November 2026



Benefice Newsletter

SEVEN
CHURCHES

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

We try to be a church which welcomes and values everyone so we strive to celebrate and affirm every person and do not discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, age, experience, background or sexuality.

Donations to our churches

If you would like to donate to any of the listed churches please use the QR codes below linked to the church you would like to donate to.

St John's, Harleston. St Leonard's, Billingford. All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts

Last month marked a significant stage on the restoration of St John's Church in Harleston. Almost exactly a year on from the fire the detailed analysis, planning and tendering process was complete, and our main contractor moved on to the site to start work and we commissioned the work with a short service outside the church.

It is encouraging to know that the procurement of all the major items such as slates, stone and roof timbers has been completed, though in some cases specifications have had to be changed due to unavailability of stock at suppliers. Our architect and the diocesan care of church buildings team have been working hard to find and agree alternative materials.

Sometimes it can seem as though not much is happening, but inside the church a team from Hurst Conservation have been using a variety of chemical treatments, gel poultices and magic eraser sponges to clean soot (laboriously) from the interior stonework and lime plaster. The original plan was that the chancel cleaning would be left until the end of the project, since it is mainly smoke and not fire damage that needs to be dealt with, but due to fumes and access complexities this work has been brought forward. Hopefully this means the end of the project will be smoother as the final clean can be done as the scaffolding is removed and no further work will be needed.

Externally, work has been going on to remove all the tiles, and the sarking (the wooden boards that make up the ceiling in the church). As the slates are removed it has been found that many of them have been used multiple times before, some up to four times. Although this does limit the number

of original slates that can be used in future, it is hoped that many may be able to be cut down and used elsewhere on the roof.

Having had much interest from the press around the first anniversary of the fire and having been asked many times how I feel about the fire, and what it will mean to be able to use the church building, I have been reflecting on those questions.

For many it may seem as though this has been a disaster, but I have been reminded of the verse Romans 8:28 – "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. " For many of our churches there is a constant struggle to raise money, and anxiety over what bills may be round the corner, particularly when it relates to the roof, windows, electrics, heating, etc. Although the fire has been traumatic and distressing, we do know that all those items will be fixed and good for the next 30 years. We also have an opportunity to do what our insurers call 'betterment', where we can specify additional work or improved equipment – but we do have to find the additional money for this.

Anyone who has done a major building project will know, once work starts, decisions need to be made on all sorts of things very early on. We are already having conversations about where electrical sockets will be, what colour the walls should be and the design of PA system and lighting!
We continue to pray for those involved in the work, for skill and safety, and that in working in the church building they may catch hold of a glimpse of God, from the years of prayer and worship that have gone before.

Revd Jonathan

All Souls Day service to remember those who have died

St Thomas More, Jays green, Harleston And
St Andrew's Church, Scole
Monday 2 November.
6.30pm

All are welcome to this service, where we remember our loved ones, no longer with us. There is an opportunity to light a candle in their memory and if you would like the name of your loved one read out in the service, please sign the list in churches or let Helen Orford Know. (admin@7churches.org.uk, 01379 851148)

St Peter & St Paul Brockdish

Saturday 7th November
Quiz, Brockdish Village hall,
7.30pm


BILLINGFORD CHURCH
PRESENTS
Musicals & Mistletoe
NOV 29TH 2PM
An Afternoon of classic West End
Songs, Modern Musicals and all
your festive favourites performed
by professional singers
Megan and Craig Catchpole
SOLD OUT
Tickets £10
Sue 07917 798056 /01379854129
Georgina 07498 343803
Brian 07783 003830
Billingford Church, Norfolk.

Quiz with Chips

£7



Saturday 14 November

6.30 for 7pm

St Andrew's Church, Scole

Contact Sue on 740325 to book as an individual or a team.

Bring your own drinks and glasses

All Saints Church Thorpe Abbotts

Quiz night

Saturday 21st November
7pm for 7.30 pm
Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall.
Tickets £6 per person which will include light refreshments.
Tables (up to 6 people per table) can be booked with Chris 01379 669116 or Simon 01379 668132

Remembrance Poppy

The Remembrance poppy will return to Thorpe Abbotts Church in November. It will be lovely to see it back.

