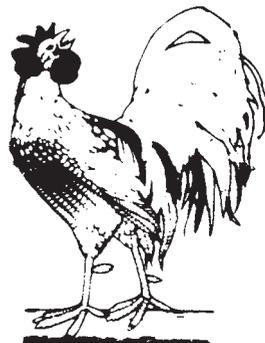


Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2015-16

Issue No: 6



The Inn and the Star, Winfarthing



Editors' Notice Board

Dear Readers,

What happened? Where did that year go? It can't be nearly 2016 already can it? Well of course it can and it certainly is! This particular pair of Cock Crow editors has been in place since 2008 and so we should be used to the annual cycle of the Cock Crow year but the time still seems to fly past at an ever increasing pace.

At this time, as regular readers will know, we take the opportunity to say thank you to everyone concerned in the production and distribution of the magazine for their continued dedication and to the advertisers for their vital support. There have been some changes to the Cock Crow team during this year, some long serving team members have retired and been replaced by new ones, we thank the former for their efforts and wish them well and we welcome the latter to the team. We write this every year, we know, but it's still nonetheless very true that every one of you plays an important part in keeping the magazine in production and we thank you all most sincerely for giving your time, expertise and in the case of the advertisers, financial support, over the past year and we wish you all health, happiness and success in 2016.

It's your turn now readers because without you the entire thing would be pointless!

We thank you for reading Cock Crow and hope that you find at least some of the magazine interesting and informative. We would be pleased to receive your feedback or even your material for possible publication. Contact details are on the centre pages.

Finally, from the whole Cock Crow team we wish all our readers a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Vivienne and Tim



Other items
the Editors think
you might like
to know about

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Advent, think about it!

By the time you read this I expect that Christmas will be in full swing. Actually, as I write this the shops have been full of Christmas goodies for some time and I've already heard my first Christmas song in a local shop.

But for those of us in the church environs, Christmas; that is Christ's Mass; doesn't even start until Christmas Day and then lasts for precisely 10 days until Epiphany. The 4 weeks before this is called Advent. Advent is a time of waiting and expectation and for all Christians all over the world a time of fasting and introspection; a time to ponder Christ's place in our life and to acknowledge before Him the burden of the sin we all carry and give them to Him who freely forgives.

I love Advent and relish the permission I get to sit and be still before the Lord. I am also very aware that the carol concerts and children's nativities, the smells of mince pies and mulled wine bring a glow to many, many people's lives (including me) and a sense of contentment that is not easily found in the routine of life.

So for whatever reason you enjoy the season upon us, may I wish you a very thoughtful Advent and a wonderful, blessed Christmas.

Ps Don't forget to look in your local newsletters and notice boards for details of the various Christmas Concerts and services we have in all the churches in the area or the dates we're singing carols in the local pubs – I know you wouldn't want to miss them.

May you and yours be blessed,

Wendy

Rev Wendy Evans, Team Vicar, Diss Team Ministry

Team Ministry

Revd Wendy's e-address is: revwendydisstm@gmail.com

Team News

Hymns for Advent: All 'usual' services during Advent will use hymns from a booklet compiled during the summer – including the traditional favourites alongside some newer, but also very meaningful ones. It will be used for the first time on Advent Sunday, 29th November, when all six parishes join for the 10.30am Eucharist in Diss Parish Church.

The Christmas Big Carol Sing will take place in St Mary's Church, Diss, on Friday 18th December at 12.30pm. All are welcome to a very informal occasion, to join in singing some of the best loved carols, chosen by those who take part.

A traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols will be at St Mary's, Diss on 20th at 6pm.

The First Communion of Christmas is in St Mary's Church, at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, following a half hour of informal carol singing

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.

There is a link there to Cock Crow!



BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Church News

Over 30 people attended a simple and contemplative Remembrance Sunday Service at the war memorial in Bressingham. It was very moving to hear the Roll Call of the Fallen read by Robert Brooke, himself of the age of many of the local men called to war 100 years ago.

The School Carol Service this year is on 16th December at 6pm.

We're delighted to hear that Bressingham Church will host a Christmas Day Service this year and look forward to meeting with many friends from the community on that day.

