

# The BROADSIDER

April-May 2021



Covering the Broadside Benefice parishes of  
Ranworth with Panxworth, South Walsham, Upton & Fishley, and Woodbastwick

Dear Friends,

On January 25<sup>th</sup> the Benefice Churchwardens, the Chair of the Ministry team and Vice-chair of South Walsham and Upton and Fishley PCC had a Zoom meeting with the Bishop of Thetford and the Archdeacon of Norfolk to discuss the future of our Benefice. Quite apart from the problems of the pandemic over the past year, our Benefice has struggled to pay sufficient to the Diocese of Norwich to cover the cost of our having a rector. The Benefice is the smallest in the Diocese and it is unlikely in our present form that we would be able to pay the full amount asked in the future. This does not denigrate from the much appreciated generosity of our congregations and wider friends in our communities.

The Diocese itself is having to cut costs and not every vacant post will be filled. Bishop Alan and Archdeacon Steven proposed that our Benefice be divided and that Ranworth and Woodbastwick will join the Bittern Benefice, which at present comprises Rackheath, Salhouse and the Plumsteads. South Walsham, Upton and Fishley, currently united under one PCC, will join the Blofield Benefice which includes Blofield, North Burlingham and Hemblington. Although there was sadness at the plan to break up our Benefice, the proposal is a positive way forward as it will enable the parishes to have a priest and, by becoming part of wider populations, help us to contribute the amount required by the Diocese to support a priest and the relevant expenses.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March Darleen and Kevin were licensed as Assistant Priests to the Broadside Benefice to help us with pastoral care whilst the legal process of the change continues in the background. Darleen and Kevin have already been involved in planning our services post-Easter and we look forward to them becoming integral parts of our community. We may be changing but one joint service will remain the same: Bishop Graham will taking the Staithe Service at Ranworth on Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup>. Darleen and Kevin have been in contact about this - and we will be joining together as a Broadside Benefice for this service.



FAREWELL ISSUE

## THE BROADSIDE BENEFICE CONTACT LIST

**Associate Priests**  
**Darleen Plattin & Kevin Billson**

**Benefice Administrative Assistant**  
**Janet Duncan**

*(usually available on Monday and Thursday mornings)*

**Email: officebroadside@gmail.com**

**Telephone 07887 544 408**

**Please send letters and mail to**

**The Broadside Benefice,  
The Homestead, Mill Road,  
Stokesby, Norfolk NR29 3EY**

## Pastoral Care of Parishioners

If anyone requires visiting or wishes to make arrangements for a baptism, marriage or funeral, please inform one of your churchwardens listed below.

### CHURCHWARDENS

#### **RANWORTH with PANXWORTH**

**John Ley**  
01603 270158

#### **WOODBASTWICK**

**Kit Cator**  
01603 720276

#### **SOUTH WALSHAM**

**Sue Hitchcock**  
01603 270212

#### **UPTON**

**Lee Smith**                      **Joyce Warren**  
01493 750764                      01493 752237

#### **FISHLEY**

**Ivan Barnard**  
01493 751265

## Farewell to the Broadsider

A number of years ago I was handed past issues of the Broadsider together with issues of the Ranworth with Panxworth and Woodbastwick Magazine by Tony Potter, who for many years read through each issue of the Broadsider to check for errors and issues before it went off to print. The first of these magazines is dated May 1990, right at the beginning of Revd. Phillip McFadyen's incumbency. One of the articles was a message of thanks for all those who attended his Institution Service on April 5<sup>th</sup> 1990 in Ranworth Church and in that issue it even published the winners of the Woodbastwick 200 Club! In July 1998 the name of the magazine changed to the Ranworth Group of Parishes, which marked the start of a wider grouping of parishes that included South Walsham and Upton; essentially the beginnings of the Broadside Benefice. The first issue with the header "The Broadsider" was the September 1999 issue and this title has continued through to the present day but with the inclusion of Fishley, which took place in September 2014.

