

# **AUGUST 2019**



## **Newsletter**

**Scole - Harleston - Brockdish  
Thorpe Abbots - Needham  
Billingford - Redenhall with Wortwell**

**7** welcoming churches at the heart of our communities  
learning to put Jesus first; sharing love and Good News.



## CURATE'S CURIOSITY

Have you ever visited an old house? I'm sure you have — something several hundred years old, that has been adapted through the years. Perhaps it's had extensions, renovations. It may have been two houses, now knocked through to make

one large house. Or perhaps the opposite — one large house has been split in two. I've seen both. Perhaps there used to be outside toilets, but now, modern plumbing and bathrooms have been installed. Is there a big hook in the pantry ceiling? They used to hang pheasants there, but the present owners don't. Is there a stable that's now just a tool shed?

If you were building a new house you wouldn't do it this way — and yet you can't tear down this one and start again because this house is beautiful and important. All that extension and modification is history, story and love, made real in bricks and mortar and plaster and plumbing.

The chances are that you won't know how interesting the building is until someone tells you. But better still, you could play detective: try to work out the story. It won't make sense until you read the building *according to the wisdom and the needs of its time*.

All this talk of buildings is me trying to find an extended metaphor for the Bible. Because the Bible is like an ancient building. It wasn't built all at the same time but gained rooms and modifications over hundreds of years. The old half of the house was completed in about 100AD, while the new part wasn't finalised until a little later. Christians didn't declare the Old Testament obsolete, but honour it — even if we do treat it differently to the New Testament. Like those old houses you have to understand each book according to how it was used and understood at the time — and then you can work out what it means to you now.

As I write, (in early July) I am two sessions into teaching my Bible course, which continues on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 in St John's. If you haven't come before and would like to, there are still a few sessions left — contact me (details on [7churches.org.uk](http://7churches.org.uk)) if you're in any doubt.

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This isn't about telling you what to think — it's more like learning to read the different rooms of an old house — and discovering that it is much more wonderful and makes a lot more sense (after interpretation) than you ever thought possible.

God bless you, Revd Tim.

## NATURAL FOOT CARE

*Melanie Johnson SAC Dip RFHP*

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**Glow Crew Christian Youth Group** has celebrated its first year — from September 2018 to July 2019 in St John's Church. The group started with five members and has grown to twelve (though it sometimes seems like twenty!) We meet every Friday in term time to chillax, play games, and eat insane quantities of toast — all in a mobile free environment. The session ends with 'Sofa Time' where we talk about various pressures and issues in life, including a Christian perspective on these things. We close with prayers for family and friends, led by the young people, including our 'group prayer'. Through the year we have seen young people growing in confidence in prayer, and in a sense of God's love, and we look forward to seeing what God will do with this group next year. Lucy (Group Co-Leader)

## Harleston - St John's

### AFTERNOON TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT

A huge thank you to ALL who helped make this a very successful and friendly afternoon with a very warm community spirit and the added bonus of £382 towards the Parish Share. Sheila & Gill

**Tuesday Informal Singing** is every Tuesday from 11.00am to 12noon. Refreshments available.

**Coffee Morning** is Saturday 3rd August from 9.30am to 11.30am. Includes cake and savoury stalls.

**Summer Light Lunches** are on Tuesday 20th August at 12noon. Cost is only £5 which includes a pudding!

**Community Lunches** are on Tuesday 27th August at 12noon. No set charge but donations welcome.

**Family Service** (Informal) is every 1st Sunday (4th August) at 11am All age, lively music, interactive talk, children's activities, creative prayer and more! Followed by refreshments.

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

The Life and Musical choices of a "Castaway"  
in a Mythical Tropical Paradise

followed by Tea and Cake.

