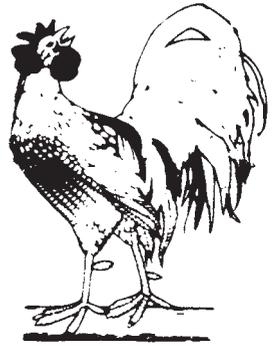


# Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &  
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

December 2013/January 2014

Issue No: 6



Snowy Christmas shopping in Diss Market Place



# Editors' Notice Board



*Dear Readers,*

Like thruppenny bits in a Christmas pud, it is traditional for the Editors to write a short article in the Christmas/New Year edition of *Cock Crow*. Our first important duty is to say thank you to everyone involved in the production and distribution of the magazine, the stalwarts without whom it would never appear. Those who gather, write and send in the raw copy, those in the 'engine room' who produce and print the magazine, those dogged 'foot soldiers' who deliver in all weathers and our loyal advertisers whose support keeps the whole thing afloat, on behalf of the readership and ourselves we say thank you to you all and wish you health and success in the year ahead.

Cock Crow's prime function as a Parish Magazine is to spread news and information about church and church related matters in the nine parishes. Perhaps because of its wide circulation, *Cock Crow* has assumed a further role as a source of information about many other local events and services. The Editors do like to receive submissions for possible inclusion in the magazine but would remind contributors that, because it's a bi-monthly publication and the copy deadline is three weeks before publication, we need your material well in advance. So, the New Year's Resolution is, 'Send in those articles and send them early!' Thanks!

May you all have a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year,

*Vivienne, Tim and all the Cock Crow team*



Other items  
the Editors think  
you might like  
to know about

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## News from Diss Library

We have a lovely range of books for Christmas, whether you want new ideas for cooking, craft books for beautiful homemade presents or a clutch of story books for children. If you aren't already a library member it's quick, easy and free to join.

### Christmas Holiday closures

All Norfolk libraries will close for Christmas holiday from lunchtime Tuesday 24th December to Thursday 26th December inclusive, and again on Wednesday 1st January 2014.

**DVDs** (normally be 1 week loans) taken out on 18th December will be issued for 3 weeks; those taken out on 19th December will be for two weeks, giving extra loan time for the same price – an economical way of entertaining the family over the holiday.

We also have a Winter Offer on DVDs: you can pick up two for the price of one on Wednesday evening or Friday afternoon to pass the time on those cold dark evenings.

**Would you like to know about computers**, the internet, email and online shopping? Would you like to learn in a small group and in a friendly supportive environment? In February we will be offering another Surf's Up course for absolute beginners which will help you gain confidence to use a computer. Surf's Up is a course of six sessions held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Harleston library. We can pay for travel from Diss to Harleston if you would like to take part and you can put your name down for the next course by phoning 01379 642609.

**We have a junior book group meeting** in the library on Thursday after school; the next two dates are Thursday 19th December and Thursday 16th January. This group is for children aged 7–11 and their families, so do come along.

**Baby Bounce & Rhyme** takes a break from 20th December and starts again on Friday 10th January at 10.30 am, new faces are welcome.

**For library opening times and information** on all our events and services visit: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries), or call Diss library on 01379 642609

## Murphy's Rambles

Hello again – isn't it wonderful, lots of deep glorious muddy puddles to run through at top speed! The leaves are gorgeous too – so many colours for my human to admire, all that lovely rustling on the ground and always the hope that something lovely is hidden underneath them.

What have we seen on our travels; the first ground frost on 15th September, yes really my humans were on all fours with me checking that their eyes hadn't deceived them. Twenty ducks having a meeting in a stubble field on two mornings running – why?

A fairy mushroom ring – my human was really excited she hasn't seen a complete one for years. Just when we had given up hope the owl was back hunting Town Meadows and two days later a heron in the brook. We had been wondering where all the animals were when round a corner were three deer just standing watching us, two days later there they were again, just turned and stalked off, not worried at all.

Well bye folks go and stomp in a puddle it's fun!!

### Your Mobile Library Service *Use it or Lose it!*

A chat with the driver of the mobile library on its visit to the village of Gissing in November revealed that Norfolk County Council is currently reviewing the provision of this service as the number of borrowers continues to drop. Those readers who don't have their own transport or who can not easily access the library in Diss depend on the mobile library and it will be a loss to the community if the service is axed. May I urge all readers who currently do not use the mobile service to do so in order to keep it going for those who really need it. Unlike the Diss library, which issues books for a three-week period, the mobile library books are issued for one month and can be retained for up to two months without incurring an 'overdue' payment. Please support your mobile library on its next visit to Burston, Gissing and Tivetshall on 12 December and 9 January 2014. If you want further details about where the library van stops in your village please ring 01603 222267. Daralyn Hammond

Diss Team Ministry writes...

## Thinking about Christmas?



Dear Readers,

In Dickens *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge's nephew states:

'I have always thought of Christmas time – as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!'

These sentiments go some way to justifying the celebrations of the season which is rapidly approaching. But is there more to it than this?

The Christian faith, summarised in the Apostles' Creed, begins:

'I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...'  
with no mention of the precise date, or of the venue.

For many reasons, this birth is celebrated at the festival we call Christmas, with increasingly commercial customs that bear little relation to the humble reality of Jesus' coming as a child. But it is celebrated, and if the world is thinking about Jesus during this season, then Christians have opportunities to testify to the real good news of His life, death, and resurrection, and the hope that is ours as a result.

But, we should also try to focus on Peace on earth, Giving, and Caring for our 'fellow passengers' every other day of the year too.

May all readers know the Blessings the Christmas season brings.



Jennie

## Team Ministry News

### Canon Tony Billett

The leader of our Diss Ministry Team is currently off sick. This has meant some alterations to the people leading Worship in the coming weeks, but to date there has been no need to change service times, or to miss any 'ordinary' services in the four parishes. Do please look at Team News week by week in the churches, for details of what is on over the next two months.

We all send Canon Tony very best wishes, and look forward to having him around again as soon as possible.

*Christmas Midnight Service:* this year, there will be one service for the six parishes, in St Mary's Church, Diss. There will be Carols from 11pm and then the main service starts at 11.30pm.

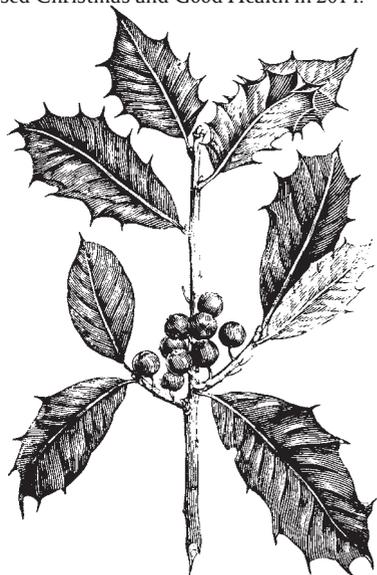
*Services on Sunday 29th December* will be in the morning, just at St Mary's: Holy Communion at 8am and 10.30am

### Team Ministry Website

The address is printed under the Team logo, on the services page; do visit the website to see just what is on offer across The Team.

By now, there should be a link to Cock Crow!

Members of the Ministry Team wish all readers a Blessed Christmas and Good Health in 2014.



## BRESSINGHAM NEWS

### Church News

We now have a date for the concert in memory of Rodger Aves. It will be held on Friday 2nd May 2014 at Diss Church at 7.30pm. Tickets will be £8 each and will include a glass of wine. We have had a meeting with the Stuart Singers from Gloucestershire who are giving the concert, free of charge, and we understand that there will be 40 in the choir! This will be an evening not to miss, with a variety of music, and I would like to hear from anyone who can give us help in preparing and printing the programme, advertising, and also people who can help sell the tickets.

