

December 2023



Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

Benefice

Newsletter

|
SEVEN

CHURCHES
|

Ramblings from The Rectory

As I write this I am not in the Christmas spirit at all, in fact I feel like Scrooge and want to cancel the whole thing. But as I let the grump go, I can start to look forward to all that Christmas means.

I start to think of all the carols and special services. Jesus may not be the household favourite that he once was, but at Christmas we still remember him, at least in passing, perhaps on the way to a second helping of Christmas pudding. Sometimes Jesus even appears on a Christmas card or two, usually those left in the bottom of the box, reserved for friends that are 'religious' (i.e. a bit odd). Strangely, I often get the Jesus cards, I can't think why.

The Christmas hymns and carols are old and comfortably worn, and the words are familiar. But, for me, it is the Gospel reading that really sends shivers down my spine, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of all people."

I hear those words from the very beginning of John's Gospel and I remember what it is all about. I remember that in Jesus God became part of his creation, so that I, all people, and all creation could become one with God once again. I remember the power of God to change my life, and all lives for the better.

Whether you agree with me or not, I wish you a Happy Christmas!

God bless you now and throughout the New Year,

Nigel.

'Pilgrims' Festive Sharing & Communion

Wednesday 6th December, 7.30 - 9.15pm, All Hallows' Convent Chapel (NR35 2DZ)

The final 'Pilgrims' gathering of the year will be a bit different! Bring and share festive nibbles to enjoy with a hot drink, as we reflect together on the themes of pilgrimage that have been explored across the year.

We'll also look ahead to the plans for Pilgrims in 2024! The evening will conclude with a short service of Holy Communion.

For full details and to add your name to the sign-up sheet, visit earshambenefice.org.uk/pilgrims or email James at revdjshelton@outlook.com



Remembrance Service on Sunday

12th November raised

£326.17

for The Royal British Legion

Christmas Day Lunch

Do you know someone who will be alone or will you be alone on Christmas day.

If so come down to the church for a traditional Christmas Lunch at 12.30pm in St John's Church and enjoy with others.

Please phone/email St John's office to confirm your place by **Sunday 17th December.**

01379 851148 or admin@7churches.org.uk

Tuesday Informal Singing

I started the Informal Singing Group on Tuesday mornings with Stephanie in November 2009, thinking just a few months.... we had much fun learning new hymns and songs. With help from others we enjoyed the Big Sing and other smaller events. Until covid put a stop to everything

Then Richard and I restarted the group. Richard and his wife travelled from Sudbury with his guitar every two weeks to lead.

Sadly for different reasons, we have decided it is time for a change.

19 December will be our last sing together.

I say a huge thank you to Richard and all the singers for many happy years together.

No Singing in January 2024, as weather is usually bad. BUT watch out for an announcement in Jan/Feb Benefice News.

Best wishes, Sheila

St John's, Harleston

Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Church

Supported by a generous donation

Thursday 14th December

10.30am - 12.30pm

Every Tuesday

Informal singing group

10.45am -11.45am

Foodbank - 1.30pm to 3pm

Warm Room 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Midweek Mingle

Every Wednesday

9.15am to 11.30am

All welcome

Chatty Church

Saturday 16th December

11.00am to 1.00pm

Children's Christmas Craft Event

By Susan Whymark

Saturday 2nd December

10.00am - 12noon

Children to be accompanied by an adult

Refreshments available

St John's Coffee Mornings will be back on Saturday
3rd February.



**Needham
Village Hall
Christmas Tea
17th December**

After Carol and
Christingle
Refreshments, Sausage
rolls and Mince pies.

service in the Church starting at
4.30pm

All Saints Thorpe Abbots Village Christmas Food Bank Appeal

Many people will be struggling this Christmas and into the New Year and need support from the Food Bank. We thought a village collection, even one or two items, lots of little bits will make a huge difference, just add a couple of things to your weekly shop. Please do not include any perishable seasonal items such as mince pies etc as they cannot use them please also check the sell by date as they cannot use anything expired or near to expiry.

