

MARCH EDITION

Sunday 2nd March – Sunday before Lent

This Sunday in our churches...

SUNG COMMUNION

9.15am

St Peter's East Bridgford

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-36



COMMUNION

11.00am

St Wilfrid's, Screveton

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-36



CELTIC EVENING PRAYER

5.00pm

Via Zoom

Exodus 3:1-6



For our prayers

- For those in positions of authority that they lead with integrity and honesty.
- For peace across our world—remembering particularly the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.
- For those who work in safeguarding in our churches.
- For churchwardens and PCCs as they prepare for the coming interregnum.
- For Sam and Lucy as they prepare for their wedding
- For all facing hardship, ill health, increasing frailty.
- For all those missing loved ones.

WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH 7pm

**ASH WEDNESDAY FG COMMUNION
 WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES**



ST PETER'S CHURCH, EAST BRIDGFORD

The Ash Wednesday service is the formal start to Lent and includes the tradition which has been passed down from ancient times of receiving a cross of ash on your forehead as a sign of turning away from sin, receiving forgiveness in Christ and setting our hearts on observing Lent through prayer, penitence, reading and self-denial.



Our Lent and Easter services and events are in the programme attached to this newsletter. We would love to see you at one of our services over this special time in our churches.

Exploring Christian Art Baptism & Wilderness



Friday 7th March at 7pm on Zoom
 Please contact
revruthcolby@gmail.com for joining details



MESSY MOTHERING SATURDAY 29th MARCH
 10am-12pm
 Flintham Village Hall

Join us for a morning of crafts and activities for families, ready for Mothering Sunday. All children must be accompanied.

To book your place email: sarah.hobbs@fossegroup.org.uk



March services

Sunday, 2nd March – SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

9.15am	Sung Communion	St Peter's, East Bridgford
11.00am	Communion	St Wilfrid's, Screveton
5.00pm	Celtic Evening Prayer	Zoom

Wednesday, 5th March– ASH WEDNESDAY

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
7.00pm	FG Communion with imposition of ashes	St Peter's, East Bridgford

Sunday 9th March – 1st SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00am	Pancakes & Praise	St Peter's, East Bridgford
10.00am	Morning Prayer (Lay led)	St Wilfrid's, Screveton
11.00am	BCP Said Communion	St Helen's, Kneeton

Wednesday, 12th March

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Friday, 14th March

7.00pm	Celtic Communion	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Sunday, 16th March – 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

9.15am	Sung Communion	St Peter's, East Bridgford
11.00am	Communion	St Mary's, Car Colston
6.00pm	Evensong	St Peter's, East Bridgford

Wednesday, 19th March

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Friday, 21st March

7.00pm	Celtic Communion	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Sunday, 23rd March – 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

9.15am	Sung Communion	St Peter's, East Bridgford
11.00am	Communion	St Augustine's, Flintham

Wednesday, 26th March

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Friday, 28th March

7.00pm	Celtic Communion	St Mary's, Car Colston
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Sunday, 30th March – MOTHERING SUNDAY (4th SUNDAY OF LENT)

10.00am	FG All-age Mothering Sunday Service with communion	
		St Peter's, East Bridgford

BCP= Book of Common Prayer; CW = Common Worship

www.fossegroup.org.uk

Thoughts from the Rectory – March 2025

It seems as if the news is increasingly full of tragedy- tragedy on an enormous scale.

We have just passed the 3rd anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. At the beginning of February one source estimated the total death toll of soldiers on both sides, as well as Ukrainian civilians to be 147,459, with many more wounded and traumatised.

And although as I write this, a fragile cease-fire is in place in Gaza, in early January it was reported that over 47,000 people – 45,936 Palestinian and 1,706 Israeli- have been killed in that conflict. It is estimated that 80% of Palestinians killed were civilians, and 70% of those were women and children. The level of devastation of the built environment, and the structures that provide essential services is breathtaking. Tragedy on an enormous scale.

