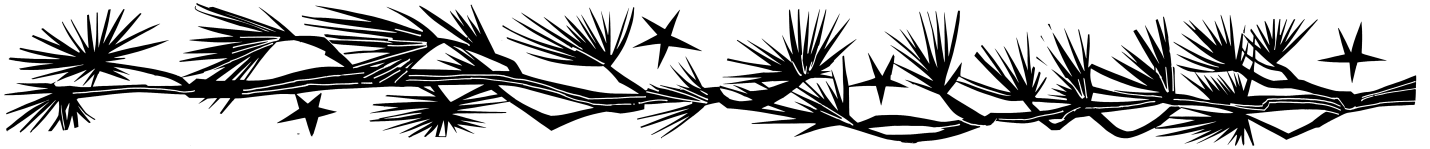


Benefice News

December 2022

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH THE VILLAGES OF BRANSTON, BUCKMINSTER, COSTON, CROXTON KERRIAL, EDMONDTHORPE, GARTHORPE, HARSTON, KNIPTON, SALTBY, SAXBY, SEWSTERN, SPROXTON, STAPLEFORD, WYFORDBY AND WYMONDHAM



FROM THE PEN OF THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear Friends,

How well do you know the Christmas story? For example, do you know that the stories that make up the nativity come from only two of the four Gospels in the Bible? Only the Gospels of Matthew and Luke that have anything to say about Jesus' birth. And do you know that the little detail of Mary arriving in Bethlehem on a donkey isn't actually in the Bible? It comes from a book that never made it into Bible, called the Infancy Gospel of James. (Absolutely no reason we shouldn't still sing 'Little donkey'; I always look forward to our primary schools coming into our church buildings to sing this.)

The Church didn't compile the Bible instantly; it took a while for the books of the New Testament to be written, and it took a good while longer to decide which books to include. There were a number of other texts that never made it in but which still had some rather beautiful moments in them, adding little flourishes and dramatic touches to the nativity story so many of us know and love.

One of these moments can be found in the Infancy Gospel of James, where Joseph pops out of the cave where Mary is giving birth to Jesus for a bit of a breather. As he looks around, he notices the whole of creation has stopped:

'I looked up into the air. With utter astonishment I saw even the birds of the sky were not moving. And I saw sheep being driven, but the sheep were standing still. And the shepherd lifted up his hand to strike them, but his hand remained above them.'

At a time of flurry and bustle, we sometimes fail to stop and pause, and let the wonder of Christmas fill us. The Church has been complaining for years that Christmas has lost its true meaning; even as early as the fourth century, Gregory of Nazianzus was complaining that people were making merry with feasting and dancing. Instead of complaining, the Church should have been encouraging celebrations, while also encouraging folk to find time and space in amongst their celebrations to wonder at a love so great that God himself would willingly be born as one of us, and all so we might know God's love.

So I wish you every blessing in your celebrations this Christmas. I wish you the blessing of joy as you hear the story unfold once more. And I wish you the blessing of wonder as you take time to pause and remember that Jesus was born so we might know that we are loved.

A very merry Christmas to you and to all whom you love. ■



David Cowie,
Priest-in-Charge

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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CHURCH CONTACTS

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Buckminster St. John the Baptist

Jean Lee | *Lay Reader* | 01476 861286

Coston St. Andrew

David Chubb | *Churchwarden* | 07979 006450

Croxton Kerrial St. Botolph & St. John the Baptist

Rosemary Jinks | *PCC Secretary* | 01476 870148

Harston St. Michael & All Angels

William Hurrell | *Churchwarden* | 01476 870123

Knipton All Saints

Rosalind Cooper | *PCC Secretary* | 01476 870019

Saltby St. Peter

Sue Hill | *Churchwarden* | 01476 860398

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Wyfordby St. Mary-the-Virgin

Julia Hawley | *PCC Treasurer* | 01664 562763

Wymondham St. Peter

Jono Wills | *Churchwarden* | 01572 787660

FUNERALS

*We give thanks for the lives of the recently departed,
praying they may rest in peace and rise in glory:*

George Barry Derby

Carole Skinner

CAROL SERVICES

Sunday 4th December 2022

6:00 pm Carol Service | *Edmondthorpe*

Sunday 11th December 2022

11:00 am Carol Service | *Buckminster*

6:00 pm Carol Service | *Wyfordby*

Sunday 18th December 2022

10:30 am Carol Service | *Branston*

10:30 am Carol Service | *Sewstern*

6:00 pm Carol Service | *Coston*

Saturday 24th December 2022

6:00 pm Carol Service | *Wymondham*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday 24th December 2022

3:00 pm Crib Service | *Branston*

6:00 pm Carol Service | *Wymondham*

9:00 pm Christmas Communion | *Knipton*

11:30 pm Midnight Mass | *Sewstern*

Sunday 25th December 2022

8:00 am Christmas Communion | *Wyfordby*

10:00 am Christmas Communion | *Buckminster*

10:00 am Christmas Communion | *Sproxton*

SUNDAY SERVICES

THE BENEFICE OF SOUTH FRAMLAND & THE HIGH FRAMLAND PARISHES



Sunday 4th December | *The Second Sunday of Advent* Purple

Isaiah 11.1-10	9:00 am	Holy Communion	Sproxton	President: DC
Psalms 72.1-7, 18-19	11:00 am	Holy Communion	Wymondham	President: DC
Romans 15.4-13	6:00 pm	Carol Service	Edmondthorpe	Officiant: DC
Matthew 3.1-12				

Sunday 11th December | *The Third Sunday of Advent* Rose or Purple

Isaiah 35.1-10	9:00 am	Holy Communion	Croxton Kerrial	President: DC
Psalms 146.4-10 or <i>Canticle</i> : Magnificat	11:00 am	Carol Service	Buckminster	Officiant: DC
James 5.7-10	6:00 pm	Carol Service	Wyfordby	Officiant: DC
Matthew 11.2-11				

Sunday 18th December | *The Fourth Sunday of Advent* Purple

Isaiah 7.10-16	9:00 am	Holy Communion	Croxton Kerrial	President: DC
Psalms 80.1-8, 18-20	10:30 am	Carol Service	Branston	Officiant: DC
Romans 1.1-7	10:30 am	Carol Service	Sewstern	Officiant: JL
Matthew 1.18-25	6:00 pm	Carol Service	Coston	Officiant: DC

Saturday 24th December | *Christmas Eve* Gold or White

Isaiah 9.2-7	3:00 pm	Crib Service	Branston	Officiant: BG
Psalms 96	6:00 pm	Carol Service	Wymondham	Officiant: DC
Titus 2.11-14	9:00 pm	Christmas Communion	Knipton	President: DC
Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]	11:30 pm	Midnight Mass	Sewstern	President: DC

Sunday 25th December | *Christmas Day* Gold or White

Isaiah 52.7-10	8:00 am	Christmas Communion	Wyfordby	President: DC
Psalms 98	10:00 am	Christmas Communion	Buckminster	President: DC
Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12]	10:00 am	Christmas Communion	Sproxton	President: DS
John 1.1-14				

Sunday 1st January | *The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus* White

Numbers 6.22-27
Psalms 8
Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.15-21

Please note that there will be no services today.
Services will resume on Sunday 8th January 2023.

CLERGY AND MINISTERS:

BG—Barbara Guntrip | DC—David Cowie | DS—David Stoter | JL—Jean Lee | SD—Sue Dawson

