MID LOES BENEFICE Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Charsfield with Debach Cretingham, Dallinghoo, Earl Soham, Hoo, Letheringham and Monewden

May 2020



Dear friends

What an extraordinary time we are living in. Many are anxious and fearful for their health, their relatives, their friends and their livelihoods. The resources of the nation and indeed of the world - in every sense are being stretched as never before. It has been a crisis which has brought out the best and, sadly, sometimes the less-thanbest in people. But Church and village communities have always looked out for one another, particularly the most vulnerable, and will continue to do so even whilst abiding by the restrictions designed to slow down the spread of the virus. Churches also seek to maintain the spiritual and prayer life of the nation. Prayer, of course, can happen at home as well as in church, and each one reading this will no doubt have particular people who occupy their hearts and minds.

I could quote any number of bible verses which exhort us not to be afraid and to remember that God holds each one of us in His hands and that nothing can separate us from His love. But I think you know that already. It may not always feel like that, but we rely not on how we feel, but on what we know.

WORSHIP, MEETINGS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS

All collective worship, meetings and social gatherings are suspended for the time being, in accordance with guidance from our bishops and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. Also, our church buildings must remain closed even for private prayer. Please do not go in.

RETIREMENT

You may have heard by now that I will be retiring this August. The benefice service that month was to have been my swansong but, whether or not that happens, my ministry as rector will simply come to an end at the beginning of August, and the rest of that month will be taken up with packing, clearing out and moving to our house in Surrey, assuming removals companies are functioning.

It is a time of very mixed emotions for me. I have been in full-time stipendiary ministry for thirty-five years, the last thirteen of them here in the Mid Loes. I often tell people that coming here was the best move I have ever made (and I have made a few!) and it is the longest I have lived anywhere since I was eighteen. It is the people who have made it so. Since my first day here I have felt welcomed, supported and appreciated, and for that I will always be profoundly grateful. I couldn't have wished for a nicer place to live out the latter part of my stipendiary ministry. I know that Liz too has enjoyed living and working here and the friendships she has formed. We are going to miss everyone.

However, there is to be no slacking! We look forward to firing on as many cylinders as possible during our remaining time here. SB.

With best wishes Stephen

SABBATICAL / STUDY LEAVE

Firstly, I must say a big thank you to Kathleen for looking after things so efficiently during my absence. Thank you also to the ministry team, churchwardens and PCCs for your tolerance of my absence and your support.

When priests retire, we know that they rarely hang up their cassocks for good, but simply move to a different form of ministry. I know that I have always been very appreciative of the help of retired priests, and I hope I can be of assistance to the incumbent where we will living. I mention this in case anyone might be wondering why I took study leave so close to retirement. Apart from the fact that it was 'now or never' it did give me a chance to reflect on the nature of Christian faith and my own particular thinking at a time of transition for me personally. It was a sort of 're-fuelling' and reorientation for the journey ahead which is going to take me somewhere new both geographically and spiritually. It was really useful to do some sustained reading, thinking, writing and praying without having to drop everything to attend to some other matter. It would be difficult to say briefly what I have learned or gained from my reading as it has been not so much about gaining knowledge as exploring new perspectives. I will, however, give you one fairly straightforward illustration from one of the books I have read which you may find helpful.

The author describes a stroll on a bright, sunny spring morning, which brought a pleasure so intense that he could think about nothing other than what he was seeing. He describes the sight of squirrels running skilfully along telephone wires, small birds pecking in the grass for a bit of breakfast, children waiting for a bus to take them to school, an elderly woman working in her garden, a procession of colourful cyclists, early morning golfers, leaves on trees sparkling and dancing in the morning sun, and other vivid sights. He then describes how he turned left (eastwards) to head for his workplace and found that the brightness of the sun in front of him required him to keep his eyes lowered to the horizon for a few moments until he came to another stand of trees. At that point it occurred to him that the morning's walk - a little over a mile so far supremely pleasant, and filled with sights made all the more interesting by their ordinariness - had not included any steadfast attention to one very evident element in this lovely spring day. The

neglected item was the sun itself. He then offhandedly and foolishly stole a glance upward to look at the sun directly. Even that momentary flash of the sun's brilliance hurt his dazed eyes and he could not see clearly for a few moments. Even then the negative image of the sun's disk continued to haunt his vision like a ghost. He reflected on the irony that the one element that allowed him to see all the other elements contributing to the pleasantness of the morning, could not itself be looked at. The sun makes things visible but is not itself visible, at least not to ordinary looking. The only way he found to look at the sun was in fact to hide the sun behind ever-shifting leaves that could give him just the tiniest, most fragmentary glimpses of what he could not bear to gaze upon.

