

March 2026



Benefice Newsletter

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SEVEN
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CHURCHES
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Dear all

By the time you get this letter the season of Lent will have started - and I thought it was a good time to think about what it means for us as Christians. What Is Lent? What is it all about and how do we respond to it? Meaningfully!

We know that it's a time that leads us onward from all we celebrated over Christmas - and begin to move towards the cross and resurrection of Jesus - a time traditionally observed by the church as an opportunity for penitence and fasting - a time to encourage us to remember all that Jesus is - and did/does - and to determine to follow Him more closely.

So let us remember.

Jesus had spent 30 years in obscurity, living the life of a son, brother, carpenter! We are told that He "grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man". (*Luke 2;52*) Now we see Him, His identity as God's Beloved Son - affirmed and authenticated at His baptism - being driven out into the desert to be equipped for the ministry He had come to fulfil as Messiah.

Lent shadows that time - a period of 40 days when He was alone in the desert - severely tested and tempted by the devil to compromise His identity and the role He had come to fulfil.

And so the testing began.

Sometimes it's good to draw apart for a while - maybe not into a literal desert place, but somewhere apart from the storms and noise of life - a place where we can be still, quiet - a place where we can think, listen to our own heart as it tells us through our feelings and fears what our life is really all about - listen to what God might be saying through the circumstances that confront us - His written word and that deep whisper within the very depths of our being.

We will hear it if we listen and even though we may reach rock bottom in terms of all that seems to overwhelm us - we'll discover - if we truly listen - The Rock at the bottom of it all, and find that stable and secure place that we long for. (*Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:4 - that Christ is the Rock*) And when / if we discover That Rock - we can be transformed by all that brought us down/low - because God can and does use it all - good and bad - to teach/ grow and lead us to Himself - He doesn't waste anything - we just need to be still and listen. So my prayer for each one of us this Lent is that we would make time - then use it well - to discover that safe and secure place for ourselves - in Christ.

Every blessing and a good Lent to you all.

Canon Lyndy

Update on the Vacancy.

The Diocese has announced that the Revd. Jonathan Richardson (presently a curate with the Thetford Team Ministry and also the Diocesan Children Youth and Families Development Officer) is to be the full time Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Redenhall and Scole. He is to lead the Benefice during the present vacancy.

We are pleased to welcome Jonathan and his wife Steph to the Benefice and hold them in prayer as they make the move to Harleston.

News from All Saints Thorpe Abbots

After 24 years on our PCC (of which 20 years were spent as the secretary) Simon is standing down. As a Trustee of the Royal Marines Charity he is taking on the responsibility of looking after the 20 branches in the SE of England. Thank you Simon for all your hard work over the years, especially for looking after the churchyard. However, you did say Simon, that you will still be around to help, so we will keep you to that!

On Saturday March 24th Thorpe Abbots Church is having a spring clean. We would love to see you there to help with your feather dusters. There will be coffee, tea and cake to keep us going. If you can help please contact Chris McDonald (01379 669116).

Harleston

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th March
King Georges Hall
9.30am - 12noon

Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Church

Thursday 12th March
London Rd Church
10.30am - 12.30pm

Chatty Church

Saturday 28th March
King Georges Hall
11.00am-1.00pm

The reading of St Matthew's Gospel

Monday 30th March at 6.30pm

St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish Church

Evening Devotions

Tuesday 31st March at 6.30pm

St Leonard's Billingford Church

St Andrew's - Scole

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th March

10.00am - 12 noon

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

All welcome. We will also have a book stall and 'Bacon Butties' available for £3.50

Church Cleaning

A spring clean will take place on

Saturday 28th March

9.00am

If you can help, it would be much appreciated

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 JANUARY 2026 TO 25TH FEBRUARY 2026

Funerals and Interments

29th Jan Micheal Fairweather- St Andrew's, Scole.
3rd Feb Rachel Wisken - St Mary's, Redenhall.

	7churches Benefice Services	
	Compline	
	Thursday 26th March, 6.30pm All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts	
	Celebration Service	
	Sunday 22nd March 4.30pm St Andrew's, Scole.	

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Nick Crane, Fran Pitt-Pladdy, David Barker, 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).*

MARCH SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

Sunday 1st Lent 2 (Purple)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St Thomas More, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
<i>Romans 4.1-5, 13-17/John 3.1-17</i>			
Sunday 8th 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 Thomas More, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Romans 5.1-11/John 4.5-42</i>			
Sunday 15th Mothering Sunday (Purple)	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 Thomas More, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17/Luke 2.33-35 or John 19.25-27</i>			
Sunday 22nd Lent 5 (Purple)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St Thomas More, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Romans 8.6-11/John 11.1-45</i>			
Sunday 29th Palm Sunday (Purple)	10.30am	Benefice Service Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
<i>Philippians 2:5-11/Matthew 21:4-11 Or the Long Gospel - Matthew:26:14 - end of 27</i>			

