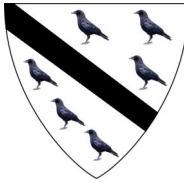


# HIGH FRAMLAND NEWS

## COVERING THE PARISHES OF

St Guthlac's, Branston : St Botolph & John the Baptist, Croxton Kerrial  
St Michael & All Angels, Harston : All Saints, Knipton  
St Peter's, Saltby : St Bartholomew, Sproxton



February 2020

### PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

The Revd David Cowie,  
The Rectory, 7 Sycamore Lane, Wymondham, LE14 2AZ  
Tel 01572 789954 / 07377 873837  
Email: revd.david.cowie@gmail.com

### ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Revd Canon Julie Hutchinson  
High Framland Rectory, 5 Croxton Lane, Harston, NG32 1PP  
Tel 01476 870083 : Email: revdjulie@icloud.com

## FROM THE PEN OF THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear Friends,

This time of year brings snowdrops. I have to admit, it wasn't something that was on my list of essentials when I moved into the area - which is why I was absolutely delighted to see so many when they started popping up out of the ground. They were unexpected but very welcome. I was even more delighted when I discovered there's an annual Snowdrop Walk in Buckminster every year!

Some years ago, during a particularly tough time in my life, I was having a mug of tea and sympathy with a friend. Trying to encourage me through these difficulties, she used the example of a snowdrop to explain how something gentle could be so strong.

The image has stuck with me, not least because she gave me a beautiful Christmas tree decoration featuring snowdrops. I've never hung it on a tree, but always have it out in my study. It moves around during the year; it's always more prominently on show around Christmas and

Epiphany, but it's still very much on display on a shelf the rest of the year.

With the arrival of the snowdrops comes a shift in the church's year. We move from the colours of white and gold in our services, signs of the great joy of Christmas and Epiphany, and very quickly move into a more sombre purple for Lent, a sign of penitence and of our need to seek mercy.

As we move towards Lent, I'm always aware that so many people have their own ideas of what Lent is about, and I'm always keenly aware that there are some parts of the church which seem to live in a perpetual sort of Lent. Down through the ages, there've been Christians who've flagellated themselves because of the guilt they feel, or who've imposed a harsh spirituality on others to satisfy their own need to bring order into the darkness of their own hearts - very much a case of punishing in others what they cannot admit to within themselves.

..... /continued

But we must not live in a perpetual Lent. The need for mercy we all have, and the feelings of guilt and shame we all feel from time to time, must never eclipse the joy we're meant to feel at finding ourselves forgiven. Lent must always give way to Easter, to find that joy is our true end. If anything, Lent is a pilgrimage we make to remind ourselves of our need for mercy, but it's also a pilgrimage deeper into the mystery of a God who loves us, and who binds himself to us with the mercy he so freely and willingly gives.

Because in spite of what the Church has sometimes claimed, God is gentle and strong, always willing to love and forgive. We know that from the life of Jesus, who showed how much God wanted to be with people. We have not been created for a hard-hearted spirituality that places punishment at the centre of our lives, but have been created for life and for love. God's mercy is meant to lead us into joy.

There is a real gentleness and strength to God's mercy - but you can never find that

mercy through harsh disciplines. Beating yourself up will not make you any more acceptable to God, and will only do you harm. In some ways, the gentle strength of God's mercy and love is a truth some people can't quite dare to believe in, let alone hope. But the mercy and love of God is very much a reality.

As we move into the seasons Lent, as we turn from the Crib at which we've been kneeling during Christmas and Epiphany to face the journey ahead of us towards the Cross, we're meant to find that God's mercy is persistently springing up in our lives, gently breaking through the guilt and shame we so often feel. Much like snowdrops that quietly and gently push their way up through the mud and stones, so God's love and mercy push through the guilt and shame in our lives, letting us live and flourish the way we're all meant to.



David Cowie  
Priest-in-Charge

## IN THE PARISHES

### BRANSTON

Contacts: Jan Beckett, 01476 870823

Mary Bircham, 01476 870261

We would like to thank everyone who helped and supported the church over the past year. Your contributions are most welcome and very much appreciated.

