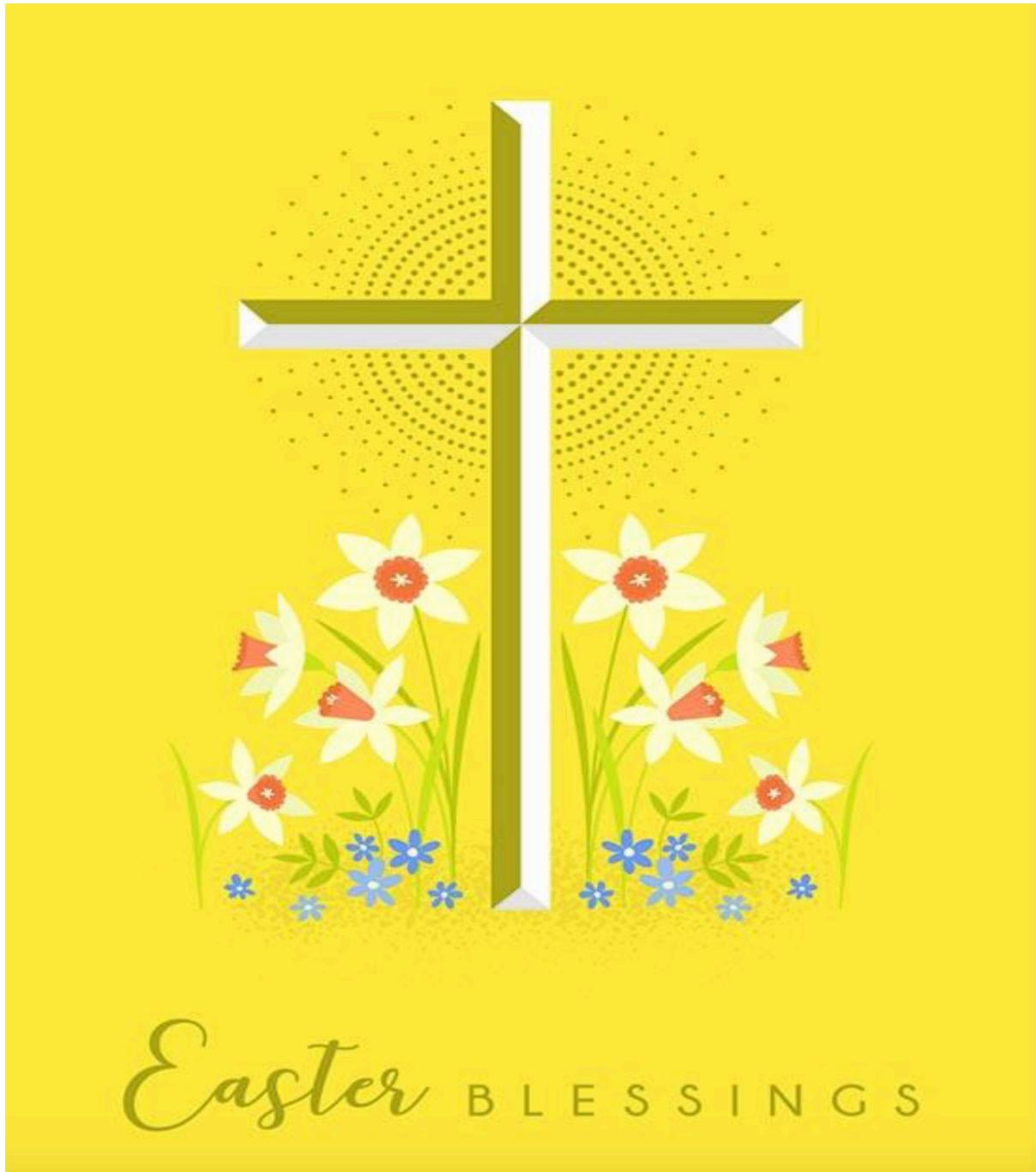


The Church Newsletter
for the parishes in the
Benefice of Denver and Ryston
with Roxham and Bexwell and Crimplasham



April-May 2021



We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ

Easter & Changing Seasons, Changing Lives April 2021



With Easter just around the corner we can look forward to the promise of new life in more ways than one: New life in the Resurrection of Christ and therefore new life after death for us, new life in the blossoming of flowers and the birth of little animals and birds and new life as we tip toe out of lockdown.

