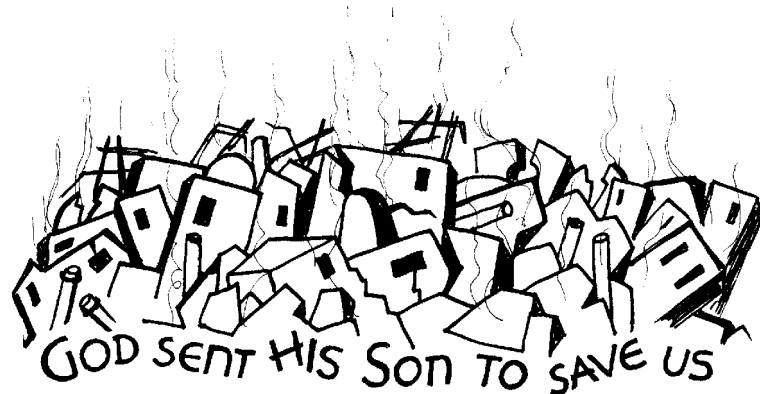


Sunday 5 April begins **Holy Week** - the celebration of Jesus's death and resurrection. The services that mark those events are uniquely important in the Church's year, and very different from our regular ones. If you haven't been to any of them before, why not make this the year when you try to come?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

- reading a character in the Passion story on Palm Sunday morning - **at Swannington, 10:15**
- taking part in the ceremony of the feet-washing on Maundy Thursday night – **at Great Witchingham, 7:30**
- sharing in the vigil of prayer later on Thursday night – **at Great Witchingham till midnight**
- receiving Communion on Good Friday afternoon – **at Weston Longville at 2:00**

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



Sunday 22 March 2009

LENT 4



Collect:

Merciful Lord,
absolve thy people from their offences,
that through thy bountiful goodness
we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins
which by our frailty we have committed;
grant this, O heavenly Father,
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21.4-9

The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Gospel: John 3.14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.'

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’



All regular weekday services will be at their usual times this week.

All this week we pray particularly for those who work at **The Romantic Garden** in Swannington.

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

Alic Bowen; Anne Dunn; Annette; Margaret; Kath Medlar; Val; Enid Warnes.

RIP Betty Smith

Events this week:

Tue 7:30 pm Weston Longville PCC meets at The Rectory
Wed 7:30 pm Benefice Eucharist with hymns
for **The Annunciation** at Great Witchingham
Fri 1:00 pm Last Lent Lunch at The Rectory
3:00 pm Funeral of the late Betty Smith at Ringland
Sat 10:00 am Massive Church Clean-Up at Attlebridge
postponed – please watch this space!

Observance this week:

Weds The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Next Sunday: 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.**

There are still just a few copies of the booklet I put together a couple of years ago, explaining something about all the **special services in Holy Week** – what we do, why we do it, why it’s important – if anyone would like one please just mention it to me, and I’ll make sure you have one in time - **Selwyn**

ST MARY, GREAT WITCHINGHAM

Spring Concert

by the Icenii 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