Harleston

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th November
King Georges Hall
9.30am - 12noon

Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Church

Thursday 12th November
London Rd Church
10.30am - 12.30pm

Chatty Church

Saturday 28th November
King Georges Hall
11.00am-1.00pm

St Andrew's - Scole

Winter Warmer Coffee Morning and Raffle

Saturday 7th November

10 am- 12.30 pm.

In addition to our normal refreshments, there will also be Bacon rolls and 'hot dogs' for £3.50 and a few stalls selling gifts and second-hand books

Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike – Walk – Drive

Jean, Charis, John and Phil walked round Norwich and visited 18 churches and raised £973.00, after administration charges, to be shared between St John's Church and the Norfolk Churches Trust.

Thank you to the walkers and also to all the sponsors. Well done!

St John's Church, Harleston Bible course

We're running the bible course. Alternate Tuesday evenings 7:30pm at The Rectory, 5 Needham Road, Harleston. Starts 28th July, but you can join us on any week.
https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore.../the-bible-course

Scole Bible study

Led by Revd. Sue Auckland and meets the second Wednesday of the month at Scole Church at 2 pm

The Registers - 26th September 2026 to 25th October 2026

Funerals and Interments

5th October - David Howell - St Peter's, Needham
15th October - John Coleman - St Andrew's, Scole

7churches Benefice Services

Compline
Thursday 26th November, 6.30pm
All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts

Celebration Service
Sunday 22nd November 4.30pm
St Andrew's , Scole.

Please Pray For

Nick Crane, David Barker, Kathy Wood, Pauline Cathles.

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 on the back).*

November Sunday Services and Readings

Sunday 1st All souls day (Gold)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonards, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St Thomas More, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Reflective Worship	St Peter's, Needham
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer(Patronal)	All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts
1 John 3.1-3/Matthew 5.1-12			
Sunday 8th 3 before advent (Red)	9.30am	Remembrance Service	All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts
	10.45am	Remembrance Service	London Rd, Harleston
	10.45am	Remembrance Service	St Andrew's, Scole
	3.00pm	Remembrance Service	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	3.00pm	Remembrance Service	Wortwell Memorial
	3.00pm	Remembrance Service	St Leonard's, Billingford
	6.00pm	Remembrance Service	St Peter's, Needham
1 Thessalonians 4.13-18/Matthew 25.1-13			
Sunday 15th 2 before advent (Red)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Leonard's, Billingford
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St Thomas More, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary's, Redenhall
1 Thessalonians 5.1-11/Matthew 25.14-30			
Sunday 22nd Christ the King (Gold)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Thomas More, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
Ephesians 1.15-end/Matthew 25.31-end			
Sunday 29th advent 1 (Purple)	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	St Peter's, Needham
1 Corinthians 1.3-9/Mark 13.24-37			

CONTACT LIST

Ministry Team

Revd Jonathan Richardson	01379 671295	revdjonathan@7churches.org.uk
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John Taylor	01379 676573	jctaylor@gavelkind.org.uk
Revd Lyndy Domoney		l.domoney@btinternet.com

7churches Administrator - Helen Orford

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

Email: admin@7churches.org.uk Tel: 01379 851148

Office Hrs: Monday - Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Churches - Contacts

St John's - Harleston	Maureen Youngman	01379 853605
	Stephanie Woollam	07598937623
St Mary's - Redenhall	Michael Clark	07427 586806
St Peter's - Needham	Dan Cornish	07803180861
St Peter & St Paul - Brockdish	Ann Cork	01379 668635
All Saints - Thorpe Abbotts	Christine McDonald	01379 669116
St Leonard's - Billingford	Georgina King-Fisher	01379 740759
	Sue Redgrave	01379 854129
St Andrew's - Scole	Lynda Mansfield	01379 740401
	Helen Gilbee	01379 740339

Contact details for each parishes safeguarding officer are available from the benefice administrator and are on the benefice website.

Schools

Harleston Sancroft Academy	01379 852561
Scole CEVC Primary	01379 740654