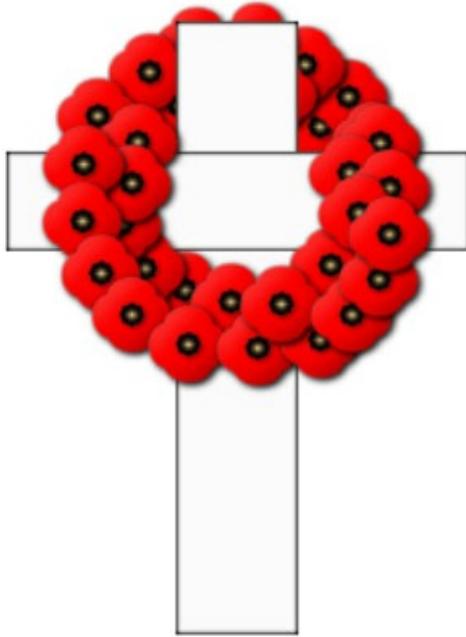


NOVEMBER 2017



Redenhall with Wortwell

Harleston - Needham

Brockdish - Thorpe Abbotts

Billingsford - Scole

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Ramblings from the Rectory

November makes me think of Remembrance, the horrors of war and the sacrifice of so many who have served their country in times of need. I remember but I don't want to. I want the world to be nice. I want all people to be nice and kind and caring. I don't like the thought of hatred and people falling out, never mind the thought of real bloodshed and war. I want an end to all nastiness, and I pray for that. I pray for the day when the vision of the prophet Isaiah will come true and:

Leopards will lie down
with young goats,
and wolves will rest
with lambs.

Calves and lions
will eat together
and be cared for
by little children.

Cows and bears will share
the same pasture;
their young will rest
side by side.

Lions and oxen
will both eat straw.

(Isaiah 11.6-7)

I want a perfect, peaceful world. But this vision; this hope seems so far from the 'real world' that I live in. The world where wolves tear lambs apart, where human predators prey on defenceless children; or rape and enslave helpless refugees. If I just look at lovely passages of the Bible like that, what have I to say to this world?

I need to remember the words of Isaiah that come just before this vision of perfection:

This king won't judge
by appearances
or listen to rumours.
The poor and the needy
will be treated with fairness
and with justice.

Cont.....

....cont

His word will be law
everywhere in the land,
and criminals
will be put to death.
Honesty and fairness
will be his royal robes.
(Isaiah 11-3-5)

In addition to pictures of perfection I have to face the reality that to get there, there will need to be some sort of clean up and clear out of all that is wrong and corrupt and evil. With people as they are, there need to be consequences for actions that harm and hurt. Justice needs to be enforced if the innocent and weak are to be able to live and flourish.

This is an unpalatable truth that is often glossed over. It is the problem with the story of the wedding feast from the beginning of Matthew 22. In the story of the wedding feast we have a king offering a banquet in honour of his son, but all of the invited guests refuse to come to the feast. They even murder the messengers. This is a message to the Jewish leaders who are refusing to respond to God's invitation offered through his son Jesus.

Then the gates are opened for everyone to come in. All are invited to the party and the banquet is full. That is the summary that fits well with the lovely image of a generous loving God. But like Isaiah, Jesus includes a note of reality too. The Jewish people who killed Jesus, are turning from their God and his protection and must face the consequences of that rejection and murder. In the story their city is destroyed, often seen as a reference to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. Then after the invite to everyone the story turns more bitter once again, ending with one of the guests being found unworthy to be there. He is bound and thrown out.

If I were telling that story I would probably want to end with the lovely message that all are welcomed by God. But that is a temptation that Jesus avoids. This is a real hope not a fantasy, so harsh realities have to be faced if they are to come true.

The harsh reality is that this world will have to change massively to be perfect once again. People will need to change too. I think of it this way: I want a world of peace, love and kindness but how is that possible if God just welcomes in people who are going to abuse, hate, rape and kill? Obviously, they will need to be excluded.

Cont...

Cont....

If a better world is to come then lots of evil needs to be dealt with. If I tried this, I would just fail at every turn. I would be loving but not strict, I would let the evil in people back in, and the world would be no better. Or, I would be stricter and not so loving and lots of people would be abandoned and left to their own corruption and despair. Thankfully, I am not God. This task is beyond me, indeed I believe it to be beyond all human wisdom. The God shown by Jesus is a God who is love. So I must leave it to his loving wisdom.