The Jumble Sale organised for the church roof fund by Michelle Lanchester was a great success and raised £200. As well as sending a huge thanks to her I would also like to thank her children Levi and Bailee, Pam Dowling, her father Ron and son Andrew, plus Kelly, Tammy, Stella and Blanche for all their hard work both before and on the day. Thanks also go to everyone who gave things and donations and bought on the day.

In October we said a sad farewell to Michael and Doreen Revell. Doreen's ashes were buried with Michael. Everyone connected with the church send the family our deepest sympathy.

The Community Service Pay Back folk came for 4 days in November and made a really good job of cutting grass and hedges in both the churchyard and burial ground. This is the first year we have had to pay anything towards this work and at £75 a day it will cost £300. We are extremely grateful to Adrian Bloom for providing a trailer this year to take away all the clippings.

Remembrance Day service was well attended as always with about 40 people standing on a very cold, windy but sunny morning to hear the service taken by Mrs Jayne Hinds. Our thanks must go again to Myrna Hughes for all she does for the British Legion and her band of helpers and for those who cut the grass round the memorial and made everything ready for the service.

I finish with more bad news! Bressingham church

has been put on the English Heritage Places of Worship at Risk Register. We have been told this is not because we have failed in our duties but time has caught up with us. This will allow us to be put on the repair grant scheme of the Heritage Lottery Fund who now wholly administer the fund. This in no way guarantees that we will be successful in an application. We now await the result of the Quinquennial Report which was done a year early by the diocese to see just how bad the situation is.

I look forward to hearing from lots of volunteers to help with the concert and wish you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas.

*Stop Press!* Christmas Day Communion in Bressingham Church at 9.15 am.

Diana

### Parish Council

Mr Cattermole chaired the November meeting and after opening procedures County Councillor Spratt gave his report. He said that the proposed incinerator at Kings Lynn now awaits the decision of the Secretary of State. At a recent Road Safety meeting the problems of pot-holes and cycle paths were discussed. A new contractor will be responsible for the upkeep of the roads. Mr Weeks (SNDC) said it worked out more expensive to patch rather than do a proper job. He also said it was not possible to grit all the roads in bad weather but one road into a community must be treated.

Certain dangerous pot-holes/sections of road were named, Mr Hewitt said that Utility groups should be made to pay where there are raised metal works.

He also raised the problems of the unsatisfactory position of Norfolk schools, being 3rd from bottom in the National Testing System.

Included in the Agenda was a request from the Village Hall Committee asking for help towards funding sectional staging to replace the existing stage. Mrs Webb explained this would be stackable and give more space and benefit the Hall financially.

A donations policy for Parish Council funds and the 2014/15 budget were agreed.

Regarding the Allotments, all are now occupied but there is a problem with weeds in one area, also the need for bordering ditches to be cleared to improve the drainage.

One vacancy now exists for a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk Mike Mortimer on 01379 642763 by 30th November. The next meeting will be on 6th January 2014.

## Village Hall

### Quiz Night

Saturday 11th January 7.30 for 8pm start. £2.50 per person including nibbles. There will be a bar. Tables of Four, individuals or pairs are welcome.

### Murder Mystery Hot Supper

Our very popular Murder Mystery Hot Supper is on Saturday 1st February, 7pm for 7.30pm Supper. £10 per person includes a two course hot supper then our Murder Mystery followed by coffee with mints. This event sells itself, so get your tickets ordered as soon as possible. Contact 01379 688375. Once ordered they can be collected and paid for at the Village Shop.

### Drama Group Bressingham Village Hall

This year's Pantomime is 'Cinders' with the usual characters and a few new ones. It will be the Half Term week. Thursday 20th, Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd of February.

Tickets for the Thursday are £5 adults and £3 twelve and under, Friday and Saturday are £6 adults and £4 twelve and under. There will be a Bar and Raffle opening at 7pm. Show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from the Village Shop.

### Archery

We are now into our 3rd year with the archery group. Anyone wishing to come along and have a try, please contact 01379 688375. Archery is held inside the village hall in winter, but outside from the spring onwards. Cost is £6 per person for two hours supervised by our fully trained coach.



## FERSFIELD NEWS

### Church News

We'll start by inviting you into Church at Christmas-time and, if we are very lucky, we might even have the first glimmer of a new electric heating system (but wrap up warm just in case!) The traditional Carol Service, led by Richard Hewitt, and featuring readings by young people from our village and school, will be held on Thursday, 19 December, starting at 6pm. Hot drinks and mince pies follow.

On Christmas morning, please come and join us at 10.30 for our very informal and festive Family Service, led by Richard Hewitt who will ensure that you are home again within the hour to check on the sprouts, promise!

We are very lucky to have a small team who, from one year's end to the next, is committed to maintaining and improving the appearance of both the Church and Churchyard, and I would like the following people to know how much the PCC appreciates all the help which they give us: Jan H, Jennie, Pam, Penny and Sue. A huge thank you to you all.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and every blessing in 2014,

Jan



## LOPHAMS NEWS

### Saint Andrew's Primary School

St Andrew's pupils and staff have returned from an autumnal half term break, feeling refreshed for the weeks ahead.

Last term, St Andrew's enjoyed an exciting book week, with all staff and children dressing up as book characters, making story book mobiles and experiencing visits from oral storytellers who shared the power of story. Children in Key Stage 1 studied their own locality by carrying out field work in North Lopham, while children in Key Stage 2 contrasted the locality with Happisburgh. St Andrew's also took part in the Small Schools netball and football league and organised a fabulous off site cross country run. Parents also had the opportunity to learn alongside their children when they were invited into maths café and a maths themed open morning. The term climaxed with the children enjoying a popular fancy dress disco! Since returning to school this half term, pupils have taken part in a Firework Hair Day and Key Stage 1 have enjoyed multi-skills run by Sports Leaders at the High School.

St Andrew's now looks forward to exciting opportunities in the term ahead. These include a trip to Norwich Castle Museum for a Roman day, a beetle drive, film night, anti bullying week and Christmas production and Carol Service.

If you would like further information about St Andrew's Primary, or wish to bring your child to visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pir.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

Louise Norgate, Executive Headteacher for All Saints and St Andrew's Federation in Partnership with Hapton

### St Andrew's Pre School

The new school year has started well with some beautiful weather up to half term and lots of opportunities to play outside. As the colder, wetter days arrive, our thoughts and activities turn towards Christmas preparations.

Did you know All three and four year old children

are entitled to 15 hours of Free Early Years (EY) Entitlement per week? We also take children from age 2 (in nappies)

St Andrews Pre School is a local, committee run and fun setting for your children or grandchildren. It's also great preparation for when your child starts primary school. We have a few spaces for all sessions, on Mondays to Thursdays 08.45-11.45, continuing until 15.15 on Thursdays. Please pop in or contact Jan and Tonya - 07962 219523 or atwood145@btinternet.com

### Lophams' Ladies

Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month; 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall, except for January and February when we meet at 2pm to avoid travelling in the darkest dark.

October's talk 'Thunder Dragon' was accompanied by stunning slides, and showed how unspoiled is the country called Bhutan. Long may that last! The Music Evening in November attracted several visitors: we heard songs from the shows in the first half, then enjoyed sharing in traditional Music Hall entertainment with Gill Nicholls after the refreshment break.

Members plan to go out for a Christmas lunch on December 3rd.

David Derrick will speak about Bee Keeping on January 7th and there will be an introduction to Tai Chi in February. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. Please phone 01379 687337 for further details.

### Lophams' Garden Club

Meets at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

On 6th November we were very pleased to welcome Ken Sammon from The Garden Enclosure at Banham, who came to give a presentation entitled 'The Winter Garden.' Ken brought along many



plants to illustrate his talk and showed that the garden in winter, far from being dull with not much happening, can be full of colour and scent if we choose our plants with care.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner on 4th December which is held at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre and is always a very festive occasion. Please telephone 01953 681989 for tickets and further information.

We do not meet in January, so our next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th February 2014 when Jamie Blake will talk about 'The Alan Bloom Years'.