You may have seen the item in the local press on Bressingham Church and it's great need for maintenance and repair. There is good news that the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding is progressing and the church has been visited by experts from English Heritage. We are hopeful that the bid can now move forward to the next phase. If everything goes smoothly the money for the work to start should be in place in 2017.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Winnie Garvie at the wonderful age of 95. Mrs Garvie had lived with her daughter Sheila, granddaughter Electra and son in law Peter in Chequers Lane until 11 years ago when she went to live at The Beeches in East Harling. We send our deepest sympathy to the family.

Bressingham Parish Council Meeting

October and November 2015

David Hodges was co-opted to serve on the Parish Council. This is a return for him, as he served on the council several years ago.

Karl Traynier was elected as vice chair and Jan Dela Salle, the current chair, announced her retirement from the parish council at the end of the year.

Planning issues were discussed and the outcomes can be viewed on the South Norfolk website.

The 'Meet Your Councillor' event went ahead in September and the councillors have been following up on a number of issues raised. These primarily

concern local traffic. The council is looking into the possibility of buying a speed monitoring sign.

Norfolk County Council has decided that due to cuts in the highways budget, they will no longer repair potholes on minor roads and this will be the responsibility of the parish council.

A large number of footpath signs have been broken and numbers removed.

The next meeting is on 4th January 2016

Events at Lopham & Redgrave Fen Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Wildlife Watch Group

Saturdays: 12 December, 9 January
10.30am–12.30pm. A club for 6–12yr olds, £2. Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333

Adult course

Weave a festive willow wreath

Saturday 5 December, 10am–1pm
With local basketmaker Karen Lawrence
£20, inc willow & some decorations
Booking essential 01473 890089

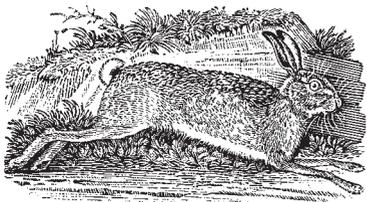
Children's activity

Winter wildlife

Tuesday 22 December, 10am–2pm
For unaccompanied 6–10 year olds £6 per child, please book: 01379 688333
redgrave.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Guided fen walks

Saturday 2 January, 10.30am–1pm
Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with naturalist John Hill. £3, meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.



FERSFIELD NEWS

Fersfield Church News

Fersfield really has looked beautiful during the Autumn season, with the trees and shrubs, both wild and cultivated, displaying their wonderful late-season tints, a mass of colours including russets, reds and golds, among others. We now have bare branches and avalanches of leaves to be cleared away as we get ready to welcome the Winter – it may be a cold one if the quantity of holly berries really is anything to go by.

Fersfield continues to be busy. We had a Village Picnic on the Church Meadow on a mid-September Saturday. The food and preparations were excellent – thanks in particular to Karl, Anna, Debbie, Margaret and Graham and all those people who made the splendid picnic fare and cut the grass. A big 'well done' is due to everyone, including those who shone in the organised games.

We participated in the Diss Team Ministry Harvest Celebration on 2 October. Fersfield's famous cooks worked with those from the other parishes to produce a splendid meal. As a result of this event and its raffle, a handsome donation was made by the Benefice to the Refugee Appeal.

Our own Harvest Festival took place on 18th October. We welcomed a large congregation for the Harvest Service at 4pm, following which 55 people enjoyed a 'light' supper in the church, choosing from a range of beef, chilli and vegetarian main courses and delicious desserts. Many thanks go to our team of people who made possible this event, which by popular demand looks like becoming established as an annual happening.

Sunday 8 November, at mid-afternoon, Fersfield's Annual Remembrance Service took place. A large congregation met in church for the Gathering, Reading, Address and Prayers, before going out to the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance which included the Silence, wreath-laying, sentences and Kohima Epitaph, spoken for us by our guest-of-honour, Sgt James Rogers, who is serving with the RAF Regiment at Honington. The Service concluded back in the church and was followed by

refreshments. Fersfield was, of course, a large British and American bomber base during World War Two, from which crucial and often still-secret missions were launched. There were many airmen who did not return, and we remember them at our service, which is very moving and atmospheric in this peaceful place. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Bressingham and Fersfield continue to plan for next Summer's Open Gardens Event. The programme is clearly emerging, and the next meeting for this will be at Katherine's home, Grange Cottage, Bressingham, on Wednesday 27 January at 7pm.

