



Notes from around the Parishes,
For Great Massingham, Little Massingham & Harpley
February 2022



Rev'd Judith Pollard writes:

“There is a hope that burns within my heart that gives me strength for every passing day.” So wrote Christian hymn-writer Stuart Townend - and I echo that sentiment. But where does that hope come from if you don't have faith? In the dark days of Winter we have to search hard for signs of hope to draw us out of gloom and into Spring. This may be different things for each of us. It could be early snowdrops, also known as “fair maids of February” or “Candlemas bells”, nestled in the frosty earth and their amazing beauty. Snowdrop walks are available at Walsingham Abbey (and in many other locations) from the end of January until March. Our good fortune to live in the beautiful county of Norfolk perhaps makes it easier to cope with life's continuing restrictions & challenges due to Covid?

“God is love and those who live in love live in God – and God lives in them.”

I say these words at the beginning of the Church of England's Marriage Service. Love – as well as hope – burns within our hearts; it's what makes the world go round, so they say! In February, on St. Valentine's Day, our thoughts turn to love and our sweethearts. Do we still send greetings cards? Humorous, artistic, sentimental or scented, the impulse to let someone we love know that we are thinking of them is hard to resist - although nowadays it's likely to be an e-card that plays a jaunty tune. However, secret admirers must find it hard to remain anonymous when many intimate details of our lives are now shared on social media. The origins of St. Valentine, Patron Saint of Lovers are thought to be linked to the Roman pagan festival of Lupercalia (which promoted health and fertility) that occurred in Rome on the Ides of February - but he was a real person, a Christian priest or bishop of Terni who was martyred in Rome at about the same time as the popular Lupercalia festival in AD 269 under the Emperor Claudius.

Christians believe that we are all children of an ever-loving God who blesses those who love one another, as Jesus did his disciples. “*Anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*” So wrote St. John; and priest and poet John Donne wrote:

“I scarce believe my love to be so pure as I had thought it was - because it doth endure...”

Love constantly surprises us. Perhaps it does mellow and improve with age, like good wine. We have seen many occasions of generous, self-giving love during the pandemic that will stay with us for ever.

St. Paul's letter to the Colossians (3.14) states:

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule within your hearts. Love is eternity set in the human heart.

I wish for you all enduring hope and love this Spring, however you may find it and I send my warmest greetings to all parishioners for a peaceful and safe February,

Judith

Contact: The Rev'd Judith Pollard, The Rectory, Grimston 01485 601251

Rates of Covid infection continue to rise locally although in all our parishes the rate is below the average for England. Government regulations are being relaxed from 27th January but still please consider using sensible precautions when coming to church.

* **Protect Yourself & Others ~ things to consider** *

** **Wash your hands** ** **Wear a mask** ** **Keep your distance** **

*** **Take a Lateral Flow Test before mixing outside your usual circle** ***

The C of E Covid guidance starts: "Within the Church we believe that everyone is known and loved individually by God and that as many members within one body we are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1 Cor 12:12-27)."

Sunday 30th Jan - Epiphany 4is the FIFTH Sunday in January

1030 Group Holy Communion St Mary's, East Walton

4pm Afternoon Tea Service St Nicholas', Gayton

This is the first time that an Afternoon Tea Service will be held at Gayton: a service on the theme of *Candlemas* with music and readings while enjoying refreshments served in the newly improved surroundings of St Nicholas'

Rev'd Judith's plan is that the fifth Sundays will be times when we gather together in one of our ten churches and get to know others from our group.

This replaces the group services held on the second Sunday each month.

