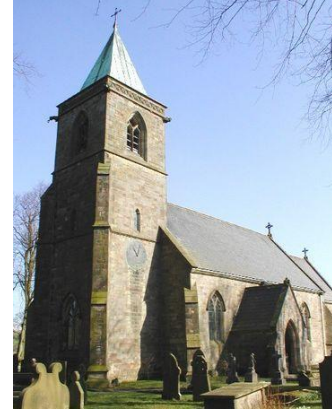


Benefice Magazine



St. Paul's, Quarnford



St. Luke's, Sheen

March

2011

Longnor, Quarnford & Sheen with Newtown
Hollinsclough Longnor, Reapsmoor & Hollinsclough



St. Bartholomew's, Longnor



St. John's, Reapsmoor



St. Paul's, Newtown

40p

Benefice Directory

Vicar: Rev^d James Forrester 01298 83742
Worship Leader Janet M^cNicol 01298 812053

	St. Bartholomew's, Longnor		St. Paul's, Quarnford	
Church Wardens	Mr. L. Riley	01538 300313	Miss J. M ^c Nicol	01298 812053
	Mrs. J. Lownds	01298 83680	Mrs. V. Battram	01298 22758
Secretary	Mrs. M. Boam	01298 83513	Mrs. M. Owen	0161 4913323
Treasurer	Mr. C. Smallwood	01298 70003	Miss J. M ^c Nicol	01298 812053
Organist	Mrs. N. Twigg/Mrs. J. Hollingshead		Miss G. Belfield L.R.A.M.	
Deanery Reps.	Mr. J. Gilman	01298 83486	Miss J. M ^c Nicol	01298 812053
	Mrs. M. Gilman	01298 83486		
Magazine Rep.	Mr. G. Roe	01298 83101	Mrs. V. Battram	01298 22758
Flowers	Mrs. A. Evans	01298 83537		

	St. Luke's, Sheen	
Church Wardens	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396
	Mr. G. Grindon	01298 83264
Secretary	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396
Treasurer	Mr. C. Belfield	01298 84809
Organist	Vacant	
Deanery Reps.	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396
Magazine Rep.		
Flowers	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396

	St. Paul's, Newtown		St. John's, Reapsmoor	
Secretary	Mrs. M. Williams	01298 83350		
Treasurer	Mr. J. Gilman	01298 83486	Mrs. M. Mycock	01298 84585
Organist	Mrs. J. Hollinshead		Mrs. J. Gregory	01298 84429
Magazine Rep.	Mrs. M. Williams	01298 83350	Mrs. J. Gregory	01298 84429

Church Schools: Headteachers		
Longnor	Mrs. S. Evans	01298 83233
Flash	Mrs. C. Gunn	01298 23442
Hollinsclough	Mrs. J. Mountford-Lees	01298 83303

Methodist Minister
Rev^d Colin Smith 01298 23556

Uniformed Associations		
Brownies	Diana Fernihough	01538 371958

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,
Easter is late this year; we will be celebrating it on Sunday 24th April, which is almost the latest date that it can be. (Do ask if you want to know how the date is calculated!). That means that the season of Lent begins on the 9th March, Ash Wednesday, and you will find elsewhere the details of the Deanery Service that we are invited to attend that evening. We shall also be arranging a number of Lent Lunches, starting on the 17th of this month, and again the details of this are elsewhere in this month's magazine; even if you do nothing else special for Lent, can I encourage you to come to one or more of these lunches, which provide a simple meal of soup and bread, and give a good opportunity to talk to people from other churches that we might not see very often. I look forward to seeing you there.

As some of you will know, there is a legal requirement for each parish church to hold an Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which gives the chance to review the events of the past year, to look at the church accounts, and to elect Wardens and the members of the PCC. These have to be held before the end of April, and since we want to avoid the weeks either side of Easter, this year the meetings are all in the early part of April. The dates are:

Tue. 5th 7.30pm Sheen
Thurs. 7th 7.30pm Quarnford
Mon. 11th 7.30pm Longnor

I wanted to give you those dates now because you may not get the April magazine many days before the first of those meetings.

