

The North Lafford Benefice Newsletter - March 2024

A Time to Get Involved

Reverend Al and Richard attend a gathering of ministers in Derbyshire in February entitled [Yours and Mine](#). Its purpose was to pray about and discuss how our church life might be shaped in the light of Time To Change Together. We were blessed to hear some wonderful examples of how congregations are starting to come together in all manner of ways, worship, communal events, pastoral support. None of this will be new to you as I have been talking about Time to Change Together since my arrival with you. It will not surprise you that there are challenges as well as opportunities and I would welcome input from across our worshipping communities as to how you have received the news so far, and what it is you are excited or concerned about. All of the information you need is available at [A Time To Change Together](#) or go straight to the Lincoln Diocese Webpage and search for Time To Change Together. As a Diocese, as a Deanery Partnership, as a Local Mission Partnership, as a Benefice it is important that we do this together; so please get involved. This beautiful icon painted by Ian Knowles helped us to think about the history and love of God in our lives. Reverend Al.



Sunday @ 3 – A New Benefice Service



On the 18th of February a new Benefice service began at All Saints Ruskington. Nattily titled Sunday @ 3, because it is on the 3rd Sunday and is at 3 o'clock. This will be a regular service, focussed on offering an opportunity to worship and learn about Jesus in a contemporary way. This time we explored the story of the Good Samaritan. We sang hymns accompanied by the worship band, sat down together to talk about kindness and generosity as we helped our biscuit

traveller to get better. There were so many young families there and combined with the more mature worshippers we had a wonderful time celebrating the love of God with one another. We hope that you might join us for the next service on Sunday the 17th of March at 3pm!

Messy Church

We had a visitor at Messy Church in February. John the Baptist came along, although some people think it was Reverend Al. We learned about John and his eating habits, smoked crickets were on the menu, well done to everyone who tried one, and also to those who ate the cricket cookies at Church the following Day. We also learned about John's relationship with Jesus and our very colourful banner shows them together in the Jordan river. A great big thank you to everyone who came along to learn more about Jesus, to help and to have some very Messy Church.



All Saints Fun Morning



We held a fun morning for families at the Winchelsea Centre at Ruskington during half term. We mixed it up a bit with some New Lunar Year activities and pancake races. There were all sorts of activities on offer. Lots of temporary tattoos, we got some of the olde world games out too. It was great fun and thank you to everyone who helped and took part. Look out for details for something during the Easter Holidays.

Spicy Jacks – A Mission for Communal Warmth (Soul and Body)

On Saturday the 24th of February we welcomed Spicy Jacks (SJ) to All Saints (Winchelsea Centre). SJ is owned by Derek and Fiona a Christian couple committed to bringing communities together through food. Jesus did that too! Lots of people signed up to this first event, we hope to have a visit from SJ once a month (watch out for details) . The Event team from All Saints made the Winchelsea Centre into a very welcoming place where many sat down to eat and talk with one another. Thank you everyone.



Lent Reflection and Exploration



Thank you to everyone who has been taking part in our Reflections and Exploration during this Lent. It has been uplifting to see so many joining in both. Our Lent Exploration is different every week so please come and join us in the Old School House Ruskington at 10.30 on Monday mornings. We had a very enjoyable discussion on the images of Christ across the ages and cultures this week.

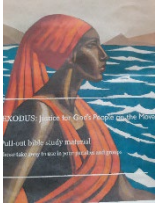
We continue to reflect on pieces of Art for our Reflection. This is on Zoom at 10am on weekdays and 6pm on weekends. Please join us. I pray that you have been able to find a way to walk closer with Jesus during this season. Reverend Al.

Ruskington Beaver Scouts visit All Saints Church Ruskington

The Ruskington Beaver Scout Lodge visited All Saints Church on Tuesday the 27th of February. Reverend Al welcomed them all. They are working towards their faith Badge. They had a short history of the church followed by a quiz naming the different parts of the church building, then we had a refreshment break which was followed by learning to sing 'sing hosanna', the children were much better than the grown ups. Then we learned about prayer and reflection before the final quiz, finding the church mice. Thank you to all the children and the leaders and good luck with your faith badge.



Justice for God's people on the move.



A service was held at Lincoln Cathedral on Racial Justice Sunday (11th February 2024). This was a poignant and moving service with the Cathedral Choir, all three Bishops in attendance with many clergy and Lay people from around the Diocese. Introductory prayers were led by two children from Scunthorpe C of E Primary School and later they took part with Bishop

Stephen in an Act of Commitment to Racial Justice, which was deeply moving and finished with the Bishop asking the children to stand firm and hold the staff along with himself as he finished. There were intercessory prayers and a young woman recently arrived from Ukraine spoke in her language too. The sermon was given by the Revd Yuce Kabakci who told of how his journey from Turkey brought him to live with the "Yellow Bellies" in Grantham. He spoke eloquently of what being an immigrant meant and how he was now welcomed and felt at home here. Afterwards everyone was invited to meet and chat and partake of supper with wonderful spicy soups and nibbles. We also had the opportunity to see the wonderful display of God's Earth.