I can't sort this problem out, that's probably because I'm part of the problem. I have hatred in me. I am not always loving, and I'm far from being as generous as I could be. I have though found that by following Jesus I am becoming more loving, more peaceful, more generous and a little more kind. I want a better world but if I'm serious about this I have to admit that I must change too. I am like the Jewish leaders when I reject Jesus' call when I try to rely on my religion to keep me close to God. I have to respond to God's invitation anew every day.

I am utterly unworthy of being invited and welcomed by God. But I know that I am invited and I've eagerly run to the feast. Still now I'm in the party, I know that I need to let God's Spirit keep working in me so that I show God's love for me by loving those around me.

I seek to draw close to God and become changed. I work for a little more of God's perfection to come into this imperfect world. In all of this, I make compromises, I fight injustice, I support the forces of justice, law and order.

I also call for mercy as well as justice. I call for reconciliation as well as deterrent. This is a messy world, but this is the world that I find myself in. I must pray for a better world, work for a better world, and live in the world I've been given.

Join the fight for a better world this November. God bless, Nigel.

Benefice Confirmations

On Tuesday 14th November we have a special service of Confirmation of seven candidates by the Bishop of Thetford starting at 7pm in Brockdish Church.

It would be lovely to see you there to welcome our candidates.

REDENHALL

Wortwell Study Group meets on Thursdays 2nd and 16th November at 2pm in the Wortwell Bell. More details from Revd Nigel Tuffnell 01379 308905

SCOLE

Savoury, Coffee and Cake Morning is on Saturday 4th November in Scole Church from 10am to 12noon; come and enjoy home-made sausage rolls, cheese scones and home baked cake along with coffee, tea, raffle and friendly chat.

Concert - Upper Octave - a light/classical vocal ensemble is on Saturday 11th Nov in Scole Church hosted by Diss & District Rotatry Club for local Charities. Starting at 7.30pm. Tickets: £10 from from Adkins Opticians on 01379 650899

Winter Warmer. This will be on Saturday 2nd December from 10am till 2pm with stalls, soup, savouries, cakes and raffle in Scole Church. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Remember there is Rev Sue's clinic, 11am to 12noon every Monday and Cafe Church, 10am to 11am every Wednesday in Scole Church.

Toddler Wednesdays 9–10:45am (term-time). All welcome! Drinks & Biscuits Chat & Play Scole Church for £1.50 . **Starting 1st Nov**
Group Details from Rev. Sue 01379740325 or Kathy 01379423775

BROCKDISH

Quiz & Light Supper is on Saturday 25th November in Brockdish Village Hall at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Remember to bring your own drink and get your ticket (£4) from Jan 01379 668630.

Christmas Evening in Brockdish Village hall on December 5th with the Castleton Brass Band and festive refreshments at Brockdish Village Hall at 8.00pm. Tickets are £5 to include festive snacks. Contact Jan on 01379 668630 to book your place.

NEEDHAM

BumbleTea Family Church. The November one is cancelled so the next one will be on 2nd December at 2pm with crafts and activities. Free of charge and no need to book.

Needham churchyard Tidy Up is on Sat 4th November from 9am to 12noon

Coffee Morning, stalls, raffle and cake at the Red Lion in Needham is on the first Tuesday of every month (7th November) starting at 10am.

HARLESTON

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

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

Chatty Church is on Saturday 18th November starting at 2pm for parents/carers and their children. Plenty of chat while all enjoy activities and games in St John's, Harleston. If you would like more information call Fiona on 07702 972656 or Claire 07810 565805.

Informal Singing. Every Tuesday we meet for informal where we sing, chat and meet others. We start at 11.00am to 12noon in St John's Church. Our cafe will be open so you could stop for a coffee before or after. For more information ring Stephanie on 01379 852527.

The Norfolk Churches Trust - Sponsored Bike Ride

The only riders this year for St John's where, George (8) and Hunter (6) Moore who cycled with their Mum Karen. They visited 5 local churches and chapels, and raised £45. Well done boys.

A deduction of 5% for administration and printing is made to all monies submitted; the remaining 95% will be divided equally between St John's Church and the Norfolk Churches Trust.

