curate in the Earsham and Redenhall with Scole Benefices. I moved here at the beginning of July, after being ordained at Norwich Cathedral, and am really enjoying getting to know the people and places of South Norfolk. Thank you to all those I have met so far, who have welcomed me so warmly.

One exciting feature I have already encountered here is the Via Beata (or 'Way of Blessing') pilgrim way, which runs through the patch and passes close to All Hallows' Convent in Ditchingham. Pilgrimage has been a wonderful feature in my life - I so enjoy the adventure of encountering new people in new places and my previous pilgrim adventures have included walking the Camino de Santiago, as well as UK pilgrim ways to Walsingham, Lindisfarne and Iona.

As well as the simple joys of adventure amidst the beauty of the natural world, pilgrimage is profoundly spiritual and speaks into the everyday life of faith and discipleship. For example, the pilgrim learns to sift through their possessions, carrying only what is necessary and letting go of burdens that weigh down. The simplicity of each day creates space to pay attention, noticing the beauty of the surroundings and in every moment. Meanwhile, fellow travellers become a gift for mutual sharing and generosity.

Walking 25-35kms daily is also a significant test of physical, mental and spiritual perseverance – and this inevitably prompts the pilgrim to consider the source of their security and dependence. Jesus said: “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11.28-29).

Wherever this article finds you, whatever the life situations you contend with, please know that God is with you. Jesus came to dwell amongst us, encountering people just like you and me and nurturing a closer relationship with them. In my own life, it took me some time to figure this out. However, once I decided to say “Yes” and follow The Way, my life has been transformed – my mind is being renewed, my heart is being softened and my capacity to love is being increased. If this can be true for me, then it can be true for anyone.

I, along with Chris, Nigel and the wider ministry team, would be delighted to welcome you to join us at church on a Sunday, where we learn more about the nature and character of Jesus together. Please do also come and say hello if you see me around – I’d love to chat and hear your own reflections.

James

St John's, Harleston

Coffee and Cake Morning

Saturday 6th August

9.30 - 12noon

St John's Church

Tea, coffee and Singing

St John's Harleston

Every Tuesday from 10.40am for tea and coffee then
11.00am to 12 noon for singing.

Foodbank

Every Tuesday 1.30pm to 3pm

Midweek Mingle

St John's Harleston

Every Wednesday

9.15am to 11.30am

All welcome for a cuppa, biscuit or toast

C H R I S T I A N M E D I T A T I O N

STILLNESS, MINDFULNESS, CONTEMPLATION

Free & Open to All

Wednesday 3rd August

7.30pm to 8.30pm

The Rectory, Harleston

Contact Nigel Tuffnell- 01379 308905

rector@7churches.org.uk

www.7churches.org.uk

St Andrew's - Scole

Scole Quiz

Scole's August Quiz on Saturday 13 August - 6.30 for 7pm with raffle. Refreshments include jacket potatoes with a choice of toppings - tuna mayonnaise, beef chilli, baked beans and / or cheese, salad garnish and something sweet to follow.

Tickets - £7.50 - please book in advance, by the end of July if possible, with your preferred topping - Rev Sue - 01379740325 or e mail revsue@7 churches .org.uk. Please bring your own drinks and glasses and other snacks. If you prefer not to have refreshments the cost is £4 but you still need to book please.

Cake and Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th August
10am - 12noon

Come and enjoy homemade sausage rolls, cheese scones and home-baked cake, along with coffee, tea, raffle and friendly chat.

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**Saturday 10th September 2022
9.00 am - 5.00 pm**

Donations to our Churches

If you would like to donate to any of the listed churches please use the QR codes below linked to the church you would like to donate to.

St Johns, Harleston.



St Leonard's, Billingford.



THE REGISTERS - 25TH JUNE 2022 TO 25TH JULY2022

Funerals and Interments

7th July Barbara Ball, St Mary's, Redenhall
19th July Stewart Eteson , St John's, Harleston

Weddings

16th July Charlene Thrower and Daniel Thrower, St John's ,
Harleston
23rd July Bradley Dyer and Kezia Shea, St Andrew's Scole

Baptisms

17th July Grace May Norton-Theobald, St Andrew's, Scole
17th July Noah William Norton-Theobald, St Andrew's, Scole
24th July Brooke Maria Howell, St Mary's, Redenhall
24th July Charlie Rose Howell, St Mary's , Redenhall
24th July Alivia Grace Howell, St Mary's, Redenhall

	7churches Benefice Services	
Compline		
Thursday 25th August 6.30pm St Leonard's, Billingford		
Celebration Service		
St Andrew's , Scole, Sunday 28th August, 4.30pm		

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fran Pitt-Pladdy, Mel Veness, Philip Wood, Lyn Veness, Kathy Wood.

If you have a loved one who is very ill and would like them to be on our prayer list then please get in touch with one of our ministers.
(details on the back).

AUGUST SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

Sunday 7th Trinity 8 (St. Thomas) (Green)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's , Redenhall
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Luke 12.32-40/Psalm 50.1-8, 23,24</i>			
Sunday 14th BVM (White)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts
	9.30am	Morning Prayer Patronal	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Cafe Church	St John's, Harleston
<i>Psalm 80.1-2,9-20/Luke 12.49-56</i>			
Sunday 21st Trinity 10 (Green)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary's , Redenhall
<i>Psalm 71.1-6/Luke 13.10-17</i>			
SUNDAY 28TH Trinity 11 (Green)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Celebration service	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Psalm 81.1,10-16/Luke 14.1,7-14</i>			

CONTACT LIST



Ministry Team

Rector: Revd. Nigel Tuffnell

01379 308905 or rector@7churches.org.uk

Revd Sue Auckland 01379 740325 or revsue@7churches.org.uk
Revd Lyndy Domoney 01379 650445 or l.domoney@btinternet.com
Revd Philip Wood
Lynda Mansfield 01379 740401 or lyndamscole@hotmail.co.uk
Jamie Worthington jamie@7churches.org.uk
John Taylor 01379 676573 or jctaylor@gavelkind.org.uk

7churches Administrator - Helen Orford

Office: St John's Church, Broad Street, Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 9AZ

Email: admin@7churches.org.uk Tel: 01379 851148

Churches - Contacts

St John's - Harleston	Maureen Youngman	01379 853605
	Stephanie Woollam	07598937623
St Mary's - Redenhall	Michael Clark	07427 586806
St Peter's - Needham	Robin Twigge	07818 400632
St Peter & St Paul - Brockdish	Jan Croxson	01379 668630
	Ann Cork	01379 668635
All Saints - Thorpe Abbotts	Christine McDonald	01379 669116
St Leonard's - Billingford	Georgina King-Fisher	01379 740759
	Sue Redgrave	01379 854129
St Andrew's - Scole	Lynda Mansfield	01379 740401
	Helen Gilbee	01379 740339

Schools

Archbishop Sancroft High School (CofE Academy)
Mr R Connelly 01379 852561
Harleston CE Primary Academy Mr Carlyle 01379 853211
Scole CEVC Primary 01379 740654

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