

March 2023

let your
light shine

*Benefice
Newsletter*

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SEVEN
—
CHURCHES
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Ramblings from the Rectory - March 2023

For me March is a turning point in the year. The weather is beginning to change, but is far from predictable (if English weather could ever be called predictable!). What is more predictable is the increasing amount of daylight. By 20th March we are at the balance point of the year, with day and night being the same length. Light and dark are balanced.

As March progresses light begins to prevail, more and more. This fits with so much that I long for this year. The church Lent Groups have the theme of “Let Your Light Shine.” As part of this we will be studying what Jesus has to say about living our life of faith, and how we can live it better. The words of Jesus recorded in John 10.10 will be our inspiration as we ask ourselves:

- How can I receive God’s life more fully?
- How can I live God’s life more generously, imaginatively and joyfully?
- How can we live in such a way that others can see God in us, hear Him, and take hold of His life for themselves?

We will be considering how we make this world a better place through the things that we do and the way we live our lives. This comes out of our Christian faith. It comes out of the very nature of God, and Jesus’ mission in this world. I hope that all of you reading this want to shine brightly for good in this area, in your life and most importantly, for Christ.

There are so many good people in our churches. I hope and pray that we together will shine so brightly that we inspire others to make this area a place of welcome and generosity. Making our town and villages great places for anyone to visit, and places that people want to live in, have families and grow old in. This will take more than just wishful thinking. It will require us to truly shine.

We will not always agree with one another, but that isn't the point. We can learn to disagree well too. In fact that, I believe, is the secret to having a community that is truly caring and accommodating to all. As we seek to shine brightly together we will need to remember the advice of James to be, "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." (James 1.19) This living well together is what we must work hard at, if we are to have any hope of truly shining as churches and as examples to the world around us.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10.10) That is what we must be working towards. I hope that together we can indeed live life to the full. This is my hope for me, for all of you, and for the people we live among.

God bless,

Nigel.

St Peter & St Paul Brockdish

Quiz Night

Saturday 11th March

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 John's, Harleston

Coffee and Cake Morning

St John's Harleston
Saturday 4th March
9.30am till 12noon

Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Church

Thursday 9th March
10.30am - 12.30pm

Chatty Church

Saturday 25th March
11.00am to 1.00pm

Warm Room

Every Tuesday
10.00am - 4.00pm
All free. Tea and coffee served all day
12.15pm Lunch Menu changes weekly
2.30pm Activity time

Informal singing group

Every Tuesday
11am -12noon

Foodbank

Every Tuesday 1.30pm to 3pm

Midweek Mingle

Every Wednesday
9.15am to 11.30am
All welcome



Forget-Me-Not Café & Church

**A café & support group
for those with Dementia and their carers**

9th March

10.30am – 12.30pm

Thursday, St. John's Church,

**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:
Rosedale.**



Ministry Pilgrims

Here in the Waveney Valley we're preparing to launch a new ministry, *Pilgrims*, on Saturday 27th May. Inspired by 'The Via Beata' pilgrim way and All Hallows' convent in Ditchingham, *Pilgrims* will alternate between a pilgrim walk on the last Saturday of the month and a gathering at the convent chapel on the first Wednesday evening of the month. In both settings, companions will be invited to explore the spirituality of pilgrimage and the monastic life of prayer, considering how these approaches to the Christian journey might inform life as a follower of Jesus today.

Pilgrimage has been a wonderful feature in my own life. As well as the simple joy of adventuring amidst the natural world, pilgrimage is profoundly spiritual and speaks into the everyday life of faith and discipleship. For example, the pilgrim learns to sift through their possessions, carrying only what is necessary and letting go of burdens that weigh down. The simplicity of each day creates space to pay attention, noticing the beauty of the surroundings and in every moment. Meanwhile, fellow travellers become a gift for mutual sharing and generosity. Walking long distances daily is also a significant test of physical, mental and spiritual perseverance – and this inevitably prompts the pilgrim to consider the source of their security and dependence. Jesus said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11.28-29).

All are warmly invited to join the *Pilgrims* launch on Saturday 27th May. The day will begin with a simple Morning Prayer service at All Hallows' convent in Ditchingham, followed by a day-long walk to Great Moulton church. Here the day will conclude with a short service of blessing and thanksgiving, led by the Bishop of Norwich – and author of *'The Way Under Our Feet'* – Graham Usher.

If you're excited to learn more and would like to come along, please email revdjshelton@outlook.com. Further information about *Pilgrims* is available at earshambenefice.org.uk/pilgrims, where you can sign up to receive regular newsletter updates direct to your inbox.

A prayer

God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we give thanks for the many lives changed and transformed by an encounter with you whilst on pilgrimage. Give us the wisdom to draw on your ancient ways in our lives today and bless 'The Via Beata'; that it would truly be 'A Way of Blessing' for many. Amen.

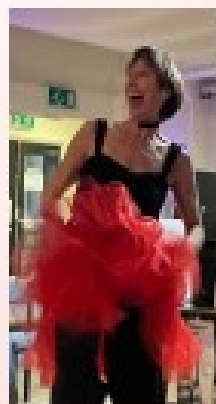
James Shelton

Curate serving in Harleston and across the Earsham benefice



**My Life
AS
A Bluebell Girl**

**A cabaret performance
by Jane Hoggar**



**Friday March 17th
at
7.30pm in Scole church**

**An entertainment of
song, dance and
memories of
show business**

Tickets £10

(includes complimentary drink and light refreshments)

**From: Lynda Mansfield 740401, Kay Liffen 741054
Georgie O'Shaughnessy 740127, Carol Larkins 742713**

St Andrew's - Scole

Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th March

10.00am - 12noon

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

An evening with an ex-Bluebell Girl

Friday, 17th March

7.30 pm.

See poster on previous page.

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



7 churches Benefice Services

Compline

Thursday 23rd March, 6.30pm
St Lenonard's, Billingford

Celebration Service

Sunday 26th March, 4.30pm
St Andrew's, Scole,.

THE REGISTERS - 26TH JANUARY 2023 TO 25TH FEBRUARY 2023

Funerals and Interments

23rd Feb Donald Clarke - St Peter's, Needham
24th Feb Kathleen Taylor - St Mary's, Redenhall
24th Feb Carolyn Pretty - St Andrew's, Scole

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sue Auckland, Fran Pitt-Pladdy, Mel Veness, Philip Wood,
Andrew Heap, Kathy Wood, Brian right.

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).

MARCH SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

Sunday 5th Lent 2 (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
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	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>Romans 4.1-5,13-17/John 3.1-17</i>			
Sunday 12th Lent 3 (Purple)	9.30am	Holy Communion	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 Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Cafe Church	St John's, Harleston
<i>Romans 5.1-11/John 4.5-42</i>			
Sunday 19th Lent 4/ Mothering Sunday (Purple)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW)	St Mary's , Redenhall
<i>Ephesians 5.8-14/John 9.1-41</i>			
SUNDAY 26TH Lent 5 (Purple)	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>Romans 8.6-11/John 11.1-45</i>			