### CROXTON KERRIAL

Contact: Rosemary Jinks, PCC Secretary - 01476 870148

Flowers: First fortnight - Mrs J Durrands      2nd fortnight - Mrs K Evans  
Readers: 9th February: OT Kim Ranns      NT Suzanne Pennells  
23rd February: OT Diane Bursnell      NT Rosemary Jinks

## HARSTON

Churchwarden: William Hurrell, 01476 870123  
Readers: 16th February (9.00 am): OT William Hurrell; NT Barry Grice

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## KNIPTON

Acting churchwarden: Penny Foster, 01476 870427

7th January - Funeral of **LEN HASSELL**

The news sheet will continue to be printed and delivered in Knipton, as well as being available on the High Framland website. Apologies for the hiccup in the layout last month.

Volunteers to help with Flowers and Cleaning in church would be very welcome.  
Please contact Penny Foster.

Watch this space for a programme of this year's coming events.

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## SALTBY

Churchwardens: Sue Hill, 01476 860398,  
Jenny Tebb, 01476 562019  
Cleaning: Mrs A Skinner and Mrs J Doona  
Flowers: First fortnight - Mrs J Page  
Visiting bellringers: Tuesday, 25th February at 6.00 pm - Nottinghamshire ringers

The AGM will be held at Homecroft, Saltby, on Monday, 17th February 2020 at 6.00 pm.  
A new Electoral Roll form will need to be filled in, but these were not available at the time of going to print. They will be distributed as soon as to hand.

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## SPROXTON

Churchwarden: Malise Graham, 01476 860266

- ⇒ **Village Hall breakfast.** Sunday, 23rd February from 9.00 to 10.00 am. £3 per head or £10 per family. All welcome.
- ⇒ **Village Hall lunch.** Wednesday, 5th February, at 12.45 pm. Main course, dessert, tea/coffee for just £4. Everyone welcome.
- ⇒ **Sproxton Village Hall 50/50 winners**  
1st C Jeffreys : 2nd P Graham : 3rd R Bennet

**CAROL SINGING.** The carol singers raised £210.00 in aid of the Dove Cottage Hospice.  
Thank you very much to everyone who donated and took part.

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## CHURCH SERVICES FEBRUARY 2020

### SUNDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY Presentation of Christ in the Temple Gold/White

Readings: Malachi 3(1-5); Psalm 24([1-6]7-10); Hebrews 2(14-18); Luke 2(22-40)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	SPROXTON - Revd David Cowie
10.00 am	Benefice Communion	COSTON - Revd David Cowie
10.30 am	Holy Communion	BRANSTON - Revd Canon Julie Hutchinson

### SUNDAY, 9th FEBRUARY Third Sunday before Lent Green

Readings: Isaiah 58(1-9a[b-12]); Psalm 112(1-9[10]); 1 Corinthians 2(1-12[13-16]); Matthew 5(13-20)

9.30 am	Holy Communion	SEWSTERN - Revd David Cowie
10.30 am	Benefice Communion	CROXTON KERRIAL - Revd Canon J Hutchinson
11.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	WYMONDHAM - Sue Dawson

### SUNDAY, 16th FEBRUARY Second Sunday before Lent Green

Readings: Genesis 1(1)-2(3); Psalm 136(1-9[10-22]23-26); Romans 8(18-25); Matthew 6(25-34)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	HARSTON - Philip Hutchinson
9.30 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	BUCKMINSTER - Jean Lee
10.30 am	Holy Communion	SALTBY - Revd Canon Julie Hutchinson
11.00 am	Holy Communion	WYMONDHAM - Revd Brian McAvoy

### SUNDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY Sunday next before Lent Green

Readings: Exodus 24(12-18); Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1(16-21); Matthew 17(1-9)

9.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	KNIPTON - Sue Dawson
9.30 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	SEWSTERN - Jean Lee
10.30 am	Holy Communion	CROXTON KERRIAL - Revd Canon J Hutchinson
11.00 am	Holy Communion	WYMONDHAM - Revd David Cowie
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	COSTON - Sue Dawson

### WEDNESDAY, 26th FEBRUARY ASH WEDNESDAY Purple

9.30 am	Holy Communion	BRANSTON - Revd Canon Julie Hutchinson
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**Copies of this newsletter can be found at [www.highframland.co.uk](http://www.highframland.co.uk)**

Please would you pass any items for March by **SUNDAY, 9th FEBRUARY**  
to either Nick Cooke, email [na.cooke1@gmail.com](mailto:na.cooke1@gmail.com)  
or Sue Watford, tel 01949 861256; email [SueWatford@aol.com](mailto:SueWatford@aol.com)