

Fri 4:15 pm Weston Longville choir practice in church
7:30 pm Friday Club in Swannington church –
a festive quiz and an opportunity to meet our MP

Sat 10:00 am till 12:30 pm Pond Farmhouse, Ringland

Christmas coffee morning

Bring and buy – raffle – cakes and much more
All donations welcome

Next Sunday: Advent 3

8:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Weston Longville
10:00 am The Eucharist at Swannington (Canon Peter Halls)
10:00 am Christingle at Ringland (Sister Stella Noons)

Other future events:

Tues 16th 7:30 pm Great Witchingham Guides' carol service
at Morton-on-the-Hill
Wed 17th 7:30 pm Wedding rehearsal at Ringland
Fri 19th 4:15 pm Weston Longville choir practice in church

Sunday 21st December:

NB – no 8:00 am service at Swannington
9:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Ringland
(Archdeacon Martin Gray)
10:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Great Witchingham
10:00 am Children's carol service at Swannington
6:00 pm Benefice service of Nine Readings and Carols at Alderford

Congratulations to people from Swannington church who worked very hard on the stall at the farmers' market in Aylsham last Saturday. You raised **£170** for church funds!



Sunday 7 December 2008

ADVENT 2

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:

O God of mercy and might,
who dost come into our midst
with tender comfort and transforming power;
make ready a way in the wilderness,
clear a straight path in our hearts,
and form us into a repentant people;
that the advent of thy Son
may find us watchful and eager for the glory that he doth reveal;
through him whose coming is certain
and whose day draweth near,
thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’
A voice says, ‘Cry out!’
And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Gospel: Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight”’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’



All weekday services this week will be at their usual times. Tuesday Evening Prayer now resumes at Great Witchingham and will always be at 5:00 pm.

All this week we pray particularly for those who live and work along **Kett’s Lane** in Little Witchingham and Swannington.

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

Alic Bowen; Edward; George Williams

Observance this week

Monday Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 all the events listed there, please note:

This week:

Mon	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	3:30 pm	“All Saints Alive” after-school club meets at Great Witchingham School