

February 2017



Redenhall

Wortwell

Harleston

Needham

Brockdish

Thorpe Abbots

Billington

Scole

Benefice of Redenhall with Scole - Church of England - Diocese of Norwich

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Thoughts from Turnpike Cottage



As I sit and write this piece, Nigel and the Ministry Team are busy planning for Vision Week which will have been launched on Sunday 22nd January; the Vision Day will have been held on Sunday, 29th January, and we are all hoping and praying that it will be a positive experience for everyone.

By the time you read this we are trusting that God will have shown us how we are to move forward in our parishes and benefice and how to reach out to our communities in sharing our faith. Each parish works differently, has its own personality and I hope that we will have learned from one another.

Some folk have been a little concerned that this initiative might have negative connotations, such as a church or churches being closed; on the contrary – it was to bring our Benefice together and to look at the many ways in which we can share the love and Good News of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8 v. 28 : *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”.*

This was a text I was given many years ago when things were less than positive for me. I have found it a wonderful text by which to live. God certainly worked for the good of all who invited and encouraged members of their communities to join in with the celebration of our Saviour’s birth. Over the Christmas period there were many Carol Services and Advent Celebrations, and there was a lot of love shared on those occasions and the churches were very well attended.

How wonderful it would be if our churches were well attended all the year round – but attending church is not the main aim. The aim is to show that each church is the centre of each parish and as such it shows the love of Christ to all – by sharing love, concern, compassion, empathy and care to every member of the community – whatever their religion, or of no religion.

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We – the Ministry Team, the P.C.C's and every church member – have all been called according to God's purpose: I hope and pray that the beginning of this year will prove to be the start of a revival in this Benefice. May Nigel's enthusiasm and faith spread to touch us all and may our churches become as beacons of light to each and every one in our communities. Every blessing, **Lynda**.

Lent 2017 - A Faith for Life

This year Lent starts Wednesday 1st March with an Ashing and Holy Communion Service. There will be two services held in the Benefice, one at St John's, Harleston and the other in St Andrew's, Scole at 7.00pm. Lent then finishes on Saturday 8th April.

In February you will find a sign up form to join the Lent courses which will be held weekly with details of each Lent group in your parish. These will be placed at the back of your church. If you need further information please contact Revd Nigel Tuffnell

Stillness, Mindfulness, Meditation. Free & Open to All at the Oasis Prayer Space, Archbishop Sancroft High School, Harleston on Wed 1st Feb & Thurs 2nd March at 7.30pm. Contact Nigel for more information (*details back page*).

Chatty Church meets at Harleston, in St John's on Saturday 18th Feb starting at 2pm. This is for children and their families/carers. Tea, fresh coffee and snacks available, with plenty of chat while the kids enjoy activities and games.

P.C.C's in February.

7th Feb Thorpe Abbots, 8th Feb Redenhall & Harleston, 9th Feb Needham, 20th Feb Scole, 21st Feb Billingford, 22nd Feb Brockdish

Teaching Tuesday. Informal and free-ranging for all ages, abilities or stages of faith and no questions are barred. 1.45pm on the first Tuesday (*7th Feb & 7th March*) of each month. *Tim*.

February Homegroups - *please contact the leader for venues or more info.*

Scole - Thursday 9th & 23rd Feb at 7.30pm - Sue 01379 740325

Harleston - Thursday 9th & 23rd Feb - Don 01379 854156

Harleston - Tuesday 14th & 28th Feb at 7.30pm - Sheila 01379 852762

Needham - Wednesday 15th Feb at 2.30pm - Nigel 01379 308905

HARLESTON

An Afternoon of Russian Music. The first Music Afternoon of 2017 will take place at 36 Mendham Lane, Harlestone on Friday 24th February at 2.30 pm. Come, enjoy some old favourites and meet some lesser known composers. Please let Kay or Brian Wright know if you are able to come - 01379 853660.

Light Lunches in St John's will be on Tuesday February 21st. Served from 12 noon at a cost of **£5** which includes a pudding.