Can I encourage you, if you think of yourself as being a member of one of our churches, to attend the appropriate

meeting. They are open to anyone who lives in the parish, and all residents are allowed to vote for their Wardens, but only those on the church Electoral Roll are able to vote on other matters. Each of our churches face a number of serious challenges, from difficulty in raising enough money to pay the bills to small congregations where there are not enough people to do the work that is required. As you will know, there has recently been (and still is as I write) a threat to close the school at Flash at the end of the summer term because of low numbers. Parents and members of the community generally are doing their best to keep the school open for the benefit of both the children who are there now and those who may want to attend the school in the future. We are not yet at the stage where any of our churches are under a similar threat of closure, but there are anxieties about how we can sustain the life of each one. So please take the opportunity of the Annual Meetings to come along and share in the discussion about money and our work in the parish.

But before we get to April we have March and the season of Lent, which is often seen as a time for giving up luxuries, or for making a new commitment to something. Apart from the lunches, I am intending to hold a few meetings, on either Monday or Tuesday evenings, looking at some of the incidents from the last few days of Jesus' life. I hope his example will inspire and challenge us as we serve God today. These meetings will not start until the 21st March at the earliest, and I will send out a letter with more details before then. But please let me know if you might be interested in sharing in them.

With best wishes to you all,
James Forrester

Benefice News

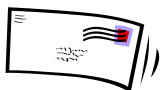
Local Police Number

0300 123 44 55

For all non-emergency calls

Paid box adverts at £2/month (£20/year) to be in all editions of the Parish Magazine. Advertisements welcome.

Used Postage Stamps



Thank you to all the people who leave stamps in our churches.

Please try to leave a narrow strip round each stamp. The last two sacks of stamps were sent to the Leprosy Mission - another sack is filling up quickly.

Teddies for Tragedies

Thank you to all the people who responded to the appeal for teddy bags. All the teddies have now gone on their way to give comfort to sick or frightened children.

As the cold weather threatens, making teddies and their bags may be a project for more people in our Benefice. The scheme is on-going.

Mobile Library

Quarnford	Springhead Road Junction	10.25 - 10.35
/Flash	Flash School	10.45 - 11.05
	Travellers Rest	11.10 - 11.20
	Lower Summerhill	11.25 - 11.30
	Colshaw Lane End	11.35 - 11.40
Hollinsclough	Chapel	11.55 - 12.10
Longnor	The Square	1.20 - 1.50
	Old Saw Mill	1.55 - 2.00
Barrowmoor	Badgers Croft	2.10 - 2.20
Reapmoor	Swallow Moss	2.40 - 2.45
	Park House	2.50 - 2.55

Friday 4th March, 25th March

Sheen	Dovefield	12.35 - 12.45
	Cross Cottage	1.55 - 2.05
	Ball Ridge Farm	2.10 - 2.20
	Woolaway	2.25 - 2.40

Monday 7th March, 28th March,

Dates for your diary: March

Friday 18th Whist Drive - Sheen

HARTINGTON SURGERY VOLUNTEER DELIVERY DRIVERS

If you have any free time on Wednesdays and would like to join our team of volunteer delivery drivers please contact Julie Coles at Hartington Surgery on 01298 84315.

This small group of volunteers operates a rota system to deliver medication to many vulnerable and housebound patients who may otherwise have difficulty in obtaining their medication.

New volunteers always welcome.

Flash and Longnor First Responders Monthly News

www.falfr.org.uk

We are happy to report that we have some possible new recruits to the Responder Group and are planning a meeting to let them know all about the training and how the system works, once the initial intermediate qualification is achieved, and they become active members of the group. We are also hoping to have a joint recruitment drive with the Fire Service in the spring time to

try and get some more support for both of these vital community services. Our group would welcome some non-responding members to help with things like fund raising, PR, Press, sorting out our constitution and charitable status, lottery grants, sponsorship and even just being in charge of the collecting boxes. Remember the CFR Group is entirely voluntary, it costs around £6,000 a year to run, and our only funding comes from donations. We can no longer apply for grants until we can sort out our constitution and get charitable status – **HELP!**

This month donations have been very gratefully received from, Mr George Grindon of Fernyknowl, Sheen, £202.50 from his birthday bash, Longnor Post Office, £15.26, Longnor Village Stores, £16.48. The final proper cheque, not the giant presentation one, from the High Peak Livestock Society as reported last month, came to an amazing £865.04. Thank you very much.

