

CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY 2021
in the Benefice of the Launditch & Upper Nar

As we move cautiously out of lock-down we are keeping a close watch on Government and Church of England advice. Despite a reduced Ministry Team in April and May we have tried to ensure that all our churches have a service of Holy Communion which is why the pattern of services might look quite different from our pre-Covid pattern. The Ministry Team will be working with the Churchwardens to establish a new and sustainable pattern of worship and hopefully by July we should be able to offer what will become our 'new normal': Look out for changes in times and Sundays in the weekly email or on the Benefice website.

**Links for joining online worship are sent on the benefice weekly email, or call clergy team. Details below.

SUNDAY 2nd May ~ Easter 5 (White)

Acts 8: 26-end | Psalm 22: 25-end | 1 John 4: 7-end | John 15: 1-8
10:00am at Online Service**

Friday 7th May at 8:00pm ~ Compline**

SUNDAY 9th May ~ Easter 6 (White)

Acts 10: 44-end | Psalm 98 | 1 John 5: 1-6 | John 15: 9-17

9:00am	Little Dunham	Iona Communion	Miriam Fife
9:30am	Longham	Holy Communion	Julia Hemp
10:00am	Online worship**		
10:15am	Litcham	Matins	Wardens
10:00am	Weasenham St Peter	Matins	Peter Brown
11:00am	Mileham	Matins	Tom Butler Stoney
11:15am	Gressenhall	Iona Communion	Julia Hemp

Thursday 13th May ~ Ascension Day (White)

7:00pm ~ Online Worship** - Shawn Tomlinson

Friday 14th May at 8:00pm ~ Compline**

SUNDAY 16th May ~ Easter 7 (White)

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end | Psalm 1 | 1 John 5: 9-13 | John 17: 6-19

9:15am	East Lexham	Holy Communion	Miriam Fife
9:15am	Great Fransham	Celtic Morning Prayer	Shawn Tomlinson
10:00am	West Lexham	Iona Communion	Julia Hemp
10:00am	Online Worship**		
10:15am	Litcham	Matins	John Blore
11:00am	Great Dunham	Iona Communion	Julia Hemp
11:00am	Stanfield	Iona Communion	Miriam Fife
11:00am	Mileham	Iona Communion	Shawn Tomlinson
4:30pm	Weasenham St Peter	Evensong	Peter Brown

Friday 21st at 8:00pm ~ Compline**

SUNDAY May 23rd ~ Pentecost (Red)

Acts 2: 1-21 | Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b | Romans 8: 22-27 | John 15: 26-27; 4b-15

9:00am	Little Dunham	Holy Communion	Shawn Tomlinson
10:00am	Weasenham St Peter	Holy Communion	Sally Theakston
10:00am	Online Worship**		
10:00am	Litcham	Holy Communion	Julia Hemp
11:00am	Rougham	Iona Communion	Miriam Fife
11:00am	Tittleshall Iona	Communion	Shawn Tomlinson
11:15am	Gressenhall	Celtic Morning Prayer	Julia Hemp
6:30pm	Mileham	Evening Prayer	Tom Butler Stoney

Friday 28th 8:00pm ~ Compline**

SUNDAY May 30th ~ Trinity Sunday (White)

Isaiah 6: 1-8 | Psalm 29 | Romans 8: 12-17 | John 3: 1-17

10:00am – Online Worship**

SUNDAY 6th June ~ Trinity 1 (Green)

Genesis 3: 8-15 Psalm 130 | 2 Corinthians 4: 13-5: 1 | Mark 3: 20-end

10:00am ~ Online Worship**

Revd Julia's Retirement Service

Please note that Reverend Julia's retirement service will be held at

St. Mary's, Gressenhall on June 27th at 10:30am

by which time we hope Covid restrictions will have been lifted.

***Online services** are easy to join, even if you have no experience with technical things. All you need is a computer or iPad/tablet and an email address. Links for joining online worship are sent in the Benefice weekly email. If you are unsure how to join, one of us will happily talk you through how to join in. If you do not have a computer, it is possible to listen in by phone.

Please contact one of the Clergy team (details below), we are here to help.

Enquiries should be directed to:

Revd Miriam Fife (Acting Team Rector)

The Rectory, Litcham Rd. Gt Dunham PE32 2LQ

Phone: 01328 700765 or email: miriam.fife@btinternet.com

or **Revd Julia Hemp** (Vicar)

The Vicarage, 4 Lodge Farm Meadows, Gressenhall, NR20 4TN

Phone 01362 861380 or email: reverendjulia@gmail.com

or **Revd Shawn Marie Tomlinson**, (Curate)

Email: mthrsawntomlinson@gmail.com

A full list of all services for the Upper Nar and Launditch group of parishes can be viewed or downloaded and printed from either

The Benefice website at launditch-upper-nar.org.uk/

the Litcham website, click on 'Services' in the Worship dropdown menu.

or ask to receive the weekly email which publishes up-to-date services.

CLYPPING THE CHURCH?

I was going through one of my books called Seasonal Worship from the Countryside. A gem of a book which the Rev'd Heather Butcher suggested I should have. In it I came across an ancient church service of which I knew nothing about and would indeed welcome any local knowledge that you may hold on this subject. The service is called Clypping the church. This caught my attention and although a service usually held on Easter Monday; in fact, the day in which I write this, I think it may well be a service worth reviving at another time, in the future when restrictions allow us. Let me explain why...

The word Clypping has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon meaning embrace or hugging. In this service the congregation and parishioners, adults and children alike form a ring around their parish church and embrace it, giving thanks for it and celebrating its role in the community.

What a wonderful sight this must have been, with prayers, singing and celebration as people gathered together for such a joyous occasion. So how can an ancient service like this be of any relevance to us today? As we are well aware, the constraints of social distancing as we protect our communities has meant that we cannot hug or touch others whilst we battle this monstrous virus. Having a tangible way of gathering when it is safe in the future, may be an important way to mark what has been a transformational year in our lives.

During this last year we have been acutely aware of our interdependence on one another and on our communities, but still many see our churches as being far removed from this daily reality, but it need not be so. Let us imagine our villages without churches, what loss that would be. Not only as historical buildings, but as sacred spaces where we can nurture our spirituality and a sense of the Divine. A place for contemplation, devotion, and renewal. A place where life and death are held as sacred, where tears of sadness and of deep joy are shed. A place where we as a community can gather and welcome all into our midst.

Could the 'hugging' of our churches begin a movement towards drawing us all as a community of hope as we gather again in our ancient buildings? I hope so. I have been so inspired by the fundraising efforts that are happening in our parishes which help keep our churches alive, do join in with these, we need your help, and maybe we will one day revive the service of Clypping the church, by then we will all need a good hug too!!!

Meanwhile would you consider holding your parish church in your heart, thoughts, and prayers as we face the future with hope.

A prayer for our parish churches

Almighty God

Our parish and church are made up of people like me.

Help me with others to make it what it is.

It will be friendly if I am.

It will be holy if I am.

It will do good works if I work.

It will be prayerful if I pray.

It will be generous as I am generous.

It will be a parish family of love, fearlessness and faith, compassion and mercy, if I am filled with the same qualities.

Almighty God help us all to form the community that you would have us be in our churches and beyond.

Amen

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