

Ambassador

September 2020



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

www.roughtonbenefice.uk

45p

Who's Who in our Benefice

Rector: Vacant

[Patron: The Bishop of Norwich]

Rural Dean:

The Revd Canon Christian Heycocks,
The Vicarage, 10 North Street,
Sheringham, NR26 8LW

Readers

None

Bessingham

Contact: Nina Chapman 01263 577782
[now under the guidance of the Diocesan
Churches Trust]

Churchwardens

Felbrigg

Mary Llewellyn 01263 513072
Hilary Kirkland 01263 514380

Hanworth with Gunton

Richard Harbord 01263 768732

Metton [None]

Roughton

Helen Mortimer 01263 511132
Dave Wiltshire 01263 768104

Sustead

Priscilla McDougall 01263 577247
Glenn Davenport 01263 768877

Hon Assistant Minister

Revd Stephen J G Seamer
Please contact Mr. Seamer for
information in the first instance for
Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals.
Telephone: 01263 768125

Prayer Group Co-ordinator

Helen Mortimer 01263 511132

Mothers Union

Simone Hume 01263 711346

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To be advised

Alternatively:

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The Bishop's Adviser for Safeguarding

Roughton Church School

Church member Governor

David Wiltshire 01263 768104

Rector— Vacant

Clerk to the School Governors

Donald Mayes 01263 761392

Robert Brown Trust - Trustees

Helen Mortimer 01263 511132

David Wiltshire 01263 768104

Dorothy Kendall 01263 820973

Clerk to the Trustees

Jane Blackburn 01263 833512

Dear Ambassador Reader,

First I need to introduce myself as my name will be new to many of you. I am John Chandler a retired vicar living in Overstrand with my Wife, Mary. We have two grown up children both of whom are married with two children each, aged between 6 and 13. They say it's a small world and that's proved to be so in our case, as before I was ordained we lived in Bromley and in the church we attended we ran one of the home groups and in our group was the Frymann family. It was good to renew friendship with Peter and Janet when they came to Roughton five years ago.

Immediately before I retired I was vicar of a church near Tonbridge and for some of the time there Stephen Seamer was vicar of a neighbouring church, so since both of us found ourselves in this part of Norfolk another friendship has been renewed. Recently Stephen asked if I could help in the benefice here and I was pleased to do so, as I have taken services here in the past from time to time.

Anyway, enough about me. As I write this letter during the early part of August the future seems very uncertain. Traditionally September has been a time of new beginnings. Children start a new school year with most changing classes and for 11year olds it marks the change of school too (as is the case for two of our grandchildren). Students are also about to go off to college or university for the first time, not quite sure how it will all work out. And in the country we don't know how the economy will all pan out so we can be forgiven for thinking that it's anybody's guess - how we need to pray for wisdom for our leaders at this time. It all seems unknown. And for us locally without a vicar at present we can't be sure how Church will be in the future.

If you had to sum up in one word the events of this year so far, which word would you use? I think one contender would be 'change'. Life does seem very different from this time last year. One example is how we shop with online shopping surging forward and the uncertainty this is bringing to our high streets. I read the other day that the Argos catalogue has been ditched. A billion copies have been printed since its launch in 1973. At its height it was found in three quarters of British home and the comedian Alan Carr chose the catalogue as the book he would take to a desert island when he took part in Desert Island Discs, saying 'the pictures would help me through'. Argos has had to change, but they are still flourishing. Since the pandemic sales have jumped by 10.7%, delivery sales up three quarters and click and collect sales up 53%. We now just do many

things differently.

But one thing does not change, and that's God himself and we have the opportunity to remember this at the end of the month when we celebrate harvest. In recent days we have seen around here the crops being gathered in. God has been faithful. In the words of the old harvest hymn 'All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love'. Despite all the problems and uncertainties of the present time, and they are very real and of concern to most of us, will we do this at this harvest time? In the words of the old adage, do we see our cup as half empty or half full.

Take care and God bless

John

Jane Armiger

Many of you who remember enjoying "Rowan's" Coffee Mornings in Felbrigg Village Hall, raising money for Animal Care, will be sad to hear that Jane, who ran Animal Care, has died.

Over the years at Animal Care, Jane & Albert rescued, cared for and where possible re-homed ponies, goats, dogs cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds and poultry – and through it all, Jane always trusted God for his guidance and provision.