KEEP WELL and KEEP SAFE

For any information about fundraising or if you would like to train to become a First Responder please contact;

Peter Baker – 01298 83120
Jackie Ellis – 01298 83436

Deadline for the Magazine

All material should be delivered to Lynda by 20th March for the April edition. Please send to Mrs. L. Bricklebank, Cottage of Content, Hollinsclough, Buxton, SK17 0RG Telephone 01298 83541 or email lynda356@tiscali.co.uk We are considering offering to send the magazine by email. If anyone would like to change or to subscribe, please let me know.

Longnor

St. Bartholomew's Church News

Coffee Morning

In church at 10.30am on Saturday, March 12th.



Easter Daffodils/ Flowers

Orders are now being taken for our Easter display in church in memory of Loved Ones. We know that this display is greatly valued by many in the local community to remember those who have passed into the greater light of God's presence. If you would like to sponsor this event please complete the attached form and return it, together with your payment of £1/name, to any member of Longnor P.C.C. by Saturday 9th April. This will give us time to place the order and arrange the display for Easter Saturday.

Easter Saturday

Could you help to get the Church ready for Easter Day by arranging the daffodils/flowers? If so, come along to the Church on Saturday, 23rd April at 2pm.

Easter Daffodils/Flowers order slip

I would like to order Daffodils/Flowers in memory of

.....
.....
.....

At £1/name..... Total

Minutes of Longnor Action Group - Wednesday 12th January 2011

Present: S Kidd, J O'Neill, D O'Neill, A Preston, D Hanna and L Savage

Apologises: R & G Kebble, J Forester, R Wooley, C Chambers, S Kitchen, L Hall and P Baker

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

1. Christmas Market Cancelled due to weather, replaced with Christmas Fare in the school which proved very successful.

The Action Group wished to thank Richard and Gill Kebble and Rose for all their hard work and effort with regard to the Christmas fare and all the other members of the committee for their time, commitment and input.

Due to this year's weather problems it has been agreed to run the "Christmas Fare" as an Autumn Fare on the Saturday of Wakes week the 10th September. In addition the Christmas Fare will be re-run in the school hall in conjunction with the school.

Richard and Gill Kebble will be holding a meeting on 20th January to start the planning process for this year - all welcome.

2. Play Ground Regeneration Debbie O'Neill provided the following update on the above: St. Bartholomew's School undertook the project on the playground. This information together with feedback from other sources helped to provide the requirements of the tender. The tenders were officially opened at a public meeting which was well attended, in

school on 20th December - in spite of it being a very cold night. A winning design was chosen by those present voting on each design - many thanks to everybody who took the time and trouble to attend the meeting. The winning design is to be taken into school and also distributed around the village for people to see. If anybody specifically wants an e-copy let me know at info@longnorwood.co.uk and I will happily send you one.

Stage 2 of the application is progressing and Rose is continuing to help with providing the information that is necessary. Stage 2 has to be completed by 9th February and we will be advised within three months as to whether or not we have been successful! (Fingers crossed).

3. Market Square No update at this time.

4. Church Clock JF has met with Amanda Brown to progress the funding application which has passed the first stage; details of the next stage of application are awaited.

5. Village Leaflet JON to organise a meeting with the printer to progress the re-print in time for Easter including new businesses.

6. Staffordshire Peak District Tourism Association No update at this time

7. Market Building Update No update at this time

8. A.O.B Telephone Banking - Nat West have failed to provide the required information, it was suggested that JON contact Felicity Duncan on 0845-3021538 as she has been helpful in the past.

Village Website - Notice has been given to the current provider which will take effect from 28th February 2011, after this date the village website will be the responsibility of the Parish Council as per their request.

