

Next Sunday: Lent 3

8:00 am The Eucharist at Swannington
9:00 am Holy Communion (1662) Ringland (**Revd Tom Candeland**)
10:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Great Witchingham
10:00 am Children's **Mothering Sunday** service at Swannington
6:30 pm Deanery Lent Evensong at Guestwick. Preacher – Revd Christopher Morgan-Cromar on *Teaching and crucifixion*

Future Events:

Mon 16th 7:45 pm Ringland PCC meets **in church**
Tue 17th 3:30 pm “All Saints Alive” after-school club meets at Great Witchingham School
7:30 pm Swannington PCC meets at The Firs
Wed 18th 7:30 pm Swannington singers rehearse at The Firs
Fri 20th, 7:30 pm: **Swannington Quiz ‘n’ Chips at Reepham School** in aid of church funds. **Tickets £8** including supper; available only on the door, but please give your name and the number in your team to Richard Cooke or Sally Day well in advance. Teams of 6 -8; further information from Richard or Sally.

Sunday 22nd:

NB: no service at Great Witchingham

9:00 am Family Service *for Mothering Sunday* at Ringland led by the churchwardens
10:00 am The Eucharist *for Lent 4* at Alderford
6:30 pm Deanery Lent Evensong at Wood Dalling. Preacher – Revd Veronica Wilson on *Spirit-anointing & crucifixion*

Sunday 5 April begins **Holy Week** - the celebration of Jesus's death and resurrection. The services that mark those events are uniquely important in the Church's year, and very different from our regular ones. If you haven't been to any of them before, why not make this the year when you try to come? The atmosphere of prayer, as it builds through the week, becomes powerful and very personal. Leaflets giving full details of *all* the services in Holy Week will be available in our churches very soon, and will go out with the next edition of the Wensum Diary and The Pilgrim. The usual lists are now up in each church, inviting people to take part by

- reading a character in the Passion story on Palm Sunday morning
- taking part in the ceremony of the feet-washing on Maundy Thursday night
- sharing in the vigil of prayer later on Thursday night
- receiving Communion on Good Friday afternoon.



Sunday 8 March 2009

LENT 2

8:00 am Weston Longville
10:00 am Swannington

Collect:

Almighty God, who show to those in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17.1-7 & 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Psalm 22.22-28 (please remain seated)

Response: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

I will tell of your name to my people;
in the midst of the congregation will I praise you.
Praise the Lord, you that fear him; O seed of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel. (*Response*)

For he has not despised
nor abhorred the suffering of the poor;
neither has he hidden his face from them;
but when they cried to him he heard them. *(Response)*

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever. *(Response)*

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations. *(Response)*

How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
he has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
They shall come and make known his salvation to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. *(Response)*

New Testament Reading: Romans 4.13-25

The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or

when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel: Mark 8.31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'



All regular weekday services will be at their usual times this week, except that there will be **no** service on **Tuesday** morning at Weston Longville.

All this week we pray particularly for those who live and work along the **Reepham Road** in Alderford, Little Witchingham and Swannington.

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

Albert Bedford; Anne Dunn; Annette; Margaret; Molly Smith; Val

Events this week:

Weds	7:30 pm	Swannington singers rehearse at The Firs
Fri	1:00 pm	Lent lunch at The Rectory
	7:30 pm	Friday Club in Swannington church