



March 2024

The Newsletter

What do you think about churches baptising asylum seekers? Churches have been accused of facilitating thousands of bogus asylum claims by means of fake conversions. Stories about migrant baptisms have emerged following the horrible chemical attack on a woman and her two children in Clapham. The suspect apparently failed in his first two asylum applications: he succeeded the third time after getting baptised. A priest vouched for his genuine conversion.

All sorts of issues arise. When did the state delegate asylum process to the church? Is baptism to be regarded as a *political* act in this country? Do people really think baptism makes you *British*? It isn't what churches think. Imagine if churches *refused* to baptise people on the grounds that they were asylum seekers...

Jesus said 'My kingdom is not of this world.' Baptism marks the start of Christian pilgrimage: it's a way of declaring you believe in Jesus and that you dedicate your life to following him. But how is anyone to know whether a candidate is sincere or not? Queen Elizabeth I said 'You can't make windows into men's souls.' And you can't - and no one (including priests) should pretend they can.

What if converts promptly stop going to church once they are baptised? I don't think asylum seekers have a monopoly on that.

Is a chemical attack worse because the perpetrator has just got baptised? It certainly makes it more shocking. Christians are supposed to live holy lives of kindness and compassion - to follow the example of the man who stands at the centre of human history. But there are many who want faith without ethics, freedom without responsibility, church without holiness, goodness without godliness. We shouldn't need reminding it can't be done.

Paul

For all enquiries or pastoral matters, please contact the Rector:
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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

Family Services on Mothering Sunday

Do join us at one of our Family Services on Mothering Sunday, 19th March: Swardeston Church at 9.30am with coffee and cakes afterward; or at Intwood Church at 11am. All welcome - bring the family.

Lent Series

Do join us on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent for our Lent Series this year. We will seek to hear the message of the gospel afresh by reading a short letter of St Paul called 'The Epistle to the Galatians'.

We meet in Swardeston Church's Cavell Room at 7.30pm from Wednesday 21st February. Reading, listening, discussion, prayer. And coffee and biscuits. No charge. All welcome.

Ketteringham & East Carleton History Group

The next meeting of Ketteringham & East Carleton History Group will be at 10.30am on Saturday 9th March in the Village Hall. To mark our 20th year we are looking at 'Wells, watercourses and ditches' in both villages. For more information, contact Ingrid 01603 504400.

East Carleton Lent Lunch

Join us for a Lent Lunch on Saturday 2nd March 12.30pm to 1.30pm in East Carleton Church. A simple lunch. No charge, but donations invited for the John Aves Education Project who help young bright Palestinians from Dheisheh Palestinian Refugee camp through university, and so they can help their families and people overcome the obvious challenges in the Camp.

For further details go to <https://www.jaep.org.uk/>

Swardeston Jubilee Club

We continue to meet for refreshments and chat every second Tuesday (i.e. 12th March) in the Social Club Lounge at Swardeston Village Hall between 10 am and 12 noon. This is an ideal opportunity to make new friends or reconnect with old ones so just drop in for a cuppa and a slice of cake. There is no charge but we do depend on casual donations to cover our operating costs. If you would like to come along but need transport please contact derek@enfield-house.co.uk or call 01508 570249 and we'll try to assist if we can. Hope to see you there.

Swardeston Spring Litter Pick.

Swardeston Spring Litter Pick. Saturday April 20th from 10.00, meeting at Swardeston Village hall car park. To enable allocation of routes please register in advance by calling Liz on 01508 570249 or email derek@enfield-house.co.uk. Hi-viz, pickers and sacks will be provided, please bring your own gloves. We already have a few regular volunteers but could use more so, if you can spare a couple of hours, please get in touch – it's your village we're trying to keep clean!

Book swap coffee mornings

Book swap coffee mornings will be on Tuesday 5th and 19th March between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon in the Cavell Room - all welcome to call in tel 01508 578767

Norwich Foodbank

The box for donations to the foodbank, which has been running since 2010, will be at the back of Intwood church on Sunday 4th and 11th March. Urgently needed items are: tinned meat, instant mash, peanut butter and jam, individually wrapped biscuits, long life juice, tinned vegetables, long life milk, pasta sauce, sponge puddings, toiletries for men and women. Do have a look at norwich.foodbank.org.uk for further information. Thank you for your support.

Church Services: March 2024

Sunday 3rd March Lent 3	9.30am 11am 3.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Swardeston Church Intwood Church East Carleton Church
Sunday 10th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i> Lent 4	9.30am 11am 3.30pm	<i>Family Service</i> <i>Family Service</i> <i>Holy Communion</i>	Swardeston Church Intwood Church Ketteringham Church
Sunday 17th March <i>Passion Sunday</i> Lent 5	9.30am 9.30am 11am	Morning Prayer Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Swardeston Church Keswick Church East Carleton Church
Sunday 24th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8am 9.30am 11am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Prayer	Keswick Swardeston Church Ketteringham Church
Thursday 28th March <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	6pm	Maundy Communion	Ketteringham Church
Friday 29th March <i>Good Friday</i>	2pm	An Hour at the Cross	East Carleton Church
Sunday 31st March <i>Easter Day</i>	9.30am 11am	Holy Communion Family Service	Swardeston Church Intwood Church

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us

*that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us. Amen.*

A Collect for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

*He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6.8*

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 19th March 2024 also at **thenewsletter@live.co.uk**