March 2021

The Newsletter

What, I wonder, have we learnt from lockdown? There's much talk about the difficulty of school and college learning due to lockdown for which we all should have huge sympathy. But what about the experience of lockdown itself? What have we learnt about ourselves?

We ought to have learnt something - if only our impatience with it all. And our fears - how close they are to the surface, how readily they can be manipulated. How law-abiding most of us are most of the time, even in the face of draconian measures - and how readily we make exceptions for ourselves if we feel we need to. How interesting a trip to the supermarket feels if it's the only shopping allowed. But how subdued the mood is everywhere…

We've all had to slow down - all perhaps except drivers of delivery vans. Perhaps we've become more reflective. It would be a pity if we haven't. Entertainment is always a temptation - but the pursuit of endless distraction leaves us feeling passive and empty. Stillness seems dull - until you see a purpose in it.

Stillness is essential for the spiritual life - not all the time, but at least some of it. Crisis makes us want to go deep - we long to go beyond just saying prayers to needing to know God's presence, know that we are known, understood.

Here's how. Open your bible, find a gospel. Or a psalm. Ask Jesus to show you. Read a verse, a paragraph, a story, a chapter - but not too much. The read it again. Mull it over. Stay with it. Dwell on God's good news. Reflect. Wonder. Listen. Pray.

Paul

For all enquiries or pastoral matters, please contact the Rector:
Revd Paul Burr, The Vicarage, The Common, Swardeston, Norwich NR14 8EB
Tel: 01508 570550 Email: pburr100@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Intwood & Keswick:	John Scotting 01603 452893 Richard Dannatt 01603 259537
Swardeston:	Andrea Pithers 01508 570802 ; Lynn Hewitt: 01508 578767
Ketteringham:	Mary Parker 01603 811330
East Carleton:	No wardens — enquiries to Peter Riches 01508 571449 or to Vicar

Church Services in Lockdown

In the first lockdown churches were told they had to close. So we had to find ways of meeting on-line. In this Benefice we first started meeting by Zoom on Passion Sunday, 29th March 2020, and have met each Sunday by Zoom ever since. A secure Zoom link is emailed out to all church members each week - and to anyone else upon request. Up to 45 households join for worship week by week. For a Zoom link just email pburr100@gmail.com

When lockdown was eased services in church were resumed - but at present all services are on line while infection rates are high.

Walking

Walking together - as we are all able to exercise and enjoy the Norfolk countryside if you could benefit from someone to walk with then phone 01508 578767 to get in touch with another walker to arrange one-off or regular walks.

Knitters and Stitchers

It almost a year since we have been able to meet together for our knitting group on alternate Monday afternoons . I think we have all missed the company and togetherness we had as a group. Most of us have carried on with various projects at home and I have a large stock of items ready to take to the resource centre as soon as they are able to reopen and receive our makes. I have a supply of wool if anyone needs it, I can deliver it to your door. Ring me on 01508 578759 - Sue Oxbury

Helping Rough Sleepers in Norwich

Swardeston Church has been supporting Ben Potter and his colleagues who go out every Sunday morning and provide food, clothing and sleeping bages to rough sleepers in Norwich. Contributions of food and clothing can be left at the back of church and will be collected and taken to Ben on Friday afternoons. Details of what has been achieved so far this winter can be found on the church's Facebook page - click https://www.facebook.com/SwardestonChurch/ and look for Sunday breakfast up date.

Easy Fundraising

During this lockdown, many of us have been doing our shopping online. There are many retailers that will contribute to a charity if you shop with them. Swardeston Church can benefit if you go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarysswardeston/ and then click on the retailer you are going to use. They have 4,300 shops signed up. You won't be charged any overhead, but the church will always get a contribution. So far we have raised nearly £400 from just 12 supporters. Please, join our supporters and help our church at this difficult time.

