

July 2023



*Benefice
Newsletter*

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SEVEN
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CHURCHES
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Ramblings from the Rectory – July 2023

July begins with something very special for God's Church in this benefice. On Saturday 1st July, Revd. James Shelton, our curate, will be ordained priest in Norwich Cathedral. The day after that Josh Whitnall will be ordained deacon, again in Norwich Cathedral. For those of you who are confused about the terms, "deacon" means "servant" in Greek, and so a deacon is someone ordained by the church to serve the church and community. A priest is a leader, overseeing the work of the church. A priest is also a deacon and so should still be a servant at heart! If you want to know more, I have copied some of the words from the ordination services for deacons and priests, below this article.

Many of you will know both Josh and James. Josh has been with us here for nearly two years now, training for ministry and working in the parish. We will miss him and Beth and their two little daughters. Our loss though is someone else's gain. In this instance it is East Harling Benefice where Josh will be serving as a curate. Please join me in wishing them every blessing for their future ministry.

James, is shared between Harleston and Earsham Benefice. So he is well known in St. John's but less so in our other churches. James is already a deacon in the Church of England and after his ordination to the priesthood he will be learning what it is to lead in the church. He will be continuing to learn the skills that he will need as a minister and will be with us here for another two years, or so.

Josh and James are taking huge steps on a path of service and commitment. Service and commitment to God but also to the people around them, in and outside of the church community. Please pray for them and encourage them. However, deacons, priests and all ministers, are here to encourage Christ's people. They are not 'the Church', we all are. If the clergy were 'the Church' that would be to rob you of the gift of serving God. All of you have a calling from God, a purpose and work set out for you. Pray for us, but pray also for yourselves: Where is he calling you? How will you respond?

God bless,
Nigel.

Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.

Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

St John's, Harleston

Men's Group: Wednesday 26th July, 7pm in St. John's
(Theme: Leadership and Mission)

Coffee and Cake Morning

St John's Harleston
Saturday 1st July
9.30am till 12noon

Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Church

Supported by a generous donation

Thursday 13th July
10.30am - 12.30pm

Chatty Church

Saturday 22nd July
11.00am to 1.00pm

Every Tuesday

Informal singing group - 10.45am -11.45am
Foodbank - 1.30pm to 3pm
Community Cafe - 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Midweek Mingle

Every Wednesday
9.15am to 11.30am
All welcome

St Peter & St Paul Brockdish Quiz Night

Saturday 1st July
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.

St Andrew's - Scole

Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st July

10.00am - 12noon

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

Condolence Books for Her Majesty The Queen



The condolence messages collected by parishes following the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II, have been collated into five bound folders and are now in safe keeping at the Norfolk Records Office. In due course, they will be available to view.

'Pilgrims' Update

James, our curate, recently launched a new ministry initiative called *Pilgrims*, with over 100 people in attendance at the inaugural event.

The initiative will now settle into a pattern of gathering at the All Hallows' Convent Chapel on the first Wednesday evening of the month and somewhere in South Norfolk for a half-day pilgrim walk on the last Saturday of the month. For full details about July's *Pilgrims* events please visit earshambenefice.org.uk/pilgrims

SEVEN
CHURCHES

7churches Benefice Services

Compline

Thursday 27th July, 6.30pm
St Leonard's, Billingford

Celebration Service

Sunday 23rd July, 4.30pm
St Andrew's, Scole,.

SEVEN
CHURCHES

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 - 26TH MAY 2023 TO 25TH JUNE 2023

Funerals and Interments

1st June	Gwendoline Hales - St Leonard's, Billingford
8th June	Frederick Belt - St Mary's Redenhall
12th June	Arthur Belt - St Peter's, Needham
16th June	Patrick Dutton - St Andrew's, Scole
23rd June	Paula Boreham - St Leonard's, Billingford

Weddings

27th May	Julie Marshall & Paul Clarke - St Peter's, Needham
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Baptism

11th June	Ottillie Rose Carter - St May's, Redenhall
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fran Pitt-Pladdy, Mel Veness, Kathy Wood, Marjorie Heap,
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).

JULY SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

Sunday 2nd SS Peter & Paul (Red)	9.30am	Morning Prayer (Patronal)	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	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

Acts 12.1-11/Matthew 16.13-19

Sunday 9th 5th after Trinity (Green)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole

Romans 7.15-25a/Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Sunday 16th 6th after Trinity (Green)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St Mary's, Redenhall

Romans 8.1-11/Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

SUNDAY 23RD 7th after Trinity (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

Romans 8.12-25/Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

SUNDAY 30TH 8th after Trinity (Green)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Holy Communion & Baptism	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole

Romans 8.26-39/Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

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	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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