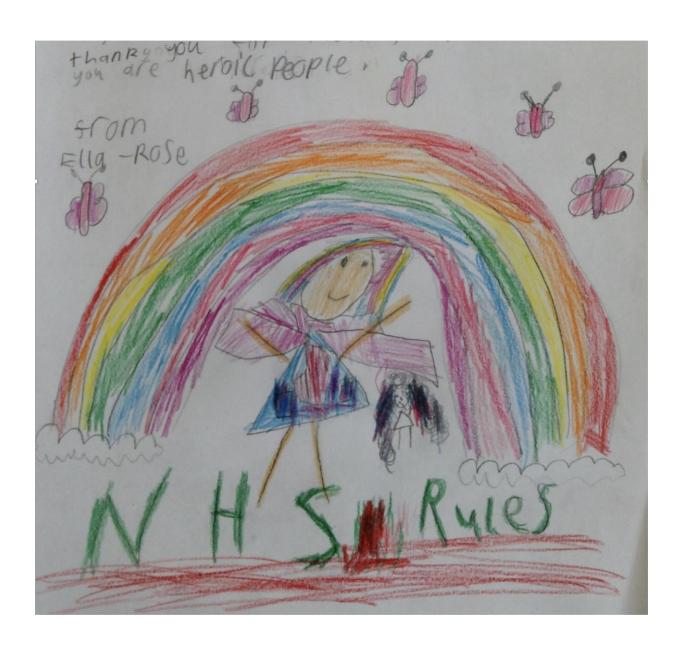
The Church Newsletter

for the parishes in the Benefice of Denver and Ryston with Roxham and Bexwell and Crimplesham



March 2021



We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ



Clergy*

Revd. Fr Richard Fordham

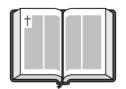
01366384271

or nichardfordham939@outlook.com

(* There will be no contact available via the Denver Rectory – changes from 20th Oct. 2019 until further notice)

Lay Minister	Mary Hurst	01366 383867
CHURCH OFFICERS		
St Mary the Virgin, Bexwell Churchwarden Churchwarden and Safeguarding Officer	Roy Shipton Fraser Reich	01366 384914 01366 382302
St Mary's, Crimplesham Churchwarden Churchwarden and Safeguarding Officer	Jim Lane Jessica Kibble	01366 383121 01366 387806
St Mary's, Denver Churchwarden Churchwarden Safeguarding Officer	Nigel Davies Mary Hurst Linden Leeke	01366 385428 01366 383867 01366 858596
St Michael's, Ryston Churchwarden Churchwarden Safeguarding Officer	Sarah Pratt Colin Sampson Nicholas Pratt	01366 383322 01366 388003 01366 382919

Please contact our Safeguarding Officers if you have any concerns about children or vulnerable adults. Our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer is Sarah King, on 01353 652735, or email sarahking@elydiocese.org



Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11 v.1

A message from Bishop Stephen of Ely -

One of the things I miss most in our Covid situation is being able to sing in church. I recall very vigorous singing in our church in Denver, and in Ryston. The children sang lustily when I visited Denver church school, too. I am a great fan of Dolly Parton, who has written a great ballad for the pandemic called *When life is good again*. In the song she prays to God to be a better friend and to let God in and seek forgiveness of her sins. In this season of Lent, we come before God to seek his grace and mercy so that we can be renewed as we take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. Only if we come to his cross will we see him as he is and then been drawn into Easter life.

Justin Timberlake, Madonna and Elton John have all had hit singles about saying 'Sorry'. Some people follow the saying that you should never explain and never apologise. Politicians have got out of the habit of owning up to getting something wrong and make smart quick turns of policy as though they do not believe that we shall notice. But I am with the singers. They are singing songs of regret about hurting their beloved. It is probably true that the nearer we are to someone, the more often we need to say 'sorry' for the ways in which we have not lived up to their deep love of us.

