

# Ambassador

## February 2021



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

**45p**

**[www.roughtonbenefice.uk](http://www.roughtonbenefice.uk)**

# Who's Who in our Benefice

## **Rector: Vacant**

[Patron: The Bishop of Norwich]

## **Assistant Rural Dean:**

The Revd Will Warren, The Old

Vicarage, 42 Cromwell Road, Cromer

NR27 0BE 01263 512000

Or 01263 511474

## **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

Telephone: 01263 768125

Please contact Mr. Seamer for all general Benefice enquiries and pastoral care needs.

### **For enquiries to do with Funerals,**

**Cremations and Burials** please contact Revd Janet Stewart.

Telephone: 01263 824497

### **For Weddings** please contact

the Assistant Rural Dean,

- details at top of page.

## **Prayer Group Co-ordinator**

Helen Mortimer 01263 511132

## **Mothers Union**

Simone Hume 01263 711346

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Please Email copy to

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General Enquires 01263 511132

Advertising Manager required

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## **Safeguarding Officer for Child and**

## **Vulnerable Adults:**

To be advised

Alternatively:

Sue Brice 07958 377079

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

Maureen Wells 01263 768106

## February letter for Ambassador magazine, Roughton Benefice 2021

Dear Friend,

**“..patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God  
... until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady.”** [ TLB. Romans 5:3]

When I wrote last year we were hopeful that the pandemic was ebbing away but, before Christmas, the brutal reality of this virus hit home once again and here we now are in 2021 and in Lockdown No 3. Many of us feel a weariness to the whole subject, but as I saw on the TV news this morning, it is as nothing compared to medical staff, ancillary workers and paramedics who are exhausted after fighting a year long battle with Covid-19. One real sadness about the Corona virus is the social isolation which prohibits many of us from supporting those “on the front line”. Not only this but it also means that many places and venues for worship and prayer are not open for public gatherings, and, if they are available, social distancing must be taken very seriously indeed. The churchwardens, especially responsible for the running of our Benefice, under the Rural Dean and Archdeacon, in an ‘interregnum’ [or, vacancy of a vicar or rector] sought advice and had to take the difficult decision to close our parish churches for public worship for the time being. We hope to re-open as soon as is possible but it is unlikely to be before the start, or possibly even the end of March; please watch local notices and word of mouth. [I had wondered whether we were being a little too precipitate, but then heard of Covid cases in my own village, and also, two of my adult children caught the virus, though thankfully neither had to go into hospital]

At the start of the Great War in August 1914 many people assumed it would be a short and sharp battle and then victory for Britain, its empire and allies. Others like Sir Edward Grey [Foreign Secretary, 1905-1916] saw a longer perspective ahead. In a famous statement Grey commented on “the lights going out” across Europe which would not be lit again for a long time. In wartime we can assume that people at “home” could “do their bit” to help those fighting in another country or place; today the battle lines are different and crossing them without care or thought can only exacerbate the situation, risk or spread of the virus. We are in a catch – 22 situation.

We have watched many people die over the past 11 months. People of all ages have been lost and affected, some close to us and others at a distance but it all still produces disbelief and grief. This is the period of the “long haul”, the steep climb, and the hard path. As I write the most recent publicly announced total number of deaths from Covid-19 up to 28 days after a diagnosis are now over 96,000. There is no other way of saying it, even if here in Norfolk we are far more

fortunate that some other regions of the country; we are in a chastened time and experiencing a distinct trial and tribulation. Like the 1918-1920 Spanish Influenza pandemic, we are not "out of the Woods" and although vaccines are now released for mass inoculation, we are still not entirely able to see all of the wood for the trees.

However, just as with PTSD and other trauma, we are learning that speaking it out, talking of what we are experiencing, and being open and honest about the pandemic, is vital for our heart, soul and mental health. One of the ways God's Word, The Bible, can help us at this time is its honesty in facing the reality of life and death in difficult or horrendous circumstances. There are any number of examples in both Old and New Testaments. But more than that is the necessity of looking beyond the present day and realizing that out of the bad and terrible can come lessons learnt and lives better lived. Our government and politicians will, in time, be able to more effectively plan for future pandemics and disasters, churches and congregations will understand how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in new ways when the old methods are not always practicable and, individually, you and I, may be able to grasp with courage the opportunity needed to see what we can let go of in our old ways of pre-pandemic life and living, and what matters for more, much more, post pandemic. God, through His Word and Holy Spirit, has granted us His grace and love, the ability to see, understand and go forward as and when we can do so. In his own extremity, and facing death by execution, the Apostle Paul wrote;

**" For I am convinced that neither death nor life, ... the present nor the future... nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from God's love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" [ NIV. Romans 8: 37-39]**

In prayer and thought, and with every possible good wish to you and yours for this New Year of 2021,

Stephen Seamer [Hon assistant minister, Roughton Benefice]

### **The Alternative Christmas Card**

A big thank you to all who signed the Christmas card this year. A collection of £80 was made and has been sent to Christian Aid

**The Collection from the Roughton Carol Service was sent to The Children's Society.**

We would, in a normal year make this collection at our Christmas Eve Christingle service, but like many things, this couldn't happen this year, so we were very pleased to be able to send them £110. Thank you for your generosity.

