

MARCH and APRIL SERVICE ROTA

As we continue to be in lockdown, we are planning what we hope will be services and events that help us to celebrate Lent and Easter. We believe that we can meet safely in person and believe that as the numbers of cases fall and the numbers vaccinated rises, this becomes even safer. We will of course continue to share our services and events online (Facebook and YouTube) as often as we can.

Feel free to contact Revd. Neil with any questions or comments on this approach.

14th March Mothering Sunday	11am: Mothering Sunday in person worship	Colsterworth
28th March Palm Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11am: Palm Sunday in person worship • 2pm Bible story for children 	Colsterworth
Holy Week Monday (29th March)	2pm: Bible story for children (online only)	Online
Holy Week Tuesday (30th March)	2pm: Bible story for children (online only)	Online
Holy Week Wednesday (31st March)	2pm: Bible story for children (online only)	Online
Maundy Thursday (1st April)	2pm: Bible story for children (online only)	Online
Good Friday (2nd April)	• 10am: Outreach activity (cake might be involved)	Colsterworth
	• 2pm: Bible story for children (online only)	Online
	• 3pm: Easter reflection (online only)	Online
4th April Easter Sunday	6am Sunrise service 11am Easter Sunday Holy Communion in person worship	Colsterworth
13th May Ascension Day	Ascension Day Celebration in person worship	TBC
23rd May Pentecost	11am: Pentecost Celebration in person worship	TBC

My prayer is that the love of God finds you, and surrounds you, and draws you closer to God's heart, so that you know just how very special and loved you are. **Amen**

Useful Contact Information:

Rev. Neil Griffiths - 01476 860630 email: neilgriffiths01@btinternet.com

Jo Castro (Group Administrator) – 01476 569817 email: jo@colsterworth5.org.uk

The Churchwardens: Colsterworth Peter Wheatley 07765 126402 Peter Smith 01476 860218

Stoke Rochford Neil McCorquodale 07836 707600 Jo Burroughs 01476 530359 Great Ponton Bryan Bargh 01476 530273 Skillington Graham Page 01476 330281 Little Ponton George McCorquodale 07876 653704, Gunby TBC Stainby Dr. Fiona Beddoes Jones 07950 337099,

How to keep up to date with events and services:

<https://www.facebook.com/ColsterworthGroupofChurches>, www.colsterworth5.org.uk

QUINTET NEWS

**Colsterworth, Skillington, Great Ponton, Stoke Rochford with Easton,
Little Ponton with Woodnook, Stainby and Gunby**

MARCH and APRIL 2021

Dear friends

As followers of Jesus, Christians have always looked forward to being able to celebrate the events of Easter Sunday some 2000 years ago. Having been unable to do so in 2020, this somehow feels even more important this year.

Whilst this is true for me and I am sure for many others across our communities, for others, and maybe even for you, the events of Easter 2000 years ago are at best a fairy story or a legend or a myth, but not worth worrying about.

This year, instead of letting Easter pass you by, maybe with the exception of Hot Cross Buns and Chocolate eggs, I would like to ask that you engage with the meaning of the most important story that has ever been told.

God loves you, more than you will ever know, and wants you to return that love, forever. To show us how much we are loved, God sent his only son Jesus, which we celebrate each year at Christmas. Easter is when Jesus' life seems to come to an end, with an immense show of love, but this is love so strong that even death can't keep it contained.

Most of us recognise that our lives are not perfect, and most of us also recognise that forgiveness is good for us and for others. God offers us forgiveness for all that we have done, and this is freely available to us because of the price paid by Jesus Christ when he was crucified.

Saint John wrote these words in his gospel, some 2000 years ago, "God so loved the world that He gave his only son, so that all who believe might have eternal life." We are all loved so much that there is nothing that God won't do to show us, even allowing Jesus to die at Easter so long ago.

I would encourage you to try to find the time to hear this story again, it might be the best thing you ever do.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our services or events listed on the back page.

with love and prayers, Revd. Neil



STOKE ROCHFORD AND EASTON

It seems rather strange to be asked to write news of past and future events for the Quintet when nothing much has happened in the last 12 months and we do not have any plans for events in the near future. So I thought I would mention 5 positive things that have happened in amongst all the doom and gloom of recent months

1 The virus

As far as I know in Stoke Rochford and Easton we have had only a few confirmed cases of Covid 19 and no one has been in hospital because if it. Everyone has been very sensible, they have stuck to the guidelines and it appears to have paid off. We now have some people receiving the vaccination so hopefully soon we can soon return to normal life.

2 Dunkirk spirit

The restrictions have had a huge impact on all our lives. But they have also had a positive effect of pulling everyone together to fight the invisible enemy in our midst. Community spirit has come to the fore in difficult circumstances and we have all joined together to thank our wonderful NHS.

3 Friends, family and loved ones

One of the biggest issues has been not being able to see friends, family and loved ones. This has been really hard at times, but when it is all over and we can all meet again I am sure we will appreciate each other even more.

4 Church roof

Before our lead was stolen every time it rained there were pools of water in the Church, and a battle with mops and buckets. Now we have none. So I would like to thank those people who stole our lead and forced us to repair the roof. I hope they feel that what they did to our roof and the one at Skillington was worth the time they are currently spending in jail.

