

The Herald

*Telling you all you need to know in our
Benefice
March 2020*



Love, and life, are in the air!

It's getting nearer to Spring day by day. We've got past the February celebration of love – St Valentine's Day – and are looking forward to Easter – the celebration of God's great love for us. But in the meantime we anticipate the gradual change of season by watching for the spring bulbs

coming – the rectory garden is chock-a-block full of snowdrops at the moment – listening out for the birds singing on the wing and hoping for a bit of warmth on the wind.

It's at the change of season, particularly in our rural setting, that we most notice all the life and growth around us. For many of us it puts us in mind of the account of creation – one which we have recently looked at in church – from Genesis chapter 1. In it God brings everything into being simply by the use of his voice. He spoke and light came, he spoke and the sky appeared, he spoke

and the seas separated and land appeared, he spoke and the glorious vista of plants and animals of earth, sea and sky came into being. If you have ever read the wonderful Narnia books by C S Lewis you might remember his enchanting retelling of creation with Aslan singing a world into life. To think that God is so powerful to make creation happen with the force and power of his word makes us take a breath of awe at his might. To think that the amazing diversity and beauty of the world was devised by Him makes us gasp at the breadth and depth of his imagination. The whole of creation echoes with the sound of his voice

But the part of the creation account that makes the biggest impact on me is the part where God makes us – man and woman. He doesn't do that with just his voice – he makes us with his very hands, he breaths life into us from his very mouth. How fantastic is that! We have the imprint of his fingers on us – perhaps that's why it says we are made in His image.

David – the shepherd king – wrote a song all about it, let me finish with some verses from it;

You created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body;

all the days ordained for me were written in your book

before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

Anthony and Tessa

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



Congratulations to Beverley Hancock..

Beverley won the Strider award for visiting the largest number of churches in last September's Ride and Stride.

Thistleton are organising an event for RHCPT in the summer, so look out for that.

Mothering Sunday



This is your invitation to join us at a special service on Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, at 9.30 am in Cottesmore Church. Everyone is most welcome, especially mums and carers; however, we plan to give thanks for all who care for others. This is for everyone - keep reading! All of us once needed to be

looked after. Not all who care for children are linked with them biologically. Not all carers are young, or female. But we do plan to give flowers to all the ladies present!

There seem to be various views about how Mothering Sunday started. As a day when servants had time off to go home, as an occasion to honour the Virgin Mary, as a time when people

returned to their 'mother church'. So a local spin on what we are celebrating seems quite appropriate!

Essential facts

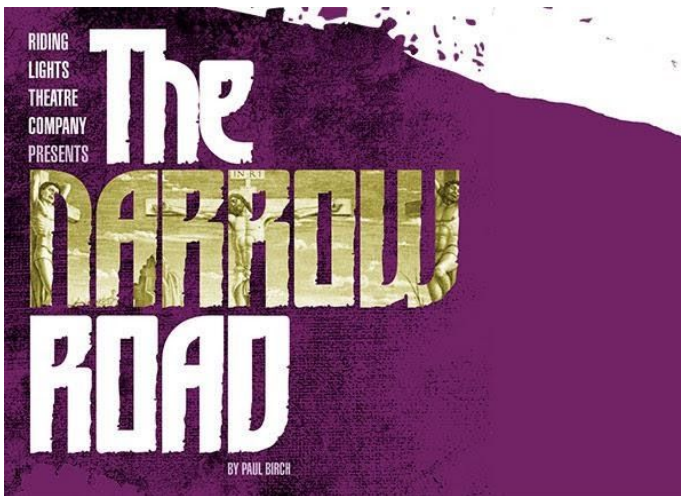
If I were to ask you which was the most important event and so most talked about in Jesus' life on earth, what would you say? I suspect most would say "Christmas". After all, our calendar year begins about then. Then of course, His teachings as recorded in the gospels could not have come on to us if He had not been born. There are several references in the Old Testament to a saviour who was going to be born. Two of the gospels give quite detailed accounts of Jesus' birth but after that there seems to be a bit of a hole. There are whole gospels full of what Jesus said and did including about sixty parables. Then quite a bit about His death. But when we get on to the epistles there seems to be dead silence about that birth.

We read several of the prophecies of Christmas from the Old Testament at our nine lesson services at Christmas time. Perhaps the favourite is from Isaiah 7 where he talks about a "virgin shall be with child". So when it happened people knew that it was something special going on and many took notice. Over several thousands of years they had twigged that all the preparatory rituals about getting rid of the effects of sin all referred to a death. So they had all the annual sacrifices for sins that might be committed in the following year. Then of course Jesus completed that looking forward by choosing to die Himself for human sins and all we have to do is to say "thank you Jesus".