This Trust has continued over the last few years as she experienced the debilitating effects of motor neurone disease, resting on the words she clearly heard Jesus say to her "I have prepared a place for you"

So, although we are sad to lose her, we rejoice that she is now in that place with the Lord who she served so faithfully. Our prayers are with Albert and the family.

Mary

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

Roughton Benefice, Diocese of Norwich

[comprising the parishes of Bessingham, Felbrigg, Gunton and Hanworth, Metton, Roughton and Sustead]

A resolution of all the Churchwardens of the Benefice taken on the behalf of the Parochial Church Councils:

The following pattern will begin from Sunday, July 19th until further notice:

**There will be ONE Service held every Sunday in ONE of the church buildings in the Benefice:
Please see notices.**

All morning services will now begin at 10.30AM.

One church building will be re-opened for worship at a time, after a careful Risk Assessment and suitable preparation for the safe use of the church.

Roughton Church was re-opened again on July 19th.

Felbrigg Church will be re-opened for use on Saturday August 15th for a wedding and thereafter for Sunday worship as and when possible.

Hanworth Church will be re-opened on September 6th and Sustead Church on October 4th .

Gunton and Metton church buildings will remain closed for the time being. For Bessingham please see local details.

Further details will be published on the website, in the benefice magazine and on all appropriate church notice-boards.

Everyone attending public worship is asked to give very careful attention to public instructions to follow social distancing and other regulations for the health and safety of all worshippers.

The telephone numbers of all churchwardens are displayed inside the church buildings.

July 2020. This notice to be displayed on all church notice boards in the Roughton Benefice.

Weekly Readings

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

6 September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1 Exodus 1:*-2:10
Psalm 149
Reading 2 Romans 13:8-14
Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

13 September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1 Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Reading 2 Romans 14:1-12
Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

20 September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1 Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6:
Reading 2 Philippians 1:21-30
Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

27 September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Reading 1 Exodus 1:8 to 2:10
Psalm 124:
Reading 2 Romans 12:1-8
Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

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/>.

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 well of truth in Samaria

High on a wall in Gunton hangs a 200 year old picture of Jesus at Jacob's Well in Sychar (*Shechem*), a historic town in Samaria associated with Abraham. It was there that Jesus declared to the world his mission to save it, as Christ the God given Saviour; an Earth-shaking event indeed. Despite that, the Gunton painting is a conventional Biblical scene with well, trees, Jesus – and a woman who he met there. This stereotyping is fairly common but the real problem is the difficulty the text got into. It undervalues that momentous event; how to unravel it?

The Gospel according to John 4. 4 - 46, tells us that when Jesus arrived on the edge of the town in the early evening, he talked apocryphally to the woman he met there saying the well provided water that is like the water of life which we need on a regular basis to sustain our souls. She then asked how she could acquire that water of the spirit. Jesus had probably seen her prior to the encounter with a group of men so when he asked her to fetch her husband to the well, he probably guessed that none of them were married to her. The difficulty with the text is in John 4.18, where Jesus is alleged to have said, *'you are right in what you said for although you have had five husbands, the one you have now is not your husband'*. It suggested she was a fallen woman.

It was only after further conversation between them, that the disciples joined Jesus so how then could John know about the earlier exchange between Jesus and woman? They asked how he could bring himself to talk to a woman of Samaria – a country and people that had long been ostracised by the Jews and the rest of Israel. It was as though the text was representing a fallen woman for a fallen people. Despite this affront, she went back home to tell her family that the Messiah was with them. According to John, they went out to the well, inviting Jesus and his disciples to stay with them so he could tell them about the mission of his coming ministry for which the Jews had waited for so long.

Jesus was taking a direct route from Jerusalem to Galilee by travelling via Samaria but he hesitated in Sychar knowing his reception back home as a rebel against Judaism might not be a happy one especially if he declared that God, *'has entrusted all judgement to the Son, so that all may honour the Son as they honour the Father'*, John 5.22.

In the very dry climate of the Middle East, wells are special places. They are rarely on a street corner or in a village square. More usually a well is in the centre of a cluster of dwellings whose community built and owned it. For Jesus to walk into a

piece of private property must have been the result of great thirst. Wells are often dug in the middle of a communal garden where food is grown to feed the village. The lush crops are irrigated from the well. Evaporating moisture is held in the micro-climate by the shade provided by the heavy fronds of palm trees growing over-head. Date palms alone can satisfy a large part of the diet of a village. A few tethered animals might graze there also. Surrounding the garden are the walls of the village houses which also shelter the garden from drying winds. From the houses, small windows over-look and guard the garden. Normally the men-folk of the village would probably be away on business in Sychar leaving the women and children alone so these places are often declared 'haram' which comes from the word 'harem', meaning a forbidden place for strangers. For Jesus to intrude into such a place might have generated tension but as soon as he declared himself to be a rabbi it seems he was accepted.

