

**Open The Book** is a project which offers primary schoolchildren the opportunity to hear the major stories of the bible during the school year. It is a free service given to each school by a small team of Christians from local churches. Each presentation takes a maximum of 10 minutes and can be incorporated into a wider school assembly. It is a wonderful opportunity for our benefice to assist our clergy in school ministry and it is intended that a basic training day will be held locally for those interested in being part of the team. We will also need some help manufacturing basic costumes and props. You can view the Open The Book video on their website and the Diocesan Open the Book video on You-Tube. If interested in any way please contact Eunice Norwood at [Stibbardchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:Stibbardchurch@btinternet.com) or 01328 855665.

### SERVICES IN MARCH

These arrangements are correct at the time of going to press but please check the Benefice website. **Building work continues at Holy Innocents, FOULSHAM and All Saints, WOOD NORTON.**

#### **SUNDAY 5 MARCH First Sunday of Lent**

9:30am North Elmham Holy Communion  
 9:30am Foxley Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10:00am Guestwick Morning Prayer (BCP)  
 11:00am Stibbard Holy Communion (CW1)  
 11:00am Twyford Holy Communion (CW1)  
 11:00am Guist All-Age Worship (CW1)

#### **SUNDAY 12 MARCH Second Sunday of Lent**

9:30am Billingford Holy Communion (CW2)  
 10:00am Guestwick Morning Prayer (BCP)  
 11:00am Worthing Holy Communion (BCP)  
 11:00am Bawdeswell Holy Communion (CW1)  
 11:00am North Elmham Morning Prayer (BCP)

#### **SUNDAY 19 MARCH Third Sunday of Lent**

8:00am North Elmham Holy Communion (BCP)  
 9:30am Guestwick Holy Communion (BCP)  
 9:30am Guist Holy Communion (CW1)  
 9:30am Billingford Family Service (CW)  
 10:30am Bawdeswell Holy Communion (CW1)  
 11:00am Stibbard Holy Communion (CW1)  
 11:00am Foxley Holy Communion (CW1)  
 11:00am North Elmham Morning Prayer (CW)  
 11:00am Twyford All Age Worship (CW)

#### **SUNDAY 26 MARCH Fourth Sunday of Lent**

9:30am Bintree Holy Communion (CW1)  
 9:30am Billingford Morning Prayer (BCP)  
 10:00am Guestwick Morning Prayer (BCP)  
 10:30am Bawdeswell Word & Praise (CW1)  
 11:00am North Elmham All-Age Worship (CW1)  
 11:00am Worthing Morning Prayer (BCP)  
 6:00pm Foxley Evening Prayer (BCP)

The parishes of:  
 Bawdeswell  
 Billingford  
 Bintree  
 Foulsham  
 Foxley  
 Guestwick



Guist  
 North Elmham  
 Stibbard  
 Themelthorpe  
 Twyford  
 Wood Norton  
 Worthing

[www.heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk](http://www.heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk)

# PEWS NEWS

## March 2017

### CHURCHES BACK OR BACK TO CHURCH?

In April, Foulsham and Wood Norton are expected to have their Churches back in use after extensive restoration works. The lock-out from our churches, much needed as it is, has coincided with a gap in the clergy staff, so I have been out somewhere in the group most Sundays since May. New support is now in place so I look forward to sitting and singing with my wife very soon. I think what I am writing about Foulsham applies in some way to most of the other parishes. It is not meant to judge anyone, still less offend them. But, as they say, "If the cap fits, wear it". When I was confirmed in the Church of England, 62 years ago, my Methodist minister, gave me some advice. "The tradition of the CofE is to attend Communion every Sunday, except for grave reasons – and the best way to keep that tradition is to make it your habit right from the beginning." The Church community, from the beginning, celebrated the Risen Christ on the First Day of every week with a sharing of bread and wine together (in quantity or token). They did it because it was Christ's bequest to remember him, not a heavy burden, but simply being open to receive God's gift. So, as the service says, "It is our duty and our joy".

