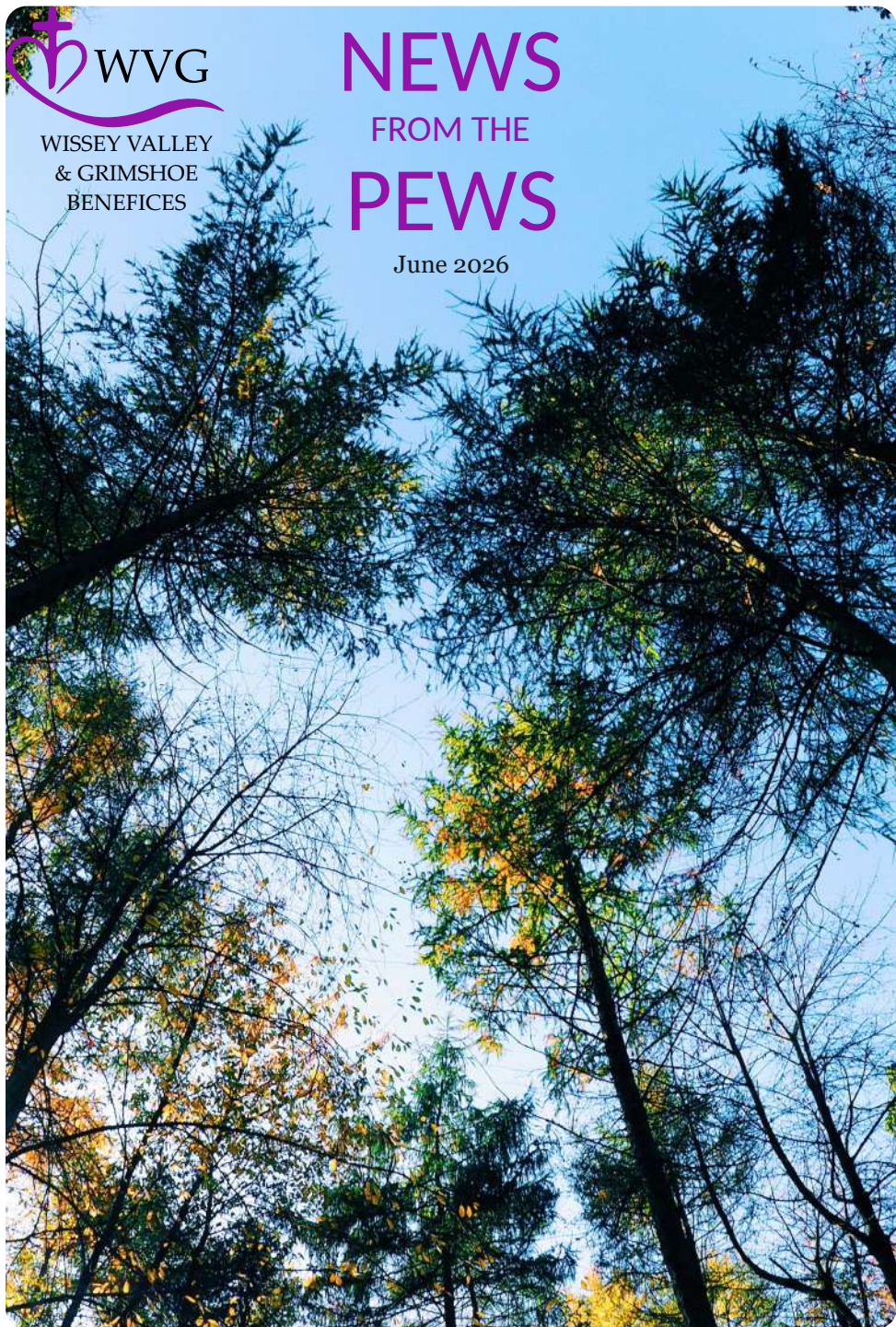




WISSEY VALLEY
& GRIMSHOE
BENEFICES

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

June 2026



Welcome to the June Edition of 'News From The Pews'

June brings the promise of Summer, when God shows us what he has been busy with during the Springtime.

In Wissey Valley and Grimshoe flowers are blooming, bees are buzzing and birds are singing to us at an early dawn.

Thank you to our local photographer David Ewington for the photos on the front and inside pages.



St John's Wort which begins flowering in June

We have some exciting things for you this month in your magazine: click or tap the links below to get to the correct page.