I have been involved with producing these magazines since the late 1990s. It is the end of an era for me, as well as for the Broadside Benefice, as I am shortly moving away from the area. As such this will be the very last Broadsider published.

I would like to thank all those who have written and researched articles which have appeared and to all those who have supplied information on the various events which have taken place over the years. I would also like to thank Kay Jefford who took over from Tony Potter in reading through the pages before each issue went to print, correcting dates and punctuation and sorting out sentences so they would read better. At the inception of the Broadsider, Phillip McFadyen's wish was to distribute the church magazine to every household in the parishes to tell everyone that the churches were part of village life, part of everyone's lives, so a massive thank you to all those, who over the years have been involved with its distribution.

**David Benham**



## in St Mary's and St Lawrence's Churchyard

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 10am – 1pm**

£2 per entry to find a hidden Easter Egg - together with separate raffle tickets to buy.

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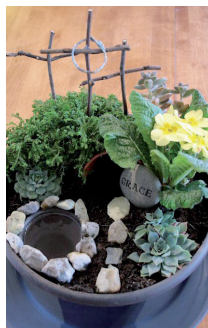
## Church Services and Magazines

At the time of going to print lock-down regulations remain in force although the government has planned a pathway out of the current situation. It is worth pointing out that it is still legal to gather in church for services but it has been deemed that if this happens then very careful management of the situation has to take place. Since the start of this year we have refrained from taking most Sunday services, as grouping together is not following the spirit of the sacrifices we are all making in the rest of our lives, and we envisage that this will be the case until March 29<sup>th</sup> when a relaxation of the rule about only making essential and necessary journeys is due to be suspended. As such when services begin again, hopefully in April, please be aware that social distancing rules will still be in place and no close social interaction should be taking place after the service. Kevin Billson and Darleen Platten have been in charge of organising services from early March. If you have any doubt whether services are going ahead please contact a churchwarden listed on the opposite page.

Church magazines in the Blofield and Bittern Benefices are produced but will not be delivered to every household in the future. If you would like a copy of the magazine please contact a churchwarden.

## An Easter Garden

Are your green fingers feeling creative? If so, anyone who would like to create their interpretation of the Easter Garden, in a bowl or box, can bring it to St Mary's Church in South Walsham for display over Easter on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.



# Flower FESTIVAL

St Mary's Church in South Walsham needs to raise in the region of £40,000 to pay for essential roof repairs and ongoing maintenance.

To help meet this target a Flower Festival (postponed from 2020) will be held in the church from 10am on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> and run for the following week.

Over the weekend refreshments will be served in St Lawrence's and Susie Turner and Annette Jude will provide a Musical Extravaganza there on the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup>. Evensong will be led by the Bishop of Thetford at 6pm in St Mary's on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>.

Helpers will be needed so please get in touch if you would like to be involved, e.g. do an arrangement, run a stall, help with refreshments, give time to be a steward in the church etc.

If anyone would like to be involved with this event please get in touch with Sue Hitchcock Telephone: 01603 270212 or email: [suehitchcock6@gmail.com](mailto:suehitchcock6@gmail.com)

Any support offered would be very much appreciated.

## How exciting is Christmas?

Frances Colman-Williams is a Christian, mental health writer and in 2017 an article that she wrote appeared in the Metro newspaper with the title “How exciting is Christmas?” I hope that neither she nor the Metro will mind if I reprint her words to a few hundred Broadside residents. It helps explain what being a Christian is.

