

February 2022



*Benefice
Newsletter*

—
SEVEN
—
CHURCHES
—

Ramblings from the Rectory February 2022

As I write this there is sunshine outside of my window. A huge lift to the soul after all the grey days of late December and early January. It is still unseasonably warm, and well into double figures. I look forward to a colder drier February but if February comes with Arctic temperatures don't blame me. After all, I'm in sales and not management!

Leaving behind the lame jokes, I am looking forward to crisp clear days. I want clarity outside my window and I want clarity in this country. I am hoping that Covid restrictions, if still present, will have eased back to almost nothing. I just want us to be looking out for the most vulnerable, but we should be doing that at all times anyway.

The Church of England in this area is facing changes too. I know that money is tight and that ministers like me will be spread more thinly across this part of Norfolk. I understand that but I am looking forward to more clarity about what that will mean in practice. I may have to wait a little longer for this sort of clarity, but then patience is a virtue!

One constant that remains clear to me, and has been clear throughout the pandemic is the quiet, unobtrusive presence of God. Even when I have felt the burden of worry and concern, I have known that "all shall be well," as Julian of Norwich put it all those centuries ago. God's Spirit has been a constant companion as I have emerged from isolation.

I think of a verse from perhaps my favourite psalm:

By day the LORD directs his love,
at night his song is with me –
a prayer to the God of my life.
(Psalm 42.8 NIV)

That is the reality of God's presence with me throughout the difficult two years or so that we have all experienced. Looking forward I think of Psalm 42 again:

Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,

for I will yet praise him,

my Saviour and my God.

(Psalm 42.5 NIV)

Against all of the doom and gloom, churches that seemed almost dead have come back to life. New and exciting activities are planned and old ones are re-emerging, as if from hibernation. After lots of prayer, this month will see the Youth Group starting up again. Hope is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

With a sense of optimism and enthusiasm, I wish you every blessing this February,

God bless,

Nigel.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

STILLNESS, MINDFULNESS, CONTEMPLATION

Free & Open to All

Wednesday 2nd February

7.30pm to 8.30pm

The Rectory, Harleston

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

St John's, Harleston

Coffee and cake Morning

St John's Harleston
Saturday 5th February
9.30am till 12noon

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.

Midweek Mingle

St John's Harleston
Every Wednesday
9.15am to 11.30am
All welcome for a cuppa and biscuit

St Andrew's Scole

Quiz & Chips

St Andrews, Scole

Saturday 19 February- 6.30pm for 7pm start.

Come as individuals or groups but booking is essential. Contact Sue Auckland (01379740325 or e mail revsue@7 churches.org.uk) to book and order your meal of cod, chicken, 2 sausages or 2 spring rolls- all with chips. The cost is £12 per person, which reflects the increase in the price we are having to pay. There is also a booking list in the church. Bring you own drink.'

Sonnet-Prayer by Malcolm Guite for the first year of the Diocesan Vision: Transformed by Christ: Prayerful

The sonnet-prayer below is based upon the following passage from Matthew's gospel (Matthew 6.5-13):

Jesus said to his disciples, "Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

Sonnet-Prayer (Malcolm Guite - November 2021)

'Pray to your Father in the secret place
And from his mystery, he'll answer you.
Be still in the simplicity of grace,
A single word suffices, if it's true.'
O Lord you call me deeper into prayer
And bid me welcome to an inner room,
To close the outer door, be centred there,
And bid my wandering thoughts to keep at home.
You call me out of all hypocrisy,
Call me away from empty language games,
Oh help me hear that call, the mystery
That's masked for now by trivia and memes.
Open that door for me, Lord, make that space,
And then transform me in the secret place.

THE REGISTERS - 24TH DECEMBER 2021 TO 24TH JANUARY 2022

Funerals and Interments

12th January John Baines, St Andrews Scole.

13th January Nancy Smith Russell, St Andrews Scole.

	7churches Benefice Services	
Compline		
St Leonard's, Billingford, Thursday 24th February 6.30pm		
Celebration Service		
St Andrew's , Scole, Sunday 27th February, 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).

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

Sunday 6th 4th before Lent (Green) Accession of the Queen Elizabeth II, 1952	9.30am	Churchwarden Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's Needham
	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>1 Corinthians 15.1-11/Luke 5.1-11</i>			
Sunday 13th 3rd before Lent (Green)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrews, Scole
<i>1 Corinthians 15.12-20/Luke 6.17-26</i>			
Sunday 20TH Lent (Green)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	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
	4.00pm	Evening Prater(BCP)	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>Revelation 4/Luke 8.22-25</i>			
SUNDAY 27TH Before Lent (Green)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	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
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2/Luke 9.28-36</i>			

