Dereham and District Team Ministry

The parishes of Dereham, Scarning, Swanton Morley, Beetley with East Bilney, Hoe, Shipdham and East with West Bradenham

http://derehamanddistrictteam.org.uk

This Week in our Churches

Week beginning 29th November 2020

First Sunday of Advent	29	There are no open services in any of our churches due to the lockdown, Please refer to the Home Page of the Team Ministry Website for information about online services.
Monday	30	
Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	
Thursday	3	
Friday	4	
Saturday	5	
Second Sunday of Advent	6	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP), Dereham 9.30am Holy Communion, Dereham 9.30am Holy Communion, Beetley 11.15am Morning Prayer, Scarning 11.15am Holy Communion, Swanton Morley 11.15am Morning prayer, Shipdham 4.00pm Zoom Evening Prayer

The St Nicholas Sanctuary Flowers: Last Sunday the flowers were given to John and Margaret Hunt. Margaret writes, 'Thank you so much for the flowers you sent to us. A lovely surprise and very much appreciated'.

St Nicholas Planned Giving 2021 Envelopes will be available from the beginning of December. If you would like to join the Planned Giving scheme and have a pack of envelopes, which can be used weekly or monthly or even occasionally, please speak to Marguerite Otty. You can also give by Standing Order direct from your bank. This is the easiest way to give for you and the best way to give from the churches point of view, as the money continues to come in even when the church is closed due to lockdown. With either method it is easy to change the way you give and also the amount at any time. To discuss your options speak to Marguerite. She will be delighted to advise you.

A message from Michael Callow: 'Thank you so much to all the Benefice Churchwardens and Office volunteers for the flowers, gift card and very apt retirement card that has recently been presented to me. The bouquet of flowers that Liz received is simply stunning and its a shame that more people are unable to see it due to the current lockdown. She passes on her sincere appreciation for this very considerable gesture. I have been unable to do any gardening at all this year so the garden gift card will encourage me to look forward and make plans for the Spring of 2021 and consider how to make up for lost time. It has been a thoroughly rewarding 12 years, challenging at times, but has also been great fun. I have made many friends and would like to thank everyone for the friendship and support they have given over the years.
With many thanks Michael and Liz'

Traidcraft: Kate still has some Christmas Cards left and some Christmas Gift items. Please do give her a ring on 695503 and arrange to view from her 'Car Shop' or pop down to St Nicholas on a Monday morning between 10 and 12 (socially distanced and outside).

Ecochurch: At St Nicholas we have decided to follow the Ecochurch programme which is run by an international environmental charity called A Rocha. You can find out about this by going to their website. From next week, as a start we are having an Environmental Tip of the Week in the newsletter.

Christmas cards: Due to the Covid restrictions it will not be possible to use the post box at St Nicholas this year and we also respectfully ask that members of the congregation do not hand distribute cards in church on the days leading up to Christmas due to the possibility of transference of infection. You may choose to make a donation to your favourite charity or church funds instead and if you would like to wish your church family a Happy Christmas please email the Newsletter and your good wishes will be printed during the month of December.

Extracts from the B Armstrong's Diary:

November 26th, 1874

Walked home after lunch at Gressenhall to find dear Helen sobbing, and with a telegram in her hands. Telegrams almost always forbode evil rather than good.
It was to the effect that Arthur Nelson had discovered the whereabouts of Lilly - that he had followed her, procured a license, called at 8.30 this morning, induced Lilly to go out with him, and that they returned at 9.30 just as my wife was coming in to breakfast and announced that they had just been married by the Vicar at the Parish Church. (Find out Armstrong's reaction next week!)

Note: Helen was the diarist's eldest daughter and Lilly (Louisa) was his second daughter.

Our Clergy

Team Rector	The Rev'd Canon Paul Cubitt	tel 694107	day off Monday
Team Vicar	The Rev'd James Rosie	tel 637311	day off Friday
Assistant Clergy	The Rev'd Jane Nursey	tel 697058	
	The Rev'd Doreen Fotherby	tel 821481	

Advent & Christmas in an unknown lockdown situation: We are all finding lockdown difficult for many reasons. As churches we are not sure what Government guidance will be surrounding the lifting of lockdown on 2nd December or what tier we will be in when we come out and what we can safely do consequently.

Advent Sunday falls on 29th November. There will be no church services that day under lockdown rules. We will be producing an Advent service for the benefice that will be published on our YouTube channel (St Nicholas' Church Dereham). There will be a link on the home page of the website https://www.derehamanddistrictteam.org.uk/.

Carol Services are listed opposite but may be subject to cancellation under Covid-19 restrictions. To make things safer some of the small village church carol services have been relocated to a larger church where there is greater scope of social distancing (see church notice boards and social media about free tickets to carol services). Singing of carols will be led by socially distanced singers, under the current rules the congregation will be limited to humming. There will be many who remain isolating or worried about attending a carol service but will still be able to access a benefice Carol Service which will be on YouTube from Sunday 20th December onwards (see above for details).

All our ***Christingle Services*** have been cancelled as we cannot keep social distances. This is a huge disappointment to us but we do plan to have Christingles that can be collected from the churches in kit form and a Christingle celebration service than can be viewed at home on Christmas Eve via our YouTube channel. Donations for the work of the Children's Society can be left when Christingles are collected.

Assuming we are back in church on the 6th December…

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Dereham
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Dereham

This service takes place on St Nicholas' Day and there will be opportunities to leave gifts for the foodbank, and a financial gift for the ministry of the church.

