

The
Shared Church
in Ringstead

36 High Street, Ringstead, NN14 4DA

www.ringsteadsharedchurch.org.uk



March 2025 Magazine

Please send your articles for the April edition to

ringsteadnotices@gmail.com

by 25th March

From our Minister



Are you giving up Chocolate for Lent? Yes I know it's a bit cliché, but it seems to be one of those things people do. Give up chocolate until they can binge on their Easter eggs on Easter Sunday.

But of course Lent isn't really about giving up Chocolate, it is actually one of the oldest observations on the Christian calendar; its purpose has always been self-examination and penitence, demonstrated by self-denial, in preparation for Easter. It is thought that the 40 days reflects Jesus' temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)

Although in the past how the 40 days were calculated and when Lent began has varied, we now begin with "Ash Wednesday" and finish on Maundy Thursday. With Sundays being excluded! So technically, you're not obligated to 'fast' on Sundays. However, the Sundays during Lent are still part of the Lenten season. Choosing to continue your Lenten sacrifice on Sunday is a personal choice.

So rather than just give something up why not go back to the root of lent, not as a 40 day fast, but rather to take seriously the time of self-examination and penitence. Commit to a new regime of study or prayer, or maybe take some time out to spend time alone with God. At church, rather than giving up Chocolate, we are doing 'Chocolat'! Our Lent course this year is based on the film. You could join us on a Monday or Thursday. (We are also screening the full film on Saturday 8th March). And don't forget we have our prayer space in church for quiet reflection too.

However you choose to journey through Lent, I hope you find it a rewarding and blessed time, in your preparation to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection at Easter.

Rev Rick

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.

By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

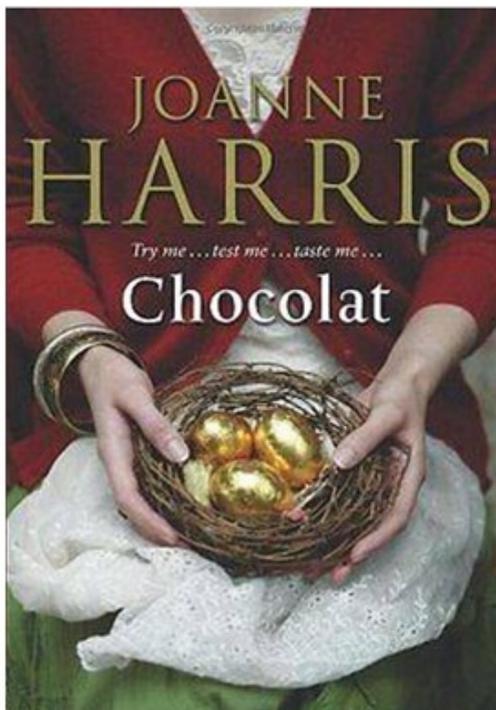
Saturday 8th March 10 am Coffee Cake & Chocolat

As an introduction to this year's Lent course, Christ and the Chocolaterie by Hilary Brand, come and watch the film on which it is based - Chocolat - while eating delicious Cake.

Enjoy a brew and cake while being transported to a quaint French village in "Chocolat", featuring an all-star cast of Juliette Binoche, Johnny Depp, and Judi Dench. Based on the captivating novel by Joanne Harris, the film follows Vianne Rocher and her daughter Anouk as they open a chocolaterie, sparking unexpected changes in the lives of the villagers during the solemn season of Lent.

Whether you're joining us for the Lent course or simply looking to escape reality for a while, all are welcome to experience this sweet and heart-warming tale.

(Rated 12)



Christ and the Chocolaterie

A Lent Course inspired by the film Chocolat

This year's Lent course 'Christ and the Chocolaterie' is an original, innovative and lively Lent course inspired by the film Chocolat, based on the bestselling novel by Joanne Harris. Using the film as a starting point for exploring issues about God, the world. Hilary Brand has designed five group sessions on the themes of giving, acceptance and change. Each includes from the film, group discussion questions, exercises and meditations. It is preferable to have seen the film before starting the course, so all are welcome to 'Coffee, Cake and Chocolat', a screening of the film at church on Saturday 8th March, 10am.

There are five group sessions, one on a Monday afternoon, in person and one on line on a Thursday evening.