Helen

**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 – Maureen Wells on 01263 768106.

**Although applications for grants can be made at any time of the year. It has been traditional to give grants out before Christmas and the winter months to help with extra expenses incurred this time of the year.**

**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.

## Weekly Readings

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

### **7 February Second Sunday before Lent**

Reading 1 Proverbs 8:1, 22-31  
Psalm 104:26-27  
Reading 2 Colossians 1:15-20  
Gospel John 1:1-14

### **14 February Next Sunday before Lent**

Reading 1 2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
Reading 2 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Gospel Mark 9:2-9

### **17 February Ash Wednesday**

Reading 1 Joel 2:1-2,12-17  
Psalm 51: 1-17  
Reading 2 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6,10  
Gospel Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

### **21 February First Sunday of Lent**

Reading 1 Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25: 1-9  
Reading 2 1 Peter 3:18-22  
Gospel Mark 1:9-15

### **28 February Second Sunday of Lent**

Reading 1 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22: 23-31  
Reading 2 Romans 4:13-25  
Gospel Mark 8:31-38

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 Queen's Christmas message

Many years ago in a far flung corner of our former empire a state visit was arranged by Her Majesty the Queen. An opportunity via the High Commissioner, now the doyen of the diplomatic community, arose to influence the content of the Queen's speech. Christians were a beleaguered minority in that country so the speech was an opportunity to fulfil her roll of 'defender of the (Christian) faith'. The speech was delivered before an exotic audience of local dignitaries dressed in oriental costumes and relayed live on TV. The message underlined the need for different religions and cultures to show mutual respect but it needed very careful wording.

This year's Christmas message was TV's most watched programme with an estimated audience of 6.3 million people. The essential message was that it has been a tough year but we are all in it together and no-one is alone. We are a multi-cultural nation so we are reminded that several religions beside Christians celebrate the end of the year with festivals. Jesus also touched on her central theme in his parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke's Gospel, 10.30-37). This is the story where a man asked Jesus how he could 'inherit eternal life' and achieve happiness. Jesus replied with a parable – a story with a spiritual message. It told of 'a man from Jerusalem' who was robbed and left injured by the roadside but a Jewish priest and Levite passed him by without offering help. Then a Samaritan stopped; bound the man's wounds; helped him to a hostel and paid for his stay while he recovered. He did this good deed according to the Queen's message, *'despite being of another race and another religion'*. This last statement fitted in with the general theme of the speech but unfortunately it does not quite tie in with theological accuracy. The Samaritan showed exemplary care and sympathy to someone who was a stranger to him as we all should in this time of national need. The race of the wounded man was not specified in the text but 'coming from Jerusalem' suggests he was Jewish just as was the Samaritan. Non-Jews are almost invisible in the New Testament so that is a fair assumption. Also the Samaritans were not 'of a different religion' to the Jews. Some of them from the province of Samaria had been taken into captivity in Babylon centuries earlier and a few had loosened their allegiance to the Jewish faith which had led to their ostracism by the rest of the Jews when they returned to Israel. On both accounts the text of the speech was inaccurate even though its central message was clear. Her Majesty's script writers need to take greater care in their wording.

Richard in Gunton.

## Bible a month January 2021

It's not very often a preacher has to scale a cliff to get into his pulpit, but that is the kind of terrain that Pu Zhidui must overcome. Pu oversees eight churches comprising 2,000 believers in total and getting to them in Nujiang Lisu prefecture is no mean feat. The prefecture, in western Yunnan province, is flanked by two 4,000-metre-high mountains with many peaks and rivers in between. Mountain churches here are mostly located in remote areas, inaccessible by any form of transportation. Many of the lay preachers like 50-year-old Pu often go on foot for several hours, trekking narrow paths and crossing streams. At times, landslides and falling rocks mean they even have to scale cliffs. When I visited recently as part of a Bible Society team, Pu was waving his hands about as he preached passionately at Ou Lu Di Church, which is perched 1,900 metres above sea level in Nujiang Lisu's Fugong county. He was drawing from John chapter 1 'Christ is our light of life. He has overcome the darkness,' he exhorted. Millions of Bibles are printed in China every year, which would not be possible without the generosity of Bible a Month supporters. A donation of about £100 over one year, for example, can provide enough Bibles for a whole congregation in a small church in Nujiang Lisu. But it's not just about Bibles. With an estimated 1 million new believers coming to faith each year in China, there is a severe shortage of preachers. Ou Lu Di is one of 360 churches in Fugong county and Pu preaches there once every few months. Fugong has 80,000 Christians but just 67 lay preachers, including Pu, and four pastors. That's one leader per 1,000 Christians, but the believers aren't all in the same place! Pu told me how he still remembers reading the Bible by candlelight on his bed in the dormitory of Fugong Bible School. 'I was reading through the entire Bible for the very first time and I was very moved by God's word, recalled Pu, going back 20 years.

