

*The*  
**Shared Church**  
*in Ringstead*

**36 High Street, Ringstead, NN14 4DA**

**[www.ringsteadsharedchurch.org.uk](http://www.ringsteadsharedchurch.org.uk)**



**February 2025 Magazine**

**Please send your articles for the March edition to**

**[ringsteadnotices@gmail.com](mailto:ringsteadnotices@gmail.com)**

**by 23<sup>rd</sup> February**



## From our Minister



It's February again, and you know what that means! Yes Valentine's Day is around the corner. People will be out buying presents for their sweethearts and cards covered with hearts. Roses are red, violets are blue, and this card tells how much I love you!

In his book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, L. Frank Baum says "A heart is not judged by how much you love; but by how much you are loved by others" Thus reflecting the need to be loved as well as the love we can give to others.

Whilst the Wizard of Oz may be a good story, I'm not so sure that it's a reliable source of spiritual information. In the Bible Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." and the second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:29-31) So that according to Him, the greatest commandment is to love, scripture says nothing about expecting to be loved in return. In fact, Jesus stated the opposite in His most famous sermon: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven." (Matt. 5:11-12).

So when it comes to love, the important thing we need to know is this: all love starts with God (1 John 4:19). As Moses told the Israelites, God delighted in them to love them (Deut. 10:15), and because

## From our Minister - Cont'd

of that they were to love others, even strangers (v.19). God's intention is that as people who receive His love we will in turn share His love with others.

Apart from God—who Himself is love—none of us could truly love or be loved (1 John 4:7-8)

So what of the Tin Man? Is there any truth in being judged by how others love us? Well not quite in the sense of the quote, but this I do know, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

*The love of God comes close  
Where stands an open door  
To let the stranger in,  
To mingle rich and poor:  
The love of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.  
(John L Bell & Graham Maule)*

Rev Rick



# Shared News

## Wednesday Prayers

Wednesday prayers (on Zoom only) are back to normal following a break in January, so please join us on Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm. Zoom details are at the back of the magazine.

## Axe & Compass Quiz

The next quiz takes place on 4<sup>th</sup> February and is always a fun evening. If you're interested in taking part then please let Rick know.

## Zoom Quiz

There will possibly be a Zoom quiz in February so please keep an eye on the web site or emails for further details on this. As always we rely on some of the attendees to provide quiz rounds to enable this to take place so please get your thinking caps on!

## Money .... Money .... Money ....

.... something we try not to dwell on too much in church.

I think we have all found our budgets stretched in the last few years but for those of us on retirement incomes the big increase in state pensions over the last year has been very welcome and 4% in April sounds good as well. We also read that many wages have increased in the last year.

But have you thought about the church's budget, whether that has also been stretched? Has the church's income increased over the last year?

The answers are 1) yes and 2) no!

## Shared News - Cont'd

We are in the fortunate position to still have some reserves but during 2024 we used approximately £10,000 of what we had. At that rate it will be gone in 2 or 3 years. Then we will not be able to pay a minister's stipend.

I am asking you all to pray about this. Has the increase in your income been reflected in increased giving to the work of the church? Please carefully consider whether you can increase your regular giving to the church.

Thank you. Angela

### **Our thoughts and prayers of thanks to God.**

We continue to pray for Ange's Great-niece, Grace, who is undergoing cancer treatment and also for her granddaughter, Sky, that the doctors will be able to diagnose and treat her. We pray for God's healing hand to be on them during this difficult time for both them and their families.

Thanks to God for the progress that Sue is making following her knee operation and we pray that she continues in her recovery.

Please continue to offer prayers for Mark Russen and Phil Stockton who are undergoing treatment for cancer, we also pray for the clinicians treating them to give them the best care possible.

Prayers are also needed for James Tattershall for a successful outcome from his forthcoming operation. We also ask you to remember Jackie Inness as she continues to struggle with her health.



## Book Club

“Butter” by Asako Yuzuki.

This book was not easy to read , as with many Japanese books the story developed slowly and never became a page turner. Set in Tokyo the story tells of a chef imprisoned for murder and it is a journey of self knowledge for some.

We labelled the book “quirky””.

Book for next meeting: “Northanger Abbey” by Val McDermid

**Venue: 11 Carlow Road**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February**

**Time: 2:30pm**

June.



## The Axe and Compass, Ringstead, Quiz Night

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 19:30 hrs**



**Would you like to make up a team  
with Rick?**

**Please contact Rick**



Link to Hope charity has sent posters, and a letter, in thanks for our part in the Shoebox Appeal of 2024 which resulted in Link to Hope being able to deliver 25,633 shoeboxes to

needy people in Eastern Europe.

