

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

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

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



**April 2026 Magazine**

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

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

**by 24<sup>th</sup> April**



## From our Minister



I know that April begins with Easter this year, with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday being the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively. But if I'm honest, mention April, and my mind immediately jumps to – April Fools!!!!

OK Ok, what has that got to do with a sensible minister like me or the church in general?

In sixteenth-century France, the start of the New Year was observed on April first. It was celebrated in much the same way as it is today with parties and dancing into the late hours of the night. Then, in 1562, Pope Gregory introduced a new calendar for the Christian world, moving the start of the year to January the first. There were some people, however, who hadn't heard or didn't believe the change in the date, so they continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April first. Others played tricks on them and called them "April fools". These people were fools for not believing in the change of calendar.

As we celebrate Easter, though, many think that it is us Christians who are fools! Fools for believing that God sent Jesus into the world in the first place, let alone allowed him to be put to death on a cross, for us. And if that's not foolish enough we believe that then a couple of days later, he came back to life to show that even death can be overcome. In a rational world, where we believe in only what we can see, science can explain everything, and there is no room for the divine then these beliefs may seem foolish or far-fetched.

## From our Minister - Cont'd

I have to say though this isn't a new thing. Way back in the first century Paul wrote to the Corinthians saying "We are fools for Christ" (1 Cor. 4:10)

This doesn't mean that he thought that Christianity is against rational thinking. Rather, that he was willing for others to consider him a fool for holding to the truth. It's a recognition that there is more to life than just what the world offers. If worldly wisdom keeps us from God, then it is not true wisdom at all. As Paul also wrote, "If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a 'fool' so that he may become wise" (1 Cor. 3:18).

The truth is, God loved the world and its people so much that He sent His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Giving up everything for us, dying for those who reject Him, offering second... third... seventh... chances—this might seem like foolishness. But for those who need it, for those who want it, it is actually **good news!**

Rev Rick



## Calendar for April

|               |                   |  |
|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Every Weekday | 9.00am            | 20 minutes of Prayer by zoom   |
| Wednesday 1   | 2.30pm            | Knit & Natter  |
| Thursday 2    | 7.30pm            | Maundy Thursday Communion  |
| Friday 3      | 10.30am           | Good Friday Service & Procession                                       |
| Sunday 5      | 6.15am<br>10.30am | Easter Sunrise Service at the cemetery<br>Easter Day Communion Service |
| Thursday 9    | 12.30pm           | Lunch Club   |
| Sunday 12     | 10.30am           | Morning Service  |
| Wednesday 15  | 7.30pm            | Pray Together on Zoom  |
| Saturday 18   | 10.00am           | Coffee Cake and Chat   |
| Sunday 19     | 10.30am<br>6.00pm | Morning Service<br>Worship Together in the schoolroom                  |
| Sunday 26     | 10.30am           | Morning Service  |

# Knit & Natter



**Wednesday April 1**  
**at 2.30pm**  
**at The**  
**Shared Church**

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

You will be really welcome to join us at  
The Shared Church as we celebrate all that  
Easter means to us

**Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7.30pm**

We shall remember the last evening which Jesus spent with his disciples as we share in a Quiet Communion Service

**Good Friday, April 3 at 10.30am**

As we think of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross there will be a short service in the church before we walk to the Community Garden for a time with friends from the Parish Church

**Easter Sunday, April 5 at 6.15am**

Early in the morning the disciples found that Jesus' body had gone. He had risen from the dead, as he promised. We shall remember and give thanks at a Sunrise Service at the cemetery

**Easter Sunday, April 5 at 10.30am**

“Christ is Risen”

Easter Celebration Communion Service

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

THE SHARED CHURCH IN RINGSTEAD

**Maundy Thursday, April 2  
at 7.30pm**

A simple Communion Service



Then go quietly into the night and wait for  
Good Friday

**Good Friday, April 3**

**10.30am Short Service**

and process to the Community Garden  
for

**11.00am Service for all**

with the Parish Church  
followed by

**Coffee in the Parish Church**

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

**The Shared Church**

**Easter Sunday**

6.15am Sunrise Service at the cemetery  
Followed by breakfast

10.30am "Christ is Risen"  
Easter Celebration Communion Service

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

# Shared News

## **Axe & Compass Quiz**

The Axe & Compass Quiz is now relocated back in the pub, it was good to be able to step in and host this and familiarise people with our church. Although not a Christian event it is very much about bringing local people closer to the church. The next quiz will be held back in the Axe on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm, this is a fun evening and if you are able to come then please let Rick know.