Thank you to all who helped in any way to make this event possible and successful.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

St John's Church, Harleston

Saturday 2nd December

10am - 4pm

Refreshments all day, plenty of stalls; Crafts, Tombola, Raffle, Games, Cakes and plenty more. Do your Christmas shopping, enjoy Light Lunches served from 12-2 pm and meet The Christmas Elf!

All Souls *A Commemoration of* *the Faithful Departed*

An opportunity to remember before God those whose love we have shared. To gain comfort and renew our hope.

Thursday 2nd November at 6.30pm

St. John's Harleston and St. Andrew's Scole

If you would like the name of your loved one remembered at the service, please add the name to the list at the back of your church or contact Nigel 01379 308905.

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WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesdays 9.30am Short Prayer Time - St John's, Harleston.

Wednesdays 10.00am Cafe Church - St Andrew's, Scole.

8th Nov 10.30am Informal Service for Malthouse Court residents, Harleston.

Thursdays 9.15am Short Worship & Prayer - St Andrew's, Scole.

Christian Meditation - Wednesdays 1st November and 6th December at 7.30pm. Learn to quieten your mind for prayer and reflection. Free and open to all. Oasis Prayer Space, Archbishop Sancroft High School, Harleston. Contact Nigel for more information (details back page).

Reflection

In 1624, John Donne wrote that 'no man is an island', perhaps following a similar train of thought to Leonardo Da Vinci, who is credited with saying '...learn how to see. Realise that everything connects to everything else'. Unfortunately, I experienced 'island life' recently, due to problems with our home internet connection. I had forgotten how frustrating losing that connection can be and the significant impact it can have on our ability to function. During the several days without internet access, I had time to reflect on many things one of which was this idea of independence. It made me realise that for me to function at my best, I need to rely on other people. I was not able to rectify the problem with our internet on my own, it required at least three people at the internet company, working together to bring about a solution.

As a Christian, the words of Donne and Da Vinci remind me of the words of Jesus when He spoke of the greatest commandments. Jesus points out that we can't separate our love of God from our love for our neighbour. We can't offer our heart, mind, soul or strength in relationship with God without willingly relinquishing sovereignty over our life. We can't do this on our own - these are commandments which need to be worked out in a community of interdependence, where we encourage each other and lovingly hold each other to account. The consequence of believing that 'every man is an island' is that it becomes increasingly easy to say, 'its not my problem'. Unfortunately, Christians are not exempt from this and we need to remain connected to God, and each other, to protect against this hardening of heart.

Practical Action

Who do you depend on to help you function at your best? Is it possible to thank them for their support or encouragement.

In which aspects of your life do you need to reconnect with God? Spend some time in prayer about how you might move forward. It might be helpful to find two other trusted Christians that you can commit to meeting with regularly to encourage and challenge each other in your walk with God.

Cont...

Who do you need to reconnect with? Perhaps this week is the right time to do something about it.

Prayer

Lord God, we thank you that we can experience fullness of life through relationship with You. We pray that this week we might have opportunities to bless those around us with support and encouragement. Amen.

Click below to subscribe and receive weekly devotionals in your inbox every Monday.
www.movement.org.uk

CHRISTMAS AT FOODBANK

Thursday Nov 30th to Saturday Dec 2nd

Collection Volunteer Groups needed at Tescos, Diss.

Would your church or organisation like to help for an hour or longer if you prefer. Please contact Matt Scade 0845 269 1078 if you can help.

Christmas Foodbank Box Donation List

Custard, Stuffing, Tinned Ham, Chutney & Pickles, Tinned Vegetables, Trifle Mix, Fruit Juice, Christmas Pudding, Cranberry Sauce, Savoury Biscuits, Chocolate and Treats.

Teaching Tuesday

The next two Teaching Tuesdays will be on 7th November and 5th December at 1.45 in St John's, Harleston. We are informal and lively, no question is too big or too small to explore, and we aim to be suitable both for those who are exploring faith, and those who have been around the (metaphorical) Christian block a little longer! Contact Revd Tim for more information (details back page).