We live in an age when we can end up suffering with what is now termed 'Compassion fatigue', and what we mustn't do is allow ourselves to be neutralised into inaction and indifference in the face of tragedy of such enormous proportions, but activated to support in any way we realistically can.

However, for some there is an equal risk that we just become overwhelmed and feel helpless.

I don't know if you pray or have even thought about praying when you are overwhelmed - either on your own behalf or on behalf of others, but what Jesus did when he was overwhelmed was to retreat to a quiet place to reset and recenter himself before acting. For Jesus it was in prayer that he brought his challenges, his burdens and the burdens he felt for others to his Heavenly Father. When Jesus then acted, it came from a place of compassion, having begun with prayer, to respond and help those in need. When his followers, the disciples, asked him how they might pray too, so that they could respond in the same way, he gave them the words we now call 'The Lord's Prayer'.

When what we see on our TV screens and social media news feeds leaves us feeling overwhelmed and helpless, or neutralized into inaction, then perhaps prayer might be helpful for us too. And when we have no words, what could be better than the words Jesus gave us to pray, so that we too can respond from a place of compassion.

Sometimes all we can do is pray – but prayer is also the best we can give.

Let's pray this month in hope for lasting peace to come across our world.

Every Blessing for March

Ruth



A letter from Revd Ruth

Dear Friends,

On 9th February I announced my intention to retire from full-time ministry and therefore as your Rector at the end of April. This has not been an easy decision to make as I still feel I have much to give, but it is the right time to go so that Mark and I can spend more time with family.



I have been incredibly blessed through my ministry among you over the last 5 1/2 years. It has been a privilege to lead worship in our 5 churches across the Fosse Group, to guide the parishes through a pandemic, the like of which we have not seen in over a generation, to mourn the passing of our late Queen with you, to walk beside many of you through life events—christenings, weddings and funerals and to provide support for many through the challenges of life.

I have found ministry in our schools and amongst the children and families I have had contact with to be a particular privilege and I hope that I have been able to encourage many in their individual faith journeys.

As Mark and I leave to start a new chapter of our lives in nearby Rutland, I pray that you will not be without a Rector for long and I feel sure God is holding you all in his hands as you seek, appoint and welcome my successor.

I hope to see as many of you as possible before I leave on 27th April at our Lent and Easter services.

With every blessing for the future

Revd Ruth

No doubt many of you will have heard the news that Rev Ruth is retiring as Rector of the Fosse Group from the end of April 2025.

Whilst we wish Rev Ruth a long and happy retirement we are extremely sorry to see her go. Ruth's warm and generous Ministry over the last five years has enthused and enabled us to grow as a group of churches and has ensured that we are in a strong and settled position going forward.

Inevitably as we look ahead to what is generally known as an 'Interregnum' (the period of time before the appointment of the new Rector) everything is suddenly thrown into sharp relief and there is much to consider. As churchwardens we are required to undertake more responsibilities to ensure among other things that worship, pastoral care and mission continue. The three of us are committed to working together collaboratively to fulfil these responsibilities. We intend meeting regularly from now on to plan ahead and will keep you informed and updated. The various steps in the process mean that it normally takes many months to complete – an interregnum will often be for a duration of at least nine months. Please contact any one of us if you have questions or concerns.

The Interregnum provides us with a positive opportunity to reach out to the wider community for help and support, unlocking skills and talents which will contribute to our church life. It is also a time for full and honest reflection as we celebrate the strengths of our churches whilst also recognising that changes may be necessary.

We have agreed that the monthly Fosse Group News will continue during the Interregnum as an important means of communication. Please also keep a look out on our noticeboards and on social media for details of services and explanations of the appointment process as it proceeds.

It is with optimism and confidence that we embark on this new chapter and with your help we look forward to discerning what the future holds for the Fosse Group.

Beryl Cottrill, Mandy Beeby, Gill Bignall

Churchwardens, The Fosse Group

News from our parishes...