He told me how his mother was healed of her long-term illness after coming to Christ, and that later his wife didn't tell him she'd been hospitalised because she didn't want him distracted from his studies. 'I was hanging on to Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." I just had to commit my family to the Lord,' Pu, now a father, said. The Fugong area is one of China's poorest with the people and the lay preachers mostly subsistence farmers, eking out a simple living by planting corn and potatoes. Due to the demands of church ministry, some devote

themselves full-time to Bible mission, even though they are not financially supported by the church. 'Seeing that I spend so much time in church, my non-Christian friends had actually asked me if I received any monetary support as a preacher!'

Thanks to the regular giving of Bible a Month supporters, long term plans can now be drawn up to ensure that preachers like Pu receive vital support when they need it. Your generosity also provides preachers with quality Bible teaching tools, resources and training. Knowing that Bible a Month readers are praying for them in England and Wales is also a great encouragement to pastors like Pu. Despite the rough terrain and financial issues, Pu is clear about his calling. 'God loves us, I've seen his grace and goodness in my life and my family. Philippians 3.8 says it for me, "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.'" (ESV) Thank you for your continued support of Bible mission in China.

*Cynthia Oh Former communication Manager of United Bible Societies China Partnership.*

### **Felbrigg's Christmas**

Fifteen of us enjoyed the family service at Felbrigg on Christmas day. The church had been decorated with flowers, greenery and candles by Hilary and Wendy. The crib was there with its figures made by our Crusaders years ago! Jill played the organ and Jonathan sang the verses of all the carols while we hummed them quietly into our masks. Sue Wells led the service, tuning our thoughts to the angels and the shepherds, and we were all given an angel to hang with our decorations at home, they were beautifully made by the Cromer craft group.

We gave our offering to the John Aves Education Project, which helps young people from Dheishek refugee camp in Bethlehem do various courses in the local universities. John Aves, a Norfolk man and canon of Norwich Cathedral was working as a volunteer in a community centre in the Dheishek camp in 2004 when he suddenly died. The project was set up in his memory by his widow. We were able to send £110. If you would like to know more about this work, the website is [w.jaep.org.uk](http://w.jaep.org.uk)

Mary

## MORTIMER'S MEANDERINGS

Some days, like today are cold, wet and gloomy, but let me share with you some of God's amazing generosity and glory.

Those of you who know me well enough, know that I am very keen on the natural world, God's creation. There's things that I would love to see, like otters. I've been to Scotland several times scanning the loch edges looking for otters. I've been to nature reserves where people in the hides have said "you should have been here five minutes ago, the otters were here" we are meant to have otters in practically all our rivers now that pollution is well under control, but one day recently I was rewarded. Whilst walking on the footpath just behind the mill at Buxton, I stopped to read a notice on the water, and just behind this notice were two otters! Ron and I followed them as they swam upriver, diving and surfacing again and again. Thank you Lord.

Another day we took a trip to Redgrave and Lopham Fen near Diss, as we were told that the starlings were murmuring there. The car park was packed, I thought there would be no one there just before Christmas, but most of them seemed to be families meeting to exchange presents. Anyway, we had time for a walk around the Great Fen before it got dark, not a starling in sight. We arrived back at the car park, and some flew over our heads, then some more, birds on a mission, I wandered over in the direction they were flying, and there they were! Weaving those patterns in the sky, just for us. It only lasts for a minute or two before they all drop into the trees to roost for the night. Thank you Lord! Just as the latest lockdown started we went to Hickling Nature reserve, it was one of those freezing cold days, but with a cloudless blue sky, I was after seeing the Raptor roost, said to be one of the best in the country. We walked around the reserve first to get warm. It was really special, as apart from one family with two toddlers, we had the place to ourselves. Like we were the only people in God's wonderful creation. We had a hot drink from the thermos in the car before walking down to Stub mill viewing point. I did see about fifteen raptors through my binoculars, but they weren't strong enough to define one from another. One could barely see them with the naked eye, BUT the walk back to the car was amazing. The path goes alongside a large expanse of water with reeds and plenty of waterfowl on it, and the sun was setting behind this wonderful scene. It went on and on changing colours from the pinks and blues to the purples and plum colours as it got darker. Again it felt like God was putting on this display especially for us!

