

ST MARY, GREAT WITCHINGHAM

Spring Concert

by the Iceni choir

Saturday 4th April 2009 at 7:30 pm

Director James Lilwall
Accompanist Roger Rayner
Soloist Hannah Francis

A varied programme including
Mozart: *Mass in C*
John Rutter: *A Sprig of Thyme* and other works
Broadway & the musicals selection

Tickets £8 including wine and refreshments in aid of church funds

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

If you would like to take part in any of these ways, then just please sign the relevant list.



Sunday 15 March 2009
LENT 3

Collect:

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,
'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel: John 2.13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out

the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.



All regular weekday services will be at their usual times this week, except that there will be **no** service on **Friday** morning at Morton-on-the-Hill.

All this week we pray particularly for those who live and work along **Ringland Lane** in Morton-on-the-Hill and Weston Longville.

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

Alic Bowen; Anne Dunn; Annette; Margaret; Val

RIP Muriel Howell

Events this week:

Mon 7:45 pm Ringland PCC meets **in church**
Tue 3:30 pm "All Saints Alive" after-school club meets at Great Witchingham School
7:30 pm Swannington PCC meets at The Firs
Thur 11:00 am Funeral of the late Muriel Howell at **Binham** (Pamela Garrett)

Fri 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.

Saints this week:

Tues Patrick; bishop, missionary and Patron Saint of Ireland (died 460)
Weds Cyril; bishop of Jerusalem, teacher, and founder of all the special observances of Holy Week (died 386)

Next Sunday:

NB: no service at Great Witchingham

9:00 am Family Service **for Mothering Sunday** at Ringland, led by the churchwardens: all children and families welcome!
10:00 am The Eucharist **for Lent 4** at Alderford: a more traditional Communion service
6:30 pm Deanery Lent Evensong at Wood Dalling. Preacher – Revd Veronica Wilson on *Spirit-anointing & crucifixion*

Future Events:

Tue 24th 7:30 pm Weston Longville PCC meets at The Rectory
Wed 25th 7:30 pm Benefice Eucharist with hymns for **The Annunciation** at Great Witchingham
Fri 27th 1:00 pm Last Lent Lunch at The Rectory
Sat 28th 10:00 am Massive Church Clean-Up at Attlebridge – all volunteers welcome! Please bring mops, buckets, trimmers or just plain elbow-grease.

Sunday 29th: Lent 5

10:00 am Benefice Eucharist at Alderford
NB 5:00 pm A dramatised presentation of St Mark's Gospel **given by** Lance Pierson at **Elsing** – including refreshments in the village hall in the interval - concluding shortly after 7:00 pm. All warmly invited to attend this unusual way of bringing the Gospel to life.

Alderford with Attlebridge's Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place **in Alderford church at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 31st.**

Benefice choir next rehearses (for services in Holy Week) **at Morton Hall also at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 31st.**