



Morton Hall Snowdrop Walk

Morton-on-the-Hill, off the A1067
by kind permission of Anna, Lady Prince-Smith

Sunday 14th & 21st February 2010
12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

Sorry, no dogs • Sturdy footwear • Refreshments available

Donations to Quidenham Children's Hospice

Very soon we shall begin once again the season of Lent – the annual time of careful preparation for celebrating the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection, which we come to in Holy Week. Our observation of Lent begins with a celebration of the Eucharist on **Ash Wednesday** morning, 17th February, at **Attlebridge at 10:00 am**; and all the churches in Sparham Deanery join together for a service the same evening, at 7:30 pm in Reepham parish church. This service will be led by Bishop James who will also preach, and both services will include the imposition of ashes. The ash is made by burning last year's palm crosses, so if you still have one please return it to Selwyn, either in church or through the Rectory letterbox, by Shrove Tuesday lunchtime.

On the **Sunday evenings of Lent** there will be further united Deanery services, at 6:30pm in various churches around the Deanery, and this year they will take as their theme "Following or Failing?" – how do we respond to Christ's call? These services will be advertised in detail in the forthcoming editions of our parish magazines, and there will also be posters about them in all our churches.

This year the **Diocesan Lent Appeal** is once again on behalf of the churches in our linked province of Papua New Guinea, and there will be bread and cheese lunches at the Rectory, with an opportunity to learn something about the appeal and to make contributions, **at 1:00 pm on three Fridays in Lent – 26th February and 12th and 26th March.**



Sunday 24 January 2010
EPIPHANY 3

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of thy saving presence: renew thy people with thy heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by thy mighty power; 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.*

Old Testament Reading: Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Gospel: Luke 4.14-21

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'



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

This week we pray particularly for those who live and work at and around **Morton Hall** and along **Morton Lane**.

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

Shelagh Ashe; Marjorie Crayston; Osvaldo Ferreiro; Peter Frost; Sharon; Neita Harvey; Digby Horner; Jo, James & baby Daniel; John & Linda; John Parnon; Neil Plevy; Molly Smith; Annette; Val; Alex Williams; Freda; Antoinette; Colin Woods.

RIP Neville Bunton

Saints this week

Mon Paul, apostle, teacher, missionary and writer (first century)
Tue Timothy & Titus, bishops and companions of Paul (first century)
Sat Charles Stuart, King of England, martyr (died 1649)

Next Sunday: CANDLEMAS

10 am Eucharist for the whole benefice at Alderford. This celebrates the 'Presentation' of the child Jesus in the temple with the usual simple Candlemas ceremonies.