



Stalham, East Ruston and Brunstead

Church News February - March 2020

Rector's Ramblings

Dear Friends,

I know my date of birth, and somewhere I have a Certificate to prove it. If I were to ask you yours, then there is every possibility I expect that you too would know it, and probably you would know exactly where your birth certificate is to be found! and know when your birthday is.

With buildings it is not always quite so easy. We may know that the Maids Head in Stalham High Street was built around 1380, but what of the other ancient building in the High Street, the Church? We know that before the present building on the present site there must have been another, because the first recorded Rector of Stalham we have is Gotcelinus de Stalham and that was in 1149. Our present Church building was built in 1420 and the Rector at that time was William Coupere de Watton. Which means, of course, that 2020 is the 600th anniversary of Saint Mary's, the Parish Church of Stalham.

So we want to have a commemoration year, our only difficulty is we don't know the official date of the birthday of the Church building. We aim to mark the event nonetheless and further information will be available in due course. Like any good birthday there will be a celebration and we will thank God for all those who have worshipped and ministered in our Church throughout the generations.



Inside: Lent services and activities (see page 4)

Volunteer Boost Project (see page 5)

Remembering DJ (see page 4)

The fact it is still here is a testament in itself to those who have lovingly cared for it throughout the years. It is also a testament of the Christian faith and has been a real presence in the lives of the men, women and children of Stalham, both in war and in peace, and in good times and in bad for the last 600 years, and of course continues to be so.

So our celebration will also be a Thanksgiving to God who has in his Son watched over us, guided us and kept us, not just for 600 years but since the beginning, and who is with us always.

Every Blessing, *Simon*

To arrange Weddings or Christenings, or for any enquiries, please contact:
Canon Simon Lawrence - simon.stalham@btinternet.com (580250)

For Stalham Church Room Bookings, please contact:
Mrs Phyl Eden, telephone 582170 or email rockydougal@gmail.com Thank you.

Parish Registers



Wedding:

16th November Rosemarie Brennan and David Thompson

Funeral:

23rd December Rev David William Jackson (aged 66)



THANK YOU...

... to all the many organisations, schools, groups and businesses who decorated a tree at our Christmas Tree Festival. Thanks also to everyone who came to enjoy looking at the trees. As ever they all looked fantastic and we had a brilliant week.

...to those who decorated our churches for Christmas - they all looked wonderful - and to everyone who helped with our Christmas Services, especially those who provided refreshments, read lessons and played the organ at our Carol Services.

...to all who deliver the Church News throughout the year. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

...to all who brought shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child - 117 boxes were sent away on their long journey.

Forthcoming Events

TUESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Over the winter we are open on Tuesday mornings at St Mary's Stalham for tea, coffee and cake from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Do come and see us for a hot drink and a chat.



St Patrick's Party!

An Irish Celebration



Saturday 21st March, 7.00pm
Stalham Church Room

Our meal will be hearty Irish Stew, followed by dessert. Soft drinks provided but feel free to bring your own Guinness!

Please book your ticket
(£6 adults/ £3 children)
by phoning Emma on 580250



Beetles & Buffet

Saturday 22nd Feb, 7pm
St Mary's Church Room, Stalham
Tickets: £5, children £2.50

Beetle Drive
with buffet supper

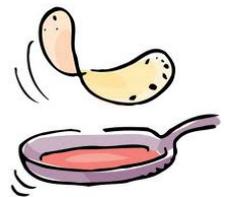
If you haven't been to a Beetle Drive before - it's an incredibly easy game and good fun for any age.

To book your ticket please phone Emma on 580250.



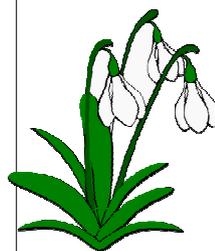
On Tuesday 25th February we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday by serving pancakes during our usual Tuesday coffee morning.

All welcome!



Spring Tuesday Stall

All the usual stalls - bric a brac, cakes, tea & coffee.



Tuesday 24th March
9am - midday
St Mary's Stalham

Would you like to come to church or to one of the events advertised, but can't get there under your own steam? If so, please phone Simon our Rector on 580250 and he will do his best to arrange a lift for you.

To help us make the most of Lent...

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday - 26th February - and there will be services at St Mary's at 10am and at 7.30pm.