News from the Parish of Car Colston and Screveton

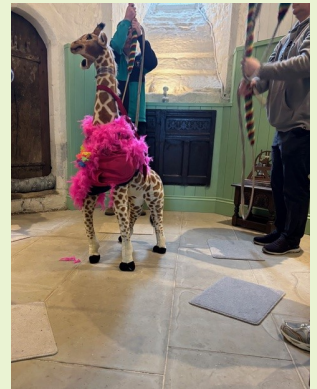
At **St Mary's** we were looking forward to getting back to normal in February following all the activity and excitement surrounding Burns Night. However, little did we know what was to come and the news that landed on Sunday 9th February resulted in what might be described as another sharp uptick in levels of activity as we try to adjust to the new normal!

The month began quietly enough with the Parish Lunch held in Car Colston. These monthly lunches are well supported and provide a marvelous opportunity for people to gather together and enjoy fellowship across the Fosse Group.



We have been waiting patiently for the restoration work on **St Mary's** small west tower room window to be undertaken. The window was removed by specialists a few weeks ago and we are delighted to report that the repairs have been expertly completed and the window restored to its former glory.

The month ended on a high last Saturday morning as we welcomed about 40 bell-ringers from the Not-



tingham University Society of Change Ringers. The group was mainly undergraduates but also included alumni and their families. Together with their mascot 'Geraldine the Giraffe' they were a lively group and their visit was great fun. For those well versed in bellringing terms the rounds, call changes and methods included 'London' 'Norwich' 'Cambridge' and 'Bob Doubles'. The standard of ringing was very high and the youngest ringer was only nine years old! We hope they will come and see us again.



St Mary's Dates for your diary in March

Sunday 16th – Communion Service 11am

Tuesday 18th Mustard Seed Meeting at Car Colston 2pm

Friday 28th – Celtic Communion 7pm

**Wednesday 12, 19 & 26 March and 2 & 9 April 2025
2pm at the Methodist Church, East Bridgford**

**The Fosse Group &
East Bridgford Methodist
Church**

Calling a Wounded Earth Home

LENT COURSE

**Further details from:
Revd Ruth email revruthcolby@gmail.com
or tel 01636 924383**

or Revd Tim Morris email revtimmorris@aol.com or tel 01949 837330

2025

News from our parishes...



News from the Parish of Car Colston and Screveton

News from St Wilfrid's church

Rev Ruth's announcement to retire from the end of April was a shock to us all but her legacy for St Wilfrids will live long after her departure from the Fosse Group. Her hard work to encourage us to widen our ideas for services such as our now well-established Lay-led service; as well as continuing to celebrate our special services such as Plough Sunday; Ruth will be greatly missed by St Wilfrids.

On this note as Churchwarden; I met with other CWs to ensure that our range of services and celebrations will continue during interregnum using invited Clergy to take our monthly Communion and encourage our members of the congregation to contribute to the lay-led services more. PLEASE note that service times and order may vary to accommodate all the Fosse Churches using visiting clergy.

A very generous gift from the Men in Sheds! They have renovated and donated a mower to help maintain St Wilfrids churchyard. Kev Bryant has been instrumental in this and perhaps will set up a mowing rota from our lovely Screveton inhabitants. Thank you!

Spring is in the air and it is lovely to see all the flowers coming up – snowdrops, crocus and daffodils are looking splendid. Please come, sit and enjoy the peace and beauty of our churchyard or inside the church which is always open.



Fundraising – after the success of the Burns Evening held in Screveton and Car Colston village hall at the end of January; we are pleased to advise that St Wilfrids and St Mary's (our parish) received £392 (being half with the Village Hall share) – thank you to all who supported this fun evening. It will contribute greatly to the upkeep of St W, gas bottles, electricity bills and insurance.



Our Lent and Easter services and events are in the programme attached to this newsletter. We would love to see you at one of our services over this special time in our churches.

News from St Peter's church



ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

The first churchyard working party of the year will be on **SATURDAY, MARCH 8th**.

Someone will be there from 9.00am onwards but come when you can for as long or as short a time as you can spare.

