

Ambassador

June 2020



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

Rector, Reverend Janet Frymann

01263 768075

www.roughtonbenefice.uk

45p

Who's Who in our Benefice

Rector: Revd Janet Frymann

The Rectory,
Church Loke
Roughton.
NR11 8SZ

Telephone number **01263 768075**

Mobile **07766 712545**

Email rev.roughton@gmail.com

Please contact Janet in the first instance for Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals.

Hon Assistant Minister

Revd Stephen J G Seamer

Readers

Peter Frymann 01263 768075

Churchwarden Bessingham

None (contact Revd Frymann)

Churchwardens Felbrigg

Mary Llewellyn 01263 513072

Hilary Kirkland 01263 514380

Churchwardens Hanworth with Gunton

Richard Harbord 01263 768732

Churchwardens Sustead

Priscilla McDougall 01263 577247

Glenn Davenport 01263 768877

Churchwardens Metton

None (contact Revd Frymann)

Churchwardens Roughton

Helen Mortimer 01263 511132

Dave Wiltshire 01263 768104

Prayer Group Co-ordinator

Helen Mortimer 01263 511132

Mothers Union

Simone Hume 01263 711346

Ambassador Newsletter:

Please Email copy to

roughton.ambassador@gmail.com.

General Enquires 01263 768075

Advertising

Derek Ianson 01263 712159

wilmfredbess@btinternet.com

Website manager

Peter Frymann 01263 768075

Roughton Church School ·

Church member Governor ·

David Wiltshire 01263 768104

Revd. Janet Frymann 01263 768075

Clerk to the School Governors

Donald Mayes 01263 761392

Robert Brown Trust - Trustees

Revd Janet Frymann 01263 768075

Helen Mortimer 01263 511132

David Wiltshire 01263 768104

Dorothy Kendall 01263 820973

...

Clerk to the Trustees

Jane Blackburn 01263 833512

Safeguarding Officer for Child and Vulnerable Adults:

Rev Janet Frymann 01263 768075

Alternatively:

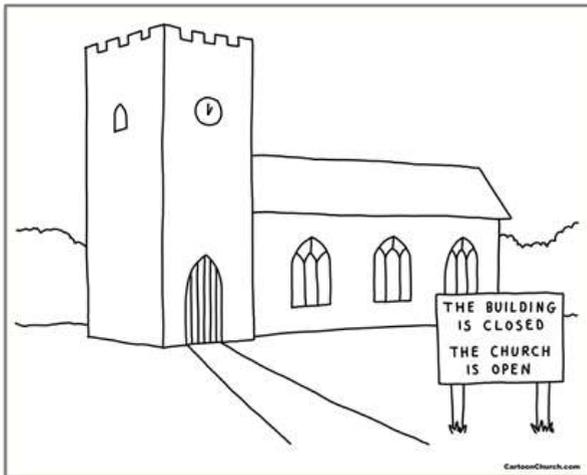
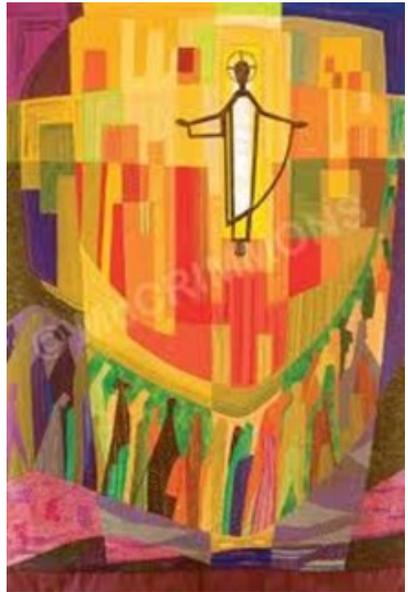
Sue Brice 07958 377079

The Bishop's Adviser for Safeguarding

Dear All,

We are sorry to say that this will be our final letter from The Rectory.

As you are all aware the last three and a half years have been very difficult following the fall I had, in the church, resulting in a very badly fractured ankle and my treatment is still ongoing. It has been a very hard, but sensible decision, to take early retirement and concentrate on my physical restoration. I am aware that I have been off sick for quite a while and the church wardens and volunteers from the various parishes in the Benefice have been carrying quite a burden in continuing to keep the churches operating. I want to take this opportunity to thank the church wardens, treasurers, secretaries and all who volunteer in the benefice for their hard work and dedication. My sincere thanks to everyone.



