

# The Herald

***Telling you all you need to know in our  
Benefice  
February 2019***



## **Looking ahead**

By the time this is printed, January will be almost over. New Year resolutions made, and perhaps broken. Repair that relationship, lose weight, paint the bathroom, dye my hair teal blue with purple streaks. (Well, I did wonder who would read this far!) January, named after Janus, the Roman god who faced both ways.

Near the end of his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul is clear about which way he is facing. *'...one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 3:13)

Paul writes from a Roman prison near the end of his time on earth. He's completed three missionary journeys. He's planted churches, preached before kings and rulers, trained others and written numerous letters. None of these are his focus. His eyes are on Jesus and his future life with him.

His 'one thing' is in two halves. What might Paul have left behind? Being unjustly flogged and imprisoned? Various hardships, from shipwreck to poor health? His falling out with John Mark or Barnabas? His involvement in stoning Stephen? What might we need to leave behind? Past sins? Past failures, past pains, past grudges? God has forgiven us, so we forgive - as we remember every time we pray the Lord's Prayer. It's hard to move on when we ignore the past. And we need to learn from it.

What might 'straining towards to what lies ahead' mean? More than making a list of good things we intend to do - or even doing them. This is about what matters to us, our focus in life. Not just living with honesty and integrity, with love and respect for others. All good humanists would agree with that! We live with our eyes on Jesus. We seek to actively cooperate with the work of God's Holy Spirit, in our lives and in our churches, until he finally calls us home.

I used to think that when I was older I'd have got life sorted. No backsliding. No dry times when prayer seemed to go no higher than the ceiling. Rising above all the complicated messes that are part of being human. Life isn't like that!

We keep going, knowing that God loves us, God has chosen us and God won't let us go. Our focus is on Jesus. Through him we come to God and in his life and teaching we see what our God is like.

Anne Adamson

## Home Holy Communion

*Do you have, or do you know, somebody who is house bound and would like to receive Holy Communion in their home. If you would like this for them, please contact Colin Johns in person or on telephone No.01572 812221*



### **The Herald Benefice newsletter, Greetham**

Due to spiralling costs the Herald will no longer be delivered to every house with the Village newsletter. It is available online and if you would like to receive it please contact Jayne Isaac at [cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com](mailto:cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com) with your email details. A number of hard copies will be printed each month and left in the church for collection.  
Helen McCloud-Smith

### **SPARKLERS (our toddler group)**

We use a portable CD player in our sessions, but unfortunately the one we have been using (ancient) is no longer working and so, this is a plea, in case anyone out there has one they no longer use/need and would be willing to donate to our group. If you can help please contact me.

Patricia Hagger  
01572 813118 [taploc@btinternet.com](mailto:taploc@btinternet.com)

*What's on every week*

<b>Mon to Fri 08.00</b> <i>Every week</i>	<b><i>Morning Bible Study &amp; Prayer, Greetham Church With a cup of tea</i></b>
<b>Monday 10.30</b> <b>Weeks 2 &amp; 4</b>	<b><i>Prayer Meeting in Cottesmore Church</i></b> <b><i>For more info please contact Di Toy on 812355</i></b>
<b>Monday 14.30</b> <b><i>Weekly term time</i></b>	<b><i>Barrow Home Group</i></b> <b><i>Duncan Ball (812428)</i></b> <b><i>cduncanball@gmail.com</i></b>
<b>Monday 14.30</b> <b><i>Weekly</i></b>	<b><i>House group meets every week in various homes. Contact Jackie Gauntley 01572 868291</i></b>
<b>Monday 19.00,</b> <b><i>Weekly</i></b>	<b><i>Hand Bell ringing Cottesmore Church 7pm</i></b>
<b>Tuesday 08.30</b> <b><i>Weekly</i></b>	<b><i>Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church</i></b>
<b>Tues 09.30 - 11.00</b> <b><i>Term time only</i></b>	<b><i>Sparklers toddlers group</i></b> <b><i>ALL WELCOME</i></b>
<b>Tuesday 19.30</b> <b>weeks 1 and 3.</b>	<b><i>Cottesmore house group</i></b> <b><i>Contact Dave Perrin, 01572 813662</i></b>
<b>Wednesday 09.15</b> <b><i>Every week</i></b>	<b><i>Morning Prayer in Exton Church</i></b>
<b>Thursday 08.30</b> <b><i>Weekly</i></b>	<b><i>Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church</i></b>
<b>Thursday 19.30</b> <b><i>Weekly term time</i></b>	<b><i>Bible Fellowship Contact Anne Adamson on 812816 for more info</i></b>
<b>Friday 19.45</b> <b><i>Weekly</i></b>	<b><i>An ecumenical house group open to everyone. Contact Cathy 01572 812497 07970568305 <a href="mailto:cathydyson@outlook.com">cathydyson@outlook.com</a></i></b>

*Sparklers Toddler Group*



For parents, grandparents and carers of preschool children. We meet during term time on Tuesday Mornings between 9.30am – 11.00am in Cottesmore Church. A warm welcome awaits with crafts, refreshments, lots of varied play/toys and singing. £1 per family.

