

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funeral

1 February - Jennifer Seaman - Funeral Service at Flordon Church



### Church settles debt with prayers



A Russian Orthodox Church diocese has settled a debt dispute by promising to pray for the health of the claimants.

The local dioceses in the city of Nizhny Novgorod ran up a 916,000 roubles (£8,000) debt with construction company Era which designed a heating system for one of its buildings, the Znak news website reported. But when the church only coughed up half the cash for the work, the company took legal action.

However, the company's owners are believers, and the two parties agreed on a pre-trial settlement which saw more than 300,000 roubles of debt and fines written off in exchange for prayer. The diocese's legal department tells that the novel idea came from the claimants. "We ourselves were surprised - they even drew up the wording themselves," a church representative said. Era's sales manager, Andrei Lepustin, says the company's owners do not plan to check how the prayer agreement is implemented. "We all respect the diocese and we are all Orthodox believers," he said. "It'll be on their conscience if they don't, but we trust them and have already felt the fruits of their prayers, as prosperity indicators for both the company and its employees are growing." *BBC News, 12 February 2016*

*(Maybe the diocese would consider this idea as part payment of our Parish Share! - Editor)*

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

Rector: Rev. Adrian Miller

01508 571167, e-mail [rector@mulbchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@mulbchurch.org.uk)

This month's editor: Becky Taylor 01508 570746

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

# The Mardle March 2016

Newsletter of Mulbarton,  
Bracon Ash, Hethel & Flordon



## FROM THE RECTORY

Email: [rector@mulbchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@mulbchurch.org.uk)



### The Power of Prayer

As Christians, most of us know that prayer really matters. More than anything we want to connect with God. But we also know that it is hard. Jesus' disciples implored Jesus to teach them to pray: "We want this. We see we need this. We're finding it tricky." It's a sentiment repeated by many over the centuries. I wish I had a simple 7-point plan to give you a perfect prayer life, but I'm afraid it doesn't work like that.

With prayer, we keep on. We don't give up. We seek to practice the presence of God, praying "without ceasing", developing a mindfulness of God that is often honed most deeply in the silent spaces of our lives. We also carve out the regular times in our routines to focus in prayer as individuals. And then we take advantage of the things in the church programme, which provide some structure and support in our praying. And in the measure we keep on with this business of praying, we see the kingdom of God come.

I'm encouraged by the movement around Local Houses of Prayer springing up all over the UK, and how this calls us back to the bread and butter of our Christian disciplines. I especially like the re-discovery of our role as a royal priesthood in blessing our communities, and do hope that many of us will support and find help in the initiative that Patrick describes below. Also, if people are around for half an hour at about 9am, every Monday to Thursday, you are welcome to join us in the Rectory as we offer corporate prayers. May God bless us as we draw ever nearer to Him,

*Adrian*

## PRAYER IN THE PARISHES

Recently I was reminded of the acronym P.U.S.H. - Pray Until Something Happens and then a phrase came to mind "and then pray some more." I felt God was encouraging me and maybe others about the need to persevere and prevail in prayer; that once we have obtained something in prayer there is a need to make it secure.

Last October we re-launched the Saturday morning prayer meeting. The focus of this time is to pray for and speak God's blessing over the communities in our benefice. We use the Keep on Praying and Bless booklet to facilitate our prayers and blessings in the following areas: family, communities, business and workplace, education, the church, government, and the arts and the media. *(Continued p2)*

## PRAYER IN THE PARISHES *(continued)*

I hope that Christians from all our churches in the benefice will join us at these meetings so please make others aware of it. The meetings are on Saturdays from 8.00 am - 9.00 am. (Please check Mardle Diary page and Pews News for any cancellations or changes.)

As a development of the Saturday Morning Meetings held in Harvest House it has been agreed to hold a prayer meeting every quarter at each of our churches in the benefice in turn. The first of these will take place in Bracon Ash Church on **Saturday 5 March at 8.00am** when we will pray for the needs of **Bracon Ash Church** as well as the benefice. There will be no meeting in Harvest House on this day so come along and join us at Bracon Ash.



