

The Chancel - St Lawrence's Church, Harpley Christmas 2020



The Altar Nativity





Notes from around the Parishes, January 2021 Harpley & the Massinghams

❖❖ A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OOR READERS ❖❖

Thank you to the distributors who continue to deliver this newsletter to homes in our three parishes. It would not be possible to produce these Notes without their help! - *Thank you Julian, Steve, Judy, Gina, Sarah, Jane & Philip, David, Lyn & Sue :*

This year our average monthly distribution has dropped to about 230 – mainly due to the difficulties of delivering throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.. A special thanks to Rev'd Julian Thomson who has been delivering single-handedly round Great Massingham without missing a month. We would love to hear from anyone who could assist him with G Massingham deliveries. An extended version of the 'Notes' is also available by e-mail - contact the editor if you wish to receive it - or it can be viewed online at www.ggmbenefice.co.uk.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

A Puzzle for the holidays: No prizes - just for fun; answers next month

This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his boat. Roy Clark studied it playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot....that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty that we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help. Books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers, and punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember there are 24 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph.

Arrangements may change at short notice so please check on the Group website for the most up to date information: www.ggmbenefice.co.uk



SERVICES ACROSS THE GROUP in January

This area is now in Tier 4 and rates of Covid infection continue to rise locally. Regretfully, Rev'd Judith decided to cancel services in churches planned for 25th & 27th Dec. The service for Epiphany on 6th January will move online rather than St Lawrence's and other church services in January are unlikely to take place; the situation for each church will be reviewed regularly. The normal rota of services is listed below but please check locally or on the web-site.

The Zoom service continues for those who cannot or do not wish to attend a service in church. It is at 11am with an invitation email sent out at 1050. Contact Steve Williamson for more information 01553 636 413 or stephenwilliamson001@gmail.com

Sunday, January 3rd - *Second Sunday of Christmas*

9am	Holy Communion	St Botolph's, Grimston
9am	Family Service (Lay led)	St Lawrence's, Harpley
11am	Holy Communion	Zoom Service



Weds, Jan 6th - The Feast of the Epiphany

10am tbc	Holy Communion	a Zoom Service
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Sunday, January 10th - *The Baptism of Christ*

9am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Great Massingham
0930	Morning Prayer (Lay led)	Saint Andrew's, Little Mass
11am	Morning Praise	Zoom Service

Weds, Jan 13th	3pm	Lectio Divina; Bible study via Zoom
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Sunday, January 17th - *Second Sunday of Epiphany*

9am	Morning Praise	St Botolph's, Grimston
0930	Family Praise	St Mary's, Great Massingham
0930	Morning Prayer (Lay led)	Saint Andrew's, Little Mass
11am	Holy Communion	Zoom Service

Weds, Jan 20th-	9am	Holy Communion at St Botolph's, Grimston
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Sunday, January 24th - Epiphany 3

9am	Holy Communion	St Lawrence's, Harpley
0930	Morning Prayer (Lay led)	Saint Andrew's, Little Mass
11am	Holy Communion	Zoom Service
3pm	Celtic Service	St Mary's, Gayton Thorpe

Monday, Jan 25th The Conversion of St Paul

Weds, Jan 27th - 3pm	Celtic Service	Zoom Service
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Sunday, January 31st - Epiphany 4

9am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Great Massingham
11am	Holy Communion	Zoom Service



Tues, February 2nd Candlemas - The Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

(Marks the end of the Christmas season; many churches keep their Christmas decorations and trees in place until Candlemass. See extended notes for more...)

Weds, Feb 3rd - 9am	Holy Communion at St Lawrence's, Harpley
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Sunday, February 7th - Second Sunday before Lent

9am	Holy Communion	St Botolph's, Grimston
9am	Family Service (Lay led)	St Lawrence's, Harpley
0930	Holy Communion	Saint Andrew's, Little Mass
11am	Holy Communion	Zoom Service

* Be Sensible * Be Alert * Be Safe * Protect Yourself & Others *
 ** Wash your hands ** Wear a mask ** Keep your distance **

From the December Registers:

Thurs 3rd Funeral of Rosalind Warren at St Lawrence's

Fri 11th Funeral of Margaret Morton at St Mary's

Nancy Kellogg (died 17th May 2020)	Ashes interred 16th Dec
	St Mary's, Great Massingham

Churches open for individual prayer:

St Mary's, East Walton	Daily 8am to 6pm
All Saints', Ashwicken	Daily, dawn till dusk
St Lawrence's, Harpley	Daily 9am to 4pm

After Christmas it is hoped that St Mary's, Great Massingham will also open daily



Mrs Kirsten Stibbon, Headteacher of our schools, writes:

