

Parish E-News

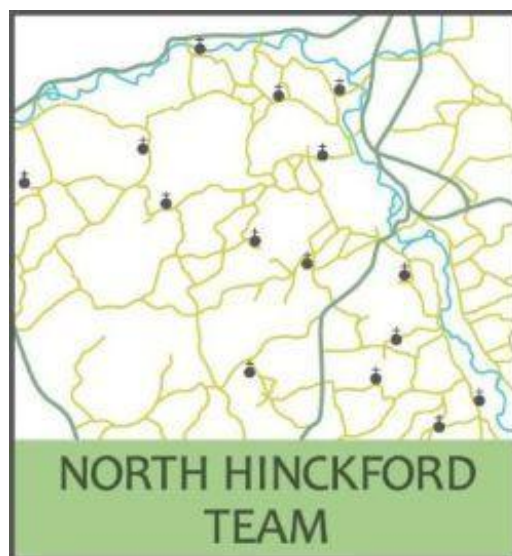
Belchamp Otten,
Belchamp St Paul,
Belchamp Walter,
Bulmer and Ovington



February 2021

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Pastoral Ponderings

Dear Friends,

The month of February takes us on a bit of a journey through light, love, pancakes and fasting.

At the beginning of the month Christians close their Christmas celebrations and festivals by remembering once again the birth of Jesus. They also celebrate when he was presented in the Temple (as was Jewish custom) and then look forward to the story of Easter. Many of us will have taken down our decorations on or before the twelfth night but for Christians the festivals have continued until the 2nd of February or Candlemas. And so, we begin the month with light.

We then move onto St Valentine's Day when we celebrate love. Now not all of us will buy into the consumerism of this festival but it is an opportunity to celebrate the love that is around us, especially in this time of lockdown. Love can very much be our strength in challenging times; be it the love of another, the love we give or love from a greater source. Telling someone you love them or that they are loved can really lift the soul (yours and theirs, try it!).

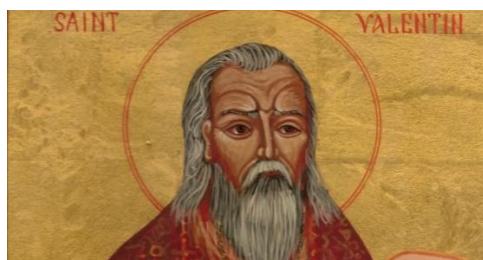
This is closely followed by Shrove Tuesday, that day when we can put our pancake making skills to the test and have some fun. I think being in lockdown lends itself to some pancake creativity; I feel a Zoom pancake party coming on!

Ash Wednesday, the following day, takes us to a more solemn place as we begin Lent and start to think about our lives. Ashes are a sign of being sorry and so this symbolism marks the beginning of forty days when we can make a change in our lives, yet it feels as if we have made so many changes already and given up so much too. So maybe this Lent is a chance to do something different. Perhaps we could gather up all that we have learnt from the time we have had to reflect on our lives during the three lockdowns and make a commitment to change one thing that brings more light and more love into our lives and the lives of others.

So, as this month takes us from Christmas towards Easter, may we journey through it in light, surrounded in love, filled with laughter and the fun of pancake making but may we also journey through it with a solemnity that respects life in all its fullness and with a responsibility to make a difference.

With prayers

Gill



February 2021, Services



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

Check our website for updates
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

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

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



PANCAKE PARTY



Let's make pancakes together

at 3.30pm

on Tuesday 16th February

via Zoom (for the link email fi.slot@yahoo.co.uk)

What you will need:

- ❖ Safely set up your screen to film your pancake making
 - ❖ Pancake recipe
 - ❖ Ingredients (don't forget your favourite topping)
 - ❖ Cooking utensils
 - ❖ Hungry mouths to feed!

We will endeavour to make our pancakes together in real time! And then enjoy eating them together, tah dah.