### Holy Bingo

It was great to welcome new members in November – all enjoyed the banter and chit chat as much as the games! Bingo continues through the winter at 2pm in the Village Hall, on 2nd December and 6th January when younger members of the villages are very welcome to come along.

### Lophams' Village Hall

*The Bonfire & Fireworks Evening* went ahead very successfully on 2nd November, despite early rain and the increasingly strong wind. A really good crowd gathered on the playing field; the fire burned beautifully and provided welcome warmth; as last year, the fireworks were stunning and much admired. Teams of volunteers inside and out provided drinks and hot food, plus sweets and light wands for younger visitors.

Such a big event needs huge amounts of organisation, so thanks must go to everyone involved – from those who brought along burnable material, Jimmy and the team who built the fire, Mike and the team who coordinated advertising, parking and clearing the site, plus all those who cooked and served food and drink.

*Art and Local Crafts exhibition* by the time this magazine is published, we hope you will have enjoyed this exhibition by our own Wednesday Art Group and friends.

*Farmers' Markets* continue on the fourth Saturday most months, from 9am till 12.30pm, but is on Sunday 22nd in December. Farmers' Markets are the

fourth weekend each month (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

Super Sausage Saturday was a great success, congratulations to Jason Salisbury, whose sausages, made from whey fed pigs, were voted the best

*The Lottery* is a fun way to support the hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize; a big Bonanza draw, open to all who have belonged for the previous three months will provide an extra big prize at the Christmas Market on Sunday 22nd December. The September 1st prize of £188 was won by B Unwins; second prizes of £47 each went to S Dilloway and B Jilley. In October, the winners were: 1st Prize of £188, A Franks, and 2nd prizes of £47 each, E & L Bird, and D Derrick.

Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen, tel; 01379 687608, from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer, 01379 687718, from other Village Hall Committee members (see the website for details), or at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

*Judo* is on Mondays & Wednesdays, details from Howard on 01379 688258)

*Dog Training* is held most Tuesday evenings, trainer Elaine (07845 776 110) will provide information.

*Lopham Art Group*: meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £20 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an 'expert' once each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

*Yoga with P*: is a popular addition to the weekly programme. Sessions are on Thursdays, 7–8pm. Booking is essential, tel 01379 890955; or 07932 010720; or e-mail pieterrella.jarvie@gmail.com

To book the hall for private functions, please contact 01379 687679. To find out more, visit the website at [www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk).

### Lophams' Society

There was a great turnout for the Lophams' Society's Autumn Quiz held at the Village Hall on the 11th

October. The event attracted an almost capacity number of quizzers and it was good to welcome not only our regular supporters but many new faces who we hope will join us for future events. St Andrews School was well represented by the winning team who took a healthy lead in what was otherwise a closely fought contest. Thanks are due to Simon Dilloway for providing the questions and keeping order and Steve Reynolds for keeping the scores. Thanks also go to the committee members and helpers who provided and served the interval supper and the bar staff who kept everyone refreshed throughout what was a most enjoyable evening. The proceeds of this event will go towards funding the Lophams' Society Christmas Drop-in which will be held at the village hall on the 13th December.

### Gislingham Silver Band

The Gislingham Silver Band, formed in 1885, is proud to be Suffolk's longest established village brass band. It has a long tradition of playing in support of community events of all kinds and parades every year for the Eye Mayor-making ceremony and for two ABL Remembrance Sunday services.

The band would love new members of any age and ability to join. Current member's ages range from 9 to 80+. Novice players start in the Training Band and loan instruments are often available. If you have ever fancied learning to play a brass instrument you are invited to have a blow on the full range of instruments with no commitment to join. Individual tuition may be possible.

Practice is on Tuesday evenings in the band room in Mill Street, Gislingham – the Training band from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and the Main band from 7.45pm until 9.30pm. Visitors are always welcome to sit in.

The band's Christmas Concert: Gislingham village hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th December. Tickets are £5 for adults (free for children under 16) from the band secretary.

For further details visit the band website [www.gislinghamsilverband.com](http://www.gislinghamsilverband.com) or contact the band secretary Peter Lucas on 01379 788411 email: [Secretary@gislinghamsilverband.com](mailto:Secretary@gislinghamsilverband.com).

## NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

### Parish Council

13th November 2013

Apologies received from Councillor Tate, six members of the public attended.

Rights of way tribunal: 4 out of 5 routes have been adopted subject to no objections being received by 15th November 2013.

Neighbourhood plan: Parish Clerk to consult with Mrs Farren-Bradley about this and report.

Drains in Tanns Lane: Councillor McManus reported that the concrete manhole cover at the top of Tanns Lane is in a dangerous condition and that the benches by the pond need retreating. He also reported that he is unable to continue to maintain the pond margins and trees although he will continue to help with the 'Village Clean Ups'. Thanks were expressed to councillor McManus for his efforts.

The dangerous manhole cover will be reported to NCC.

Conservation area at the cemetery: waiting for Spring.

Road sweeping: road sweeper does not go right to the bottom of Tanns Lane. Parish Clerk will contact NCC about this.

Rangers: need more work if the village is to continue to receive the service. A notice will be posted in the King's Head for members of the public to suggest tasks for the Rangers to do.

Dog fouling: It's good that dog owners are using bags to clean up but please put them in the bins not in the bushes!

Traffic Calming: 20mph restriction by the school is delayed due to lack of funding.

'Think' signs to be installed. VAS flashing speed sign would require £3,000 funding; a cost comparison with 20mph speed limit signs will be made.

Recycling: Breckland are to revise recycling arrangements, not yet clear how this will work.

Solar Farm: A public information meeting is set to be held at the Village Hall on 29th November 4–7pm (subject to confirmation) about plans to install a large solar farm between High Common Road and the A1066. In view of the very short notice given, an

attempt to postpone the meeting will be made and plans to inform all residents and to encourage them to attend the meeting were agreed.

Vote of thanks to Mike Cox was made for his service on his retirement as Parish Clerk.

Next Meeting: 8th January 2014

### Can anyone help to maintain the pond?

If there's anyone out there who's prepared to help tidy round the pond on a regular basis please contact the Parish Clerk on 01379 688298 for further details.



### North Lopham Methodist Church

The monthly informal service and Coffee Morning is becoming well established on the 4th Wednesday each month at 10.30am. It usually begins with a short service of worship followed by a Coffee Morning from 11am till 12 noon. Please note that the Christmas event, with carols and mince pies will be on 11th December. It is back to the fourth week in January, on 22nd.

### Samaritan's Purse: Shoebox Appeal

Very many thanks to all those who have filled and decorated shoe boxes this year. Over forty boxes are now on their way to Northern Europe. We think they are destined for Belarus again, where people still suffer as a result of the fallout from the Chernobyl disaster.

### St Nicholas' Church, North Lopham

Michaelmas weekend meant a busy few days in church:

A *Macmillan Coffee Morning* on 27th September raised £132 for this worthy cause.

71 members of the *Music Box Society* of Great Britain came to the church on 28th to investigate the organs – the chamber organ with its integral barrel was the main focus of attention. They heard

something of its history, listened to some tunes on the barrel, then had an opportunity to turn the handle themselves. They were also able to sample the delights of both the German two manual harmonium, with its own very distinctive sound, and a Polyphon which has 39 fifteen inch discs playing all kinds of tunes. The circles of newspaper between the discs were also of interest – one had clear pictures of the wedding of the then Duke of York, later to become King George VI.

*A Teddy Bears' Picnic* for children who have been baptised in the village church was held on 29th, a chance for families to get to know each other while the children played and shared a picnic tea, before joining in an impromptu sing song.

*The Harvest Thanksgiving* was on October 13th, with a Home Team All age service at 11am, and Festival Evensong with Canon Tony Billett at 4pm. The 12 children at the morning service were all fully involved, lighting candles, bringing up items linked to many kinds of Harvest, and taking the collection. Grateful thanks go to everyone who helped in any way to make the church look its festive best.

