

JANUARY 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.

Ramblings from the Rectory

My stupidity, and other close friends!

I can be so stupid at times. Quite a lot of the time in fact. So much so that I've had to make friends with my stupidity. It's with me so much that there is no point in us being enemies.

I've found a wonderful quote: "The probability of someone watching you is directly proportional to the stupidity of your actions." I don't know whether the saying is true but it is certainly true that you remember every time someone sees you doing something stupid. Indeed, reflecting on my life, I've been so stupid I must be under constant surveillance!

I looked online at t-shirts and found one with the logo, "Quick, Jesus is coming. Look busy!" My school boy humour crept back and made me giggle.

Then I thought about the real Jesus and the phrase that became his catch-phrase, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." But when I looked it up I found that more accurately the phrase should be, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Wherever Jesus is, then the kingdom of heaven must be close. So the call for me to change my ways so that God can transform me, is even more urgent than I thought. Thankfully, Jesus is used to this stupid, little brother of his. He is far more forgiving than I deserve and so loving that I have no words adequate to describe my awe of him.

So, I am going to do allow the Spirit to make me more loving and forgiving and generous and kind and all the rest. I'm going to do my best now, because sometime I'm going to have to turn around and face Jesus. It would hurt so much to see disappointment in those eyes of love. But, some day, turn around I must. What will I see? What indeed? If I ever get the guts to find out, you'll be the first to know!

God bless, Nigel

Emmaus - Ditchingham.

Ryan's Story

My name is Ryan, and I'm 24 years old, originally from Lowestoft so not a million miles away from Ditchingham.

Before moving to the community just over a week ago, I was homeless, or rather sofa-surfing, around Great Yarmouth for seven months. I've been in and out of hostels since the age of 14 and surrounded by drugs and alcohol from a very young age, everyone I was associating with got into it. I started smoking weed aged 11; I was a ketamine addict at 14 before moving on to much harder drugs a bit later. It got to the point where I didn't recognise myself, and I didn't really see much of a future ahead. I was trying to stay sober but it was so difficult, as the only places I could crash were with people under the influence. I found myself drinking every day. I knew I needed to make a change so when the PPO informed me of Emmaus, I jumped at the chance to move in.

Before my interview, I remember feeling so nervous – I didn't know what to expect, but the minute I arrived at the community I felt at ease. Now I'm living here, I'm just enjoying being busy. I like being on the vans and working at the Old Orchard Café.

I haven't looked too far into the future, I'm just taking each day as it comes, but my main aim is to remain sober. I really don't want to be around drugs again, I hate it and am lucky to be away from that lifestyle now. I'm glad I discovered Emmaus at this age, it's nice here and I'm really enjoying it so far. I'm hoping it will help me stay on the right track.



Midweek Mingle with Tea, Coffee and Toast

Every Wednesday from 9.15am to 11.30am in

St John's Church, Harleston with Marina, Helen and Kat.

Great opportunity to meet new people and mingle.

Children Welcome.

SCOLE

Scale Cafe Church is now from 11am to 12noon every Wednesday.

Coffee Mornings restart on March 3rd in Scole church.

Toddler Group restarts Wed 10th January then every Wednesday from 9.15am to 10.45am in term time only.

THORPE ABBOTTS



Annual Quiz Night will be on Saturday 27th January in Thorpe Abbots Village Hall starting at 7.30pm Light Supper, Bar and Raffle. In Aid of Church Funds Bookings only (tables up to 6) Tickets are £6 from Simon Beet 01379 668132 or a member of the PCC. No tickets available on the door.

NEEDHAM

Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 2nd Jan with cakes, raffles and a few stalls starting at 10am to 12noon in the Red Lion Needham

Talk on Needham's History (part 2) is on the 4th February, 2pm at St Peter's Church, Needham.

BROCKDISH

Quiz and Light Supper is on Saturday 13th January in Brockdish Village Hall 7.30pm for 8pm. Tickets are £4 available from Jan 01379 668630. Remember to bring your own drink.