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We try to be open and transparent for the whole community and we would welcome your feedback about this magazine
beneficenewsuk@gmail.com



If you'd like to receive the next issue of your magazine digitally instead of in print

Scan the QR code on the left or visit
<https://news-from-the-pews.kit.com/82de9e2841>

News from the Parishes

We Celebrated the Birthday of the Church!

Pentecost is a significant, spiritual and historical Festival celebrated 50 days after Easter (usually on the 7th Sunday following Easter). It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. It is often referred to as the "Birthday of the Church" because it marks the beginning of the apostles' public ministry and the spread of Christianity.

On Pentecost, as the apostles were gathered in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended upon them, fulfilling Jesus' prophesy and filling them with the ability to speak in different languages and empowering them to preach. Following the event, the Apostle Peter delivered a sermon, leading to the conversion of about 3,000 people, marking the first large-scale spread of Christianity, and the empowerment of the Church to fulfil its mission of spreading the Gospel globally and to evangelise the world.

This year on Sunday 24th May in many Christian denominations, Pentecost was celebrated with church services, prayers, and readings that emphasise the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.



Parishioners and visiting Priest, Father Richard Fordham, enjoying cake on Pentecost Sunday, in honour of the Church's and Sue Annear's birthdays

Incumbents List Dedication Service

All Saints Church, Wretton with Stoke Ferry was the setting for reconnecting with past incumbents who had travelled from various parts of the country, in order to take part in the dedication of the newly designed Incumbents Board.



Led by the Ven Archdeacon Richard Harlow, various past Incumbents took part in the service. Mrs Ann Bennett, wife of the late Rev. Alan Bennett, joined her family in enjoying a hymn called ‘Teach Me To Love,’ dedicated to her late husband, and ‘all people of faith and none,’ which had been written and composed by Robert Howes, sung by the choir and accompanied by Chris Young on the organ.

After the service, there was a wonderful opportunity for fellowship where everyone was able to catch up with all those people who have shaped our communities over the years.



All Saints Wretton List of Incumbents

1749	Jermyn Pratt	Perpetual Curate
1792	Hardy Robinson	Stipendiary Curate
1818	Guntion Postle	Curate
1823	James Royle	Perpetual Curate
1859	Henry Towry White	Perpetual Curate
1884	Richard Massey	Vicar
1898	Alexander Cavell	Vicar
1905	Arthur Robbs	Vicar
1916	Sidney Wansborough Jones	Vicar
1916	Oakley Gordon Bolton	Vicar
1928	George Henry Dyer Wright	Vicar
1931	William Place	Vicar
1941	John Columbine (Charles) Paterson Morgan	Vicar
1951	Herbert James Wentworth Law	Vicar
1958	Frederick James Willson	Vicar
1964	Frank Chadwick	Vicar
1988	Alan Robert Bennett	Vicar
1996	Vacant	
1998	Nigel Owen Tuffnell	Vicar
2003	Vacant	
2019	Kenneth Robert Waters	Priest in Charge
2020	Carol Nicholas Letch	Priest Team Leader
2022	Ian James Mack	Interim Priest In Charge

St Andrew's Church, Barton Bendish

Organ Restoration Project



restoration is £33,696. To date, the PCC have allocated approximately £15,600 from church reserves and the restricted organ restoration fund to this project.

We need to raise a further £18,100 through grants and fundraising.

Proceeds from our annual Open Gardens on June 28th will go to this project. We are also promoting a specific fundraiser:

Sponsor an Organ Pipe:

The Organ has 440 pipes which can be sponsored for £10 each, and 17 Stops, which can be sponsored for £50 each.



Our church organ has been used during worship, to praise God, to celebrate weddings and christenings and to mourn, playing an important part in the life of the church and the community in Barton Bendish since its installation in 1877!

This remarkable instrument is now in need of a comprehensive restoration to ensure its continued use and to preserve this heritage asset for future generations.

Provided sufficient funds can be raised, the organ will be dismantled and removed to the contractor's workshop in the autumn of 2026 and returned in the spring of 2027 when the work is complete. The estimated cost of the organ

Please sponsor a pipe or organ stop in your own name or to commemorate a loved one or special occasion.

If you wish you can, have your inscription included in a bound book and you will also receive a certificate.

