

# Parish E-News

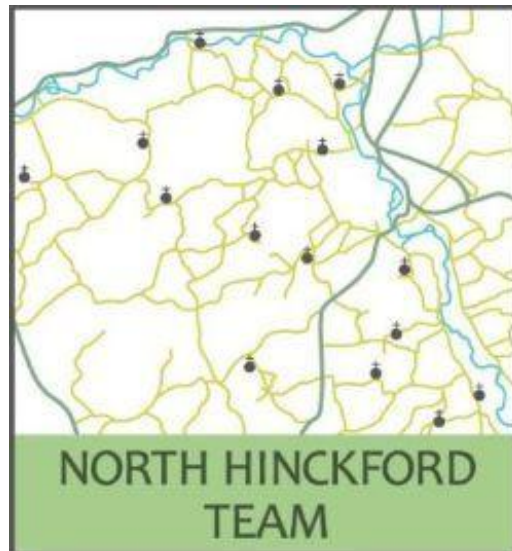
Belchamp Otten,  
Belchamp St Paul,  
Belchamp Walter,  
Bulmer and Ovington



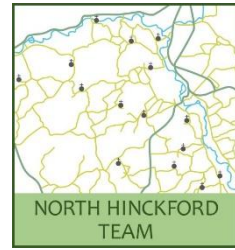
March 2021

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# Pastoral Ponderings...



Dear Friends

Seasonally, this time of year I would usually be writing about Lent, preparing ourselves for Easter, considering what we might give up or change in our lives. Yet it feels as if we have been going through a 'Lent' of sorts on and off for the past year.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, pubs, restaurants, cinemas, theatres and gyms were told to close and with a last pint in The Half Moon before they shut their doors it was only 3 days later when we were in national lockdown. Our Lent course on the environment and creation was stopped in its tracks and suddenly the country had drawn to a halt giving us all time and opportunity to take stock of our lives.

I remember asking and reflecting during that first lockdown on what we would leave behind when we got back to normal and what would we take forward with us. I guess the question really was what have we learnt about life while in lockdown?

One year on, when we thought we would be through this and living our 'new normal' lives, we are still perhaps asking the question, what have we learnt about life, not just in lockdown but through this pandemic. What have learnt as a nation, community, family and individual? We have missed hugs, family, friends, celebrations; we have lost loved ones, said goodbye in unusual ways, our plans have been disrupted and life put on hold. And yet perhaps we still have more to face with the economic and emotional aftermath.

I wonder, if what we have learnt is to love life and to cherish our relationships? Not to waste life in anger or resentment with fear or material greed but to live it abundantly with love, forgiveness and gratitude.

I invite you to continue through the pandemic and through Lent with this as our goal so that come Easter we will be ready to celebrate the new life and unconditional love this festival offers.

Take care, with prayers

Gill

Rev Gill Morgan

# MARCH 2021, Services



We are offering weekly worship via Zoom, YouTube and Facebook until further notice.

Check our website for updates  
[www.northhinckfordteam.org](http://www.northhinckfordteam.org)

## on Sundays

**Service via Zoom, 10.00am**

**Service of the Word available on YouTube**

## on Wednesdays

**Morning Prayer via Zoom, 10.00am**

**Story Time available from 2.00pm on FaceBook**

[www.facebook.com/northhinckfordteam](http://www.facebook.com/northhinckfordteam)

[www.youtube.com/revgillmorgan](http://www.youtube.com/revgillmorgan)

You are very welcome to attend these services.

Please email our Team Administrator for the Zoom link, [fi.slot@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fi.slot@yahoo.co.uk)

A number of our beautiful rural churches are open for private prayer. Please follow Covid 19 guidance when you visit. Churches are open at:

*Belchamp Otten (Sunday morning)*

*Foxearth*

*Ovington*

*Pentlow*

*Twinstead*



# LENT 2021

## LENT REFLECTIONS

Join us via Zoom on 6 consecutive Tuesday evenings, at 7.00pm, from 23<sup>rd</sup> February. An opportunity to reflect together during lent.

For more details contact Rev Gill [revgillmorgan@outlook.com](mailto:revgillmorgan@outlook.com)

To book your place contact Fiona Slot [fi.slot@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fi.slot@yahoo.co.uk)



*Coffee, chat and prayer.....*

*During lent this year we are unable to get together in person so let's get together via Zoom.*

*Put the kettle on and grab a slice of cake on Thursdays during lent at 10.30am, starting on 25<sup>th</sup> February.*

*If you wish to attend please let Fiona Slot know and she will email the Zoom link to you, [fi.slot@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fi.slot@yahoo.co.uk)*



Join us for Night Prayer (Compline)

Every night during Lent at 9.00pm

[www.facebook.com/northhinckfordteam](https://www.facebook.com/northhinckfordteam)

If you haven't used Facebook before then use this link just before 9.00 pm .  
(Everyone can watch, you don't need to join Facebook or have an account)

## BELCHAMP WALTER PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE

### MARCH 2021 – Becky Poynter

I probably say this every year about this time, but spring is sprung. We have swaths of snowdrops (thank you to Laura Shepherd for the photo), drifts (well perhaps not quite) of daffodils, and a pocketful of primrose, (sure there's more to come). With that, and the news that many neighbours have now safely received their first, and in some cases second, vaccine, maybe things are beginning to look up.



### VILLAGE AND CHURCH NEWS

If you've walked past the Church in the last week or two, you will have seen the extensive fencing work that's recently been undertaken. We need to extend our thanks to the Raymond family who have generously included the replacement of the wooden fencing next to the Church, in their refurbishment project. It's certainly a great improvement, particularly as a portion of the fencing was lost in a storm through the winter, and will protect the boundary for many years to come.

The PCC have played their part by funding the work to replace the wrought iron fencing near the gate; portions of this have been salvaged to "up-cycle" on other schemes.

With the weather warming and Easter fast approaching (relatively early this year) you'll be able to see the improvements if you join in the Village Easter Egg hunt.

# BELCHAMP WALTER

## EASTER EGG HUNT

How  
eggciting!

Join the Egg Hunt this Easter in  
Belchamp Walter

2<sup>nd</sup> April (Good Friday) and Easter Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Search for those Eggs

Eggstremely  
tricky!

- ❖ Walk the trail with your Family or Bubble and find your eggs!
- ❖ Start at the Church, through the forest and across the field. Straight on to Gestingthorpe Road, up to the pond and down to the Playing Field, past the Folly, across the field and through the forest again, back to the church.
- ❖ Hang an egg or two on the 'Easter Tree' in the Church, donate a £££ and write your Easter message.

An Eggstra  
special message!

## Virtual Easter Hat Competition



*Make an Easter Hat in any medium and let your imagination run riot.  
Lockdown has given us lots of opportunities to be creative!*

*There will be a virtual Easter Hat Parade and judging on Zoom  
on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 10am***

*If you are unable to Zoom, entries can be dropped off at Janice's or  
Ann's houses and they will be modelled on Zoom. Each entrant will be  
given a number to be displayed with the hat. Judging will be for the  
overall best, the zaniest, and the most colourful, with prizes for the  
most creative.*

*If you wish to take part, please contact Ann 269624 or Janice 269789  
by Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March.*

*The competition is open to all ages*

*Adults £2 Entry      Children up to 11 years of age Free*

*In aid of your Parish Church*



# Crafty Women



A Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

Do you have a New Year's resolution to learn a new craft? Why not join us at Crafty Women and if you have any questions we may be able to help.



We would love to share what you are doing too. Recently some of our members have been making hats for family and friends who are undergoing chemotherapy. Or creating a new object from material with family sentimental values.

Do join us via Zoom on Monday March 15thth from 10 o'clock onwards.

You will be most welcome. For more details contact Rosemary Ingram on 01787 267969 or Fiona Slot on [fi.slot@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fi.slot@yahoo.co.uk)

## FINANCIAL PLANNING TIPS 92.

With the magazine having to take an enforced break previous articles seem to have become very disjointed, but that is the nature of this pandemic. I will again hope that you are all keeping safe and well and hopefully with the vaccinations that are going on at a pace and the roadmap set out by the Prime Minister we can see an end to this lockdown, and maybe even see a return to some sort of normality, God willing.

It is therefore quite difficult to decide on the topic for this month, as looking back at my last few articles they seemed to say similar things!

Whilst I do not wish to keep on about the stock market, base rates and business in general we have had, and continue to see, massive upheaval in these areas because of COVID and we have also had the not too small matter of Brexit since I last wrote to you.

The FTSE 100 is still considerably lower than 12 months ago, although has recovered a lot of its losses since the lows of March 2020. Having said this the FTSE All Share (all 600+ companies quoted on the London Stock Exchange) has recovered nearly all of its losses. I talk about this mainly because so many people have money invested in these companies either via their pension funds or via investments in ISA's or Investment Bonds, so I think it is always worth looking at.

Investment may become something more important on people's agendas over the next 6-12 months as well as the Bank of England recently gave high street banks six months to be ready for **negative** interest rates. This is something that the UK has not seen but has been used in other countries such as Japan, Switzerland and Sweden. It could well mean that savers have to actually pay banks to hold their money, rather than the other way round and hence why people may look to other places to put their money.

The Brexit deal has been struck and we have now left the European Union, although there are, and will continue to be I am sure, more than a few "teething issues". Clearly at any other time this would have had much more publicity and it is hard to gauge the affect this is having on businesses whilst a global pandemic is going on.

Clearly some businesses have performed well over the last 12 months, and it is no surprise that smaller businesses who are able to adapt and change more quickly to different demands have fared better, hence the FTSE All Share's recovery, but that is not to say that the larger companies will not bounce back equally once restrictions are reduced or lifted totally.

My Warren Buffet quote this month is something that hopefully will resonate with you: - "If you're in the luckiest 1% of humanity, you owe it to the rest of humanity to think about the other 99%."

Should you have any questions about any points raised in this issue, or any other financial matters, please feel free to contact me, my details are below.



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## CONTACT US.....

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WEBSITE [www.northhinckford.org](http://www.northhinckford.org)