Church of England Lent Study



This year the Church of England offering for Lent is Watch and Pray. Which asks us to reflect on using Lent as a time to wait together for God.

You can find more information directly [here](#). Or on the check out the Church of England website.

March Coffee Mornings around the Benefice

Fancy a coffee on a Saturday morning? With a warm welcome, stalls to tempt and amuse and a hot drink to quench your thirst why not tour the Benefice!



2nd March Anwick Village Hall at 10.00am

2nd March Cranwell Village Hall at 10.00am

9th March Leasingham Village Hall 10.00am - 11.30am

17th March Ruskington, Winchelsea Centre at 9.00am – serving bacon butties & hot drinks!

News from Anwick

February's Coffee morning raised an amazing £264.19. Our thanks go to everyone for all their hard work, without their help and the wonderful turn out of visitors this would not have been possible. Please come and support us on our next coffee morning at the beginning of March.

Anwick Bingo Night

We will be having a Bingo for the church on Monday 4th March
7pm for 7.30.



All Saints Ruskington remains committed to providing a space where the community can gather during term time. Warm Spaces is run by church volunteers where we offer a place of welcome and warmth for all ages.

Come and join us for conversation, refreshments, to be listened to and to talk! If you are a crafter, come along and join us we are always making something!!

Thank you to everyone who is taking part whether you are being served or serving.

Dates for March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th from 10am to 12 noon.

News from Cranwell Village

On Saturday 3rd February St Andrew's Church, Cranwell held their monthly coffee morning which was extremely busy, with raffle and home-made cakes as usual, alongside a charity stall from the Lincolnshire Greyhounds Trust. The Trust made an amazing £123 so many thanks to all who came along to support them.



The Coffee morning in March will be on Saturday 2nd March when we welcome back the ladies from Scentsy and the Church ladies will be holding their usual Easter themed children's tombola table, which includes many crafts made by local parishioners.

On Wednesday 21 February the Reverend Rosemary presided at the monthly Benefice Evening Holy Communion at St Andrew's Church Cranwell, where it was lovely to see so many faces from across the benefice. It was followed by light refreshments and the opportunity to chat.

Update from St Andrew's Church Leasingham

The Church has been cleaned and sanitised and we are awaiting repair work on the floor to begin before carpets can be laid and other repairs undertaken. Leasingham Village Hall have very kindly offered us the use of the hall on both Good Friday and Easter Day for services. Many of our congregation have enjoyed their various visits to our sister churches in the Benefice where we have felt most welcome as we worship together. It is always good to catch up with our fellow Christians over refreshments after the services.

Last month's St Valentine's coffee morning was very well attended, and a tribute was given to the late Sheila Chambers who was a member of our kitchen team who assisted at the coffee mornings for many years.

Our next coffee morning will be on Saturday 9th March which will have an Easter theme running through it and the children's Lego club will run in the adjacent room.

Chestnuts Retirement Home



We had a wonderful time singing and sharing communion at Chestnut Retirement Home. Each month we gather together and most months it is a full house. It is a pleasure for me to be able to go into Chestnuts each month and celebrate in such wonderful company. Everyone is very welcoming, and we had a very special visitor last time. Maisy the puppy to one of the staff there made her appearance, she enjoyed being fussed by everyone there. Animals offer a great deal of unconditional love and make wonderful therapy dogs, which hopefully one day Maisy will become.

Until then she is made a welcome guest in the home to all the residents.

What some of Cranwell PCC and I got up to in February

Members of Cranwell PCC, Gillian and Kath along with myself went along to the Craft Club in Cranwell for a special evening of Crafting. The wonderful Sharon Langsdale came to show us her wonderful craft and we were able to join in and make something for ourselves to take away. It was a wonderful evening and it was amazing how many different styles and colours we all came up with. I am excited now that I have mastered Spring to complete the other seasons as well. Hobby Craft here I come. Blessings Corinna



Helping our Community and the environment

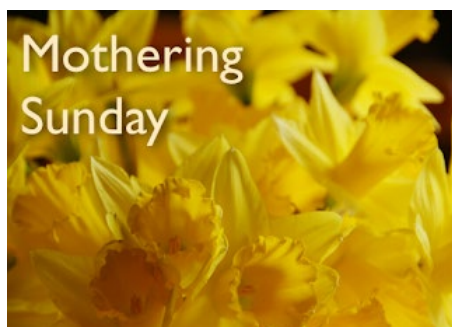
The Sleaford Community Larder is independent **food bank** covering the North Kesteven District, providing food parcels for those in need. The fantastic support from our Benefice – in goods, monetary donations and volunteer time – enable support to be given to those in need [Larder Shopping List — New Life Church \(nlcm.org.uk\)](http://nlcm.org.uk)

Did you know that you can also help the environment by supporting the Sleaford Grocer? Members can come and shop for their entire family at a fraction of the cost of a local supermarket, whilst collectively saving tonnes of food from being wasted each year. A grocery shop won't cover all your needs, but every little helps! Membership is £5 per year and you can do 4 shops a week at £6 per visit!

