

The Lighthouse



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Sunday, 10 January 2021
Issue 41



New Year – Hope is Dawning



I was thinking the day after the shortest day, December 22nd, the evenings will officially start to get longer, albeit steadily; you may have noticed. As we look forward to longer evenings in due course, we approach 2021 with hope. Hope that the pandemic will improve is something we can all grasp. Hope is ‘a realised knowledge that something will happen’. Hope is dawning that things will be better in 2021. We have entered the miracle of mass vaccinations and we must be thankful that the vaccines have been made, and through it we hope that things will improve.

Having things to look forward to can help us to have hope. With that in mind we have provisionally re-booked the Church Tower Sponsored Abseil (Saturday 15th May) and the Music in Country Churches Concerts (27th–28th July), both at St Nicholas Dersingham. Many were looking forward to abseiling and even more were preferring to watch with their feet firmly on the ground!

Hope is dawning, the sun rises to offer us a new day, and the light brings us hope and a renewed optimism. We have just celebrated Christmas and the arrival of the Light of the World. In the wonderful passage from John chapter 1 it declares the Light of the world is dawning to shine in the world of darkness and this light cannot be put out: ‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it’ (5). Light offers us hope, reassurance and opportunity. Jesus offers us life now and the sure and certain hope that we can be welcomed home with God in Heaven, which comes through Jesus (John 14:1-6).

Life will undoubtedly be challenging ahead for many through the new lockdown, but through this time the church for the Dersingham benefice and beyond will continue to offer services you can watch in the safety of your home: www.dersinghamonlineworship.com (or DVD version on request).

If you or friends are shielding and need medicines delivering, please contact Jane Churchill (01485 543229) who is co-ordinating. Volunteers from the church will do this, some whilst working from home or home schooling or both. Bible Bites, our visual ministry to schools, continues. If you are aware of children who haven’t encountered this yet, do let them know, even if they live far away; it’s on the website and YouTube. Private Prayer will be possible in Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne churches as before. In Dersingham the church will be open Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday for private prayer.

There will be one service in church each Sunday at 10 am at St Nicholas Dersingham during lockdown. In reviewing how we offer this service, the minister leading will now not go to the back of the church at the end, to do our part in not encouraging mixing of bubbles, and instead will go to the Vestry. Each Sunday there will be a maximum of two clergy present to reduce the risk of all being restricted by track and trace.

Clergy continue to be accessible via phone for pastoral support or concerns. If you would like to come to the in-church service, please remember to contact Pauline Martin (01485 544561) to book in.

I hope in the coming months we will be looking at the pandemic through our rear-view mirror and able to focus on better times ahead. But now we must look ahead with hope: hope of being safe, hope of seeing family and friends, hope of longer lighter evenings, hope of better weather and importantly for so many, a hope of opportunities to meet other people in person.

Stay Safe – Keep Praying and let us continue to Thank God for small mercies at this time.

We will get through this – Hope is dawning.

With my prayers.

Rev Mark Capron

Rector of Dersingham,
Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne
www.dersinghamonlineoworship.com
www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by the coronavirus
- + our NHS workers and those in care homes
- + those working in essential services
- + our GPs, surgeries and staff tasked with caring for us and rolling out the new vaccines
- + our teachers and schools
- + our collective health and welfare
- + our nation and community life
- + our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience in dealing with the many changes to our ways of life
- + our children and young people, their parents and caregivers
- + all who are worried about their jobs, livelihoods and businesses
- + those who have lost their livelihoods
- + those who are homeless
- + those who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + those facing any illness or medical treatment
- + those who feel isolated and those who cannot be with their families
- + our young adults
- + our elderly neighbours and family members
- + wisdom in the safe use of our churches
- + all who make our worship services possible and all who attend, in church or online
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + hope, encouragement and peace during this time of continuing restrictions



January services at Dersingham, 10 am

For the month of January, we'll be holding our benefice church services at St Nicholas Dersingham at 10 am.

