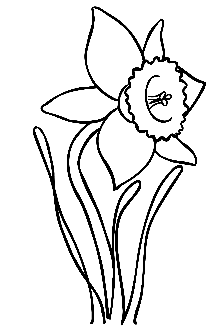
Notes from around the Parishes, April 2021



For Great Massingham, Little Massingham & Harpley

Reverend Judith Pollard writes:



At this time of year, as we look forward with hope to Easter, we are mindful of the promise of Spring, of improving weather, brighter days and better times ahead. Our Christian hope - in the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ sustains us always, even in the darkest times. Easter is hope personified.

I look to hymns for inspiration, the hymns we look forward to singing again very soon: ~ Most of us will know the lovely hymn: **‘*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy’***. Reassuringly familiar, it is often chosen for weddings and funerals too as it takes us through our lives in a day, reminding us of God’s constant presence with us:   
 *“Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust ever child-like no cares could destroy, be there at our waking and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts Lord, at the break of the day.”* Every new day brings fresh hope! Perhaps child-like trust is in short supply at the moment, having been sorely tested by numerous experts bombarding us with facts in a world where everything is impossibly complicated. Am I alone in finding statistics impenetrable/confusing? Trust in the time of Covid - where everyone is so suspicious and mistrustful of one another - is a huge challenge; and the trust “no cares could destroy” is perhaps beyond us, because our cares are many and hugely varied. On a personal note, my mum is in a care home and I haven’t been allowed to see her for many months; her dementia has worsened because of the lack of family contact. Like so many families we are at our wit’s end as to how to retrieve this difficult situation. For everyone the waiting is endless and our patience is wearing thin.   
 We are vulnerable, our souls are weary, we yearn for replenishment and justice.

Another well-known Easter hymn: **‘*There is a green hill far away’*** has the line *“and trust in His (Jesus’s) redeeming love and try His works to do*”. Easter brings us joy and salvation. It gives us a reason to carry on with hope in our hearts. We have never needed Easter so much as we do this year.   
  
“***This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow...***” (another hymn!)   
 Trust in the Lord always; he will never fail us.  
 With blessings this joyful Eastertide, Judith



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**



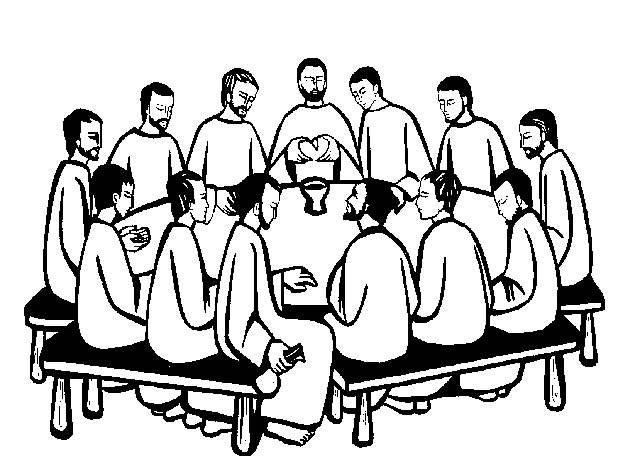
Remember British Summer Time begins when the

time jumps from 1am to2am on Sun, **March 28th ~**

*Palm Sunday*

SERVICES FOR THE GROUP in April

Cases of COVID in our neighbourhood (Harpley, the Massinghams and Congham) have remained extremely low since the beginning of March. Gayton, Grimston and Roydon had a number of cases a month ago but their rate of infection has also dropped to almost zero. Rev’d Judith will be consulting with PCCs so that we can cautiously return to holding services in Church. The advice is to take everything  
 ***‘slowly, steadily and safely’.***



**Services in Church**

**Thurs, 1st April ~ Maundy Thursday**A service in which we remember the ‘Last Supper’ when Jesus shared Bread and Wine with his disciples.

