

The Newsletter for the United Benefice of Hallaton and Allexton,
with Horninghold, Tugby, East Norton, and Slawston

Church in Lockdown

Two years ago I was appointed as 'Transition Priest in the Hallaton Benefice'. It is very difficult to think that my time here is nearly at an end and I will finish at the end of August, my last Sunday being the 30th. We are then moving to a house in Market Harborough so no doubt you will not have seen the last of me.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being here with you and getting to know yet another lovely Christian family, little thinking that my last six months here would be in such very unusual circumstances.



On the 30th of August there will be a Deanery Zoom service at 4pm at which I will be preaching. Do join us even if you haven't zoomed before. An invitation will go out the week before. If you don't receive one then please do ask.

Our weekly zoom services have been going very well with lots of different people taking part. Obviously, it isn't the same as meeting up in our own country churches but there have been a lot of positives. One of the positives has been that the six churches have come together in a way that I could never have anticipated. The other is seeing people join us who previously hadn't worshipped with us regularly Sunday by Sunday, including some who would have found it difficult to come to a church service but can happily join us from the comfort of their own sitting rooms.

If you haven't ventured into a zoom service, do come and join us. It isn't difficult and the service is much shorter than we would normally have.

One of the tasks I have undertaken during my time here has been the editing and printing of Hexad, so this will be my penultimate issue. After that I do hope that someone will come forward to volunteer to take over. Maybe You!!

Priest in Charge: Rev Canon Cynthia Thomson

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www.ourbenefice.btck.co.uk



Lockdown : Around the Villages



Horninghold

In this fourth month of lockdown we are happy to report that here in Horninghold we remain healthy, happy and hopeful. The children in our village are enjoying their summer holidays and we do commend them, and their parents, for their perseverance with home schooling. The swopped lockdown plants are flowering and fruiting in their new gardens and the

jigsaw library continues to be enjoyed as does our Saturday evening 'Chatalong' (the singing has disappeared but we still gather outside at 7.00pm).

Our church bells have rung twice recently in celebration. On 30th June they rang to celebrate the long life of a former Horninghold resident, Mrs Margaret Grant. As we mentioned last month she was buried in the churchyard where a short service took place in the open air, with the sun shining and birds singing. It was a small gathering, as required in the present circumstances, but those who attended said how very appropriate it was.

Then on 18th July the bells were rung again, this time to celebrate the marriage that day of Henry Richards and Olivia Manca at a very small ceremony in the Brompton Oratory, London. Henry was born and brought up in Horninghold. They had planned to be married in Hallaton with a reception at Henry's home in Horninghold. However the pandemic restrictions changed the arrangements but they look forward to a blessing service in St Michael and All Angels, Hallaton in May 2021,

Tugby School

The end of their time at Tugby School was very different for the Class of 2020. Normally there would be Prize Day in the Village Hall, Sports Day on the school playing field and the end of year Concert and Service in the Church. However thanks to the wonderful staff at the school these have still taken place, although slightly differently and they can be seen on the Tugby C of E School website. We wish all the "Lockdown Leavers" every success and happiness at their new schools.



Slawston



Spirits are good in Slawston as the lockdown is easing, and we are able to get together more easily with family and friends, and even go away for a restorative change of scenery.

Some have been able to join the Benefice Zoom Church Services with Cynthia on Sunday mornings at 10.30am—we are getting better at the techy stuff!!

The village WhatsApp and Email links continue to keep us all informed and

entertained and in touch, for which we are grateful, and Chef Kyriakos and Chief Pot boy Lee thankfully haven't tired yet of providing us with an ever varied array of delicious Greek dishes.

Thank you to Janie and Geoff who planted the beautiful roses in front of the churchyard wall last autumn, which look lovely, and we hope that we will enjoy them for years to come, and thank you to William and the rota for keeping the churchyard mown.

We clapped for the birthday of the NHS recently, and it was good to get out and show our appreciation again.