## **Marion Seaman**

An interment service in Ringstead Cemetery was held for Marion's ashes on Palm Sunday afternoon. Many people from the village and from Marion's family attended and the service was led by Sue Harris. It was a wet afternoon and the rain stopped just before the service commenced. The ashes were interred by Marion's daughters with family and friends given the option of laying rosemary (a powerful symbol of remembrance, memory and enduring love) on top of the ashes. It was a fitting service for Marion's strong Christian beliefs and the family were pleased to welcome her friends from the Village and beyond. Beverages and cake were provided in the Parish Church afterwards and memories of Marion were shared. It was an altogether fitting tribute to her.

## **Easter Services**

A calendar is provided of events being held in this month of Easter, this can be found located just after the Minister's address. There are services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and two on Easter Sunday. a sunrise service and a communion service. The Good Friday service is followed by a procession through the Village to the Community Garden where we meet up with the Parish Church for a joint service.

## Shared News - Cont'd

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

Prayers are needed for Maureen and Vanessa Windust as they suffer with various medical concerns, we ask that God's love and comfort be with them at this difficult time and also for guidance to be given to the medical teams treating them.

We continue to pray for those suffering from cancer and we particularly think of Phil Stockton, Ian Bell and Chris Kinsey who are known by many people in our community. We ask for God's healing hand to be on them and for them to know the love, comfort and peace that comes from our Father God.

We continue to pray for Nikki and ask that the operation on her ears in April is successful.

Ange's Granddaughter, Sky, continues to suffer with her health and also her Niece, Grace, is awaiting test results. We ask for them to know God's love, comfort and peace.

We continually pray for people known to us in our morning prayer sessions and are pleased that God has chosen to answer our prayers in many ways. If you need prayers for a friend or family member then please let Rick know.



# The Axe and Compass, Ringstead, Quiz Night Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 19:30 hrs



Would you like to make up a  
team with Rick?

Please contact Rick

## Start your day with prayer



Each weekday morning at 9am we share together in  
**Online Morning Prayer.**

This is a simple 20min or so prayer using the Daily office from the Northumbria  
community ([www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/morning-prayer/](http://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/morning-prayer/))

All who wish to join can do on the  
Shared Church Zoom link:

Clickable zoom link via church website:  
[www.ringsteadsharedchurch.org.uk](http://www.ringsteadsharedchurch.org.uk)

Shared Church Zoom:



Meeting ID: 846 0729 3457  
Passcode: 143365

THE SHARED CHURCH IN RINGSTEAD

# Lunch Club

Thursday 9 April 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)

## Book Club

Last month's book "A Circle of Days" by Ken Follett

An epic historical fiction set on the Great Plain. A priestess has a vision of a great circle of stone built on the plain by the divided tribes but do they have the will or knowledge to make her vision a reality?

Our next meeting

**Venue: The Watermill**

**Date: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**Time: 12:30pm**

**Book: 'Enough Said' by Alan Bennett**

June.



## Praying Together by zoom

Wednesday 15 April

7.30pm

Praying for the world



## Did you know ?

### What is the connection between the clock at Thrapston Parish Church and Ringstead Baptist Church?

Edwin Cottingham was born in Ringstead in 1869, the youngest son of William and Harriet Cottingham who lived with their family at Shop Street, Ringstead (now High Street).



The Cottinghams played a prominent role in the life of Ringstead Baptist Church. Our Church Book records the baptisms of William and Harriet in 1861 when they were received into membership and William later became a Trustee of the church. When Edwin's sister was baptised in 1879 she was described as 'a child of godly parents'. Edwin's elder brother, William Frost Cottingham features in our Church history book as he went to Congo with the Baptist Missionary Society in 1885, age 24, and died there two months later.