Especially needed are:

<p>Pasta Sauces Individual sponge puddings Instant Custard/Rice puddings Tinned Fruit (incl small tins) Tinned Meat UHT Milk Tea/Coffee/Hot Chocolate</p>	<p>Gravy granules Jams Tinned Beans of all sorts Tinned Veg of all sorts Toiletries Microwave Rice Instant mash potato Sandwich spread, paste, sweets</p>
---	---

Please just add a couple of these or other items to your shop and leave them in the boxes, which will go out 1st December, by Monday 12th December with:

Simon at 23 Mill Road or
Chris at Home Farmhouse, The Street

or bring them with you to the

Carol Service at 4.00pm on Sunday 10th December.

**Thank you so much
every little bit will help.**

Christmas Services

10th December - Christingle/Crib Service -
All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts

17th December - 11.00am - Carol Service -
St John's, Harleston

17th December - 11.00am - Carol Service - St Andrew's, Scole

17th December - 4.00pm - St Leonard's, Billingford -
Carol Service by Candlelight

17th December - 4.30pm - Carol & Christingle Service -
St Peter's, Needham

17th December - 6.00pm - Carol Service by Candlelight -
St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish

24th December - 6.00pm - Carols by Candlelight -
St Mary's, Redenhall

24th December - 11.30pm - Midnight Eucharist -
St John's, Harleston

24th December - 11.30pm - Midnight Eucharist -
All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts

25th December - 9.30am - Informal Holy Communion -
St Leonard's, Billingford

25th December - 9.30am - Informal Holy Communion -
St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish

25th December - 11.00am - Informal Holy Communion -
St John's, Harleston

25th December - 11.000am - Informal Holy Communion -
St Andrew's, Scole

Praise and Worship

Saturday 2nd December

St John's , Harleston 6pm

Do you love to sing God's praises? Then come and join us for
this informal time of openness to the Spirit

See you there

Nigel and Dianna



7churches Benefice Services



Compline

Thursday 28th December, 6.30pm

All Saint, Thorpe Abbots

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

STILLNESS, MINDFULNESS, CONTEMPLATION

Free & Open to All

Wednesday 13th December

7.30pm to 8.30pm

St John's Church, Harleston

Contact Nigel Tuffnell- 01379 308905

rector@7churches.org.uk

www.7churches.org.uk

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
Abbotts



THE REGISTERS - 24TH OCTOBER 2023 TO 25TH NOVEMBER 2023

Funerals and Interments

24th Oct Sandra Williams - St Mary's, Redenhall
1st Nov Kathleen Taylor - St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
7th Nov Margaret Wilson - St Mary's, Redenhall
17th Nov Brian Hopgood - St John's, Harleston

Baptism and Weddings

10th Nov Myla Jane Smith - St John's, Harleston

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fran Pitt-Pladdy, Mel Veness, Kathy Wood, Peter Edwards .

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 3rd Advent 1 (Purple)	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
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St John's, Harleston
<i>Corinthians 1.3-9/Mark 13.24-37</i>			
Sunday 10th Advent 2 (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 Abbots
<i>2 Peter 3.8-15a/Mark 1.1-8</i>			
Sunday 17th Advent 3 (Red)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Redenhall
	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
	4.30pm	Carol & Christingle Service	St Peter's, Needham
	6.00pm	Carol Service by Candlelight	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
<i>1 Thessalonians 5.16-24/John 1.6-8, 19-28</i>			
SUNDAY 24TH Advent 4 (Purple) Christmas Eve (Gold)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St John's, Harleston
	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
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
<i>Romans 16.25-27/Luke 1.26-38</i>			
Monday 25th Advent 3 (Red)	9.30am	Informal Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	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>			
SUNDAY 31ST Christ the King (Gold)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Galatians 4.4-7/Luke 2.15-21</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 James Shelton 07949979717 or revdjselton@outlook.com
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 851148/07563495581

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



www.facebook.com/7churches.org.uk



twitter.com/RedScale