SERVICES FOR THE GROUP in February

Wednesday 2nd Feb

9am Holy Communion in Harpley

Celebrating Candlemas



Sunday 6th Feb - 4th Sunday before Lent

0830 Holy Communion

All Saints', Roydon

0930 Lay-led Family Service

St Lawrence's, Harpley

0930 Holy Communion

St Andrew's, Little Mass

1030 Holy Communion

St Botolph's, Grimston

3pm Evensong

St Andrew's, Congham



Sunday 13th Feb - 3rd Sunday before Lent,

0830 Holy Communion

St Andrew's, Congham

0930 Lay led Morning Prayer

St Andrew's, Lit Massingham

1030 Holy Communion

St Mary's, Gt Massingham

1030 Holy Communion

St Nicholas', Gayton

Wednesday 16th Feb

9am Holy Communion in Grimston



Sunday 20th Feb - 2nd Sunday before Lent

0930	Sung Eucharist	St Lawrence's, Harpley
0930	Family Holy Communion	St Mary's, Gt Massingham
1030	Lay-led Morning Praise	St Botolph's, Grimston

Sunday 27th Feb - Sunday next before Lent

0830	Holy Communion	Saint Mary's, East Walton
0930	Lay led Family Service	St Mary's, Gt Massingham
0930	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Lt Massingham
1030	Holy Communion	St Nicholas', Gayton
3pm	Celtic Service	St Mary's, Gayton Thorpe

Wednesday 2nd March *Ash Wednesday*

9.30am	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
	St Lawrence's, Harpley
6.30pm	Meditation and Ashing
	St Botolph's, Grimston



Sunday 6th March - Lent I

0830	Holy Communion	All Saints', Roydon
0930	Lay-led Family Service	St Lawrence's, Harpley
0930	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Little Mass
1030	Holy Communion	St Botolph's, Grimston
3pm	Evensong	St Andrew's, Congham



Lent Study Groups:

Details are being finalised – see next month's magazines

From the Registers:

Funerals held at St Mary's, Great Massingham:

24th Dec **Barry George Goodings** with burial at St Martin's, Houghton

5th Jan **Margaret Ann Green**

St Lawrence's News: on 9th January, in preparation for her marriage later this year, **Rhiannon Margaret Meredith-Davies** was baptised at St Lawrence's, Harpley. This was the last day that a service could be held in the main body of the building, internal scaffolding had already been erected as the builders were beginning their work on 10th. In the current climate masks were worn and it was so cold that steam was rising from warmed water in the font



Lucy Brown writes:

'The Pousada (sic) was a great success this Advent, it travelled as far as Rudham, then Nethergate St, St. Lawrence Cl, Back St and Ravens Lane.

The knitted Nativity figures including the much loved donkey enjoyed being hidden in the Christmas tree, being tipped over by a naughty elf, were introduced to Mine Craft and also just being played with and rearranged in their stable box.

The writing and pictures in the Pousada book were truly amazing! Thankyou to everyone.

Here is one of the prayers:

For those seeking a home

Dear God,

As the Star that shone in the night sky

guided those to the newborn King,

may the love and compassion present in all of us

guide the suffering to a place of safety.

Let us love so that they may feel loved. Amen.

If anyone would like to help us knit another Pousada, please let me know'. *Lucy*

Editor's note: **Posada is a Spanish word meaning inn.**

Las Posadas is a nine day festival celebrated mainly in Latin American countries from Dec 16th to Dec 24th: In Mexico, each evening a child dressed as an angel leads a procession through town calling at homes and asking for a bed for the night to mark Mary and Joseph's search for an inn on the night Jesus was born. Each evening ends with a party! This tradition has been adapted within the Church of England in recent years. Usually as part of the Christmas preparations for a Sunday school, families offer to host figures of Mary and Joseph (and the donkey) for one of the nine nights; they are returned to Church on Christmas Eve to join the Nativity scene for the Christmas celebrations.

Diary Dates:

West Norfolk Gilbert & Sullivan Society presents a comic opera:

The Pirates of Penzance

Thurs 3rd Feb to Sat 5th at 7:30pm with Saturday Matinee at 2:30pm

The Guildhall, King's Lynn Tickets £14 (conc £12.50) Under 16s £6

BOX OFFICE 01553 764864 or kingslynncornexchange.co.uk

Please send items for inclusion in the March issue of the 'Parish Notes' to the editor by 20th Feb. Rosemary Mehers 01485 521866 or rosemarymehers@hotmail.com

These 'Notes' are also available on the web-site www.ggmbenefice.co.uk or, contact the editor, if you wish to receive them by email.