

This Week in our Churches

Week beginning 1st March, 2026

Sunday 1st	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt	
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt	
	<i>Second Sunday</i>	9.30am	Parish Communion	Beetley	The Revd J Fernando
	<i>Of</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bradenham	The Revd L Purnell
	<i>Lent</i>	9.30am	Cafe Church	Shipdham	Mrs H Jeckells & Mr M Purnell
		11.15am	Morning Prayer	Scarning	The Revd P Cubitt
		11.15am	Parish Communion	Swanton Morley	The Revd L Purnell
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service	Eckling Grange	The Revd L Purnell	
	4.00pm	Sacred Space	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt	
	6.00pm	Compline, see via Facebook.			
Mon 2nd	9.30am	Outdoor working party	Dereham		
	7.30pm	Lent Course	Shipdham Rectory		
Tues 3rd	7.00pm	Pilgrim Course		Mark and Ruth Thorpe	
Wed 4th	9-11am	Open church & Pop-Up Pantry, Shipdham			
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt	
	11.30am	Holy Communion	Shipdham	The Revd L Purnell	
	7.30pm	Deanery Synod	Church House		
	7.00pm	Bell ringing practice	Scarning		
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Shipdham		
Thur 5th	10.00am	Coffee, cake and company, Swanton Morley			
	2.00pm	Lent Course	Shipdham		
Fri 6th	12.30pm	Lent Lunch	Church House		
	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer	Trinity Methodist Church		
	7.30pm	Bell ringing	Swanton Morley		
Sat 7th	10.00am	Air and Share	Church House		
Sunday 8th	8.00am	Holy Communion	Dereham	The Revd L Purnell	
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Dereham	The Revd L Purnell	
	9.30am	Cafe Church	Bradenham Village Hall,	Mr M Purnell Mrs H Jeckells	
	9.30am	Parish Communion	East Bilney	The Revd D Ackroyd	
	9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Hoe	The Revd M Newey	
	11.15am	Holy Communion	Scarning	The Revd J Fernando	
	11.15am	Holy Communion	Shipdham	The Revd L Purnell	
	11.15am	Morning Prayer	Swanton Morley	The Revd M Newey	
	6.00pm	Compline, see on Facebook.			

News for the Pews

Benefice Prayer meeting Tuesday 3rd March.

You are invited to attend the Benefice prayer meeting which will be held at Eckling Grange (NR20 3BB) – in the Gatehouse, starting at 7:15pm. Directions to the Gatehouse: from Norwich Road, come into Eckling Grange grounds by the main entrance, straight past left turn (which leads to the front of the house). Then slightly left towards the Wing on the left and Gatehouse on the right immediately before the closed delivery gate into Mattishall Road. There are parking spaces immediately outside the Gatehouse.

All are welcome, whether or not you have previously participated in meetings for prayer. As usual, we will pray for the Churches of Dereham and the villages; our Church leaders, local communities and activities; current events here and around the world; and for healing and peace for individuals who have requested our prayer support. If you are unable to attend in person, but have a request for prayer, for yourself or on behalf of another, please speak to someone who you know will be attending the meeting, or email prayerrequestc777@gmail.com You needn't provide your own name, and please don't name anyone for whom you are requesting prayer, unless they have given you permission. Strict confidentiality is kept: we refer to first names only during our meetings.

Easter Lilies at St Nicholas If you would like to contribute towards the cost of a lily in memory of a loved one, to be placed in church as part of our Easter decorations, please put £2.50 per lily in an envelope clearly marked EASTER LILIES, giving your name and the name of the person to be remembered, and hand to a churchwarden or place in the letterbox of Church House by 15TH MARCH.

Notice is hereby given of the intention to renew the **Electoral Roll** for St. Nicholas Church in 2026. This occurs annually, and this year will be between 14-28th March. Any new names may be added between these dates (Application & GDPR Forms available at the rear of the Church next to the PCC Board) and any existing persons who wish their names to be removed may do so in advance of the APCM Meeting scheduled for 19th April. For the latter, please advise me in writing (preferably by e-mail) within the due dates in March, as indicated above. Thank you.

Grenville Smith

Electoral Roll Officer

e-mail: chez.grenville@btinternet.com

Sacred Space in St Nicholas Church: Sunday evenings during Lent at 4pm.

These are evenings of quiet reflection (4.00-4.30) followed by Bible study and Worship (4.30-5.15). These evenings are for the whole parish and not just for the congregations. Learning how to pray and praying better will be at the heart of each evening, as the disciples asked, 'Lord, teach us to pray'.