The presents, Christmas specials on TV, the family gathering ‘round the open fire, the food, two bank holidays and, of course, Jesus was born. It’s fantastic and everyone looks forward to it. But to me, it’s Easter that holds the key message for my life. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus’ birth but we remember his death on Good Friday. Why would I say that Jesus’ death is more important than his birth? It’s because Jesus could have been born, been a good man, done some good stuff and gone back to Heaven and life would have carried on as before. However, at Easter, we celebrate the most wonderful gift – not just that God sent Jesus, but that in dying, he gave us eternal life. As a Christian, I believe we live in a broken world and, because I am human, I will do wrong by God in my daily life. I will gossip, I will lie, I will be rude and quick-tempered for no reason (among many other more serious vices). Easter is about more than chocolate eggs. However, God decided to wipe the slate clean before I was even born. What happened was that Jesus, an innocent human being, was sentenced to death on a cross. He took all my crimes, he took the sins of every human being that had ever lived and that would ever live in the future and he was brutally crucified. On Easter Day, Jesus ascended into Heaven. Even though I have held my Christian beliefs my whole life, I still find Jesus’ sacrifice awe-inspiring. I’m saddened that so few people know the true meaning of Easter but I am glad it has not been as over-commercialised as Christmas. The point of Christmas has been lost behind the glitz and glamour. It’s very difficult to sell a dirty stable and a virgin birth to children these days, just as it is hard to share the message of some devastated disciples, an empty tomb and forgiveness for sins people do not even believe are that bad. I genuinely feel emotions beyond words when I think of what Jesus went through

for me. Church services are very emotional over Christmas. Some people think religion is stuffy and all about rules and regulations. But for me, my faith is about having a unique relationship with God. Going to church, being in fellowship with other Christians and following some traditions helps me develop and maintain my relationship with God. At Easter, I like spending time recounting the actions Jesus went through during his final days and hours as a mark of respect and to realign my focus on what God wants for my life. On Maundy Thursday, I go to church to re-enact Jesus washing his disciples’ feet – I’m humbled when my priest takes the position, as Jesus did at the feet of his followers, and washes my feet. For me, it is important to go through the actions. It helps me to really think about what it would have been like to be there with Jesus, confused by the switch in roles. On Good Friday it’s important to remember what Jesus suffered. On Good Friday spending time in church, recounting what Jesus went through during the hours before his death, is incredibly powerful. It can be uncomfortable sitting in silent contemplation in a stripped, sometimes cold and dark, church for ‘an hour at the cross’. But this does not come close to how uncomfortable (terrified would be nearer the mark) the disciples would have been, knowing their dearest friend was being crucified for crimes he had not committed. Come Holy Saturday, I feel completely empty. Having recounted Jesus devastating death, even as a young girl, I felt the emptiness like a gaping chasm. We know the joy of Easter will dawn but the disciples had no idea that Jesus was going to rise from the dead. Imagining how the disciples felt helps me feel closer to Jesus. Easter Day is all about family time and celebration. I’m sure Easter Day for me is similar to many other people – spending it with family where possible, eating some traditional treats and filled with much cheer and celebration. Of course, I love the Easter church service – the tone turns from sombre to exuberant and ‘hallelujah’ is said a lot. ‘For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son’ – John 3:16. Although I sin everyday, God loves me so much my sins are forgiven. And it is through believing in Jesus Christ that I can live in freedom and have the promise of eternal life – that is why Easter is important to me.

## Great Yarmouth Food Bank

During the reorganisation of our churches, and beyond, please do not forget the work of Gt Yarmouth Food Bank. Boxes will remain in all of the churches for you to put your food donations in and these will continue to be collected on a regular basis. The need for the Food Bank and its services are ever expanding due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, so please continue your support if you can.



### A PRAYER FOR THE PAST AND FOR THE FUTURE

Dear Lord, we thank you for having given us the opportunity to share our faith with those we have got to know within the Broadside Benefice. We give thanks for the friends we have made and for the good times we have spent together working in your name. We give you thanks that when making difficult decisions you were there to give us strength and guide our way. We give thanks to all those who have led our churches during this time. To Phillip McFadyen, Nick and Helen Garrard, to Dick Dewing, Margaret Mallett (readers), to all authorised worship assistants and for all those who have played their part in making the Broadside Benefice a welcoming place for all. Let us not leave our friendships behind and help us understand that your love embraces all.

As we move forward we pray that you will be with us each step of our journey to give us hope and inspire us. To be there while we realise new opportunities in serving you alongside new communities.