Some of us have been using the Keep Blessing Your Community booklet so we can be united in daily prayer and blessing for our community. This is a 40 day guide to help change the spiritual atmosphere over an area. We have also used the prayer and blessing in our Sunday services.

If you would like more information about any of the above or obtaining copies of the booklets I will be happy to help. (01508 571054).  
*Patrick Theobald*

## WHAT'S ON IN THE BENEFICE . . .

The BLITZ on NORWICH  
1940 - 1943

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK by **Ray Cossey**  
Saturday 12th March 7.30pm at St Michael's Community Centre  
**FLORDON**

Tickets £5 (suggested donation) includes wine & nibbles  
NUMBERS LIMITED - TO BOOK Tel. 01508 471070 Proceeds to Flordon Church

## HARVEST HOUSE - THANK YOU CLAIRE FANTASTIC JOB

The re-decorating has now been finished by Claire Cormack and some volunteers. A huge thank you to Claire for all the effort, time and resource that you have spent in undertaking the task. And thank you too for the others who managed to spare to assist Claire.



There are still a few tidying up jobs to be done, but this does not stop anything from happening in Harvest House. The next work will be looking at replacing the flooring in some of the rooms and we will be getting quotes for this during the next month.

If you have any decorating requirements give Claire a call on 01508 481748.

Again thank you Claire for all you have achieved - we are so grateful!

*Ian Dunlop*



## CHURCH LIBRARY

Following the refurbishment of Harvest House the PCC has decided to reduce the size and location of the 'Church Library'.

During March and April the current content will be reviewed. The material being retained will be moved to the current office in Harvest House which will become a Resource Store. The remaining items will be available for people to take (and not return them please!!) and anything left will be passed on to a Christian book charity for use around the country and overseas.

There will still be a supply of Bibles and music books available in the main room.

If you have given any items to the library on a loan basis please ensure that you retrieve them soon.

*Ian Dunlop*

## CONGRATULATIONS DEREK

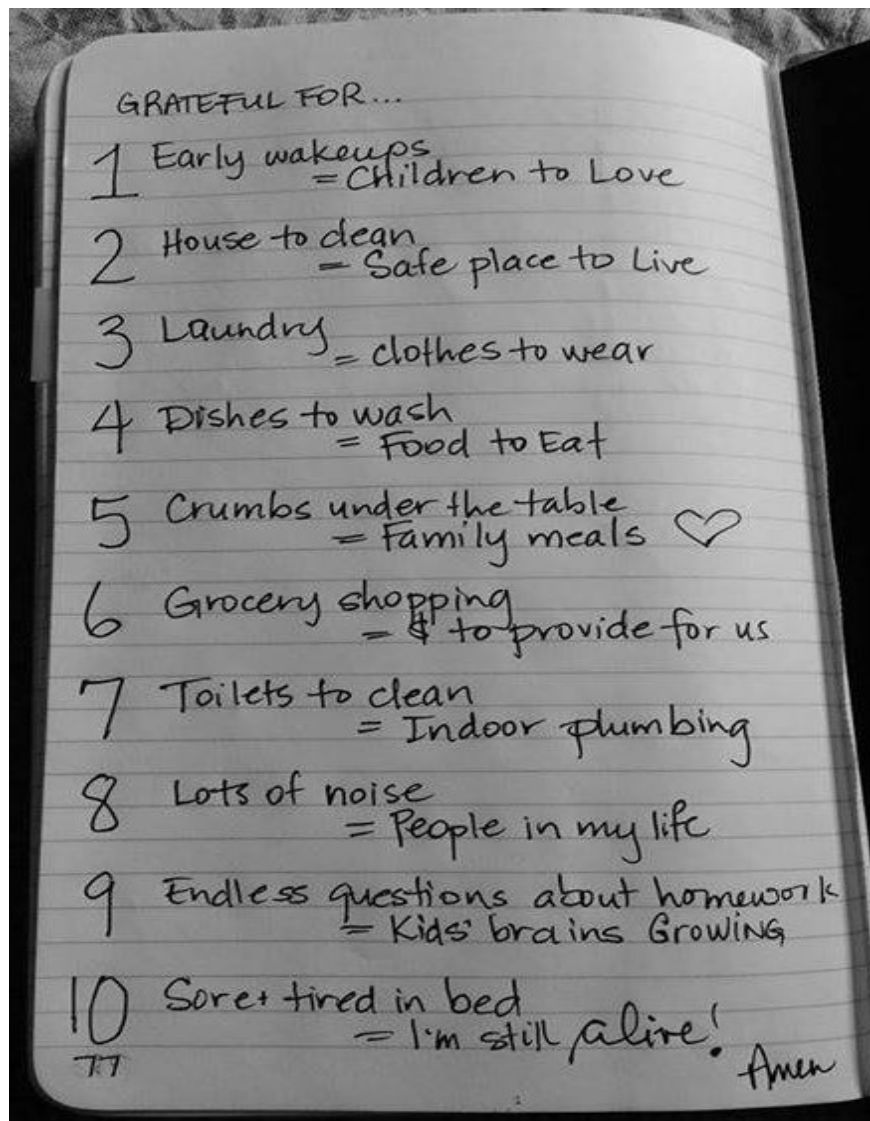
Congratulations Derek on getting your new job. Our prayers will be with you as you start on 29 February and adjust to working away from home.

