

Ambassador



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

Rector, Reverend Janet Frymann

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www.roughtonbenefice.uk

45p

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Sue Brice 07958 377079

The Bishop's Adviser for Safeguarding

Rector's letter February 2020

As Janet is sadly still off work she has invited me again to write the Rector's Letter. So here goes.

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas®

During December I was struck by the commercials for the Dogs' Trust and their slogan, "A dog is for life, not just for Christmas." How many families start their dog-caring careers at Christmas? How many then regret it when they realise how much of a commitment they are taking on? Obviously, too many!!

That is not to say there are not compensations in having a dog. They are



many and wonderful. For many farmers they are indispensable workers as sheep-dogs. Dogs can be great companions, assistants (just watch any guide dog!), comfort in times of trouble, encouragement to exercise and listeners. We certainly find that to be true with Ben. Many of you will have met Ben at some stage not least as he walks me/us

around the village and area. He has been with us some 7 years.

Perhaps we could mis-spell "dog" and write "God" instead. Is the slogan still valid?

Mary Llewellyn reminds us in her review of Christmas 2019 on Page 7 that the real meaning of Christmas is "that God **is** with us". Psalm 139 reminds us that there is nowhere we can go to get away from God's presence. Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Christians in Corinth that God is not only with us but **within** us.

On page 5 we see the advanced notice of Shrove Tuesday, the day before

Lent begins. This is a reminder of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his time of ministry. The baby has grown into an adult with a mission for his life.

That life will reach its climax on Good Friday when Jesus dies on the cross. He said that this was why he came to earth. But, death is not the end. On Easter Sunday we remember that Jesus came back to life again. On Ascension Day we remember that he went up into Heaven and is there praying for us and making a place ready for us to live with him for eternity. At Pentecost (Whitsun) we remember that God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and within us to give us strength and wisdom for this life.

Throughout the year there are reminders of God in our world and lives and of his love for us.

God is FOR life, meaning the quality as well as the quantity of our lives. He is in favour of life. God does not want death. Humanity chose to ignore God and that is why there is death. God does not want it. That was why Jesus chose to let himself be killed on Good Friday. Jesus defined eternal life in terms of our relationships with God.

Remember that unlike the dog, God does not need to be taken to the vets or cared for in this or any other way. Quite the opposite, he cares for us and comforts us in wonderful ways. He will outlive us.

So, I suggest that we could take the Dogs' Trust slogan and re-write it as "God is for life, not just for Christmas". Don't put God away with the Christmas decorations. Keep him out and at the centre of everyday throughout this year.

With our prayers.

Peter D Frymann

The Ambassador needs a new Advertising manager

this is an important position in the production of the Ambassador newsletter as our advertising needs to expand. Some benefice magazine have 6 or 8 pages of advertisements which draws in a considerable income. If you are interested please contact Peter Frymann on 01263 768075 or email at roughon.ambassador@gmail.com

Time for Prayer

Tuesday 11th, 7.30 pm @
13 The Green, Felbrigg, led by Mary.

Tuesday 25th, 7.30 pm @
"Hotspurs" Roughton, led by Dave.

* * * * *

Craft Workshop

Meets at 10-12.30 at Roughton village hall, and thereafter on the 1st Monday of each month.

Everyone is welcome to this friendly Gathering.

Come and be inspired

For further information please contact
Simone on 01263 711346

* * * * *

Mothers Union

The Ash Wednesday Service is at
St Andrews, Metton, at 2.30 on
26th February.

Everyone is welcome.
Refreshments will be served
afterwards.

* * * * *

Village Hall Bookings

Felbrigg - Julia Bayle
01263 513103
Hanworth - Jeanette Ayling
01263 768875 (580070)
Roughton - Chloe Bennett
01263 516892

SHROVE TUESDAY

This year the Roughton pancake coffee morning will be held at Dave and Jo's, "Hotspur", Old Turnpike Road, Roughton. Tuesday 25th February, 10.30 - 12 noon. There will be the usual stalls: Cakes, bring and buy, raffle and books. Entry £2 includes pancake, tea or coffee, no extra charge for second helpings!

Any donations of cakes etc. would be most welcome, as this fundraiser is for our parish share, the cost of which we are sadly failing to attain.

* * * * *

ROUGHTON SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

As usual Roughton school came to the church for their end of term service. We managed to squeeze 200 people into the church! The children run the service themselves, and It is really wonderful to hear them telling and acting out the story of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and leading us in prayer including the Lord's prayer. The recorder group played "Jingle Bells" and the new ukelele group accompanied one of the songs. The children (and staff) work really hard fitting in practicing the new songs, readings etc. with all their other work and activities. I hope they enjoyed a well earned rest over the Christmas and New Year period.

