

FROM THE REGISTERS . . .

Weddings

1 April - James Horth and Helen Smith at Mulbarton

Funerals

14 April - John Madden at Mulbarton

14 April - Douglas Brighton

15 April - Annie Bellett at Mulbarton



THANK YOU

Dear All,

Thank you to all who helped us with support for Norman's funeral, special thanks to Tom for organising such a lovely table of food.

Bless you all.

As I am often known to say - 'the church family is a priceless gift from God'.

Angie, Margaret and Joss

Church website <http://www.mulbchurch.org.uk>

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Articles included in Mardle do not necessarily reflect the views of the church leadership.

MULBARTON

• FLORDON

• BRACON ASH

• HETHEL

MARDLE

Mulbarton Benefice Newsletter

MAY 2016



FROM THE RECTORY

Email: rector@mulbchurch.org.uk



TRUSTING GOD, MOVING FORWARD

Writing my annual report, in which I reflect on 2015, was a more emotional experience than usual this year. Sometimes painful, it was nevertheless good to review all that had happened and to chart a way forward. I noted an unusual and significant decline in church attendance across the benefice for us over the time I've been in post - about 30% in total. Alongside that, we've had choppy waters with health issues in our own family. The minutes of Mulbarton's last annual meeting in 2015 records me saying that there would be choppy waters ahead - I certainly didn't anticipate at the time what was coming.

Against all of that, we see encouraging seeds of new life, beginning a new chapter. When our nets keep coming up empty, we don't give up fishing - we cast our nets on the other side, in faith and in response to what Jesus is saying. As we move on in faith, there are three areas where I sense the Lord drawing us: welcome; service to the elderly and isolated in the communities; and a renewed focus on families.

The Lent course on the theme of welcome gave us some great insight into how we're doing and what we can do better to welcome those God is sending, and to develop a culture of inclusive welcome for all we journey alongside in our churches. In Hanover, we see there are a couple of dozen people we've been able to reach regularly through the bi-monthly services there that wouldn't have been reached otherwise, and we are closing in on a strategy to mobilise our efforts, reaching to help more elderly and isolated members of our communities.

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continued from p1 . . .

With Messy Church, under Cathy's leadership, we've been able to connect with well over 100 people from our communities, interested in spiritual things. With Open the Book, we are in local schools every week, connecting with over 300 children through engaging dramatised Bible stories. We've started a great youth club in Bracon Ash Village Hall every month for those 10 years and over, which connects to our youth discipleship group for Year 7 and above. We'll have welcomed scouts back to church for a St George service for the 3rd year running. We have a curate joining us with a young family. We live in a benefice where there are many families looking for opportunity to explore spiritual things.

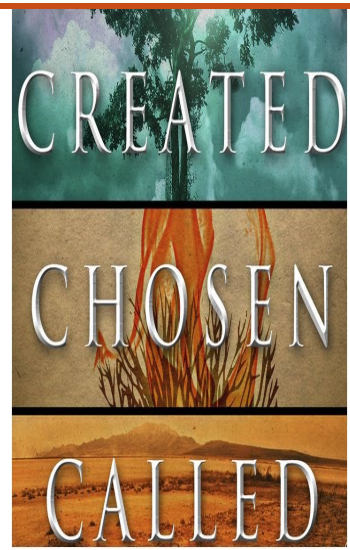
Truly, the fields are ripe unto harvest, but the labourers are few. As Jesus counselled when he told his disciples this, "pray, therefore, that the Lord would send workers into the harvest field". Pray. Do look out for our week of prayer, 10th-17th July, when you can sign up for a 1-hour slot as we pass the baton of prayer on over the 168 hours of that week.

Let's listen to Jesus, say our prayers, trust God, and move forward in faith.

At your service, Adrian

**"You are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
a people for God's own possession,
that you may proclaim
the excellencies of Him
who called you
out of darkness
into His marvellous light"**

1 Peter 2:9



Mulbarton Benefice Verse for 2016

A small but powerful prayer found in "Pocket Prayers - the Classic Collection" -

Alice Lince



*O Thou great Chief
Light a candle in my heart
That I may see what is therein,
And sweep away the rubbish from Thy dwelling place*

(An African schoolgirl's prayer - 20th Century)

DO PRAYING MUMS MESS UP?

