

FEBRUARY 2019



**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.

RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTORY

February brings with it the opportunities brought by crisp air and night clear skies. We in the country can observe the night sky in a way denied to those living in large towns and cities. The countryside is darker so we enjoy lower levels of light pollution. Something we should treasure and protect.

I see the beauty of the night sky is a blessing from God to lift and inspire us. It doesn't have to be just for adults either, with dark evenings children can enjoy the night sky too. I look for clear nights, take my time and look up at the sky. I look for stars that twinkle and usually a few of the famous star patterns or constellations (there are lots of books, and online guides to help, e.g. <https://www.schoolobservatory.org/learn/astro/nightsky/maps>). On a really clear night I might see the Milky Way, or I could be lucky enough to see a shooting star. But I mostly like to just look and wonder.

The wonders of the night sky inspire me as they inspired many in the Bible, and not just the Wise Men from Matthew 2. Here are just a few examples:

From Psalm 8

O Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world!
Your praise reaches up to the heavens.
When I look at the sky which you have made,
At the moon and stars, which you set in their places
-what are human beings, that you think of them;
mere mortals that you care for them?

From the Book of Job Chapter 9

No one helped God spread out the heavens or trample the sea monster's back. God hung the stars in the sky - The Great Bear, Orion, the Pleiades, and the stars of the south. We cannot understand the great things he does, and to his miracles there is no end.

From Genesis Chapter 15

Abram heard the Lord speaking to him again:... "Look at the sky and try to count the stars; you will have as many descendants as that."

Let beauty of the heavens inspire you this February.

God bless, Nigel.

HARLESTON - ST JOHN'S

Church Re-ordering 11th - 18th February

Starting Sunday evening of 10th February through to 18th February the church will be removing the pews and repairing the floor. The works will be done with hope of minimal disruption but if need be the church might have to be closed on some parts of the days if I find there is a Health & Safety issue.

To replace the pews we have ordered 120 chairs. If you or your group/organisation would like to help in sponsoring a chair please let me know or just pick up a chair sponsor flyer at the back of the church and hand it to me in the office. God bless, Lucy - Churchwarden



Every 3rd Saturday at 2pm
Games & Activities
for children with their
families/carers.
Fresh Coffee, Tea and Snacks.
No need to book. Free admission.

St John's Church, Harleston

Fiona Wilson 07702 972656 or
Claire on 07810 565805

www.7churches.org.uk  [7churches.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/7churches.org.uk)

Tuesday Informal Singing

is every Tuesday from
11.00am to 12noon.
Refreshments available
before 11am.

Midweek Mingle

for toddlers, parents and
those who like to mingle is
every Wednesday with
toast & refreshments from
9.15 to 11.30am in term
time only.

Coffee Morning and Cake Stall

is Saturday 5th
February from 9.30am to
11.30am. If you would like
to help with cake or savoury
contributions then contact
Maureen 01379 853605.

Light Lunches are on 19th February at 12noon. £5 including a pudding.

Community Lunches are on 26th February at 12noon. No set charge just donations.



STUDY AND HOUSEGROUPS

If you've never been to a House or Study group before, here is your opportunity! Informal and fun, one of our groups can be a great way of getting to know your fellow Christians better, deepening your faith and equipping us to help ourselves and others with everyday life.

We have a variety of groups either in the day or evening, in a pub, church or in someone's home. Please contact me if you would like to join a group in your area then I can guide you to one that's best suited for you. *Revd Nigel Tuffnell (details back page)*

Lent and Easter Dates 2019

Ash Wednesday March 6th

Lent 10th March - 13th April / Palm Sunday 14th April

Holy Week 15th April to 20th April / Easter 21st April



Mobile Clinic

Melanie Johnson S.A.C. Dip RFHP Foot Health Practitioner
Fully Insured - DBS Checked

- Corns - Callus - Verrucae
 - Fungal Toenails
 - Athlete's Foot
- Toenail Trimming & Filing - Fingernail Trimming Filing
- Ingrowing Toenails - Cracked Heels - Thick Nails
 - Dr's Remedy Toe & Fingernail Polish

"I deal with your foot care needs in the comfort of your own home"

07568374257

The Annual Quiz

Saturday

23rd February

*Thorpe Abbots
Village Hall*

*Commencing 7.30pm
Light Supper, Bar, Raffle*

£6 per person

(tables up to 6)

In Aid of Church and Fabric Funds

Please book, no tickets available at the door

Contact: Simon Beet 01379 668132

or any member of the PCC.

"I have received a request from Pamela Ager (pamager1@gmail.com) for help tend a grave in Redenhall churchyard. She lives in Southern Ireland and is unable to return here as often as she would like to tend the grave of her parents." God bless, Nigel.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1st March 2019

London Road Church, Harleston at 7pm

Prepared by the women of Slovenia

This invitation is for everyone. It's an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world, they share the challenges they have met, their hopes, concerns, and prayers for the future.

Slovenia is one of the smallest countries in Europe, formerly part of Yugoslavia. The day of prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and travels throughout the world, through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, the Americas before finishing in American Samoa 38 hours later.

How impressive to think millions of people will all pray and hear the same service in many different countries and languages. Think of the Power, Love and Hope, God will release when we pray in faith together.

Please do find time to join us in Harleston at 7pm on Friday 1st March in the London Road Church for an interesting and inspiring evening.

Refreshments afterwards. COME EVERYTHING IS READY.

SCOLE - ST ANDREW'S

Toddler Group is every Wednesday 9.15 to 10.45am in term time only.

Coffee Morning will restart on March 2nd at 10am.