**Friday 9th August - 3pm**



**ST JOHN'S  
HARLESTON**

**Tickets £5**

St John's Church office

(01379) 851148 or

Brian 853660

# Pledge to protect the Planet



## In their words Reminder number 1

To celebrate Harleston's Equinox Earth Day young people from Harleston Primary Academy sent messages to everyone asking for our help to Protect the Planet and why:

*'Please do not  
throw rubbish down the  
toilet ...  
... sharks might eat it!'*

- maybe not directly ... but the sentiment is clear



The planet needs us ... we need the planet ... and we all need each other – if we don't act, who will?.

**Time for Action ... here ... NOW**

## THE ANT AND THE CONTACT LENS

Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was very scared, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff. In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took hold of the rope, and started up the face of that rock. Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens.

Well, here she is, on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there.

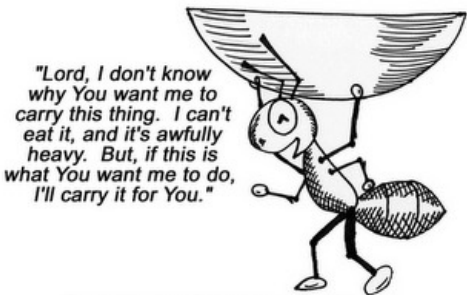
Here she was, far from home, her sight now blurry. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her to find it.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, with the rest of the party, waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff.

She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?"

Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it?



An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it on its back.

Brenda told me that her father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words, "Lord, I

don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

## **Scole - St Andrew's**

**Coffee Morning** Saturday 3rd August 10am - 12 noon; come and enjoy homemade sausage rolls, cheese scones and home-baked cake along with coffee, tea, raffle and friendly chat.

**Remember** that there won't be a Celebration Service in August so we will see you all September 22nd.



## **Trevor Clarke Harleston Centre Of Mission**

### ***What's Your Faith Picture?***

In Faith Pictures, we have been looking at our faith, and how we could describe it in a visual and engaging form, to our friends, family, neighbours and perhaps even people we have never met before.

The participants have become more confident and able in expressing what their faith looks like.

Some members have even started a Fresh Expression, (a new way of being a Christian community in today's culture), in the Brew House in Pulham Market, called Coffee Stop, every Tuesday morning in term time, I helped start it up with some participants of the first Faith Pictures course, and the Mothers Union, and they are now more than competently running it themselves! Parents from the local school are invited over to have coffee and cake, and build community and relationships, and the volunteers, through an incarnational ministry of demonstrating Christian values, sharing their faith, and listening to the parents, are developing a powerful ministry in developing a Christian community, and I am so excited and thrilled about this!

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My vision of a centre of mission is to bring people to a living faith in Jesus Christ, by leading, training, and facilitating evangelism, becoming beacons of light throughout the deanery, and I will be sharing more about Church Army's strategy in my next article.

***Your opportunity to take part!***

The next Faith Pictures course is in Earsham, venue to be confirmed, starting Thursday 12th September 2019, at 7pm. If we want to see our churches grow, and bring people into a living faith in Jesus, start new worshipping communities which suit the rural nature of Norfolk, then this course can help us develop more confidence and could open opportunities through prayer to share our faith. My faith picture is that of a 4x4 vehicle, It carries me over difficult terrain, in the same way that the Lord carries me over difficult situations, in the 4x4 I can swap from 2 wheel drive to 4 wheel drive, so that when I rely on God, He takes me into a different gear. Why don't you ask Bonnie, my wife what her faith picture is? Do sign up by emailing or telephoning me, and let me know that you are coming, every blessing, Trevor.

**Email:** [trevor.clarke@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:trevor.clarke@dioceseofnorwich.org) **Tel:** 07407 417 437

**THE REGISTERS - 13TH JUNE TO 12TH JULY 2019**

**Baptisms**

- 2nd June Mabel Nora Meek at St Andrew's, Scole
- 6th July Spencer Davenport at St Mary's, Redenhall
- 7th July Elle and Lily Fletcher-Preston at St John's, Harleston.

**Funerals and Interments**

- 24th June Robin Rampley in St John's, Harleston and Waveney Crematorium
- 27th June Susan Hatchett at Gorleston Crematorium who lived in Scole
- 5th July Jean Youell from Needham at St Mary's, Redenhall and interred in the churchyard.