A feminist reading with a more sympathetic view of the text describing the so called 'fallen woman', shows that she was unlikely to have been a profligate divorcee, harlot or adulteress as it suggests. At that time, slave women could not marry under Roman law or initiate a divorce. She could have been a multiple widow forced to be a concubine which was probably her only option. It was considered inappropriate for men to speak to women outside their kinship circles in public. This text is the longest conversation Jesus had with any woman in all four Gospels. For John, the Samaritan woman represented the consummate 'outsider', who, after her transformative encounter with Jesus, became not only an 'insider' but also a devotee, publicly proclaiming Jesus the Messiah throughout her neighbourhood. Along the way, the narrative deliberately highlights and then discounts stereotypical female behaviour to which she does not conform. Yet her non-conformity presented no obstacle to her acceptance and subsequent leadership in Jesus' kinship network. A revised translation of this Biblical text is awaited.

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

THE NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST BIKE RIDE



This is taking place this year on 12th September from 9 am - 5 pm. I'm sure you've all been out on your bikes practising during lockdown! Or maybe your children or grandchildren would like to take part. It is a lovely family day out, visiting as many churches as you can, having a picnic along the way, and raising money through sponsorship to keep our historic medieval churches sound for people to enjoy for generations to come. Without your help many of them could become ruins. There are 600 medieval churches in Norfolk alone, and the lions share of the round tower churches are also in this county. Many of them will now be looking into being taken over by conservation trusts. You can choose a church you like best, and half of your sponsorship money will go to that church, and half to The Norfolk Churches Trust who give grants towards works that need doing on the fabric of our churches.

If you would like to find out more please phone me, Helen on 0126351132. Don't forget to ask your sponsors if they can gift aid, as this gives us an extra 25p in each pound. You can log on at <http://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/>

You can also be sponsored to walk, drive, ride a horse or even man a church to sign people in. If you find you can't do any of these things, please sponsor me by phoning the above number or emailing ronhel.tutt@btinternet.com

Helen Mortimer



BUTTERFLY BONANZA

Ron and I had been discussing recently as to whether there were more butterflies around this year, or was it just that we were around the butterflies more, as we have been walking in the countryside so regularly since lockdown. Well today (Monday 13th) was spectacular, particularly along the footpath at the edge of Lord Anson's wood near North Walsham. I know it's a bit like bird watching, you need to be in the right place at the right time of the year, but we saw our first ever White Admiral, apparently they used to be rare when the woods were coppiced, but now this doesn't often happen there has been an explosion of them, (it says in the book) We also identified the common blue, red admiral, peacock, meadow brown, gatekeeper, large white, small tortoiseshell and speckled wood. Earlier in the year we've seen brimstone and orange tips, sadly though, only one comma so far. We've missed out on the swallowtails this year, but there's always next year! On a different day whilst walking along the old railway line near Honing station, Ron spotted a beautiful BIG butterfly, we watched it for ages, although I'd never seen one before, I knew it was a fritillary of some sort. Looking it up when I got home, it was a silver washed fritillary. All of this species are incredibly rare it says in my book. It made our day.

Helen

SAVING THE WORLD

Well that might be a slight exaggeration, but just before the churches had to be locked, I had put an article in asking people to save old pens, used toothpaste tubes, and empty crisp packets for recycling. On the back pew at Roughton, just as you come in the door, there are three containers in which to collect these items, so save them up. There are services now taking place at Roughton, although the church still has to remain closed at other times. Keep an eye on the noticeboard at the end of the Church Loke, or in your Ambassador for the times and dates of services.

Helen

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 magazines have 6 or 8 pages of advertisements which draws in a considerable income.

If you are interested please contact Ron Mortimer on 01263 511132 or email at roughton.ambassador@gmail.com

HARVEST 'GIFT DAY' Sunday September 27th.

The economic and financial news in the media have taken an increasingly serious turn in the last few days. I am sure you are probably well aware of this, as, like me, you will have noticed, not just in the media but perhaps amidst family and friends, the struggles many people are engaged in as they battle to re-start or ignite their businesses, companies or enterprises following the easing of the "lock-down" restrictions.