...and so to the Christmas Season! On Saturday 5 December there will be a 'Morning in St Andrew's' at which there will be tea, coffee, refreshments, books to buy or exchange, a table of seasonal items/gift ideas and other craft attractions – please come for an enjoyable morning.

Monday 21 December at 7.30pm is our Annual Carol Service, to be followed by seasonal refreshments. Do join us, and be early enough to get a seat – even though the Village Hall has again kindly lent us a large number of extra chairs!

Fersfield's Christmas Day celebration is the traditional Family Service at 10.30am. This will finish in plenty of time to be home in time to put the turkey and sprouts in the oven!

Our full battery of new heaters is now in place in the church – it is now possible to be warm in St Andrew's! More details concerning the roof and chancel repairs, upgrading of the entrances and other work to make our village's only public building more comfortable will be included in the next issue.

A huge thank-you to all those people who work so hard for our church and its community, and have done so much during 2015. We all wish you A Very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Richard



LOPHAMS NEWS

St Andrew's School

It has been a busy start to term at St Andrew's. Pupils, staff, governors and parents are delighted to have achieved the Gold standard award for PE.

In the last half term, Reception pupils have really settled into school routines well. They have been able to meet the teachers and children from the other schools in our federation during our Harvest Experience and Dinosaur Day. This half term, Discovery are looking forward to learning more about Dinosaurs and taking part in the Christmas production!

In September Victory Class visited St Andrew's Church, South Lopham, for a historical workshop. Children enjoyed exploring the building, taking rubbings and sharing their learning back at school afterwards.

In Endeavour class pupils have been looking into the characters and setting of the book Beowulf.

At the end of last half term, years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in cluster cross county at Diss High School. A third of the pupils qualified to take part the area finals at Earlham Park in November. Year 5 and 6 are also looking forward to taking part in the Diss Cluster Tag Rugby competition, while year 1 and 2 go to a cluster multi-skills event.

School Council have also been very busy. They organised a very successful 'scary cake sale' before half term and are now preparing for Children in Need.

Book week was a success. During the week children wrote book reviews, read together and came dressed as book characters. Marilyn Brocklehurst from the Norfolk Children's Centre visited to talk with parents about encouraging their child to read for pleasure.

If you would like to know more about St Andrew's or come and visit, please contact the school office on 01379 687253

St Andrew's Pre School

The children have enjoyed getting to know some of the 'people who help us' in our daily lives. They became 'helpers' too, when they filled a box with

fruit, vegetables and eggs to present to St Nicholas' Church at the Harvest Festival, then took the box to give to Richard Vere, in the church. Now that Bonfire Night excitement is over, thoughts turn towards Christmas preparations – making cards and decorations then sharing in the seasonal special events.

We have some spaces on Mon/Wed and Thurs am and pm sessions, so invite any new residents with children approaching their 2nd birthday, or a bit older, to get in touch to arrange a visit with a view to joining us. We offer your child a safe way to make friends with those they may then grow up alongside, and can also help them to get to know the 'big' school too. Do note that ALL 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free sessions each week. Following our GOOD OFSTED rating we can now offer free funded places to eligible 2 year olds as well!

As always, just drop in on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays during school term time, between 9.15am and 3.15pm to view the setting and meet our team. Our contact number is 07854 091257.

Lophams' Ladies

Meetings: the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall, Dec, Jan, and Feb at 1.45pm for 2pm.

Our October speaker, Celia Stevens entertained us all with her very enthusiastic talk on her passion for racing driving. From her trepid beginnings; taking her racing car driving licence test on Snetterton track, to racing in the Le Mans Classic in her 'Peerless' and also a 1930s Citroen C4; Celia is now an instructor herself.

In November we were entertained by Mary and Jane of the Windmill Ringers. These two ladies played a delightful selection of music on their handbells, they can be heard again playing at Blickling Hall over Christmas. Our December meeting on the 1st of the month will be held at 2pm when Rosemarie Jacob will talk about on 'A day in the life of a Newsagent'. The committee will provide seasonal refreshments, giving us chance to catch up on a winter's afternoon at the start of the Christmas season. Looking ahead to our first meeting of 2016 we meet in the afternoon when Malcolm Crowe will bring along some of his traditional handcrafted games.

