

DECEMBER 2018



**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.

Rambling from the Rectory - Christmas 2018

As I write this I am not in the Christmas spirit at all, in fact I feel like Scrooge and want to cancel the whole thing. Christmas is a time of cold and wet and ice but rarely snow, not pretty weather and not weather for getting out on the motorbike. But as I let the grump go, I can start to look forward to all that Christmas means.

I start to think of all the carols and special services. Jesus may not be the household favourite that he once was, but at Christmas we still remember him, at least in passing, perhaps on the way to a second helping of Christmas pudding. Sometimes Jesus even appears on a Christmas card or two, usually those left in the bottom of the box, reserved for friends that are 'religious' (i.e. a bit odd), and elderly aunts. Strangely, I often get the Jesus cards, I can't think why.

So amid all the excitement, the parties and the presents, Jesus is there. Being reasonably normal, I love the excitement and fun of Christmas. Being a little strange, I really value the reminder of who it is that gives meaning and value to all the things I love at Christmas, and throughout the year. The highlight of Christmas for me is the Midnight Eucharist (Midnight Mass). I think part of it is memories of having been out partying, then, a little tipsy, going into church to continue the celebration. In church on each Christmas Eve night the divine joins the party. It is like being back 2000 years in Cana, where Jesus kept the party going by changing water into wine.

The Christmas hymns and carols are old and comfortably worn, and the words are familiar. But, for me, it is the Gospel reading that really sends shivers down my spine, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men".

I hear those words from the very beginning of John's Gospel and I remember what it is all about. I remember that the party started at the beginning of time, when all creation began. I remember that in Jesus God became part of his creation, so that I, all people, and all creation could become one with God once again. I remember the power of God to change my life, and all lives for the better.

For me, remembering what Christmas is really about makes me want to celebrate all the more, and I hope it has the same effect on you who are reading this.

Whether you agree with me or not, I wish you a Happy Christmas!

God bless you now and throughout the New Year, Nigel.



SCOLE WINTER WARMER

St Andrew's Church, Scole

Saturday 1st December

11am - 2pm

Serving Coffee/Tea, cakes & savouries.

Lunches are:

Bacon rolls £3, cheese toasties £2.50, soup £2.50
and puddings £2.50 with coffee £1 .

Table tops are available for sale of goods at £6 per table. Please book tables with Georgie -01379 740127 or Kay - 741054.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Cakes, Stalls, Raffle etc...

Saturday 1st December

10.00am to 12.30pm



BROCKDISH VILLAGE HALL

Proceeds to the fabric of the church

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

St John's Church, Harleston

Saturday 1st December

10am - 4pm

Refreshments all day

Stalls, Crafts, Tombola, Raffle, Cakes and plenty more. Do your Christmas shopping here! Light Lunches served from 12-2 pm



CHRISTINGLE

Thorpe Abbots Church

Sunday 9th December at 4.00pm

Bring your children and make Christingle Orange:
for this special family Christmas service



Thank you. With so many events happening this Christmas in our 7 churches we pray that all volunteers will be continually filled with the Holy Spirit and we thank you for all you do for God, your church and your community in bringing the light of Jesus to everyone.

Why Jesus Used Stories

When Jesus was alone with the twelve apostles and some others, they asked him about these stories. He answered:

I have explained the secret about God's kingdom to you, but for others I can use only stories. The reason is,

“These people will look and look, but never see.
They will listen and listen, but never understand.
If they did, they would turn to God,
and he would forgive them.”

Mark 4: 10-12

Harleston Choral Society Christmas Concert is on Saturday 8th December in St John's, Harleston at 7.30 pm. Handel's Messiah Part I, followed by Telemann's German Magnificat and carols (some with audience participation). Tickets from H.I.P or on the door.



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AN EVENING OF CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS WITH A TWIST

Tuesday 11th Dec at 6.00pm. - St John's Church

Let us celebrate this festive season together raising joyful voices as one, in this special thriving town 'Harleston'. Tea, coffee and mincepies will be offered after our exhilarating merriment.

CHRISTMAS MIDWEEK MINGLE

Wednesday 12th December - 9.15 - 11.30pm - St John's Church

This will be the last Midweek Mingle before the school Christmas break. Great opportunity to meet new people and mingle with other toddlers and parents/carers. Open to everyone!

CHRISTINGLE & INFORMAL SERVICE

Sunday 2nd Dec - 11am - St John's Church

Bring your children and make Christingle Oranges, light its candle singing a Christmas Carol. All proceeds are to the Children's Society



CHATTY CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 15th Dec - 2pm - St John's Church. Games and activities. Party snacks and refreshments. Great fun for children with their families.

TUESDAY LUNCHESES on 18th December will celebrate with a Christmas Lunch. Cold turkey/ham, salads etc, followed by Christmas pudding or an alternative desert- crackers, tea/coffee and mincepies.