Monks and nuns live closely together for a lifetime with people whom God has chosen but they haven't. Standing in church next to the same person for thirty years with the same annoying habits can set the emotions raging. As one monk once said to me, 'If one of the brethren were murdered we would all be suspects.' As Elton John sings, 'Sorry seems to be the hardest word'.

The readiness to say 'sorry' and to ask to be forgiven is at the heart of being in any relationship and part of any community. But it is sometimes easier to be sorry than to forgive someone who is saying 'sorry' to us. Maggie was badly abused by her father and found it very hard to forgive even after forty years had passed. She took great solace in Jesus's words from the cross, asking the Father to forgive his tormentors. Maggie could cope with God doing the forgiving when she could not quite get there herself. Eventually she was able to forgive him, knowing that until she did he still had power over her.

Mary, a former parishioner of mine, told me that when she was a little girl she used to follow the curate around because he looked like Jesus as depicted in Victorian paintings. Well, Mr Westcott was very like Jesus on the inside; but his photograph reveals him as a handsome Anglo-Saxon and not as a first century Jew. Being like Jesus on the inside as valued human beings is what counts

We trust that God loves us and has mercy on us. The natural response of love is to say sorry for our sins against God and our neighbour. It is when we are forgiven that we re-enter the life of our Beloved.

Yours sincerely,

Bishop Stephen

A Poem by Helen McNicoll:

Ash Wednesday

As memories of pancakes vanish the Lenten offering awaits for bowed heads and contrite hearts.

N

Humanly torn crosses lie dismantled, echoing past and present human conflicts, along with self-made, bewildering human pain that numbs and paralyses the mind.

But those crosses are blessed, purified by God's cleansing fire, igniting the promise of growth to come. Blended by drops of healing, Holy oil. Ready to be used as a witness to God's great forgiveness and everlasting Love.

Strengthened with a million uttered prayers from every race and nation,
And outstretched helping hands,
so that we can live with renewed strength —
in God's Faith, Hope and Love

An insight from the past 44 Bexwell online services (April 20 - February 21)

Do you remember that old joke "When is a door not a door?" Answer: "When its ajar"? So here's a skewed modern take on that "When is church still a church?" Answer: "When it's online". That does not incorporate clever wordplay, but it does allow a springboard for some thoughts.

If you hear the phrase 'the village church', it tends to conjure up a Betjeman-like picture postcard view of a church with rustic seasonal festivals such as Harvest, ruddy-cheeked bell ringers and a whole host of other images of orderly practice. It is also often accompanied by an unashamedly nostalgic longing for simpler times. Don't misunderstand me: I'm not immune to that image either- and I am very enamoured of the ancient tower at Bexwell that dates from the early 10th century. Yet if I open my eyes and look at Britain in 2021, I also recognise that we cannot 'live' spiritually in that rose-tinted world. Certainly we are custodians of these history-filled churches and we must find ways to preserve them and also (importantly) open them up more for the communities in which they sit, but these last 11 months have forced me to think more about the relationship between the building and the church community.

In this time of pandemic I have considered once again "what is church after all?" A church community may find expression by making a building that is then called 'the church', but the building is not the totality of 'church'. In lockdown times when we cannot meet in the building, has the church community ceased to exist? No, of course not.

On April 19th 2020, we embarked on an experimental journey at Bexwell, taking services online. Like most people we assumed that the pandemic would be over by summer 2020, and that this activity would be a 'stop-gap'. Well, here we are, 11 months and 44 online services later, still going strong- but not merely out of continued necessity, but out of a true joy in discovering a different way to be 'church'. What started as a 'better this than nothing' approach to the online services, has, for me, and I know for many others, turned into a positive journey of rediscovering the meaning of 'church'. And here's the blindingly obvious conclusion that was there all alonghidden in plain sight- it's people. Church is not the form of the service or the colour of the frontals- it's people first and foremost. Of course people settle into patterns in their faith expression, but it is important not to confuse such patterns with the deeper meaning of 'church'. Nor should the building, no matter how we feel about its physical presence be co-extensive with 'church'. Church is community, church is people meeting together in whatever way to be together and to share their struggles and joys on the journey of faith.