Our Cake Stall at the October Farmer's Market raised £109. Thanks go to all who helped to ensure a

well stocked stall and all those who supported us by buying our cakes.

Visitors and new members always welcome, phone 01379 687337 for details.

Lophams' Garden Club

On 1st October we welcomed Simon White to our meeting. Simon spoke about his passion for growing late-flowering chrysanthemums and illustrated his talk with many colourful slides of the beautiful blooms he has growing in his greenhouse.

Gabby Reid visited us on 5th November and gave a presentation on 'Wreath Making' as well as telling us about her garden.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner in December. This will be held at Blooms Garden Centre on 3rd December 7pm for 7.30pm and is sure to be a most enjoyable evening.

We do not meet in January and so our next meeting will be on 4th February when David Bolton will give a presentation entitled 'Scenes of Norfolk'.

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at Lophams' Village Hall, visitors and new members are always very welcome.

Lophams Society

Lophams' Society Autumn Quiz took place on the 9th October and attracted players from the Lophams and further afield. Question master, Roy Clark provided searching questions and Mike Cox kept the score. After eight close rounds and a cheese ploughmans' at half time, Table 3 maintained its early lead and took home the spoils. The chairman closed the evening by thanking everyone who took part and especially all those who had provided complimentary feedback on the evening. He also thanked the committee for their hard work in preparing and serving of the food and Bill Bedford for his sterling work behind the bar.

Pre-Christmas Village Get-together on Friday 18th December at the Village Hall between 6.30 and 8.30pm. This is a FREE event and we hope residents of the Lophams both past and present will join us in raising a glass of Christmas cheer. A slight difference from previous Lophams' Society Christmas events is that in addition to the traditional mulled wine and mince pies, we will be offering a selection

of wines and cheeses and an assortment of festive nibbles. Soft drinks will also be available. We would love to see as many residents as possible including families, couples, singles and those new to the Lophams. Small children are welcome but may be disappointed to find that Father Christmas will not be joining us this year. So, please come along between 6.30 and 8.30pm for a drink, a nibble and a natter and let's get Christmas under way.

Holy Bingo continues in the Village Hall, on the first Monday each month at 2pm, when new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. There will be mince pies at the December meeting, on 7th. January's gathering is on 4th. (Please telephone 01379 687679 for further details or for help with transport.)

Lophams' Village Hall

The Bonfire and Fireworks: After an anxious wait, the rain stopped and a drying wind blew some of the wetness away – just in time! We were grateful to all who brought material for the enormous fire and send sincere thanks to Jim Harris and his team who built it up. The fire burned steadily leaving just a heap of ash by Sunday. The firework display was stunning, watched by a great crowd as they enjoyed hot food and drinks. A big vote of thanks to everyone who helped, on the field, inside the hall, or clearing up afterwards, with a special mention for those who helped push off the few cars that got slightly stuck!

Bins: Smart litter bin and a 'poop scoop' bins have been installed at the fence adjacent to the field gates. They will be emptied regularly by Serco, to ensure the field looks tidy and the environment is safe for all please use them!

Dog Training: Sadly, Trainer Elaine Brown has decided to retire, so will not run any more classes after the training day at the hall on 21st November. We are actively seeking a new trainer to take on the classes in the near future. Meanwhile sincere thanks to Elaine for her years of very professional classes, and best wishes for a happy retirement.

The Lottery: It is great to have a full complement of

100 members again, with a corresponding monthly first prize of £200. We want to maintain this, so please get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a new vacancy occurs. Please ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. There are three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a Bonanza draw in December for those who have been 'in' for at least three months. The Lottery winners for September were: first prize £200, A Jacob; second prizes of £50 each, L & L Kercher and T Colyer. In October the winners were: first prize £200, M Cox; and second prizes of £50 each, J Keylock and I Bowden.

Farmers' Market: Super Sausage Saturday encouraged extra people to come to the September Market. The winner of 'the golden frying pan' was the chicken sausage from Yew Tree Farm; Mrs Flack from Elveden won the £25 market voucher.

The December Market is on SUNDAY 20th December, from 9am 'till 12.30pm, (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

In addition to the usual superb monthly raffle and Lottery draw and there will be the annual Lottery 'Bonanza' draw with a prize close to £300.

Judo is on Mondays and Wednesdays, details from Howard on 01379 688258.

Lopham Art Group meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £15 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from a tutor once each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

To book the hall for private functions please contact 01379 687679. To find out more, visit the website at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk.

Lophams' Autumn Lunch

1st November. Guests enjoyed roast pork or Spinach and Cheese roulade, with jacket potatoes and delicious salads, before the traditional apple pies and ice cream. Many thanks go to everyone involved behind the scenes, cooking and serving, helping with the raffle, or setting up and clearing away. The lunch raised over £200 for the churches' funds.

NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

North Lopham Parish Council

Present: All PCs including new member Mike Tipple, M Chapman-Allen(BDC), William Nunn, 3 parishioners.

Lophams News: Current editor, Lee Baker, retires after the Dec edition. New editor, Julie Cundick, from S Lopham will take over. A token of thanks will be presented to Lee Baker.

Telephone Box: Tony Wigby will supply and fit flooring at no charge, thanks expressed to him. The defibrillator is installed, PC voted to adopt its maintenance so it can be commissioned, no charges for first 7 years.

A visitor information board will be installed displaying a map and other items of interest, cost £100.

Thanks expressed to David Hammond for his work on this.

Extinguishment of footpath off Jubilee Lane: completed.

Footpath extension to Cherry Tree Close: Funding promises of £1,500 received. Application to

NCC Partnership scheme made for 50% of cost, if approved application to BDC for remaining £5,000 will be made.

Neighbourhood Plan: A further meeting is planned with BDC.

Solar Farms: No further details yet submitted to BDC.

NLPC Vacancies: 1 remains, William Nunn has applied; to be considered.

Community Speedwatch: Support has quickly waned. New co-ordinator is to be sought.

Village Sign at the North end of village has been moved and 30mph repeaters upgraded.

Broadband: Parishioner with telecoms background reported ongoing problems. Superfast upgrade not planned for several years at least. Cllr Chapman-Allen to take this issue up, she needs ammunition so if you suffer with poor broadband please voice your concerns to her.

Pothole repairs: money has run out.

Precept: increase required to cover future funding requirements. Decision at next meeting.

Kings Head Lane: outline approval for 3 houses has been granted on condition that no more will be permitted.

Dangerous parking near the school is an ongoing problem to consult with the head.

Tanns Lane flooding remains an issue, no obvious solution.

AOB:

Overgrown hedges and fallen leaves producing complaints, referred to BDC for enforcement.

Remembrance a letter will be sent to Richard and Jennie Vere thanking them for organising the war memorial service today, a truly moving occasion.

Next meeting: 13th January 2016

North Lopham Methodist Church

Methodist friends now hold an informal service and coffee morning in St Nicholas' Church on the fourth Wednesday each month – and would welcome anyone from the villages to join them at 10.30am. On 25th November, the new Minister was welcomed, and everyone was invited to browse the wonders of the Crib Festival after the short service. In December, there will be a Carols morning on 16th, a week earlier than usual.

Samaritans Purse: Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks go to everyone who has contributed to this year's Shoe Box Appeal.

63 beautifully decorated boxes are on now on their way to bring joy to deprived children far away. (A special thank you for the two boxes left on the doorstep anonymously!)

St Nicholas' Church

The Biggest Coffee Morning in the World Grateful thanks to all who came along to support Macmillan Cancer Care on 25th September. We raised £175 for this worthwhile cause.

St Nicholas' Harvest Thanksgiving was a lively, happy occasion, with lots of younger people joining the regulars, and taking a big part in the service – lighting candles, sharing in the procession of gifts, taking the collection etc, then enjoying delicious cake at the end. The two old tractors and hand held plough outside were a great attraction too. A huge thank you to the church decorators and everyone who helped in any way to make this such a great day.

On Remembrance Sunday there was a special act of remembrance at the 11am Family Service. The names of all those from the village who gave their lives in the two world wars were read before Brennan and Ian Harper read out the names of the 18 US airmen who died when their aeroplanes collided over the Lophams seventy years ago. We were especially glad to welcome eight youngsters to this service – the maintenance of the ceremonies will fall to their generation in a few years time.