We have much to look forward to and whilst the last year has been full of illness, isolation and yes, grief, let us tomorrow, with a thankful heart, enjoy every minute that we can rejoicing in the world around us - for indeed the world we have around us in Norfolk is something to behold. The three of us, Hubby, Winnie (small naughty dog) and me have discovered places we never knew existed until we started taking our daily exercise around the local area.

I am sure, like me, you cannot wait to meet friends and family again, have a cuddle or hug, or even a weep when you first meet - that is what being human is all about - or it should be.

As well as changing seasons we, in the Fincham and Feltwell Deanery, are facing change. This can be either exciting, worrying or 'put your head in the sand' type thing.

We in Wissey Valley faced change last year when Ken upped sticks and headed for Cyprus. Did we wonder what was to happen - of course we did; did we wonder who would be in charge - you bet! When the opportunity came along for me to take the benefice on board was I apprehensive - yes, I am human. But, as soon as I prayed and sought guidance from our Faithful Father in Heaven my fears and self-doubt disappeared and with the blessing of our Ministry Family stepped out for the challenge. And then.....Covid struck. However, we have continued to be faithful servants of Christ with each of us using our individual gifts: Janet with her, now, expertise with Zoom, Burman with on-line Messy Adult Church, we have all played our part in keeping the church and its people together by technology and newsletters through the door as well as phone calls, prayer and the most important ingredient of all - LOVE.

Do everything in love and prayer and we can, together, journey through the rest of our lives in contentment and happiness facing whatever life can and will throw at us with a spirit of belonging to each other.

*Rev Carol Nicholas-Letch
Priest in Charge Wissey Valley Benefice
caroln153@hotmail.com
01366 500704*

A Renewed Resurrection

They nailed him to the cross
With companions on either side
Storm clouds grew darker
Earth preparing to break apart
Birds flying unsettled
Scattering for shelter
Woman's tears falling silently
From horror - struck bodies
The soldiers tossing lots
For ill-gotten gains
The braying, fickle crowds
Thinking they knew best
But the sacrificial, forgiving Jesus
Poured love on all he saw
He stretched out his hands
To believers and questioners alike
His feet pointed to God's created Earth
The land He knew and loved
His head so near the God
He worshipped and adored
There upon the cross
Man and God were one.
Can we live in this World's Crucifixion time?
Become one with God
Reflecting His holy teaching and caring
Drawing nearer to each other
Crossing divides of hearts and bodies.
Honouring our diverse planet
Helping healing and new growth
Letting the rhythm of his words
Beat through our hearts
Washing away our fears
Replacing tears with hope.
Lord hear our prayers
And lead us to a renewed Resurrection
Under the shelter of your Everlasting Love.

A Poem by Helen McNicoll

“Our Bard from Birmingham”



Pasque flowers

Reason for celebration at Bexwell

On April the 4th, Easter Sunday, as well as a celebration of resurrection and new life, we will be holding our 50th online service of the pandemic. The first was begun on April 19th 2020. Since that date we have had 1775 attendees at the online services. Is this a boast? Well, yes but only in as much as: 2 Corinthians 10:17 “As the scripture says, “Whoever wants to boast must boast about what the Lord has done.” and 2 Corinthians 9:10 “And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity”. We are as surprised and delighted as everyone else that we have been able to find a fresh expression in tough times, and that it has met some needs. And so finally: Isaiah 43:19 “For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness”

Fraser Reich
Bexwell

One of our online members, known affectionately in this parish as “The Bard of Birmingham”, wrote a short, haiku-like poem to celebrate:

A table laid fifty times
Eager diners from near and far
Nourishment for soul and mind.
Glasses filled with rich new wine.
We hear God’s blessing. Feed my lambs.