HARLESTON

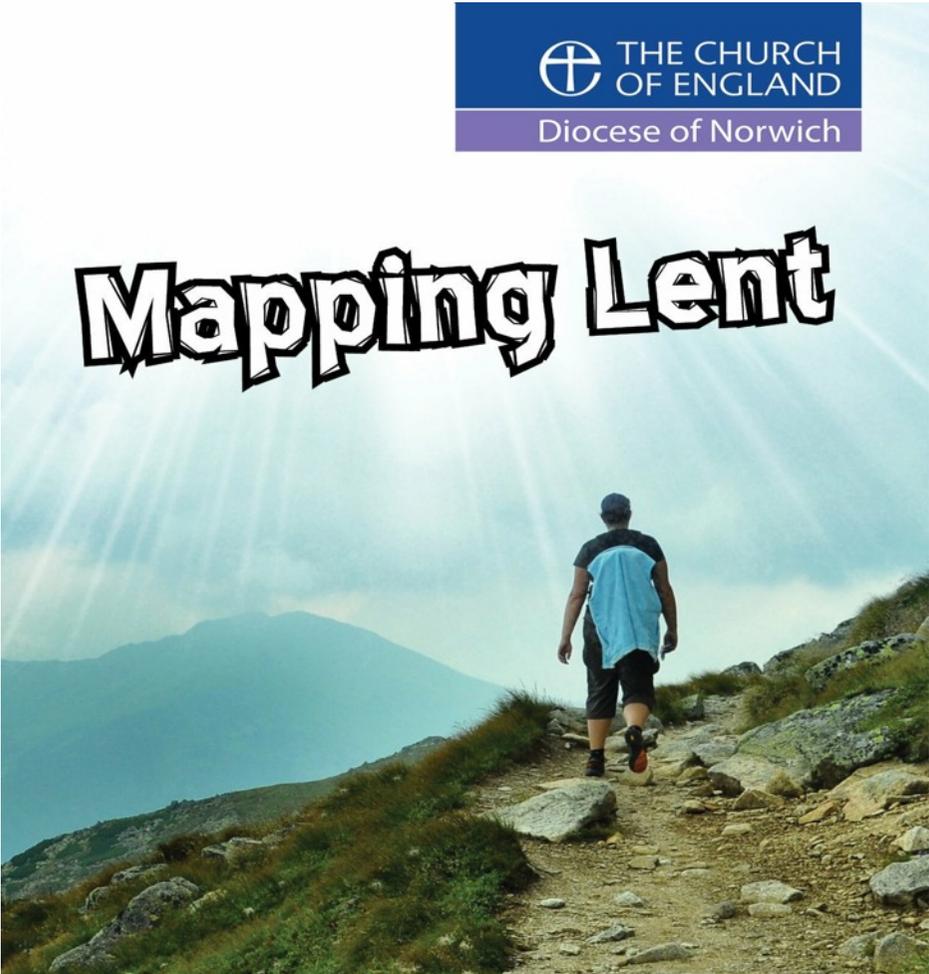
St John's Coffee Morning and Cake Stall will restart in February 2018

St John's Light Lunches will be on the 3rd Tuesday (**16th January**) served from 12 noon at a cost of £5.00 which includes a pudding

Chatty Church's is on Saturday 20th January 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.



Mapping Lent



Explore Lent's rich themes
through reflection, art, poetry and music

Lent 2018

Thursday 15th February to 24th March

This year we will be using the Mapping Lent course by the Diocese. Each pack will have a cost £2 and it would be useful to add your name to the sign up sheet for Lent Groups. Later in January you will find the sheet at the back of your church which will give more information of the groups days and time and where the venue will be for each parish.

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.

Reflection

Throughout Jesus' ministry we're shown a way of living that flips the world upside down; the last come first; the marginalised are included; the invisible are seen. And the beatitudes are definitely some of Jesus' teachings that cause us to stop and think about what Jesus is saying to those choosing to follow him.