(CartoonChurch.com)

During these difficult times of “lockdown” it has been hard for many people not to be able gather in church to worship God. We have all missed the times for sharing Holy Communion, hearing God’s Word, prayer and fellowship. However, as the picture from Dave Walker shows, “the building may be closed but the Church is open”.

The people are the church.

Prayer continues, reading God's Word continues. Gathering together continues, albeit in a different way, via Zoom and other social media enterprises. God is not on lockdown! As we approach Pentecost, where the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, I am reminded of the words from Acts 1:14 "All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer". The disciples (named in Acts) and other people were constantly praying. Praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus. What Jesus promises will come to be.

Covid 19 will not stop God's work.

People moving away will not stop God's work.

Change in the organisation of the church, when it comes, will not stop the message of the Gospel being preached. It just may be done in a different way! The message stays the same, but the manner of expression may differ. This is what we hold fast to in times of change and disruption.

So to finish off, Peter and I, with Ben the dog, have really loved being in this part of the world. We have got to know some wonderful people around North Norfolk and we will miss many, many of them. As we take our leave we do so with these words from Proverbs:

3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths."

With our continued prayers Revd Janet & Peter Frymann

Weekly Readings

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

7 June Trinity Sunday

Reading 1 Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end
Psalm 8
Reading 2 2 Corinthians 13:11-end
Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

14 June First Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1 Genesis 18:1-15
Psalm 116:1, 10-17
Reading 2 Romans 5:1-8
Gospel Matthew 9:35-10:8

21 June Second Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1 Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-end
Reading 2 Romans 6:1b-11
Gospel Matthew 10:24-39

28 June Third Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1 Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Reading 2 Romans 6:12-end
Gospel Matthew 10:40-end

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

Have you met any toads recently?

A centipede was happy till
one day a toad, in fun
said "pray, which leg goes after which?"
which strained his mind to such a pitch
he lay distracted in a ditch
considering how to run.

Don't let any modern "toads" stop you from "running the race set before us – looking away to Jesus" - who has gone before us and has the answer to all the "toads"

The prophet Samuel

Two books bear his name in an epic tale of 38 and 33 pages (13% of the Old Testament). He is also briefly mentioned in the 'Book of Chronicles' so this is a huge read. 'Samuel the seer' was instrumental in converting Israel from a tribal society governed by judges, to a nation state – hence his importance in Jewish history. From then on, Israel was ruled by kings empowered by their God, *Yahweh* so Samuel's importance has been acknowledged by all three 'religions of the book'. His father was a member of the Levite sect in the Benjamite tribe. This was the least of the twelve tribes and it occupied an area of only 30 by 8 miles; about half the area of North Norfolk. At the centre of it was the site of the future city of Jerusalem. During an invasion by the mighty Assyrians in the 8th century BC, most of the Benjamite menfolk were killed at the battle of Gibeah. The survivors became part of the general population of Judea. The Benjamites became one of the 'Lost Tribes of Israel'. Three centuries earlier Samuel had been a great religious leader and he became a legend.

Before he was born in the village of *Ramathaim*, his parents went eastwards on a pilgrimage to the holy town of *Shiloh*. At that time his mother Hannah had difficulty in bearing a child but prayed fervently at the shrine, promising to allow its priestly sect to raise who ever she produced as a *Nazirite* (one who never shaved or cut their hair). She was blessed by a priest, Eli, one of the last 'Judges' to rule ancient Israel and subsequently she gave birth to Samuel. Eli then took over the boy and trained him to become a priest. While still young, Samuel felt he knew what God wanted from his people so he was recognised as a seer. When his visions turned out to be true he was elevated to a prophet. Some saw him as an extension of Moses continuing his work as a prophet, judge, and priest. Others say that he was more than that, as God spoke directly to Samuel, where-ever he was.⁴

The Philistines from the coast fought with the Israelites in a mighty battle where Eli and his sons died. Then the enemy captured territory from the Israelites as well as the holy 'Ark of the Covenant'. Samuel used his authority and leadership to encourage the people to hold on to their faith which he said was so critical to their identity and inner resolve - just as we face adversity in face of the Carona virus today. After twenty years of oppression a show-down came at the battle of *Mizpah*, which was a few miles north of Jerusalem. The Israelites soundly defeated the Philistines but they were still threatened by enemies on all sides. It was clear that a single military leader was needed to defend the nation. Samuel was asked to find someone.