**2pm** St Mary’s, Great Massingham

**Friday, 2nd April ~ Good Friday** **2pm** The Liturgy of the Cross



St Lawrence’s, Harpley

**Saturday, 3rd April ~ Holy Saturday** **6pm** Easter Vigil

St Lawrence’s, Harpley



**Sunday, 4th April ~ Easter Day**  
 *Jesus Christ is risen today,   
 He is risen indeed ~ Alleluya!!*

**8am Holy Communion,** All Saints’, Ashwicken

**10am** Holy Communion St Mary’s, Gt Mass

**10am** Family Service St Lawrence’s, Harpley

**Sunday 11th April ~** *Easter 2*

**0930 Holy Communion St Mary’s, Great Massingham**

**Sunday 18th April ~** *Easter 3*

**0930** Lay-led Family Service St Mary’s, Gt Massingham

**Friday, 23rd April ~ Saint George’s Day** *Patron saint of England*

**Sunday 25th April ~** *Easter 4*

**0900 Holy Communion St Lawrence’s, Harpley**

**Sunday 2nd May ~** *Easter 5*

**0930** Lay-led Family Service St Lawrence’s, Harpley

**Wednesdays fortnightly Holy Communion Services** will resume **IN CHURCH** from **Weds, 5th May;** at **9am**   
 First Wednesday in the month at St Lawrence’s, Harpley

**\* \* \* Remember: -** if coming to church masks are still needed. \* \* \*

**Services & Meetings via Zoom**

Every Sunday there will be a service at 11am with an email invitation sent out at about 1050 All Welcome! Contact Steve Williamson if you would like an invitation 01553 636 413 or [**stephenwilliamson001@gmail.com**](mailto:stephenwilliamson001@gmail.com)There are also meetings held on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 3pm

**Sunday, 28th March ~ Palm Sunday** Holy Communion **11am**

**Thurs, 1st April ~ Maundy Thursday** Holy Communion  **11am**  Prayers and Meditation **6pm**

**Friday, 2nd April ~ Good Friday** Prayers and Meditation **2pm**

**Sunday, 4th April ~ Easter Day** Holy Communion  **11am**

**Sunday,11th April ~** *Easter 2*Holy Communion  **11am**

**Weds, 14th April Lectio Divina 3pm**

**Sunday, 18th April ~** *Easter 3*Prayer & Praise  **11am**

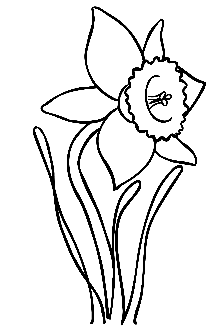
**Sunday,25th April ~** *Easter 4*Holy Communion  **11am**

**Weds, 28th April Celtic Service 3pm**

**Sunday, 2nd May ~** *Easter 5*Holy Communion  **11am**

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)

**Easter Gardens**



**0930 at St Lawrence’s and 1000 at St Mary’s   
 on Good Friday morning**

Everyone (especially children) is welcome to come along and help build an Easter Garden in preparation for our celebrations on   
 Easter Sunday. Seasonal refreshments may be served!

Churches open for individual prayer:

St Andrew’s, Congham will resume opening on Sundays   
 6am to 6pm from Easter Day  
 St Mary’s, East Walton Daily 8am to 6pm



All Saints’, Ashwicken Daily, dawn till dusk

St Lawrence’s, Harpley Daily, dawn till dusk

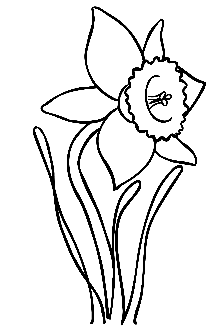
St Mary’s, Gayton Thorpe Daily 8am to 6pm

St Mary’s, Gt Massingham Daily 8am to 5pm

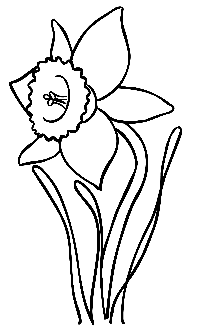
The mini Food Bank is now operating inside St Mary’s to cope with the inclement weather! An array of goods is available for anyone in the local community who is in need. Thank you to the many parishioners who have made donations.