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Beetley
11.15 am	Morning Prayer	Scarning
11.15 am	Holy Communion	Sw. Morley
11.15 am	Morning Prayer	Shipdham
4.00 pm	Zoom evening prayer	

Sunday 13th December

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Dereham
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Dereham
9.30 am	Holy Communion	East Bilney
9.30 am	Holy Communion BCP	Hoe
10.00 am	Outdoor Carols at the Green in Bradenham	
11.15 am	Holy Communion	Scarning
11.15 am	Morning Prayer	Sw. Morley
11.15 am	Holy Communion	Shipdham
4.00 pm	Zoom evening prayer	

Wednesday 16th December

10.00 am	Holy Communion	Dereham
10.00 am	Holy Communion	Shipdham
7.00 pm	Carol Service	Scarning

Thursday 17th December

7.00 pm	Carol Service	Sw. Morley

Friday 18th December

6.00 pm	Bradenham Carol Service at Shipdham

Sunday 20th December

A Benefice Carol Service will be produced on YouTube this day.

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Dereham
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Dereham
11.15 am	Holy Communion	Scarning
11.15 am	Morning Prayer	Sw. Morley
11.15 am	Holy Communion	Shipdham
4.00 pm	Carol Service	Dereham
4.00 pm	Carol Service for Bilney, Beetley and Hoe at Swanton Morley	
6.00 pm	Carol Service	Shipdham
4.00 pm	Zoom evening prayer	

Wednesday 23rd December

10.00 am	Holy Communion	Dereham
10.00 am	Holy Communion	Shipdham

Christmas Eve

Christingle Service on YouTube

10.00 pm	'Midnight' Communion Hoe
10.00 pm	'Midnight' Communion Bradenham

Trivia – 10 pm is midnight in Bethlehem.

11.30 pm	Midnight Communion	Scarning
11.30 pm	Midnight Communion	Shipdham

Christmas Day

8.00 pm	Holy Communion	Dereham
9.30 am	Family Communion	Dereham
10.00 am	Holy Communion	Beetley
10.00 am	Family Communion	Sw. Morley
10.00 am	Family Communion	Shipdham

Sunday December 27th

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Dereham
10.00 am	Benefice Service	Dereham

nb – later start.

St Nicholas Gift Weekend - 5th and 6th December: This year has been different in so many ways. There are so many things that we are unable to do – spend time with friends, go on holiday, hug other people, celebrate special occasions and attend weddings and funerals of people we love – among other things. However, it has given us the opportunity to do other things – to take stock of life, to appreciate small acts of kindness, to read the Bible, to listen to what God wants us to do. It has also enabled us to think about different ways of giving. Usually, we celebrate our patronal festival with the Toy Service. We have remembered St. Nicholas obeying Jesus by selling what he had to give money to the poor. We have remembered the legend of his throwing gold coins into the house of a poor man to provide a dowry for his three daughters and the coins landing in their stockings.

But this year is different. **The needs of our neighbours in this time of pandemic are much greater.**

Jesus said the first commandment was to love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and the second commandment was to love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12: 29 – 31)

We are asking that on St. Nicholastide, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th, that you make a gift to either or both of the following worthwhile causes:

Our Neighbours in Dereham

For many families in Dereham this year has been tough. Some have lost jobs, work shorter hours or have rent arrears from the first lockdown. To help those in greatest need we propose to support the Food Bank in their preparation of Christmas fare for families. These are the goods they have asked for:

- Tinned ham
- Tinned salmon
- Tinned custard
- Mince Pies
- Christmas Puddings
- Selection Boxes
- Biscuits
- As a special reference to St. Nicholas, why not include a chocolate orange or chocolate coins.

(*We regret that this year the Salvation Army are not accepting gifts of toys for distribution in Dereham*.)

Our Church of St. Nicholas

This year has been special in that we have welcomed a new Rector. The Church is now open daily, our congregation is increasing and we can partake in daily services on-line. However, the Pandemic has had a disastrous effect on Church finances. Less money has been collected from services, especially festivals. Social events and fundraising have been halted. And yet we still have obligations. There is a shortfall in our budget this year of over £6000. *Could you help our Church in its mission to tell the good news of Jesus Christ by giving more generously this year?*

But how much should we give?

Jesus tells of the great value of the widow's gift when she gives all she has. (Mark 12: 41 – 44)

Perhaps we could give to others money that we will save in these difficult times:

- The cost of a Christmas meal
- The money we would have spent on fuel visiting family
- The price of a meal we might have eaten out with friends at Christmastime
- Money we would have spent celebrating with others from social clubs
- *If we don't need it*, our winter fuel allowance

What to do now:
Bring your gifts (either or both) to St. Nicholas Church on 5th or 6th December between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm. THANK YOU.

Today's Worship
First Sunday of Advent

Collect:

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Psalm: 80.1-8,18-20

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;

2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned
upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

3 Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.

4 *Turn us again, O God;*
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

5 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

6 You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

8 *Turn us again, O God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

19 And so will we not go back from you;
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.

20 *Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

Gospel Reading: Mark 13.24-37

For our prayers:

The Sick: John Harbord, Jean Rowe, Christine Hawthorne, Chris Peart, Colin Sampford, Carol Wright, Jeannette Lawes, Emma Steere, George Sillince, Jean Fairweather, Roger Hodson, Baby Levi Cameron Lucas, Revd Jenny Taylor, Helena Allen, June Burleigh, Graeme Brunning, Shirley Wade, Sylvia Blacker, Ann Cokayne
Please continue to pray for: Angela Watkins, Eileen Malt, Peter Johnson, Niko Sinclair, Canon Derek Price.

The Recently Departed: Mary Gough.

Post Communion:

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for Next Week: Isaiah 40.1-11, Psalm 85.1-2,8-13, Mark 1.1-8