Helen Mortimer

Roughton & District WI

Roughton & District WI meets in Roughton Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month, 7 pm for 7.30 pm. Visitors are welcome.

For more information our website is: www.roughtonwi.org.uk

Our Craft Group

This meets twice a month at Roughton Village Hall. We welcome WI members and visitors. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. Our members also belong to Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers and knit and stitch rugs, shawls, garments etc as and when needed for their various charities and hospitals.

Second Monday of the month 10am to 12 noon (£2) A wide range of crafts are pursued by members: e.g. knitting, crochet, embroidery, patchwork, quilting etc.

Last Tuesday of the Month: 10am. to 2pm. (£1 per hour - stay for as long as you like and bring a packed lunch.) Because we have more time we tend to focus on quilting and patchwork, but all crafts are encouraged and welcomed.

For more information contact:

Angela Newton (01263 514476)
angelamcnewton@gmail.com

The Ambassador

The cost of the **Ambassador** is 45p per copy or £4.00 per year

This is just a reminder that we have a dedicated e-mail address just for **the Ambassador**, namely **roughton.ambassador@gmail.com**.

Please note that copy for future issues will need to be emailed to **roughton.ambassador@gmail.com**.

Editors are: Peter Raynor, Peter Frymann & Richard Harbord.

Deadline for the March issue is Friday 14th February.

General Enquires 01263 768075

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Your firm could benefit and you would be supporting your community magazine at the same time for only £1.45 per word per annum. For more information about advertising in

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A Review of Christmas 2019

It began with "**The Happening**". Someone said she always regarded this as the start of her Christmas. We enjoyed traditional carols and readings including a wonderful presentation of the wise men, their camels and Herod by the "Open the Book" team. We enjoyed music from Janet, Jan, Ro and Ros who got us all singing something new. We also heard about Christmas and life in Zambia from Peter Frymann, thus taking our thoughts out into the wider world. We finished with a refreshments and chat and a time of fellowship.

Our special thanks go to our musicians, Sue Jones (flute), Bob Kerr (Guitar) and Jan Ashton (on keyboard) as well as Janet Nightingale, Ro Curtis and Ros (singers).

At the end of the evening we sent £55 to Sheringham Salvation Army for their Christmas Toys and Tins Project.

Our **Christmas Day Service** was in Felbrigg church. This was made possible by the new stony drive across the field and parking area meaning that nobody got stuck in the mud! The church was full with over 50 people, the service (which was much appreciated) being led by Rev'd Stephen Seamer.

Afterwards we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies, organised by John (Blair) and Peter (Raynor). Our thanks also go to Jill who played the organ and Margaret Greenfield who decorated the church so beautifully. We trust that people went to their Christmas lunches taking with them the real message of Christmas, that God **is** with us.

We gave a retiring collection to the John Aves Educational Project. This was set up in memory of Canon John Aves a former Norfolk priest who set up a fund to help young people from a refugee camp near Bethlehem to go to university. We were able to send £200 for their work. See their letter on page 11.

Mary Llewellyn



Ambassador Subscriptions

'The time has come' The Walrus said, to talk of many things, of Shoes - of Ships - of Sealing wax and of the need to pay your Ambassador subscription as soon as possible!

A 'prayerful' Lent

The season of Advent has passed where we anticipated in hope the coming of Christ. Then we celebrated the birth of Jesus when we too were reborn in the spirit to face the world afresh. Now we see the approach of Lent. Theologians like to find parallels in Scripture to give shape to their ideas. In the two seasons of Advent and Lent they claim both demand different sorts of self-examination. In Lent a more penitent attitude is called for. There has been so much convergence between the Catholic and Anglican Churches but there is still much to be done.

One of the sticking points between them has been the roll of Mary the mother of Jesus. There has been several misunderstandings over this topic since the Reformation which still holds up the ecumenical process and church unity according to a recent speaker to the Norfolk & Norwich Theological Society. There he drew another parallel - between the role of Eve with Adam in the Old Testament, and Mary with Joseph in the New Testament. Eve was an innocent child who was misled by Adam and fell from grace. Mary was the descendant of Eve yet for her it was the opposite – as a guileless young woman she became the mother of God and delivered the source of salvation to the world. In another parallel he described the Ark of the Covenant which held the 'mana from heaven' – the word of God; and the womb of Mary which bore the Christ child; the seed of God's gift to humanity. Jesus took from her his humanity and also through her his divinity because of her spiritual virginity which the early Christian writer St Jerome was so keen to emphasise. The early saints championed her role in the coming of Christ to Earth. St Ignatius for example was dragged to Rome to face martyrdom in the Colosseum but on the way there he stopped at inns. At each he wrote down his thoughts. From those we know his ideas about Mary. Athanasius also wrote in a similar fashion.

