

December 2022



Benefice Newsletter

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SEVEN
—
CHURCHES
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December Ramblings

I am looking out of my window and the rain is falling. It is grey and miserable. The news is depressing and I need a lift.

With all of that in mind, I think of Christmas and I smile. I am smiling because Christmas is a joyful time, a time to look forward to. A warm light of hope in the midst of the cold of winter. That is what Christmas is for. When the first Christians came to these shores there was a mid-winter pagan festival. As Christianity spread the need for hope amidst the darkness remained. People still needed hope, and so the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the hope of the world, took the place of that much older celebration. It remained a community celebration, as well as something just for church, after all, this longing for hope is common to all.

Christmas is therefore a deeply Christian celebration that also meets a need that goes back to the dawn of humanity. This is something for us to embrace. All people need hope, in a world that so often seems hopeless. Even in these times of electric lights, people naturally feel dragged down by dark mornings, dull days and long nights. What better festival than Christmas to bring the Christian message of hope at this time? It has a baby born in poverty, into a country under foreign occupation, to a family who will soon be refugees. It also has the power of God breaking through into the gloom with bright angels offering hope, a normal human hope. A normal human baby has been born, who is God on earth, the longed-for Messiah, the hope of the world, Emmanuel, God with us. There are Wise Men with gifts, and a promise of Joy to the World.

Let each of us who know Christ, really celebrate this Christmas because we have hope that this world can never take away from us. As we celebrate let us share God's love by making it possible for others to have hope too. Give a little more to foodbank, a charity for the homeless, or support your nearest Warm Room this winter.

“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... The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.(John 1.1-5 & 14)

God bless you this December, and Happy Christmas,

Nigel.

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 7th December

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

Winter Warmer, Coffee Morning and Raffle

Saturday 3rd December

Coffee and tea with savoury or homemade cake (£3)

served from 10 am.

Soup and bread (£3), Bacon rolls (£3.50), and puddings (£3)

with Coffee / Tea (£1)

all served from 11am to 1.00 pm.

St John's, Harleston

Chatty church

Saturday 3rd December

11.00am to 1.00pm

Forget Me Not Cafe and Church

Thursday 8th December

10.30am - 12.30pm

Warm Room

Every Tuesday

10.am to 4pm

All free. Tea and coffee served all day

11am -12noon Informal singing group

12.15pm Lunch Menu changes weekly

2.00pm Toasties

2.30pm activity time

Singing

Every Tuesday

11.00am to 12 noon .

Foodbank

Every Tuesday 1.30pm to 3pm

Midweek Mingle

Every Wednesday

9.15am to 11.30am

All welcome

St Peter & St Paul Brockdish

Saturday 14th January

Quiz Night

7.30pm for 8.00pm

table up to 6 people £5 per person, to include light supper.

Tel: Jan 01379 668630 for bookings and further information.



**Brockdish Village
Hall**

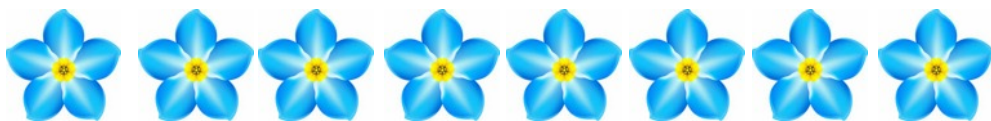
**Christmas Coffee
Morning**

December 3rd

10.00am - 12noon

**Raffle, Books, Jams, Cakes,
Coffee and Chat**

Proceeds to Brockdish Church



Forget-Me-Not Café & Church

**A café & support group
for those with Dementia and their carers
is opening again in Harleston!**

**10.30am – 12.30pm
St. John's Church,
Thursday 8th December**

**As well as the café there will be stimulating activities,
refreshments and cakes; fully supported by our
volunteers.**

**Plus an optional short, simple church service.
Please be assured of a very warm, friendly welcome for
everyone.**

Just turn up or to find out more contact:

**Maureen Youngman (01379 853605)
Revd. Nigel Tuffnell (01379 308905 –
rector@7churches.org.uk)**

**This month is kindly sponsored by:
Durrants.**



St Mary's Redenhall



Presents

Carols by Candlelight

(with Diss Salvation Army Band)

Christmas Eve

6pm



Remember to bring a torch!

Christmas Services

Sunday 4th December

- 11am - St John's, Harleston - Informal Service Family Carols
with children's activities
4.30pm - St Peter's, Needham - Carol & Christingle Service

Sunday 11th December

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

Sunday 18th December

- 11am - St John's, Harleston - Carol Service
11am - St Andrew's, Scole - Carol Service
4pm - St Leonard's, Billingford - Carol Service by Candlelight
6pm - St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish - Carol Service by
Candlelight

Saturday 24th December

- 4.30pm - St Andrew's Scole - Crib & Christingle Service
6pm - St Mary's Redenhall - Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm - St John's, Harleston - Midnight Eucharist

Sunday 25th December

- 9.30am - St Leonard's, Billingford - Informal Holy Communion
9.30am - St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish - Informal Holy
Communion
9.30am - St Mary's, Redenhall - Informal Holy Communion
9.30am - All Saints, Thorpe Abbots - Informal Holy
Communion
11am - St John's, Harleston - Informal Holy Communion
11am - St Andrew's, Scole - Informal Holy Communion

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 John's, Harleston.



St Leonard's, Billingford.



All Saints, Thorpe Abbots



**THE REGISTERS - 26TH OCTOBER 2022 TO 25TH NOVEMBER
2022**

Funerals and Interments

18th November Michael Thurlow - St John's, Harleston

Baptism

5th November Eden Scott, St Mary's, Redenhall

Remembrance Service collection.

Thank you to all who made a donation to the Royal British Legion at the Remembrance Service on the 13th November at St John's Church, Harleston.

We raised £245.84

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sue Auckland, 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*).

DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

Sunday 4th Advent 2 (Purple)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer(BCP)	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Informal Family Carols +Children's Activities	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St John's, Harleston
	4.30pm	Carol & Christingle Service	St Peter's, Needham
<i>Romans 15.4-13/Matthew 3.1-12</i>			
Sunday 11th 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 Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Christingle/Crib Service	All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts
	4.00pm	Cafe Church	St John's, Harleston
<i>James 5.7-10/Matthew 11.2-11</i>			
Sunday 18th Advent 4 (Purple)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's , Redenhall
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Carol Service	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Carol Service	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Carol Service by Candlelight	St Leonard's, Billingford
	6.00pm	Carol Service by Candlelight	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
<i>Romans 1.1-7/Matthew 1.18-25</i>			
SATURDAY 24TH Christmas Eve (Gold)	4.30pm	Crib & Christingle service	St Andrew's, Scole
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	St John's, Harleston
<i>Hebrews 1.1-4/John 1.1-14</i>			
SUNDAY 25TH Christmas day (Gold)	9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	St Mary's, Redenhall
	9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts
	9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	11.00am	Informal Holy communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Titus 2.11-14/Luke 2.1-14</i>			

CONTACT LIST

Ministry Team

Rector: Revd. Nigel Tuffnell 01379 308905 or rector@7churches.org.uk

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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	Dan Cornish	07803180861
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

Harleston Sancroft Academy 01379 852561
Scole CEVC Primary 01379 740654

www.7churches.org.uk



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