Fraser Reich Bexwell To discuss procedures in the current crisis for baptisms, weddings or funerals, please contact Revd. Fr Richard Fordham

2 01366 384271 or ♥ richardfordham939@outlook.com

FUNERAL	LS The steadfast love of the L	ord never ceases.
		(Lamentations 3:22)
20 Jan 2021	Barbara BOKENHAM	Denver
08 Feb 2021	Hazel PEARCE	Denver
19 Feb 2021	Margaret Rose (Jane) POTTER	Denver
17 Mar 2021	Dinah WILMER	Denver
29 Mar 2021	Peter Mandeville COTTERELL	Denver

Pastoral Coordinator for the Benefice

Jean Evans is our Benefice pastoral coordinator.

If you feel lonely and want a chat or to see a friendly face, contact Jean.

To contact, please call: 01366 385808

Recommended – website - pray-as-you-go.org – music, scripture and prayer, a session for every day of the week, each lasting 10-13mins. There is an App that can be downloaded, but you don't have to be going anywhere to listen, and since most of us aren't going anywhere, a session at home with a cuppa is very calming.

Message from the Editor

There will be no paper copies of the newsletter unless you decide to print out the copy sent to you by email, and besides the full version an easy-to-print 3-4 page copy is attached with essential information. I count on all readers for whom I already have an email address to forward your copy to anyone you know who would like to be on the emailing list and to ask them, if they wish to continue to receive newsletters, to send their email direct to me (cardno@mac.com). This way I can build up an emailing list that will greatly facilitate communication. Yes, I know there is GDPR to consider, but I'm only spreading the net to the benefice community and most of us know one another's emails already.

Unfortunately after more than 10 months very few postal addresses have been provided to me of newsletter readers who would really prefer to continue receiving each issue in the traditional paper form.

The four parishes of the benefice have their respective pages on the ACNY (A Church Near You) web site - achurchnearyou.com; and the good news is - a benefice website is in preparation!

Deadline for any input you may have for the April issue of the newsletter is 25th. March 2021. Please send to Sheilah Cardno, St. Mary's Denver. E-mail: cardno@mac.com

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

The Parish Giving Scheme is a simple and efficient way to help you carry on with your regular giving using this scheme, or to start donating support for your church especially at this time when we cannot meet in the usual way. The scheme, supported by the Diocese, assists you in setting up direct debit payments to your church, including any Gift Aid, and if you wish, allows you to increase your gift annually to protect against inflation. In short, the benefits all round are:

- 1. The church benefits by:
 - a. Stable planned giving
 - b. Efficient and regular reclaim of Gift Aid
 - c. Protection against intermittent giving
- 2. The treasurer benefits by:
 - a. Reduced administration and paperwork
 - b. Access to monthly and annual statements (for tax & calendar year)
- 3. Saves time. The donor benefits by:
 - a. Being in total control of how much they give
 - b. Using a simple giving method that means regular financial support to their church
 - c. The option to increase giving annually to protect their gift against inflation
 - d. The Direct Debit Guarantee Scheme protects the gifts
 - e. Being able to remain anonymous if they so wish
 - f. Still being able to participate in the offertory by using tokens
- 4. If you would like further information about the scheme before deciding please visit www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/

GOD'S LOVE IS FREE: GOD'S WORK COSTS MONEY!



WORSHIP

Everyone is welcome to join with our worship of the Lord

Services: - Denver - St. Mary; Ryston - St Michael;

Bexwell - St Mary the Virgin; Crimplesham - St. Mary

Currently all four churches in the Benefice are closed until further notice. In the need of private prayer, please contact one of our church officers.

DEANERY ZOOM - EUCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY AT 11 am.