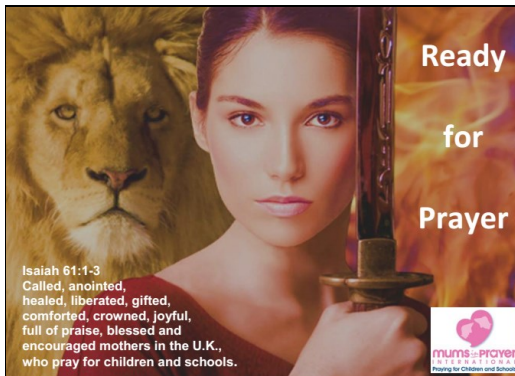
(Extract from Moms in Prayer International)

How could I blow it this badly? I completely lost my patience with my children and found myself yelling at them for no good reason, other than I was overwhelmed and tired. Selfishly, it was my own issues I was dealing with, and not my children's behaviour that caused this. Plus, just hours before, I was praying bold prayers for my children, my schools and my community at a Moms in Prayer meeting. 'How could I do that?' I asked myself over and over again? Condemnation and thoughts of failure tried to sneak in. This was a dialogue I was having with myself that could easily derail me into believing that I was unsuccessful as a mother, and that prayer was not making a difference.

What a lie! Does that story just ring true with me? Is that just my story? Possibly. But God is always victorious, especially in my personal struggles, and especially when I go straight to the Word of God. I know it provides instruction and clarity.

In Ps. 119:105 we read that "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path." I can trust, by searching out scripture, that my answers, direction, my path and examples to live by will come from there. But the first order of business was to apologize to my children. Next, research what the Bible says that could help me on this journey. What better way than looking up the *Attributes of God* from Moms in Prayer to find out what makes God such an amazing example as our Father in Heaven. Because God is my perfect Father, then I can certainly learn from God about how to be the mother He has called me to be.

Could He help me be a better, more patient, less stressed and a less "yelling" mother? **Yes!**



'MUMS IN PRAYER UK' PRAYER GATHERING Oxford - April 2016

Mothers from the UK were asked by Kathrin Larson, Director of Moms in Prayer in Europe, if they were 'Ready for Prayer and Ready for Battle'

After months of regular prayer via Skype as part of the team organising this gathering I recently spent three nights staying with Jesus! (well at Jesus College) and two days praying at Regents Park College, Oxford. There was much excitement amongst mothers as we gathered in this historic city renowned for education, to contend for our children and their schools in prayer.

We were a varied international and inter-denominational group of women. We left our differences 'at the door' so we could start to fulfil the foundation and vision Kathrin has for Europe. Jesus first - a vision for every school to be covered in prayer - unity within Mums in Prayer (MIP). Without unity much hurt can occur. It is a very conscious decision to work in unity for Jesus to fulfil the vision.

Friday's meeting was lead by Kathrin, plus Jane and Cathy who joined her from Switzerland. Specific leaders were equipped and encouraged as they stepped up in service. We were also joined by 'the girls' from Northern Ireland, showing unity in action as they supported a leader from there. After praying for the UK and Ireland we had a time of being ministered to in prayer by Kathrin and team.

Saturdays gathering followed the 4 steps of prayer, the pattern for MIP's prayer hour. We started with the theme 'God of Good News!' our God has come with good news (favour) for those who are poor, heartbroken, captives, prisoners, despairing, mourning and weary in spirit using Isaiah 61:1-3. A red cloak was used as a visual aid during a time of prayer ministry to remind us that Christ's blood was shed for us and that we are made righteous. As the day progressed we learnt about the history of MIP in the UK and its foundation and vision. We spent time using Colossians 1:23 to pray for our children; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 for schools, and Genesis 15:6 for Mums in Prayer.

I would love to tell you more, so please ask me if you would like to know more about the gathering.

If you would like to join a MIP prayer group please contact me.

("Moms in Prayer International" licensed by Moms in Prayer International, USA.)

Helen Pennington

WHAT'S ON IN THE BENEFICE THIS MONTH . . .

BEATING THE BOUNDS - HETHEL SUNDAY 1 MAY

2.30 pm - 6.00 pm

The custom of beating the bounds goes back to the Anglo Saxon period at least. In the days before maps and written title deeds, a knowledge of the physical boundaries of property was very important. So the custom grew of walking the boundaries, stopping at intervals to strike boundary stones to 'mark' the bounds. The practice was often linked to Rogation Days - days set aside by the Church for prayer for the crops. Walking the boundaries of the parish was an obvious opportunity to do so.

Come and join us as we walk, chat, pray and praise

2.30 pm	Walk
4.30 pm	Tea
5.00 pm	Songs of Praise

Please feel welcome to come to all or part of this afternoon.

Cathy Nicholls



SPRING PLANT SALE FLORDON

SATURDAY 14 MAY

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

On the green behind the church

BRING & BUY PLANTS

Interesting perennials, annuals, house
and vegetable plants

Most plants £1 or less

Refreshments available

All proceeds to Flordon Church



For more information contact Jean Cook 470727

... AND FURTHER AFIELD



IN CONVERSATION AND SONG
with
Ruth Fazal and Gil Pentzak
7.30 pm Wednesday 4 May
House of Prayer, Fishergate,
Norwich, NR3 1SE



Violinist, Worship Leader and Composer, Ruth Fazal, currently lives in Jerusalem.