If you'd like to join us, please book with Pauline at 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

–Rev Mark

Baptism of Christ

Scripture reading: [Epiphany 1] Mark chapter 1 verses 4–11.

‘Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same.’

[No NOT the Beatles this time! Instead, an old CSSM chorus!]

Dear Friends, Greetings! Just a few days into 2021, yet it is an evolving picture for us to come to terms with. So many changes, so much that is new to understand. Here we are in Tier 4 as I write to you on Monday January 4th, but will it be a total lockdown by the time you read this? Too much newness all at once can be hard to handle. There is so much to take in, it can overwhelm us.

All this reminds me of when Carol and I arrived in Venice for the first time. We travelled by train, and as we walked down the long platform, it seemed that there was a huge colourful video advert at the end of the concourse. It proved to be several large glass doors leading out to a brightly sunlit vista view of the Grand Canal. Once outside, we just stood and looked for about five minutes, taking everything in. We were totally speechless, as we had never seen anything so wonderful before.

This virus is anything but beautiful. Yet we still have so much to take in. New terms to learn, such as ‘coronavirus’, ‘lockdown’, ‘epidemiologist’ and ‘Oxford–Astrazeneca’; new ways to live, shielding, distancing, and having the vaccine; new ways of worship, online and Zoom. All quite overwhelming, but we are learning to handle all that is new.

Mark chapter 1 verses 4–11 shows an evolving picture of Jesus being baptised in the River Jordan by John. Seeing and hearing John was enough for one day. He came dressed differently, having been in the desert, most likely part of the Qumran sect. He spoke differently too: no one had spoken about returning to God and repentance for hundreds of years. This was all new, and to crown it all, Jesus the perfect Son of God came to be baptised as a sign of God’s approval for what Jesus would say and do. New things were happening. It was all overwhelming for the crowd and possibly for John too, but it was what God had planned.

In all the newness that we will encounter in 2021, take a long hard look at who God is – and when we become overwhelmed by all that is going on today, remember the simplicity and wonder of God’s plan for us, never more clearly expressed than in the Moody revivalist hymn, ‘Tell me the old, old story, of Jesus and his love.’

Prayers and Blessing in this New Year.
Derek the Cleric.

Hands, face, space. Lockdown and look up.



Look up ...

Detail from an English landscape by Albrecht Fietz, Pixabay



We pray for all Christians in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

8) YEMEN

Population 29.6 million. A few thousand Christians.

Leaving Islam is illegal in Yemen, and believers from a Muslim background can face the death penalty.

Prayer points

- Pray for provision for Christians who are often denied access to emergency aid.
- Pray that Yemeni believers will have the courage to share their faith despite opposition.
- Pray for peace in Yemen and a future when believers can freely worship God.

If you'd like to know more about the situation for Christians in Sudan, do take a look at Open Doors' website and watch list: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Yemen - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

Thanks to Revd Adrian for providing these prayers for the persecuted church.

Wordsearch – the Baptism of Jesus

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in Mark chapter 1 verses 4 to 11.

V	T	T	S	S	N	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	Z
T	S	A	A	W	C	S	I	N	S	E	L	Y	A
C	D	A	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S
R	E	P	E	N	T	A	N	C	E	N	T	R	S
N	N	D	H	V	E	R	N	R	O	A	V	E	S
H	S	N	T	S	R	I	O	H	D	P	O	T	P
I	L	A	E	A	G	S	E	T	E	E	I	A	I
E	A	D	R	N	S	R	R	L	O	C	C	W	R
D	D	R	A	P	S	G	O	D	A	O	E	R	I
O	N	O	Z	E	C	C	R	M	E	V	T	V	T
V	A	J	A	E	U	F	E	R	J	S	H	D	S
E	S	L	N	S	T	L	N	H	E	M	E	P	A
P	A	O	T	E	N	S	N	S	T	Z	A	R	S
S	R	S	T	A	C	E	P	N	E	T	N	S	T

HONEY
DOVE
REPENTANCE
SINS
CAMEL
NAZARETH
SPIRIT
LOCUSTS
VOICE
WATER
SANDALS
DESERT
FORGIVENESS
BAPTISM
JORDAN



Volunteers needed – can you help us?