Live and Work Rural - LS advised that the consultation report is now complete and has been presented to the Peak Park
- The Peak Park want an Action Plan / SWOT analysis, which was completed at the meeting.
- LS suggested that we try and establish if there are any possible exit plans for the village businesses.

AGM - JON reminded the meeting that it is time to hold the annual AGM and suggested that this should be conducted as part of the next meeting.

The Next Meeting will take place on Wednesday 2nd March 2011 at Andrew Preston's House, The Cottage, Warslow Road at 7.30 pm, all welcome

Church Bloopers

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement Saturday.

Thursday night ~ Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The Rev. Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.

Sew and Social With Longnor Area WI

It was with some apprehension that Julie, Carolyn and I opened the doors of the school to welcome all comers at 7pm on Wednesday night. The weather wasn't particularly clement and there was quite a lot of fog on the tops. However, undaunted, our members turned out in force and we soon had such a good crowd in the school hall that we had to keep pulling out fresh tables and chairs to accommodate.

Secretary Carolyn Chambers stood in for our President, who was absent, and addressed the meeting before we settled down to our patchwork squares. As a new WI we were also very happy to welcome Sylvia Jenkinson, President of Fairfield WI, with her wealth of experience, infectious laughter and great sense of humour.

A delicious spread was put on by our members as usual, with homemade quiche, pretty iced biscuits and a variety of other nibbles and we all had great fun decorating squares for our wall hanging and getting to know each other better. We gained three new members during the course of the evening, our youngest attendees were 6 and 2 and everyone is looking forward to our next meeting on Wednesday 16th March, when we'll be decorating Easter cakes under the expert supervision of Margaret Collier of Taddington.

As usual we'll be starting at 7pm in Longnor School. Members and visitors will need to bring a cupcake to decorate. Costs are: £1 for materials, 50p for refreshments and visitors will be charged the modest sum of £2.00 for attendance. For more info please contact me, Melandra, on melandrasmith@googlemail.com, Denise on honeychurchesuk@hotmail.co.uk or Carolyn on carolynchambers@btinternet.com

Longnor & District
Pre-School Playgroup
High quality care and education for 2-5 year-
olds Ofsted rated: GOOD

Opening times: Mon, Tues, Wed, term time
9.15am–12.15, 12.45-3.15pm
Lunch Club 12.15-12.45

- A small, friendly group based in the
- Surestart room at St Bartholomew's School, Longnor, offering a wide range of exciting experiences for your child in safe, secure surroundings.
- As well as a secure outdoor play area within the school grounds, we regularly use the adjacent brilliant new outdoor *Breathing Place* at St Bartholomew's School, and of course Longnor Village Playground

- New! All-organic snack-times!

tel: 01298 83233 (ask for Heather)
info@ playgroup.st-bartholomews-longnor.org.uk
www.playgroup.st-bartholomews-longnor.org.uk
Reg. Charity: 1044161 Ofsted: 218187

Quarnford

St. Paul's Church News

Dates for your diary:-

Thursday 24th March Lent Lunch 12 noon in church

Thursday 7th April Annual Parochial Church Meeting 7.30pm in church

Saturday 21st May Rose Queen

18th - 21st June Flower Festival

We hope that lots of people will come to these events.

Thank You

We acknowledge with grateful thanks, donations to the church from:-

Cheryl Roger

John Eardley

Barbara Howe and family in memory of Maureen Kidd.

Christine and Brian Buxton and the Wardman family in memory of Frank Buxton



We were shocked to hear of the tragic death of Mary Belfield and our thoughts are with our family at this time.

Quarnford Quest

Winners for February:-

1st E. Pearce

2nd P.E. Lomas

3rd J.Belfield

News from Flash School.

This month the children have enjoyed a concert performed by the young musicians of Staffordshire. We joined with Longnor School for this event. Even the very youngest children were thrilled to hear and watch live music.

Along with Longnor and Hollinsclough schools our children performed a dance routine on the stage at the Buxton Opera House. The Opera House was full and the atmosphere electric. Schools from Buxton who also performed were able to draw upon larger numbers of children to perform. Our cluster inclusion made an excellent impression showing the value of small schools.