Lighthouse Group. The next meeting will be on Thursday 16 Feb at 1.30pm in the Wortwell Bell. If anyone would like to come to our group which helps us grow in mission and discipleship then just contact the Rector or Lucy (details back page) so we can add you to the reminder list.

Beetle Drive is fun for everyone young and not so young. Refreshments and snacks included. **Monday 13th February at 4pm.** £3 per person or £10 for a family of 4. Tickets from Jenny (01379) 852617 or Lucy in the office 851148.

Coffee Morning and Cake Stall is on Saturday 4th Feb from 9.30 to 11.30am in St John's.

Mothers' Union We began 2017 with an enjoyable meeting, when after our AGM in which Brian and Anne respectively kindly agreed to remain as treasurer and secretary for another year. Rev'd Nigel gave a very interesting talk/presentation about the three kings' gifts to Jesus at Epiphany. Unfortunately, several of our members were unwell and not able to join us. I hope they are all now feeling much better. Any subscriptions (£24, not £22, as I mistakenly said in December Newsletter) which were not collected should be paid by our next meeting on 2nd February. Our speaker will be Mr Brian Wright. With love, Daphne

NEEDHAM

Friends of St Peters . Christmas Coffee Evening held at Robi Doves raised £80; money raised goes to the up keep of the church. We thank everyone who attended, donated money, cakes and raffle prizes. Special thank you to Robi and Sonia for your hospitality and time. **Pauline**

Needham Coffee Morning is always held on the first Tuesday of each month (7th Feb) in The Red Lion starting at 10am to 12noon.

SCOLE

Consecration of Scole Churchyard. This will take place on Tuesday 14th February at 2pm by Bishop Alan Winton.

Pancakes by Jamie at Scole Church on Tues 28th Feb at 5pm. Everyone welcome.

BROCKDISH

Snowdrop Walk at The old Coach House The Street Brockdish IP21 4JY on Sunday 26th February 2pm to 4pm. Enjoy a walk over 2 acres of woodland and garden leading down to the banks of the River Waveney. Refreshments, tombola, cakes and Jams. Dogs welcome on leads. Adults £2 and children are free. In aid of EAAA. Prostate cancer All Hallows and other local charities.

THE SNOWDROP - By Hans Christian Andersen, adapted by Rob John

It was the middle of winter. The north wind howled. Snow and icy rain lashed the frozen earth. This was a dark part of the year with long freezing nights and short cold days. Nothing seemed to grow at this time of the year. Everything seemed dead.

But of course not everything was dead. Under the earth a snowdrop was alive and waiting. She was warm and snug inside her bulb but the little flower was not happy.

‘I want to stretch,’ she said. ‘I want to reach up into the world. I want to open up my petals and feel the fresh air on my face.’

The snowdrop pushed at the walls of her bulb but she wasn’t strong enough to break them open. A winter sunbeam threw a shaft of light through a crack in the earth. The snowdrop felt the light and called out: ‘Help me. I’m trapped inside this bulb. Come and help me to open the door!’

‘I can’t,’ said the sunbeam. ‘I’m too weak. Wait until spring. Then I’ll be stronger. Then I can help you to break out.’

‘But when will spring come?’ said the snowdrop.

‘Soon,’ said the sunbeam. ‘You wait till the spring like a sensible flower. Spring’s the time for little flowers like you. Be patient.’

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But the snowdrop could not be patient. Her bulb which had always been her safe warm home now felt like a prison. 'I can't wait for spring,' she said. 'If the sun beam can't help I'll have to escape all by myself.'

Although it was still winter and the icy rain and snow still fell on the freezing earth the little snowdrop was getting stronger every day and she was determined to escape. She pushed at the walls of her bulb with all her strength and this time the bulb gave way and the snowdrop was able to push out a green shoot which slowly, painfully made its way up towards the light.

At the end of the shoot was a tiny white flower. The snowdrop turned its face to the sun and was born. Sunbeams shone their light and warmth on the snowdrop who opened her eyes and smiled at the world. But as evening came the sunbeams disappeared behind dark clouds. The air grew colder. Night fell and the snowdrop felt flakes of snow brush on her petals.