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? How does something that sounds bad become something positive? In Luke's gospel we read 'blessed are the poor', but Matthew's version speaks specifically of 'the poor in spirit'. Both Matthew and Luke echo Isaiah 61, in which the Hebrew 'poor' combines the economically poor and spiritually humble. But Matthew's version highlights the danger of thinking that poverty is a virtue, and rejects any interpretation where poverty can be justified on any future (heavenly) reward. We are reminded that there is nothing beautiful about poverty; just ask anyone struggling to pay bills, uncertain where their next meal will come from, or living on the streets.

Being 'poor in spirit', then, asks us to acknowledge our own inner poverty, and recognise our need for God. In accepting our frail humanity, and trusting in God's love to meet us where we're at, we are reoriented to the reality of the kingdom.

Practical Action

A concern for justice, specifically justice for the poor and oppressed, is woven into the very fabric of Israel's Law, the Psalms and all God's prophets. Throughout Scripture, God's goodness is most often revealed when the conditions of poverty are eliminated.

Poverty should never be idealised; its mere existence should encourage us to work for justice. If the poor in spirit have turned their lives over to God, then we accept our responsibility to join in the divine activity of bringing about the Kingdom of God, including bringing justice to situations of poverty and injustice.

Prayer

Lord, Reveal your justice, blessings, and provision to a world in need. Let us recognise our own spiritual poverty and be dedicated to a reordering of your creation. Help us to become true life-giving followers of Jesus and a creative witness for justice in the world. Amen

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Thank you to SCM for letting us share their Beatitudes.

<http://www.movement.org.uk/>

WINTER CLOTHES FOR REFUGEES IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

If you want to help, we are looking for good

**Clean winter clothes shoes, welly boots,
blankets, and sleeping bags.**

They are also short of
**Children's clothes and shoes,
as well as nappies.**

The clothes need to be in **sealed bags** and I will forward them on to the coordinator Verona McWhinney. Donations will be going out with Samara's Aid by lorry so the deadline for clothes to be donated is

Friday 19th January 2018

Please leave items at St John's Church, Harleston in the day or at mine (*The Rectory, 10 Swan Lane, Harleston IP20 9AN*) in the evenings if the church is locked.





INDELIBLY MARKED

“...When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...” Ephesians 1:13

I was in the underwear department of a store when a market researcher asked me what my favourite brand was. I replied: “Kelloggs.” I could tell this wasn’t the answer she hoped for. But I do so love my cornflakes!

The way we recognise brands is really important. I once came out of Oxford Circus tube station looking for Marks and Spencer. Even though I didn’t know which way to turn I could see a green glow in the distance. I was so certain it was the M&S colour that I went towards it. I was right.

Now, we have a new way to recognise Church Army projects and resources. I love it. Our new logo has great, bold letters and includes the date we were established, which speaks of a faithful history and a strong determination to bring the Good News to the present. The first time I saw it I thought of a tent. It makes me happy to think of Church Army as a huge tent in which the country’s neediest people can find shelter while the love and hope of Jesus restores their lives.

Did you know the idea of a logo appears in the Bible? Writing to the Christians of Ephesus, Paul said that when they became Christians they were branded with the Holy Spirit. In the marketplace of Ephesus, when customers bought animals or grain, the goods were marked indelibly to identify their new owner. When he returned at the end of the day there was no doubt to whom they belonged.

It’s true of you too. You are indelibly marked with a logo. The Holy Spirit is your invisible tattoo. Ever since you became a Christian, the Holy Spirit has been the sign that you are God’s. You belong to him, no one else can take you away. It’s with him that you are going home.

Your brand is a wonderful thing. Wouldn’t it be hilarious if all Christians had a green glow like Marks and Spencer? Your logo is invisible, of course. But

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wouldn't it be great if Christians were so recognisable by their love for others, that people could recognise them as men and women of the Holy Spirit, even if they just glimpsed them from a distance...

Peter Graystone

Peter is Church Army's National Projects Manager (south) and is responsible for managing evangelists and projects in the South of England. He is also the Co-ordinator of the Christian Enquiry Agency, which provides information for people who want to find out about the Christian faith and its founder Jesus Christ.