From: William Burke < wsdburke@outlook.com > (Zoom link the same every Sunday)

Bexwell continues to broadcast Sunday evening Zoom services – details on the Bexwell page of the newsletter

March 2021

	1 st	11.00am	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3119595155?pwd=dy9nNzR Jby910VprZG9nSzIMSEIPZz09	
Sunday 7 th .		8.00pm	Compline	Bexwell – Zoom
Monday 8 th				Oakes Court - suspended
Sunday 14 th	2 nd	11.00am	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3119595155?pwd=dy9nNzR Jby91OVprZG9nSzlMSElPZz09	
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Bexwell - Zoom
Sunday 21 st .		11.00am	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3119595155?pwd=dy9nNzR Jby910VprZG9nSzlMSElPZz09	
	3 rd	8.00pm	Prayer & Meditations	Bexwell - Zoom
Sunday 28 th .		11.00am	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3119595155?pwd=dy9nNzR Jby91OVprZG9nSzIMSEIPZz09	
	4 th .	8.00pm	Compline	Bexwell - Zoom
When there is a 5 th . Sunday	5 th .	11.00am	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3119595155?pwd=dy9nNzR Jby910VprZG9nSzIMSEIPZz09	
		8.00pm	Music Re-imagined	Bexwell – Zoom

April 2021 - schedule for Benefice churches

Good Friday	2 nd	12.00 pm	Easter Meditation	Denver
1 st Sunday Easter	4 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Crimplesham
Day		9.30 am	Holy Communion	Bexwell
		11.00 am	Holy Communion	Denver
Monday	5 th	3.00 pm	Holy Communion	Oakes Court- suspended
				suspended
2 nd Sunday of	11 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Ryston
Easter		11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Denver
		6.30 pm	Evensong	Bexwell
3 rd Sunday	18 th	11.00 am	Matins	Denver
of Easter		6.30 pm	Evensong	Ryston
4 th Sunday	25 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	Crimplesham
of Easter		11.00 am	Family Service	Denver
		8.00 pm	Zoom Service	Bexwell

Further information and guidance on church reopening can be found on the Church of England site — https://www.churchofengland.org - and the Diocese of Ely - https://www.elydiocese.org (a new website that really aims to explain who's who and what's what in the Diocese of Ely!) If in doubt about whether your church is open or not, please call your church officers.



NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ST MARY'S, DENVER



Jane Potter – sadly no longer with us in the choir

We felt we should just share this with you all. Colin, Jane's son, came around to return her books and we were very touched when he told us that the family thought it only right to dress Jane in her white choir fleece for her departing. The family knew how much Jane had enjoyed being involved with Denver Church, especially the choir where she loved to sing, as well as enjoy our company and social events.

Talking to Colin, and being present with other choir members at Jane's funeral, made us realize just how much good our church and the choir do for so many, especially for those living on their own. Let's hope it won't be long before we can all meet up again to sing and chat to one another, and enjoy a meal out together as we used to. Zoom services have been a boon, but they're not quite the 'real thing'.

Can't wait to see you all again. Hope you have all had your first jab and like us are now waiting for your second one, and then a chance to see the family!

Take care everyone, stay safe. Love Pat and Howard xx

No scheduled services or social activities are planned for the present.

Morning Prayer held on Tuesdays and the Prayer Group on Wednesdays are cancelled until further notice due to covid restrictions.

If you know of anyone who needs prayers please contact Carol Hewitt on 388319, or Hilda Bungay on 383904.

If you are unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Revd William Burke: 07770 630202 or wsgburke@outlook.com or Mary Hurst: 01366 383867

Supporting your church with the Parish Giving Scheme (See PGS on p. 5) – Denver

If you wish to receive the Parish Giving Scheme Donor Gift pack, please contact either: - David Wilson (Treasurer) 07555 960036 davidwilson1312@gmail.com or Christine Davies (PCC Secretary) 01366 385428 n.davies281@btinternet.com If you would like further information about the scheme before deciding please visit www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/



ST MARY'S, CRIMPLESHAM

Church Sunday services are suspended for the time being, but Private Prayer can be arranged by appointment by contacting Jim Lane on 01366 383121.

