

A special flyer, giving details of most of the important events and services all over our benefice during Advent and Christmas, has been distributed with the December issues of the Wensum Diary and the Pilgrim. There are a few more copies in each of our churches. In addition to the events listed there, please note soon:

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| Mon 8 th | NB 7:30 pm | Ringland PCC meets briefly at Pond Farmhouse; this meeting followed at 8:30 by a planning meeting for Saturday's coffee morning |
| Tue 9 th | during the day | Interviews etc for 'House-for-Duty priest' post for Honingham and in this benefice |
| | 3:30 pm | "All Saints Alive" after-school club meets at Great Witchingham School |
| | 5:00 pm | Evening Prayer resumes regularly at Great Witchingham (now that we have electricity!) |
| Fri 12 th | 4:15 pm | Weston Longville choir practice in church |
| | 7:30 pm | Swannington Friday Club – a festive quiz |

The recent survey of residents in Weston Longville, about the future of the village, looks set to give the parish council many good ideas to get their teeth into over the months to come. A recurring theme in people's answers will undoubtedly be how important it is for a sense of community in the village that the 'Parson Woodforde' stays open. With that in mind, people from all our parishes might like to help by thinking about attending the experiment of a musical evening there **this coming Wednesday** (3rd December) from **7:30 pm** onwards. "*Lullaby of Broadway*" will be a gentle programme of songs from the shows of the 1920s up to the 1980s, performed by *Vocal Score* – a new local group (three singers plus piano) including some familiar faces from our benefice. No need to book in advance, just turn up and either take your drink into the restaurant or enjoy a meal while you receive a thoroughly good evening's entertainment!



Sunday 30 November 2008
ADVENT 1

A reminder that on all the Sundays of Advent, during the introduction to the Eucharist, candles are lit on our Advent wreath. When the candles have been lit there is a prayer, to which the response is always **Blessed be God for ever**.

Collect:

Almighty God,
give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness
and put upon us the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;
that in the last day
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge both the quick and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil –
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Gospel: Mark 13.24-37

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the

evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’



All weekday services this week will be at their usual times, except that there will be **no** Evening Prayer on Friday at Weston Longville.

All this week we pray particularly for those who live and work at **Hungate Common** in Weston Longville.

Please continue to pray for the sick & those in need:

Alic Bowen; Edward; George Williams

RIP Kenneth Savage

Events this week:

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| Mon | 7:30 pm | Alderford with Attlebridge PCC meets at Mortonray |
| Tues | 1:30 pm | Great Witchingham PCC meets at The White House |
| | 3:30 pm | “All Saints Alive” after-school club meets at Great Witchingham School |
| | 7:30 pm | Swannington PCC meets at The Old Rectory |
| Fri | 4:15 pm | Weston Longville choir practice in church |
| | 6:30 pm | at St Mary, Great Witchingham – Deanery Advent Carol Service. <i>Preacher, Bishop James Langstaff (Bishop of Lynn)</i> . This service will include the dedication of electric heating and lighting (installed for the first time); thanksgiving for all who have contributed to this work; and special items performed by our benefice choir and by children from Great Witchingham School. Refreshments afterwards; please come and help to celebrate this major step in the life of this historic church!! |

Next Sunday: Advent 2

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| 9:00 am | The Eucharist (Common Worship) at Ringland |
| 10:00 am | Lay Service at Swannington |
| 10:15 am | The Eucharist at Weston Longville |