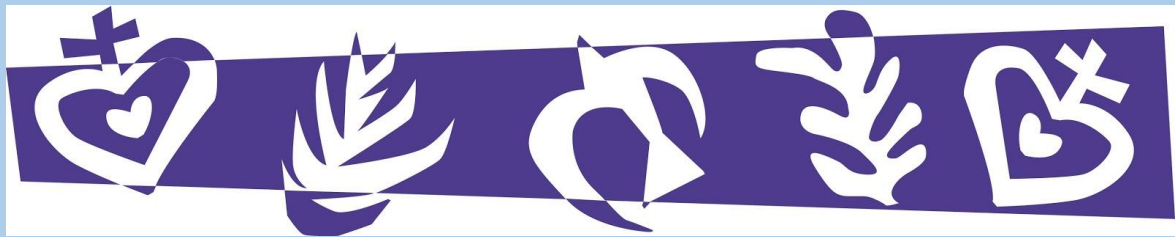
LENT 2021

LENT REFLECTIONS

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

For more details contact Rev Gill revgillmorgan@outlook.com

To book your place contact Fiona Slot 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 25th 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



BULMER TIDINGS

Sadly, we were unable to hold any of our planned Church services for Christmas however we did decorate the church with greenery, candles, tree, and lights on the Monday before our Carol Service was due to be held with hope that we could go ahead. Fortunately, some photographs were taken with the tree lights on and candles lit – it looked so peaceful and brought back memories of previous Christmas services we have held at St. Andrew's Church - the appreciation of being able to sing the Carols and worshipping with family and friends. In the meantime, keep safe and well and we pray for an end to this pandemic. So, we look forward to that time when we will be able to worship and sing together safely.

Bulmer PCC Secretary



BELCHAMP WALTER PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE FEB 2021 –

Becky Poynter

Firstly, I do hope that everyone has had an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year – already, it seems a while ago.

VILLAGE AND CHURCH NEWS



Although our usual village Christmas celebrations were severely curtailed this year, Belchamp Walter residents responded to the call and lit up the village in spectacular fashion. Christmas lights were plentiful in the centre around the pond and on every “major” lane leading in all four directions. Father Christmas took time away from his busy schedule and awarded the “best dressed home” to the Cole family whose house sported an escaping (or arriving) Santa and giant swirling snowflakes. I suspect that this is the start of another Belchamp Walter Christmas tradition!



Our pebble fairies made a welcome return over the festive period with an array of beautiful keepsakes of penguins, trees, snowmen (complete with masks) angels, puddings, reindeers and even the Grinch. I am sure they took pride of place in many homes.



It is with sadness that I have to report the passing of Violet Barnes, our oldest resident. Terry Raybould remembers Violet fondly as a long-standing member of the church, with a good singing voice. For many years she was a Sidesman and was also very active in any fundraising for the church and village hall, earning the affectionate title of “Violet Teapot” (Some of you will remember the enormous brown enamel teapot she wielded with such efficiency!) In the early days after the school became the Village Hall she helped Brenda Brown in preparing refreshments for visiting coach parties which included a visit to the church in their itinerary. When the Lunch Club was launched in 1991, she naturally took charge of serving the teas.

When we were preparing for the 5 Parishes Millenium Celebrations in 2000 I had the privilege of interviewing Violet with two close friends, and they shared some of their reminiscences of life in the village. They were many and detailed including school life, church festivities, farming life and shoots and working in Sudbury. After a couple of glasses of sherry, they had great fun remembering scrumping apples as little girls, (I think I’m right that the orchard was near, what’s now, the Village Hall.) and taking the bus into Sudbury on a Friday night for dances during the war. Violet was also a cricket fan and took charge of the score book for the BW team, as well as helping with the cricket teas. Our thoughts go to Judith, Violet’s niece, and her family and friends.

So, we are back in another lock-down and have had the first smattering of snow – however, hope is on the horizon with the vaccine and Spring just around the corner.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – Jan Munro, Clerk to the Parish Council

Belchamp Walter now has a public access defibrillator in the telephone box on Gestingthorpe Road in the centre of the village near the pond.

A defibrillator is for use in the case of sudden cardiac arrest. It restores heart rhythms and can be safely used by someone with no medical background or training. A sequence of voice commands and screen messages will guide you through the whole process.

You will have received a leaflet proving information on what to do if someone collapses. More information, including links to online training, can be found on the parish council website. <https://www.belchampwalterpc.uk/>.

The Village Hall Committee is to be thanked for providing the majority of the funding for this vitally important village asset. Thanks are also due to Roy Llewellyn and Mick Shepherd for volunteering to repaint the telephone box and to the Dulux Decorator Centre in Braintree for donating the paint.



SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK

Support Belchamp Walter Village Hall by shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk.

When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon will donate to Belchamp Walter Village Hall. Support us every time you shop.

BELCHAMP ST PAUL

BELCHAMP ST PAUL VILLAGE RAFFLE



I think we can safely say that our raffle was a great success. You helped to raise the sum of £746, an incredible amount.

