

February 2018

Morning Prayer every Wednesday at 9.30 am.
Roughton

4th February Second before Lent

9.30 am. Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer Sustead
11.00 am. All Age Worship Candlemas Roughton
5.00 pm. Evening Prayer Common Worship Bessingham

11th February First before Lent

9.30 am. Holy Communion Common Worship Hanworth
11.00 am. Morning Prayer Felbrigg & Metton Metton
3.15 pm. Sing for Joy St David's Nursing Home Sheringham

Ash Wednesday 14th February

2.30 pm. Holy Communion Common Worship Roughton

18th February Lent 1

9.30 am. Morning Prayer Book of Common Prayer Sustead
11.00 am. Holy Communion Common Worship Roughton

25th February Lent 2

9.30 am. Morning Prayer Book of Common Prayer Hanworth
11.00 am. Holy Communion Metton & Felbrigg Metton
3.15 pm. Sing for Joy St David's Nursing Home Sheringham

Wednesday 28th February

10.30 am. Holy Communion Roughton

Ambassador

February 2018

45p



Parish magazine of the Roughton Benefice - comprising Roughton, Bessingham, Felbrigg, Sustead, Metton and Hanworth with Gunton

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www.roughtonbenefice.uk

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Roughton Church School

Governors

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St Valentine's Day & Ash Wednesday

*It is very unusual
to have these two days
fall on the same day of the year!*

*If one was to make a contrast then there are some striking
differences and some similarities.
So I am going to give a brief outline of what these two days represent
to see what we can learn from them.*

The popular belief is that St Valentine is just for couples who pledge their love for each other. In reading through the Catholic "Saints & Angels" website, Valentine is also the patron saint of:

"bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people".

St Valentine certainly existed as he was a Priest and Bishop of Terni. Valentine was executed under the reign of Claudius in (about) 269 for trying to convert the Emperor to Christianity. There is an apocryphal story of Valentine, that while under arrest, he was discussing faith and religion with the judge. The judge asked, as a demonstration of faith, for Valentine to heal his daughter of blindness. When Valentine placed his hands on the girl's eyes she immediately became sighted. The judge turned to the Christian faith and released all the prisoners. However, after being arrested again St Valentine was sentenced to death. On the day of his execution it was said that he left a note to the girl he had healed signed "your Valentine".

Ash Wednesday, in contrast, is a demonstration of love in and through Jesus Christ.

For Christians, the significance of today is remembered through a service of the "imposition of ashes". The significance being from the words found in Genesis 3:19, 'for dust you are and to dust you will return.' A reminder of our own mortality.

Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of Lent, a time of fasting and penance in preparation for Holy week when we remember the journey that Christ took to the cross, the celebration of Palm Sunday and the entry into Jerusalem through to the Crucifixion of Good Friday. This was a demonstration of unselfish love and forgiveness.

For me that demonstration of love and forgiveness is not only an example. It is also a command that Jesus left with his disciples. "Love one another as I have loved you". In the prayer he also taught his disciples and many of us repeat each day "forgive us our sins as we forgive others who sin against us". These are not just mere words for Christians. They ought to penetrate our souls and bodies, penetrate our very being and essence.

Lent is the very time for this meditation and reflection "How do I/we love as Christ loved...?" How do I/we forgive as Christ forgives...? So this year as these two events fall on the same day, consider the words of Christ, the love he demonstrated for all peoples at all times and remember that includes me and you.

With my continued prayers Revd Janet



From the Registers:

Wedding: Ashley Smith and Sophie Blackham on 13th January 2018 at St. Mary's Church, Roughton.

Burial of Ashes: Raymond Smith and Doreen Jean Smith on 24th January

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Time for Prayer

Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 13 The Green, Felbrigg led by Mary

Tuesday 27th February at Sylvan Lodge, Hall Road, Cromer led by Hilary..

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting will be the Ash Wednesday Service at St. Mary's Church, Roughton followed by tea and refreshments. All welcome.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The school is growing! As a result of this an extra class has been formed, and an extra class needs an extra classroom. What about the Christmas play? There's not enough room! No need to worry we'll use the church and combine it with our Christmas service. It was brilliant! We counted 191 people in the church, who would never have fitted in the school before the new classroom. To see the nativity acted out in the church by the children was really moving. Well done to the staff for the planning, making the most of the area. Well done to the children for a super performance. The singing was great on the day. We know

everyone had worked really hard towards this. Someone leaving the church said to me that it was the best school nativity they had been to. Well done St Mary's. - Helen

Christingle/crib service - I think this service has become a bit of a tradition, the way to start the celebrations. What better way than to put all the figures from the Christmas story into the crib, with the baby Jesus at the centre, just where he should be in our everyday lives.