The posters are on display inside and outside of the church and the letter is copied below..As you will see, our support is needed more than ever and we are already planning and preparing for the 2025 Appeal. Further information will be sent out when the Appeal is formally launched in February, but for now, Thank You for your continuing support.

Carol, Alan and Agnes

Dear Shared Church, Ringstead

Thank you for everyone that gave, volunteered, donated, packed, repaired, drove, bulk bought, knitted and crafted for our Family & Elderly Shoebox Appeal this year. On behalf of everyone at Link to Hope, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredible generosity in sending 25,633 shoeboxes to Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova. Your thoughtful donations have brought joy, hope, and relief to so many people in these communities. The impact of your kindness cannot be overstated - many individuals and families have been blessed through your support.

We were also able to support some of the project managers with supplies of wood and stoves along with shoeboxes. This is a vital part of the Shoebox appeal - that we try to offer more than a shoebox in as many circumstances as we can. It has been cold in the UK but even colder in Eastern Europe without the advantage of proper housing and insulation.

The Shoebox Delivery Diary is on our website at <http://www.linktohope.co.uk> to see who received your shoeboxes. You can also browse the gallery of photos taken during our trip to distribute the shoeboxes and see firsthand the smiles your support has created.

For anyone that knows about the work of Link to Hope - in addition to the shoebox appeal and throughout the rest of the year - we help support 20+ social and education projects across Eastern Europe. These initiatives help vulnerable groups year-round, offering vital support to those who need it most. Whether it's helping children with education, providing care for the elderly, or supporting those with disabilities, we strive to make a lasting difference.

Link to Hope



## Did you know ?

### Cornerways Garage

Cornerways Garage was situated on the corner of Carlow Road and Station Road where Kinewell and Kingfisher Closes were subsequently built. The garage site consisted of a bungalow, petrol pumps, workshops and a scrap yard. The Garage was established by James William Dodson Hawes AKA Billy Hawes in about 1960 and was run initially by Billy before being taken on by his daughter, Susan. As well as petrol sales the garage offered car repair facilities, MOT testing, car sales and second-hand parts from the scrap yard at the rear of the site. After Susan took over the garage Billy established a Chandler's shop at Willy Watt Marina. The aerial photo shows the garage buildings with the vehicles in the scrap yard at the rear of the site adjacent to the farm track. The Tithe Farm complex can be seen on the right hand side of Carlow Road. The farm track runs from Carlow Road onto the farm land owned by Billy's father. The garage site was sold to Barrett Developments (Northants) Ltd in a transfer dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 1987 and subsequently developed for housing.



**Cornerways Garage (LHS) Tithe Farm (RHS)**

## Did you know? - Cont'd

Billy was an interesting local character, the son of James Ephraim Hawes who farmed land in the area where the Kinewell Lake Local Nature Reserve is now located and also owned the land that was transferred to Billy for the Garage. The land originally belonged to Billy's Grandfather, William Dodson who also owned the 'Willy Watt Mill' and Tithe Farmhouse on Church Street. When William Dodson died his properties were passed onto James Ephraim Hawes. Billy served in the Royal Navy and rose to the rank of Captain. He was well respected by the Navy for his technical knowledge and they occasionally sent a helicopter to pick him up from the Mill and fly him to Southampton to help them when they had particularly difficult issues to resolve. The last time Billy was flown to Southampton was at the time of the Falkland's War. Billy died in 2020 at the age of 95!



James Hawes on the left at the Water Mill Tea Rooms in 2018

Kinewell Close was built on part of the garage site and a landscaping strip consisting of a double row of trees was planted at the rear of the properties on land purchased by Barrett Developments (Northants) Ltd. This strip of land remained unregistered and formed a dividing strip between the houses and the Kinewell Lake Nature Reserve. In 2015 Ringstead Parish Council 'acquired' this land and included it in the nature reserve registration. This move was strongly contested by Kinewell Close residents with both parties spending several thousand pounds on various associated costs. In 2021 an agreement was reached and most of the land was transferred back to the residents.

# Knit & Natter



Wednesday  
**5 February**  
at 2.30pm  
at The  
Shared Church

Come to knit or sew  
or just come to natter!

## First Wednesday Prayer by Zoom Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 8:00pm



Zoom in and share! - (See Zoom link elsewhere in this newsletter)

If you would like to lead, or share in leading, one of these evenings please get in touch with Revd Rick.

## Start your day with prayer

Starting from Monday September 4th Rick will be leading an Online Morning Prayer at 9am each weekday morning.



This will be a simple 20min or so prayer using the Daily office from the Northumbria community

(<https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/morning-prayer/>)

All who wish to join can do so using the Church Zoom link, or use the liturgy above at another time during the day.