This was shared equally between East Anglian Air Ambulance and St Andrews Church.

A very big thank you to everyone that donated prizes and/or bought tickets. Thanks also to Will Moore for the livestream

Belchamp St Paul PCC

THANK YOU... ..

Belchamp St Paul PCC are hugely grateful to Rob and Jo Jones and to Rob's business, the butchers Walter Smith Fine Foods, for their generous donation to Church funds at Christmas time. They gave 10% of the price of all Christmas orders taken by them in the village and the grand total amounted to £96. Thank you so much to Rob and Jo, and to all those villagers that helped by their purchases. The gift is especially valuable at the present time, bearing in mind that village church income has been heavily hit by the current pandemic.

OVINGTON NOTES

What an odd and difficult start to the new year. February sees us still in lockdown. St Mary's church is always open for people to pop in for private prayer. The benefice continues to hold service online every Sunday and Wednesday. You can find details on the website www.northhinckfordteam.org and on FaceBook, Twitter and YouTube.

Whilst we are unable to hold services in church at the moment, we still have to pay for the insurance for St Mary's, our parish share and our benefice monthly contribution. This is made very difficult as we are unable to do our usual fundraising events. We have been extremely fortunate to start 2021 year with the receipt of a donation to help us cover our costs, this is very encouraging. If you feel able to support your local church at this time please speak to Stephen Norris about ways to donate.

We hope to see you again soon.

On behalf of Ovington PCC



BELCHAMP OTTEN

“In January we held a moving funeral service for Mr John McCabe. A well-known member of the village who will be missed by many. Those who were unable to join the service, due to Covid restrictions, paid their respects to John and his family by lining the streets in the village as the cortege passed through. Our thoughts are with his family and loved ones.”

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 February 15th 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



Just a thought from Rev Paul.....

It just doesn't seem as if the days are really drawing out now, that we are coming out of the darkest days of winter towards the kinder seasons of the year, and even though Christmas and New Year are now behind us, Springtime and Easter seem a long way off. The cold and wet of winter seems unrelenting, as does the consequences of the pandemic upon our health, our communities, those we love and the economic prospects both locally and nationally. The message remains stark: "Things are going to continue to get worse before they start to get better" and the glimmer of hope offered by the prospect of mass vaccination has yet to become a definite beacon of expectation. We could be forgiven for thinking that we seemed to be marooned or trapped in a continuous saga of tragedy and some appear to be succumbing to those feelings with resignation, setting alarm bells ringing about the overall state of the nation's mental health.

But allowing ourselves to slip into gloom and darkness could be disastrous for us - as a species that thrives on light and the prospect of seeking out new and better ways of being and living, allowing ourselves to surrender to gloom and to slip back down a slope into darkness becomes a prospect that needs to be resisted with all the powers at our disposal. But let's not pretend that that is easily achieved and to find blessings and reasons to be joyful in these times, to start to have hope that climbing back upwards towards lighter and better times is a real possibility, requires effort and concentration of our parts. Perhaps the knack is that while accepting with realism the degree of difficulty and distress that we currently find ourselves in, and keeping all of that firmly in our vision so that we can be cautious regarding our own safety, and able to respond compassionately to the needs and tragedies of others, we need to be able to peer through that to perceive those important signs and actions that can lift our hearts – even if only to a tiny degree, a little at a time.

The signs and actions capable of doing that are likely to be found in or around the unselfish actions of other people towards one another, the small but constant sacrifices individuals are prepared to make, sometimes for the sake of complete strangers, or for communities they have never met or been part of. Foodbank donations, fundraising for those most at need, delivery services by volunteers, welfare checks made to ensure that those living alone are not forgotten or neglected and donated digital equipment to assist those children lacking formal teaching opportunities, but who also lack the resources to study online without the generosity of others. Set alongside the work of key workers and those whose work is centred upon serving the public and vulnerable groups in particular, these signs of our time might help to counter that air of despondency that threatens to overwhelm us.

Then, even if we remain conscious upon the reality of the scale of what currently faces us all, but also focussed upon those small glimmers of hope and light, perhaps we might

rediscover that well-remembered path that enables us to climb out of the darkness of midwinter and to set our sights on the distant but growing light and warmth of Springtime, and the deliverance, joy and freedom that the Easter Festival never fails to offer every one of us each year.

CONTACT US.....

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