*Editor*

## CHORES OR PRAYERS?

Let's just have a refocus on all those chores and potential irritations we encounter every day and look at them from a perspective of gratitude. It won't make the job go away but it will give you something else to think about while you are doing it!

*Helen Pennington*



## MUMS IN PRAYER BREAKFAST

**Harvest House, Saturday 12 March 2016 at 8.00 am.**

Come and join with other mums, grandparents and carers as we pray for our children using the Mums in Prayer method of prayer. Prayer time is followed by a continental breakfast and time to chat. For catering purposes please let me know if you are coming. (01508 571378)

*Helen Pennington*

## FLORDON EASTER TEA

**Flordon Church, Saturday 19th March**

**2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

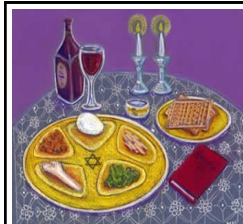
Come and enjoy afternoon tea with friends old and new.

Admission £2.50 includes tea/coffee and homemade cakes.

No need to book - you can pay at the door.



*Jean Cook*



## PASSOVER MEAL

**Harvest House, 24 March at 7.00 pm**

Come and join us for our a Passover meal on Maundy Thursday. There are limited places so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Adrian will guide us through the evening, explaining how this Jewish Feast reveals more about Jesus.

Our meal will consist of lamb or chicken stew. There is no charge for the evening, but if you are able to prepare a stew/casserole or dessert, that would be great. (No bread will be served.)

*Caroline Dunlop*

## PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

**Good Friday 25 March at 10.00 am**

Mulbarton Christians from different denominations come together to demonstrate our faith in Jesus and our love for our neighbours as we carry the cross from the junction of Cuckoofield Lane and Catmere Herne through the village. We pause for readings, worship and prayer at the Co-op, on the Schools/Surgery car park, the Community Centre car park and finally on the Common opposite the church. Coffee and hot cross buns are served afterwards at Harvest House.

*Tom Taylor*



## SPRING WALK

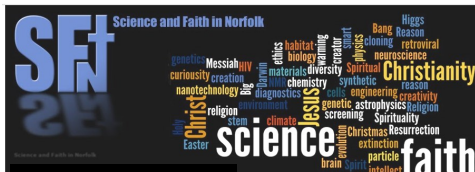
**The Grove Cheshire Home, Easter Day 12 noon – 4pm**

What better way to spend Easter Sunday afternoon than ambling 'beside the lake and beneath the trees' amongst the daffodils and other spring flowers.

There is a small charge of £3 per person with no charge for children. Dogs on leads welcome.

*Becky Taylor*





The aim of the group 'Science and Faith in Norfolk' is to explore the relationship between Science and Faith from a Christian perspective.

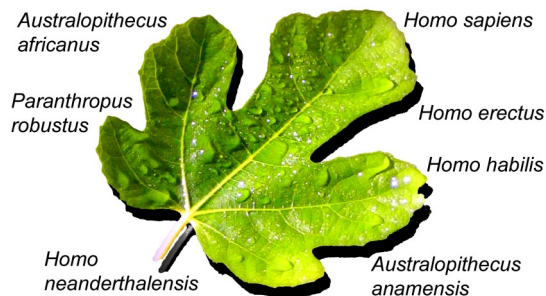
The group is mainly, but not exclusively, made up of professional scientists living and working in Norfolk. It includes a number of clergy. The group is supported by the Bishop of Norwich. This ecumenical group seeks to support and encourage its members through open and respectful discussion of subjects at the interface between science and faith. SFN engages with members of the public through open meetings on science faith issues at the Meeting Place (Holy Trinity Church, NR2 2BJ) and its Annual Cathedral Lecture - given by a well known scientist or theologian on a topical subject.

Taken from <https://sites.google.com/site/scienceandfaithinnorfolk/home>



Science and Faith  
in Norfolk SFT

## Evolution and Adam: reality, myth and symbolism



**Speaker: Dr Denis Alexander**  
Faraday Institute, Cambridge

**Tuesday 8th March 2016**  
**7:00 - 8:30pm**  
**Norwich Anglican Cathedral**

Biologist and Christian, Dr Alexander, will speak on reconciling what we know about human evolution and the creation story of Adam. This talk is suitable for a non-specialist audience. The 8th Annual Cathedral Lecture forms part of British Science Week and this year's Cathedral Science Festival. For more information please visit:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/scienceandfaithinnorfolk>

All are welcome    No booking required    Retiring collection

### Lecture Synopsis:

Who are we? Why are we here? These fundamental questions have perplexed humankind since the dawn of time. Referring to the Adam and Eve narratives of the Bible might seem irrelevant to help provide answers to such questions. Surely those stories are for medieval art or a pre-scientific era? In this lecture, Dr Alexander takes a different view. Starting with Adam and Eve, he ends up by addressing the "big issues" of life such as intrinsic human values, gender equality and care for the environment. Human evolution and anthropology will also be discussed in relation to the 'big picture' theology of the Adam narratives.

### FROM THE PROPHECY BOOK

'Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.' Paul encourages us to in 1 Corinthians 14:1

The word 'prophecy' means to 'speak forth' or declare the divine will, to interpret the purposes of God, or to make known in any way the truth of God which is designed to influence people. Sometimes during our services people share words of encouragement, pictures or scriptures which they feel God has put on their heart and these are recorded in a book. I thought it would be encouraging if, instead of being forgotten about, they were put in Mardle so that we can all share these words even if we didn't attend the service or go to a different church.

Please remember that we can sometimes get it wrong so handle each entry with prayer and each contributor with gentleness and love.

#### 31.1.16 - Sarah McCrum

In all things God works for the good of those who love Him Romans 8:28

Two dreams:

1. I was standing on concrete (I think) looking out on a very rough, dark and angry sea. A huge wave leapt up beside me - I was very glad to be standing on dry land.
2. A day or so later I dreamt I saw a dark sea, choppy but not as rough as the first. However, the tide was rising. There was a low and very rough -looking rock to my right. I was in the water and I knew I couldn't return to shore before the water's tide would rise and cover me. And even though I could have climbed onto the rock I knew that would eventually be covered too. My inner being cried out "Help, Yeshua!" (This is Jesus' Hebrew name which means "God saves!") With that the side of the rock opened up and with great relief and thanks I began to walk right into the safety of 'the Rock' (Yeshua).

