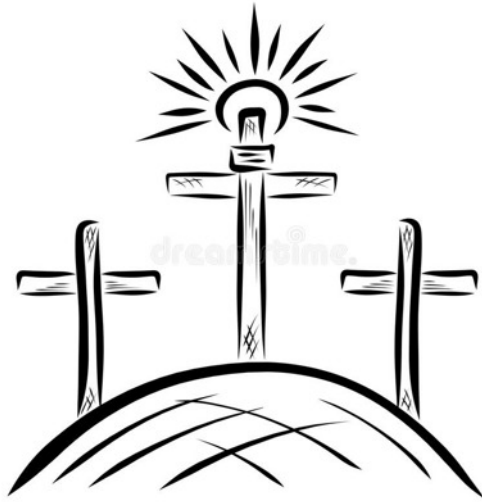


# March 2024



## *Benefice Newsletter*

—  
**SEVEN**  
—  
**CHURCHES**  
—

## **Ramblings from the Rectory: EASTER Explained**

**Why does the date of Easter move each year?** Easter can fall anywhere from March 22 to April 25.

The date of Easter is linked to the date of the Jewish festival celebrating God freeing the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt (known as Passover). The Passover starts on the day of the full moon in the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. Easter Day falls on the first Sunday after that day. The Jewish months start with each new moon and so they don't fit with the calendar that we hang on our wall. This may sound complicated but it gets worse because the moon rises and falls at different times, in different parts of the world.

I like looking at the night sky but calculating Easter that way is beyond me. I look to tables in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer that help me work it out or more often I just look it up in my diary and leave all the hard work to someone else!

**Why are there two different dates for Easter?** Some of you may not be aware of this but there are two different dates for Easter this year (and almost every year). In Britain, Western Europe, the USA and most countries, Easter this year falls on 31<sup>st</sup> March. However, in countries strongly influenced by the Orthodox Church, e.g. Greece and Russia, Easter will not be celebrated until 5<sup>th</sup> May. This is due to Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches adopting the Gregorian Calendar introduced by Pope Gregory in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. The Orthodox Churches chose to stick with the earlier Julian Calendar, and the rest, as they say, is history.

**Easter for everyone!** Whether or not you share the Christian faith, if you live in England, Easter, like Christmas, is still an important cultural festival. Celebrating at this year is part of our national identity. Easter is a time when we can celebrate signs of spring life after the cold and dark of winter. Easter is a time when we can all have a party to celebrate our hope of a good summer and a prosperous year to come. It is always good to celebrate!

**Eggs and Bunnies.** The history of Easter eggs is a little murky. There is evidence for Easter Eggs being used by early Christians in what is now Syria and Turkey. This tradition did spread into Europe during the early middle ages and may be the inspiration for our Easter Eggs in Britain.

There are also claims that Easter Eggs were inspired by practices dedicated to the Germanic goddess Ēostre but this is strongly disputed by modern historians. The eating of specially decorated eggs at Easter can though be tied to being able to eat eggs again after fasting during Lent. Chocolate eggs continue this tradition and celebrate being able to eat chocolate again after giving it up for Lent. Eggs also symbolise the hope of new life celebrated at Easter.

The Easter Bunny or Easter Rabbit started off as the Easter Hare. This tradition would appear to have originated in what is now Germany, where 17<sup>th</sup> Century traditions record the Easter Hare bringing Easter Eggs. Again, speculation of a link with the Germanic goddess Ēostre seems to be unfounded.

**What is special about Easter for the Church?** For Christians like you and me, Easter is the day that we remember Jesus' resurrection from the dead. This is so important because it is the resurrection that is at the heart of the Christian faith. The Bible puts it like this, "if Christ wasn't raised to life, our message is worthless, and so is your faith." (1 Corinthians 15.14) It is as basic as that. If Jesus was not raised from the dead then there is no Christianity. This may sound strange but it is the cross that is at the very centre of our faith: The very centre of all that God has, is and will do for us.

Listening to Jesus' teaching and being inspired by his life enables us to live now as Christ's people. Jesus is the pioneer of our faith, the one we follow and the one who shows us the very nature of God. However, it is on the cross that God's plan to save all people comes to a head. On the cross, Jesus fulfils all of the hope of the Old Testament. In his death he destroyed death, and in his resurrection he offers life to all. We Christians are an Easter People, we live because Christ lives, and we die secure in the hope that in Christ we are safe whatever life throws at us, even death.