Much of our knowledge of Mary and many of our ideas of her actually comes from non-canonical books such as the 'Book of Golden Legends' which has no scriptural status but it tells us the names of her parents and much else. Jesus would have known these and other books such as the Book of Emmet.

Emperor Constantine had a struggle to keep all the contending parts of the early Christian community together so in the two Councils of Nicaea in 325 AD, the church confirmed that Mary was worthy of high esteem but that only Jesus could mediate between humanity and God – she was not an alternative. Her place came from being the first humble disciple of Jesus who remained with him to the very end, even standing empty before the cross of Calvary. It is generally assumed that

she joined Jesus in heaven and Pope Pius III made this a part of Catholic doctrine in 1503. So how did misunderstandings arise?

At the Reformation the laity demanded access to the holy word through a language they understood. The solemnity of church liturgy was then expressed through the sublime dignity of Latin – a universal language known to Jesus. That dignity would have been undermined if it was replaced with the rough Middle English then being spoken so their request was denied. The reformers alleged that this exclusivity meant that the Gospels could only be related to the laity through imagery in churches including that of the Blessed Virgin Mary. By destroying all that they felt able to remove what under-pinned the status quo. According to our speaker they '*threw the baby out with the bath water*'. The on-going wars over religious authority in England led by Queen Mary entrenched in the minds of the reformers all that they disliked. Devotees kneeling before the BVM were accused of idolatry and were even stabbed in the back. This consolidated the misunderstandings.

Many of them have prevailed since then which Rome now wishes to remove. 'Hail Mary', or *Ave Maria*, is based on the salutation made by the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation and translated from Latin it means 'hello' as a greeting, not a sign of worship. Yet devotees do pray to Mary and the saints asking for an intercession with God so to Protestants this still seems to lean towards idolatry especially where an image or a statue is involved. For centuries they have felt this diverts attention away from Jesus and the holy Cross; or from the holy word of Scripture. Even worse they see it as stereotyping the social role of women. The speaker said it is only in Britain where a conflict between the division of gender roles and their equality of status has been given such an exaggerated importance. The debate goes on. More effort needed.

Richard in Gunton.

Carol Service at Sustead on December 15th 2019

We enjoyed a very successful candlelit service of carols and readings. Great thanks to all who contributed to decorating the church, candle lighting, and above all performing, particularly the Peters' family . A stunning "Once in Royal David's City" solo set the scene to a full church.

The Christmas spirit was encouraged by refreshments at the end.

Rev Robert Brown Trust

(Charity No. 234865)



Through the generosity of the Rev. Robert Brown Trust Fund set up in 1694

The Trustees are able to offer limited funds to help residents of Roughton over difficult periods. Applications can be made at any time of the year and will be treated in strictest confidence.

For more information or to make an application, please contact the Clerk of the Trust – Jane Blackburn on 01263-833512

Weekly Readings

As a church we follow the lectionary of the Church of England. For the coming month the readings are:

2 February Fourth Before Lent

Reading 1 Malachi 3:1-5

Psalm 24:1-6, 7-end

Reading 2 Hebrews 2:14-end

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

9 February Third Before Lent

Reading 1 Isaiah 58:1-9a, 9b-12

Psalm 112

Reading 2 1 Cor 2:1-12, 13-end

Gospel Matthew 5:13-20

16 February Second Before Lent

Reading 1 Genesis 1:1-23

Psalm 136

Reading 2 Romans 8:18-25

Gospel Matthew 6:25-end

23 February Next Before Lent

Reading 1 Exodus 24:12-end

Psalm 2

Reading 2 2 Peter 1:16-end

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

26 February Ash Wednesday

Reading 1 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-18

Reading 2 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

If you want to follow the readings as we use them you can find them in the NRSV (The New Revised Standard version) of the Bible. If you do not have this translation to hand you can find it online at <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/> or <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/>.

Peter D Frymann

CHRISTINGLE/CRIB SERVICE

I would just like to say a big thank you to the 150 or so adults and children who came to this service on Christmas Eve. I know that to a lot of families it is a tradition, the beginning of the celebrations. I know we had two families of seven people and one of ten!