So, when we get our churches back, but find we can't have the service we want, in the form we want, at the time we want, are we off the hook? Still thinking of ourselves as "Church", but then getting on with the car-wash or the gardening? Shall we have 13 church buildings but no families making them a home? We cannot put the clock back, but we can remind ourselves that "we are the Body of Christ and members of one another" and give inevitable changes a chance by trying out the ancient recipe: Every member, every Sunday. That was their standard, but now, as then, not everyone can make it. Fair enough; but are you one of them?

## INTERIM MINISTRY

### Revd Sally Kimmis writes:

Dear Friends,

At the very end of January, I was delighted to be able to announce the beginning of a new Interim Ministry across the churches of the Heart of Norfolk Team. The Revd Canon Christopher Davies, formerly Vicar of Wymondham Abbey, has joined us for a period of up to 12 months and will be taking services and getting to know our village communities at coffee mornings and other gatherings. I am handing over to Christopher now, to introduce himself and reflect on the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### Christopher writes:

I am delighted to have this opportunity of returning to parish ministry and I am much looking forward to working with Sally and getting to know the communities that make up The Heart of Norfolk. I have been ordained for over 30 years and have served in inner-city, suburban and latterly a market town parish (Wymondham). In coming to The Heart of Norfolk I feel in one sense that I am coming home as the first part of my working life was spent as a farmer in a rural part of Hertfordshire. Much has changed in the church during those 30 years but one thing which has remained constant for me, wherever I have served, is the need to set aside some time to nurture my relationship with God.

Although I was taught in my theological training always to set aside some time each day for some serious theological reading, the realities of a busy parish mean that such a discipline often gets squeezed. I feel I cannot justify sitting with my head in some tome when a parishioner should be visited or Holy Communion taken to someone who is housebound. In Lent I always try extra hard, however, to do some spiritual reading and I am currently setting aside half an hour each day to read around the subject of worship. I have already had a salutary lesson and have been reminded that worship isn't about spectacle. For those of us who regularly participate in worship, particularly "from the front" be it leading intercessions, reading, welcoming or acting as sidespersons, there is the feeling of being on view and yet the only audience for worship is God. Of course we want to get things right in our worship, but for whom?

In the same way in our daily lives we take care to make sure our behaviour is acceptable to others and the approval and admiration of others remains a powerful force in our lives. But we have heard the word of Jesus: It is not people we must impress; it is God we must honour. We are not to seek our neighbour's approval but we are to faithfully serve the purposes of God. What we say and do as Christians seeks not the approval of people but the honouring of God. It is not public recognition and approval that should be our first concern – but rather the mission of God in Jesus Christ. No doubt that may prompt some to see what we do as perverse or maybe even hypocritical. But we are to hang loose to our reputations, neither out of false modesty, nor the blithe disregard of how may look to others but in sure and certain dependence on God's righteousness alone. Lent is a wonderful opportunity for some extra reading and reflection. If you do not fancy doing this on your own why not join one of the groups which will be meeting? I have certainly found over the years that the more I am able to do in this respect the more wonderful the celebration of Easter becomes. Do use Lent positively! With every Blessing.

*Christopher*

**Revd Sally Kimmis Team Rector: her usual day off is Friday. 48 Holt Road, North Elmham NR20 5JQ [heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com](mailto:heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com) 01362 668850**

**Revd Canon Christopher Davies will be working three days a week and taking some of the Sunday services. Contact is [cjoldrectory@gmail.com](mailto:cjoldrectory@gmail.com) and mob: 07702 865412**

**Benefice Administrator Nicola Clayson; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. [heartofnorfolkchurches@gmail.com](mailto:heartofnorfolkchurches@gmail.com) 01362 668850**

### COFFEE MORNING



St Margaret's Church, Worthing

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 a.m.**

During the morning we hope to meet as many people to share and experience the splendour of this truly simple but magnificent piece of heritage that has been bestowed upon this village. We hope to illustrate how we have so far ensured the safekeeping and sustainability of this piece of history and its value to us all, but we need to do more and with your help. So please join us for a cuppa on the 11<sup>th</sup>.