Zoom Coffee Mornings

Zoom coffee mornings - call 01508 578767 for details on how to meet up on a Monday or Tuesday morning at 11.30am for a 30 minute catch up to share experiences or if you feel in need of support during these challenging times

Snowdrops - visit Ketteringham and East Carleton Churches to see the lovely displays of snowdrops - be sure to keep to the footpaths in both locations.

Swardeston Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

Swardeston Parish Council held its last face-to-face meeting in March 2020 when it received a presentation from Equinor regarding proposed extensions to the existing Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoals windfarms. Since then all council meetings have been conducted online and will continue that way for the foreseeable future. Members of the public are welcome to join these meetings - see https://swardeston-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/ along with meeting agendas and minutes. Similarly Equinor had to switch their consultation process online and all Swardeston residents received details in the post.

Hornsea 3 windfarm project

As you may have seen in the media, the Hornsea 3 windfarm project finally received permission from the Secretary of State at the end of 2020 and Orsted are now preparing plans for construction although nothing has been published as yet.

Litter Pick

Our Spring Litter Pick had to be delayed due to Covid-19 but a small group of volunteers managed to clean up most of the parish in September. For some reason the last year of travel restrictions and lockdowns seems to have increased the volume of litter in the village and we are grateful to a couple of village residents who are collecting litter while out on their “allowed exercise” around the village on a regular basis.

New houses

Bennett Homes finally made a start on the first batch of houses on the land off Bobbins Way. The rather large signs beside Main Road were erected without the necessary planning consent – a matter now in the hands of South Norfolk Council (probably have been resolved by the time you read this).

South Norfolk Help Hub

The South Norfolk Help Hub continues to offer assistance to anyone who is struggling in these strange times. Contact them on 01508 533933.

Friends of Swardeston Common (FoSCom)

We were all greatly saddened by the death last May of Grace Smith, a great supporter of our group, and who had kindly allowed us to store our mower in her garage with direct access to the common.

Peter Thomas kindly offered us alternative accommodation which, despite being somewhat removed from the common (our mower is not a road-going machine), provided us with a home for the rest of 2020.

We decided to follow advice to "let the grass grow to see what's there" so were only mowing once every four weeks. But having let the grass grow, the offer of "men and machines" to cut the long grass in the autumn failed to materialise. We were left with an enormous task to cut and cart a massive volume of undergrowth manually. So we have decided to revert to our mowing strategy of previous years with regular mowing while keeping a lookout for patches of wild flowers to avoid. For this reason we are hoping to find a "garage" with direct access to the common once again to enable frequent use of the machine.

We are grateful to the many members who have already renewed their subscriptions for 2021, we really missed the Christmas Fayre last December which would have given us a chance to chat with members old and new as well as raise funds for our cause, but we have lost several members from previous years for a variety of reasons and are keen to recruit new members or welcome back lapsed ones. Please contact us on 01508 570249 or foscom@talktalk.net for more information.

Webinar on Edith Cavell

Check out the ***Find My Past*** **webinar on Edith Cavell** on January 20th - it lasts 75 minutes and features Canon Peter Doll from the Cathedral and our own Nick Miller.
The link is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2pzbuMnj-Y

Remembering...

Dear Editor

Over the years I have got to know many of my neighbours very well, so when we lose them, we want to celebrate their lives. But nobody knows everybody, so for it to work properly lots of people have to do it. And how far back do you go? So I offer a few notes about those we have recently lost in the hope others might send their own notes in of neighbours and friends whose lives should be remembered.

We recently lost Beryl Duffield, who for many years served the village particularly in the Village Hall, and with Tony in their milk business. I had the privilege of working with Beryl on the Village Hall trustees, and although we did not always agree, I was gratified by her sense of fairness and her commitment to the village. When she was taken to the church from her house to her funeral, a lot of people turned out to show their respect and affection. I felt that this was a strong memorial of her.

We have also lost Keith Candish. For many years he gave us the benefit of his professional qualification and skill in voluntarily auditing the accounts of village organisations. He was the best kind of auditor, level-headed and supportive, and I know that he gave his friends and neighbours personal support of this kind as well. You could rely on Keith, and this lives on after his passing.