We gathered in a circle around the church to light our christingles, the orange representing our world, surrounded by the ribbon representing God's love for us. The cocktail sticks representing the four seasons and the fruit and sweets on them, the fruits of those seasons, and of course the central candle, the light of the world. The lights are turned off and the church is lit by candles only, showing happy children holding their christingles, we prayed for those children less fortunate than ours, and a retiring collection of over £200 went to the children's society to help these children. Thank you. - Helen

Thank You to all who donated money to help the Iraqi Christians returning to their homeland either through the alternative Christmas Card or the Advent evenings at Helen and Ron's. A cheque for £100 has been sent to the Bible Society to help towards this.

Helen

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John Blair on 01263 510317 or
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master's dominance of the region. He arrived to find the city in a poor state, spiritually and physically.

It seems that Nehemiah was born in Babylon and allegedly his family were descended from the Cohen sect* of Temple priests. He was also the eunuch who served the king as his ceremonial cup-bearer. His fellow prophet, Ezra left captivity in Babylon about the same time. By invoking God's Holy Spirit, His people were inspired to rebuild Jerusalem and create the Second Temple. If only we could find that power to inspire our people in the same way today. Nehemiah took a larger view of his mission. Jerusalem had become settled by non-Jews and they had even married into the Jewish community, all of which was unacceptable to Nehemiah. Much of his work on the north, west and southern sides of the city were explored in modern times by the archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon ('*Digging up Jerusalem*', 1975 pubn). To manage his great construction work, financially and physically Nehemiah encouraged Ezra to re-establish the Laws of Moses by reading the Torah to the assembled population. It seems he kept a close record of the leading Jews and their contributions towards the construction work but he did not take up the dues he could have claimed so as to help those funds. The work was done in 52 days - no doubt the fund-raising and planning consents took a bit longer because he did not report back to the King in Susa until twelve years later!!

Chapters 1 - 7, 11 -13 are written in the first person so they give a vivid account of what followed and are known as Nehemiah's '*Memoirs*'; but Chapters 8 - 10, are called '*Ezra's source*', as the latter is frequently mentioned there. Much of the information in Nehemiah's book is confirmed in the '*Book Chronicles*'. Chapters 12, 37-42; describes the dedication of the new wall around Jerusalem that God had provided for them so His people could be protected and could worship Him in safety. They looked back on their struggle and how God's mercy had brought their plans to fulfilment with the blessings of fellowship with Him and each other on Earth knowing that that event could turn the nations around to know God again in truth. This story featured in the allotted readings for one of our recent church services though it was left to the congregation to read it for themselves. In contrast, a preacher in Cromer at the same time delivered nine sermons on this book and each lasted nearly an hour backed up by Bible studies! Hence the title here of 'total immersion' in the Scripture. * Richard

Felbrigg's Christmas Happening

This was a happy evening as always. We thought about how God had made music part of the whole universe and we joined with the angels in singing His praises as at the first Christmas. Hilaire, Sue, Hazel and Bob accompanied the carols and played some Christmas music. Ro, Janet and Jan sang and played and got us all singing a new song. We enjoyed refreshments afterwards and were able to send £85 to the Sheringham Salvation Army to help with their distribution of Christmas parcels.

Felbrigg Services -A reminder that we continue to join with Metton to avoid the mud and water at Felbrigg. Do come and join us there. Weather permitting we shall be back at Felbrigg in March.

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Craft Workshop

1st, 3rd and 4th Monday from 10.0am – 12.30pm at Roughton Village Hall. £2.50 including coffee. Some materials provided. Quilting, crochet and much more..For further information please contact Simone on: 01263 711346

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Farewell Service for the Venerable John Ashe, Archdeacon of Lynn

Sunday March 11th 2018 at 3.30pm

Norwich Cathedral

We shall be very sorry to say farewell to John Ashe on his retirement as Archdeacon of Lynn. He has served the

Diocese and the parishes of his archdeaconry with distinction over the past 8 years and I know he is held in very high affection. We wish John and Shelagh every happiness in their retirement home on the Devon/Cornwall border. Everyone is welcome to attend the service in Norwich Cathedral where we will be bidding farewell to John on Sunday March 11th. Choral Evensong begins at 3.30pm and there will be a presentation to John and Shelagh alongside expressions of our gratitude. No tickets or reservations are required. There will be refreshments afterwards for everyone.