When Edwin left school he first went to work for a tailor in Ringstead but then moved to work for Mr Allen, a clockmaker in Thrapston where in 1899 he built the clock at Thrapston Parish Church. This was the beginning of a distinguished career for Edwin. He became a member of the Royal Astronomical Society, Honorary Keeper of the Cambridge Observatory and one of four observers on the eclipse expedition of 1919. He travelled to Principe in the Gulf of Guinea and was responsible for setting up equipment to photograph the eclipse. He tended the clock at Trinity Church Cambridge and altered it slightly, spoiling the sport of undergraduates who attempted to run round the courtyard between the first and last strike. Edwin travelled abroad to install clocks at Mauritius and Hong Kong and his Astronomical Regulator is kept in the archives at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. Edwin is recognized as one of the most famous clockmakers in Europe.

Edwin died in Thrapston in 1940 age 70.

**THE SHARED CHURCH IN RINGSTEAD**

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

## **Coffee, cake and chat**



**Saturday 18 April**  
**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)

THRAPSTON  
TOWN BAND



**£5**  
PER PERSON  
(TEAM MAX  
6 PEOPLE)

**SATURDAY 18th APRIL**

**RINGSTEAD VILLAGE SOCIAL CLUB at 7:30pm**

Worship Together

Sunday 19 April

6.00pm

in the schoolroom



### Limited Edition Plates for Sale

These consist of a set of six Franklin Mint limited edition plates from the Bible story series, illustrated by artist Bill



Bell, the subjects of the plates are: "In the Beginning", "Parting of the Sea", "paradise", "Away in a Manger", "Heavenly Days" and "Two by Two". They are fine porcelain with gold rims about 8" wide. They are in perfect condition and have been donated anonymously to the Church and are available for £50, all the money received will go into church funds. If

you are interested please write to [RingsteadNotices@gmail.com](mailto:RingsteadNotices@gmail.com) with 'Franklin Mint Plates' in the subject line.

# Programme - April 2026

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

Services are led by Revd Rick Preston unless otherwise stated:

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

10:30am Short Good Friday Service and procession to the Community Garden at 11:00am for Service with the Parish Church

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

6:15am Sunrise Service at the Cemetery

10:30am Easter Day Communion Service

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

10:30am Morning Service  
Mrs Susan Deacon

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

10:30am Morning Service  
6:00pm Worship Together

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

10:30am Morning Service

## and in May

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

10:30am Communion Service



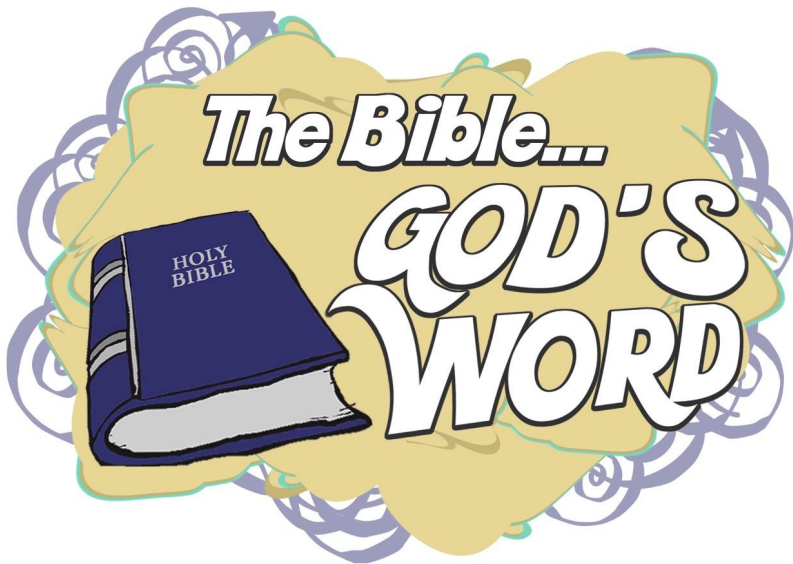
To share in the morning services through Zoom see the website  
[www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk](http://www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk)  
and click on the link on the home page

# Readers & Readings

## Rota for Scripture readings

|               |        |                 |
|---------------|--------|-----------------|
| 5 April 2026  | Angela | Matthew 28:1-10 |
| 12 April 2026 | Alan   | John 20:19-31   |
| 19 April 2026 | Peter  | Luke 24:13-35   |
| 26 April 2026 | Louise | John 10:1-10    |

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=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