*November means Remembrance* A special service, led by Rev J Pares was held on Remembrance Sunday afternoon. On Monday 11th, at 11am, the Junior pupils from St Andrew's School joined veterans and local residents at the War Memorial alongside members of the local Royal British Legion branch with their Standard for a Service. Silence and wreath laying ceremony. Afterwards, Wilum accompanied the National Anthem on his trumpet, and the children sang a special Remembrance song.

*The North Lopham Crib Festival* brings November to an end. The Journeys of the Nativity Story are a special feature this time, so the first North Lopham Posada will begin its travels round the local district



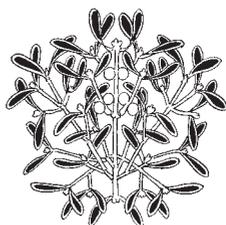
on 1st December, Advent Sunday, after the 11am service. Unsure what 'Posada' is? All will be revealed if you come along!!

*The special services* for December and January are sure to provide memorable moments. All readers are warmly invited to join us for the seasonal extras:

*8th December* The Toy Service is at 11am. All gifts go to the NCH Resource Centre in Thetford.

The Advent Carol Service, with special readings and music is at 4pm.

*15th December* The Family Carol Service at 11am will have children doing the readings and use some of the best known carols.



*24th December* is Christmas Eve. The Crib Service at 4pm is a special time for families, with the children putting the figures in the stable as The Story unfolds.

The Christmas Midnight Service is at St Mary's Diss, carols from 11, service at 11.30pm.

*12th January* is our Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany Carol Service is at 4pm – more beautiful music and readings to round off the main Christmas season.

At the end of another busy year, we reflect on happy times and sad ones too. During 2013 there have been some very happy occasions, including four Baptisms, but we have said goodbye to too many faithful members – heartfelt sympathy goes to the families of the nine whose funerals have been held in our church. We miss them too.

And we must express sincere thanks to all those who have served the church and parish so well, Canon Tony Billett and the Ministry Team, as well as all who help with the running of St Nicholas' Church week by week. All are greatly appreciated.

To all readers, we wish a Blessed Christmas and Good Health to enjoy 2014.

Jennie

## SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

### St Andrew's Church News

The Christmas Service at St Andrew's this year will be Holy Communion at 9.30am on Christmas day.

The Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported St Andrew's Church in any way over the last year and would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### South Lopham Parish Council

John Crisp was elected Chairman for the meeting held 14th November 2013 and to act until the January meeting.

Apologies were received from Steve Reynolds, Rob Webb, and Jim Pursehouse. Granville Horan (Lopham's Society) and Julie Crossley (North Lopham Clerk) were also in attendance.

The minutes of the 12th September meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

The Financial Officer presented a draft precept budget for 2014/15 and answered Councillors queries. Different aspects were discussed at some length after which Councillors were reminded that a final decision must be made at the January 2014 meeting. The conversion to on line banking has been further delayed; the Council's account is an 'old style account' and simple conversion is not possible but Councillors agreed unanimously to continue the change when possible.

A short report was read concerning highways and there were no specific matters concerning planning, community matters and works.

Granville Horan reported to the meeting concerning the recent fireworks evening and quiz and reminded everyone about the Christmas Drop In which will be held at the Village Hall on 13th December 2013.

There was considerable discussion regarding the recent communication from Richard Pike Associates relating to a Solar Farm development locally. This is of great importance to everyone and an open meeting (at present) is scheduled for 29th November in the Village Hall but further details are awaited and

will be communicated to everyone via notices and personal communication as soon as possible.

Regretfully Caroline Phillips, our Clerk, is to resign her position following the next meeting of the Council. The Council expressed their thanks for her hard work and applicants for this position should contact Caroline clerk@southlopham.co.uk for further details or the current Chairman jgcrisp@icloud.com

The next meeting of the Council is 9th January 2014 at Valley Farm, Low Common at 7.30pm

### Friends of South Lopham Church

The Friends of South Lopham Church held their Annual General Meeting in the Church on 15th October at which Mrs Evelyn Logsdail was elected Chairman. Anyone interested in helping to support our beautiful Norman Church can contact her on 01379 687281.

On 1st November we held a Barn Dance at the Village Hall and danced to the Deanside Ramblers and enjoyed hotdogs and good company whilst raising money to support the fabric of the Church. Many thanks to all who attended and to those who worked to make the evening a success.



Suffolk  
Wildlife  
Trust

Events at  
Redgrave &  
Lopham Fen

Saturday 14 December 10.30am–12.30pm

**Wildlife Watch Group**

A club for 6–12yr olds, £1

Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508

Saturday 4 January 10.30am–1pm

**Guided fen walk**

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill.

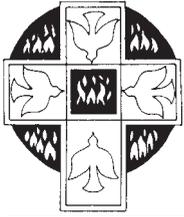
£3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Saturday 11 January 10.30am–12.30pm

**Wildlife Watch Group**

A club for 6–12yr olds, £1

Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508



**COCK CROW IS THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF THE WINFARTHING GROUPS OF CHURCHES AND THE UPPER WAVENEY BENEFICE**

**BURSTON  
GISSING  
SHELFANGER  
TIVETSHALL  
WINFARTHING**

The Rector of the Winfarthing Group  
**The Revd David F Mills**  
Winfarthing Rectory  
Church Lane, Winfarthing, Norfolk IP22 2EA  
Tel: 01379 643646  
E-mail: revdfmills1812@gmail.com

Diss Team Ministry [www.dissteamministry.org.uk](http://www.dissteamministry.org.uk)

The four parishes and Roydon are now considered members of the Diss Team Ministry of all SIX parishes, led by **The Rev'd Canon Tony Billett**, Rector of Diss and also Rural Dean. To arrange Weddings or Baptisms, contact **Diss Parish Office 01379 643783**. For other pastoral matters requiring a priest, contact one of the churchwardens, who will put you in touch with the appropriate individual.



	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
CHRISTINGLE	Dec 6th, 2.00		Dec 11th, 6.30		
December 1	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
December 8	8.00 HC	(Join Tivetshall)	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
December 15	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC/3.00C	10.00 VC
December 22	3.00 4SS	11.00 MP	3.00 C	(Join Gissing)	9.30 HC
December 24	11.30 HC				
December 25	Chapel/Cathedral	10.00 HC	9.00 HC	11.00 HC	8.00 HC
December 29	10.30 HC				
January 5	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
January 12	8.00 HC	(Join Tivetshall)	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
January 19	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
January 26	3.00 4SS	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	(Join Gissing)	9.30 HC
February 2	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP

VC Village Church | HC Holy Communion | MW Morning Worship | 5/P Five Parish Service | FS Family Service | FS/Chp Family Service in Chapel | MP Morning Prayer | C Carol Service | 4SS Fourth Sunday Service

**THE COCK CROW TEAM**

**EDITORS**  
**Winfarthing Group:** Vivienne Wheeler,  
Jacks Barn, Common Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DR  
01379 642622 [Vivienne.wheeler@btinternet.com](mailto:Vivienne.wheeler@btinternet.com)

**Bressingham Group:** Tim Colyer, 'Bermick', Tanns Lane, North Lopham, IP22 2LZ  
01379 687718 [timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk)

**SECRETARY**  
Jennie Vere, Southlands, Church Corner, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk.  
01379 687679 [jennyvere@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyvere@btinternet.com)

**TREASURER**  
Marie Davis, 68 Common Road, Bressingham IP22 2BB. 01379 687242. Cheques for donations payable to 'Cock Crow Committee' please

**ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR**  
Lynda Sullivan, Rosario Cottage, Rectory Road, Tivetshall St Mary NR15 2AL 01379 676713  
[copyforcrow@keme.co.uk](mailto:copyforcrow@keme.co.uk) Further details page 36