So there is lots about this dying and rising again in the epistles. But there is nothing much I can find about His birth. Of course logically He could not die for us if He had not been born. But it is not there. As they were setting up the young church just after Jesus had gone back to heaven Stephen makes a long speech in Acts 7. Again no mention of that birth. Also at that time they thought only Jews could be Christians and Peter has to record his vision three times to persuade them that the gospel applies equally to everyone. Now that lesson is repeated in the epistles. But no Christmas after chapter one of John's gospel. So do we concentrate too much on it and so omit other things?

Are there more things that we might have got out of proportion? Traditions may be useful but not essential. Some people like bacon and egg for breakfast, others prefer corn flakes. Which does not mean that either is wrong. The fact that the Bible is silent about some things does not mean we should ignore them totally. Similarly where the Bible does talk about things it does so for very good reasons.

A Benefice parishioner



...vivid and contemporary, with moments of high drama...
Church Times (2010 production)

At: The Salvation Army Centre, Mead Way, Newark NG24 3GA

On: Tuesday 24th March 2020 at 7.30pm

Free, tickets required – reserve by calling 01636 640097

This is an Easter production. If you've never been to see Riding Lights, or never heard of them, you're missing a treat!

Café Church – Lent Lunches at Cottesmore:



butter, followed by
& custard and, of course, tea and coffee..

We will have Lent Lunches on 5th and 19th March and 2nd April. As always the lunches will be a choice of two homemade soups with bread and apple pie/crumble



Easter Lilies

If you wish to have flowers dedicated to a loved one at Easter, please put your names on the list in Church at

Cottesmore and give your donation to Pam Laverick or Liz Bolton.



For Exton - Please contact Ann Bell, on 01572 812594.

**Items for April Herald by 20th March, please.
Thanks Val**

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.

We could really do with someone to come on the refreshments rota once a month - the 3rd or 4th Tuesday, term time only. It involves serving drinks and putting out snacks for the children, washing up etc. We will provide everything. It would be such a great help to us and would free up Mo to concentrate on providing the craft activities. Ever hopeful and with kind regards.

**For more information please contact
Bernie Wallace Tel: 01572 812956
or Maureen Hubbert Tel: 01572 813061**



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

Thank you again to all who contributed. Our boxes were part of a delivery of 98,726 which were sent to Liberia and they were very enthusiastically received. Liberia is in Western Africa between Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone.

Patricia Hagger



The Big Quiz Night 2020 is back – bigger, better and more fun than ever!

Last year's Big Quiz Night was a roaring success. More than 600 churches

joined in, and 26,384 people took part – in total, an outstanding £210,000 was raised to help people living in poverty!

Now, that truly is something to celebrate! Thank you so much to all of you who hosted or attended.

So, how amazing would it be if, on **Saturday 14 November** this year, we could smash those numbers and go bigger and better? Save the date and more details will be available nearer the time.

For general enquiries please e-mail
cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com.

Members of the ministry team:-

Anne Adamson	email: annecadamson@aol.com
Telephone:	01572 812816
Barbara Coulson	01572 813040
Diane Creasey	email: creaseygreetham@aol.com
Telephone:	01572 812079
Cathy Dyson	email: cathydyson@outlook.com
Telephone	01572 812497 / 07970568305
Colin Johns	email: bcjohns1@gmail.com
Telephone:	01572 812221
Rev Anthony Oram	RevAnthonyOram@gmail.com
Telephone:	01572 812948

What's on every week

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

Websites

Benefice: www.northrutlandchurches.org.uk

Greetham: www.greethamchurch.org.uk

Services in our Benefice, March 2020

Sunday 1 st	0800	Holy Communion	Greetham
	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning Worship	Greetham
	11.15	Holy Communion	Stretton
Tues 3 rd	10.00	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Thu 5 th	1200	Lent Lunch	Cottesmore
Sunday 8 th	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning worship with 0900 breakfast	Greetham
	1115	BCP Holy Communion	Clipsham
	1115	Morning Service	Exton
Tues 10 th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Sunday 15 th	0930	Holy Communion	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning Praise	Greetham
	1115	Morning Service	Stretton
Tues 17 th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Thu 19 th	1200	Lent Lunch	Cottesmore
Sunday 22 nd Mothering Sunday	0930	Mothering Sunday Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Holy Communion	Greetham
	1115	BCP Morning Prayer	Clipsham
	1115	Holy Communion	Exton

Tues 24 th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct
Sunday 29 th	1030	Benefice Service of Holy Communion	Cottesmore
Tues 31 st	0930	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Ct