Celebration of Church Army Centres for Mission. I have been asked to invite you to a diocesan service which Bishop Graham and other senior staff are planning by way of celebrating the whole initiative of the Church Army Mission Centres in this diocese. The date which has been set for this is **Tuesday 6 February at 5.30pm** (in the context of Choral Evensong in Norwich Cathedral). This invitation is to everyone involved in the churches of this deanery, please pass it on.

You are free to just turn up, but it would help the Cathedral to have a rough idea of numbers, so please let me know. *Revd Nigel Tuffnell.*

Christian Meditation will be on Weds 3rd Jan and 7th Feb and **Prayers for Harleston** will be on Monday 15th January at the Oasis Prayer Centre in the High School, Harleston, starting at 7.30pm. For more information contact the Rector (details back page).

LOOK OUT FOR!

Scale Quiz n Chips Saturday 10th Feb

Benefice Passover Meal 29th March

Benefice Trip to St Albans on Saturday 28th April

Family Holy Spirit Day 2018

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Patrick McEntee, Brenda Shortell, Geoff Bellfield, Trevor Clarke, Jocelyn, Laura and James, John Croxson, Baby Bailey Elton, Rene Gates, Little Thomas, Alison Goddard, Sylvia Colman, Annie, Lyn Veness, Nancy Russell, Derek Walterton, Diane Clarke, Derek Buttle, Sue Symonds, Peter from Harleston, Dorothy and family, Maude Williams, Maureen Franklin, Maurice and Frances 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, Johnny Hunt, and for all the residents of Oaklands and The Trees nursing homes, Holly Court, Malthouse Court and Terence Airey Court.

THE REGISTERS FROM 13TH NOVEMBER - 12TH DECEMBER

Baptisms

26th Nov Albert George Dalliston at St John's, Harleston.

Weddings

9th Dec Daniel Marshall and Amie Plant at St Mary's, Redenhall

Funerals and Interments.

14th Nov Henry Vine at Waveney Crematorium who came from Harleston aged 83

17th Nov Stanley Harley at St Andrew's, Scole aged 84.

21st Nov Michael Vincent at St Faiths Crematorium, who came from Harleston aged 69.

22nd Nov Albert Pretty at St Andrew's, Scole aged 83

22nd Nov Philys Collings at Waveney Cramtorium who came from Harleston aged 91

8th Dec Cynthia Fay at St Mary's, Redenhall aged 73

WEEKDAY SERVICES AND PRAYERS

Mon 15th Jan 7.30pm Prayers for Harleston - Oasis Prayer Centre, Archbishop Sancroft High School, Harleston.

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

Wednesdays 11.00am Cafe Church - St Andrew's, Scole.

Weds 17th Jan 10.30am Informal Service - Malthouse Court residents, Harleston.

Thursdays 9.15am Short Worship & Prayer - St Andrew's, Scole.
10.00am Said Holy Communion - St John's, Harleston.

Thurs 18th Jan 11.15am Holy Communion -Trees Nursing Home residents.

JANUARY SERVICES AND READINGS

SUNDAY 7TH Epiphany White or Gold	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
<i>Ephesians 3.1-12 / Matthew 2. 1-12</i>			
SUNDAY 14TH Epiphany 2 White or Gold	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	9.30am	Holy Communion	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>Revelations 5.1-10 / John 1.43-end</i>			
SUNDAY 21ST Epiphany 3 White or Gold	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>Revelation 19.6-10 / John 2.1-11</i>			
SUNDAY 28TH Presentation of Christ Candlemas White or Gold	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 <i>BCP</i>	St Mary's, Redenhall
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Hebrews 2.14-end / Luke 2.22-40</i>			

"Jesus said to him,
 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
 No one comes to the Father except through me'"
(John 14:6).

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	Charles Chenery	01379 669342
St Peter & St Paul - Brockdish	Jan Crosson	01379 668630
	Ann Cork	01379 668635
All Saints - Thorpe Abbotts	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 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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