**For more information please contact**

**Bernie Wallace Tel: 01572 812956**

**or**

**Maureen Hubbert Tel: 01572 813061**

**The Islamic Republic of Iran** unleashed yet another crackdown on the country's struggling **Christian** minority before and after Christmas, prompting international calls for help - and for much tougher action against the repressive regime.

The Iranian group Alliance for Rights of All Minorities reported on December 30 that "nine Christians were arrested in Karaj, Iran on alleged charges of affiliation with Christian Zionists and recruitment of Muslims to home churches. The arrests are also based on fears that this group intends to harm Iran and insult Iran."

Just weeks earlier, Iran's regime had carried out a crackdown on practicing Christians that resulted in the incarceration of more than 100 people, according to Open Doors UK, a Christian human rights group, and other Christian media outlets. The mass arrests were meant to intimidate Christians into not spreading their faith during the Christmas period.

"The Iranian regime has long persecuted Christians, Baha'is and other religious minorities. The recent uptick in repression, specifically targeting Christians and Christian converts, is alarming and unacceptable," Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., who has spoken up for

persecuted Christians, told Fox News. "The U.S. must continue to raise the cases of individual political prisoners and pressure the Iranian regime to end its gross human rights and religious freedom violations." Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Tx., told FoxNews.com: "The Ayatollahs persecute Christians, and anyone else who refuses to accept their theocratic vision, because they fear freedom of conscience. Iran's repeated and worsening persecution of Christians is unacceptable and must stop. It is imperative that we support religious liberty around the world, and work to end the persecution of Christians and people of all faiths."

We thank the Lord that we are able to worship Him in peace and safety.

### *Diary Dates*

#### **Greetham Ladies' Breakfast £5**



**Greetham Community  
Centre  
Saturday 2nd February 9 –  
10.30am  
Continental breakfast Guest  
speaker**

**Contact: [lesleyannethompson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lesleyannethompson@hotmail.co.uk)  
07702669628**

### *Raising the Roof at Greetham Church* **Concert on Saturday 23 rd February 7.30pm**



**Entertaining mix of local  
musicians  
Refreshments and Raffle**



**Tickets £10 to include a glass of wine**

**available from Greetham Shop  
or Maureen Hubbert 813061**

**All proceeds to be divided between Dementia UK and  
St Mary's Roof Appeal**

For general enquiries please telephone: **01572 812202** or  
e-mail [cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com](mailto:cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com).

**Anne Adamson** email: [annecadamson@aol.com](mailto:annecadamson@aol.com)

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**Telephone:** **01572 812079**

**Cathy Dyson** email: [cathydyson@outlook.com](mailto:cathydyson@outlook.com)

**Telephone** **01572 812497 / 07970568305**

**Colin Johns** email: [bcjohns1@gmail.com](mailto:bcjohns1@gmail.com)

**Telephone:** **01572 812221**

### **Websites**

Benefice: [www.northrutlandchurches.org.uk](http://www.northrutlandchurches.org.uk)

Greetham: [www.greethamchurch.org.uk](http://www.greethamchurch.org.uk)

Stretton: [www.strettonchurch.wix.com/rutland](http://www.strettonchurch.wix.com/rutland)

### **Services in our Benefice for February 2019**

Sunday 3rd	080 0	Holy Communion	Greetham
	093 0	Morning Worship	Cottesmore
	093 0	Morning Service	Greetham

	111 5	Holy Communion	Stretton
Tues 5th	100 0	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Sunday 10th	093 0	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	093 0	Worship with 0900 breakfast	Greetham
	111 5	BCP Holy Communion	Clipsham
	111 5	Morning Service	Exton
Tue 12th	100 0	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Sunday 17th	093 0	Holy Communion	Cottesmore
	093 0	Morning Praise	Greetham
	111 5	Morning Service	Stretton
Tue 19th	100 0	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Thu 21st	120 0	Church Café	Cottesmore
Sunday 24th	093 0	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	093 0	Holy Communion	Greetham
	111 5	BCP Morning Prayer	Clipsham

	111 5	Holy Communion	Exton
Tues 26th	100 0	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct

**Please send any items for the March Herald by Monday  
18th February. Thanks  
Val**