

This Week in our Churches

Week beginning 8th February, 2026

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| Sunday 8th | 8.00am 9.30am | Holy Communion Parish Communion | Dereham Dereham | The Revd P Cubitt The Revd P Cubitt The Revd M Newey |
| Second Sunday before Lent | 9.30am | Cafe Church | Bradenham Village Hall | Mrs H Jeckells |
| | 9.30am | Parish Communion | East Bilney | The Revd J Fernando |
| | 9.30am | Morning Prayer (BCP) | Hoe | The Revd L Purnell |
| | 11.15am | Holy Communion | Scarning | The Revd P Cubitt |
| | 11.15am | Holy Communion | Shipdham | The Revd D Fotherby |
| | 11.15am 6.00pm | Morning Praise Compline, see on Face Book | Swanton Morley | The Revd L Purnell The Revd M Newey |
| Mon 9th | 9.30am 7.30pm | Outdoor working party Bible Study | Dereham Shipdham Rectory | |
| Tues 10th | 11.30am 2.00pm | Funeral of Hank Harris Funeral of Barrie Alcock | Swanton Morley Dereham | The Revd P Cubitt The Revd P Cubitt |
| Wed 11th | 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 |
| | 2.00pm | Thanksgiving Service of Keith Otty, Dereham | | The Revd P Cubitt |
| | 2.30pm | Holy Communion | Shipdham Manor | The Revd D Fotherby |
| | 7.00pm | Bell ringing practice | Scarning | The Revd L Purnell |
| | 7.30pm | Bell ringing practice | Shipdham | |
| Thur 12th | 10.00am 7.30pm | Coffee, cake and company, Swanton Morley Extra bell ringing practice | Dereham | |
| Fri 13th | 7.30pm 5-10pm | Bell ringing Candlelight Experience | Swanton Morley Dereham | |
| Sunday 15th | 8.00am | Holy Communion | Dereham | The Revd P Cubitt |
| | 9.30am | All Age Worship | Dereham | |
| | 9.30am | Parish Communion | Beetley | The Revd L Purnell |
| | 9.30am | Choral Matins | Bradenham | Mr M Purnell |
| | 11.15am | Morning Prayer | Scarning | Mr M Purnell |
| | 11.15am | Morning Praise | Shipdham | The Revd L Purnell |
| | 11.15am | Parish Communion & Baptism | Swanton Morley | |
| | 6.00pm | Compline, see on Face Book | | The Revd P Cubitt |

News for the Pews

The **Mothers' Union Meeting** on February 11th has been cancelled to allow members to attend the funeral of Keith Otty.

Sponsored Bike Ride 2025

I have been advised that the Sum of £508.25 has been received by our Treasurer from the Norfolk Churches Trust as our share of the money raised in support of the Trust in September 2025. So, **A Big thank you** to everyone who generously sponsored me to have a fun day out riding my bike. At the time I specified that any money raised would go to support our building project. Therefore £508.25 has been added towards the installation of toilets at St Nicholas.
Many Thanks, Paul Edwards.

The **A47 will be fully closed** in both directions from Longwater Junction to Dereham interchange between 8pm Friday 13th February and 6am Monday 16th February 2026.

February 13th St Nicholas is hosting a **Candlelight Experience** featuring an acoustic string trio playing music by Coldplay, surrounded by thousands of LED candles. Tickets are on sale now, choose and book on www.lumos-experiences.com

The Pilgrim Course: Turning to Christ

This is a six week course for enquirers or new Christians who want to find out more about the Christian faith. Each session includes reflection on a reading from the Bible and the opportunity for discussion. It will be held at Mark and Ruth's home beginning on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm. Have a word with Paul Cubitt if you are interested.

Lent is just around the corner. Ash Wednesday is 18th February.

Ash Wednesday Services:

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| 10.00am | Holy Communion | Dereham |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion and ashing | Swanton Morley |
| 11.30am | Holy Communion and ashing | Shipdham |
| 7.30pm | Holy Communion and ashing | Dereham |

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'.

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| Sunday 22 nd February | Introducing Prayer |
| 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 |

Confirmation. Paul has got a date from Bishop Jane in May for Confirmation. If you are interested in being Confirmed/exploring the Christian faith, please contact the Rector.

Lent Courses

Lent Course - All are welcome to attend the Lent course running in Shipdham. It will run at The Rectory on Monday evenings with Rev Laura and in a home on Thursday afternoons with Rev Doreen. We will be doing the Lentwise course by Paula Gooper. 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 with all the details will be available soon.

Lent Lunches in Church House 12noon for 12.30pm

Fridays in Lent are February 27th, March 6th, March 13th (with Café Communion, 11.30 for 12noon) and March 20th.

Please get a free ticket (available on Sunday 1st February) 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.

St Nicholas Church Dereham Fundraising Committee are holding an **Easter Coffee morning** in Church House on Saturday April 4th from 10.00 to 12.30. If you have any items you would like to donate suitable for raffle prizes or Tombola these would be most appreciated. There will be a box at Back of Church on Sundays or speak to Susanne or any member of the Fundraising Committee.

Eco Church During February we shall be calculating our individual Carbon Footprints. Do take a look at the Eco Church board at St Nicholas or get in touch with Kate at kate.baldry@hotmail.co.uk for the links as to how this can be done online. This may seem a daunting prospect but help is available during sessions in the office at Church House on Fridays - please get in touch to book a time.

Dear friends

We wish to thank you, most sincerely for the beautiful daffodils and Dutch irises which you sent us last week. Doug has had a very trying 4 months, recovering from pressure sores. This has meant 24 hour bed rest, with 2 hourly turns, both night and day, and then a skin problem requiring 2 weeks isolation, plus a chest infection. It's been tough, but your flowers brought so much love to us, and the flowers seemed like a signal that new life, as in Spring, was just around the corner. May God bless you all. Evelyn and Doug Speed x

Thank you for the Sanctuary Flowers – they were a delight and a wonderful surprise.

Paul and Clare

A vacancy prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank you for your presence in every aspect of our lives and the long history of worship in

Swanton Morley, Hoe, and Beetley with East Bilney.

During this new phase of change we pray for your guidance

and direction as we undertake the process of selecting a new Team Vicar.

We ask for a smooth transition and for candidates, inspired by your calling, to expand your ministry and grow your church within our villages and benefice. Amen.

Recently departed : Henry (Hank) Harris, Marjorie Jackson, Keith Otty, Owen Cross and Barrie Alcock.

Upcoming funerals :

Hank Harris, All Saints Swanton Morley, 10th Feb 11.30am

Barrie Alcock, St Nicholas Dereham, 10th Feb 2pm

Keith Otty, St Nicholas Dereham, 11th Feb 2pm

Marjorie Jackson, St Nicholas Dereham, 20th Feb 10am

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, Margaret Travis.

Prayers and Collects

Invitation to confession

Do not be anxious about your life,
what you shall eat or what you shall drink.
Seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness.
Let us confess our sins
and our failure to make God's will our priority:
Matthew 6.31,33

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over
all things, now and for ever.

The Peace

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy,
that you may be kept safe and blameless
in spirit, soul, and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the
earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on
earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 1.1 - 2.3
Romans 8.18-25
Matthew 6.25-34
Psalm 136.1-9,23-26

Next week's readings from
Exodus 24.12-18
2 Peter 1.16-21
Matthew 17.1-9
Psalm 2