**CORRESPONDENTS**

**BRESSINGHAM** Diana Burroughes, Burrowood, Wilney Green, Bressingham IP22 2AJ, 01379 688291, [dianajb@btconnect.com](mailto:dianajb@btconnect.com)  
**BURSTON** Elizabeth Mceniiff, Orchard House, Crown Green, Burston, IP22 5TZ, 01379 742583, [elizabeth.mceniff@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth.mceniff@yahoo.co.uk)  
**FERSFIELD** Maureen Webb Scoggins Farm, Dennington Rd, Laxfield, Suffolk IP13 8HJ 01986 798072 [mbeziger@mac.com](mailto:mbeziger@mac.com)  
**GISSING** Joe Cromley, The Chequers, Upper Street, Gissing. 01379 677817  
**NORTH LOPHAM** Mrs Jennie Vere, Southlands, North Lopham. 01379 687679  
**SOUTH LOPHAM** Jackie Brown, Bottle Cottage, Redgrave Rd, S Lopham IP22 2HL. 01379 687260 [jackiebrown1@btinternet.com](mailto:jackiebrown1@btinternet.com)  
**SHELFANGER** Roger Challoner, Old Post Office, Church Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DG, 01379 642286  
**TIVETSHALL** Maggie Rowan, The Thatched House, Green Lane, Tivetshall NR15 2BJ 01379 674116 [maggiearowan@aol.com](mailto:maggiearowan@aol.com)  
**WINFARTHING** Alun Howkins, Holly Farm Barn, The Street, Winfarthing 01379 652202 [alun.howkins@btinternet.com](mailto:alun.howkins@btinternet.com)

Date	Bressingham St John the Baptist (BCP)	Fersfield St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)	N Lopham St Nicholas (BCP &) (C/W Order 1)	S Lopham St Andrew (BCP &) (C/W Order 2)
Sun 1st Dec Advent Sunday	No Service	4pm ES	11am HC CribS + Posada	No Service
Sun 8th Dec Advent 2	9.30am HC	No Service	11am 4pm Toy Serv Adv Car	No Service
Sun 15th Dec Advent 3	4pm EP	No Service	11am Family Carol	9.30am HC
Sun 22nd Dec Advent 4	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	4pm ES
Tues 24th Dec Christmas Eve			4pm Crib Service	
Wed 25th Dec Christmas Day	9.15am HC	10.30am FS	No Service	9.30am HC
Thur 26th Dec St Stephen			10am MS	
Sun 29th Dec Christmas 1	HC Services at 8am and 10.30am in St Mary's Church Diss			
Sun 5th Jan Epiphany Sunday	No Service	4pm ES	9.30am HC 11am FS	No Service
Sun 12th Jan Epiphany 1	9.30am HC	No Service	11am FS 4pm Epiph Car	No Service
Sun 19th Jan Epiphany 2	4pm ES	No Service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 26th Jan Epiphany 3	No Service	9.30am HC	11am FS	4pm ES
Sun 2nd Feb	No Service	4pm ES	9.30am HC 11am FS	No Service

MP Morning Prayers | FS Family Service | HC Holy Communion | FHC Family Communion | ES Evensong | EP Evening Prayer with hymns | H&R Service of Healing & Reconciliation | MPW Non Denominational All Age Music Praise & Worship

**Morning Prayer:** At present is at 8.30am on Monday and Tuesday at North Lopham and on Thursday at South Lopham in addition to the service held each weekday in St Mary's, Diss at 8.30am.

**Wednesday Communion:** is at 10.45am in St Mary's Church Diss.

**Fellowship/Country Connect Group:** Meets on some Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm; contact Jennie (01379 687679) for location.

**Holy Bingo:** Meets on the first Monday of each month in Lophams' Village Hall at 2pm. It's a fun event, not for serious bingo enthusiasts. Do come, for happy socialising.

**Churchwardens** Bressingham D Burroughes 01379 688291 Millie Aves 01379 687263  
Fersfield J Sumpter 01379 687 711 R Vere 01379 687679  
N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679  
S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273 D Huggins 01379 687201 J Brundell



## While shepherds watched...

In 1980 I had the opportunity to visit Israel for 2 weeks on a package tour cum pilgrimage

It was a wonderful way of beginning one's ministry, visiting the sacred sites and meeting some of the people. One of the places we visited on the journey was Bethlehem. We went to the field where for over 2,000 years the shepherds had kept their sheep. The field itself was on a large slope. At the top of the slope, cut into the ground there had been a large bottle-shaped cave with a very narrow entrance. This was so narrow that a Shepherd could safely leave his sheep in the cave, and as long as he slept across the narrow entrance, then his sheep would be safe; as anyone or any animal that wanted to enter the cave would have to wake him up. The shepherd was literally laying down his life for the sheep. In Bethlehem, the Royal Shepherds of the Royal Sheep kept their flock that were used in Temple worship in Jerusalem.

What a terrible juxtaposition it is, when we think about singing carols ever year about peace and goodwill, and then watch the news regarding Syria, Damascus, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Philippines, which all contain man-made and natural disasters.

Jesus' birth in Bethlehem had been foretold and predicated in the Old Testament. Born at a time of Roman occupation, born in abject poverty and out of wedlock; born to lay down his life for the whole of human kind.

No wonder that the Royal Shepherds come in worship, awe and wonder, to see this Child born to be King of the Jews, the Messiah, the anointed one, born as the carol says to give us a second chance with God. O come all ye faithful.

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Rev David F Mills

## BURSTON NEWS

### St Mary's Burston

#### Luncheon Club

This was inaugurated in the nineties and has continued on a monthly basis ever since, with the support of a very willing band of helpers. The club was set up for retired folk to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, in the newly refurbished church. The members come from Burston and the surrounding villages, and some of the present ones have been participating from the start. As well as lunch for 10 months of the year, we also have a summer outing and a Christmas meal. This year it will be enjoyed in the Gissing Crown. Extra funds are raised through an auction, for which members bring a contribution – anything from cakes to clocks and tins of beans!

Any enquiries to Sybil Peck on 01379 741410.

#### Youth Café

Every Thursday during term time, the Youth café is in full swing. If you are aged 11–14, come and join us for games, free pizza and milkshake from 3.45–5.15 in the church.

#### Amanda Pilates

Held every Tuesday from 10.30–11.30. For more information contact Amanda on 07557 025513 or visit [www.amandapilates.com](http://www.amandapilates.com)

#### Church Hire

If you are interested in hiring St Mary's Church for a special event, contact Anne Hyde on 07733 182525. Tables, chairs and tableware are available to hire.



### Burston Chapel Christmas Services

*Carols on the Green* (hot soup or hot chocolate for all attendees!) on Saturday 21st December at 5pm.

*Carols by Candle-light* (Chapel and Church combined) on Sunday 22nd December at 4pm. To be held in the Church.

*Christmas Day* (short family service) at 10am.

#### Thank you to Burston CP School

To the parents and children of the school for their generous contributions at the Harvest Festival, which were donated to the Food Bank in Diss.

## Obituaries

*Rosemary Schaay* (nee Manwaring) was born on February 7th 1938 in Croydon, Surrey and moved to Far End with her family in 1951. After marrying the love of her life, Peter Schaay, in 1961 they settled into married life in Burston. Ro, as she was affectionately known, devoted the entirety of her life to raising her children – Tim, Jerry, Julie, Dave, Will, Ben and Nick and as a foster mum to over 135 more.

She spent many years as caretaker at Burston Primary and was a familiar face in the village, known for rescuing animals, running children's discos and selling her preserves and her farm shop. Rosie sadly passed away at home on August 25th. Her love and devotion for children and animals will be remembered fondly and she will be dearly missed by her family and all those whose lives she touched.

*Zia Raheen Alvi* was born in Patiala, India on 24th September 1925. After graduating with a BA degree, he came to England to study at the De Havilland Aircraft Company. He married Dulcie in 1951 and she joined him in Lahore when he became an aircraft engineer at the Flying Club. Moniza was born in 1954 and Jazaid in 1957 after they returned to England.

