

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



Reverend Jane Margaret Holmes 1957 – 2021 RIP



The funeral service for Rev'd Jane Holmes was held at the church of St Nicholas, Gayton on Thursday 25th February. The recently retired Bishop Jonathan Meyrick led the service of readings and hymns chosen by Jane herself. Only a small number of mourners was permitted but about 80 others, from far and wide, joined remotely via Zoom.

Jane's sister, Liz described growing up together in a happy farming family with lots of animals and brother Paul talked about her adult life; while the Rev'd Ian Bentley spoke of her mission here in our group of parishes and how much she loved her life and work in Gayton.

Jane herself said

*“Growing up on a farm in North Lincolnshire - I am a rural girl. After a personal tragedy in my family, I turned to God and I found him ready and waiting to wrap me in his arms.*

*After many years of soul searching, I followed my calling, left behind a career in finance and banking, and trained for ministry.*

*Ordained in 2007, I came to Gayton in January 2011 and I have to say I find my work here an absolute privilege. Great people, great place and a great team! I am passionate about teaching and sharing the love God has for us with all ages for I know His love is just as relevant for all people today, as it was yesterday, and will be tomorrow. “*

Jane served the Gayton Group for nearly four years before she was joined by Rev'd Judith in Nov 2014 and together they led the diverse group of parishes that are the GGM Benefice. Sadly, for the last two and a half years Jane was increasingly unwell, but determined to keep going as much as she could. In August last year she was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer. We prayed for a return to good health and then we prayed for a graceful end. Her brother and sister were with her when she died on Feb. 8th; she is now at peace.

After the service Jane was to be buried with her husband in Lincolnshire.

*A memorial page is at [www.ggmbenefice.uk](http://www.ggmbenefice.uk) and we welcome your memories and photographs*

Once uploaded the funeral service will be available to view online for about 30days



Rev'd Sue Martin writes:

This is such a strange time - How many times have you heard that said recently? The lockdown since Christmas has been really tough, it seems like such a long time. The weather has been wintry, very pretty with all the snow but oh so cold! Hopefully when you receive this in March we will be in Spring.

We are all deeply saddened that Rev'd Jane is no longer with us, but now at peace and free from a long and painful illness. Jane's family and our ministry team have been overwhelmed with your messages of love and comfort for all that Jane meant to you, and the love she shared with us all. We will miss her.

As many of you know, I have been working with Rev'd Jane, Rev'd Judith, and the ministry team in our benefice for some time. This will continue and I am delighted that I am now licensed to serve as a priest across the benefice, albeit part time and voluntary. My ministry as a priest also involves me in the Diocese of Ely, where I am Bishop's Officer for Schools' Mission. Richard and I live in Gayton and worship in our churches.

The season of Lent, (which started on Ash Wednesday, February 17th and continues until Holy Week and Easter Sunday on 4th April), is traditionally a time for giving up something and a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. Usually, I would give up chocolate, but this year that is a step too far for me in lockdown, which I hope will be eased soon.

In the Bible we are told that Jesus went into the desert for forty days and fasted in the wilderness. He wanted time to spend alone before Good Friday. He wanted time to spend with God, the Father, to see more clearly his journey ahead. For much of his ministry he was with people constantly, with his disciples, and those to whom he preached and healed.

We all know how it feels to be alone; we have had so much time in our homes and with just a few people, if we are lucky. This year, lockdown has shown us how valuable time can be in thinking about what is really important to us all, family and friends. It is difficult to have any plans for this year, and for me that has been a real trial, but we can enjoy what we have, both in our homes and in the countryside around us.

Lent is a time to say thank you to God, for all that we have, just around us. These are the things that really matter.

*With every blessing from all of the Ministry Team, Sue*

The Rev'd Sue is leading our Lent Course 'Hope and a Future'

"We all live in hope. We live for things to come, for our lives to be fulfilled and for our families to flourish.

As we emerge from Covid19 in 2021, we ask for the confidence that God is in our midst and will transform our lives if we let Him. This is our hope for the future.

This Lent Course, Hope and a Future is based around that hope we have been given by God, the vision of the world as God wants it to be, and the promise that God has given to us, his people. Join us for five Wednesdays in Lent; for some company and, hopefully, some lively discussion .