As you all know, this service isn't only about us enjoying ourselves, but about those children that don't have a family to love them. The collection for The Children's Society came to £180, thank you all so much for your generosity.

Helena Mortimer

The letter referred to on Page 7

4 Victoria Street
Norwich
NR1 3QX

info@jaep.org.uk
www.jaep.org.uk

3 January 2020

John Aves Education Project (JAEP)

Dear Felbrigg Parish Church congregation

Thank you very much for your donation to and support for the John Aves Education Project. The project was set up in memory of Revd Canon Dr. John Aves to financially support young people from Dheisheh Palestinian Refugee Camp in Bethlehem to attend universities in East Jerusalem and Bethlehem. John was living and volunteering in Dheisheh at the time of his death in January 2004.

It is very pleasing to report that, to date, JAEP has financially supported **forty one** young people, thirty two girls and nine boys to enable them to gain an undergraduate degree. For many years we have sponsored Dheisheh young people to study at Al Quds University in East Jerusalem. From September 2019 we have begun to also sponsor Dheisheh young people to also study at Bethlehem University.

We are looking forward to our next visit to Dheisheh and the local universities in February 2020. As in previous years we will spend time with JAEP current and past students at Al Quds University, Bethlehem University and Dheisheh. Hearing their stories is always humbling and reaffirms our sense of purpose. For example the academic staff at the universities all report that JAEP has selected very hard working students and also that young people from camps achieve higher classifications than their peers.

The resilience, dignity and determination of the families in Dheisheh, to place their hopes for a future in educating their young people is inspirational. Its so encouraging how the project is developing and how the support for our work is steadily growing. Thank you very much for your part in enabling this to happen.

Best wishes

Anne Aves





St. Mary's Endowed CE VA Primary School

The children and staff of St. Mary's have now returned to school after the Christmas Break and are fully engaged on their new topics for the term:

Oak class (Years 5 & 6) have embarked on a topic called 'Invaders' and the children are learning about the Anglo Saxons and then will go onto learning about the Norman Invasion of 1066.

Last term, Beech Class (years 3 & 4) studied the Stone – Age people of Ancient Britain and they have now gone on to learn about the Ancient Chinese 'Shang' Dynasty which occurred at about the same time. The children have already been amazed by some of the differences in culture and life-styles.

Elm class (Years 1 & 2) arrived back at school to find a large, fluffy penguin in their classroom. The poor penguin had got lost on its travels around the world and found its way to our school. The children are researching how to look after the penguin and how to help it get back to Antarctica.

The very youngest children in Ash class are learning about the different animals that can be found both on land and in the sea.

As we go through the term and head towards Easter, we hope to be able to share with you some of our learning and also some of the exciting activities we have been involved in.

The school community of St. Mary's has also worked hard over the past few months in selecting and promoting the Christian Values that mean the most to us. We have chosen Respect, Friendship, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Trust and Truthfulness. We have also chosen 'The Good Samaritan' as our main school story as we feel this parable helps to understand these values and teaches us to flourish within our school and community.

Learning our values has helped us to support each other and become a friendly and welcoming little school that continues to grow and thrive.

Miss Jackson
Headteacher

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Alternative Christmas Card

Thank you to all who took part in this years alternative Christmas card. The idea of which is to sign this large card along with your Christmas message, thus saving giving cards out to people in the benefice. Apart from raising some money for Christian Aid by putting money you would of spent on cards into the collection box, it is also helping to save the planet by using one card instead of many. Look our for it coming to your church next December!

This year we raised £50

Helen Mortimer

February 2020

6 February Fourth Sunday Before Lent

9.30 am Holy Communion	BCP	Sustead
11.00 am All Age Worship	CW	Roughton

9 February Third Sunday Before Lent

9.30 am Morning Prayer	CW	Metton
11.00 am Holy Communion	CW	Felbrigg
3.15 pm Sing For Joy	St. David's Nursing Home	Sheringham

12 February Second Sunday Before Lent

9.30 am Morning Prayer	BCP	Sustead
11.00 am Holy Communion	CW	Roughton

23 February Next Sunday Before Lent

9.30 am Holy Communion	CW	Hanworth
11.00 am Morning Prayer	CW	Felbrigg
3.15 pm Sing For Joy	St. David's Nursing Home	Sheringham

26 February Ash Wednesday

2.30 pm Holy Communion	CW	Metton
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