5 Rev Neil

One person has done an amazing job keeping the flame of hope burning in extraordinary times and that is Rev Neil. I am sure we would all like to thank him for what he has done for us all during the pandemic to keep us all in touch and together as much as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Stoke Rochford Church when it is safe to do so.

SKILLINGTON NEWS

It's been ten months since I wrote the last of these for Quintet, and that was not published as the lockdown descended. We have since seen a year of intermittent lockdowns, changing rules,

and a church offering very few services. We are of course not offering publicly attended services at present but we did succeed in celebrating Christmas with an unusual Carol Service and a Christmas morning Holy Communion.

The Carol Service was unconventional in that the congregation was not allowed to sing. Instead, we were treated to some recorded carols and to impressive singing by a volunteer trio, led by William Lee, and featuring Claire Edmunds and Richard Collings. Most enjoyable and many thanks to all involved.

Some of the damage caused by the lead thieves of nearly two years ago has now been repaired. Thanks to grants from Historic England and the Lincolnshire Churches Trust we have been able to repair the roofs of the South Aisle and Lady Chapel, at a cost of about £30K. The new material is terne-coated stainless steel which should weather to resemble lead, and is of no interest to thieves. Getting these grants was hard work and many thanks are due to Rob Ducksbury for seeing it through. The support given by the Friends of St James's was also vital, not just in terms of the money raised but in enabling us to show that the community is behind the restoration efforts. The church repair work and fund-raising were featured in an ITV Central news report in January.

The next phase of the roofing project is the North Aisle and we are actively looking for grants to support that work, which will cost over £20K.

A new Facebook group has been launched (Friends of St James's Skillington). The ITV report can be found there.

[Date for the diary \(provisional\):](#)

Church Open Day: Saturday, 24th July 2020.



GRACE works to support people in need across our communities. Based in St. John the Baptist Church, Station Road, Grantham they take all household donations, white goods, clothing, toiletries, toys and games and pass them on to those in need. All are welcome to access their support.

Open: Tues / Thurs / Sat / Sun 1pm – 3pm
Contact: jayne.robbs@hotmail.co.uk 07828 039628 or kimmikraft@gmail.com 07515 647296

COLSTERWORTH NEWS

By common consent, 2020 was one of the most difficult years many can remember. Stress, uncertainty, financial insecurity, loss of loved ones, illness and family disruption, being some of the challenges faced by many, including ourselves as the parish church. Without normal services, but recognizing the importance, to some of a Sunday service, Rev'd Neil has livestreamed each week throughout the pandemic. Similarly, for others, the ability to spend time for reflection was important, so the church now opens daily for private prayer, or quiet contemplation, with Revd. Neil available most days.

Traditional Christmas community events changed and Carol services, Christmas Tree, and Midnight services all went ahead. A successful new event, village advent calendar windows, involved 24 homes and through their enthusiasm brought Christmas cheer to many parts of the village.

The church is now a collection hub and through village generosity we support Grantham foodbank, the Grantham & Rural Areas Community Effort (GRACE) project and now, COVID-19 patients and their nurses in Peterborough hospital with essential toiletries. Our School Lane cemetery is neat and tidy, even in the middle of winter. Thank you Colsterworth community!

Inevitably, loved ones have died, with each being missed by friends, family and the wider community. We offer our condolences to all.

Colsterworth church has long held a prominent position and we are working to ensure it fulfills its rightful community role. We are thankful for Historic England's grant to replace and repair North and South aisles roofing, with work scheduled late spring, early summer!

GREAT PONTON NEWS

The last twelve months have been very difficult for many people. Bereavement has hit many families and we have lost some residents. May those who are bereaved and grieving find peace and all of us pray for some sort of normality to return. The thoughts of seeing family and friends again keeps most of us going.

Spring is on the way and hopefully better days to come.

STAINBY NEWS

We were delighted to open the church for Christingle in December; our only service last year! It was a lovely candlelit service with children and adults enjoying listening to hymns. We've finally had the roof repaired and are now waiting until the warmer weather to redecorate the inside of the church where water damage has occurred. The website now has more photos, so do please have a look. Our Marriages, Baptisms and Burials books have now been photographed and are freely available online for you to research your local history! There are some old photos dating from the 1900s too ... from before the tarmac road and pavements were laid ... you can really step back in time. If you have any stories about the church or the village, or any photos we can re-photograph to include on the website, do please let Fiona, our Church Warden know, via Fiona.bj@cognitivefitness.co.uk or via Revd. Neil.

Here's the link to the church website

<http://www.saintpeterschurchstainby.co.uk/>

LITTLE PONTON NEWS

We are missing you all in Little Ponton and hope we will be able to see you all at Church very soon. We are thankful to Rev. Neil for his outstanding efforts to keep everything moving during the past difficult year. It has not been easy for our churches and we are lucky to have Rev. Neil keeping us all going. From all of us, thank you Rev. Neil!



Grantham Foodbank works to support people in food poverty. They receive donations and give nutritionally balanced food parcels to those who need them.

All food donations are gratefully received but there is currently a particular need for:

- Tinned fruit
- Tinned or dried potatoes
- Sponge puddings
- Rice pudding
- Noodles
- Jam

Donations can be dropped off to Unit 1-2 Grey Friars Grantham, NG31 6PG Mon – Fri 9:30-11:30am
Support can be accessed on Mon 2-4pm,
Wed and Fri 1-3pm
Contact: gfbenquiry@hotmail.com 07816 872561