Without that first Easter, we have a great spiritual teacher and inspiring way of life, but we don't have a hope of eternal life. With that first Easter we can live life in all of its fulness, without end. So let's celebrate!

Happy Easter,

Nigel.

## St John's, Harleston

Gift day at St John's on the 4th February raised £2,105.00

Thank you to all who generously gave  
Nigel Tuffnell

### Coffee and Cake Morning

#### St John's, Harleston

Saturday 2nd March  
9.30am till 12noon

### Midweek Mingle

Every Wednesday  
9.15am to 11.30am  
All welcome

### Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Church

Thursday 14th March  
10.30am - 12.30pm

### Chatty Church

Saturday 23rd March  
11.00am to 1.00pm

### Every Tuesday

Foodbank - 1.30pm to 3pm

### Informal Singing

Will be starting on Tuesday  
2nd April

If you enjoy singing and fancy  
joining in feel free to turn up and  
join in.

## **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 13th March***

***7.30pm to 8.30pm***

***The Rectory, 10 Swan Lane, Harleston***

Contact Nigel Tuffnell- 01379 308905

rector@7churches.org.uk

**[www.7churches.org.uk](http://www.7churches.org.uk)**

### St Peter & St Paul Brockdish Quiz Night

Saturday 9th 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.

## Holy Week

**25th March**-congregation reading Luke's Gospel-St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish-6.30pm

**26th March** - Evening Devotions - St Andrew's, Scole - 6.30pm

**27th March** - Evening Devotions - All Saints, Thorpe Abbots - 6.30pm

**28th March** - Holy Communion - St John's, Harleston - 10.30am

**28th March** - Holy Communion - St Andrew's, Scole - 2.00pm

**29th March** - Ecumenical Prayers through town - Harleston - 10.00am

**29th March** - Devotional Half Hour

-St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish - 11.30am

- St Mary's, Redenhall - 12.30pm

- St Peter's, Needham - 1.30pm

- St Andrew's, Scole - 2.30pm

- All Saints, Thorpe Abbots - 3.30pm

- St Leonard's, Billingford - 4.30pm

**29th March** - Stations of the Cross - St John's, Harleston - 4.30pm

**30th March** - Morning Devotions - St John's, Harleston - 10.30am

**31st March** - Ecumenical Sunrise Service - Ocen Pit, Weybread - 6.00am

## St Andrew's - Scole

### Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd March

10.00am - 12noon

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

## Children's Society Boxes and Donations

A big thank you to all who have the collection boxes, which were opened soon after Christmas.

The boxes raised over £317 and together with donations from the Christingle Services and collections given for the Children's Society we were able to bank over £506. This was a record - so thank you to all who give to this very worthwhile cause. If anyone would like a collection box in which you can place your odd pennies or pounds(!), please let me know.


Lynda (740401)

## 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



	<b>7 churches Benefice Services</b>	
<b>Compline</b>		
Thursday, 28th March 6.30pm All Saints, Thorpe Abbots		
<b>Celebration Service</b>		
Sunday 24th March 4.30pm St Andrew's, Scole,.		

## **THE REGISTERS - 24TH JANUARY 2023 TO 25TH FEBRUARY 2024**

### **Funerals and Interments**

29th Jan	Malcolm Peck - St Mary's, Redenhall
5th Feb	Majorie Peck - St Marys, Redenhall
9th Feb	David Beaumont - St John's, Harleston
16th Feb	Charles Gunn - St John's, Harleston
20th Feb	Joanne Stewart - St Mary's, Redenhall

### **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).*

# MARCH SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

<b>Sunday 3rd Lent 3 (Purple) Acknowledge Prejudice</b>	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>1 Corinthians 1.18-25 / John 4.5-30, 39-42</i>			
<b>Sunday 10th Mothering Sunday (Purple) Speak into Silence</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30pm	Holy Communion	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Ephesians 2.1-10/Luke 8.43-48</i>			
<b>Sunday 17th Lent 5 (Purple) Admit Hypocrisy</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	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 Prayer	1 Church Close, Redenhall
<i>Hebrews 5.5-10/Matthew 7.1-5</i>			
<b>SUNDAY 24TH Palm Sunday (Red)</b>	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>John 12.12-16/Philippians 2.5-11</i>			
<b>SUNDAY 31ST Easter Day (Gold)</b>	6.00am	Ecumenical Sunrise Service	Ocean pit, Weybread
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Redenhall
	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Acts 10.34-43/John 20.1-18</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 revdjskelton@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

### 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](http://www.7churches.org.uk)



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