

From the kitchen window 9th April 2021

The hedgerows are snowy white with Blackthorn blossom and the weather wintery: what in country weather lore is called a 'Blackthorn winter'. It has not deterred the birds from nesting, as Judith has been watching a Robin nest building and Dunnocks displaying. Our House Sparrows are busy pulling dead stalks from tussocks of ornamental grass and flying off purposefully with them.



Sue C has seen a young Hedgehog foraging, and we shepherded a Toad across a lane, so wildlife is definitely on the move. Tony and Celia have enjoyed watching the greening of their neighbour's Weeping Willow as the leaves unfurl. It looks stunning with their flowering magnolia in the foreground.



It is hard to remember that last week the temperature was up in the twenties and we were able to walk in shirt sleeves. One thing the pandemic has taught us is that concentrating on our 'local patch' is very rewarding. This was borne out yet again when we visited a very sandy bank in Booton where last year I found Mossy Stonecrop, a rare Breckland species. That year was very dry and few other plants were obvious, this year however, after the very wet winter there were many other plants reliant on dry sandy soil to be seen. Most are very small and flower early, as hot weather brings with it drought.



The bank was a mass of white Whitlowgrass but looking carefully we also found plants of Early Forget-me-not; only about an inch high but with many pale blue blooms surrounded by very hairy leaves. The hairs help the plant reduce water loss through the leaves. The best finds were the patches of Spring Vetch, which have very small, single, deep magenta and purple flowers; one of my favourite

Breckland species. When the weather improves we will go back and see if there are any more treasures to be found. It is possible to find other small overlooked plants nearer to home, such as the wonderful patch of Field Woodrush growing on Jolyon's front lawn. It also grows in the churchyard conservation area as it is a species of unimproved grassland, so well done Jolyon for not improving your lawn! Do send any sightings of wildlife that you have, so we can all share them rachel.42rr@btinternet.com



Pew Notes

Sunday 11th April (Second Sunday of Easter)

9am Thurning Holy Communion
 9am Bylaugh Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am Reepham Holy Communion

W/C 12/4	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs
Morning Prayer	8am St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	8am St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	8am St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	8am Zoom
Holy Communion			10.30am St Mary's Reepham	
Midday Prayer			12noon Zoom	
Evening Prayer		6pm St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	6pm St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	6pm Zoom

Sunday 18th April (Third Sunday of Easter)

9am Wood Dalling Holy Communion
 10.30am Attlebridge Holy Communion
 10.30am Lyng Word and Praise
 10.30am Reepham Café Church
 10.30am Sparham Holy Communion
 6pm Salle Evening Prayer

Whole Benefice APCM

This year our Whole Benefice APCM will be via Zoom with virtual breakout rooms for each parish. Join us on Thursday 15th April at 7pm via Zoom. Zoom Meeting ID: 825 0887 5273 Passcode: 374589

Weekly On Wednesdays

Following on from our Lent course, Alpha Group and Rev'd Tim's Lent emails, we are looking to hold a weekly "gathering" for those who wish to discuss and dig a little deeper into topics around Christianity. It will be a place for ideas and discussions and built upon the principles of participation, respect and encouragement.

The sessions are open to everyone with no need to book or attend every session.

Initially we will meet via Zoom on Wednesday nights from 7pm to 8pm. Please contact Annie via email if you would like to attend. Our first sessions are as follows:

14th April: Faith - What we've learnt in lockdown; what has helped and hindered us.

21st April: Hope - Where have we noticed hope and how does it relate to our wellbeing.

28th April: Love - How do we demonstrate love through actions in our communities.

If there are any future topics you would like to discuss, please contact Rev'd Helen.

Zoom meeting ID: 825 0887 5273 Password: 374589

Holy Socks

Lis Glen will be bringing pairs of "Holy Socks" to sell at the Service at 10.30am in Reepham on Sunday 11th April and at the Whole Benefice service on Sunday 25th April in Swannington.

Each pair costs £7.50 and are unisex. The socks are beautifully woven in Scotland and have a Bible verse and illustration with an accompanying card with the verse.

If you would like a pair, please bring cash or a cheque on Sunday. All money raised will go towards the upkeep of St Mary's, Great Witchingham which is currently undergoing building works.



John 6:35-40

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸ for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."



Book of Condolence

Following yesterday's sad news of the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Church of England has created an online Book of Condolence for individuals and church communities. Messages can be recorded by visiting the Church of England website:

www.churchofengland.org/remembering-his-royal-highness-prince-philip

If you wish to write a letter of condolence please send them to the Lieutenancy Office, Norfolk County Council, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH.

Contact Details

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Email Annie parishofficerwv@gmail.com to submit articles or join the mailing list.

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