# SERVICES FOR THE GROUP in March

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

Every Sunday there will be a service of Holy Communion at 11am with an email invitation sent out at about 1050 Contact Steve Williamson if you would like an invitation 01553 636 413 or [stephenwilliamson001@gmail.com](mailto:stephenwilliamson001@gmail.com)

*For anyone new to Zoom he will also offer support in getting it up and working on your computer.*

## Sundays in Lent:

- 2nd February 28th - *Second Sunday in Lent*
- 3rd March 7th - *Third Sunday in Lent*
- 4th March 14th - *Mothering Sunday*
- 5th March 21st - *Passion Sunday*
- 6th March 28th - *Palm Sunday* BST begins



## Other Special Dates and Wednesdays on Zoom

Mon March 1st *St David's Day*

### Lent Study dates 2:50pm for 3:

Hope and a Future with Rev'd Sue

Weds, March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th

### Wednesdays fortnightly Holy Communion at 0950 for 10am:

Weds, 3rd March

Weds, 17th March *St Patrick's Day*

Weds 31st March



### Thurs, 1st April - **Maundy Thursday**

Holy Communion 11am

Prayers and Meditation 6pm

### Friday, 2nd April - **Good Friday**

Prayers and Meditation 6pm



**NOTE** ~At this important season in the Christian Year we hope that the prevalence of the Covid-19 virus locally will have reduced sufficiently by the end of March for us to be able to return to church for some services in Holy Week.

From the February Registers:

18th Funeral of **Michael Watson**, at St Mary's, Gt 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

St Mary's, Gayton Thorpe

Daily 8am to 6pm



There is a mini Food Bank located in the porch of St Mary's church, Gt Massingham which has been operating since before Christmas. An array of goods is available for anyone in the local community who is in need. Thank you to the many parishioners who have made donations.

\* \* \* \* \* Coming Soon \* \* \* \* \*

The parish church of St Lawrence, Harpley is planning the return of their ever popular

### OPEN GARDENS

During the weekend of **June 26th & 27th 2021**

Here's a chance to show off your garden, particularly if it has benefitted from lots of lockdown loving.

If you would like to open your garden for the church please contact:

David Mallows 520381; [c.caunt193@btinternet.com](mailto:c.caunt193@btinternet.com) or

Gina Wagg 520153; [ginawagg@yahoo.com](mailto:ginawagg@yahoo.com)



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

The snow has gone but we still have the snowdrops

Please send items for inclusion in the April issue of the

'Parish Notes' to the editor by 20th March.

Rosemary Mehers 01485 521866 or

[rosemarymehers@hotmail.com](mailto:rosemarymehers@hotmail.com)

an extended version of these 'Notes' is also available on request or on the web-site.



## A prayer for all those who have lost someone.

For all those who woke this morning  
to the loneliness of bereavement -  
the empty bed or chair,  
an unaccustomed quietness,  
a life now incomplete -  
may they know your presence  
in the stillness of the day,  
and through the love of friends  
who offer their condolence.  
And in the darker moments  
may they reach out to hold your hand and feel the warmth  
of the One who has already passed from death to life  
to welcome others into God's Kingdom.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Poems from the pen of Malcolm Guite

In April 2020 Malcome Guite wrote:

‘I have been re-reading Edward Fitzgerald’s translation of [the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam](#), an old favourite. Somehow its tone of wistful elegy, poignant celebration of every passing beauty, defiant affirmation of love and life, and yet humble acceptance of mortality, seem even more fitting for this time, than for the many other phases and stages of life in which I have enjoyed that poem.

I was also savouring again the elegance of the quatrain form: the way those four-line stanzas work on the ear and the eye, Fitzgerald’s beautiful and mellifluous rhyming all on one sound in each quatrain, the way the first couplet sets up your expectations and the unrhymed third line increases the tension, then acts as a launch pad for the clinching final rhyme.

I was surprised to realise that I had not yet tried this particular form myself.

All these musings led me to wonder whether it might not be fun to have a go at some occasional ‘[Quarantine Quatrains](#)’, to take a leaf out of Fitzgerald’s book, and start crafting a Rubaiyat for our own times. And that is exactly what I have decided to do.....

I am trying, whilst keeping some echoes of the original, to make the poem contemporary rather than pastiche, so we'll see how it goes.'

