

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 for 8:00 pm, **Swannington's annual Quiz 'n' Chips** takes place at Reepham High School. Teams of up to 8 people invited – tickets £8 per person. Book with Richard Cooke or Sally Day, and bring your own drinks, glasses, cutlery etc.

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>: Fifth Sunday in Lent

**NB 5:00 pm Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** The Eucharist at Swannington

9:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Ringland

10:00 am Children's Service for **Mothering Sunday** at Swannington

10:15 am Holy Communion (1662) at Great Witchingham

6:30 pm Deanery Evensong at Themelthorpe – Preacher, Bishop James

*Full details of all the services and events of **Holy Week** are in the special leaflet delivered with the March Wensum Diary, Pilgrim and Ringland Runner. Please also note as below:*

If you would like to take part by playing a 'character' in the long reading of the Passion story on **Palm Sunday** morning (28<sup>th</sup> March, **Attlebridge church 10am**) then please just sign up against the character you would like to read on the list at the back of any of our churches. There will be a brief 'read-through' practice in that church at 9:30 am on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>.

On **Maundy Thursday** night the Eucharist of the Last Supper takes place at **7:30 pm** at **Swannington**. It includes the traditional ceremony of the feet-washing, as we follow the example of Christ's humility. If you wish to be one of those taking part and having your feet washed, **please add your name to the list** at the back of any of our churches.

From the end of the Maundy Eucharist the **Watch of Prayer** continues in **Swannington church till midnight**. There are also lists in all our churches dividing this time into 20-minute slots. **Once again, please indicate when you could be 'on watch', by your initials or a simple tick**. Don't feel you have to come alone; arrange to come with someone and help build up the atmosphere of prayer as we watch with Jesus.



Sunday 7 March 2010

**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.*

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55.1-9

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

### Psalm 63, verses 1-9 (please remain seated)

**Response: *My soul is athirst for you as in a dry and thirsty land.***

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul is athirst for you. My flesh also faints for you, as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. *(Response)*

Your loving-kindness is better than life itself and so my lips shall praise you. I will bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness,  
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips. *(Response)*

When I remember you upon my bed  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.  
For you have been my helper and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you; your right hand shall hold me fast. *(Response)*

### **New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 10.1-13**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

### **Gospel: Luke 13.1-9**

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? So, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

All daily services this week will be at their usual times.

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:

*Ian Akhurst; Shelagh Ashe; Osvaldo Ferreira; Peter Frost; Neita Harvey; Peter Hodges; Jo, James & baby Daniel; John & Linda; Guz Jones; Pauline Lomax; Annette; Val; Freda; Colin Woods.*

### **Events this week:**

Mon	7:30 pm	Weston Longville PCC meets at The Rectory
Tue	3:30 pm	"All Saints Alive" after-school club meets at Great Witchingham School
	7:30 pm	Swannington PCC meets at The Old Rectory
Wed	7:45 pm	Ringland PCC meets at Redmire
Fri	1:00 pm	Lent Lunch at The Rectory

### **Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday)**

8:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Weston Longville  
10:00 am The Eucharist at Swannington (**Archdeacon John Ashe**)  
10:00 am All-Age Worship at Ringland (Stella Noons)  
10:15 am 'Lighthouse' at Weston Longville (Pamela Garrett). This new monthly service has as its emblem **the lighthouse**, to remember the ways in which we can share the light of Christ's good news with those around us. Each one will last about 40 minutes, and families, from babies to grandparents, are warmly invited to come and try it out. The young people will be invited to take a much more active part in all that goes on, so go with the flow and be prepared for a bit more noisy music....! Please give it your support, and give Pamela a ring if you would like to be involved.  
6:30 pm Deanery Evensong at North Elmham –  
Preacher, Revd Nicholas Varnon

### **Future events:**

Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	3:30 pm	"All Saints Alive" after-school club
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Alderford with Attlebridge PCC meets at The Old Butcher's Shop
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	Eucharist for <b>St Joseph's Day</b> at Morton-on-the-Hill