Donate online

<https://givealittle.co/c/BBOrganFund>
Or scan the QR code here



We thank you for your support

Being a Churchwarden

With Alan Burbridge

How did you first become involved in the role of churchwarden?

I was already a member of Methwold PCC and had no thoughts of becoming a Church Warden. One of the Church Wardens at the time was looking to move away from the area and asked if I would like to replace him. I was unsure so had a meeting at his house to look at what was involved and he managed to persuade me to take on the role. I have now been a Church Warden for 10 years!



What do you enjoy most about being a CW?

Being able to use my life skills to improve the fabric of the Church and be involved with the marvellous team of Volunteers that make our church so welcoming to all visitors.

We are fortunate at St. George's that my fellow Church Warden is heavily involved

in the Finance side and I undertake the fabric repair of the church and assisting our volunteers. There is an overlap of responsibilities for managing the legal duties and admin which works well.

What do you feel are the most important responsibilities in this role?

Having the church ready for Church Services and ensuring all legal duties are met.

I feel strongly that making the Church available and accessible for Community events is vital without conflicting with the aims and use of our amazing Village Hall Complex run by our Parish Council. St George's Church should be seen to be vital to the life of our Village Community and not just for Sunday Service worshippers.

Has your faith been strengthened during your tenure?

My faith in Christian beliefs has not changed, however the increasing burden of admin tasks and online reporting expected from the C. of E. has certainly tested my resolve. Hopefully, with the appointment of our new Priest in Charge, some of the admin tasks can be centralised reducing the workload and providing a more uniform approach across both Benefices.

What would you tell or say to someone considering becoming a CW for the first time?

Talk to various Church Wardens at different Parish Churches to get a balanced viewpoint so you are prepared. There is no blueprint for the perfect CW, utilise your own strengths and life experiences to make a difference.

Be realistic and careful about your time management, something we all can be guilty of as we all have a home and social life as well.

How much training is involved?

Diocese of Ely offer a CW Training day which is very useful and gives you the opportunity to understand the requirements of the Post. It is also a good opportunity to chat with other CW's.

If you are new to the Post and unsure of anything then reach out to other CW's, we are all in this together and advice is freely given.

How much extra work is involved during Vacancy (interregnum)?

Not been too onerous at St. George's but then we have had the benefit of having Revd. Ray Burman as our local ordained Minister presiding two Communion Services and our LLM Diane Mantle with a Service of the Word each month. When available, a local Methodist Minister has also been able to conduct a Service of the Word on the fourth week too.



How often do you lose your bunch of church keys in the building, this is from one who seems to spend hours looking for things they have put down "somewhere safe"?

Thankfully, I have not lost my keys yet but I do have a large Key Fob attached which helps to locate them at times. Easily identifiable as it is etched 'Tower Captain', a gift from the Deputy Tower Captain.

Is it true a Churchwarden can arrest people who have committed an offence in Church?

There is an ancient Ecclesiastical Law that allows Church Wardens to arrest anyone for riotous, violent or indecent behaviour within the confines of the Church but am not aware of this being enacted within recent memory. One would hope that any bad behaviour could be dealt with before escalating in this way.

**Installation and Welcome Service for the
70th Bishop of Ely, The Rt Revd Sarah Clark
Sunday 21st June, 3pm**

The service will be livestreamed for all those not able to attend in person at the Cathedral via the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/2MCutPjs7EE>

Please continue to remember +Sarah in your prayers as she goes on retreat and prepares to move and take up her post.



Q Why is there a '+' before The Rt Revd Sarah Clark's name? +Sarah

A In traditional ecclesiastical etiquette. A Bishop places a cross '+' before their name to show the authority of a Bishop and represents a "humble servant". Priest or other clergy have the '+' after their name, often as a symbol of blessing or humility



Our course begins on
Tuesday 16th June @7pm

Please let Janet Tanton know if you'd like to join so you can get the Zoom link and all of the information
contact janet.tanton@gmail.com

•The Alpha Course will help us to explore and deepen our Christian faith together.

Although many people first encounter Alpha as an introduction to Christianity, it can also be hugely valuable for those who already attend church.

•Through conversation, video teaching and discussion, Alpha helps us revisit

the foundations of our faith, ask honest questions, grow in confidence and discover afresh the love and presence of God.

•It is a chance to learn together, encourage one another and strengthen our walk with Christ in a supportive and friendly environment.