Another famous writer, C. S. Lewis, wrote this:

"We believe that the sun is in the sky at midday in summer not because we clearly see the sun (in fact, we cannot) but because we can see everything else". The metaphor is obvious.

1 Timothy Ch 6 v 16 says that the Creator "lives in unapproachable light". Philosophers and theologians have similarly described God as "incomprehensible," "inscrutable", "hidden", "past finding out". Yet this God is also the centre of all things, the fount of life, the God of all truth, the Father of lights, the Light that enlightens every person.

So how then can we approach this unknowable, unapproachable God? We can get only mere glimpses of His glory - we cannot look upon him face to face. We may not be able to see God, but by Him we can see everything else, and that "everything else" can in fact reveal something of God. SB



EARL SOHAM NOTES

Rota for the Altar & Roll of Honour flowers & Brasses St Mary's

As Church Services are CANCELLED & the Church locked, we will review the Rota as & when we can.

Take care & keep safe. Lyn T

Earl Soham Community Primary School

Unprecedented times

The word unprecedented seems to be almost over used at present but these are surely unprecedented times. By the time of publication it may be the case that things have begun to return to normal; however at present Earl Soham primary school, along with all other schools, is following the rules set out by the Government.

Teachers and support staff are working hard to set work from home so that the children's learning is maintained during this difficult time. We are also very thankful for the help of parents who are supporting their children to work at home. The internet has really proved its worth.

Under normal circumstances it is extremely rare for a school to close during term time. The most recent occasions for us being during the extreme weather of the 'Beast from The East' and closure for a day when a pipe burst; leaving the school without water. None of us have experienced anything like the current situation before.

For the children the memory of this time will be something that they will no doubt share with future generations; telling tales of the time spent at home and how they entertained themselves. I for one am looking forward to seeing them all again and returning to something approaching normal.

Stay safe everyone

5

Peter Lambillion-Jameson Head Teacher EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Notice of information during COVI-19, social distancing

and lockdown

Would all residents of the Parish of Earl Soham please be aware that all relevant information during this time will be posted on the village website - <u>www.earlsoham.org</u>. This is to include any planning permissions, any new COVID-19 in-

formation, and all parish and Parish Council information.

Also the Earl Soham Community Support Scheme (COVID-19) have an entire section for all their up to date position and information on volunteers, help zones, contact details, etc. This scheme is fully supported by the Parish Council.

Where relevant the Parish Council Notice board will also be used to display information.

Should you wish to contact the Parish Council please find the contact details below

David Grose. Chairman. 01728 684360. 07788 910011. ajgrose@btinternet.com Guy Harvey Clerk to the Council 01728 685729 07850 685729 guyharvey1@btinternet.com





DR DAN POULTER MP Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

As I sit to write this month's article, we find ourselves living in incredibly challenging circumstances. Never in peacetime has a Prime Minister or his Government been faced with such difficult decisions. From the very beginning of this crisis, our Prime Minister and Government have been led by the advice of our world-leading scientists.

We all need to recognise that our NHS, like any other health service, has only a limited number of doctors, nurses and specialist equipment. So, the more people who become sick at any one time, the harder it is for the NHS to cope. This is why it is so important to delay the spread of the disease and reduce the number of people needing hospital treatment at any one time.

I really cannot stress enough the importance of our Prime Minister's message to Stay At Home, Protect Our NHS and Save Lives.

Here in Suffolk, we have a great track record of coming together to help those in need and to support each other and I'm pleased to be able to share details of a new Suffolk-based community service supporting those in need during the COVID-19 outbreak. Called "Home, but not alone" the service connects people who want to volunteer in their communities with neighbours who are most in need. Volunteers can sign up via a free app, Tribe Volunteer and the phone number for those in need of genuine help is **0800 876 6926**. Lines will be staffed from 9am to 5pm 7 days a week.