A sad and mindless act of vandalism saw Honeypot Barn burnt down early in July—the site of our village barn dance in 2018, and where we had hoped to hold another this year, postponed to 2021 due to Covid 19. A dreadful waste of a good barn and time, effort and materials, as well as the resources of the local fire brigades. Luckily no livestock were in the barn.

The **East Norton** congregation continues to keep in touch with each other informally as sunny afternoons in our gardens permit. We look forward to welcoming new residents to our hospitable and friendly community in due course as a small number of properties are currently on the market. The churchyard continues to look extremely well cared for, and we look forward to sharing our church with visitors again in due course.



Spire Hire

Garden Pavilion 6m x 3m for £10, plus cutlery set (100 place) for £4.

Call Katie Holmes on 0158 555664 or email k.holmes@horninghold.org.uk

Hallaton

We are delighted to say that the Church is now open daily for private prayer. We have put measures in place to ensure that all visitors can safely enjoy a moment's peace in these strange times. Please help us by observing the restrictions:

- Enter through the South door and exit through the North door
- Use only the front two pews, wiping any areas you touch with the wipes available
- Use hand sanitizer on entry and exit
- Leave contact details in the visitors' book
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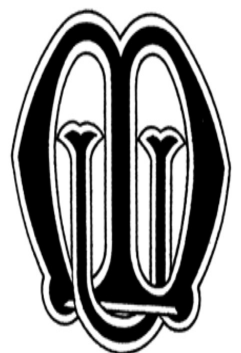
We have made the decision not to hold services at the moment as it is not permitted to sing. However, please do join us on Sunday mornings on zoom. The service is about 30 minutes long. Please contact Victoria if you would like the link (victoriabuckingham1@gmail.com).



The Hallaton Group Mothers' Union

We shall be having our usual **August break**. In July we had two very informal gatherings both conforming rigidly to Covid 19 guidelines. One, with 6 present and socially distanced, was in Joyce Hanson's glorious garden in **East Norton**. The other, also with 6 members, was on Tugby Green. At both it was a delight to meet each other in person and for some it was their first venture out into the new world.

At East Norton within the space of an hour we almost put the world to rights as well as learning the Songs Of Praise top 10 hymns (we guessed correctly 5 of them!) and hearing about the amazing work of the Mothers' Union in Sudan where members are being given skills in literacy and the ability to budget. We learnt that the 'Away From it All Holidays', which we support, for Leicester families in special need has been postponed to next year (Covid 19 permitting). We had a very happy hour together and are grateful to Joyce for providing such a lovely venue.



In **Tugby** it was very pleasant to sit on the village green. Our conversation took on a local historical theme and, prompted by the venue, we discussed previous water wells situated on the green, seven in total. The name of the road bordering the green "Wellfield Close" does not come as a surprise. Several passers by showed interest in our gathering and gave a cheery wave.

In relation to the discussion in East Norton, by chance one of our members was present at the Songs of Praise top ten hymns at De Montfort Hall last year.

We enjoyed the Tugby experience but look forward to resuming our normal meetings as soon as the virus permits.

A message from the Warden:

Looking for a place to pray, to recharge, to recover your perspective in the midst of these challenging and painful times? Launde Abbey is opening the doors once again and we're looking forward to welcoming you back.



From 1st August we're going to "fling wide the gates and open the ancient doors" (in the words of Psalm 24) so we can once again offer you a chance to experience the peace, tranquility, hospitality and prayerfulness of Launde - with the assurance of our gold-standard [Keeping You Safe](#) programme so we all stay healthy and well.

For more details of all that is available at Launde visit: <https://laundeabbey.org.uk/>



A Personal Reflection on Life During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Having been asked at short notice to write an article for Hexad, reflecting on my experiences during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, I thought it would be a straight-forward undertaking – WRONG! Much of my recollection of this terrible pandemic will forever be coloured by my working life as a front-line NHS hospital nurse.