'Oh look,' said the north wind. 'Look who's arrived. Stupid little flower. You've come up too soon.'

'You wouldn't listen would you,' said the snow. 'You only had to wait a few more weeks then I'd have been gone. But look at you here all by yourself'.

'Yes, all alone,' said the north wind. 'Do you see any other flowers?'

The snowdrop couldn't see anything at all. It was nearly dark and the snow blew in her face. 'I just wanted to see the world,' said the snowdrop.

'Too soon', hissed the freezing rain. 'You came up too soon. What do you think you're playing at coming out now in the middle of winter showing off and making a fool of yourself. You're too tiny. You won't last the night'.

'It's still winter,' creaked the ice on the lake. 'This time belongs to wind and rain and snow and ice. This is our time not yours'.

As night fell the snowdrop became frightened. Perhaps they were right. Perhaps she had been impatient and had come out too soon. Perhaps she was too tiny to survive all alone on a freezing night. The snowdrop shivered. But the little flower had more strength than she knew. She lifted up her face to the cold dark sky and said, 'I came out because I was ready... because it was the right time ...and if I die tonight in the cold then at least I will die happy.'

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The snowdrop shut her eyes and slept. All around her the winds howled and a winter storm raged. But although she was tiny the snowdrop was tough and when the first sunbeams of the morning arrived they saw that the snowdrop was still alive.

It was a beautiful day. It was cold but the sky was blue. The snowdrop heard voices coming towards her. A little girl was walking with her mother in the winter sunshine.

'Oh look', said the girl. 'It's a little white flower'. 'It's a snowdrop,' said her mother. 'It's very beautiful', said the child. 'Can I pick it and take it home?'

'No,' said her mother. 'The snowdrop is a special, very brave little flower. It comes at the end of winter to remind us that spring is coming soon. None of the other flowers are brave enough to come out now when the air is so cold but this little flower is. Look she's come all alone.'

'Will other snowdrops come?' asked the girl.

'Yes,' said her mother. 'Soon there will be lots of snowdrops, then crocuses, then bluebells and buttercups and by summer the whole world will be full of flowers. But this little one - this little snowdrop - she is the first. The first sign of spring.'

The little girl and her mother went on their way. The snowdrop stood happily in the winter sunshine proud to be the first - the first sign of spring.

A Prayer for Hope

**Heavenly father, I am your humble servant, I come before you today in need of hope.
There are times when I feel helpless, There are times when I feel weak. I pray for hope.
I need hope for a better future. I need hope for a better life. I need hope for love and kindness.**

**Some say that the sky is at it's darkest just before the light.
I pray that this is true, for all seems dark. I need your light, Lord, in every way.**

**I pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory.
To know that all is right in the world, as you have planned, and as you want it to be.
Help me to walk in your light, and live my life in faith and glory.**

In your name I pray, Amen.

[http://www.prayers-for-special-help.com/prayer-for-hope.](http://www.prayers-for-special-help.com/prayer-for-hope)

Shrove Tuesday



Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which is the first day of Lent. It's a day of penitence, to clean the soul and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. But there's more to Shrove Tuesday than pigging out on pancakes or taking part in a public pancake race. The pancakes themselves are part of an ancient custom with deeply religious roots.

Penitence

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing that Christians used to undergo in the past. In shricing, a person confesses their sins and receives absolution for them. When a person receives absolution for their sins, they are forgiven for them and released from the guilt and pain that they have caused them. In the Catholic or Orthodox context, the absolution is pronounced by a priest. This tradition is very old. Over 1000 years ago a monk wrote in the Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes:

In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him.

Shrove Tuesday celebrations

Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Giving up foods: but not wasting them.

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In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs and milky foods.

So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shroving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without them going off.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras; meaning fat Tuesday. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

LOOK OUT FOR

Needham Family Church

Starting in March

Check our website 7churches.org.uk when more details will be announced.

Stuart Townend

St. Andrew's Church, Church Rd, Gorleston-on-Sea.

