

December 2024



Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

Benefice

Newsletter

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SEVEN

CHURCHES
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Ramblings from The Rectory

Winter is here. Winter with snow scenes on cards, with sleds and snowmen. Winter is here with bright winter berries on holly trees and large glasses of winter cheer. Winter is also a time to reflect and take stock of life. To look backwards as the year ends and forwards to what is perhaps to come. What sort of person have I been? What sort of person do I want to be?

All of this can seem sad and morbid but it shouldn't. There are good things to reflect on too. That's where I like to start, by asking myself, "What are all the good things of this year? What has gone well? When did I do well?" I reflect on those things and thank God for them all. Then, knowing God's love for me, I start to bring to mind the things that aren't right. I ask myself, "What went wrong this year?" I let myself remember all the things that I've said and wished I hadn't and all those things that I've done and wished I hadn't. Also, all those good things that I could have done but didn't and all the general failures of this world. Then, I thank God for all those things too but I need to let the past speak without pre-judging. I know it sounds strange but either God was with me when the bad things happened or he was never with me at all. God shares the good and the bad with me, like any good parent; like any good friend. So, I can remember the good and the bad, in me and in the world, confident that God will work in me to bring more goodness to both.

Then I remember that my faith isn't complicated after all. Jesus gave only one commandment, to love. He summarised the Ten Commandments, and all laws, into love God and love others. Then he made it clear that God is love. A great way to see the joy of Christmas, the birth of hope, with all its colour and celebrations. This is the real world hope that John expressed when he wrote:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John 1.1-5 & 14)

A great introduction too, to a fresh start in January.

So, enfolded and surrounded by God's love, the Word made flesh. I know that nothing can separate me from God's love, ever. I thank God again and look to a future that's not yet born, a future full of hope. I look forward to seeing you all there!

I would like to end my article with two haiku poems:

Solstice haikus
(Vivienne Tuffnell)

Snow on dark holly
Sunlight on ice, sparkling:
Lovely but so bleak

Silence fills cold air
Crunching feet on frozen snow:
Stillness reigns again.

God bless and Happy Christmas (when it comes),

Nigel.

St John's, Harleston

Every Tuesday

Foodbank - 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Church

Thursday 12th December

10.30am - 12.30pm

Who Let the Dads Out?

Saturday 21st December

9.00am to 11.00am

£3.00 per family includes breakfast

Praise

Saturday 21st December

6pm - 7pm

St Andrew's - Scole - Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th December

10.00am - 12noon

Come and enjoy homemade sausage rolls, cheese scones and home-baked cake along with coffee, tea, and friendly chat.



Christmas Day Lunch

**St John's Church,
Harleston 12.30pm**

**Free for anyone who wants
to be with others on
Christmas Day.**

Booking Essential

**Please phone 01379 851148
or email admin@7churches.org.uk
to book by 13th December.**



Christmas Services



Sunday 1st December

11.00am - St John's, Harleston - Informal Worship Christingle

Sunday 8th December

4pm - All Saints, Thorpe Abbots - Christingle/Crib Service

Sunday 15th December

11am - St John's, Harleston - Carol Service

11am - St Andrew's, Scole - Carol Service

4pm - St Leonard's, Billingford - Carol Service by Candlelight

6pm - St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish - Carol Service by Candlelight

Sunday 22nd December

3.00pm - St Peter's, Needham - Carol & Christingle Service

Tuesday 24th December

4.30pm - St Andrew's Scole - Crib & Christingle Service

6pm - St Mary's Redenhall - Carols by Candlelight

11.30pm - St John's, Harleston - Midnight Eucharist

11.30pm - St Leonard's, Billingford - Midnight Eucharist

Wednesday 25th December

9.30am - St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish - Informal Holy Communion

9.30am - All Saints, Thorpe Abbots - Informal Holy Communion

11am - St John's, Harleston - Informal Holy Communion

11am - St Andrew's, Scole - Informal Holy Communion

Tuesday 24th December

4.30pm - St Andrew's Scole - Crib & Christingle Service

Children's Society Collection Boxes - if they could be brought to the Christingle Services (Scole & Thorpe Abbots) that would be good - or given to Lynda Mansfield by the beginning of January.



Remembrance Service on Sunday
10th November raised
£235.25
for The Royal British Legion
Thank you to all who donated.



St Mary's Redenhall



Presents

Carols by Candlelight

(with Diss Salvation Army Band)

Christmas Eve
6pm



Remember to bring a torch!



**DADS
GRANDADS
MALE CARERS
AND
THEIR KIDS!**



**WHO LET THE
DADS OUT?**

**BREAKFAST
CRAFT
GAMES
FREE PLAY**



St John's Church
Broad St,
Harleston,
IP20 9AZ



**THE
3RD** 
SAT

**EACH MONTH
9-11AM**



**£3
PER FAMILY
INCLUDING
BREAKFAST!**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SEARCH 'WHO LET THE DADS OUT' HARLESTON' ON FACEBOOK

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



THE REGISTERS - 26TH OCTOBER 2024 TO 25TH NOVEMBER 2024

Funerals and Interments

29th October	Joan Leftley - St John's, Harleston
1st November	Michael Betts- St Mary's, Redenhall
5th November	Stewart Eteson - St John's, Harleston
8th November	Brian Smith - St John's, Harleston
11th November	Margaret Bird - St Andrew's, Scole
18th November	Eric Hay - St Andrew's, Scole

Baptisms

3rd November	Fitzwilliam Jones - St Andrew's, Scole
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fran Pitt-Pladdy, Mel Veness, Kathy Wood.

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).*

DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

Sunday 1st Advent 1 (Purple)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Informal Worship	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Informal Worship(Patronal)	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St John's, Harleston
<i>1 Thessalonians 3.9-13/Luke 21.25-36</i>			
Sunday 8th Advent 2 (Purple)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Christingle/Crib Service	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
<i>Philippians 1.3-11/Luke 3.1-6</i>			
Sunday 15th Advent 3 (purple)	11.00am	Carol Service	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Carol Service	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary's , Redenhall
	4.00pm	Carol Service by Candlelight	St Leonard's, Billingford
	6.00pm	Carol Service by Candlelight	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
<i>Philippians 4.4-7/Luke 3.7-18</i>			
Sunday 22nd Advent 4 (Purple)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	3.00pm	Carol & Christingle Service	St Peter's, Needham
<i>Hebrews 10.5-10/Luke 1.39-45 [46-55]</i>			
Sunday 29th Christmas 1 (White)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Colossians 3.12-17/Luke 2.41-52</i>			

CONTACT LIST

Ministry Team

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Churches - Contacts

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	Stephanie Woollam	07598937623
St Mary's - Redenhall	Michael Clark	07427 586806
St Peter's - Needham	Dan Cornish	07803180861
St Peter & St Paul - Brockdish	Jan Croxson	01379 668630
	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

Schools

Harleston Sancroft Academy 01379 852561
Scole CEVC Primary 01379 740654

www.7churches.org.uk



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