— Amen

## Moving on

David Benham has been producing the church magazine since the late 1990s and he and his wife Mary are shortly leaving the area to be closer to where their daughter and her family live near Beccles.

David and I have worked together in a number of ways in the past 18 years. The first of these was in 2003 on the committee to discuss whether Ranworth, Woodbastwick, South Walsham & Upton should become a Benefice. It was a very sensitive issue in those days with some strong voices for and against. The Benefice as we know it now finally gelled during the early days of Nick Garrard's time with us as Rector. Fishley joined in 2014. After so much effort getting together, it seems sad that it will come to an end – but we move on.

The next time David and I crossed paths was when both of us were treasurers of our respective PCCs in 2000s. I used to meet his wife, Mary, too as she kept us stocked up with various bookmarks and interesting leaflets. In recent years, David and I have been members of the Benefice Ministry Team – which led us to the committee to work on the Profile in 2020, i.e. the document that we hoped would attract a new Rector. That, like so many other things, fell victim to Covid and the consequent loss of income.

Since the first lockdown David and I have been in regular contact over the 'Updates' we both send to our church friends.

Over the years I have had a great respect for David and all that he has done for Ranworth and the Benefice. Although this is largely a personal tribute to David and Mary, for all the work that she does too, I would like to say how much the communities of South Walsham, Upton and Fishley will miss both of them. The Broadsider has kept us informed and linked and we have appreciated all the communication, in whatever form, particularly over the past year with the twin problems of Covid and being without a Rector. Au-revoir David and Mary and God Bless.

**Gill Hood**

# SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

## Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> *Maundy Thursday*

South Walsham \_\_\_\_\_ 7.00pm \_\_\_ Night Prayer

## Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> *Good Friday*

Upton \_\_\_\_\_ 2.00pm \_\_\_ An hour at the Cross

## Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> *Easter Eve*

Ranworth \_\_\_\_\_ 7.30pm \_\_\_ Lighting of the New Fire

## Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> *Easter Day*

Ranworth & Woodbastwick \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion *with the Bishop of Thetford*

Upton \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion *Officiating*

South Walsham \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00am \_\_\_ Holy Communion *with the Bishop of Thetford*

Fishley \_\_\_\_\_ 3.00pm \_\_\_ Holy Communion *Officiating*

## Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Ranworth \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Service of the Word

Upton \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

South Walsham \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00am \_\_\_ Morning Worship

Woodbastwick & Fishley \_\_\_\_\_ No services

## Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Ranworth \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

South Walsham \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

Fishley \_\_\_\_\_ 3.00pm \_\_\_ Evensong

Upton & Woodbastwick \_\_\_\_\_ No services

## Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Woodbastwick \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

Upton \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Morning Prayer

South Walsham \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00am \_\_\_ Family Service

Ranworth \_\_\_\_\_ No service

## Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Ranworth \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

Upton \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

South Walsham \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00am \_\_\_ Morning Worship

Fishley \_\_\_\_\_ 3.00pm \_\_\_ Evensong

Woodbastwick \_\_\_\_\_ No service

## Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> *6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Ranworth \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Service of the Word

Woodbastwick \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Morning Prayer

Upton \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

South Walsham \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

Fishley \_\_\_\_\_ No service

## Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> *7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Ranworth \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

Fishley \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30pm \_\_\_ Holy Communion

South Walsham \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00am \_\_\_ Family Service

Upton & Woodbastwick \_\_\_\_\_ No services

## Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> *Pentecost – Whit Sunday*

Woodbastwick \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

Upton \_\_\_\_\_ 9.30am \_\_\_ Morning Prayer

South Walsham \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00am \_\_\_ Holy Communion

Ranworth & Fishley \_\_\_\_\_ No services

## Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> *Trinity Sunday*

Ranworth & Woodbastwick \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00am \_\_\_ Together with the Bittern Benefice at Rackheath

South Walsham, Upton & Fishley \_\_\_\_\_ To be advised