The five group sessions are

Giving up – The prelude to Change - Mon 10th March & Thursday 13th March

Giving Out – The power of a Gift - Mon 17th March & Thursday 20th March

Getting Wise – The possibility of Change - Mon 24th March & Thursday 27th March

Getting Real – The power of acceptance - Mon 31st March & Thursday 3rd April

Growing up - the process of real life change. - - Mon 7th April & Thursday 10th April

Monday afternoon 2pm, in the school room and Thursday evening 7.30pm on line



Meditation

If you must be heard, let it be like the babbling brook,
laughing over the rocks.

If you must be seen, let it be like sunlight
giving warmth and comfort to all.

If you must be acknowledged, let it be as the eyes
behold the skies in all their glory.

If you must lead, let it be like the wind and all its unshackled direction.

If you must learn, let it be like breathing,
the natural flow of in and out,
and done without thinking.

If you must teach, let it be like the water,
deep and flowing,
for your words are like pebbles in a pond,
the ripples they cause spread out in all directions,
and what you give out eventually returns.

If you must know, let it be flowing and growing.

And above all, if you must:
shine!

Kerry Hillcoat

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.



Shared News

Axe & Compass Quiz

The next quiz takes place on 4th March, unfortunately February's quiz was cancelled due to illness but hopefully we're now back to normal, it should be a fun evening. If you're interested in taking part then please let Rick know.

Wednesday Prayers

Wednesday prayers (on Zoom only) will be on Wednesday March 5th at 7:30pm, please note the new start time. Zoom details are at the back of the magazine.

Lent Course

This year's lent course starts of with a film show on Saturday 8th March in the Church at 10am. The film is 'Coffee, Cake and Chocolat' and based on a book written by Joanne Harris. The film forms the basis for this year's Lent course 'Christ and the Chocolaterie' with full details to be found in this month's magazine.

Church Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is being incorporated into the Morning Service on Sunday 9th March, it will be heartening to have a good attendance for this so please come along if you possibly can.

Lunch Club

Lunch Club is proving to be very popular due to both its good food and also good company. If you're about on the 13th March then please come along but don't forget to phone and book, phone numbers can be found on the relevant page in this publication.



Shared News - Cont'd

Dracula

You will see a notice for a performance of Dracula that is taking place at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre. The show on the 11th March is raising funds for the Rotary Club of Rushden Chichele, if you want further information on the charity work they're involved in then please talk to Carol Kendrick who has been promoting this event within the Church.

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.

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 continue to be needed for James Tattershall whose operation was cancelled, we pray that this can be rescheduled soon. We also ask you to remember Jackie Inness as she continues to struggle with her health, we pray for the medics at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford who are currently treating her.

**The Axe and Compass,
Ringstead, Quiz Night
Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 19:30 hrs**



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

Please contact Rick

Knit & Natter



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

**Come to knit or sew
or just come to natter!**

Did you know ?

Josiah Eaton, the Woodford Pedestrian

During the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a popular spectator sport was Pedestrianism in which people involved themselves in competitive walking, often funded by speculating and gambling.

One Pedestrian was Josiah Eaton, born in Woodford around 1770 who became famous throughout England for his pedestrian achievements. Josiah was 5 feet 2 inches tall and an engraving of him shows a man dressed in blue coat and buff trousers. In 1815 he walked over 100 miles around Blackheath, near Greenwich in London, walking one mile every hour and eating and resting between each mile. Josiah walked for 6 weeks finishing on 26th December. Pedestrians had to follow strict guidelines as to how they walked, *“the knee of the advancing leg must be straightened when the advancing foot makes contact with the ground. Bring the knee through low when the advancing leg moves forward, move legs slowly at first, then gradually increase leg speed”* *“The proper way to achieve a faster pace is to increase leg speed, not over striding”*



In July 1816 Josiah completed 1,100 miles and in December of the same year, he finished another walk on Brixton Causeway, this time walking 1,998 half miles in 1,998 half hours. In 1817 he completed a walk of 2,000 miles on Wormwood Scrubs in 42 days and later the same year, he walked from London to Colchester, a distance of 51 miles in one day and returned to London the next day. He repeated this walk for 20 successive days. Nothing is known about Josiah after

Did you know? - Cont'd

1818 until in 1846, when he was reputed to be about 77 years old, he appeared in Montreal, Canada and announced that he would walk 1,000 miles in 1,000 hours. This was no idle boast, Josiah had been a professional pedestrian for most of his adult life, and many wagers were placed as to whether he could, or could not achieve what he said. This seems to be quite an undertaking for a man of his age but the Montreal Gazette of August 31st 1846 reported

“Old Eaton’s great pedestrian feat is accomplished! He came in yesterday after performing his last mile. He appeared in good spirits, and as well and hearty as the day he started and was cheered loudly”

Nothing is known about Josiah after 1846 but he was known as the “Woodford Pedestrian” and was one of the most famous and prolific walkers of his time.