Just before the beginning of our Half Term holiday members of Barclays Bank joined the children to discuss working in a bank and more importantly how to value their own money. This sparked off ideas for fund raising after the holiday with the children making and selling their own produce.

Our work with Longnor School on Growing Global and UNICEF has led to some exciting work. Leading on from this we held a Soup and Pancake and Beetle Drive evening for UNICEF Day of Change. We raised £90 as well as enjoying a friendly fun evening.

Before Easter we hope to host an event for the Air Ambulance. Notices for this date will be in Flash Bar Stores. Also do not forget our Luncheon Club is held on the first Thursday of the month (phone 23442)



The church wardens said, 'Dig a really deep ditch to expose the damp course.'

Sheen

FEBRUARY'S ONE HUNDRED CLUB RESULTS

1 st No 92	Freda Critchlow	£20
2 nd No 77	Elizabeth Mapperson	£15
3 rd No 115	Jane Sherratt	£10
4 th No 17	Joe Critchlow	£7
5 th No 29	Jean Belfield	£5
6 th No 68	Arthur Spendelow	£4

Thank you, to all 122 Members

DONATIONS - thank you for the donation made in the memory of Leslie Morson who died on 18th February 1998, from Mrs Audrey Morson and family.

BRASS CLEANING - Gould family

.WHIST DRIVE - Friday 18th March at 8pm in Sheen Village Hall. All profits go towards the upkeep of St Luke's church. February's Whist Drive made £65.10

PCC MEETING - Tuesday 8th March 2011 at 7.30pm.

LENT LUNCH - Thursday 17th March 2011 between 12.30 to 2pm at Sheen Village Hall. Come and join us for homemade soup and warm bread all for a donation to this year's Lent appeal. If anyone requires transport, please contact Ann or George

MOTHERS DAY SERVICE - Sunday 3rd April See back of Magazine for time of service. If anybody is willing to help make some small, posies for the service please contact Ann

AEROBICS CLASS - Thursday at 7pm in Sheen Village Hall. All you need is loose fitting clothing, trainers, bottle of water and a sense of humour. Your first class is free there after it is £3 per session. If the snow should fall please call Pam on 01298 84809 to confirm that the class is still on thank you as Wendy travels from Ipstones to take the class.

SHEEN WI -Some interest as been shown in starting up Sheen WI again if anybody is interested please contact Belle Kerr on 84452.

BELATED 97th BIRTHDAY WISHES - to Mrs Gwen Fearn.



POST OFFICE OPENINGS IN SHEEN - Monday mornings 9am to 1pm in Sheen Village Hall.

Village Hall Meeting on Monday 14th March at 8pm in the village hall all welcome.

Sheen Village Hall

Many thanks to all who came along to the New Year's Eve party, another great 'do'! Thanks to everyone involved, and a special thanks to Martin & Charlotte for once again providing the music, we couldn't do it without you and appreciate the courage it required this time - thank you. A total of £220 was raised for Village Hall funds.

We would like to thank all George Grindons family and friends who made a donation to his 70th birthday party in aid of St Luke's Church.

Good Wishes to Marion Belfield for a speedy recovery after her operation.

Newtown

St. Paul's Church

We will be holding our Lent Lunch on Thursday, 31st March at 12 noon in church and a warm welcome is extended to all.

Hollinsclough

News from Hollinsclough School

13th January saw the Open Day of our "Flexi School Learning Hub", the aim of which is to help facilitate a relationship between the school, parents who choose to home educate their children, and the children themselves. The Open Day was very successful and we are now running the Learning Hub every other Friday (in March the dates are 11th and 25th). For families with children attending Little Berries pre-school, or registered to attend the main school, there is no charge for access and for those who are not registered we charge a fee of £4.00 per family per session to

cover costs of sundry items used.

We have been joining with Flash and Longnor schools at St Bartholomews for dance on Wednesday afternoons this term. On Monday 14th February this culminated in a performance at Buxton Opera House - the children were brilliant and all enjoyed themselves.

In February we had our first two of eight sessions with our creative partner, Sue Lawty, and the children have begun work on an outdoor space project. This project will help to develop creative thinking within the school and local community. Our Peak Park Ranger, Hazel Winder, has been working with the children on a winter wildlife project to provide hibernation boxes for hedgehogs. We intend to make at least three boxes and locate them around the school grounds.