With sadness we say farewell to Anna Denny who is resigning as church warden as she and her husband Nick are moving to Dersingham. We thank Anna most sincerely for her input over these years and the work she has done for St. Mary's Crimplesham and the parish. We wish Anna and her family all best wishes for their new home and life in new surroundings.

Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk 2020

St. Mary's has received a half share of Sponsorship and Gift Aid monies, a total of £40.38p.

Neighbourly support & information.

If you have access to a computer there is a Facebook page for "Crimplesham Residents". Anyone who lives in Crimplesham can request to join the group. The page is updated with local information. Just recently several residents have kindly offered to collect prescriptions or get shopping for those confined to their homes during this time of isolation. Please ring me (Anna-01366 382455) If you haven't seen this page but would like a little help collecting shopping or prescriptions.

ST MICHAEL'S, RYSTON



Ryston APCM to be held on 6th. April at Ryston Hall (covid restrictions permitting)

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BEXWELL



Bexwell Services - any changes to the regular scheme will be announced in advance by email

March Services

As befits a church built in the 10th century and now looked after by 21st century people, the services range in style from Ancient (Compline) to Evening Prayer (Traditional) to Prayers and Meditations (Modern) to Music Re-imagined (Just very different).

1 st . Sunday 7 Mar.	8:00pm	Compline - This isn't just traditional, it's ancient. Its roots go back into the mists of time, with quiet calm and Gregorian-style singing.	Zoom
2 nd . Sunday 14 Mar.	6:30pm	Evening Prayer - a traditional Evening Prayer	Zoom
3 rd . Sunday 21 Mar.	8.00pm	Prayer and Meditations - gives us the opportunity to hold a much more 'open' type of service, with alternative liturgy, poems, and different types of readings.	Zoom
4 th . Sunday 28 Mar.	8.00pm	Prayer and Meditations or Compline	Zoom
5 th . Sunday When there is one.	8:00pm	Music Re-imagined - A chance for us to vote for music that we have accumulated in our Bexwell Vault and have used in previous services. No liturgy, just friendship.	Zoom

Getting a link to online services

If you would like to join us at our online services please email to <u>carole@reich.me.uk</u> and you will be included in the emails which have the link for services.

Bexwell Church Parish Profile

This year we have developed our Parish Profile in a paper and video format. If you would like to know a little about Bexwell Church please use this link and watch our video https://youtu.be/Gt5PL147vDc

There are 13 images to see and they have been timed to allow you to read the content

We are now registered with the Parish Giving Scheme so if you would like more information please e-mail to friendsofbexwell@gmail.com with Parish Giving Scheme in the subject line and your mailing address so that information can be sent to you. If you follow this link you can get further information about the scheme and how it works https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/

Denver VC Primary School

"Discover - Value - Celebrate - Praise"

Although the school has been closed for all but vulnerable and key worker children there have been lots of things happening with children learning and keeping in touch online. The children in and out of school work on the same learning tasks and have opportunities to see one another during collective worship which happens three times a week as a whole school and at other times in bubble groups. Staff have been able to create some special events which we thought you might enjoy hearing about.

Children's Mental Health Week

This is an annual event with the theme this year being 'Express Yourself'. The children explored what it means to express yourself, how this links to positive mental health and ideas for what we could do to express ourselves during our screen-free Friday. The children were also signposted to sources of support.

To ensure the children had plenty of opportunities to express themselves and to have a much-needed break from online learning, Friday 8th March was 'Screen-Free Friday' for learners in school and at home. Children were encouraged to do the things that make them feel good about themselves. In



school, both bubbles took part in cooking and decorating cakes, doing art and design activities, enjoying nature walks and extra PE. Our gardening group did an excellent job of brightening up the school grounds with colourful tubs of flowers. Learners at home also celebrated the day in a wide range of ways with cookery the most popular activity. We had so many photos sent in that our displays spread all the way down the corridor! We were particularly impressed at the children's baking creations, and the lovely artwork sent in. By the smiling faces, it looks like the children really enjoyed the day!