Since the early days of the renewal in Toronto, she has been leading in worship through song and with her violin to take us deeper into the heart of The Father. She will be joined by Gil Pentzak Linguist, guitarist and Director of Ulpan Aviv Hebrew Language School.

No need to book but an offering will be gladly received.

Patrick Theobald

“Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you
and pray to the Lord on its behalf,
for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:7

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER

SUNDAY 15 MAY

6.30 - 8.00 PM

NORWICH CATHEDRAL



Pray Globally - Gather Locally - Pray with one Voice.

On this day we are all praying **WITH** the world as we pray **FOR** the world

For more information contact transformingnorwich@gmail.com



A WEEKEND AT FFALD-Y-BRENIN

If you haven't read *The Grace Outpouring* by Roy Godwin then ask around and find a couple of evenings to indulge in some compelling reading. I read this book about five years ago and was amazed by Roy and his wife Daphne's faith and obedience as they left everything and set up home in a remote part of Wales. Remote, beautiful, peaceful and well I don't want to spoil the

book by telling you too much.

A couple of weekends ago we headed for Wales to meet up with some musicians and worship leaders to just spend time with God. No agenda other than discovering what His agenda was.

There is a daily rhythm of prayer at Ffald-y-Brenin which, whilst being slow and structured, also allows for silence and spontaneity. I have never read from the bible at such a slow pace and to begin with found myself racing and longing to get to the end of the chapter. However as the weekend progressed I found I was discovering a new depth to the Word in this slow and rhythmic pattern.

One member of our party had suffered some kind of 'stroke' whilst in Canada a few years earlier. The doctors had prepared the family for the worst but 'her time had not yet come'! The episode however had left her with no movement in her body and her husband had to do everything for her. Eventually there were very small signs of improvement and last year she was brought to Ffald-y-Brenin where she received prayer. When she arrived this year she was much improved but she shuffled along with a stick and her husband still had to help fill in words that would not come to her. One evening we had a time of worship and then began to pray for each other. Lesley was prayed for and there was no visible sign of improvement however while others were being prayed for she experienced something 'fizzy and electric' inside her and she felt quite weak.

It was a wonderful evening. As Lesley went back to her room she noticed that movement was easier and by the time she got back to her room she could stand on one leg, and then the other and proudly showed her husband what she could do. The next morning she demonstrated to us all at breakfast that she could do knees-ups. Later in the day as we worshipped with others visiting Ffald-y-Brenin Lesley began to dance. Her legs were doing high kicks and others were swinging her round as we praised and thanked God for the miracle.

We stopped for a moment realising that the others didn't know the reason for our joy and Lesley gave her testimony without needing to be prompted or helped with words. So what had she asked God to do for her? Heal her? No - she had asked that she would be able to do all that God had planned for her to do and that she would be able to fulfil His will for her life.

We walked in the hills, we prophesied over each other, we ate together, laughed a lot and had the opportunity to paint and dance as well as spend time alone. A long way to go but worth every mile. When we were invited to go back again next year the decision was an easy one.

Becky Taylor

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



TO STAY OR TO LEAVE THE EU Informal Discussion

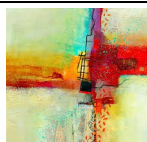
Saturday 18 June at 10.00am at Harvest House

An opportunity to think together about the issues surrounding the referendum on whether we leave or remain in the EU. More details to follow. Please reserve the date in your diary now and contact Adrian if you would like to be involved.

Adrian



ART EXHIBITION FLORDON Saturday 16 July – Sunday 17 July



An art exhibition is going to be held at Flordon church and we are hoping to show the work of as many local artists as possible.

If you would like to exhibit your pictures or need more information please contact Tony Taplin 01508 471593.

Pictures can also be offered for sale if you wish.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Becky and Chris would like to say a huge thank you to all those who contribute to Mardle and make it an interesting and informative read. It is really helpful for us to have all contributions in early so that articles can be typed, edited, proof read and printed by Friday ready for circulation to the churches. The last date for copy is always included on the Diary page. Mardle is a great way for us to communicate across the benefice so please keep your ideas, recipes, jokes, poetry, prayers, advertisements and articles coming in.

Becky Taylor & Chris Carter

PS How do you like the new format?

