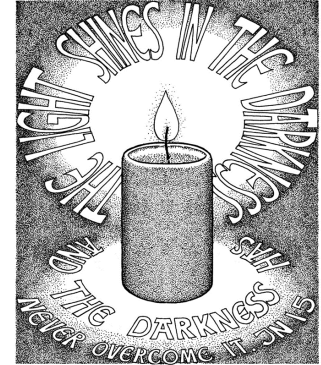


St. Mary's Dalton Holme Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 2

December 2018



Church Wardens

The Lord Hotham 01430-810771
Mr. Giles W. Peacock 01430-810254
Mrs. J. Creaser 01430-810662

Services for December

2nd	Advent 1	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (Said)
9th	Advent 2	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (Sung)
16th	Advent 3 Carol Service	3.00 pm	Carols and Readings
23rd	Advent 4 First Communion	9.00 pm	Holy Communion (Rev M Craggs)
30th	Sunday after Christmas	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (Said)

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you have ever had that experience of searching high and low for something and then after a long time in frustration suddenly recognising that it was before your very eyes before you started! I suspect it has happened to us all at some time.

Strangely enough this little thought is prompted by Christmas. When Professor Stephen Hawking died earlier this year a lot of attention was given to his attempt to find the mind of God by trying to look back twenty billion years! Full marks to him for searching high and low! Frankly I would not have had the arrogance to do it, and still cannot see any point in it! The plain fact is of course that we can only know God if he wants us to know him.

The initiative is with him and not with us. It's before our very eyes in our own time in the Gospels.

Now I must turn to Charles Darwin who observed that evolution had reached its highest point in a compassionate human being. Interestingly, compassionate human beings were the first to recognise that a supreme being was reaching out to them in a historical process of compassion culminating in the arrival on earth of someone they called Jesus Christ. Even in our own country many have sung in praise of him as "all compassion".

There was certainly nothing pompous about him. Even his birth prompted talk of scandal! He did some amazingly wonderful things, but was put to death as a criminal just as he himself had foretold. His death would assure us of God's own divine forgiveness for he alone could pay the price for human sin. If we choose in genuine penitence to accept that, we can be prepared to cross the threshold of death into new life as demonstrated by his resurrection.

This is all absolutely wonderful. We can only know it by looking in the right place. Start with Christmas and go on to pray day by day.

With very good wish for a happy Christmas, and truly happy life thereafter.

John McNaughton

January Issue

The closing date will be **Tuesday 11th December** Articles should be sent to me in **word format only** at rac.pfl@btinternet.com

Robert Coates 01430-810504

South Dalton Ladies Club.

November 1st 2018

We were fortunate to be able to ask Kevin Norris to talk to the Ladies Club as he lives in Australia but was in South Dalton visiting relatives. He described how he found out about the charity that sends volunteers to Cambodia, through friends who had already visited the country. They described the poverty faced by the people, many of whom live in makeshift huts, constructed from any materials they can find. The charity, Tabitha, builds houses on stilts, that can be bought with a 100 dollar deposit. This sum is an enormous amount for a family to save when wages are extremely low and well-paid jobs impossible to find.

Kevin asked members of the audience to raise their hands if they were working in the 1970s. Any teachers, artists, musicians or other 'intellectuals' were then told to lower their hands as under the Cambodian regime of the time, the Khmer Rouge would have killed them all. A very sobering thought.

Kevin told us that the charity expects all volunteers to pay for their travel, food and accommodation because the villagers, whilst willing to offer food and a place to sleep, do not have enough food for themselves. The volunteers stay in a hotel in a neighbouring town.

He showed wonderful photographs of the surrounding countryside, people working on constructing houses and the villagers. Smiling children and their mothers, with their ramshackle homes in the background, working men in fishing boats and scenes in the towns that made us smile. pictures of mopeds laden down with goods and people.

Kevin's talk made us very aware of how 'lucky' we are in the Western world and how we take so much for granted.

We have already asked if Kevin will return and describe more of his visits to that part of the world.

December 2018- no formal meeting.

Wednesday 12th December- interested volunteers to the village hall please, to peel potatoes, scrub carrots and top and tail sprouts in preparation for the Xmas meal for the Senior citizens and Estate workforce on **Thursday 13th December at 12.15 pm.**

Jan Nettleton

Pews News

Spire lights switch on - December 2nd. 6.00 pm

Carol Service - December 16th. 3.00 pm

First Communion of Christmas - December 23rd. 9.00pm