The good thing about sunshine and showers is the rainbows, we have seen quite a few of those, some really vibrant colours with a complete arc (we haven't found any gold yet) I missed out on the best one, that Ron saw coming out of the benefice office, it was right over the church. All such special moments.

One really does have to be in the right place at the right time though. This time of the year I often see the sun rise when I go out to feed Hamish, my Shetland pony. The other day when I first opened the front door, the sky on the horizon behind the wintry black trees was such a deep, deep red, a couple of minutes later whilst preparing his food I poked my head out of the shed to have another look, and the sky was all ripply pinks and blues. By the time I took his meal out to him it was all over.

Helen

### **Trevor Peck - a legend**

b.8th January 1939

d.November 18th 2020

Funeral and Burial were at Sustead Church on 11th December 2020.

Trevor's death was very sudden and tragic after a short illness. He is desperately missed by Marlene, Julie and Andy.

Trevor had a gruelling upbringing. His mother died when he was 10 years old and his father was out at work all day. Trevor started work for Major Barclay on Hanworth Common and then did National Service for 3 years. He married and had a son, before joining up later with Marlene.

He worked at Rowlands Engineering in Aylsham for many years where he learnt to be an expert metalworker. He specialised in work for farmers and only fully retired when he was 70 years old. He was very creative and was much valued. Marlene was especially touched to receive complimentary letters from his past employers.

Trevor's other skills included green fingers. You only have to see their own garden which is a picture, and his gardening clients have also shown their appreciation to Marlene.

Trevor will be remembered in Sustead church by his gift of a metal flower stand, and Metton Church by the internal iron gates he made for Eunice.

His donations of plants to the stall at the annual Sustead Coffee Morning for so many years, were amazing. These, combined with the professional and imaginative skills of Marlene on the cake stall, were a huge contribution to the church. Memorably he designed and made metal plant supports that were much in demand. Many people in the village and surroundings have benefited from Trevor's creative skills.

Trevor was kind, talented and well known for always being willing to help others at any time day or night. Placid and unflappable. Rest in Peace.

Priscilla

## Norfolk Coast AONB and Broads Dark Skies Festival 2021



**NORFOLK COAST**  
PARTNERSHIP

PROTECTING AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

We are very lucky to enjoy splendid night skies and dark landscapes where we live on the Norfolk Coast. These contribute to the rural character and that feeling of remoteness and tranquillity – some of the reasons why people like to come here. The lack of light pollution and resulting dark skies contribute to our health and well-being

by allowing us to philosophise about our place in the universe, enjoy astronomy activities and gain a sense of nostalgia, peace and romance. In addition, scientific studies show that we need the dark to help us sleep properly which in turn boosts our immune system and lowers stress levels. Darkness not only brings us numerous benefits, but is necessary for wildlife to navigate during migration, hunt prey or avoid predators, pollinate night flowering plants, or simply to sleep as part of the 24 hour day/night cycle which humans also need.

The Norfolk Coast Partnership are therefore working with various organisations and businesses, including the Norfolk Broads National Park, to celebrate our night skies, and preserve them by reducing the impact of light pollution on our rural landscapes. We will be holding our 3rd Dark Skies Festival this year between Saturday 25th September – Sunday 10th October 2021 and we hope you will enjoy taking part. Events will consist of a mix of online and face-to-face activities throughout the festival fortnight. Put the dates in your diary and find out more on our Norfolk Coast Dark Skies Facebook page

@norfolkcoastaonb or follow us via Twitter @NorfolkAONB

Is your community interested in preserving the night skies where you live? We are interested to work with town and parish councils and local businesses in and close to the Norfolk Coast AONB. For further information contact Kate in the Norfolk Coast Partnership staff team on [kate.dougan@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:kate.dougan@norfolk.gov.uk)

Catherine Leigh

Assistant Project Adviser (part time, usually Mon, Tues & Weds)

Norfolk Coast Partnership

South Wing, Fakenham Fire Station, Norwich Road, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 8BB :

[direct]01328 850545T (general office): 01328 850530

### **Disclaimer:**

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**Contact: Ariane**

Tel 07950 457578

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Facsimile:- 01263 5126111  
[cromerelectrical@yahoo.com](mailto: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 weekends only 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

# **FEBRUARY 2021**

## **Services**

**CHURCHES CLOSED  
UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**

### **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 having taken advice from the Rural  
Dean and the Diocese**

**All churches will close forthwith and are unlikely to reopen before the  
beginning of March 2021 and more likely the beginning of April 2021.**