A collection is being organised for John and contributions are very welcome. Please send cheques, either personal or from your PCC, made payable to "The Bishop's Fund" and marked "John Ashe collection" on the back and send these to Coralie Nichols, Bishop's House, Norwich NR3 1SB. Alternatively you can make a bank transfer to the Bishop's Fund (Sort Code: 20 62 53, Account Number: 90136174) but please clearly state on the reference "John Ashe collection". It will be very helpful to have every contribution by the end of February.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the Cathedral on March 11th at 3.30pm.

If anyone needs a lift to the Cathedral please contact Rev. Janet Frymann.

Roughton & District W.I. Craft Group

Meet on the second Monday of each month (10am-12 noon) at Roughton Village Hall. We warmly welcome WI members and visitors alike, and charge £3 per session which goes towards arranging outings/visits/day schools etc. Coffee, Tea and biscuits are provided. You can speak to Angela Newton (01263 514476) for further information.

Aylsham Library

Shared Reading in partnership with Aylsham Church. Starting Tuesday February 6th, 10 am, for six weeks.

Discover the joy of listening to stories and poems read aloud in a small group. For people wanting to meet others, lift their mood and enjoy something new. If you would like to come but find it difficult to get out and about these days, we can arrange and pay for a taxi to bring you to and from the session. Call Aylsham Library to book (01263 732320) though we will be meeting in the Community Room, Aylsham Parish Church.

Slime Laboratory

Thursday 15th February, 10:30 – 12pm
£3 per child for materials. **8s+** Come and experiment making (borax free) slime this half term. Booking required on 01263 732320 or in branch.

Pancake Coffee Morning

Shrove Tuesday

13th February 2018 at 10.30-12.00

At 9 Orchard Close, Roughton.

£1.50 for tea/coffee and pancake.

Book Stall, Bring & Buy, Cakes and Raffle.

Lent Course

Mornings at The Rectory

10.15 – 11.30

**Wednesdays 14th, 21st, 28th February
7th, 14th, 21st March.**

Evenings at The Owls,

195 Holt Road, Cromer

starting at 7.30 pm

Themes for discussion to be decided.

Things to Come

Sustead Coffee Morning – Saturday
9th June 2018 10am – 12 noon at
Sustead Old Hall. Details to follow.

Felbrigg Flower Festival at St.
Margaret's Church, Felbrigg on 14th,
15th, 16th July. Details to follow.

TOTAL IMMERSION IN - NEHEMIAH

The Old Testament is divided into four main parts - The Law, History, Poetry and the Prophets; but 'History' takes up half of the book. It would be easy to become absorbed by all that historical information but its essential purpose is to show how God revealed Himself through time and how the faith of the Jewish nation evolved against much adversity. There was a 'golden age' when Kings ruled Israel - after which the nation divided; declined and was eventually overwhelmed by invaders from the East. Dates are the key to following that epic story;

722 BC, Samaria was overrun so the defeat of Israel was almost completed. This was followed by the '*Diaspora*', when many Jews left Israel and dispersed around the Middle East or the Mediterranean.

605 BC, Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon besieged Jerusalem; and the Temple was destroyed. Many of the Jews were taken in captivity to Babylon. The period of Exile lasted between; 608 - 538 BC (70 years); though others say between 580 - 516 BC (64 years).

539 BC, Babylon was conquered by Xerxes, King of Persia so the captive Jews were liberated. A few went to live in the Persian capital, Susa. Xerxes' son in - **538 BC**, was King Cyrus the Great. He sent some of the Jews from Susa back to Jerusalem, which stood at the core of the 'covenant kingdom' of Israel.

Greece and Egypt were vassal states under Persia but they rebelled and that weakened the vast empire of next king, Artaxerxes I. In Susa in -

458 BC, he issued a decree with an edict giving Ezra, '*the Scribe*' and priest the authority to take over the civil and religious affairs in Jerusalem. Ezra left Susa accompanied by other priests and Levites with a letter of safe passage addressed to the governor of trans-Euphrates. Later Ezra returned to Susa saying the construction of the 2nd Temple had begun but the city was still very weak.

444 BC, Nehemiah came onto the scene during this '*Spring-Time*' of Jewish history. His brother Hanani returned to Susa where he told Nehemiah that the 'Jewish remnant' who were still living in Jerusalem were unable to govern the city with their own laws as it was defenceless and occupied by people of other religions. Nehemiah wept and prayed;

'if you are unfaithful I will scatter you amongst the nations but if you keep my laws I will gather you together and bring you to the place I have chosen as a dwelling in my Name'.

Accompanied by his fellow Jewish exiles and an armed escort provided by the Persian king, Artaxerxes I, Nehemiah went home to Jerusalem to reassert his