BEETLE DRIVE

Saturday 18th November

6.30 pm for 7.00 pm

St John's Church

IN AID OF

CHILDREN IN NEED

Refreshments included - Price £4 per person

Tickets -available from Church Office or Jen Pitt-Pladdy - 01379 852617



PLEASE PRAY

For the Sick: John and Elizabeth Croxson, Baby Bailey Elton, Little Thomas, Alison Goddard, Sylvia Colman, Annie, Lyn Veness, Nancy Russell, Derek Walterton, Diane Clarke, Derek Buttle, Sue Symonds, Peter and Sheila, Dorothy and family, Maude Williams, Maureen Franklin, Maurice Cormack, Camilla, Patricia Woodworth, James, Karen & Mike Rayner, Peggy Stygall, Susan Hartgrove, David Jackson, Joan Mitchell, Mollie Beckett, Liam Brown, Geoffrey, Michael Palmer, Dorothy, Lois Bailey, Henry Vines, Johnny Hunt, and for all the residents of Oaklands and The Trees nursing homes.

*O Holy Spirit please come like a dove
Shield and protect now the one that I love.
Cover their wounds with Your grace feathered wings,
Shield them from sorrow, breathe hope songs within.*

*Tend with Your goodness the pain that they bear
Heal now their sickness with miracle care.
Carry them high far above till they see
Your rainbow of promise, real hope lies ahead.*

*I love them so dearly, so help me to be
All that you, Jesus, would give out through me.*

http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/topics/prayer_for_the_sick.html

THE REGISTERS FROM 12th September - 12TH OCTOBER

Funerals and Interments.

- 15th Sept Audrey Holman at Waveney Crematorium who lived in Harleston.
18th Sept Brenda Ann Collins at St Peter's, Needham and burial in the churchyard.
26th Sept Dorris Johnston who was interred in the churchyard of St Mary's, Redenhall.
28th Sept Frances Clein at St John's, Harleston followed by committal at Waveney Crematorium.
9th Oct Arther William Stitch at Waveney Crematorium.
11th Oct Doreen Cotton who was interred in St Leonard's, Billingford.
12th Oct Rosemary Kilbourne at St John's, Harleston and burial in the town cemetery.

Baptisms

- 23rd Sept Monty and Henry Davenport at St Mary's, Redenhall
30th Sept Isaac Bailey at St Peter's, Needham

NOVEMBER SERVICES AND READINGS

SUNDAY 5TH 4 Advent RED	9.30am	Holy Communion Patronal	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 <i>BCP</i>	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>*Psalm 43 / 1 Thessalonians 2. 9-13 / Matthew 24. 1-14</i> Billingford Patronal - Romans 8.35 / Matthew 10.. 16-22			
SUNDAY 11TH Remembrance Sunday RED	9.30am	Holy Communion + Act of Remembrance	All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts
	10.45am	Remembrance	Scole War Memorial
	11.00am	Remembrance Service	St Andrew's, Scole
	10.45am	Remembrance	Harleston War Memorial
	11.00am	Remembrance Service	St John's, Harleston
	3.00pm	Remembrance Service	St Leonard's, Billingford
	3.00pm	Remembrance Service	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	3.00pm	Remembrance	Wortwell War Memorial
	6.00pm	Remembrance Service	St Peter's, Needham
<i>1 Thessalonians 4. 13-end / Matthew 25. 1-13</i>			
SUNDAY 19TH 2 Advent RED	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>*Psalm 90. 1-12 / 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11 / Matthew 25. 14-30</i>		
SUNDAY 26TH Christ the King WHITE	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Holy Communion Patronal	St Andrew's, Scole
	11.00am	Morning Prayer <i>BCP</i>	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St John's, Harleston
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
	<i>Psalm 95. 1-7 / Ephesians 1. 15-end / Matthew 25. 31-end</i> Scole Patronal - Romans 10. 12-18 Matthew 4. 18-22		

CONTACT LIST

SEVEN
CHURCHES

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7 Churches Administrator - Lucy Elton-Cooke.

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Email: admin@7churches.org.uk Tel: 01379 851148 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

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St Mary's - Redenhall	Lindy Ellis	01986 788326
St Peter's - Needham	Charles Chenery	01379 669342
St Peter & St Paul - Brockdish	Jan Croxson Ann Cork	01379 668630 01379 668635
All Saints - Thorpe Abbots	Christine McDonald	01379 669116
St Leonard's - Billingford	Pauline Greenard Brian Nunn	01379 740730 01379 852178
St Andrew's - Scole	Lynda Mansfield Peter Edwards	01379 740401 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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