One of our topics this term is "Time". If anybody has any old clocks or watches (or sundials!) to lend us we would be very grateful. The older children are studying the Romans as part of the Time topic, and the younger children are learning about Mary Seacole who was a Crimean war heroine, and Florence Nightingale.

Coming later this term - on 14th March we will be attending an all day dance workshop at Leek High School with Longnor and Flash. Of course 8th March is Shrove Tuesday which will no doubt include pancake making and eating, and we will look at why it is traditional to do this on

this day. On 23rd March there will be an African workshop at Manifold, and we wish Mrs Evans at St Bartholomew a safe and rewarding trip to Kenya. Jill Ferguson has been working with the children in dance and drama with a chocolate theme, and the children will be performing a chocolate-themed play at Easter.

Little Berries is our pre-school provision, offering a fun, relaxed and positive environment for the little learners. Our numbers are increasing with children travelling from as far afield as Congleton. Little Berries is available during term time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am - 1pm for ages 2+. Please ring 01298 83303 if you would like more details.

On Tuesdays 3pm - 4pm we have a maths club, and on Wednesdays from 3pm we have a yoga club - if you are interested in these please ring 01298 83303 for more information."

Hollinsclough Chapel

Many thanks to those who gave donations in memory of George Mellor.

Action Group

The Group will be carrying out a Parish questionnaire during February and March. We hope that you will take part so that we can help to address any issues that concern you. Also you may have ideas about improving the quality of life in Hollinsclough.

Next meeting Monday, March 7th at 7.30 pm in the Chapel Hall.

Warslow



Whist Drive
Warslow Village Hall
Monday, March 28th at 8pm.

Pre School

Open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Admission from 2 years old with funded places for 3 year olds.

Ofsted registered : 218188.

Planned activities based on Early Years Foundation.

All activities based in the safety of the Manifold Primary School site.

Please contact us to arrange a visit or to register your child to secure a place for future years.

Contact the Pre School Leader Sarah Broadley on 01298 84320 at Manifold Primary School.

Warslow Gala 2011.

This years Warslow Gala will be held on Saturday 6th August under the running of a brand new committee. With this introduction of new blood we want to make the event bigger and better than ever before, by inviting more floats and entertainment and the re-introduction of a raffle and Gala dance in the evening with live entertainment to name but a few.

The committee will in due course welcome donations of tombola and raffle prizes and would appreciate any help in the run up to and on the day, anyone with ideas or suggestions or volunteers would be welcome to come along please telephone either David on 84984 or Darren on 84820.

Bakewell Choral Society

- 1) Bakewell Choral Society SPRING
Concert on Saturday 2/4/2011 at
Bakewell Parish church starting at
7.30 pm

Haydn 'Nelson' Mass. Vivaldi Gloria
and Britten Missa Brevis
Bakewell Choral Society conducted by
Richard Barnes MBE
Soloists from Royal Northern College
of Music
Heart of England Orchestra
Students from Lady Manners School
Organist: Andrew Kirk
Free local transport contact Penny
Senior 01629 650919 by 18/3/2011

- 2) Bakewell Choral Society SUMMER
Concert on Saturday 9/7/2011 at Lady
Manners School starting at 7.30 pm
Jazz and Voices to include Bob
Chilcott's Jazz Folk Songs
Bakewell Choral Society conducted by
Richard Barnes MBE, accompanied by
Amanda Kornas
The Bob Hudson Trio
Free local transport contact Penny
Senior 01629 650919 by 24/6/2011

For both events:

Tickets £10(children and students FREE) from
choir members, on the door or from Bakewell
bookshop

Refreshments available

Astrum Guitar



*In Concert in Alstonefield
Saturday 2nd April 7.30 pm.*

St. Peter's Church

*To include music from Spain & South
America by Piazzola, de Falla,
Albeniz & Bellinati*

Tickets: £8 adults, £3 child, £16 family ticket
available from 01335 310125,
or Post Office Alstonefield
(Mon or Thurs pm)

Ticket price includes glass of wine or
soft drink in the interval.

www.astrumguitarduo.com
www.alstonefield.org

From the Manse

As I write, Libya appears to be on the brink of profound change. In yet another Middle Eastern country, the people have had enough of their dictator and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's days as ruler of Libya are nearly over. Change will have been costly and several hundred demonstrators will have lost their lives in this uprising.