During Lent the following will be taking place:

- Lent groups (where we study the Bible and think about our faith) on Thursdays 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th March and 2nd April at 7.30pm at the Rectory. If you'd like to come to one of these or to find out more, please speak to Simon (580250).
- Compline (a quiet, reflective evening service) at Ingham church every Monday (beginning 2nd March) at 9pm.
- Lent Quiet Day - please phone Simon or check Pews News for details.
- Lent Lunches - a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese with donations going to the Lent Appeal. Look out for dates in Pews News or on our website.

You would be very welcome at any of these groups and services.



HELP!! We need a new deliverer for the Church News to cover the Stalham Green area. If you could help, please contact Emma on 580250. Many thanks to Pat who has delivered this round for some years now.

On December 6th our dear friend the Reverend David Jackson (DJ) was called Home aged 66. David had been ill for some time and had not been engaged in active Ministry in our parishes for the last year. He retired as Rector of Harleston near Diss and moved to Sutton six years ago. Before that David had been the Rector of Taverham for eight years and prior to that had served Curacies in Northampton and Ely.

David was a Lancashire lad and never lost his roots although he had lost his accent, perhaps due to the fluent French he spoke and had taught at Gravesend School as a younger man. Many are grateful to him for his twenty or so years of ministry. David was a real character and those who knew him will certainly never forget him!

We had a wonderful service of Thanksgiving to God for David's life on 23rd December which was attended by very many of his friends and former parishioners and a good representation from the parishes here, as well as by the Bishop of Thetford and Archdeacon of Norfolk. David was then laid to rest in a simple ceremony by the Church at Sutton attended by his family and myself. God bless you DJ - may you rest in peace and rise in glory. SPL



Volunteer Boost Project

Did you know that **Volunteering** can be local, flexible and fit around your life?

Community Action Norfolk (CAN) are working in partnership with Merchant's Place Volunteer Hub on a project to boost the numbers of volunteers that get involved with local community projects in North Norfolk and Broadland, particularly the CAN Connect Project and Good Neighbour Schemes.

We want to let people know about the positive impact of volunteering, not only on the people who are helped, but also on those people who volunteer. In fact, volunteers can;

Feel Good - Enjoy Helping - Meet New People - Have Purpose - Build Skills - Change Their Life - Feel Connected - Make Things Better - Be Part of Something - Add to Their CV - Feel Relevant - Help in a Way that Works for Them - Build Their Work Experience - Put Something Back - Make Someone's Day - Do a Little Thing That Helps a Lot...

Ideas for Volunteering in North Norfolk include;



Helping support people who may be lonely or isolated to find and get involved in activities in their community through **CAN Connect** (types of help include giving advice, coaching, getting people involved in local activities such as clubs or groups, taking people out for a coffee and chat)



Help people who need practical help or befriending support in your local area through **Good Neighbour Schemes** (types of help include taking a neighbour's dog for a walk if they can't, popping in for a tea and chat, changing a lightbulb for them, giving them a lift to a hospital appointment, taking them to do a weekly shop or mowing a lawn).

A meeting to look at developing a Good Neighbour Scheme in Stalham is being held at Stalham Academy at 6.30pm on Wednesday 29th January - all are welcome to attend - or look out for details afterwards.

Contact North Norfolk Volunteer Hub at Merchant's Place on 01263 519454 or by email volhub@merchantsplace.co.uk for a chat to see what volunteering options would work for you.

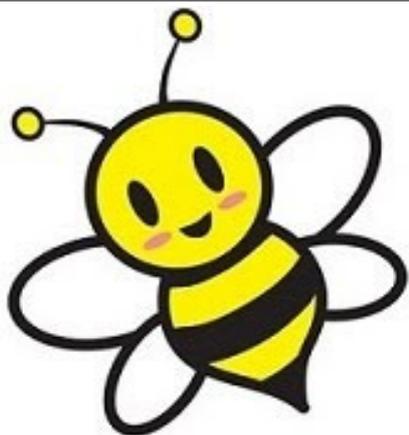
World Day of Prayer - Friday 6th March

The theme of this year's service is "Rise! Take your mat and walk" and has been prepared by Christians in Zimbabwe.

The service will be at 2pm at Stalham Baptist Church.

All welcome.

If you would like to know more, please call Mavis on 583398.



Bizzy Bees Baby & Toddler Group

Mondays in term time from 8.45am - 11am,
meeting in St Mary's Church Room, Stalham.

A chance for children to have fun together and
parents/carers to have a chat over tea/coffee.
£1 per family per session (includes refreshments).