We came to the village in 1976. Grace Smith was here a full decade ahead of us. Her husband was a builder and built the bungalow on the Common where she lived for the rest of her life. He eventually established his office just off the Common. Grace herself was a needlework teacher in Long Stratton. Many will remember her with respect and affection. Grace kept a lovely garden and was a regular member of the parish church, where she was warmly appreciated

Although she had not lived in Swardeston quite so long, Gwen Dansey Smith who died last year left a legacy of discrete kindness as well. A little while ago Maeve and I had a particular health crisis, and Gwen was amongst a number of people who made sure that we had a substantial hot meal to eat every day. She also contributed in other ways to village life, particularly in the parish church. Many of us will remember her with gratitude and fondness.

I really hope that other people will write celebrating their neighbours and friends. I am sure that if they would prefer to do so anonymously you will let them do so.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Francis

Edith Cavell Day Centre

The Edith Cavell Day Centre has been closed for a year in March but the managers, Liz and Julia, have been supporting the members with home visits, telephone calls and virtual chats. They all received Christmas gifts and cards - a lovely surprise for them as they weren't expecting anything. We hope to return as soon as we can, there is going to be a huge need for people to get out and socialise again. We are also going to re-open as 'The Swardeston Day Centre'. We realise the name change will disappoint some, but we need to show the area in which we are based to get us higher on Google search - that's the world we live in. We are still very proud of our links to Edith Cavell and refer to her on our website and in our brochure.

Help with Shopping

Enquires to Liz Brown 01508570660 or lizbrown1585@gmail.com
I go out shopping every Wednesday morning. I am happy to do shopping, normally Waitrose, Marks and Spencer's and Coop, collect prescriptions, post office duties, chemists, bakers, butchers and anything else you need picking up. Please email Hilary at hilary.springett@sky.com or ring me on 01508 570304.

Creative writing

Over ten weeks from 2nd February Lucy Johnson will be participating in a residency organised by the Norwich Writers Centre with Ian Nettleton where she intends to complete 'The Mysterious Affair at Sizewell' - with a nod to Freeman Wills Croft! This will be more 'crimeish noir' type fiction - as Lucy has yet to recover from the erudite commentary on my previous foray:-

What I love best out of L S Johnson's writing is not only its modern amusing culture (is there a hint of Dickens in those names and in the multiple characters?) but also the puns, wordplay and reckless way the writer leaves fragments of literature like clothes all over the road of the narrative. Social satire of recent times,

Church Services: March 2021

Due to the pandemic our churches have moved all services on line during the present lockdown. We will review things once infection rates drop to a safer level.

Meanwhile all services are by Zoom:

Sunday Morning Worship: 11am each Sunday in March
Lenten Evening Prayer 4pm each Thursday in March

Please email the Vicar at pburr100@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Forthcoming Funeral

The funeral of Anthony George Duffield, 91, is fixed for Friday 19th March at Swardeston Church at 11.30am

Funerals since lockdown

Arthur Myhill, 87, on 23rd March in Ketteringham Churchyard
Michael John Botwright, 75, on 25th March at St Faith's Crematorium
Rita May Allen, 84, on 17th April at Colney Wood Chapel
Dr Richard Joby. 84, on 24th July at Swardeston Church
Edna Irene Willings, on 31st July at Bracon Ash Church
Gwendoline Dansey Smith, 79, on 21st Sept. at Swardeston Church
Iris Myrtle Leman, 95, on 5th October at Earlham Crematorium
Beryl Mary Duffield, 83, on 23rd October at Swardeston Church
Keith Gerald Candish, 80, on 19th October, at Swardeston Church
Betty May Muttock, 85, on 20th November at East Carleton Church

To receive the Newsletter direct into your in-box, email your request to the editor at **thenewsletter@live.co.uk**

Please email material for the April issue of the Newsletter to the editor by **Tuesday 16th March 2020 at** the same address.