

Dereham, Scarning,
East Bilney, Hoe,



Swanton Morley, Beetley with
Shipdham and Bradenham

This Week in our Churches

Week beginning 21st December, 2025

Sunday 21st Fourth Sunday Of Advent	8.00am	Holy Communion	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Dereham	The Ven A Hawes
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Beetley	The Revd P Cubitt
	11.15am	Morning Praise	Shipdham	Mr M Purnell
	11.15am	Parish Communion	Swanton Morley	The Revd J Fernando
	3.30pm	Candlelit Lessons and Carols, E Bilney	The Revd M Newey & Mrs L Crick	The Revd C Prouse
	4.00pm	Christingle	Scarning	The Revd P Cubitt
	6.00pm	Informal Carol Service	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt
	6.00pm	Carols by candlelight & Community Choir, Shipdham		The Revd D Fotherby
				The Revd L Purnell
Mon 22nd	9.30am	Outdoor working party	Dereham	
	10.30am	Interment of Ashes	Swanton Morley	The Revd P Cubitt
	7.00pm	Longest Night	Shipdham	The Revd L Purnell
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	Dereham	
Tue 23rd	11.00am	Memorial Service for Alf Webdale, Scarning		The Revd P Cubitt
	7.00pm	Alpha Course		Mark & Ruth Thorpe
Wed 24th	9-11am	Open church	Shipdham	
	11.30am	Holy Communion	Shipdham	The Ven A Hawes
	3.30pm	Christingle	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt
	4.00pm	Christingle	Swanton Morley	The Revd M Newey
	4.00pm	Crib Service	Shipdham	Mrs L Crick
	5.00pm	Christingle	Dereham	The Revd L Purnell
	6.00pm	Christingle	Beetley	The Revd P Cubitt
	10.00pm	'Bethlehem Midnight' Communion, Scarning,		The Revd M Newey
	10.00pm	'Bethlehem Midnight' Communion, Hoe		The Revd L Purnell
	10.00pm	'Bethlehem Midnight' Communion, Bradenham		The Bishop of Lynn
				The Revd P Cubitt
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Dereham	The Revd L Purnell
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Shipdham	The Revd M Newey
Thur 25th	8.00am	Holy Communion	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt
	9.00am	Christmas Communion	E Bilney	The Revd D Ackroyd
	10.00am	Christmas Communion	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt
	10.00am	Christmas Communion	Shipdham	The Revd M Newey
	10.30am	Christmas Communion	Swanton Morley	The Revd L Purnell
				The Revd D Ackroyd

Sunday 28th	9.30am	Parish Communion	Dereham	The Revd P Cubitt
	9.30am	Parish Communion (BCP)	Benefice Service	
			Hoe	The Ven A Hawes
	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bradenham	The Revd L Purnell
	11.15am	Carol Praise	Scarning	The Revd J Fernando
	6.00pm	Compline, see via Facebook.		

News for the Pews

New Year's Day Lunch

I am hosting a fund raising curry buffet lunch and drinks party on 1st January, 12-3 pm at home, (Sheddick Court). Numbers limited to 20 persons. Your kind donation of a minimum of £20 per person will go towards St Nicholas Church funds, a deposit of £10.00 will secure your place. All welcome, David Song.
Contact David on 07497 629459 by 25th December. Together we can do it.

All Saints, Swanton Morley, Epiphany Bring & Share lunch.

Sunday January 4th will be Epiphany Sunday. This marks the end of the Christmas season when we remember the visit of the Wise Men to honour the young King – Jesus Christ.

It will be good to celebrate this event along with the New Year, by sharing lunch together following the 11:15 morning service, to start between 12.30 & 1pm. We welcome anyone to come along for a simple meal of 'finger food' – e.g. sandwiches, sausages, cheese straws, vegetable sticks with dips and fruit. Please can everyone bring just one plateful per person to share. Teas, coffees and soft drinks will be provided.