Since October Half Term, the children at Harpley and Great Massingham Primary Schools have continued to work hard and enjoy their time in school, despite the fact that we are still bound by Covid-19 Secure restrictions. The staff continues to work tirelessly to ensure that all our children are safe and happy and our fantastic attendance figures are a credit to their dedication. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for their support and trust during these unusual circumstances. During November and December, the Junior class has been finding out about life in Roman Britain. At the end of their topic, the pupils answered the question 'what did the Romans do for us?' and were able to give interesting answers based on what they had found out. Having spoken to the Junior pupils and looked at their work, I know that they particularly enjoyed finding out about Boudicca and the Icenii revolt. The Infant class has been thinking about what makes a hero; they answered the question 'am I a superhero?' at the end of their topic. I was very interested to hear them discussing whether Sir Captain Tom Moore and Guy Fawkes were heroes. The infants decided, in the end, that these men were both heroes at different times to different people for very different reasons. Our Christmas festivities were obviously very different this year but, with the support of our Parents and Friend groups, we made sure that the children didn't miss out and enjoyed the season as much as possible. Pupils enjoyed their class Christingles and Christmas lunches, complete with crackers and music. Each class held their own Christmas decoration making day and, at Harpley, Mrs B worked with each year group to record a collection of Christmas songs which was then sent out to families. This replaced the usual whole school Harpley Christmas production which all look forward to every year. We are hoping that 2021 will bring opportunities for a return to more normal routines! By the time you read this we hope you will have had a very Merry (if quiet!) Christmas. **Happy New Year** from all the Staff, Governors and pupils of Great Massingham and Harpley Primary Schools Federation.



Missing those Coffee Mornings at St Andrew's, Congham?

Their 'Star Baker', Glenis, has put 26 of her best recipes together in

'*The Coffee Morning Cake Book*' which is now on sale for £5

All funds raised will support Congham Church.

Pick up your copy at the Grimston Post Office or the Old Stores in Roydon or contact Glenis on 07787 912096 to order a copy.

The Reverend Jane's illness continues - please direct all enquiries on church matters (Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals or requests for pastoral visits) to our Team Vicar:

The Rev'd Judith Pollard, The Rectory, Grimston 01485 601251

Please send items for inclusion in the February issue of the 'Parish Notes' to the editor by

20th Jan- Rosemary Mehers rosemarymehers@hotmail.com or Tel: 01485 521866



Now on sale, in aid of St Andrew's, Congham



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Malcolm Guite

Malcolm Guite is a priest who has recently retired from his posts as Chaplain and lecturer in English Literature at Girton College, Cambridge; he is also a poet and has published several books. Amongst them 'Sounding the Seasons: seventy sonnets for the Christian Year' - a book of sonnets, each inspired by a different event in the Churches year. He maintains a blog on-line where he publishes not only his sonnets but other types of poems he has written for a variety of occasions

These and more sonnets by Malcolm Guite can be found on his web-site:
<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com>

There are also links to enable you to listen to the poems read by the author.

The Magi appeared in the porch tableau
at St Lawrence's, Harpley: Dec 2020



The Feast of the Epiphany

6th January

Epiphany

It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

The Conversion of Saint Paul (25th January) Apostle, Leader of the early church and writer of many Epistles



Conversion of Saint Paul, (Artist Unknown)
From Lower Saxony Landesmuseum, Hannover, Germany

Apostle

An enemy whom God has made a friend,
A righteous man discounting righteousness,
Last to believe and first for God to send,
He found the fountain in the wilderness.
Thrown to the ground and raised at the same moment,
A prisoner who set his captors free,
A naked man with love his only garment,
A blinded man who helped the world to see,
A Jew who had been perfect in the law,
Blesses the flesh of every other race
And helps them see what the apostles saw;
The glory of the lord in Jesus' face.
Strong in his weakness, joyful in his pains,
And bound by love, he freed us from our chains.

Malcolm Guite writes:

*Though the 12 days of Christmas ended at Twelfth Night and Epiphany, there is another sense in which this season, in which we reflect on the great mystery of God in Christ as an infant, continues until February 2nd, **the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple**. This feast came to be called by the shorter and more beautiful name of Candlemas because the day it celebrates, recorded in [Luke 2:22-40](#), is the day the old man Simeon took the baby in his arms and recognised him as*

‘A Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.’

It became the custom of the church to light a central candle and bring it to the altar to represent the Christ-light, and also on the occasion of this feast to bless all the ‘lights’ or candles in the church, praying that all who saw that outward and visible light would remember also and be blessed by the inner light of Christ ‘who lightens everyone who comes into the world.’

It had always been prophesied that God would one day come into the Temple that human beings had built for him, though Solomon, who built the first temple had said ‘even the Heavens are too small to hold you much less this temple I have built’. Candlemas is the day we realise that eternity can come into time and touch us in the form of a tiny child, that God appears at last in His Temple, not as a transcendent overlord, but as a vulnerable pilgrim, coming in His Love to walk the road of life alongside us.

Candlemas

They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to His temple.
Amidst the outer court’s commercial bustle
They’d waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
Had made a killing on the two young doves.

They come at last with us to Candlemas
And keep the day the prophecies came true
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,
Against the dark our Saviour’s face is bright.



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