For more information on the Grocer check out the website [Sleaford Community Grocers](http://SleafordCommunityGrocers)

Readings for March 2024 – Year B

	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel
3 rd March Purple 3 rd Sunday of Lent	Exodus 20. 1-17	1 Corinthians 1.18-25	John 2.13-22
10 th March Purple Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1- 10	2 Corinthians 1. 3-7	Luke 2.33-35
17 th March Purple 5 TH Sunday of Lent	Jeremiah 31. 31-34	Hebrews 5. 5-10	John 12 .20-33
24 th March Red Palm Sunday	Psalm 118. 1-2, 19- end	Mark 11. 1-11	
28 th March Holy Communion White Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14	1 Cor 11.23-26	John 13.1-17, 31 <i>b</i> -35
29 th March Good Friday	John 18.1-end of 19		
31 st March Sunrise service at 6.30am	1 Corinthians 15 1-11		
31 st March Gold/White Easter Sunday	Isaiah 25. 6- 9	Acts 10. 34-43	John 20. 1-18



Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent. It is a day honouring mother churches—the churches where individuals were baptized and became “children of the church.” Traditionally, Christians visited their mother church on this day, reflecting on their spiritual roots and the sacrament of baptism.

The association with motherhood originates from texts read during Mass in the Middle Ages. These texts include references to mothers and metaphors for mothers. For

instance, the introit for the day is from Isaiah 66:10–11 and Psalm 122:1, using imagery of the New Jerusalem. The Gospel reading for the day is the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, which prompted the association between Mothering Sunday and the “Gifts of Mother Earth”.

While it is often known as “Mother’s Day” in the UK, it has become a secular celebration of mothers and motherhood. On this day, children commonly give flowers, presents, cards, and acts of kindness to their mothers and other maternal figures, including grandmothers and stepmothers. It’s a time to show love, gratitude, and appreciation for the maternal bond.



North Lafford Church Services for March 2024

Date	Ruskington	Service
03 March 2024	11am	Holy Communion Lent 3
10 March 2024	11am	Mothering Sunday Morning Praise
17 March 2024	11am	Holy Communion Lent 5
17 March 2024	3pm	Benefice Family Service - Sunday at 3
20 March 2024	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion Evedon
24 March 2024	11am	Palm Sunday Morning Praise
25 March 2024	6pm	Evening Prayer
26 March 2024	6pm	Evening Prayer
27 March 2024	6pm	Evening Prayer
28 March 2024	7pm	Benefice Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
29 March 2024	12noon	Good Friday Witness Service
30 March 2024	6pm	Evening Prayer
31 March 2024	6.30am	Benefice Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
31 March 2024	11am	Benefice Easter Sunday Holy Communion

Date	Anwick	Service
10 March 2024	9.30am	Mothering Sunday - Holy Communion
20 March 2024	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion Evedon
24 March 2024	9.30am	Palm Sunday Morning Praise
28 March 2024	7pm	Benefice Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
29 March 2024	12noon	Good Friday Witness Service - Reflection
31 March 2024	6.30am	Benefice Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
31 March 2024	11am	Benefice Easter Sunday Holy Communion

Date	Cranwell	Service
03 March 2024	11am	Morning Praise
10 March 2024	11am	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion
17 March 2024	11am	Morning Praise Lent 5
17 March 2024	3pm	Benefice Family Service - Sunday at 3
20 March 2024	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion Evedon
24 March 2024	11am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion
25 March 2024	6pm	Evening Prayer
26 March 2024	6pm	Evening Prayer
27 March 2024	6pm	Evening Prayer
28 March 2024	7pm	Benefice Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
29 March 2024	11am	Good Friday Reflection
31 March 2024	6.30am	Benefice Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
31 March 2024	11am	Benefice Easter Morning Holy Communion
31 March 2024	11am	Easter Sunday Morning Praise

Date	Leasingham	Service
20 March 2024	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion Evedon
28 March 2024	7pm	Benefice Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
29 March 2024	11am	Good Friday Reflection - Village Hall
31 March 2024	6.30am	Benefice Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
31 March 2024	11am	Benefice Easter Sunday Holy Communion
31 March 2024	9.30am	Easter Sunday Morning Praise - Village Hall

Date	Evedon	Service
03 March 2024	11am	Morning Praise Lent 3
20 March 2024	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion Evedon
28 March 2024	7pm	Benefice Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
29 March 2024	12noon	Good Friday Witness Service
31 March 2024	6.30am	Benefice Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
31 March 2024	11am	Benefice Easter Sunday Holy Communion



Newsletter

Please submit articles by the *20th March for the April Issue*, to
Corinna Langridge Corinna-Northlafford@outlook.com

Our Priest in Charge is The Reverend Al Jenkins

Work Mobile: 07961 654486

revdajenkins@gmail.com

Ministry Team

Revd. Al Jenkins, Priest in Charge

Revd. Rosemary Jenkins, Priest

Revd. Nigel Panting, Deacon

Richard Vickers, Reader

Corinna Langridge, Reader