Sunday 1 st March	Prayer and the Senses
Not on the 8 th March (Licensing of the new Rector of Mattishall 5pm)	
Sunday 15 th March	Prayer and Music
Sunday 22 nd March	Prayer and Language
Sunday 29 th March	Prayer and Fasting
Sunday 5 th April	Putting it together at Easter

Lent Courses

All are welcome to attend the Lent course running in Shipdham. This will run at The Rectory on Monday evenings with Rev Laura and in a home on Thursday afternoons with Rev Doreen. We shall be doing the Lentwise course by Paula Gooder. The course is described like this...'As we journey through life we face challenges - both big and small. What spiritual essentials will help us survive life's storms? Lentwise is a five session course that helps us deal with the rigours of real life.' Do contact Rev Laura or Rev Doreen for more information. Fliers are in all the churches.

Lent Lunches in Church House 12noon for 12.30pm

Fridays in Lent are March 6th, March 13th (with Café Communion, 11.30 for 12noon) and March 20th.

Please get a free ticket from Sue Barker or call Church Office on 01362 693143 to help us with numbers for catering. All proceeds from the lunches will be split between Nelson's Journey and Church Funds.

This year's **World Day of Prayer** has been prepared by the women of Nigeria and will be held in the Trinity Methodist Church at 2pm on Friday March 6th. All are welcome and the service will be followed by refreshments.

Making connections at St Nicholas church. We are holding an **Air and Share** session to consider how we can improve the ways we welcome new people, how we keep in touch with those who can no longer attend regular services, and ways for us all to get to know each other better. Please join us on **Saturday 7th March, 10am in Church House.** Marion, Martin and Sheila.

Mothers' Union

The March Mothers' Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday March 11th at 2.30pm in the Gatehouse at Eckling Grange. Alistair and Sue Beatty will be speaking about Living with a Terminal Illness. All partners and friends welcome.

Confirmation: Sunday 24th May. If you are interested in being Confirmed/exploring the Christian faith, please contact the Rector.

Eco Church - Climate Stewards Carbon Fast for Lent. Each week there are ideas and challenges to reduce our Carbon Footprints and you can sign up to receive the weekly email. This week we are thinking about how we can consume less. Contentment is about finding joy in what we already have, so let's not over-consume. REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE REPAIR! Do take a look at the Eco Church board for more details or go to <https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent> Please contact me at kate.baldry@hotmail.co.uk if you have any questions or would like some help. Thank you.

Resurfacing Dereham Market Place & Church Street –Monday 2nd March, vehicle access from the High Street will not be possible, temp traffic signals on Withburga Lane.

A47 Closure - There is another weekend full road closure planned from 8pm on Friday 20th March to 6am on Monday 23rd March 2026 for moving traffic onto the Wood Lane Junction.

Recently departed : Margaret Travis

Upcoming funerals : Margaret Travis, Tues 17th March, 11.00am, Shipdham

Those on the anniversary of their death : Raymond Burleigh and Noel Hindle.

For our prayers: Jenny Taylor, Sylvia Blacker, Jean Fairweather, Cheryl Lister, Doug Speed, Pat & Brian Ogden, Peter Hunt, Ann Betts, Chris and Ivy, Val Stebbings, Baby Forrest, Irene & John Farrall, Pam Walker, June Burleigh, Maureen & Peter Hart, Robin & Joan Loveday, Melva Brunning, and Thelma Smith.

Prayers and Collects

Invitation to confession

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence
and faith.

Collect

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus
Christ,
who has given us access to his
grace. *cf Romans 5.1,2*

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help
ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt
the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow
him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Our Clergy

Team Rector
The Rev'd Canon Paul Cubitt
tel 694107
teamrector.dereham@gmail.com
rest day Monday

Team Vicar
The Rev'd Laura Purnell
revlaurapurnell@gmail.com
tel 821249
rest day Friday

Assistant Curate (Part time)
The Rev'd Michael Newey
assistantcurate.dereham@gmail.com
tel 07740 824877
*The Revd Michael will continue to
work full time, but will be in the
Benefice on Sundays.*

The Rev'd Doreen Fotherby
tel 01362 821481

The Rev'd Carole Prouse
tel 01362 423408

This week's readings – two from
Genesis 12.1-4a
Romans 4.1-5,13-17
John 3.1-17
Psalm 121

Next week's readings from
Exodus 17.1-7
Romans 5.1-11
John 4.5-42
Psalm 95

Church Office, Church House, Church Street, Dereham, NR19 1DN
Telephone 01362 693143 email: parish.office.dereham@gmail.com
Website: <http://derehamanddistrictteam.org.uk>

**Benefice Newsletter items: derehamanddistrictteam@gmail.com
deadline 11am Tuesday**