Appropriate music to compliment the atmosphere. Cost is £6.00 per person on the day. A list will be at the back of St. John's Church, please put your name down as seats are limited. If you are gluten or dairy intolerant please indicate on the form. Any questions, please ask Sheila Tel 01379 852762.



CHRISTMAS COFFEE EVENING

SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER - 7PM

Friends of St Peters church are holding a Christmas Coffee Evening at Robi Doves home, 8 High Road Needham. Cake Stall, Raffle and David's

CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR QUIZ

All are welcome. If you can't attend but would like to take part in the Quiz call 01379 853033. Returns to be checked by the end of January 2019.

First prize a bottle of wine. *Pauline Spinlove.*

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).

THE REGISTERS FROM 13TH OCTOBER - 12TH NOVEMBER

Funerals and Interments

19th Oct Jane Audrey Wood at St Andrew's, Thorpe Abbots.
19th Oct Revd Karen Rayner interred at St Andrew's, Scole
26th Oct Alfie Howard at St John's, Harleston.
9th Nov Brenda Allsop interred at St Andrew's, Scole

BENEFICE SERVICES & PRAYERS

Christian Meditation - Wednesday 5th December and 2nd January at 7.30pm in the Oasis Prayer Centre, Archbishop Sancroft High School. Harleston.

Contact Revd Nigel Tuffnell for more details (see back page)

Benefice Compline -Thursday 13th December at Billingford Church at 6pm.

Benefice Prayers - Sunday 2nd December and 6th January at 4.30pm to 5pm at Needham Church.

WEEKDAY SERVICES AND PRAYERS

Tuesdays 9.30am Short Prayer Time - St John's, Harleston.
Thursdays 9.15am Short Worship & Prayer - St Andrew's, Scole.
10.00am Said Holy Communion - St John's, Harleston.
20th Dec 11.15am Holy Communion -Trees Nursing Home residents.
Monday 7.30pm Prayers for Harleston - Oasis Prayer Centre,
11th Dec Archbishop Sancroft High School, Harleston.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Crib & Cristingle 4.30pm at St Andrew's, Scole .

Carols by Candle Light & Salvation Army Band 5.30/6pm at St Mary's, Redenhall. Remember to bring a torch.

Midnight Eucharist 11.30pm at St Peter and Paul's, Brockdish.

Midnight Eucharist 11.30pm at St John's, Harleston.

DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

SUNDAY 2ND Advent 1 PURPLE	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Christingle & Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	9.30am	Holy Communion CW	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 / Luke 21.25-36</i>			
SUNDAY 9TH Advent 2 PURPLE	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Christingle Service	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
<i>Philippians 1.3-11 / Luke 3.1-6</i>			
SUNDAY 16TH Advent 3 PURPLE	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Carol Service	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Compline	St Mary's, Redenhall
	6.00pm	Carols by Candle Light	St Leonard's, Billingford
	6.00pm	Carol by Candle Light	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	6.00pm	Carol Service	St Peter's, Needham
<i>Philippians 4.4-7 / Luke 3.7-18</i>			
SUNDAY 23RD PURPLE	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>Hebrews 10.5-10 / Luke 1.39-45</i>			
SUNDAY 30TH GOLD	Benefice Holy Communion - St Peter's, Needham - 10.30am <i>CHRISTMAS 1 - Colossians 3.12-17 / Luke 2.41-52</i>		

CHRISTMAS DAY INFORMAL COMMUNION SERVICES

Thorpe Abbots 9.30am
Billingford 9.30pm
Brockdish 9.30am
Redenhall 9.30am
Scole 11.00am
Needham 11.00am
Harleston 11.00am

CAROL SERVICES

Harleston 11th December at 6.00pm
Scole 16th December at 11.00am
Billingford 16th December at 6.00pm
Brockdish 16th December at 6.00pm
Needham 16th December at 6.00pm
Redenhall 24th December at 6.00pm

CONTACT LIST



Ministry Team

Rector: Revd Canon Nigel Tuffnell

The Rectory, 10 Swan Lane, Harleston. IP20 9AN

Email: rector@7churches.org.uk **Tel:** 01379 308905

Blog: <https://nigeltuffnell.wordpress.com>

Revd Sue Auckland	Tel: 01379 740325	or	revsue@7churches.org.uk
Revd Tim Rogers	Tel: 01379 852166	or	curate@7churches.org.uk
Revd Lyndy Domoney	Tel: 01379 650445	or	l.domoney@btinternet.com
Revd Philip Wood	Tel: 01379 423775	or	pj80xb@gmail.com
Lynda Mansfield	Tel: 01379 740401	or	lyndamscole@hotmail.co.uk
Jamie Worthington	Tel: 01379 741437	or	worthingtonji@yahoo.co.uk
Trevor Clarke - CA	Tel: 07407 417437	or	trevor.clarke@dioceseofnorwich.org
John Taylor	Tel: 01379 676573.	or	jctaylor@gavelkind.org.uk

7churches Administrator - Lucy Elton-Cooke.

Office: St John's Church, Broad Street, Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 9AZ

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

www.7churches.org.uk



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