## A PRAYER FOR ALL OUR CHURCHES.

May the doors of this church be wide enough  
to receive all who come seeking God and fellowship.

May the doors of this church be narrow enough  
to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

May the threshold of this church be no stumbling block  
to young or frail feet.

May the threshold of this church be too high  
to admit complacency and self-seeking.

May this church be, for all who enter,  
a safe place and the doorway to a richer life in Christ.



*Taken from Church of England Website.*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Jane Debenham, Ken Deighton, Fran Pitt-Pladdy, Jean Roper, Lyn Veness, Maurice & Frances Cormack and Paul With.

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 back page*).

**Also please pray for** the family and friends of Bill Woodworth, Doris Belt, Stewart Orr, David Anderson, Bridget Timbers and Rita Ransome who have recently died.

	<b>7CHURCHES BENEFICE SERVICES</b> <b>Compline</b> St Leonard's, Billingford Thursday 8th August 6.30pm	
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## WEEKDAY SERVICES AND PRAYERS

Tuesdays	9.30am	Short Prayer Time - St John's, Harleston.
Weds	7.30pm	Prayers for Harleston - Oasis Prayer Space,
16th August		Archbishop Sancroft High School, Harleston.
Thursdays	9.15am	Short Worship & Prayer - St Andrew's, Scole.
	10.00am	Said Holy Communion - St John's, Harleston.

## AUGUST SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

<b>SUNDAY 4TH</b> Trinity 7 Green	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	St Mary's, Redenhall
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Benefice Prayers	St Peter's, Needham
Colossians 3. 1-11 / Luke 12. 13-21			
<b>SUNDAY 12TH</b> Trinity 8 Green	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Benefice Prayers	St Peter's, Needham
	6.00pm	Service	Wortwell Chapel
Hebrews 11. 1-3, 8-16 / Luke 12. 32-40			
<b>SUNDAY 18TH</b> Trinity 9 Green	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Leonard's, Billingford
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Benefice Prayers	St Peter's, Needham
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (Patronal)	St Mary's, Redenhall
Hebrews 11. 29-12.2 / Luke 12. 49-56 ( <i>St Mary's - Galatians 4.4-7 / Luke 1.46-55</i> )			
<b>SUNDAY 25TH</b> Trinity 10 Green	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (CW)	St Mary's, Redenhall
Hebrews 12. 18-29 / Luke 13. 10-17			



Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming up a storm.

Johnny asked his mom, "Where'd he come from?"

"He came from heaven, Johnny."

Johnny responded: "Wow! I can see why they threw him out!"

## CONTACT LIST

SEVEN  
CHURCHES

### Ministry Team

**Ministry Team Leader:** Revd Tim Rogers

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**7churches Administrator** - Lucy Elton-Cooke.

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**Email:** [admin@7churches.org.uk](mailto:admin@7churches.org.uk) **Tel:** 01379 851148 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

### Churches

St John's - Harleston	Lucy Elton-Cooke	01379 851148
St Mary's - Redenhall	Michael Clark	07427 586806
St Peter's - Needham	Gill Powell	0754 539 6695
St Peter & St Paul - Brockdish	Jan Croxson	01379 668630
	Ann Cork	01379 668635
All Saints - Thorpe Abbots	Christine McDonald	01379 669116
St Leonard's - Billingford	Pauline Greenard	01379 740730
	Sue Redgrave	01379 740837
St Andrew's - Scole	Lynda Mansfield	01379 740401
	Peter Edwards	01379 741906

### Schools

Archbishop Sancroft High School (CofE Academy)	Mr R Cranmer	01379 852561
Harleston CE Primary Academy	Mrs L Blofield	01379 853211
Scole CEVC Primary	Mrs C Vosper	01379 740654

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



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# the solo BEATLES



**24th August**  
**St John's Church**  
**HARLESTON**  
**7.30pm £10**  
**TICKETS AVAILABLE**  
**THE CARD & PARTY SHOP, MARKET SQUARE**