I would like to personally pay tribute to all our outstanding NHS staff working tirelessly around the clock, in incredibly challenging circumstances, caring for those not only affected by COVID 19, but also who are still needing care under normal circumstances. I would also like to put on record my thanks to our local council staff, our teachers and school workers, police, transport workers and everyone doing their bit in our communities to help and look out for each other. I am incredibly proud of everyone rising to the challenge and helping to support those in need in our communities.

These are unprecedented times in our generation and I also know that a great many of you will be worried about your jobs, our schools and money. I'm doing my very best to keep my website up to date with helpful and current information, so please do check there if you have any queries – www.drdanielpoulter.com

By the time this article goes to press and finds its way to you, matters may well have progressed further, but the best advice I can offer is stay at home, help to protect our NHS, help to stop the spread of COVID-19 and save lives.

CHARSFIELD NOTES

Church Rotas

Sadly, while there are no Services, the rota of Readers and Sidespersons has been temporarily suspended

Coffee Rota

To be agreed once Services resume

St Peter's Church Fabric Fund - Notes

Friday 15 May 10am – 12noon Coffee Morning at Hill Farm – tea/ coffee and cakes, plants, books, bric-a-brac, jams, pickles and raffle.

Regrettably cancelled, or possibly just postponed until September/October

In the meantime, whilst you might not be baking cakes, please remember us by saving any bric-a-brac and books, possible raffle prizes and nurturing plants. Please contact either Pauline (01473 737517) or Margaret (01473 737182) for more details or, once the lock-down is over, if you would like us to collect any items that are cluttering your cupboards.

CHARSFIELD GARDENS OPEN

Saturday 6 June 1-5pm 6 gardens open in Charsfield, in aid of Saint Elizabeth Hospice. The Firs - Church Road High Haven - Chapel Lane Candle Cottage - Chapel Lane The Thatch - The Street Brook Farm - Church Road Hill Farm - Church Road 77 Entry £6 covers all gardens. Teas and plants for sale at Brook Farm. The gardens are opening under the Saint Elizabeth Hospice Great Garden Trail.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

A small group meets every month and if you would like prayer for yourself or someone close who is ill or in any kind of need please get in touch with any of the following:

> Stephen Brian - 01728 685 308 Kathleen Martin - 01473 737 285 Pauline Cobley - 01473 737 317 Margaret Salter - 01473 737 182

Your call will be treated in the strictest confidence .

Below is an advert asking for parish councillors. We are currently in quite a serious position in running with three vacancies and face the prospect of the parish council failing. This means we would lose all representation at District and County Council levels and the ability to raise a precept. If you care about Charsfield please think carefully if you could contribute by becoming a councillor.

CHARSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

VACANCY PARISH COUNCILLOR

Notice is hereby given that two vacancies have occurred within Charsfield Parish Council.

Are you interested in local current affairs? Do you wish to serve your community? Could you provide a voice for residents?

For further information or an informal chat pleased contact the Parish Clerk

Pam Hembra <u>Charsfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com</u> 01473 737655 or Jan Pedgrift <u>Janpedgrift@btinternet.com</u> 01473 737701

The term of office will run until the next ordinary elections in May 2023.

There are approximately six Parish Council meetings a year. This position is only open to people living in the Parish of Charsfield or within 3 miles of the Parish boundary (and on the Register of Electors) and those working or owning land within the Parish for the preceding 12 months.

CHARSFIELD FLOWER SHOW 8th August 2020

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES FOR THE 2020 FLOWER SHOW Farm animal/s Bottle/s A plate of food Insect/s Cutlery Vehicle/s A favourite plant in your garden Your choice of a colour photo Your choice of a black and white photo Remember the date 8th August Charsfield Flower Show See you at our plant stall at Charsfest on 30th May

ASHFIELD NOTES

CORONAVIRUS.

At the time of writing this things are changing fast with regards to the Coronavirus pandemic. It is best to follow the advice issued by Public Health England which is regularly updated. It is looking very much like older citizens and those who are vulnerable will be expected to "stay at home" for sometime. I would encourage residents to 'keep an eye' on their neighbours, particularly those living alone. Whilst it may not be appropriate to enter properties a simple phone call to establish they are ok will be helpful and appreciated.