BEACHAMWELL OPEN GARDENS

In aid of St Mary's Church (Charity No: 245456) -
another millennium of caring for the Village

SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2026

12 Noon TO 5 PM

Postcode - PE37 8BB

What3Words - archive.frail.manual

- *Light Lunches
- *Afternoon Teas
- *Raffle
- *Ask an Expert
- *Scarecrow competition

Tickets available on the
Green at the Village Hall

- Adults £5, Children under 16 Free
- Cash or Card accepted
- For more information please
telephone 01366 328817
(Karen + Allan) or 07825 984677
(Peter)

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 245456

BOUGHTON OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

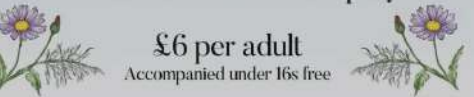
12 – 5 PM

Plant Sales | Refreshments | Alpacas

Classic Motorbike Display

£6 per adult

Accompanied under 16s free



All proceeds go to All Saints Church



Wereham OPEN GARDENS Sunday 21st June

12:00 --- 5:00 pm

**ENTRY MAPS
AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH**

Adults £6 (cash only please) Children (with adult) FREE

Lunches and Refreshments

Served from 12:00

In the Village Hall

CRAFT STALL -- TOMBOLA

Garden vouchers RAFFLE +

SPECIAL

FATHER'S DAY

RAFFLE



**PLANT
SALE**



All Proceeds go to St Margaret's Church, Wereham, Reg charity No: 245445

BARTON BENDISH

**OPEN
GARDENS**

Sunday June 28th

11am to 5pm

Many gardens open including
historic St Mary's Church

Ploughman's Lunches available from noon in the Village Hall
and Afternoon Teas from 2.30pm

Vintage and Classic cars, Cake Stall, Raffle,
Pimm's Tent, Plant Stall, Children's Trail

Admission £6.00

Children Free

Proceeds to St Andrew's Church
Organ Restoration Fund

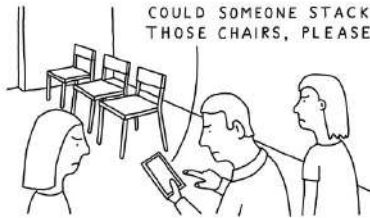
PE33 9GF



June 2026

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

IT'S COMING FOR OUR JOBS



COULD SOMEONE STACK THOSE CHAIRS, PLEASE

CHURCHWARDENS



I DON'T KNOW THIS ONE
YOU PROBABLY DO - AI CHOOSES TRENDING HYMNS

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC



NOTICE SHEET EDITORS



GOOD EVENING EVERYONE,
AND WELCOME TO DEANERY CHAPTER

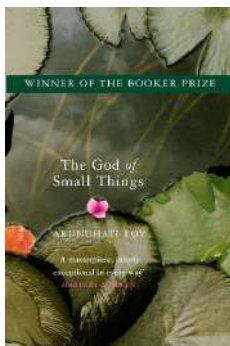
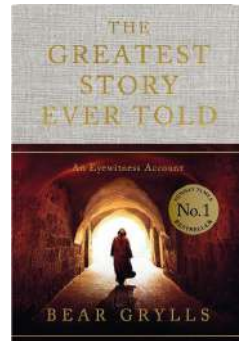
CLERGY

Book Suggestions for June

The Greatest Story Ever Told by Bear Grylls

Recommended by Diane Mantle

It tells the life of Jesus from the perspective of various people - e.g. Mary, Simon Peter. It fits in really well with the Lectio Divina idea of imagining yourself in the story.



The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy

Recommended by Karen Rodgers

This novel follows seven-year-old twins Estha and Rahel as they navigate their childhood and the circumstances surrounding the arrival of their British cousin to Ayemenem, India. The novel's events are set against the backdrop of social discrimination and political upheaval in 1960s Kerala.



THE COMMUNITY SPACE IN
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, FELTWELL

VILLAGE CARNIVAL

on the playing field,
Saturday 20th June 1pm til late

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday
27th June
7.30 pm



£8 to Include Supper

Please bring you own plates, cutlery, glasses, drinks
and nibbles.

All proceeds to Church Funds

FMI Contact Chris Parker

cmparker@talktalk.net

07910 195360

THE FOOD PANTRY

open to all villages in the Benefice.