Some of the things I have experienced, cannot be shared due to stringent laws of confidentiality, but suffice to say, I would gladly erase them from memory if I could. I love being a nurse and have always looked forward to each new day of work. The pandemic has dulled that sense of excitement and for the first time in more than 40 years, I face each day with fear and in trepidation.

However, I am mindful of the terrible ways in which the virus has affected others and the huge changes to daily life it has made for everyone. Rather than dwelling on some of *my* sad experiences, I thought I would share some of the things that have raised my spirits and given some happy moments amidst the darkness :-

I'm a bit of a technophobe but have learned new skills to keep me connected to the outside world, which has made me feel less isolated. The use of 'duo' has allowed me to see friends and family in Wales. I've also been able to use this at work, enabling patients and their loved ones to connect with each other, when visiting in person has been forbidden. A great joy for me was being able to help an elderly female patient to 'see' her husband on their wedding anniversary. It was a struggle to keep at bay the huge lump in my throat, seeing the love in her eyes as she spoke to her husband of 70 years.

Through the medium of 'zoom' I've been able to join in our virtual church meetings; a virtual hospital choir and even set up a weekly craft & natter session with a friend (recently widowed and also shielding). I'm learning the new skill of patchwork and quilting through this.

Thanks to the amazing home delivery drivers, I received a supply of bird food (and no, I haven't resorted to a diet of fat balls and trill!). This has enabled me to enjoy a variety of feathered friends visiting my small garden. I've watched a pair of robins and a pair of blackbirds feed their incessantly hungry brood. I've seen nuthatches, tree-creepers, green woodpeckers and a lesser spotted woodpecker.

After a gruelling shift one night, when sleep evaded me, I walked in the wee small hours and heard, for the first time since living in Tugby, the beautiful song of a nightingale. I can't describe how that song, for some reason, filled me with hope.

One weekend, again busy and emotionally draining I arrived home not looking forward to making a meal. My doorbell rang and my amazing next-door-but-one neighbours stood at a safe distance, depositing an amazing roast dinner and glass of wine. I think I diluted the wine with tears – I was so touched by this act of kindness.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Thursday night clap for carers – I hope you all realise how much it raised the spirits of us front-line carers. However I clapped too – but for all the teachers (would be and acting), for all the other emergency services, for the delivery men who kept us all fed and watered but most of all for all of you who observed the government advice and sacrificed so much by staying home, keeping safe, thereby reducing the workload of emergency services.

Finally, as things become a little more relaxed, I believe we can dare to have great hope for the future, if we can learn from what we've all experienced. Let's continue to look after and care for one another and KEEP SAFE.

Julie Jones Tugby

The Knot Prayer

Dear God

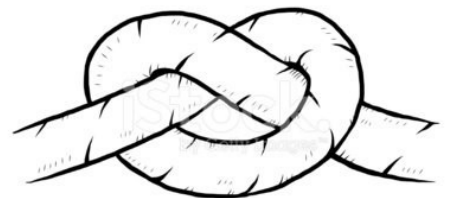
Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, and might nots that find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life. And most of all, Dear God,

I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life ALL of the am nots that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough.



Prayers in Lockdown



The Church of England has produced a booklet, 'Prayers for use during the CoronaVirus outbreak'. It can be downloaded from: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

A prayer for the Christian Community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.
Amen

The Diocesan web page : <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/>
shares a new video message from Bishop Martyn every week as well as on their Facebook, Twitter and Youtube channels

Local papers are publishing details of local on line services

The Church of England web page <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online> has a weekly streamed Sunday Service.



Safeguarding- children, young people and vulnerable adults

The Benefice is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Benefice co-ordinator is Jane Anne Gore Brown who may be contacted on janeannegb@yahoo.com or on 01162598382.

Our Benefice website: ourbenefice.btck.co.uk/safeguard lists the parish contacts.

Horninghold Church Restoration Project: SPIRE

If you buy items from AMAZON then please go to our website www.horninghold.org.uk and click the Amazon link at the bottom of the Home Page. No effect upon the price you pay, but our Church Restoration Fund will earn commission on every purchase made