IT'S TIME TO SHIFT - Dr Alistair Petrie

Friday 10 June 10.00 am – 4.00pm at Alive Church, Cowgate

Saturday 11 June 10.00am - 4.00pm at House of Prayer, Fishergate



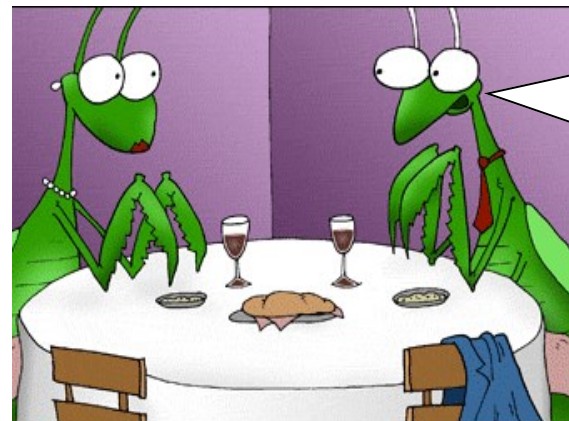
Dr Petrie has been involved in the transformation of cities worldwide for many years. He is currently working with over 80 nations across the globe. This two day conference is part of a week long visit to Norwich when he will also be speaking at the Revive Meeting on June 13 at 7.30 at Alive Church, Cowgate.

He teaches on the principles and relevance of the Gospel in the 21st Century, and combines prayer, and research in order to prepare communities, cities, nations and the marketplace for lasting revival, authentic transformation and the release of Kingdom culture"

Members of Transforming Norwich have invited Dr Petrie as part of a two year visit, and they are excited that he is committed to returning to Norwich for a further year. He feels that God has called him here at this time and is flying over especially from Canada for this visit.

You can find out more about Alistair Petrie and his work by visiting the Transforming Norwich Facebook page, by contacting Transforming Norwich at transformingnorwich@gmail.com or better still just come to the conference.

Becky Taylor



What me? ...
Oh no, I'm
done praying
... I thought
you were still
praying!

MAY 2016

Monthly Calendar

Please check Pews News for information and changes

APRIL

Sunday 24	8.30 am	Flordon - Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Mulbarton - Morning Worship
	10.30 am	Church at Hanover
	4.00 pm	Hethel - 4th Sunday at 4

Wednesday 27	6.30 am	Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House
Saturday 30	8.00 am - 9.00 am	Praying for the Benefice Community, Harvest House

MAY

Sunday 1	8.00 am	Mulbarton - Holy Communion
	9.00 am	Bracon Ash - Morning Prayer
	10.30 am	Mulbarton Café Church - Mulbarton Village Hall
		Topic - 'Difficult People'
	2.30pm - 6.00pm	Hethel - Rogation Beating Bounds (p3)
	7.00 pm	Mulbarton - Healing and Wholeness Service

Wednesday 4	6.30 am	Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House
	7.30 pm	'In Conversation and Song' at House of Prayer, Fishergate, NR3 1SE (p4)
Saturday 7	8.00 am - 9.00 am	Praying for the Benefice Community, Harvest House

Sunday 8	8.30 am	Hethel - Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Mulbarton - Morning Worship
	10.00 am	Flordon - Morning Prayer

Monday 9	7.00 pm	Mulbarton Annual Parish meeting (organised by Parish Council) at Mulbarton Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Prayers for Revival at 'Alive' Church, Cowgate, Norwich NR3 1SZ

Wednesday 11	6.30 am	Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House
Thursday 12	2.30 pm	Hanover Gardens, informal service in the Lounge
Saturday 14	8.00am - 9.00am	Praying for the Benefice Community, Harvest House
	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Plant sale at Flordon (p3)

Sunday 15	9.00 am	Bracon Ash - Holy Communion
PENTECOST	10.00 am	Mulbarton - Holy Communion
	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Norwich Cathedral - Global Day of Prayer (p4)
	6.30 pm	Flordon - Evening Prayer

Wednesday 18	6.30 am	Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House
Saturday 21	8.00am - 9.00am	Praying for the Benefice Community, Harvest House

Sunday 22	8.30 am	Flordon - Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Mulbarton - Morning Worship
	10.30 am	Church at Hanover
	4.00 pm	Hethel - 4th Sunday at 4

Monday 23	7.30 pm	Barnabas Group at 22 Birchfield Gardens
Wednesday 25	6.30 am	Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House
Saturday 28	8.00am - 9.00am	Praying for the Benefice Community, Harvest House

Sunday 29	8.00 am	Mulbarton - Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Mulbarton - Meditative

LOOKING AHEAD

JUNE

Friday 10 & Saturday 11	'It's Time to Shift' Conference with Dr. Alistair Petrie (p5)
Monday 13	Revive Prayer Meeting with Dr. Alistair Petrie (p5)
Saturday 18	To stay or to leave the EU?
	Informal Discussion at Harvest House (p8)

JULY

Week 10-17	Week of Prayer - 24/7 (p2)
Saturday 16 - Sunday 17	Art Exhibition at Flordon (p8)