

Next Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Lent

NB 5:00 pm Saturday 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

Future events:

Wed 24th 7:30 pm **Benefice Eucharist for The Annunciation**
 at Great Witchingham
Fri 26th 1:00 pm Last Lent Lunch at The Rectory

Sunday 28th: PALM SUNDAY

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 (28th 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 27th.

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 14 March 2010

LENT 4

Collect

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

Old Testament Reading: Joshua 5.9-12

After the Israelites had crossed over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal – "rolling" - to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32 (please remain seated)

Response: *Forgive me, Lord, the guilt of my sin.*

Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered.
Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile. *(Response)*

For I held my tongue;
my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long.
Your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up like the drought in summer. *(Response)*

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and my iniquity I did not hide.
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,'
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *(Response)*

Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
in the great water flood, it shall not reach them.
You are a place for me to hide in; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with songs of deliverance. *(Response)*

I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
'Be not like horse and mule which have no understanding;
whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.' *(Response)*

Great tribulations remain for the wicked,
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. *(Response)*

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel: Luke 15.1-3 & 11b-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable:

'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the

son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."



All daily services this week will be at their usual times; except that there will be **no** Evening Prayer at Great Witchingham on Tuesday, and Friday morning's service at Morton-on-the-Hill will be **the Eucharist for St Joseph's Day**.

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:

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

Events this week:

Tue	3:30 pm	"All Saints Alive" after-school club
Wed	7:00 pm	Alderford with Attlebridge PCC meets at The Old Butcher's Shop
	7:30 for	Swannington's annual Quiz 'n' Chips at
	8:00 pm	Reepham High School. Teams of up to 8 people invited – tickets £8 per person. Book with Richard or Sally, and bring your own drinks, glasses, cutlery.