Tuesdays 9 –10am,
Wednesdays 9 –11.30 am,
Saturdays 10 – 11 am

**COMMUNITY COFFEE
MORNING**

Wednesdays 9 – 11.30am

TECH SKILLS

coaches from Norfolk County
Council offering advice about
technology

Friday 5th June 10am – 12pm

BEATLES - THE WHO - LED ZEPPELIN - DEEP PURPLE - SMALL FACES & MORE

**BRITISH ROCK
EXPERIENCE**

TICKETS

**METHWOLD
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**

SAT 18TH JULY
£15 ENTRY - 7:30PM START

WWW.PORRIDGEPOTPROMOTIONS.COM TEL: 01386 -727168

*St George's
Church
Methwold*

**COFFEE
MORNING**

*Every 2nd and 4th
Tuesday of the Month
from 10 till 12 noon at the
Church*

St Andrew's West Dereham
**Informal Breakfast Church
 songs Crafts Story**



**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
 NORTHWOLD**



COFFEE MORNING

JOIN US IN THE CHURCH
 ON THURSDAY 11th JUNE

AT 10.30am



TEA & COFFEE

HOMEMADE CAKES



RAFFLE

BOOKS & JIGSAWS



The Hub

Christ Church Whittington

Thursday 4th June 2026

Come and join us for a morning of chat and refreshments, board games & a Tot's play area.

Pottery painting

this week only.

Refreshments All drinks £1, snacks from 50p.
 All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Pottery painting
 £10 for 1" piece, £5 for extra pieces.
 Glazed, kiln fired & ready for collection from church the following week.

For the latest Service list please click or tap here

Sunday 7th June - Trinity 1

Feltwell	St Mary's	9:15am	Service of the Word	MP
Methwold	St George's	9:30am	Holy Communion	Rev IS
Whittington	Christ-Church	11am	Service of the Word	JT
Weeting	St Mary's	11am	Service of the Word	MP
Wereham	St Margaret's	6pm	Evensong	CM

Saturday 13th June

Beachamwell	St Mary's	11am	Service of the Word	Rev PB
Barton Bendish	St Andrew's	9:30am	Breakfast Church	Rev RB

Sunday 14th June - Trinity 2

Hockwold	St James'	9.15am	Service of the Word	JT
Methwold	St George's	9:30am	Service of the Word	DM
Wretton	All Saints	9:30am	Service of the Word	MP
West Dereham	St Andrew's	9:30am	Holy Communion	Rev PB
Northwold	St Andrew's	11am	Service of the Word	JT

Sunday 21st June - Trinity 3

Feltwell	St Mary's	9:15am	Holy Communion	Rev IS
Methwold	St George's	9:30am	Holy Communion	Rev RB
Whittington	Christ-Church	9:30am	Breakfast Church	Rev PB
Weeting	St Mary's	11am	Holy Communion	Rev IS
Wereham	St Margaret's	11am	Holy Communion	Rev PB
Barton Bendish	St Andrew's	5pm	Evensong	Rev RB

Sunday 28th June - Trinity 4

Hockwold	St James'	9:15am	Holy Communion	Rev RF
West Dereham	St Andrew's	9:30am	Breakfast Church	JT
Boughton	All Saints	11am	Holy Communion	Rev KW
Northwold	St Andrew's	11am	Holy Communion	Rev RF

Week Day Services

Morning Prayer

Tuesday		
Hockwold	St James'	9:30am
Wednesday		
Wretton/SF	AllSaint's	9:00am
Thursday		
Methwold	St George's	8:30am

Evening Prayer

Tuesday		
Methwold	St George's	5pm
Wednesday		
online Compline		
https://bit.ly/WisseyValleyCompline		
5:30pm		