There is lots of tidying to do, but it's mainly removing all the Christmas wreaths from the graves and pulling them apart to recycle them, with our ECO Church hats on. Gardening gloves will help and if you have wire cutters bring them too. It is surprising how much fine wire is wrapped around some of the wreaths! Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided at about 10.00. It would be lovely to see you, even if it is only for half an hour.

ECO REMINDER

Eat locally grown food

- Could you shop locally for your food?
- Find a local supplier?
- Work an allotment?
- Find a friendly allotmenteer?

Every little helps

This year, the snowdrops and primroses are looking lovely in the churchyard and a welcome sight after a long grey cold winter—even the daffodils are thinking about blooming.



Pancakes & Praise

Sunday 9th March

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

10am

St Peter's, East Bridgford

DIARY

correct at time of going to press
For all church services see page 2

Monday 3rd March

St Peter's Bellringers, 7.30–9pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Thursday 6th March

St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

Funeral of Philip Frost, 1pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

St Peter's Choir practice, 6.30pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

St Peter's Fundraising meeting, 7pm, Royal Oak, East Bridgford

Friday 7th March

Exploring Christian Art, 7pm, via Zoom

Saturday 8th March

Wedding rehearsal, Sam Heyhoe & Lucy Doxey, 6pm, St Wilfrid's, Screveton

Sunday 9th March

Christian Youth Group, 5.30pm–7pm, East Bridgford Methodist Church

Monday 10th March

Ministry Team Meeting, 2pm, Kneeton Road, East Bridgford

St Peter's Bellringers, 7.30–9pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Wednesday 12th March

Lent course, 2pm, East Bridgford Methodist Church

Thursday 13th March

St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

Funeral, Blake Minton, 1.30pm, St Augustine's, Flintham

St Peter's Choir practice, 6.30pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Deanery Synod, 7pm, Aslockton

Friday 14th March

Wedding of Sam Heyhoe and Lucy Doxey, 12pm, St Wilfrid's, Screveton

Funeral of Shirley Waring, 3.45pm, Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium

Celtic Communion, 7pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Monday 17th March

St Peter's Bellringers, 7.30–9pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Tuesday 18th March

Mustard Seed Prayer Group, 2pm–3pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

Wednesday 19th March

Lent course, 2pm, East Bridgford Methodist Church

Thursday 20th March

Funeral, Chris Brooks, 12pm, St Mary the Virgin, Bottesford,

St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

Messy Church, 3.15–4.45pm, East Bridgford Methodist Church

St Peter's Choir practice, 6.30pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Friday 21st March

Celtic Communion, 7pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Saturday 22nd March

District Ringing Practice, 10am–12pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Monday 27th March

St Peter's Bellringers, 7.30–9pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

CONTACTS

The Vicarage, Woods Lane,
Flintham, NG23 5LR

Tel: 01636 924383

email: revruthcolby@gmail.com

Please Note:

Revd Ruth's day off is

Tuesday

Rector:

Revd Ruth Colby

Administrator:

Sherry Rudman

email: office@fossegroup.org.uk

Safeguarding

Any concerns about
safeguarding should be
directed to the Parish
Safeguarding Officers

Peter Golightly

Tel: **07768 401406**

email:

pgolightly@btinternet.com

Mandy Beeby

Tel: **07850 085055** email:

mandy@rbeeby.co.uk

Wednesday 26th March

Lent course, 2–3pm, East Bridgford Methodist Church

Pancakes and Praise planning meeting, 8–9pm, Main Street, EB

Thursday 27th March

St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

Car Colston, Screveton, Flintham
Mother's Union, 2pm–3.30pm,

St Peter's Choir practice, 6.30pm,
St Peter's, East Bridgford

Friday 28th March

Celtic Communion, 7pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

Saturday 29th March

Messy Mothering Saturday,
10am–12pm, Flintham Village Hall

Monday 31st March

PCC meeting, East Bridgford,
Flintham & Kneeton, 6.30–8.30pm,
St Peter's, East Bridgford