As with the first lockdown, Jane Churchill and Pauline Martin are organising volunteers from the church to shop and collect prescriptions for those who need help. They are a still bit short of volunteers at the moment. If this is something you would be willing to help with, please contact Jane at 01485 543229.

Many thanks.

Good news



Photo: Alan Crawshaw

It's reassuring to see that the Covid vaccine is starting to be rolled out in our area.

Here is Mary after her Covid vaccination, accompanied by her daughter June.

We are so happy to share this good news (from the Inspire Centre at Queen Elizabeth Hospital) – they seem to be making good progress. We read in the paper that 40% of over-80s have received theirs. No adverse effects, and a follow-up promised in 12 weeks.

–from Alan, June and Mary



Photos: Tom Wheeler

Thank You

We would both like to thank all of the individuals, groups and organisations who prepared decorations and used them to fill the church with light over the Christmas Period. Their work, alongside that of Val and Yvonne in decorating the windowsills, pillars and porch; Sue and Katrina for keeping us safe and clean; Allan, Alan, Maggie, Shirley, Charlotte and Jean for their help, assistance and stewarding; enabled 250 adults and children to visit the trees (outside of services) and for £555.02 to be collected for Church funds.

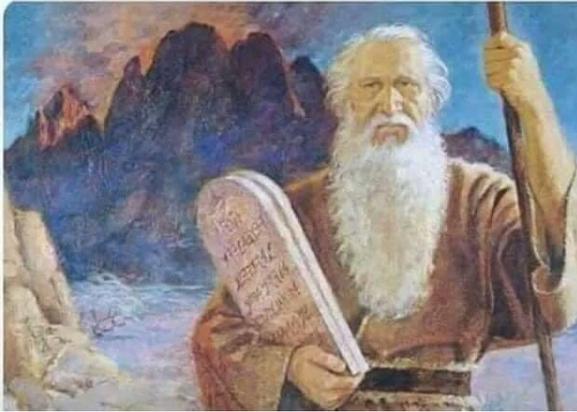
The trees truly sparkled and brought joy, glitter and light into the Church and were enjoyed and commented on by all who visited – whether on the trail or at one of the Christmas Services.

Thank You.
Neil & Tom

A smile!

Thanks to Ian Iosson for sharing this with us.

So technically Moses is the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



Source: email, unattributed

Stopwatch:
how quickly can you solve these anagrams?

DOUSE IT ONE NIL
TEND FIREFLY

(All are words found in Derek's letter. Answers, below!)

We give thanks for:

- + the birth of Jesus, and God's presence in our lives
- + Epiphany and epiphanies
- + our church community and our families and friendships
- + a new year and the progress that has been made in treating the coronavirus and finding vaccines
- + Baby Basics' support of new mothers and families, and for all the donated supplies, gifts and knitted items that help us share God's provision with others
- + God's grace, love and forgiveness
- + God's word and help for our own situations
- + acts of kindness, courage and selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of the Holy Spirit
- + reasons for hope

Reminder

Please remember to book in advance if you plan to attend any of our in-church worship services. We have plenty of space and are using 'bubbles' and social distancing.

You will need to book in advance each time.

To book, please contact Pauline Martin on 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Face coverings

In line with government rules, the Diocese asks us to wear masks (face coverings) in church for our services. If you have any health problems and are unable to wear a face covering, please be assured that you will be very welcome in church without one.

Contactless payment

At our church services, we welcome you making your Giving by Contactless Payment, which will be available on the front desk as you come in. Just set the machine to the amount you wish to give and scan your card.

Those who are unable to get to the service and would like to make a donation, please contact the Treasurer, Pat Oughtibridge, c/o the church office at 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Anagrams: outside, online, differently
With help from: anagrammaker.com



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

