

Excerpts from Diary of  
Rev. James Woodforde

1787 I read Prayers and Preached this morning at Weston Church neither Mr. or Mrs. Custance at Church, nor above 20 People in all at Church—The Weather being extremely cold and severe with much Snow on the ground and still more falling with cutting Winds. After Service I buried a Daughter of Harrisons an Infant aged only 5 Weeks—I think that I never felt the cold more severe than when I was burying the above Infant. The Wind blowed very Strong and Snow falling all the time and the Wind almost directly in my Face, that it almost stopped my breath in reading the funeral Service at the Grave, tho' I had an Umbrella<sup>1</sup> held over my Head during the Time. Nancy brave all day but still very lame, she did not go to bed till after 10 o'clock this Evening. Mr. Thorne called again on his Patient this After: about 3 o'clock—soon after we had dined.

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MARCH 11, WEDNESDAY. . . . Did not sleep very well last Night, as the Pills I took last night occasioned rumblings within me. . . .

MARCH 13, FRIDAY. . . . Ground covered with Snow this Morning, having a great deal of Snow in the Night. The Morning was fair but Air very cold. A 4th Winter. . . .

MARCH 17, TUESDAY. . . . Very cold & very damp. Water overflows the Ditches all round us. The Yard almost covered with Water. In the Well the Water is almost up to the Top. In the Garden the Water from the Slope Garden runs into the Great Pond. Land Springs about us were scarce ever known to be so full as at present. The Water in the Ditch by the road runs over it into College Pit. Thank God! had a tolerable good Night last Night. . . .

MARCH 22, SUNDAY. We breakfasted, dined, again at home. My Ankle in the Night rather pained me but not much. When I dressed it this morning I did not think that it looked so well as last Night, rather deeper and the Edges of the Sore rather thick, as if proud Flesh was arising. I dressed it however as I did last Night. The Gout (I thank God) was finely, not by any Means swelled so much as it was very lately. I walked to Weston-Church in the Afternoon and there read Prayers & Preached, which I have not been able to do before since Janry. 11th. Had a very large

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Congregation at Church to day. Mr. Custance at Church, as was my Niece. Fifty Shillings-worth of Bread given after Service to the Poor of Weston, out of the late Collection. Blessed be God! that I was able to do my Duty at Church again. I performed it with much more ease, than I thought myself able to day—The Day turning out very dry, though cold Air. Dinner to day, boiled Pork and a Turkey roasted. We did not dine till after Divine Service. I wore both of my largest gouty Shoes to Church to day. I think myself obliged to my Parishioners, for their expressions of kindness towards me in seeing me again at Church & performing My Duty there.

MARCH 28, SATURDAY. . . . I slept very well (thank God) last night, my Ankle a little painful in the Morning early but not much. It looked in a fair way when dressed this Morning. Sent Briton early this Morning to Norwich with my little old Cart after News & many other things. Mr. Thorne waited on me again this morning and looked at my Ankle, applied a Caustic to it just touching the part with it with a small kind of fine hair Pencil in a Quill-Case. He much recommended again the resting of it. Briton returned between 4. and 5. this Afternoon brought a Letter for me from my Niece J. Pounsett acquainting us that Mr. Pounsett was very bad in the Gout, and not likely to live long, unless he was soon better, in-treating me to come into the Country. My Sister Pounsett also very poorly. The Letter greatly distressed me, as in my present Situation respecting my Leg, it would be almost Death to me to undertake such a Journey. Mr. Custance sent us a brace of Snipes this Morning. Dinner to day, boiled Beef &c. My Ankle looked finely this Evening on dressing it.

APRIL 26, SUNDAY. . . . Thank God Almighty! got up this Morning very finely indeed, almost totally free from any pain whatever, either from Ankle or Gout. I walked to Church this Afternoon and there read Prayers and Preached. Had a very large Congregation. Mr. Custance at Church. Fifty-Shillings worth of Bread given to the Poor again to Day after Divine service. Dinner to day, Loin of Veal roasted &c. Mr. Stoughton of Sparham sent us a fine Pike this Evening by his Servant Man John. Gave John for bringing it p. 1. o. I took another Pill again to night.

MAY 1ST, FRIDAY. I breakfasted, supped and slept in at home. Nancy breakfasted, dined &c. again at home. It being a fine Morning I drove to Reep-

ham to the ArchDeacon Yonges Visitation, and there dined and spent the Afternoon at the Kings-Arms Inn there, with the following Clergy and Laity, viz. Clergy, The ArchDeacon, Mr. Johnson Preacher, Mr. Priest Senr., St. John Priest, Reader, Mr. Maynard, Mr. Jeans, Mr. Church, Mr. Stoughton, Mr. Bulwer, A Mr. Munnings and myself; Laity, Mr. Repton, Mr. Addey, Mr. Holley, Mr. Munnings Junr., and Mr. Morphew. Mr. Johnson gave us a very excellent Sermon indeed, very apropos to the times. St. John Priest read Prayers for his Father. Dinner, boiled Leg of Mutton, a Piece of rost Beef, Fillet of Veal roasted, two Fowls and a Pigs Face, and a plumb Pudding &c. Dinner, ordinary and extraordinary, I pd. o. 4. 6. I stayed till 6. o'clock in the Evening and then drove back to Weston and Briton with me. Briton being in Liquor was very saucy in his return home with me. He is treading fast the steps that poor Will. Coleman did before he was obliged to be sent away. I called at Witchingham at Mr. Jeans, but Mrs. Jeans never appeared, which I think was very ungentle indeed.

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