So to many people it comes as a real surprise to discover that the Church, as both an institution and as a local concern, faces very similar issues. Local church congregations up and down the country have been away from their public worship services and buildings for nearly four months. Whilst some people do give money directly by banker's order to the funds of their local church many other worshippers give at services Sunday by Sundays as they are able to do. Numerous church buildings are historic and therefore expensive to keep in good repair. Again, so many people think that the Church, whether local or national, has old money or funds able to be used on such occasions to help bale things out. The answer to that assumption is that nowadays most churches and parishes must pay for their own costs and expenses as well as contributing to help those people and places less fortunate and unable to care for their own needs.

To face up to this situation the churchwardens across all our parishes in the Roughton Benefice and I thought that a Harvest Service might be an appropriate occasion to both thank God for His goodness during recent difficult times and to encourage our generosity after "Lock-down" because we must face many of the usual bills and costs.

But, we are not giving simply to support our own house-keeping. Our Harvest gifts will go OUT to other people in two specific directions. Firstly, to assist people struggling to feed their families, and which is a reminder that here in the UK and North Europe many of us are more fortunate than others in many other countries [NB: check out your TV ads at the moment]. Secondly, we shall make a 'tithe' of our money gifts to the benefice by giving 25% of what is given during our Gift Day to the Palm Tree Associates project in Nicaragua which we have supported through links at Felbrigg for some years past.

If, like me, you worship in a church building in the Benefice most Sundays then you will know that we have missed about 16 Sundays since "Lock-down". To get a sense of what has happened in meeting our normal house-keeping imagine the total of your giving had you attended worship on those 'missing' Sundays and given your normal gift. If you gave £2.00 per week that is a loss of £32 to help the local church pay its way. If, at the other end of the scale, you normally gave say

£20 per Sunday that is a loss of £320. Take 25 worshippers who give a weekly amount between £2 and £20 over 16 Sundays and you can quickly see that perhaps as much as £3500 is the sort of amount we do not now have to help with on annual ongoing costs.

Please think and prayer about bringing a special monetary gift to the Felbrigg Harvest service on September 25th. We shall pass on all the gifts of food, fruit and veg that are brought as we shall also share some of our financial gifts to people in a country thousand of miles away from Norfolk and who are in far harder circumstances.

I have asked our Treasurer Ron Mortimer to write a few words below about ways in which we can give weekly via our bank – come sun or rain, illness or pandemic – and how you can specify it goes to one particular parish or church or else across the whole benefice. Please consider giving something special on this Harvest Sunday. We shall use it thankfully and carefully and the wardens and I will not allow careless and frivolous spending of your generosity in any shape or form. Thank you.

Stephen

Giving to your Church

The bank details for each of our Churches are shown below.

One of the best ways to give regularly to your Church is to create a standing order with your bank. If you do online banking this can be set up on your computer without leaving home. If you don't have internet banking you will need to go into your bank. I suggest that you speak with them first in order to ensure you have whatever details they require to set up a standing order.

Account Title	Bank Sort Code	Account Number
St Andrew's Church Metton PCC	30-94-34	00356489
Roughton PCC	20-03-26	90757322
Hanworth Church PCC	30-94-34	00296028
Sustead Parochial Church Council	30-94-34	00378156
Felbrigg Churchwardens	20-03-26	20367192

Please ensure your Church has your details to claim back tax on your payments

Your Local Directory

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Cromer's only independent family run Funeral Directors.
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Getting Around

Commuting to Doctors, Dentist,
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Individual

Companionship - Short term
respite - Going for a walk ·

Contact: Ariane

Tel 07950 457578

Email: arianelomax@icloud.com

Web: supportandhelp.co.uk

Conservatory Cleaning Specialists

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Your Local Directory Cont.

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22A Holt Road, Cromer,
NR27 9JW
Facsimile:- 01263 5126111
cromerelectrical@yahoo.com



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 are open.

Please pre-book your car space online at
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/felbrigg-hall-gardens-and-estate>
or phone 0344 2491895

Entry fee applies, free to National Trust Members

General Enquiries Tel. 01263 837444

Registered Charity No 205846

SEPTEMBER 2020

Services

6 September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Morning Service CW **Hanworth**

13 September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Morning Service CW Roughton

20 September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Morning Service CW Roughton

27 September Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am Benefice Harvest Service & Gift Day CW Felbrigg

[A Church name in Bold marks the first Sunday when a building is re-opened for public worship in the Benefice after cleaning and risk assessment. Hanworth will re-open on September 6th and Susted will re-open on October 4th.

More details will be available in the September magazine]