

Monday 29th March	6pm	Online	Compline
Tuesday 30th March	6pm	Online	Compline
Wednesday 31st March	6pm	Online	Compline
Maundy Thurs, 1st April	11am	Online from cathedral	
Good Friday, 2nd April	10.30am	Online	Stations of the cross
Easter Day 4th April * Gift Day Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18	w 8am 8.30am 9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Stradbroke Withersdale Online Fressingfield Mendham Metfield Weybread	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion BCP Family Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion
Sunday 11th April Easter 2 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2	w 9.30am 10.30am	Online Mendham	Worship for all Holy Communion
Sunday 18th April Easter 3 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7	w 9.30am 10.30am	Online Stradbroke	Worship for all Holy Communion
Sunday 25th April Easter 4 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-end	w 10.30am 10.30am	Metfield Fressingfield	Holy Communion family@church

Parish church contacts

Fressingfield	Anne Pickstock on 01379 586493, Philip Eastgate on 01379 586196
Mendham	Erika Clarke on 01379 853014
Metfield	Revd Susan on 01379 388493
Stradbroke	Peter Chetwynd on 01379 384069
Weybread	Paula Robinson on 01379 852110, Mike Nott on 01379 853889
Withersdale	Revd Susan on 01379 388493



 Sancroft Benefice Churches

www.sancroftbeneficechurches.org

comprising the parishes of
Fressingfield, Metfield,
Mendham, Stradbroke,
Weybread, Withersdale

April 2021 news



From the rector.....The last year has been particularly challenging in all sorts of ways, church life being just one!

However, it has had some positives; the continuous merry-go-round of the service rota (which I knew in my heart needed to change but did not have the wherewithal to do so) had to stop due to the restrictions. Our bishops encouraged us to think before we went back to doing the same thing as before. They encouraged us to be more intentionally missional, to be more outward looking, work with other partners in our communities, and find other ways of working so that there is time to develop contacts and relationships with people outside our churches.

Jesus told us, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.* (Matthew 28:19,20) And we do try in some small ways, but, if we are honest with ourselves, it is much nicer to stick together in our churches, enjoying the fellowship and worship with people we have come to know - it feels safe and comfortable. However, God calls us to share the Good News of his love and plan for our lives with those who do not know his love yet.

With all that in mind, we are going to have a meeting for the whole church on 26th May 7pm, to share a possible way ahead for our benefice and parishes. As this is after 17th May, it will be possible for 2 households to meet indoors, which means if you don't do Zoom you might be able to sit in someone else's house for the meeting. We will, of course, take notes so that we can let as many people know as possible. I feel excited about the future and believe the time is right for us to again make a real difference in our parishes, working alongside God, his family, and others. Everyone is needed and everyone has a part to play - we particularly need people to pray.

If you would like to speak to someone, please contact:

Revd Susan Loxton (Rector), 01379 388493, revloxtion@gmail.com

Revd Peter Schwier (Assistant Priest), 07903 215889

Revd Gini Williams (Curate), 01379 586414, rev.giniwilliams@godsearch.co.uk

Returning to church services

In April, we are still holding one service per week in the benefice – see the rota on the back page. It has been decided that all our main services (not BCP) should be at 10.30am to be consistent and to be easily remembered. We will be having a service in each of our churches on Easter Day.

Easter Day is gift day

As you probably realise, all our churches are struggling financially, as we have not been in church to collect offerings. So, we have decided to make Easter Day a gift day when we can bring an extra offering of money in thanksgiving for all God's blessings. Don't feel that you have to but if you are able to give just that little bit more, that would be wonderful!

Book Club continues online on Thursday afternoons, 2pm on 8th and 22nd April. You don't have to buy the book as it will be on the screen and we will read it together – *The Great Divorce* by CS Lewis. Employing his talent for fable and allegory, the author finds himself in hell, boarding a bus bound for heaven. He comes across a host of supernatural beings who demonstrate the consequences of everyday behaviour and show us that the gates of hell are locked from the inside.... an extraordinary meditation on good and evil, grace and judgement. Call Susan to take part.

Ordination

Diane Ekins Powell will be ordained on Saturday 3rd July. Please make a note in your diaries and keep her in your prayers.



Holy week
from the
cathedral

Maundy Thursday, 1st April, 11am,
Diocesan Chrism Mass, with renewal of baptismal vows and ministry promises.
Bishop Martin will preach and there will be Communion Mass by Harold Darke.

Good Friday, 2nd April

12 noon, Good Friday reflection and music,
12noon - 2pm, led by the Reverend John Summers, Chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge. 2pm, Good Friday Liturgy with Proclamation and Veneration of the Cross litany and passion narrative.

We need you!

Our annual meeting (APCM) is on 21st April 2021, on Zoom. Revd Susan will send out an email with the link on Monday 19th April. If you don't get her weekly communications and would like to be involved in this, please email her. Most churches will be holding a vestry meeting just before, when wardens will be elected. There are still various roles to fill to help keep our parishes working. We need more PCC members, church wardens, PCC secretaries and safeguarding officers (which is mainly an administrative role). If you would like to know more about any of these roles, please speak to Revd Susan. Annual reports will be available in your church or on the website beforehand.

Advance Notice of an all church meeting in May on Zoom to discuss the way ahead for our churches and the benefice. For those unable to Zoom, we will make the notes available to you as soon as possible.



Thank you for your continued donations of food and money to the Waveney Foodbank. The phone number for rural deliveries in the Stradbroke area has changed to 07749 179446. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the Foodbank's help, please pass this on.

Need now!

Prayers please! 'Need Now' is a new social action project a few of us have felt compelled to start, working with the aim of enabling our communities across the benefice to provide help and support for people finding themselves in difficulty. Please pray that we make the right connections and build what is most needed in the months ahead. More news will follow... Revd Gini



Everyone Welcome Course

We were about to start this before we went into lockdown last year. The course will take place when we can get together in person and will consist of 4 sessions as a benefice and then a 5th as separate churches, discussing the recommendations within the unique characteristics of our churches.

Doing your shopping online.....
can benefit Sancroft Benefice with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to you! Simply sign up and use it whenever you shop online. (There is a short cut activate donation button to help). Donations mount up, £171.00 already, so please support us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sancroftbeneficechurches>

Keep in touch with what's on.....
www.sancroftbeneficechurches.org

Benefice news

Paper copies in the churches or by email – Contact the benefice administrator, Virginia Skyles, sancroftbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

Benefice facebook pages:

*Sancroft benefice churches.

*Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich.

Please reach out if you or someone you know needs help of any kind. Some contact details of people to talk to.....

Samaritans

- It's alright to ask for help

Tel: 116123

Refuge, against domestic violence

Tel: 0808 2000 247

ChildLine

Tel: 0800 1111

Waveney Foodbank

Tel: 07749 179446