That happening was not just for me but for the whole body of believers - born again into Yeshua. 'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we cannot see' Hebrews 11:1

#### 21.2.16 - Bev Theobald

Romans 7:21 - 8:17

'Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.....'

I hope we will all be encouraged by this and that it will help us continue to develop our relationship with our wonderful God.

Becky Taylor

## THANK YOU FOR THE DOUBLE BLESSING

I write to say 'Thank You' for the many cards and gifts you sent for my recent Big Birthday. The financial gifts have helped to buy a new sewing machine which is a real blessing.

However, the blessing is being passed on because my old machine is going to a charity called 'Tools for Self Reliance' who will service or repair old machines and then send them to people in Africa complete with a pack of material, cottons, zips plus lots of other haberdashery so that they can be used to start a business and become self supporting.

I give God praise for your generosity which has blessed not only me but also someone else who needs and deserves it.

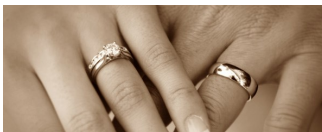
God Bless - love Nina

*Nina Davey*

*Tools*  
**FOR SELF  
RELIANCE**  
practical help for  
practical people

If you would like to know more about this amazing project you can find their website at <http://www.tfsr.org/>. They not only service and repair old sewing machines they are also on the look out for other tools and equipment to help people start businesses; tools for plumbing, carpentry, building, engineering, blacksmiths, shoe repairs to name just a few. Have a look and see what you've got stuck away at the back of your shed or cupboard - you may have something which will transform

## A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE - VALENTINE'S DAY SERVICE



What a lovely idea and a beautiful Service! Chris had said, "Why do we need to renew our vows if we haven't broken them?", but this little service was about celebrating marriage and remembering the commitment we'd made to each other however long ago. (We were celebrating our 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary later in the month!) I found it very moving as I knew I would; having done this before in our own front room some years ago when Harry Secombe invited couples to join in during a service on Songs of Praise. Thanks to everyone who made the service possible, and of course for Tom's delicious fruit cake!

*Marina Carter*

Carl and Jackie Grant sent in this lovely photo of them as they cut our celebration cake. Some of their children had also come with them to share what was clearly a very important and emotional moment in their married life.

*Editor*



## SCIENCE FAMILY FUN DAY

**Norwich Cathedral, Saturday 12 March 10.30am - 3.30pm.**

A huge model of an erupting volcano will be the centrepiece for an all-age family fun day. The fun starts at 10 am and finishes with a special family service at 3.30 pm, featuring the Total Ensemble Theatre Company, the Norwich Lower School Choir and Rod the Rocket Man.

Children of all ages are invited to come and experiment! For example, you can watch a volcano erupt and make your own model volcano; you can discover how the Cathedral stands up and try building your own archway; you can experiment with food, body parts and chemistry; you can help launch a rocket; you can talk through a giant hosepipe telephone and meet a Dalek and a giant tortoise.

Free entry, no need to book.



## FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD PANEL DISCUSSION

**Norwich Cathedral, Monday 14 March  
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm**

We live in a complex world with a rapidly increasing population, placing enormous strain upon the earth and its systems. In parts of the world a large proportion of the population is either overweight or obese while in other parts millions of people face food shortages and even starvation. The question is, can our scientists help us to solve these problems?

Join us for an engaging panel discussion on food research, the production of food, maintaining a healthy diet and caring for the environment. During the evening our panel of guests, researchers and practitioners in their own right, will each speak about their area of work and address these and challenging other questions. The audience will also be given the opportunity to ask questions and share their views, before panel members offer some concluding thoughts.