St Andrew’s church, Little Massingham is closed until end of April for essential building restoration work.

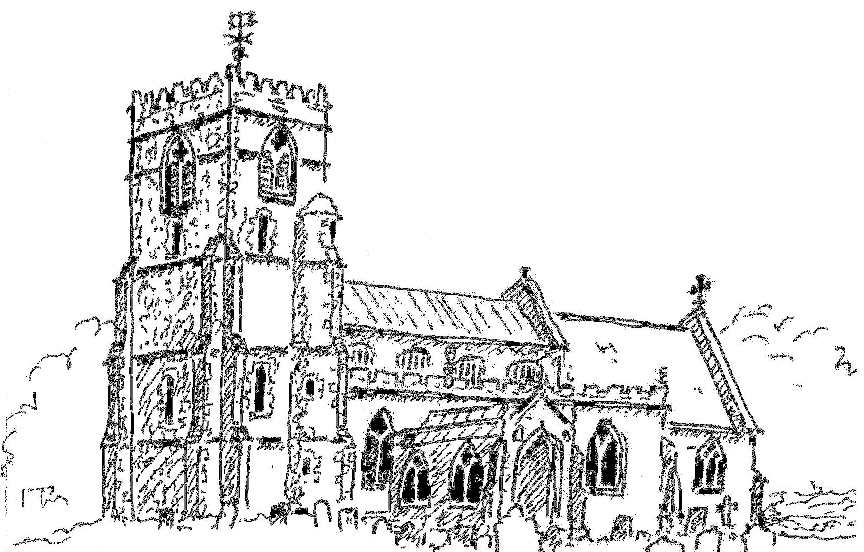
Annual Parochial Church Meetings are due to be held soon. New Church rules mean that we now have until the end of May to hold them. These are public meetings, open to all - you do not have to be a church-goer to attend. If you are interested in helping the congregations to maintain these historic buildings you will be welcome; however, **in order to vote** you need to be on the Church electoral roll. . Ask Rev’d Judith (Tel 601251)  
St Lawrence’s, Harpley, time tbc **Tuesday, 13th April**  
St Mary’s, Great Massingham, and St Andrew’s, Little Massingham, are unlikely to hold their meetings until May ~ See notice boards



Please send items for inclusion in the May issue of the ‘Parish Notes’ to the editor by **20th April. Rosemary Mehers 01485 521866 or** [**rosemarymehers@hotmail.com**](mailto:rosemarymehers@hotmail.com) **an extended version of these ‘Notes’ is also available on the web-site or, on request to the editor, by email.** The Parish Church of St Lawrence,   
 Harpley



Easter 2021



You are invited to a SPECIAL FAMILY SERVICE this year at **10.00am** in Harpley Church on Easter Day**, Sunday 4th April**.

***Easter*** *is the annual festival of celebration and hope for Christians marking the resurrection glory of Jesus Christ.*

We will reflect on the Covid year remembering all those who have suffered or died either through Covid-19 or as a result of the lockdown.

We will give thanks to the millions of key workers, including those in hospitals and care homes and we will look forward to the easing of lockdown.

If there is someone you would like us to remember or thank then please let Jerry or Lucy Brown know.   
If you would like to help with the service you would be very welcome.

Contact [jeremylucybrown@aol.com](mailto:jeremylucybrown@aol.com) or Tel: **01485 520252**

Easter in our Churches:

1st April Maundy Thursday 2pm St Mary’s, Great Massingham  
2nd April Good Friday 9:30am at St Lawrence’s, Harpley  
 Children are invited to come along & help build an Easter Garden

Liturgy of the Cross for Good Friday, 2pm, St Lawrence’s

3rd April Holy Saturday **6pm** ~ Easter Vigil, St Lawrence’s  
4th April Easter Sunday, Holy Communion 10am at St Mary’s  
 OR Special Family Service; 10am at St Lawrence’s  
 Reflecting on and remembering this past year

More details of all our services are on the church website: [www.ggmbenefice.uk](http://www.ggmbenefice.uk)

All the events in our Churches are carried out in accordance with the current Government and Church of England guidelines to make them as safe as possible  
Please follow the guidelines and if you have symptoms stay at home.

**Poems from the pen of Malcolm Guite**

Twelve months ago sonnets for Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday were included in the first extended version of this small church newsletter. As we approach Easter again here are more sonnets from Malcolm Guite’s book ‘Sounding the Seasons: seventy sonnets for the Christian Year’

Part of the book is a series of 15 poems ‘Stations of the Cross’

The first twelve are to be read on Good Friday with XIII and XIV on Holy Saturday and finishing on Easter Day with XV.

XI and XV are included here

These and more poems by Malcolm Guite can be found on his web-site:

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com>

His daily blog includes commentary on his poems and links to recordings he has made.

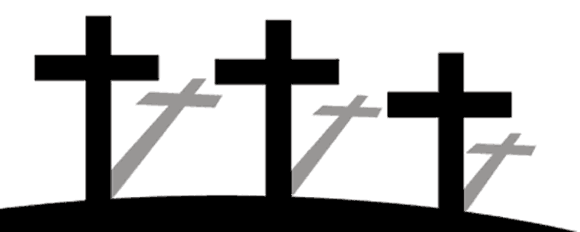
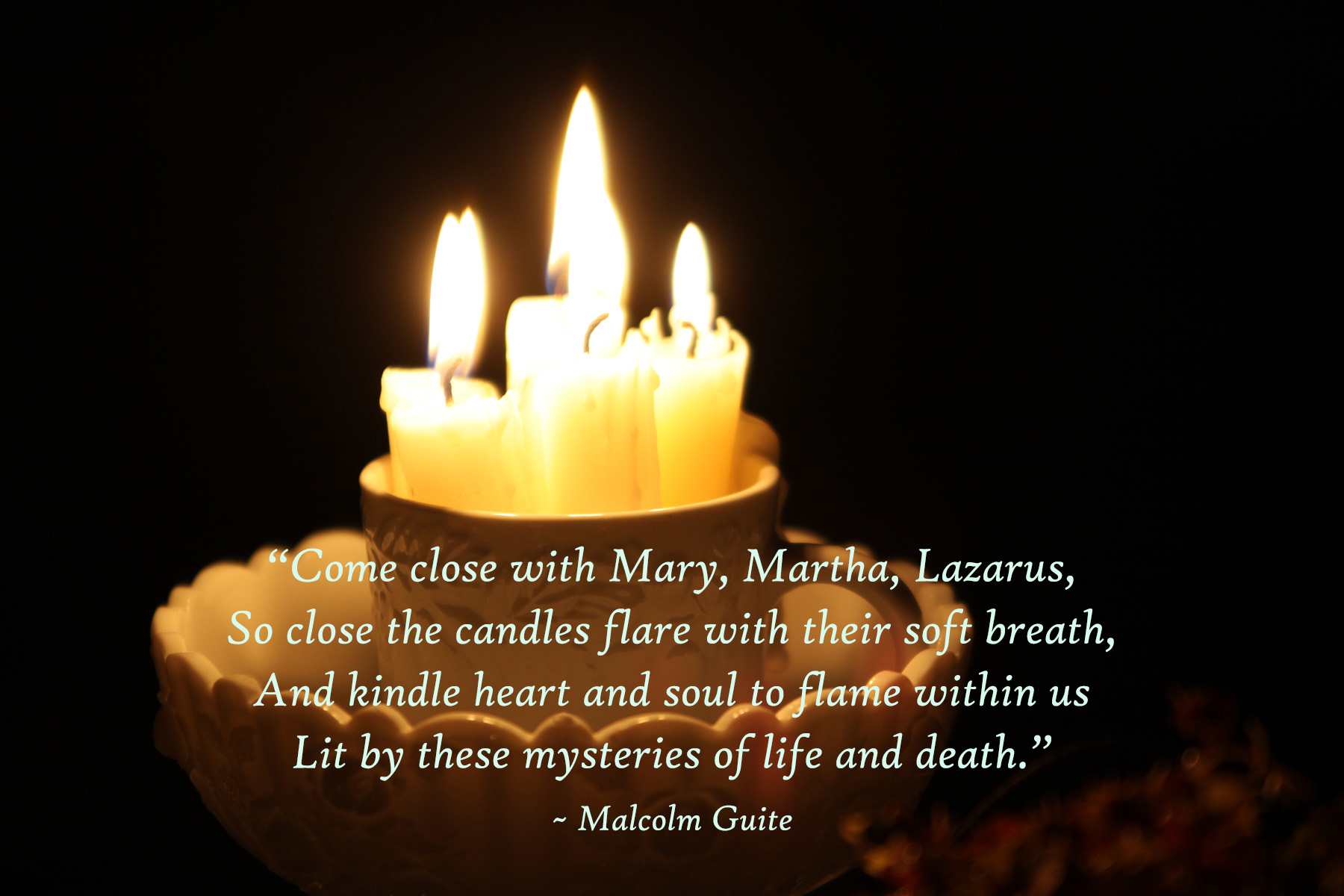
Wednesday of Holy Week:

John 12 1-8, tells us of how Mary of Bethany anointed Jesus.

[The Anointing at Bethany](http://audioboo.fm/boos/739878-the-anointing)

Come close with Mary, Martha , Lazarus  
So close the candles stir with their soft breath  
And kindle heart and soul to flame within us  
Lit by these mysteries of life and death.  
For beauty now begins the final movement  
In quietness and intimate encounter  
The alabaster jar of precious ointment  
Is broken open for the world’s true lover,

The whole room richly fills to feast the senses  
With all the yearning such a fragrance brings,  
The heart is mourning but the spirit dances,  
Here at the very centre of all things,  
Here at the meeting place of love and loss  
We all foresee, and see beyond the cross

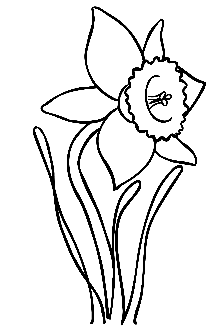


[XI Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross](http://audioboo.fm/boos/334770-station-xi-crucifixion)

See, as they strip the robe from off his back  
And spread his arms and nail them to the cross,  
The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black,  
And love is firmly fastened onto loss.  
But here a pure change happens. On this tree  
Loss becomes gain, death opens into birth.  
Here wounding heals and fastening makes free,  
Earth breathes in heaven, heaven roots in earth.  
  
And here we see the length, the breadth, the height,  
Where love and hatred meet and love stays true,  
Where sin meets grace and darkness turns to light,  
We see what love can bear and be and do.  
And here our saviour calls us to his side,  
His love is free, his arms are open wide.

[XV Easter Dawn](http://audioboo.fm/boos/339341-xv-easter-dawn)

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves



And now he blesses hers who stood and wept

And would not be consoled, or leave her love’s

Last touching place, but watched as low light crept

Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs

A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.

She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,

Or recognise the Gardener standing there.

She hardly hears his gentle question ‘Why,

Why are you weeping?’, or sees the play of light

That brightens as she chokes out her reply,

‘They took my love away, my day is night.’

And then she hears her name, she hears Love say

The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