### **“Love Is Enough” by William Morris**

Love is enough: though the world be a-waning,  
And the woods have no voice but the voice of complaining,  
Though the skies be too dark for dim eyes to discover  
The gold-cups and daisies fair blooming there under,  
Though the hills be held shadows, and the sea a dark wonder,  
And this day draw a veil over all deeds passed over,  
Yet their hands shall not tremble, their feet shall not falter:  
The void shall not weary, the fear shall not alter  
These lips and these eyes of the loved and the lover.



THE SHARED CHURCH IN RINGSTEAD

# Lunch Club

**Thursday 13 February at 12.30pm**

2-course cooked meal  
and coffee/tea

Cost £5.00



**EVERYONE WILL BE  
WELCOME**

But, **you need to book your place:**

Ring 622162 (Val)

or 07558 538711 (Christine)

or text to 07784 162087

(no voice messages, please)

**DO COME!**

[www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk](http://www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk)

**THE SHARED CHURCH IN RINGSTEAD**

*Our regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday*

## **Coffee, cake and chat**



**Saturday 15 February**  
**10.00 – 11.30**

Time to relax and chat with friends

Do drop in .... Everyone is welcome

**No charge but any donations will be gratefully accepted**

[www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk](http://www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk)



SHARNBROOK  
MILL THEATRE



# Dracula!

## The Bloody Truth

by Le Mavet Bete & John Nicholson  
adapted from Bram Stoker's thrilling novel  
An amateur production by arrangement with Mick Horn Books

**Sharnbrook Mill Theatre**  
**11th-15th March 2025**

Tickets available online from:  
**[www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)**  
and in person from Pick-a-Lily, 61 High St./Park Lane, Sharnbrook, MK44 1PB

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre is a registered charity

# Programme - February 2025

## Services in February (In church and by Zoom)

Services are led by Revd Rick Preston unless otherwise stated:

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

10:30am Communion Service

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February

10:30am Morning Service

7:30pm Sunday Special (Zoom only)

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February

10:30am Morning Service

### Sunday 23<sup>th</sup> February

10:30am Morning Service

Revd Dr Ted Hale



## and in March

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

10:30am Communion Service

To share in the morning services through Zoom see the website

[www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk](http://www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk)

and click on the link on the home page

## First Wednesday Prayer by Zoom

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Zoom in and share! - See Zoom link elsewhere in this newsletter,

If you would like to lead, or share in leading, one of these evenings please get in touch with Revd Rick.

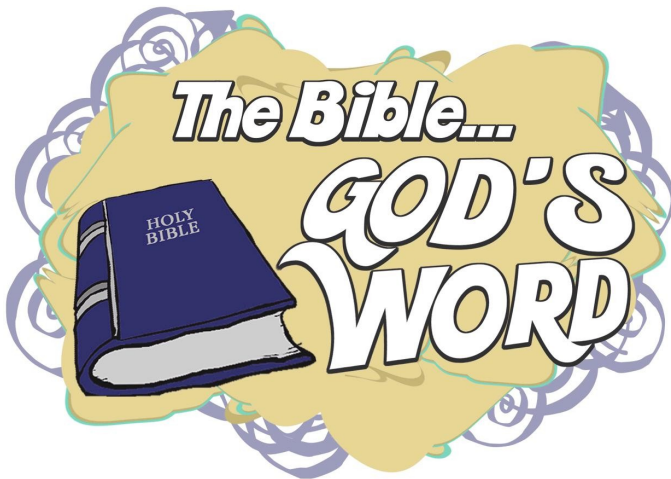


# Readers & Readings

## Rota for Scripture readings

2 February 2025	Agnes	Luke 4.21-30
9 February 2025	Mike	Luke 5.1-11
16 February 2025	Christine	Luke 6.17-26
23 February 2025	Alan	Luke 6.27-38

We usually read using the NIV version but if you wish to read from another version please let Rick know a couple of days in advance so your reading can be shown on the screen during the service.



# Contacts

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**Deacon & Designated Person for Safeguarding:**

Mrs Alexandra Rance

Email: Alexandra\_bbcdn@msn.com

Phone: 07808 127676

**Church website:** [www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk](http://www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk)

If you or someone you know would benefit from a phone call, please contact our minister Rick or one of the above.

**Prayer** - We would be pleased to join you in prayer—if you would like us to pray for/with you, please contact any of the above.

## Zoom Meeting Connection Information

### Zoom Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84607293457?  
pwd=L1F0Szd0Z1I2R1RvNVlCc0VsTVA1Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84607293457?pwd=L1F0Szd0Z1I2R1RvNVlCc0VsTVA1Zz09)

Meeting ID: 846 0729 3457

Passcode: 143365

Or Dial from any phone 0203 051 2874 or  
0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240 or 0203 901  
7895 or 0131 460 1196

### QR Code