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

☎ **01366 384271**

or 📧 richardfordham939@outlook.com

WEDDINGS *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love*

17 th . April 2021	Issar HUSSAIN & Anna MAHESWAREN	at Crimplesham
29 th . May 2021	Duncan J WILSON & Catherine F DENNY	at Bexwell

FUNERALS *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.*
(Lamentations 3:22)

8 th . April 2021	George COOPER	Mintlyn
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Pastoral Initiative

We are in the planning stage of pastoral initiative for our benefice.

The first stage was for each church to have a contact person who would be aware of the care needs of their church/community. This stage is nearing completion.

The second stage is to form a Pastoral Benefice team, so we can start to put together an outreach programme to respond to those needs. We are looking for people who can commit some time to this project. If you feel you are being called to this ministry or would just like to know more.

Contact no: 01366385808

Jean Evans

Pastoral Co-Ordinator

Denver Benefice

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.

Deadline for any input you may have for the June-July issue of the newsletter is 25th. May 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!

"Churches Together" at Downham Market provide each Year Six child moving on to secondary education in our Deanery with a booklet "It's Your Move", published by Scripture Union. This contains useful tips for pupils to help them in the significant change from the comforting environment familiar to them since starting school.

Unfortunately Churches Together, like charities and churches everywhere, have been short of funds this year. A contribution to this very worthwhile cause would be very helpful: Details from their Treasurer Peter King at 01366 502 110



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**

**Bexwell continues to broadcast Sunday evening Zoom services at 8.00 pm–
details on the Bexwell page of the newsletter**

April 2021 – schedule for Benefice churches

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

May 2021 – schedule for Benefice churches

5 th of Easter	2 nd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Ryston
		11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Denver
		8.00 pm	Zoom Service	Bexwell
Monday	3 rd	3.00 pm	Holy Communion	Oakes Court (TBC)
6 th of Easter	9 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Crimplesham
		11.00 am	Matins	Denver
		8.00 pm	Zoom Service	Bexwell
Thursday Ascension Day	13 th	7.30 pm	Holy Communion	Denver
7 th of Easter	16 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Bexwell
		11.00 am	Holy Communion	Denver
		6.30 pm	Evensong	Ryston Cancelled
		8.00pm	Zoom Service	Bexwell
4 th Sunday Pentecost	23 rd	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Crimplesham
		11.00 am	Family Service	Denver
		8.00 pm	Zoom Service	Bexwell
5 th Sunday Trinity	30 th	9.30 am	Benefice Service	Ryston
		11.00 am	Holy Communion	TBC
		8.00 pm	Zoom Service	Bexwell



NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ST MARY'S, DENVER



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 wdsburke@outlook.com or Mary Hurst: 01366 383867

Supporting your church with the Parish Giving Scheme (See PGS on p. 7) – 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.

We will be returning to our Sunday services at St. Mary's Crimplesham with HOLY COMMUNION at 9.30am on EASTER SUNDAY 4th. April. Due to Covid restrictions we are at less than 50% capacity so please ring JESSICA on 01366 387806 or JIM on 01366 383121 to book your pew for EASTER SUNDAY.
Then it will be MORNING PRAYER on the 4th. Sunday April 25th. at 9.30am.
We will still have to follow the Covid restrictions for these services.

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. If anyone needs help with collecting prescriptions or shopping please let Facebook know and someone will be able to help.

ST MICHAEL'S, RYSTON



2nd. Sunday of Easter, at 9.30am, Holy Communion at Ryston.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BEXWELL



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

April-May 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	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	8:00pm	Evening Prayer - a traditional Evening Prayer	Zoom
3 rd . Sunday	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	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

Link to Bexwell Zoom services:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3119595155?pwd=dy9nNzRJby91OVprZG9nSzlmSElPZz09>

Direct reminder of online services

If you would like to join us at our online services please email to carole@reich.me.uk 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”

