

**May 2025**



*Benefice  
Newsletter*

—  
**SEVEN**  
—  
**CHURCHES**  
—

Dear Friends,

In the last edition of the BNL we were looking forward to Easter but now it's May and Easter is behind us. The Easter eggs are eaten (or most of them!), the children are back to school and Easter is forgotten as we revel in the beauty of the month of May.

May Day points to the beginning of summer, and historically it was associated with fun, revelry and perhaps most importantly, fertility. The Day would be marked with village folk cavorting round the maypole and the selection of the May Queen. I saw the film Camelot in the 1960's and still remember the happy and carefree scenes when the queen and her court were celebrating 'the month of May'! And that revelry and fertility is reflected in nature. Our gardens, fields and hedgerows are bursting with new growth; birds are rearing young and there is new life everywhere. The gift of life is present throughout creation, whether we are talking about a primrose, mushroom, bee, sheep or human! John Chapter 1 reminds us that *'through Jesus all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.'* God's creative power, through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, gives everything life

The wonders of creation and the blossoming of new life, not only fills me with joy and hope, but it also takes me right back to Easter Day and the resurrection of Jesus. At Easter, we celebrated the new and different life that we have because of God's love for us. St John wrote - *'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* In a nutshell, that's what Easter was all about - accepting God's love and living lives that reflect the gift of that new life that God has given us. That gift isn't just for Easter Day and the season of Easter, but for every day. When Jesus defeated death and rose again, he brought us a new relationship with God and the gift of new life that begins now and takes us into eternity.

This May, enjoy the abundance of the May blossom on the Hawthorne, the newborn animals and the beauty of the season. As you do, also remember Easter – remember God’s love for you and me that sent Jesus to the cross, and the gift of ‘new life’ that we have been given with his resurrection and glorious Ascension. And at the end of this month, join with us on 29 May to celebrate his Ascension, in our Benefice Ascension Day Service, 6.30 pm at St Andrew’s, Scole. God bless you all,  
Rev Sue

### **James Shelton Curacy**

James Shelton is going to be concluding his curacy in early June, ahead of which he will return to St John’s to lead one final service on Sunday 25th May . This is because his next ministry post was announced yesterday, and is Durham Cathedral and they are delighted to announce the appointment of the Revd James Shelton as the first Director of the Cuthbert Centre for Pilgrimage and Prayer. We wish him All the best in his new Position .

### **St Andrew’s - Scole - Coffee Morning**

Saturday 3rd May  
10.00am - 12noon

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

## **St John's, Harleston**

### **Coffee Morning**

Saturday 3rd May  
9.30am - 12noon

### **Every Tuesday**

Foodbank - 1.30pm to 3.00pm

### **Praise**

Saturday 10th May  
6pm - 7pm

## **Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Church**

Thursday 8th May  
10.30am - 12.30pm

### **Who Let the Dads Out?**

Saturday 17th May  
9.00am to 11.00am  
£3.00 per family includes breakfast

### **Chatty Church**

Saturday 24th May  
11.00am - 1.00pm



# **Forget-Me-Not Café & Church**

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

## **8th May**

**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)**



## 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 MARCH 2025 TO 25TH APRIL 2025

### Funerals and Interments

27th March Owen Reeve - St Mary's

17th April David Johnson - St Mary,s, Redenhall

25th April Pat Oberhoffer - Waveney crematorium

	<b>7 churches Benefice Services</b>	
<b>Compline</b>		
Thursday 22nd May, 6.30pm All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts		
<b>Celebration Service</b>		
Sunday 25th May, 4.30pm St Andrew's , Scole.		

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fran Pitt-Pladdy, Mel 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).*

## MAY SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

<b>Sunday 4th 3rd of Easter (White)</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer	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
<i>Acts 9.1-6 [7-20]/John 21.1-19</i>			
<b>Sunday 11th 4th of Easter (White)</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Acts 9.36-43/John 10.22-30</i>			
<b>Sunday 18th 5th of Easter (White)</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	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
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>Acts 11.1-18/John 13.31-35</i>			
<b>Sunday 25th 6th of Easter (White)</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Acts 16.9-15/John 14.23-29</i>			
<b>Thursday 29th Ascension Day (White or Gold)</b>	6.30pm	Benefice Ascension Day Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Acts 1.1-11/Luke 24.44-53</i>			

## CONTACT LIST

### Ministry Team

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 revdjs Shelton@outlook.com

Lynda Mansfield        01379 740401 or lyndamscole@hotmail.co.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	Ann Cork	01379 668635
All Saints - Thorpe Abbots	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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