He became a successful metallurgist and, when he retired as Research Manager, Zia and Dulcie moved to Spain for 30 happy years.

In 1993 they moved to Burston where Zia enjoyed walking through the country lanes.

A quiet, reserved and caring man, he valued his many friendships here and abroad and was devoted to his wife and family.

Sadly, he died on 5th March. Though not himself

a Christian, he supported Church activities and, most generously, left the Friends of Burston Church a gift of £1,000 for which we are very grateful.

You will find the obituaries of Sybil Seaman and Harry 'Chippy' Stevens in the next Cock Crow.

### Coming Events

To inform the village of a special event or celebration, contact Liz McEniff 01379 742583.

## Community Primary School

It's another busy half term for Class 1. Our topic is called 'Festivals and Celebrations'. During this topic we will be learning about different events that take place this half term, including bonfire night, Remembrance Day, Hannukah and Christmas. Preparation has already begun for our Christmas play and the children have been hard at work learning the new songs. Class 1 will continue spending Wednesday and Thursday afternoons with the children from our partnership school, carrying out various activities when they do so, such as art, music and PE. Last half term, the children enjoyed sharing their learning with their peers from Tivetshall and receiving PE coaching from Mr Constance.

Class 2 will be finding out about different celebrations and festivals this term. We have already found out about the infamous Guy Fawkes and recorded his story as either a story board or mini eight page book. We have met the Reading Spies in Big Read to help us get more from our reading; Rex Retriever is the first spy to work with us.

Our topic for this half term is Rainforests, part of which will be looking at deforestation and how this affects the rest of the world. Our focus in Literacy to start this term off is an essential modern classic, 'Street Child', by Bernie Doherty. The children will be learning how to write diary entries, playscripts and non-fiction texts during this topic. Finally we are all looking forward to rehearsing for the school Christmas production, which this year is 'Gabriel's Big Break!' This is going to be a whole school production and songs are already being practiced!

## GISSING NEWS

### Heart of Gissing

This charity is made up of local people with an interest in securing the future and the regeneration of the centre of Gissing including the proposed refurbishment and extension of the Old School building and site. Summer 2013 saw the installation of a new roof and interior main hall ceiling works, as a result of grant aid being obtained to the tune of over £40,000. Refurbishment of the old Schoolmaster's house and the installation of essential services took place at Easter, again, with the help of grant-aid, applied for by Trustees. They are keen to develop the potential of the site as a meeting place for local organisations, community and interest groups of all ages and as a venue for small scale 'one off' events of social, cultural and educational kinds. They see it as one of their main roles to promote and foster such 'sharing' activities. The building is well-used, but there are some times still available to book space, particularly in the evening, at weekends, or during school holidays. Please contact Linda Nash (below) for further details, if you might be interested in hiring the venue for events, group meetings etc. The Heart of Gissing very much works with Gissing Children's Centre that is, and will remain, the primary user of the site. Fundraising events are organised jointly to maximise effort and ensure the sustainability of both groups. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Heart of Gissing, please contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 or email [admin@heartofgissing.org.uk](mailto:admin@heartofgissing.org.uk) for a membership form and/or further details. Please visit [www.heartofgissing.org.uk](http://www.heartofgissing.org.uk) for up to date information about groups, events and what is happening in the centre of the village.



### Forthcoming fundraising events include:

St Nicholas Fayre on Saturday 7th December from 4pm to 7pm in and around the Church and Old

School (Children's Centre). This event provides a great opportunity to buy interesting Christmas gifts and homemade produce in a lovely setting. There will be an even wider range of stalls to choose from than last year, with entertainment and refreshments available, Father Christmas and his helpers will be there to receive wish lists. For more information on this magical pre-Christmas event, please contact Kelly Pitcher Tel 01379 674511 or email [kelpitcher@aol.com](mailto:kelpitcher@aol.com); we look forward to seeing you there.

### Groups running at present include:

*Gissing Children's Centre* (Pre-School and Playscheme) Contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am-3pm during term time) or 07796 204367 out of hours or email [admin@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk](mailto:admin@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk)

*Gissing Baby and Toddler Group* runs in Gissing Village Hall every Monday morning, 10am to 12 noon (new times). All parents, carers and their children (under school age) are welcome to come and have a chat while the children have fun. The group includes a designated safe 'baby area' within the main play area. For information about the group, contact Vicky on 01379 674437 or 07946 212779 or email at [vhcullum@hotmail.com](mailto:vhcullum@hotmail.com).

*Gissing Youth Club* for 8-13 year-olds, runs every Tuesday 6.30-8pm (winter times) during term time at Gissing Children's Centre. Anyone interested in helping or who has ideas or skills to share, contact Bernie on 07796 545929 or 01379 677254 or email at [berniecalton@live.co.uk](mailto:berniecalton@live.co.uk).

*Gissing Reading Group* meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 8pm at the Old School. For further information about the group, contact Jim Philip on 01379 677352 or just come along. The forthcoming programme is as follows: December, Poems or short prose (humorous please!); January, Turned Out Nice Again by Richard Mabey; February, Sunset Song by Lewis Grassic Gibbon; March, The Chymical Wedding by Lindsay Clarke.

*Gissing Gardening Group* generally meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month at the Old School. Enquiries: a Joe Cromley on 01379 677817.

*Gissing Singers* meet every Monday at 7.30pm in Gissing Village Hall. Further information available from Andrew Pierssené on 01379 674518.

*Pilates* runs every Wednesday evening from 6.30pm at the Children's Centre (the Old School). Call Sharon Calton on 07979 411644 or email [sharon@scalton.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:sharon@scalton.orangehome.co.uk) for details.

*Performing Arts East* Offers ballet, tap, and contemporary dance classes to children (from 3 years) and adults and runs from both the Children's Centre (the Old School) and from Gissing village hall. For further details, contact Sam on 07825 325100 by email at [samiwatt@rocketmail.com](mailto:samiwatt@rocketmail.com)

*Weekly Musical Theatre Class* Musical theatre classes run every Wednesday from 5pm at Gissing Village Hall for anyone over 7 years of age. The class includes singing, dancing and acting, working on scripts from popular musicals. The group will then do recitals for family at the end of term. For further details, contact Sam as above.

*Heart of Gissing Community Arts Group* (Formerly Dance 2000 Plus and Heart of Gissing Community Dance Group) Any queries regarding this group can be directed to Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email at [rose@roseeddington.co.uk](mailto:rose@roseeddington.co.uk).

*Stage HOGers* This local theatre group puts on performances from time to time. Anyone interested in treading the boards, contact Sam as above.

*Friends of Gissing Church* contact Fiona Turton 01379 677811, email [fionaturton@btinternet.com](mailto:fionaturton@btinternet.com).

*Over 60s Group* contact Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email at [rose@roseeddington.co.uk](mailto:rose@roseeddington.co.uk).

*Gissing Carpet Bowls* Derek Dewey on 01379 677162.

*Gissing Bowls Club* Kevin Lake on 01379 677525.

*Bookings to use Gissing Village Hall* contact Bernie Calton on 07796 545929 or 01379 677254 or email at [berniecalton@live.co.uk](mailto:berniecalton@live.co.uk)

Bookings to use *The Old School* contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am to 3pm Monday to Friday during term time) or 07796 204367 out of hours or admin@heartofgissing.org.uk

## St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church, Gissing, held its annual Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday, 30th September. This year's service was somewhat special, because it was a 5th Sunday service, attended by parishioners from all five churches in the benefice. During the service, new altar linens and cruets, purchased from a gift to the church by John and Delma Sherman, were dedicated. John and Delma were active members of St Mary's for many years before moving to Sussex a couple of years ago, and it was a pleasure to introduce these attractive and much needed items to our services on this special day. The flowers in the windows and on the altar were, as always, stunning, and many thanks are due to those volunteers who took the time to choose, provide and arrange them. The 'Fifth Sunday Choir', composed of members from all the benefice churches, enhanced the morning's music, and Muriel Cullom and her 'team' for provided a superb buffet of refreshments after the service. Thanks to you all, and to all who came, for making this a special Sunday for our church.

