

January 2025

Come let us

Adore

Him



Benefice

Newsletter

SEVEN

CHURCHES

Ramblings from the Rectory 2025

New or old, new or old? That seems a reasonable question for a New Year.

I hear so much about how the past was better. Life seems to have been far less hectic in the past. People remember having more time for each other. People didn't travel so much and families tended to be close together. From looking at the records there were certainly far more people in my churches. Indeed, not too long ago I would have had only one church not seven and perhaps had the help of a permanent curate too!

Still I don't think everything was better. I don't miss the casual racism that I grew up with. I definitely remember black and Asian people being considered as inferior. I remember overhearing conversations about neighbourhoods going downhill and hearing things like, "you wouldn't want them living next door to you!" I also don't miss seeing so many relatives and family friends dying in their 60s. The pension crisis we have now is a great problem to have. I would far rather have that than people not living long after retirement, if they managed to even make it that far. I also don't miss the Cold War and the constant fear of nuclear war! With that in mind, I pray for peace in Ukraine and an easing of tensions with Russia.

There are so many good things that we mustn't forget from the past. Equally, I like living now with better medicine, good food, a warm home and of course better motorbikes.

Thinking about the Church. The Church is a mix of old and new. We have very deep roots in this country. Indeed, you can't get more English than the Church of England. At the same time we are doing new things and are finding ways to offer meaning and hope; new ways to make the world of 2025 a better place. I would love to have larger congregations again, but not through people coming out of habit.

One good thing about the church today is that those who turn up have made a conscious choice to follow Jesus. They have found meaning for their lives, fresh starts from past failures and a contentment that comes from being at peace with God and the world. Today I can't take anything for granted, including the future of my church. So I'm not tempted to be complacent. I am excited by my faith and with the chance of helping others to see God at work in them. Today I have to show that my faith is real, and yes, the church is now growing once again.

One thing that I do know, whether the church looks backwards or forwards in time, it, and we, are in the business of being made new. As Paul said, *"Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new. God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us, and he has given us the work of making peace between himself and others."* (2 Corinthians 5.17 & 18 (CEV))

I'm stepping out into a New Year. Sent by Christ, I am looking expectantly for what God is going to do next. I love company so feel free to join me.

God bless,

Nigel.

Emmaus Norfolk and Waveney working together to end homelessness.

Thank you for your kind donations towards our recent Walk of Kindness!

You can donate to Emmaus on our website www.emmaus.org.uk/donate

Follow us on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/EmmausUK>

Become a Fan on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/EmmausUK>

St John's, Harleston

Every Tuesday

Foodbank - 1.30pm to 3.00pm

Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Church

Thursday 9th January

10.30am - 12.30pm

Who Let the Dads Out?

Saturday 18th January

9.00am to 11.00am

£3.00 per family includes breakfast

Praise

Saturday 11th January

6pm - 7pm

Chatty Church

Saturday 25th January

11.00am - 1.00pm

St Leonard's Billingford

Still time to join in with our code breaker competition, entries to be returned by January 10th please.

If you haven't handed your completed form in, please do so ASAP.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

We had a wonderful Carols by Candlelight, lovely to see the church so full.

The Church looked lovely by candlelight, thank you everyone who decorated and also those that baked the refreshments.

Have a Happy, Healthy 2025 from all at St Leonard's.

	<p>7churches Benefice Services</p> <p>Compline Thursday 23rd January, 6.30pm All Saints, Thorpe Abbotts</p> <p>Celebration Service Sunday 26th January 4.30pm St Andrew's , Scole,.</p>	
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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 Abbots



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

Funerals and Interments

6th December	Richard Colebourne - St John's, Harleston
11th December	Tony Chapman - St Andrew's, Scole
16th December	Loretta Thacker - St John's, Harleston
18th December	Jean Philips - St John's, Harleston
23rd December	David Shipp - St Mary's, Redenhall

Wedding

7th December	Jessica King-Fisher & Matthew Brackley - St Leonard's, Billingford
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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).

JANUARY SUNDAY SERVICES AND READINGS

Sunday 5th Epiphany (Gold)	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	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St John's, Harleston
<i>Ephesians 3.1-12/Matthew 2.1-12</i>			
Sunday 12th Epiphany 1 (Baptism of Christ) (White)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints, Thorpe Abbots
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>Acts 8.14-17/Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22</i>			
Sunday 19th Epiphany 2 (White)	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Leonard's, Billingford
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Needham
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary's, Redenhall
<i>1 Corinthians 12.1-11/John 2.1-11</i>			
Sunday 26th Epiphany 3 (White)	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Peter & St Paul, Brockdish
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's, Redenhall
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St John's, Harleston
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Scole
	4.30pm	Celebration Service	St Andrew's, Scole
<i>1 Corinthians 12.12-31a/Luke 4.14-21</i>			

CONTACT LIST

Ministry Team

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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

Schools

Harleston Sancroft Academy 01379 852561
Scole CEVC Primary 01379 740654

www.7churches.org.uk



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