



Ramblings from the Rectory

May 2017

Dear Friends,

When I think of May I think of May blossom; the start of summer and warmer weather. I look at the fields, trees, hedgerows and gardens, and I see life fresh, vibrant and green. This May I pray that the Spirit will make all of us in this benefice glow with new life too.

Looking at the diary two events stand out. We have our benefice outing to Cambridge on Tuesday 9th May. Then Thursday 25th May (Ascension Day) marks the start of the global wave of prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come" which continues to the celebration of the birth of the church at Pentecost on 4th June.

At our Vision Day there was a clear call for us to draw closer together as a benefice. What better way to get to know one another than to travel together and spend a day in the beautiful city of Cambridge. There is an optional tour of Kings College and we will be visiting Tim's theological college, Ridley Hall. If you haven't bought your ticket yet then get in touch with me or Lucy now, there may still be one or two places available.

Thy Kingdom Come, is a call for prayer from our Archbishops of Canterbury and York (see <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/about>):

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The hope is that:

- *people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family;*
- *churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world;*
- *people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.*

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth. When he had said this...he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight...Then they returned to Jerusalem ... and were constantly devoting themselves to prayer...

When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit... and that day about three thousand persons were added." Acts 1,2

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby

In this benefice I encourage all of you to join me and your ministry team at Norwich Cathedral to take part in one of the national celebrations of prayer (7pm start). In this way we begin our prayer for people to come to know Jesus reminded that we out in rural Norfolk are not alone; we are part of a huge global family of Christians.

There will be a booklet for all of us with prayers for each day of Thy Kingdom Come, along with a guide to help us to focus our individual prayers on a few people that we know. There are materials and ideas to help families to get involved. Our Sunday and weekday worship and prayer will be using the resources provided too. In addition, all of our House Groups will be meeting between Ascension and Pentecost to focus on how we can work to see God's kingdom come in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

We have an exciting May ahead of us. I'm sure that we are going to have a great time together.

God bless, Nigel.