Home Group Dates – Spring Term 2019

Thursdays – 7.30 – 9.30 pm.

10 January, 24 January, 7 February, 21 February, Wednesday 6 March
Ash Wednesday Communion, 14 March (Lent 1), 21 March (Lent 2),
28 March (Lent 3), 4 April (Lent 4) 11 April** (Lent 5).

** Begins at 7.45 because of Compline. Meeting at Rev Sue Auckland's home, 8 Karen close, Scole. 01379 740325

In Praise of Wisdom

I have always classed myself as 'Street Wise' but now I'm learning a new type of wisdom and like all of us I seem to have a long and windy road ahead. I keep thinking I'm nearly there but there is always one more bend or another hill.

Thankfully I have many who cheer me on along the way. For everyone else on the same journey in search of Wisdom, I offer you these verses from Proverbs 8. *God bless, Lucy.*

Proverbs 8: 1-11 (CEV)

With great understanding, Wisdom is calling out as she stands at the crossroads and on every hill.

She stands by the city gate where everyone enters the city, and she shouts:

"I am calling out to each one of you!

Good sense and sound judgment can be yours.

Listen, because what I say is worthwhile and right.

I always speak the truth and refuse to tell a lie. Every word I speak is honest, not one is misleading or deceptive.

"If you have understanding, you will see that my words are just what you need.

Let instruction and knowledge mean more to you than silver or the finest gold.

Wisdom is worth much more than precious jewels or anything else you desire."

Prayer

Lord, I'm eager to cut all the corners so help me be more patient like you,

to help me and all others to listen

however you choose your way of talking to us.

Help us to see your bright shine of love in all we do,

wherever we are and whoever we're with.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

NEW CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL - 2019

Notice is hereby given that under the Church Representation Rules a new Church Electoral Roll is being prepared. All persons who wish to have their names entered on the new Roll, whether their names are entered on the present Roll or not, are requested to apply for enrolment..

Under the Church Representation Rules any persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if they:

- 1 are baptised and are aged 16 or over;
 - 2 have signed a form of application for enrolment;
- and either
- 3 Living in the parish and a member of the Church of England or a Church in communion with the Church of England.
 - 4 Not resident in the parish but a member of the Church of England (or a Church with which the Church of England is in communion) and has regularly attended worship in the parish during the six months prior to enrolment.
 - 5 A member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and they are prepared to declare themselves a member of the Church of England, having regularly attended worship during the six months prior to enrolment.

Each parish will need to produce a new electoral roll before their annual meeting. If anyone has concerns they are to ask, and I will be happy to advise. God bless, Nigel - Rector

NEEDHAM - ST PETER'S

Robi Doves Christmas coffee evening made £110 for the Friends of St Peters. Robi wishes to thank those who came and people who gave donations.

St Peters AGM is to be held on February 1st at the church at 7p.m. Everyone is welcome.

SHROVE TUESDAY - 5TH MARCH

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.

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 shricing 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.

HOLY COMMUNION AND ASHING SERVICE



Ash Wednesday 6th March at 7pm

in

St Andrew's, Scole
St John's, Harleston



Alfred Frederick Howard - Maureen and the family of the late Alfie Howard would like to thank everyone who attended his funeral service, for the many kind messages and cards of sympathy. Thank you also for the generous donations following our sad loss, a total of £616 was received in his memory, shared between the Faith Mission and the Renal Unit at the NNUH. Thank you to Colin Basham, Rev Jacquie Evans & Rev Nigel Tuffnell for their comforting service, the Partnership Singers & Natalie and Sandra from Funeral care in Harleston for the excellent funeral arrangements.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Jean Roper, Lyn Veness, Maurice & Frances Cormack.

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 our Friday Youth Group, Chatty Church and Midweek Mingle in Harleston and our Toddler Group in Scole especially the volunteers who run the groups and the families and children who come to enjoy the welcome and making new friendships in our churches.

BENEFICE WEEKDAY SERVICES AND OTHER PRAYERS

Tuesdays	9.30am	Short Prayer Time - St John's, Harleston.
Weds 6th Feb	7.30pm	Christian Meditation in the Oasis Prayer Space, Archbishop Sancroft High School, Harleston
Thursdays	9.15am	Short Worship & Prayer - St Andrew's, Scole.
	10.00am	Said Holy Communion - St John's, Harleston.
7th Feb	7.30pm	Prayers - Oasis Prayer Space - High School
14th Feb	6.30pm	Benefice Compline at Thrope Abbots Church
21st Feb	11.15am	Holy Communion -Trees Nursing Home residents.
Sundays	4.30pm	Benefice Prayers at Needham Church

FEBRUARY SERVICES AND READINGS

SUNDAY 3RD Presentation of Christ Candlemas White or Gold	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion CW	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Hebrews 2. 14-end / Luke 2. 22-40</i>			
SUNDAY 10TH 4 before Lent Green	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	6.00pm	Service	Wortwell Chapel
<i>1 Corinthians 15. 1-11 / Luke 5. 1-11</i>			
SUNDAY 17TH 3 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
	4.00pm	Compline	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>1 Corinthians 15. 12-20 / Luke 6. 17-26</i>			
SUNDAY 24TH 2 before Lent 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
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Revelation 4 / Luke 8. 22-25</i>			

THE REGISTERS - 13TH DECEMBER 2018 TO 12TH JANUARY 2019

Funerals and Interments

Correction from January Registers. 10th Dec Michael Ransome at St Peter & St Paul's, Brockdish.

27th Dec David Jary at St John's, Harleston and Waveney Crematorium

CONTACT LIST



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Email: 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	Lindy Ellis	01986 788326
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 740779

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

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