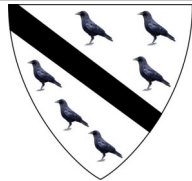


HIGH FRAMLAND NEWS



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 2021

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

FROM THE PEN OF THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear Friends,

While our lives have been put on hold for the past year during the world's pandemic, we live now with the hope of vaccines. Indeed, I've begun to hear stories of how some of us are getting our first jabs or how others are on the cusp of getting them, and there's a strong sense that there's some sort of new beginning before us.

The miracle of science is something to be very grateful for, as we do our best to put the past year behind us and look ahead to a future where we will be together once again.

We also have much to be grateful for with the work colleagues have put into the life of our parishes, not least during lockdowns when worship in church buildings has ceased in an attempt to play our part in being responsible citizens who do what we can to help control the spread of the Coronavirus. We take time to think about the work so many have put into our communal life together, not only at the start of this new year, but also as

the past few months have seen so many changes.

In High Framland, we have seen a change in the number of people in the ministry team, and all within a matter of months: Julie Hutchinson resigned mid-January, finishing her time among us; Stuart Foster retired in the middle of December; and we sadly lost Philip Hutchinson at the end of September.

High Framland has gone from having five members in its ministry team to having two members, with myself left as the parish priest, assisted by Sue Dawson, who is the licensed lay reader in those parishes.

In South Framland, life remains largely stable and unchanged. Since my arrival three and a half years ago, our parishes have been ministered to almost solely by myself as the parish priest, in partnership with Jean Lee, who is the licensed lay reader in those parishes.

There are many thoughts running through my mind about how to sustain the com-

munal life of our parishes in the long term. These thoughts will be better shared once we know we are reaching the end of the pandemic. For now, what is important is to think about the way forward to the immediate future.

The worshipping life of our communities is going to require the use of Zoom for the present. There are currently two opportunities: Sunday mornings at 10.00 am; and Tuesday nights at 9.00 pm.

Zoom services on Sunday mornings are contemporary-language services that follow the same structure of the Eucharist, but omitting the parts of the Eucharist from the Peace onwards, concluding instead with the Lord's Prayer and Blessing.

There's a weekly piece of art that's chosen for the day and displayed during the Homily, and while music tries to have traditional pieces, some contemporary pieces are also added in. This is in acknowledgement that the one service must have enough breadth to accommodate a range of people.

Zoom services on Tuesday nights are services of Night Prayer. These services are opportunities for quiet reflection, and at their heart is listening to the Gospel reading for the day. They conclude with a gentle piece of music.

I commend both of these services to each one of you, particularly to those of you who perhaps have felt hesitant to try

them. While we will one day return to worshipping together in our buildings, I feel the Night Prayer by Zoom has longevity beyond the pandemic, not least because it spans distances that would otherwise be difficult to travel.

While Night Prayer by Zoom will be a future staple of our parishes, I am still very much looking forward to a return to worshipping in our church buildings, as the restrictions put in place for our safety begin to lift.

For as long as there are restrictions in place for people's safety, I suggest the way forward is to have one service in each benefice on Sunday mornings.

For ease, these will begin as services of Morning Prayer, as there is a minimum of movement required in the service, with people simply arriving, sitting at distance to one another, and leaving quietly at the end.

While the Eucharist remains an option, at the present time I am responsible for arriving early to set up and then remain behind after everyone has left to set down; this is to ensure as few hands are involved as possible in setting up, to help minimise and reduce the risk of transmission.

In truth, this takes some effort on my part, and there will not be enough time for me to travel between services in benefices if I must set up and set down buildings for Eucharistic worship. As

restrictions begin to lift and there is less concern over how many hands are involved in setting up for services, it will be much easier to involve others, and I will be delighted that the Eucharist will then be able to resume safely on Sundays.

The Eucharist will still be offered as part of our worshipping lives, and I plan that these will continue during the week once our church buildings reopen for worship. These services will be on Wednesday evenings in South Framland and Thursday morning in High Framland, and will help feed those who feel able to come along.

Life has an unfortunate way of changing at the present time. The rules themselves shift as need and circumstance dictate they must. But one thing that does not change is God, which is why we must continue to turn, week by week, to the stories of Jesus revealed in

the Gospel. While we remain unable to come together to receive Jesus in the gifts of bread and wine, we can turn again to the Gospels, which have become our food in lockdown. Always Jesus comes to us when we read or listen to those words written in ages past.

In the coming month, which sees both the end of the Epiphany season and the beginning of Lent, and where our focus shifts from the Crib to the Cross, we pay close attention to the life of Jesus revealed in the Gospels. As we read the stories of Jesus' life, where he transformed people's lives by bringing beginnings out of endings, we will find ourselves fed and sustained, and given a new strength to carry on to the new beginning awaiting us at the end of this pandemic.

David Cowie
Priest-in-Charge

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Sunday mornings at 10.00 am - Zoom service

(for details of the service, please see opposite page, third and fourth paragraphs)

Tuesday evenings at 9.00 pm - Zoom service

For contact details for these services, please get in touch with
Revd David Cowie: revd.david.cowie@gmail.com

CONTACTS and NOTICES

BRANSTON

Churchwarden:

Barbara Gruntrip 01476 879065

CROXTON KERRIAL

PCC Secretary

Rosemary Jinks 01476 870148

We have water! We are thrilled to say that the external building works at the church are now complete, we have mains water and a new extension housing the accessible WC! The Servedry is yet to be fitted but we hope this will happen within the next couple of months. With grateful thanks to the various grant bodies who awarded us funds, especially the Garfield Weston Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund and to the village for their support.

HARSTON

Churchwarden:

William Hurrell 01476 870123

KNIPTON

Acting Churchwarden:

Barbara Guntrip 01476 879065

SALTBY

Churchwardens:

Sue Hill 01476 860398,
Jenny Tebb 01476 562019

SPROXTON

Churchwarden:

Malise Graham 01476 860266

Sproxton Village Hall - December 50/50 winners

1st P Graham : 2nd C Jeffreys : 3rd C Hodgson

Copies of this newsletter can be found at www.highframland.co.uk

Please would you pass any items for March by

SUNDAY, 14th FEBRUARY

to Sue Watford, tel 01949 861256; email SueWatford@aol.com