RG.

Spread the Hope

From Wickham Market Flower Club

I am hoping as many people as possible make or find a ring and add a green ribbon to it and put it for the duration on front doors or prominent windows. The ring symbolises unending and everlasting love , the cycle of life and hope. Green is for renewal, balance and progress .

OUR READERS ARE PLEASED TO HAVE LOCAL BUSINESSESS TO CONTACT WHEN THEY NEED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

If you would like to advertise in this magazine's **Directory of Local Businesses** please contact Mrs. Caroline Saxby, our advertising Manager who will be pleased to give you full details. Get in touch with her by phoning 01473 277146 or e-mailing: saxbies@hotmail.com









USEFUL CONTACTS				
Clerks to Parish Councils				
Ashfield	Mrs Sarah Clare E-mail: actpc.clerk@gmail.com Tel: 01449 781671			
Charsfield	Pamela Hembra E-mail: charsfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com Tel: 01473 737655			
Cretingham	Acting Clerk : Caroline Saxby E-mail: cmhparishcouncil@gmail.com Tel:			
Dallinghoo	Chris Ling E-mail: Dallinghoo.parish@outlook.com Tel: 07963305205			
Earl Soham	Guy Harvey E-mail: gutharvey1@btinternet.com Tel: 01728 685729			
Ноо	Jane Page (see Cretingham above)			
Letheringham	David Allan E-mail: letheringham@btinternet.com 07411 277784			
Monewden	Caroline Saxby (see Cretingham above)			
Village Hall/Community Centre Booking Secretaries:				
Ashfield	Geoff Henney Tel: 07507 040041 Email: sueandgeoffhenney@hotmail.co.uk			
Charsfield	Website: www.charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk Email: enquiries@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk Or <i>Tel:</i> 07935 445193			
Dallinghoo	Mr Chris Pennington Tel: 01473 737 836			
Earl Soham	Lorna Perkins Tel: 01728 684827 Email: esvhbookings@gmail.com			
Monewden	Sian Kingston Tel: 07887606717 Email: sian@rskingston.com			

Village Organisations				
ASHFIELD	Community Council	Ms Sam Thomas	07985 807683	
u	Ladies Group	Mrs Susan Hansen	01728 685 738	
CHARSFIELD	CEVC Primary School	Dr Paul Parslow-Williams	01473 737 347	
u	WI Secretary	Mrs Rosalin Baley	01473 737171	
u	Rec. Ground Com	Mrs Jan Pedgrift	01473 737 701	
u	Tennis Club	Mrs Pauline Llewellyn	01473 737 517	
u	Flower Show Secretary	Mrs Pip Smith	01473 277166	
u	Village Hall	Pam Hembra committee@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk		
CRETINGHAM	100 Club	Mr. Alister Gourlay	01728 685 335	
DALLINGHOO	Rec. Ground Com.	Mr. Derek Spall	01473 737 565	
u	Carpet Bowls Club	Mr. Cliff Green	01473 737 421	
u	Village Hall Com.	Mr. Derek Spall	01473 737 565	
EARL SOHAM	FO St. Mary's	Mr. John Stott	01728 861 340	
u	Primary School	Mr. Lambillion-Jameson	01728 685 359	
"	Neighbourhood Watch	Mrs J. Sheffield Mrs Mary Patterson	01728 685 403 01728 685 362	
"	WI Secretary	Mrs Daphne Dale	01728 621 292	
u	Village Hall Com.	Lorna McCurrach	01394 388807	
u	100 Club	Mr. R. Tinkler	01728 685 278	
u	Tennis Club	Mrs Mary Patterson	01728 685 362	
u	Bowls Club	Mrs Pam Sykes	01728 685 519	
u	Scouts/Cubs/Beavers	Mrs J. Lovett	01728 723 712	
u	Carpet Bowls Club	Chris Pratt	01728 685745	
	Allotment/Gardeners Association	Mrs Mavis Kerridge Mr. John Stark	01728 685 700 01728 684 385	
MONEWDEN	Local History Society	Mr. Peter Driver	01728 724 951	

Young Readers Page "Children, bey your parents in the Lord for this is right." Ephesians 6:1 www.OvistianPrexhoolPretables.com and a logical of