The Science Festival runs from 6<sup>th</sup> –18th March as part of British Science Week. It's the first time the Cathedral has staged an event of this kind and it should be both enjoyable and educational. The above are just a few of the events. If you need more information or details of the full programme during the science festival, contact Janet Marshall (01603 218320) [headofschoools@cathedral.org.uk](mailto:headofschoools@cathedral.org.uk) or take a look at the website: [www.cathedral.org.uk](http://www.cathedral.org.uk)

# MARCH 2016

## Monthly Calendar

Please check Pews News for information and changes

### FEBRUARY

Saturday 27 8.00am - 9.00pm Praying for the Benefice Community, Harvest House

**Sunday 28** 8.30 am **Flordon, Holy Communion**  
**(Lent 3)** 10.00 am **Mulbarton, Morning Worship**  
10.30 am **Church at Hanover**

Monday 29 7.30pm \*Lent Group: 'Welcome' Session 2 at Harvest House

### MARCH

Wednesday 2 6.30 am Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House

Saturday 5 8.00am - 9.00am Praying for Bracon Ash Church and the benefice at Bracon Ash Church (front page)

**Sunday 6** 8.00 am **Mulbarton, Holy Communion**  
**MOTHERING** 10.00 am **Bracon Ash, Mothering Sunday Service**  
**SUNDAY** 10.30 am **Mulbarton Café Church, Mulbarton Village Hall**  
7.00 pm **Healing & Wholeness Service, Flordon Church**

Monday 7 7.30pm \*Lent Group: 'Welcome' Session 3 at Harvest House  
6.30 am Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House  
7.30pm Lent Group: 'Welcome' Session 3, Infant School Hall

Tuesday 8 7.00 pm 'Evolution and Adam' at Norwich Cathedral (p4)

Thursday 10 2.30 pm Hanover Gardens, informal service in the Lounge

Saturday 12 8.00am - 9.00am Praying for the Benefice & Community at Prayer Room, Harvest House  
8.00 am Mums in Prayer Breakfast Harvest House (p2)  
10.30 am Science Family Fun Day at Norwich Cathedral (p5)  
7.30 pm The Blitz on Norwich, illustrated talk at Flordon (p4)

**Sunday 13** 8.30 am **Hethel, Holy Communion**  
10.00 am **Mulbarton, Morning Worship**  
10.00 am **Flordon, Morning Worship**

Monday 14 7.30pm \*Lent Group: 'Welcome' Session 4 at Harvest House\*  
7.00 pm 'Food Glorious Food' Norwich Cathedral (p5)  
Wednesday 16 6.30 am Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House  
7.30pm Lent Group: 'Welcome' Session 4, Infant School Hall  
Saturday 19 8.00 am - 9.00 am Praying for the Benefice & Community, Harvest House  
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Flordon Easter Tea (p4)

**Sunday 20** 9.00 am **Bracon Ash, Holy Communion**  
10.00 am **Mulbarton, Holy Communion**  
3.30 pm **Flordon, Evening Prayer**

**FINAL COPY TODAY, SUNDAY 20 APRIL FOR APRIL MARDLE TO CHRIS CARTER**

Wednesday 23 6.30 am Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Thursday 24** 7.00 pm **Passover Supper - please book early for this (p3)**

**GOOD FRIDAY** 10.00 am **Mulbarton, Procession of the Cross (p3)**  
**Friday 25** 2.00 pm **Devotional Hour at Hethel Church**

Saturday 26 NO 8.00 AM PRAYER MEETING TODAY

**EASTER** 8.00 am **Mulbarton, Easter Communion BCP**  
**DAY** 9.00 am **Bracon Ash, Easter Communion**  
**Sunday 27** 10.00 am **Mulbarton, Easter Family Communion**  
10.30 am **Church at Hanover**  
12.00 noon Spring Walk at The Grove, Cheshire Home (p3)  
**6.30 pm** **Flordon, Easter Praise**

Wednesday 30 6.30 am Early Morning Prayers at Harvest House

- For those unable to attend main Lent Group Meeting held on Wednesdays, please come along on Mondays-this is the time to be thinking and talking with one another about this absolutely vital area, as we chart a way forward into the next chapter

### LOOKING AHEAD

### APRIL

Saturday 16 Mums in Prayer UK Prayer Gathering, Oxford  
Ask Helen Pennington (571378) for more details.