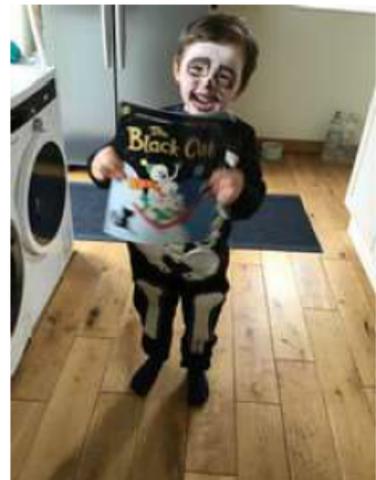
What a challenging term the school has had! From the announcement that schools would close on 4th January, to the challenges of remote learning, and of course the children’s return on 8th March, they’ve had it all this term! Although looking back it has been a difficult term, there have been many positives with many in the community pulling together. Here is a little insight into the day-to-day life of Denver VC School.

Covid-19

The school feels extremely fortunate that to date they have not had any positive cases of Covid-19 during the term. This is testament to the control measures in place, and the response of the whole school community in working together to make the school as safe a place as is possible. We hope that this continues during the holiday but the school has measures in place to ensure correct advice is given to their families and appropriate authorities are notified. As with other schools, they have available lateral flow tests for use by the school families.

World Book Day

Although World Book Day fell in the school closure period, it did not stop everyone from celebrating, both in school and at home. As usual, the children dressed up as their favourite book characters and took part in different activities to celebrate reading. They also took home a £1 World Book Day voucher. Here are some children in Class 1 in their fantastic costumes.



Toys

Throughout this term, the children in Classes 1 and 2 have been studying toys from long ago. They would normally visit Ely Museum to learn more about this topic, however the museum is currently closed due to coronavirus. Instead, an online session with the museum was organised for both the children in school and at home. On the children’s return, they were able to handle the resources that had been left in school. The children enjoyed discovering the toys and asking lots of questions.



English Football League – The Joy of Movement

Children across the school were treated to a special welcome back assembly on March 8th focussing on the positivity of physical exercise and the values of the ‘EFL -The Joy of Movement Winter Games’ which link closely to wellbeing.

The assembly was led by representatives of Norwich City Community Sports Foundation. They linked up via Microsoft Teams to the 4 bubbles. The assembly gave the children opportunities to be active by playing games such as ‘Do this, do that’ and ‘Guess the sport’. In between activities the children were given opportunities to reflect on their experiences during lockdown, celebrating achievements, their feelings about returning to school and what they hope to achieve in the coming weeks and months.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience that had the children smiling (as you can see from the pictures) and interacting in a positive way and banishing any butterflies on the very first day back to school after lockdown.



Mothering Sunday Posies

On March 12th, the school continued with tradition and once again made Mothering Sunday posies in school. People from across the benefice helped by collecting greenery, sorting out oasis and plastic trays, which will be collected to re-use next year. The children made some lovely arrangements for their mums.

Pantomime Fun

On 12th March, to mark the end to a positive first week back at school, the children were treated to watching a recorded version of The Wizard of Oz. To help bring the theatre to the classrooms, including ice cream and popcorn for the children to enjoy.

Comic Relief

On Friday 19th March, the school held a non-uniform day to mark Comic Relief. A number of children came to school wearing their red noses. They raised a total of £93.50 which was split between the School Council Funds and Comic Relief.

Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge

Throughout the period of Lent, the school have been engaged with Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge, the theme of which this year has been about hope and the future. Each week during Lent, the children have looked at a different theme and thought carefully about what their hopes are for the future. The children engaged with a range of activities, including writing prayers of hope. They also worked on a song about hope with Mr Lawrence and for the first time in a year the school gathered together, socially distanced, on the playground to record a final version. They also reached out to the local community, in particular care homes, to send Easter messages to bring some much-needed joy to those most affected by the pandemic.



Easter Fun

For Easter each child was sent home with an Easter egg generously donated by our former Vicar, Judith Grundy. Waitrose also kindly donated eggs for the children which they had to find during an Easter egg hunt.



(Parents have given their consent for the photos of their children to be taken and shown here)

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