Based in his home village he sent out bands of ecstatic musical performers (*Nevi'im*) into the surrounding area. The first time Samuel met Saul was when the former was looking for his father's lost donkeys. He was impressed by Saul's height and strength so a servant introduced them. Samuel helped Saul in his search and that led to a shared meal. They went to *Gibeah* which was a primitive settlement on a very high ridge a few miles north of Jerusalem in the same tribal area. There Samuel anointed Saul as the new king – one account says he did it secretly; others say that when the Ammonites threatened to invade, the anointing took place before the whole tribe. It was in the late 11th century BC, that King Saul united the 12 tribes of Israel.

A victory was won against the Amalekites from the Sinai region. Samuel said God wanted all of them and their livestock destroyed - (1 [Samuel 15:3](#), KJV) but King Saul spared the Amalekite leader, *Agag*, and the enemy's livestock so that he could sacrifice them to *Yahweh* at a later date. Saul saw this as an affront to the God who had made him king and could also unmake him. Samuel proceeded to execute Agag. Saul never met Samuel again after this confrontation. Samuel then began to look for a new King of Israel and he found an impressive youth in Bethlehem called David who was duly anointed. Samuel had to provide sanctuary for David, when the jealous Saul tried to have his rival killed. Then the Philistines from the coast invaded Israel once again and engaged in a great battle at Mount *Gilboa*. Three of Saul's sons were killed in the action. He was in danger of being captured so instead he chose to die by his own sword. This was about 1010 BC after which David became the new king – the greatest to rule Israel, all thanks to Samuel.

Richard in Gunton.

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

What does the Bible say?

Do you understand it?

There is a group of us in the benefice who read and enjoy the readings and notes produced by the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) as aids to understanding the Bible. In the booklet "New Daylight" there are short readings for each day followed by explanations and comments written by people from various Christian denominations and backgrounds.

The new year of BRF notes starts in May when new notes will be ordered for anybody interested in receiving them. There are four booklets for the year, each with 3 months readings. If you would like to have these booklets, the subscription costs £14.10 for the year or £4.70 for each issue. If you would like to see a sample, we have some back numbers that we could send to you once we are able to socialise again. We all find the readings informative, encouraging, challenging and often surprisingly relevant to the current situation.

Mary Llewellyn 01263 513072

If you would like to see more about the BRF and their bible-readings aids they offer you could check their web-site on <https://www.brf.org.uk/bible-reading>.

Craft Workshop, Mother's Union, Village halls and WI

These organisations have all suspended their activities because of the coronavirus, they will resume as soon as possible.

They can be contacted via the usual contacts.

If you want someone to pray with (by phone) please feel free to ring a churchwarden, numbers on page 2.

The Ambassador

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

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Deadline for the July issue is Friday 19th June.

General Enquires 01263 768075

Disclaimer:

The views expressed by individuals in this Magazine are not necessarily the views of the group of Churches in this Benefice. Advertising in this magazine does not imply an endorsement or promotion of the advertisement, nor its content, products or services. Errors and omissions, whilst regrettable, may occur. Please advise the Editor and appropriate action will be taken

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National Trust

Felbrigg Hall



regrets that owing to the dangers of the Coronavirus the facilities of the house and gardens are closed until further notice.

The park and the car park only re-opened on the 21st May. Please pre-book your car space online at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/felbrigg-hall-gardens-and-estate> or phone 0344 2491895

Car Park charge applies, free to National Trust Members

General Enquiries Tel. 01263 837444

Registered Charity No 205846

JUNE 2020

Services

7 June Trinity Sunday

14 June First Sunday after Trinity

21 June Second Sunday after Trinity

28 June Third Sunday after Trinity

We are following the guidance of the Church of England not to hold public acts of worship in our churches. We have chosen to remind you and ourselves of the church calendar so that you can still spend time at home reading of the unfolding story of God's involvement in humanity's affairs. You can follow the set readings for each week as set out on page 5.

If you want to talk to somebody or to pray with somebody over the phone please ring one of our churchwardens.

There are some services available from the Church of England as webcasts. Just go to: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/online-church> for more information. Norwich Diocese has produced a podcast called "Sunday Hope" for every Sunday as an app on your smart phone or tablet. You can also find it at: <https://www.dofn.org/podcast> on-line. Other apps are available from www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps