

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



One of the benefits of these strange intense times we are living through is that we have perhaps started to think more about what is really important to us. It will be slightly different for everyone.

Soon we celebrate Valentine's Day, Mothering Sunday, Father's Day, Easter; - **all causes for rejoicing!** We are offered an annual opportunity to cherish perhaps the most important relationships in our lives: our partner or spouse, our parents, and our relationship with God in Christ Jesus that is our Christian faith.

At all these times we may give tokens of our love, presents and greetings cards; tangible reminders of the importance of that particular relationship, intensely personal – but only to us. What do we do with the cards afterwards? Some of us may discard them but many people find that hard to do especially if a card is beautiful. If we are creative we can make scrapbooks, montages for framing, albums – or we just keep them, accumulating in boxes or old drawers, our emotional life experience writ large.

I recently had to take charge of a house clearance and discovered the person had carefully kept almost every greetings card, a lifetime's worth - saved for posterity. What do we do with them?

Our cherished possessions mean so little to anyone else. As we move through our lives these repositories of emotional memory are superseded, embodied now by who we have become. Nostalgia can be intensely hard to let go of – but it remains a faded snapshot of time gone by.

What about keeping cards as an aide memoire when memory fails? This can be hugely challenging: a person in later life may no longer remember why the cards were treasured, nor the person/s who had sent them.

Greetings Cards, I am told, are becoming obsolete - like photo albums. People tend to send online greetings cards with jingles or if it's Christmas give a charitable donation/buy a goat in Africa instead. The personal touch, the loving token, is diminishing in popularity. But have you seen how many lovely cards are on sale in all the supermarkets? Perhaps it isn't true after all...

I think I'm going to try and have a Spring de-cluttering, clear out and recycle some random hoarded paper and card, tonnes of it. I may not succeed - wish me luck...

Meanwhile, spring flowers are beginning to emerge, green shoots vibrant with hope and promise.

Holding you in my prayers, Judith



SERVICES FOR THE GROUP in February

Rates of COVID infection in the local area ebb and flow and even the schools have closed so it has been decided that services for February will take place online. This will be reviewed in early March
 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
For anyone new to Zoom he will also offer support in getting it up and working on your computer.

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

Sunday, February 7th - *Second Sunday before Lent/Epiphany 5*



Sunday, February 14th - *Sunday before Lent/Epiphany 6*

Sunday, February 21st - *First Sunday in Lent*

Sunday, February 28th - *Second Sunday in Lent*

Sunday, March 7th - *Third Sunday in Lent*



Other special Dates in February and Wednesdays on Zoom



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

Weds, Feb 10th 3pm *Lectio Divina; Bible study*

Weds, Feb 17th- **Ash Wednesday**

10am *Holy Communion*
 6pm *Meditation & Prayer*

Rev'd Sue Martin will lead a Lent Study Group (theme tbc) on Wednesdays in Lent : 2.50 for 3pm on ZOOM!



Weds, Feb 24th and March 3rd

Thank you to Sue D and Kim F who have offered to help Julian deliver 'the Notes' in Gt Massingham. Please let us know of anyone who may wish to receive either the printed or emailed 'Notes'. Apologies if your copy is delayed in these strange times. Ed (01485 521866)

From the January Registers:

Funeral of **David Marcus Dodd**, at St Andrew's, Congham
Age 85, David is the brother of Hilary Scase, churchwarden at Congham.

22nd Pamela Hirons was buried in a graveside service in the churchyard of St Mary's, Great Massingham

26th Funeral of **Kathleen Ruth Batson**, age 96, at St Mary's, Gt M
A long-time loyal member of St Mary's and a supporter of the wider Christian community, Kathy was prevented from attending church in recent years by her health; never daunted she continued to uphold us all in her prayers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all these bereaved families

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

St Andrew's, Congham

Sundays 6 till 6



Mrs Kirsten Stibbon, Headteacher of our schools, writes:

The Spring term did not start as we all expected it to, for obvious reasons. Following the Prime Minister's announcement that we were in National Lockdown as of 5th January, Great Massingham and Harpley Primary Schools are once again only open for vulnerable pupils as well as those pupils whose parents are critical workers. Due to the high infection rates of Covid-19 in the country, we have chosen to maintain our 'bubbles' and keep both school sites open. Home learning is set on a weekly basis by class teachers who organise all lessons and activities in a weekly timetable. Children in school follow the same timetable to ensure that all pupils receive the same provision whether they are learning at home or at school. To further reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, members of staff work in school on a rota basis. Teachers are holding weekly Google Meets as they did during the last National Lockdown. These are used for teaching, group discussion and, of course, catching up with our friends! It's lovely to see the children's faces when they see each other and talk about what they have been doing at home and in school. As well as English and Maths work, the Junior class is learning about Volcanoes and Earthquakes. The Infants' class topic is The Fairground. We are hoping that we can open our doors to more pupils soon and we are all really looking forward to getting back to doing the things we really enjoy such as swimming, going to the gym and going on school trips to interesting places.

See the extended Notes for some pictures of school activities.



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE -

Answers to last month's puzzle:

This is a mos t re mark able puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu lu, ke eping him occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his boat. Roy Clark studied it playing his ban jo. El aine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving, s he brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerv es. Ther e will be some names that are really easy to spot...that's a f act. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, es pecially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The t ruth is f rom ans wers we get, we are forced to admi t it us ually takes a minister or scholar to see some of the m at the w orst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty that we have. T hose a ble 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 nor mal. A chi pper attitude will help you com pete. R emember there are 24 books of the Bible lur king s omewhere in this paragraph.

Bagthorpe Hall Snowdrop Walk (in association with the National Gardens Scheme) is planned for 21st February 11.00am - 4.00pm £5

No refreshments will be available.

Entry for children is free

To assist social distancing, **Entry by pre-booked tickets only** (22 available per hour : ~ 11am to noon already fully booked) **Check their website for booking and lockdown updates** <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/18577> -

Rev'd Sue Martin joins the team!!

Reverend Sue Martin has just been licensed to serve in our benefice as Assistant Priest (Non Stipendary Ministry, (ie unpaid)). The Bishop of Lynn, Rt Reverend Jonathan Meyrick retired on 25th Jan and one of his last tasks, on the 22nd, was to license Sue via Zoom - possibly the first Zoom service of this type! Sue lives in Gayton with husband Richard and has worked in our Group for many years so we are delighted that her significant long-standing contribution to our Ministry Team has now been affirmed. In the Norwich diocese, Sue was previously licensed as a Chaplain to The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House... more next month!



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 March issue of the 'Parish Notes' to the editor by
20th Feb- Rosemary Mehers rosemarymehers@hotmail.com or Tel: 01485 521866

Pupils enjoying playing with some new wooden blocks

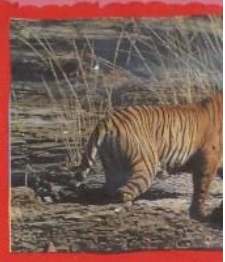


Animal posters produced by the infant class





TIGERS



Description
 A tiger is a big cat. It has big jaws and sharp claws. Tigers have stripes and black stripes.

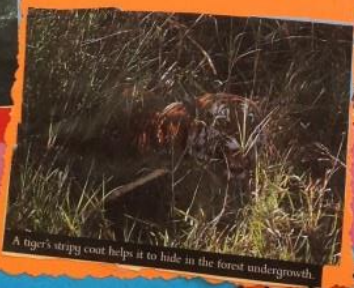
Habitat
 A tiger live in the wilds.

Diet
 Tigers are carnivores. They eat birds, they drink water and they eat some of...



This tiger is resting in the water to keep cool.

Interesting fact:
 tigers have 13 spots.



A tiger's striped coat helps it to hide in the forest undergrowth.





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.

A Sonnet on the Transfiguration

February 14th is the last Sunday before Lent. The Transfiguration of Christ is celebrated on August 6th but the reading for this Sunday, Mark 9: v2 to 9, is an account of the transfiguration

Malcolm Guite wrote 'The Transfiguration is usually celebrated on August 6th, but is also sometimes remembered on this Sunday before Lent, which is a good time for it too, as I believe the glimpse of glory in Christ they saw on the mount of the Transfiguration was given in order to sustain the disciples through darkness of Good Friday. Indeed it is for a disciple, looking back at the transfiguration from Good Friday, that I have voiced the poem.'

Transfiguration

For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
On that one mountain where all moments meet,
The daily veil that covers the sublime
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings
Just living glory full of truth and grace.
The Love that dances at the heart of things
Shone out upon us from a human face
And to that light the light in us leaped up,
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.