Scarning Coffee Morning January 2026

Please note that our coffee morning in January is on the second Saturday (10 January) rather than the first Saturday. We will return to our normal first Saturday pattern for the rest of the year. Our coffee mornings are in Scarning Village Hall from 10am to noon, with bacon butties, cakes, good company and a chance for a good old Norfolk mardle. Please come along. With all good wishes for 2026 from Scarning.

St. Nicholas Christmas Tree Festival results

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our festival this year. Those of you who stewarded, gave or sold raffle tickets, served refreshments, made cakes and scones, washed up, provided the musical accompaniment, counted money, tidied up the church and cleaned everywhere at the end. Thank you also if you donated in cash or on the Sum Up.

We had 39 Christmas Trees this year, ten more than in 2024 and had five stalls at the weekend. We held a preview event for the participants attended by the Dereham Mayor.

We advertised on Radio Norfolk, in the EDP and Dereham Times, on About Dereham, Facebook, and on Posters round the area.

1781 visitors were counted in.

20 bottles of Mulled Wine were consumed.

We raised over £7500 to be split between Dereham Meeting Point and our Toilet project.

Special thanks must go to Susanne and David Warner, Val McRoberts, Anne Eccleshall, Martin and Carol Hajee and Sarah Dutt, who counted the money each day for us. Brilliant teamwork!! Thank you, Lynn.

Are you familiar with the **Benefice Website**? –

<http://derehamanddistrictteam.org.uk>

This will have details of all the services within the benefice and events taking place plus much more.

Did you know there is a **Norfolk Home Library Service**? They can deliver books and other media to your home completely free of charge to anyone housebound of any age. To access this service, contact Norfolk Library on 01603 774777 (Option 1) or email

libraries@norfolk.gov.uk

Breckland Council is distributing free '**Warm Packs**' to local residents to help them stay warm and well this winter. Residents will not need to register or meet any eligibility criteria to receive comforting items, such as blankets, insulated cups, slipper socks and soups (while stocks last), to help them during the colder months. Packs can be collected from Green Pastures, Wellspring, Dereham Cancer Care and Meeting Point.

Best wishes for Christmas from Ann Betts, she would love to have a visit from anyone that has time.

Recently departed : Alf Webdale.

For our prayers: Jenny Taylor, Sylvia Blacker, Jean Fairweather, Keith Otty, Cheryl Lister, Pat Dodson, Doug Speed, Ong Song, Pat & Brian Ogden, Peter Hunt, Val Stebbings, Ann Betts, Baby Forrest, Irene & John Farrall, June Burleigh, Barbara Beckett, Maureen & Peter Hart, Robin & Joan Loveday, Tommy Barnes, Sandra Newton, Melva Brunning, Pam Walker and Margaret Travis, also Chris and Ivy.

Prayers and Collects

Invitation to Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in
darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Introductory sentence for the Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
cf Luke 1.78,79

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in
glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Our Clergy

Team Rector
The Rev'd Canon Paul Cubitt
tel 694107
teamrector.dereham@gmail.com
rest day Monday

Team Vicar
The Rev'd Laura Purnell
revlaurapurnell@gmail.com
tel 821249
rest day Friday

Assistant Curate (Part time)
The Revd Michael Newey
assistantcurate.dereham@gmail.com
07955 703596

*The Revd Michael will continue to
work full time, but will be in the
Benefice on Sundays.*

The Rev'd Doreen Fotherby
tel 01362 821481

The Rev'd Carole Prouse
tel 01362 423408

This week's readings – two from
Isaiah 7.10-16
Romans 1.1-7
Matthew 1.18-25
Psalms 80. 1-8, 18-20

Next week's readings from
Isaiah 63.7-9
Hebrews 2.10-18
Matthew 2.13-23

Church Office, Church House, Church Street, Dereham, NR19 1DN
Telephone 01362 693143 email: parish.office.dereham@gmail.com
Website: <http://derehamanddistrictteam.org.uk>

**Benefice Newsletter items: derehamanddistrictteam@gmail.com
deadline 11am Tuesday**