

December 2021



*Benefice
Newsletter*

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SEVEN
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CHURCHES
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Ramblings from the Rectory

I couldn't write a December article without mentioning the 'C' word. Christmas will soon be here. Some of you will be really excited at even the mention of the word. I know of many people who are especially looking forward to Christmas this year. They want a celebration to chase away the sadness caused by that other 'C' word, Covid. Quite right too!

I hope all of you are able to have a beautiful celebration to counter the darkest time of the year. Still I hope that too much weight is not placed on one big dinner and family get together. Great as a Christmas parties and Christmas dinner might be, it is a bit much to expect it to banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. If any meal could do that I would be suspicious of whatever they had slipped into the gravy!

I'm not trying to be Scrooge, I too am looking forward to the tinsel, the presents, the food and drink, and all the fun of Christmas. But it is not where my hope lies, nor yours I hope. Our hope lies in the Word made flesh, born to bring light and hope into this world that can be so dark and hopeless at times. This is the story of Christmas that I will be celebrating with the tinsel, the food, the drink and all the rest. Without that central message of God sending hope to this world, the meal (for me at least) would be just another nice meal. That hope has a poor family at the heart of it. It tells of joy even in the midst of the worst of times. With that hope, there is a real chance that Christmas can be wonderful, with or without a turkey, or party, or even much in the way of decorations. Starting from there, everything else is an added bonus!

I hope that you find a thrill of excitement go down your spine as you hear the words that open John's Gospel:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1.1-5 NRSV)

I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas this year, with the light of the world banishing all darkness from your hearts and minds.

God bless,
Nigel.

New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!



"As you read Luke's Gospel, why not let the story of Jesus inspire you to random acts of kindness this Advent? It could be anything. You could give a card or chocolates to someone who feels lonely at Christmas. You could make a special donation to Foodbank. Use your imagination and think of your own random acts of Christmas kindness to drive away the Covid blues! Just don't tell anyone. This will be between you and God and no one else needs to know. Challenge issued, now over to you!"

Christmas events

4th December

St John's, Harleston - Christmas Fayre 9.30am to 4pm
Brockdish Village Hall - Christmas Coffee Morning 10am to 12noon
St Andrews, Scole - Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

8th December

St Andrews, Scole - Community Christmas Celebration
7.30pm to 10.00pm

11th December

St John's, Harleston - Chatty Church 11.00am to 1.00pm

15th December

St John's, Harleston - Rosedale Christmas Service of Remembrance
7pm to 9pm

21st December

St John's, Harleston - Community Cafe Christmas Lunch - Must Book
12noon to 2pm

24th December

St. Mary's Redenhall presents
Carols by Candlelight
(with Diss Salvation Army Band)
Christmas Eve at 6pm.

Join us for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Remember to bring a torch.

The situation could be affected by changes in covid restrictions; contact
Brenda Le Grys 01379 852572 or brendalegrys@gmail.com.

Christmas services

5th December

St Peter's, Needham - Carol & Christingle Service 4.30pm

12th December

All Saints, Thorpe Abbots - Christingle/Crib Service 4pm

19th December

St Andrew's, Scole - Carol Service 11am

St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish - Carol Service by Candlelight 6pm
nine lessons and Carols with mince pies and Mulled wine to follow

St Leonard's, Billingford - Carol Service by Candlelight 6pm

24th December

St Andrew's, Scole - Crib & Christingle Service 4.30pm

St Mary's, Redenhall - Carols by Candlelight 6pm

St John's, Harleston - Midnight Eucharist - 11.30pm

St Leonard's, Billingford - Midnight Eucharist - 11.30pm

25th December

St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish - Informal Holy Communion 9.30am

St John's, Harleston - Informal Holy Communion 11am

St Andrew's, Scole - Informal Holy Communion 11am



Tea coffee and Singing is Back

St John's Harleston

Every Tuesday from 10.40am for tea and coffee
then

11.00am to 12 noon for singing.



Community Cafe

Every Tuesday At St John's Harleston

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Everyone Welcome

Come along and enjoy a coffee or tea, biscuits and a cake or desert
(menu changes weekly)

A Waveney foodbank project

THE REGISTERS - 24TH OCTOBER TO 24TH NOVEMBER 2021

Funerals and Interments

19th November David Cooper, St John's Harleston
22nd November George Nevil Forman, St Andrews Scole
23rd November Lynda Reynolds, St Mary's Redenhall

Baptism

7th November Olivia Neeve, St Marys, Redenhall
12th November Billy-Mea Robin Smith, St John's, Harleston
13th November Isabelle Lawson, St Peter's Needham

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

STILLNESS, MINDFULNESS, CONTEMPLATION

Free & Open to All

Wednesday 1st December

7.30pm to 8.30pm

The Rectory, Harleston

Contact Nigel Tuffnell- 01379 308905
rector@7churches.org.uk www.7churches.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fran Pitt-Pladdy, Mel Veness.

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*).

DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

SUNDAY 5th Advent 2 (Purple)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Holy Communion (cw)	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Carol & Christingle	St Peter's, Needham
<i>Philippians 1.3-11/Luke 3.1-6</i>			
Sunday 12th Advent 3 (Purple)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrews, Scole
	4.00pm	Christingle/Crib	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
<i>Philippians 4.4-7/Luke 3.7-18</i>			
SUNDAY 19TH Advent 4 (Purple)	9.30am	Simple Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Carol Service	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer (bcp)	St Mary's, Redenhall
	6.00pm	Carol service by Candlelight	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	6.00pm	Carol service by Candlelight	St Leonard's, Billingford
<i>Hebrews 10.5-10/Luke 1.39-45(46-55)</i>			
FRIDAY 24TH Christmas Eve (Gold)	4.30pm	Crib & Christingle	St Andrew's, Scole
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	St John's, Harleston
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	St Leonard's Billingford
<i>Acts 13.16-26/Luke 1.67-79</i>			
SATURDAY 25TH Christmas Day (Gold)	9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Informal Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]/John 1.1-14</i>			
SUNDAY 26TH Christmas 1 (White)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Colossians 3.12-17/Luke 2.41-52</i>			

CONTACT LIST



Ministry Team

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Churches - Contacts

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	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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