No doubt in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, the names of the dead will be remembered and memorials will be erected, as they have been in Ireland. A few months ago I visited Kilmainham Prison in Dublin, now a museum, but in 1916 the place where nine IRA leaders were shot after the Easter Uprising. It was a turning point in Irish history and those executed by British soldiers are now household names.

In March, as Lent begins, we shall remember the name of another man who was executed by the civil authority. Jesus suffered the fate of many of those who have challenged those with power and was executed as a threat to Rome and the status quo.

He wasn't the only one to challenge the Romans. There were groups of nationalists, the Zealots, who sought to remove the Romans by armed force. They failed, and the punishment they suffered was crucifixion, a grim public warning of what happened to anyone who challenged the power of Rome!

Jesus' attitude to the Romans was very different. According to Matthew and Luke, one of the temptations Jesus faced was to become a nationalist, military leader. It suggests that Jesus was seen to have qualities which could have suited him for that role: an ability to inspire, a well-

organised mind, toughness and determination.

Instead, Jesus offered the Romans two gifts. First, he offered them his appreciation of them as human beings and as people with responsibility. He spoke of a Roman centurion as having more faith than anyone in Israel. He told the Pharisees to pay the tax which was owed to Caesar. He said, "Love your enemies" and whether he thought of the Romans as his enemy or not, they were certainly people to be loved in the same way that God loved them.

The second gift he offered the Romans was the "Kingdom of God". This was a Kingdom where God's love prevailed; a Kingdom of right relationships where all were valued equally, where the old order was turned upside down and the poor and the powerless had a special place. This second "gift" challenged their power, their motives and their actions.

It would be interesting to listen to the reports that the Romans' spies made about Jesus. When he rode into Jerusalem he would already have been a marked man: known for his ability to rouse a crowd with enthusiasm, called by some a "Messiah" (a dangerous term for an anointed king), who spoke about God's priorities in a way that challenge every colonial ruler or dictator!

This Lent we remember that Jesus is still a challenge to both human authority and individual human beings. He raises this question: what is our response to the challenge to live as members of the Kingdom of God in 2011 - our age with its need and injustice?

With warm greetings, Colin (Smith)

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All year turnout, excellent
location for hacking,
lots of bridle paths, farmland and
quiet lanes. Use of ménage.
Call Louise Tunncliffe on
01260 227375

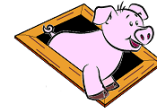


NEED SOME HELP AROUND THE HOUSE?

- *General household cleaning duties and odd jobs.
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Contact Daisy Cope
on **07790805034** or **0129884816**

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Services in the Benefice for March 2011							
	Longnor	Quarford	Sheen	Newtown	Reapsmoor	Hollinsclough Chapel	Gradbach Chapel
Sunday 6 th March	Morning Prayer 10.00am	Morning Prayer 11.30am	Evening Prayer 6.30pm		Evening Prayer 4.30pm	Colin Smith Holy Communion 2.30pm	
Sunday March 13 th	Study & Prayer 6.30pm	Holy Communion 11.00am				At Earl Sterndale	
Sunday March 20 th	All-age Worship 11.00am	Evening Prayer 4.00pm	Holy Communion 6.30pm	Holy Communion 9.30am		Mrs Audrey Getliffe 2.30pm	
Sunday March 27 th	Holy Communion 6.30pm	Morning Prayer 11.30am	Morning Prayer 10.00am	Evening Prayer 4.30pm		Rev Don Sparkes 2.30pm	
Sunday April 3 rd	Family Service 11.00am	Family Service 2.30pm	Evening Prayer 6.30pm		Holy Communion 9.30am	Colin Smith Holy Communion 2.30pm	
Newtown - Short morning service 9.45 am each Thursday							