St Mary's will hold its Christmas carols and lessons service on Sunday, 15th December, at 11am. The service will have a new format this year, but will feature the traditional music of Christmas. The Gissing Singers will, as they have for several years



now, perform several numbers of their own, as well as joining the congregation in the familiar carols of the season, and refreshments will be served in the Kemp Chapel following the service. We hope to see as many people as possible at this festive service of music and inspirational Christmas readings.

## Friends of Gissing Church

In the past edition of *Cock Crow* we told you about the shoring up of the vestry wall at Gissing Church because of the very real danger of increased damage or worse, a collapse, which would be unthinkable for this lovely church. The PCC is in the process of developing a funding application to assist urgent repairs to the vestry wall and other areas of the church in need of attention. However, any funding achieved is unlikely to cover all of the expenses and so the Friends have been busy this autumn with fund raising events.

On October 20th Terry Fewell and friends organised a fun Tractor Run around the lanes and byways of the area, finishing with lunch in the Crown at Gissing. The Tractor Run contributed £150 to the Friends. A similar amount was raised for the Greyhound Rescue. The same afternoon Moira Walters and friends offered 'Tea and Crafts' in the Village Hall and included a raffle with prizes generously donated, at which £130 was raised. We thank all those who organised, supported and donated to these events.

Later in the month, Janice Pitcher's Birthday Party raised nearly £500 for the Friends. Many of the donations were anonymous and Janice has been unable to thank people personally. Therefore she would very much like to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave so generously. The Friends and PCC are discussing how this particular donation might be used towards installing a ramp to allow better access to the church for the disabled and those with pushchairs/baby buggies.

The next event in which the Friends will be involved will be the St Nicholas Fayre. The Friends will have stalls selling a range of jams, pickles, chutneys and other festive goodies, as well as pottery and Christmas cards. There will also be a tombola in the Kemp Chapel

The Friends will end the year literally ringing in 2014. They'll gather in the church tower about 15 minutes before midnight on December 31st, and will ring the bells for about 10 minutes from the stroke of midnight. Anyone who'd like to have a go at the ringing, or who'd just like to hear the bells in all their glory, is welcome to come down and join us.

Lastly, Friends membership is continuing to grow

but as a reminder, it costs around £3000 per year just to repair, maintain and insure the building and churchyard, which does not include any of the more major repairs that are urgent. So if you feel that you could help preserve this lovely church, or indeed if you could offer help 'in kind' then just let us know.

Further information about the 'Friends' is available from either Eddie Scoggins, Secretary, on 01379 674669 or Edward.scoggins@live.co.uk or Fiona Turton, Chair, on 01379 677811 or fionaturton@btinternet.com and there are information leaflets and membership forms in the church itself.

## Gissing Children's Centre

Our popular and successful Pre-School, with its very special family ethos, runs Monday to Friday during term time. The Pre-school runs 2, 3 hour-long sessions per day where children can attend from 9am to 12 noon and/or from 12 noon to 3pm each day. Early years funding for 3 and 4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions and the Pre-school is now an accredited setting able to offer a limited number of funded places for eligible 2 year olds. Children can attend unaccompanied from 2½ years to 5 years old. Any families wishing to bring their children and come and have a look, are welcome to contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am-3pm during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk to arrange a visit. Please note that spaces are filling up for the 2013-14 school year, but the Pre-school operates a waiting list so will aim to meet your requirements, and reserve places, wherever we can. Do visit our facebook page to see what we have been up to.

The Autumn Playscheme was extremely well-attended and the lovely autumnal themed activities on offer were enjoyed by all, despite having had no electricity for much of the day, owing to the storm which brought down lines earlier that week. We hope to run another Playscheme in the spring half-term.



## SHELFANGER NEWS

### All Saints' Church

No sun, No Morn, No Noon – November! Still, there's quite a bit to be cheerful about!

The Church Yard Sale on September 15th was part of a village event organised by Keith and Vicci Day. The terrific efforts of Pat Webster, Sheila Churchyard, Peter and Pam Harries and Wendy Hayman resulted in the wonderful sum of £100 being raised for the church.

Harvest Festival was held on Sunday 6th October. The church looked truly magnificent – packed with flower and vegetable arrangements. Special thanks to Pam, Sheila, Jean, Marion, Anne and Marilyn for the floral displays which would have cheered Anne Chinn (sadly now living in a Lincolnshire care home).

Music was provided by Joyce Yates and Jean Challoner while hard work by Peter Harries and all the 'All Saints' Home Team' ensured a really lovely act of worship.

The following Monday, the wardens sold the festival produce at the bus shelter, raising £65. Sincere thanks to all who helped, attended or gave and bought produce at these events.

The All Saints' Friday Work Team (the rotary club) has been joined this year in the massive leaf-clearing (usually about 4 tons) by a team from the South Norfolk Council who have done a great job. This was organised by Marion and Helen and is much appreciated by the rotarians.

The Gift Day on Saturday 2nd November, though not yet closed, at the time of writing is showing a wonderfully heartening result. So far £1400 has been given. Truly, thank you Shelfanger.

The Village Carol Service will be held at 3pm on Sunday 22nd December. Please come and share in this candlelit service and find some of the real Christmas atmosphere; we are trying a slightly different format this year.

On Christmas Day, Shelfanger has Holy Communion at 9am.

The church will be decorated for these services.

The Grand Christmas Fayre, organised by Anne Lord, Marian Paynes and Pam Harries falls outside the timescale of this edition, but a full report will be in the next issue.

And finally – you may have seen that All Saints' Church has been put on the 'Buildings at Risk' register. This placing is of the lowest level and the architect hopes that it might make it easier to obtain a grant – plans are already afoot!

## Village News

### Shelfanger stitchers

Are you interested in stitching? Whether you knit, crochet or sew – or if you would like to learn, come to an inaugural meeting at 'The Walnuts', Church Road, Shelfanger on 16th January 2014 at 2pm to discuss this possible project. For further information contact Helen Green on 01379 652199.



### Parish Council

We are delighted to report that the vehicle activated sign is now been installed on the North side of the crossroads. Hopefully, this will slow things down!

Five new grit bins have been installed in the village. Four are funded by the Parish Council and the fifth by the Village Hall committee.

Please make use of the salt in these to spread on dangerously slippery areas of road and path.

The Parish Council asks householders whose gardens border the stream running through the village to ensure that it is clear of major debris which would obstruct the flow.

### Personalia

All our best thoughts and prayers go out to those in our village who are 'under the weather' – Janet Bowman, Julie Goodwin, Mercy Harmer, David Lond and Batty Chiles.

## TIVETSHALL NEWS

### St Margaret's Church

#### Flower Festival

Thank you to all who contributed to make this year's flower festival so successful. The Church looked stunning and the scent from the flowers was wonderful. £358 profit was made from donations, from the produce stall and book sale. The books will remain in the Church until Christmas; please leave donations in the wall safe by the door.

#### Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride

Thanks to Paul and Nicola Barton for raising £154 to be shared between St Margaret's Church and the Trust. Due to inclement weather they visited Churches in Norwich this year on foot.

#### Christmas and Turkey Quiz Evening

This will be held at Tivetshall Village Hall on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50, includes hot turkey baps & pickles. Teams of up to 6. Please contact Maggie 676114 or Claire 677373. Donations to be shared between St Margaret's Church and The Big C unit at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital. Raffle prizes would be appreciated.

#### Carols by Candlelight

This will be held in the church on Sunday 15th December at 3pm. We hope you will join us at this very popular and atmospheric service.

#### Village Hall

December is upon us once again, the village green will soon have its Christmas tree erected and decorated with lights (thanks to a small group of volunteers) and the school will be putting on its annual Christmas play at the Village Hall.