Friday 31st March at 7.30pm - visit website for tickets £12.50

<http://www.standrewsgorleston.org.uk/church-life/special-events/>

Benefice Outing to Cambridge

Tuesday 9th May

Let Them Eat Cake

by the **Benefice Broadcasting Company**

Saturday 24th June



If you've never been to a housegroup before or never quite plucked up the courage, here is your opportunity! Informal and fun, a housegroup can be a great way of getting to know your fellow Christians' better, deepening your faith and equipping you to help our self and others, with everyday life. Please contact me if you would like to join a group and I will guide you to one that's best suited for you. *Rev'd Nigel Tuffnell (details back page)*

PLEASE PRAY

For the Sick: Derek Walterton, Maude Williams, Mark Richmond, Barbara Mewse, Geoff Bellfield, Sylvia Miller, Diane Clarke, Derek Buttle, Sue Symonds, Dorothy and family, Maureen Franklin, Maurice Cormack, Camilla, Patricia Woodworth, James, Karen & Mike Rayner, Peggy Stygall, Susan Hartgrove, David Jackson, Joan Mitchell, Peter, Mollie Beckett, Liam Brown, Elizabeth Epps, Geoffrey, Michael Palmer, Dorothy, Lois Bailey, Henry Vines, Johnny Hunt and for all the residents of Oaklands and The Trees nursing homes.

For the families and friends of those who have died: Michael Quarmby, Gilbert Clarke, David Avery and Joyce Rudderham.

For people who are in prison or just out of prison trying to cope.

For the doctors who are burdened with too many patients and unnecessary paperwork.

For ourselves, to be more ever loving to God and our neighbours.

THE REGISTERS FROM 13TH DECEMBER TO 12TH JANUARY

Funerals & Interments

9th Jan Thelma Head aged 61 who died 20th Dec, St Peter's, Needham and interred in the churchyard.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesdays	9.30am	Short Prayer Time - St John's, Harleston
Wednesdays	11.00am	Short Prayer Time - St Andrew's, Scole
Thursdays	9.15am	Short Worship & Prayer - St Andrew's, Scole
	10.00am	Said Holy Communion - St John's, Harleston
16th Feb	11.15am	Holy Communion - Trees Nursing Home

Valentines Service

Tuesday 14th February

St John's at 6.45pm



Whether you are engaged to be married, just married or been married a number of years, may we take this opportunity to invite you to a service of thanksgiving for marriage.

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

N.B Psalms - Morning or Evening Prayer only

Sun 5th 4th week before Lent Green	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	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
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	9.30am	Holy Communion CW	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>Isaiah 58. 1-9a / Psalm 112. 1-9 / 1 Corinthians 2. 1-12 / Matthew 5. 13-20</i>			
Sun 12th 3rd week before Lent 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	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
<i>Deuteronomy 30. 15-end / Psalm 119. 1-8 / 1 Corinthians 3. 1-9 / Matthew 5. 21-37</i>			
Sun 19th 2nd week before Lent Green	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	4.00pm	Compline	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>Genesis 1. 1-2.3 / Psalm 136 / Romans 8. 18-25 / Matthew 6. 25-end</i>			
Sun 26th Next before Lent Green	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	11.00am	Morning Prayer cw	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St John's, Harleston
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Exodus 24. 12-end / Psalm 2 / 2 Peter 1. 16-end / Matthew 17. 1-9</i>			

Deadline for contributions to this Newsletter is the 12th of each month. Please email or call Lucy if you have anything you would like to add from your parish. Contact details are on the back page

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St Mary's - Redenhall	Lindy Ellis	01986 788326
St Peter's - Needham	George Miller	01379 852059
	Charles Chenery	01379 741225
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	Pauline Greenard	01379 740730
	Brian Nunn	01379 852178
St Andrew's - Scole	Lynda Mansfield	01379 740401
	Peter Edwards	01379 740779

Schools

Archbishop Sancroft CEVA High	Mr R Cranmer	01379 852561
Harleston CEVA Primary	Mrs L Blofield	01379 853211
Scole CEVC Primary	Mrs C Vosper	01379 740654

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