Pedestrianism was a 19th-century form of competitive walking, often professional and funded by wagering, from which the modern sport of race walking developed. During the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, pedestrianism, like running or horse racing was a popular spectator sport in the British Isles.



First Wednesday Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 5th March at 7:30pm



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.

Book Club

‘Northanger Abbey’ by Val McDermid

Once we had accustomed ourselves to the declarations of "O.M.G and Hey Girlfriend" we found this book both fresh and funny. The narrative followed closely that of Jane Austen and we would recommend it to anyone who was not a Jane Austen purist. Next month's book is:-

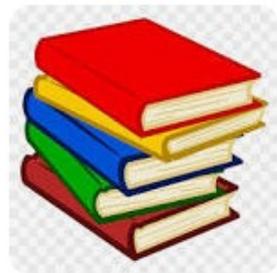
‘The Covenant of Water’ by Abraham Verghese.

Venue: The Watermill Tearoom

Date: Tuesday 11th March

Time: 12:45pm (for Lunch)

June.



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
and in person from Pick-a-Lily, 61 High St./Park Lane, Sharnbrook, MK44 1PB

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre is a registered charity

THE SHARED CHURCH IN RINGSTEAD

Lunch Club

Thursday 13 March 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)

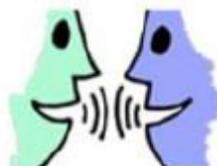
DO COME!

www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk

THE SHARED CHURCH IN RINGSTEAD

Our regular 3rd Saturday

Coffee, cake and chat



Saturday 15 March
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

Shared Church

Zoom Quiz Night

Friday 28 March @ 7.30pm



A fun evening for all the family, will you offer a round of questions?

email Angela at

treasurer@RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk

To zoom in click the link on the home page of the website:

www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk

Programme - March 2025

Services in March (In church and by Zoom)

Services are led by Revd Rick Preston unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 2nd March

10:30am Communion Service

Sunday 9th March

10:30am Morning Service (incorporating the annual meeting)

7:30pm Sunday Special (Zoom only)

Sunday 16th March

10:30am Morning Service

Sunday 23th March

10:30am Morning Service

Sunday 30th March

10:30am Morning Service



and in April

Sunday 6th April

10:30am Communion Service

To share in the morning services through Zoom see the website

www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk

and click on the link on the home page

First Wednesday Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 5th March at 7:30pm

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

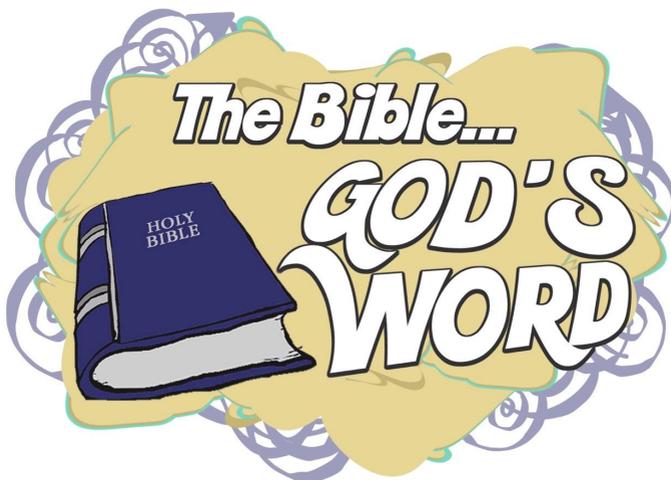
If you would like to lead, or share in leading, one of these evenings please get in touch with Revd Rick.

Readers & Readings

Rota for Scripture readings

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 2 March 2025 | Peter | Luke 9.28-36,(37-43) |
| 9 March 2025 | Louise | Luke 4.1-13 |
| 16 March 2025 | Chris | Luke 13.31-35 |
| 23 March 2025 | Carol | Luke 13.1-9 |
| 30 March 2025 | Angela | Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32 |
| 6 April 2025 | Agnes | John 12.1-8 |
| 13 April 2025 | Christine | Luke 22.14-23.56 |
| 20 April 2025 | Alan | Luke 24.1-12 |
| 27 April 2025 | Mike | John 20.19-31 |

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

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=L1F0Szd0Z1I2R1RvNVlCc0VsTVVA1Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84607293457?pwd=L1F0Szd0Z1I2R1RvNVlCc0VsTVVA1Zz09)

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