Another year has passed and a few changes have taken place at the hall. Sadly the Diss Children's centre are no longer able to bring their unique services for parents and toddlers to the village as Government funding has been cut and because numbers



in attendance had fallen it was our group that lost out. We do however still have a small group catering for some of 'the young ladies' of the village. Rainbows takes place every Thursday (during school term time) at 4-5pm and is for girls aged 5 to 7 years, any one interested in their daughters attending should contact Becky on 01379 674509

Pilates classes take place at 9am every Tuesday morning and yoga classes on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, again during school term time.

Short mat bowls continues to thrive on a Friday night and provides a 'competitive challenge' in a very friendly environment and good value at only £2.50 for three hours (including some refreshments).

With several of our regular hirers having a break for school holidays the village Hall Committee had tried to arrange for the hall floor to be stripped and refinished during one of these breaks. However it would appear that anyone else with a village or school hall floor in need of refurbishment has had the same idea and it has proved impossible this year as every professional contractor we have contacted has been flat out during these school breaks. We are now hoping to book well in advance for early next year so that we can get the job completed.

As ever our small committee would welcome anyone who can give up a few hours of their time each year to help in the running and maintenance of the hall. As a community if we do not use, and help support our Village Hall and Parish Council then we will lose them as we have with the services of Diss Children's centre, so please if you would like to join a friendly group in their efforts to keep these facilities running then contact David on 01379 676723.

We wish all of our hirers and all those who have attended functions at the hall a Merry Christmas and thank you for all for your support.

David Evans, V H Management Committee.

### Tivetshall Primary School

We began the new school year in a very pleasant way preparing for Tivetshall Church Flower Festival. Our theme was Jack and the Beanstalk and every child made their own themed container and flower arrangement. As ever, we were very impressed with the very high standard of all of the exhibits and pleased that the children had the opportunity to take part. Many thanks to Mrs Chamberlain for providing the beanstalk and Mrs Fletcher for all of her help which was very much beyond the call of duty.

The children in Reception and Year 1 will now be much safer on the road as they have been taking part in Road Safety education. The children in Reception learned about keeping safe in the car and Year 1 practised crossing the road safely.

Children, families and other guests greatly enjoyed our Macmillan Coffee Morning and Harvest Festival which raised nearly £100. All the children were busy on the day before, making bread and cakes with Mrs Brown and Miss Davison, the staff were busy on the day serving drinks and delicious food. It was a great opportunity for us to come together as a school community which was made special by the quality of the following assembly.

As part of our whole school RE topic on Signs, Symbols and Artefacts we all spent a very informative afternoon at the church where Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Lee talked to the children about the church and showed them many special artefacts. Many thanks to all the parents who helped us on the walk.

We are especially proud of our older children at the moment. The netball team won a local tournament at Diss High School and are now through to the finals. The team is, as usual, playing against older children from larger schools. Also most of the children in years 5 and 6 had the opportunity recently to take part in Bikeability training. The instructors informed us that they were the best group that they had taught in five years! Sandra Potter

## WINFARTHING NEWS

Very many thanks to everyone for their help and support while my husband, Martin, was in hospital following a stroke. In particular I would like to say how grateful I am to David and Yvonne Mitchell who put me up for the night when I stupidly managed to lock myself out of the house; Keith for 'breaking and entering' and Yvonne Harries for ferrying me to the hospital. There are many, many more who kept in touch – including Tony and Val Skinner and lots of other Masons.

I am glad to report that Martin is now back home fully recovered.

Thank you all so much – I am so glad I live in Winfarthing.  
*Merle Darnell*

### Parish Council

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month at the village Hall; everyone is welcome to attend these meetings which begin at 7.30pm

At the last meeting the Councillors discussed the Community speed watch. This will need several people to be trained to use the camera. Although the Councillors are behind this idea they need other people from the village to help. If you are interested could you please get in touch with the clerk on 01379 642520 or [mrsjamitchell@btconnect.com](mailto:mrsjamitchell@btconnect.com).

The new notice board is now in use and the heritage map should soon be on the back of the notice board. A list of the meeting dates for the council and councillors contact information is in the notice board. There is no meeting in January.

### Village Service

The informal, all age interactive family services continue on the third Sunday of each month from 10–11am with refreshments served after the service. The December service on the 15th will be a Christingle service. Please join us. If you have any questions just call Jane Marchant on 01379 640502 or Brian Dent on 01953 860535.



### Winfarthing Prayer Group

If you would like to join us to ask for God's blessing on our village or there are specific situations or people you would like us to pray for, please contact Richard or Mary Livermore on 01379 652951, email [rdlivermore@btinternet.com](mailto:rdlivermore@btinternet.com). Meetings are on the second Monday of each month; venues may vary.

### Beauty at Harvest Time

Our heartfelt thanks goes to the Flower Arrangers who decorated our Church, it looked wonderful. We do not have a 'Chief' flower arranger. [are there any volunteers out there?] to organise the rota, but our ladies, and one gentleman did us proud. Many thanks.

### Carol Service

Winfarthing had a wonderful Carol Service last year and this year's will be held on Sunday 22nd December at 6pm with the children from All Saints' School; we plan to begin our Christmas in the traditional way with song, mulled wine, mince pies; perhaps we can persuade Father Christmas to join us with gifts for all the children? Please come and join us.



### Winfarthing PCC

Christmas Eve Carols at the Fighting Cocks from 7pm, with Alice on the organ. Don't get stressed about Christmas, come and let your hair down and join the rest of the village for this traditional 'do' at the Fighting Cocks.

### Winfarthing Footpaths Group

A meeting of interested villagers held at the end of October decided to form a group that would walk the footpaths in and around the Parish with the view of 'mapping' their current state. Where appropriate the

group will report problems to the Highways Authority. The group also wants to re-establish a circular Parish walk which would be usable and accessible to most villagers in time for an early summer grand walk ending at the Village Hall.

The first walk will start from the Church on Saturday 30th November at 10am for a short walk of about two hours. For further details and future plans contact either Nick Griffiths on 01379 643718 or Ken Barrell on 01379 642125

### All Saints' Primary School

All Saints' pupils and staff have returned from an autumnal half term break, feeling refreshed for the weeks ahead.

Last term, All Saints' enjoyed an exciting book week, with all staff and children dressing up as book characters, making story book mobiles and experiencing visits from oral storytellers who shared the power of story. Children in Key Stage 1 studied their own locality by carrying out field work in Winfarthing, while children in Key Stage 2 contrasted the locality with Happisburgh and Dunwich. All Saints' also took part in the Small Schools League winning and drawing netball and football matches and getting through to the County Hi Five finals. Parents also had the opportunity to learn alongside their children when they were invited into maths café and a maths themed open morning. The term climaxed

with the children enjoying a popular 'festival of lights' disco! Since returning to school this half term, pupils have taken part in a Firework Hair Day, Key Stage 1 enjoyed multi-skills run by Sports Leaders at the High School and year 5s have visited South Norfolk District Council for a Democracy day!



All Saints' now looks forward to exciting opportunities in the term ahead. These include a trip to Norwich Castle Museum for a Roman Day, a Bingo night, Anti bullying week and Christmas Production and service.

If you would like further information about All Saints' Primary, or wish to bring your child to visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01379 642767 or by email [head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk) We would love to hear from you!

*Louise Norgate, Executive Head Teacher for All Saints' and St Andrew's Federation in Partnership with Hapton*

## From the Registers

### Bressingham Group

#### FUNERALS

Malcolm Arthur Flatman 20th September, South Lopham

John Partridge 7th October, North Lopham

Michael Robert Revell 18th October, Bressingham

Robert Marius Foster 25th October, North Lopham

### Winfarthing Group

#### FUNERALS

Sybil Seaman 18th October, Burston

Joss Brindley 7th November, Gissing

Lenna Monument 28th November, Tivetshall

#### CHRISTENING

Winston Grundy James 9th November, Gissing