For more information come along to a session, or call Jeanette on 580250.
You can also find out more by finding us on Facebook - search for 'Bizzy
Bees Baby and Toddler Group Stalham'.

STALHAM TOWN HALL BIG SCREEN CINEMA

Fri 7th Feb: **'Yesterday' 12A**

Everybody has forgotten the Beatles except Jack!

Fri 6th Mar: **'A Dog's Journey' PG**

Picking up where 'A Dog's Purpose' left off. If you enjoyed that - you'll love this!

Still only £4.00 donation, including refreshments.

Doors open 6.30pm. Films start at 7pm. Plus £1.00 raffle (optional).



St Mary's Church Room - available for hire

Facilities include a room able to seat 50 comfortably, chairs, tables, toilets, a kitchen with oven, hob, microwave, fridge, kettles and urn, and plenty of crockery and cutlery. You do need to bring your own teatowels please. The room can be booked during the daytime or evening and the cost is £7 per hour (includes heating).

We also have a special 'party rate' for children's parties - £20 for a session.

To make enquiries please contact Phyl Eden

by email to rockydougal@gmail.com or phone on 582170.



Church Groups

Bizzy Bees Baby and Toddler Group: We meet on Monday mornings during term time between 8:45am and 11:00am in St Mary's Church room, Stalham. Join us for a fun session which includes coffee/tea/juice and a snack. The session will finish with a song time. Cost per session is £1 per family. For more information phone Jeanette on 580250.

The Mothers' Union meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm, in Stalham Church Room. For more information please contact Branch Leader Mrs Mavis Smith on 583398.

The **Prayer Group** meets at The Rectory, Camping Field Lane at 11am, on the first Wednesday in the month. Anyone is welcome to come. If there is something that you would like us to pray about, call Simon on 580250.

Give Me Five (Faith, Fun, Friendship, Fellowship and Food) meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm in the Church Room. We share a meal together and then sing some songs accompanied by our music group. All are welcome. For more information contact Sheila Postle (581989) or Jan Blossom (598316).

The **Benefice Lunch Together** takes place in the Church Room at 12.15pm on the second Monday in the month. A two course lunch with tea or coffee, for £3.50. All are welcome.

Stalham's **Music Group** play for All Age Worship at St Mary's on the first Sunday of the month and for Give me Five (see above), and rehearse on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. If you sing or play an instrument and would like to join us, please speak to us at one of the services or phone Bruce and Tricia on 630206.

'Inspired' Craft Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the church rooms at St Mary's. Please contact Geraldine on 652208 or email on geraldinewatson08@googlemail.com for more information.

After their very successful fifth exhibition in May, the group will be having a two year break before the next one to give plenty of time for sharing new techniques and ideas and to prepare new pieces to exhibit.

Tuesday Knitting Group: Do you enjoy knitting? Would you like to learn, or to refresh your memory? Dawn will be bringing her knitting along to St Mary's on Tuesday mornings and would welcome other knitters along to enjoy knitting together over a tea or coffee. She would be very happy to teach anyone who would like to learn, or to help out with any knitting problems. If you have any spare wool, this can be left in church to be used in knitting projects for various charities.

For more information about services, events and church life please visit our website: www.stalhambenefice.org.uk

Services

at St Mary's Church Stalham unless otherwise specified

February

Sunday 2 nd	10.30am	All Age Worship
Monday 3 rd	9.00pm	Compline at Stalham
Sunday 9 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th	10.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23 rd	10.30am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Service at East Ruston Village Hall

March

Sunday 1 st	10.30am	All Age Worship
Monday 2 nd	9.00pm	Compline at Ingham
Tuesday 3 rd	7.30pm	Holy Communion with the Bishop of Norwich
Sunday 8 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	10.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22 nd	10.30am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Service at East Ruston Village Hall
Sunday 29 th	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion at Ingham

All are very welcome to any of these services.

For details of services at St Michael's Church, Sutton and Holy Trinity Church, Ingham, please see the notices displayed in the relevant church's porch.

Visit by the new Bishop of Norwich, Rt Rev Graham Usher

Since his arrival in our Diocese, our new Bishop Graham Usher has been visiting the various Deaneries in the Diocese, and on Tuesday 3rd March he will be coming to the St Benet's Deanery. He will visit several parishes during the course of the day (by public transport).

The Bishop will be in Stalham at 6.30pm for a Bring & Share supper at St Mary's - a chance to meet and chat - and at 7.30pm he will preach at a service of Holy Communion at St Mary's.

All are very welcome to come to the supper, service, or both.