In these quatrains, the second part published on 29th April, MG muses on ' the ambivalence of our zoom-life, on the genuine sense of relief and connection it brings and yet, at the very same time, the way it emphasises and underlines our loss. It teases us with absence and yet it keeps connection and hope alive.'

## Quarantine Quatrains pt 2

Some days you are diverted by a call  
The soft computer chime that summons all  
To show a face to faces that we meet  
Mirages, empty mirrors on the wall.

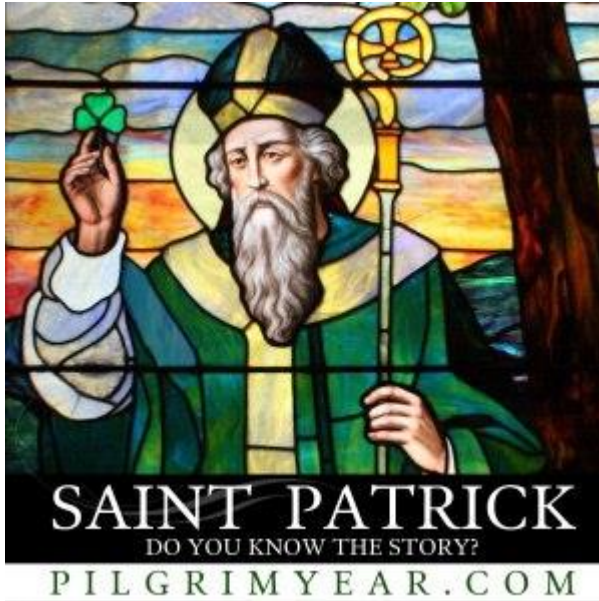
Alas that all the friends we ever knew  
Whose lives were fragrant and whose touch was true  
Can only meet us on some little screen  
Then zoom away with scarcely an adieu.

We share with them the little that we know  
These galleries of ghosts set in a row  
They flicker on the screen of life awhile  
But some have left the meeting long ago.

We used to stroll together on the green  
Who now divide the squares upon the screen,  
The faces of our friends, so far apart  
Tease us with tenderness that might have been

Some day we'll break the bread, we'll pour the wine  
And meet and kiss and feast beneath the vine,  
Till then we'll sweeten solitude with verse  
And yearn through pain, and watch each day decline.

# St Patrick: A Sonnet



MG writes:

We may not be able to celebrate St. Patrick in the streets and pubs this year but here, nevertheless is my sonnet for Saint Patrick's day, with a prayer that we might share his 'passion and compassion' wherever we are.

While Patrick is of course primarily associated with Ireland where he flourished as a missionary in the second half of the fifth century, he was not Irish to begin with. He seems to have been a shepherd on the mainland of Great Britain and was in fact captured there, at the age of sixteen, by raiding pirates and taken across the sea to Ireland where he was sold as a slave. He was six years in captivity before he finally made his escape and returned to Britain. And this is where the story takes a truly extraordinary turn. While he was enslaved in Ireland, working as a shepherd for his masters, Patrick became a Christian and when, having made good his escape, he returned home he had a vision in which a man gave him a letter headed 'The Voice of Ireland', a letter urging him to go back to the very place from which he had escaped and bring the Gospel to his former captors! That Patrick obeyed such a vision seems to me a greater miracle than any of the others subsequently attributed to him, and it is on this return that my sonnet turns. That capacity to return, face and forgive former oppressors or enemies seems a particularly vital gift for Ireland's patron to bestow. As well as alluding briefly to 'St. Patrick's Breastplate', my sonnet also touches on the story that wherever Patrick planted his staff to pray, it blossomed.

## Patrick

Six years a slave, and then you slipped the yoke,  
Till Christ recalled you, through your captors cries!  
Patrick, you had the courage to turn back,  
With open love to your old enemies,  
Serving them now in Christ, not in their chains,  
Bringing the freedom He gave you to share.  
You heard the voice of Ireland, in your veins  
Her passion and compassion burned like fire.

Now you rejoice amidst the three-in-one,  
Refreshed in love and blessing all you knew,  
Look back on us and bless us, Ireland's son,  
And plant the staff of prayer in all we do:  
A gospel seed that flowers in belief,  
A greening glory, coming into leaf.

These and more poems 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.