Holy Communion

1st and 3rd Thursdays (4th and 18th June)
 Boughton All Saint's 10am

Tuesday Prayer Group 5pm
<https://bit.ly/WVBTuesdayPrayer>

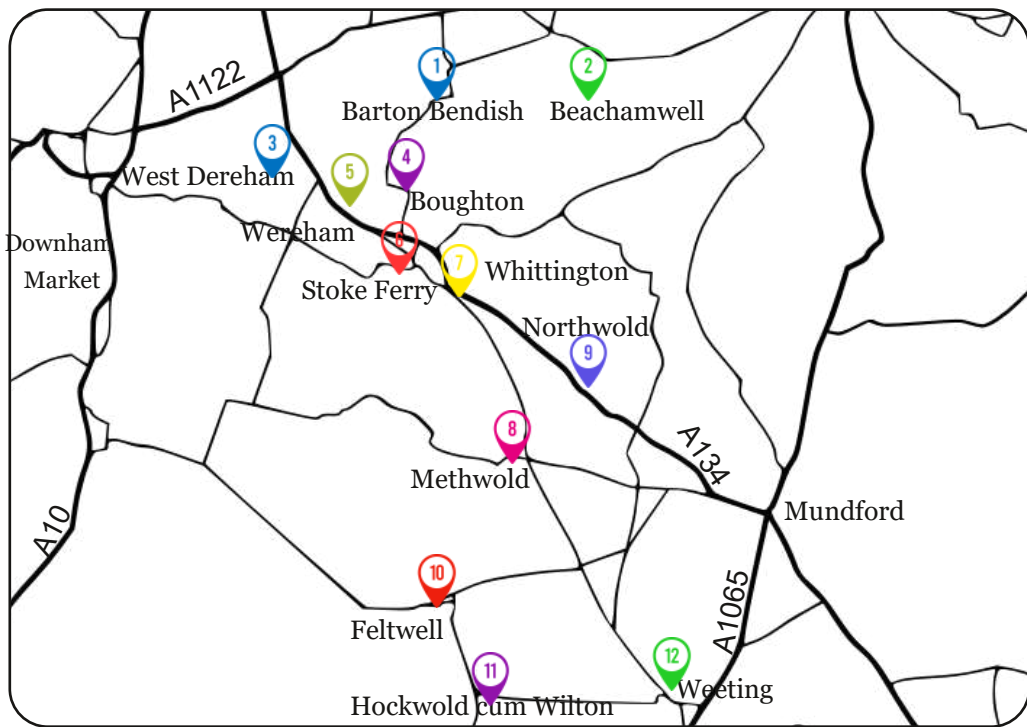
Sunday Online
 Welcome to our Online Church

Every Sunday at 6:30pm
<https://bit.ly/OneinChristJesus>

Rev PB	Rev Pippa Blackall	MP	Michael Poole ALM
Rev RB	Rev Ray Burman	CM	Chris Murray ALM
Rev KW	Rev Ken Waters		
Rev RF	Rev Richard Fordham	JT	Janet Tanton LLM
Rev IS	Rev Ian Savage	DM	Diane Mantle LLM

Bible Readings - June

Day	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
7th	Genesis 12:1-9	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13,18-26
14th	Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35 - 10.8
21st	Genesis 21:8-21	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
28th	Genesis 22:1-14	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42



1 Barton Bendish, St Andrew's,
Linda Webster linntim@btinternet.com

2 Beachamwell, St Mary the Virgin
Peter Berendt petesout@hotmail.com

3 West Dereham, St Andrew's,
Open daily 10am - 4pm
Graeme Pressley graemepressley@live.co.uk

4 Boughton, All Saints.
churchwardenboughton@gmail.com

5 Wreham, St Margaret of Antioch
Open daily 10am - 3pm
Karen Rodgers karen_rodgers@live.co.uk

6 Wretton, All Saints with Stoke Ferry
open daily
Anita Horgan anita.tyler@hotmail.co.uk
Elaine Taylor etelainetaylor1@gmail.com

7 Whittington, Christ-Church
Elaine Taylor etelainetaylor1@gmail.com

8 Methwold, St George
Open every weekend
Alan Burbridge alanburbridge@btinternet.com
Paul Smith paulsmith50@msn.com

9 Northwold, St Andrew's
Open daily 10am - 3pm
Ann Howarth ann15howarth@gmail.com

10 Feltwell, St Mary the Virgin
Open daily 9am - 4pm
Christine Parker
grimshoebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

11 Hockwold cum Wilton, St James
Sue Annear sue.annear@gmail.com

12 Weeting, St Mary the Virgin
Tommy Seward weetingpcc@gmail.com

YOUR CHURCH CONTACTS

Weddings, Funerals, Interments
and Memorials

Benefice Administrator:

Fiona Hearn

wisseygrimshoebenefice@gmail.com

07817 821316

Baptisms/Christenings

Baptism Co-ordinators:

Tammy Wright

grimshoebaptism@gmail.com

or

Susan Parker-Smith

wvbsusan@gmail.com

for specific church contacts

please see page 15

Back page photo

St James

Hockwold cum Wilton