Winter Wonderland

In early February, the children finally saw the snow they had been hoping for, and whilst it brought its challenges, the positive benefits of building snowmen and making snow angels were clear to see.



Rainbow Superhero Day

The school joined other Norfolk schools in a collective Rainbow Superhero Day to celebrate hardworking critical workers, especially the NHS frontline staff. We thought you'd like to see the wonderful photos of the children dressed as superheroes. A selection of photos work was sent to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I know that this gesture will be greatly appreciated. It very moving to see how the children showed their

support for our amazing critical workers. Here is a selection of our superheroes.

Happily, the children will be back in school from 8th March when they can continue to Discover, Value, Celebrate and Praise.



(Parents have given their consent for the photos of their children to be taken and shown here) The children put some of their thoughts about NHS staff into their own words, we thought you would enjoy reading these.

and

was

Dare NHS

I am writing to thank-you for helping everyone to stay safe and being a superhoro and being brave. I appreciate you working hard at triving to keep people helthy and well. Once again fances for all you help.

From Amber.



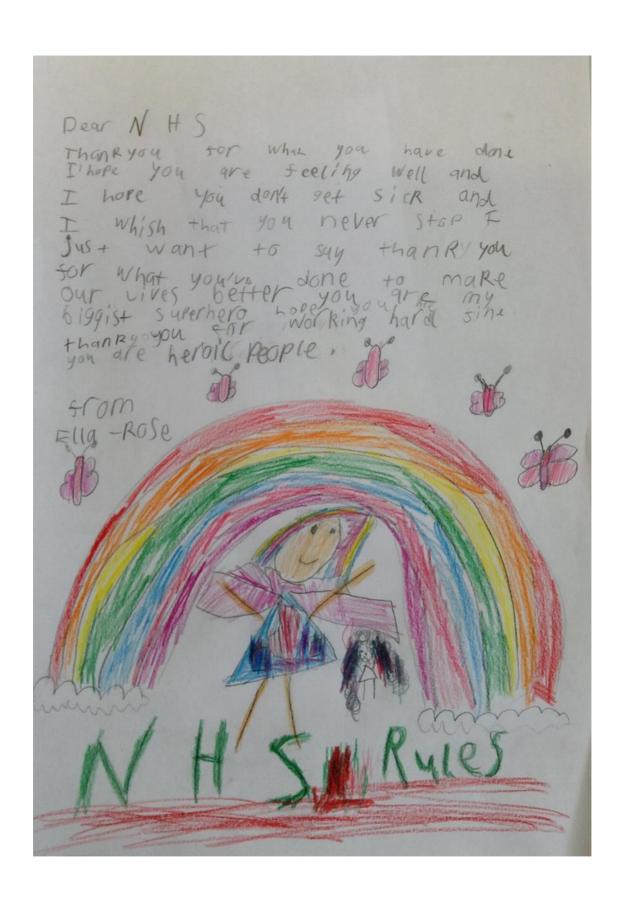
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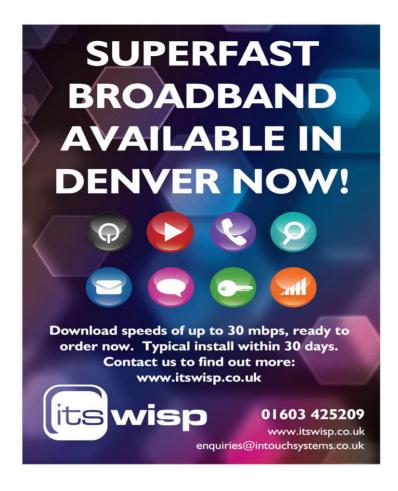
Thank you for belong all the porty people at the hospital all of you are supervisor, you are wonderful at helpingat the hospital I am gratified that you are helping people who are sick.

all you must be haffy for your self that you will at the hospital helfing all of the other NHS at hospital Right NOW in covid 19 1 wish or hope all the Porty People well well SOON.

By Amelie







itswisp / intouch systems – they're going places & your home in Denver or elsewhere could score by going with them! Worth enquiring.