Armistice Day, 11th November. At the Annual Ceremony at the War Memorial at 11am, juniors from St Andrew's School joined veterans, local residents and representatives of the American Air Force. As 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the air crash over Lopham, when 18 US airmen lost their lives a special US Honour Guard was on parade, alongside the Union flag. The children played a full part in the occasion – sharing the citations and wreath laying, before Mia played the National Anthem on trumpet and they all sang a special Remembrance song.

North Lopham Crib Festival: If you are reading this before the end of November. The fifth Crib Festival will run from Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th, between 11am and 5pm, and on Sunday 29th from 12 noon until 4pm, when Mary, Joseph and the donkey will set out on their journey round the area seeking a night's shelter with willing hosts – Posada – before they return to the church for the Crib service on Christmas Eve.

For further details, just contact Jennie on 01379 687679 for more information.

Seasonal Special Services take place throughout the next few weeks. We hope to welcome friends new and old. As always, if transport is a problem, just contact 01379 687679 to arrange a lift.

The Toy Service 11am on St Nicholas' Day, 6th December. Gifts for very deprived families in the Thetford area, wrapped and labelled to show the age and sex for which they are intended, will be delivered to the local branch of Action for Children in good time to bring happiness to very deserving people.

Advent Carols 4pm on 13th December will include some of the most beautiful music and readings for this season.

Family Carol Service 11am on 20th December: the children will read a delightful version of the Nativity Story, interspersed with familiar carols and songs.

Crib Service 4pm on Christmas Eve: a quiet interlude before the excitement of Christmas Day. The children will place the figures in the Stable as the story unfolds.

All age Christmas Communion 11am on Sunday 27th December: all are invited to a seasonal Communion Service, led by Team Vicar Wendy Evans.

Epiphany Carols 4pm on Sunday 11th January: the Nativity Story is completed, with more wonderful music and readings.



Gislingham
Silver Band

**Christmas
Concert**

Gislingham Village Hall
Tuesday 15th December
7.30pm

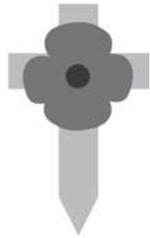
Tickets £5
(under 16 free)

Telephone
01379 788411

St Andrew's Church News

Harvest Gift Weekend: Thank you to all who gave to the very successful Harvest Gift Weekend. The Coffee Morning on Saturday 26th September raised £207, thank you to everyone who came to support this event, it was lovely to see so many there including parishioners from within the wider Benefice, who we were very pleased to welcome. Our Harvest Gift Weekend, led by Angie Gardner, concluded with the Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 27th September. So far a total of £1,013 has been raised for St Andrew's Church and it's still not too late for anyone wishing to make a donation.

Remembrance Service: The Remembrance Service in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 8th November at 10.50am was led by the Reverend John Curtis. A minute's silence was held at 11am to remember all those who were lost in the two World Wars; a Wreath was then laid by John Crisp, Chairman of the Parish Council.



Carol Singing: There will be carol singing at The White Horse, South Lopham on Tuesday 22nd December at 7pm by kind invitation of Nigel and Tracy Martin, all welcome.

South Lopham Parish Council

Meeting 5th November 2015: at Valey Farm Low, Common South Lopham.

Councillors present: J Crisp, Mrs S Martin, D Huggins, T Frizzell, J Pursehouse, S Reynolds and Mrs C Phillips (Clerk).

The Responsible Financial Officer, Mr G Phillips was in attendance for agenda items 6 and

7 (financial report and draft budget 2016/17). Financial: Mr Phillips reported the current balances and the meeting approved payments to Lophams News, the RBL wreath for Remembrance Sunday and a donation to St Andrews church. Renovation of the village sign was discussed; estimates to be obtained, probably sufficient in reserves to pay for this work. Councillors considered the 2015/16 budget on the basis of actual expenditure at 30th September 2015; the draft budget for 2016/17 was discussed and possible items for inclusion such as War Memorial refurbishment and any work required to the bus shelter. The final budget is to be agreed at the January meeting.

PLANNING:

- Land south end of Brick Kiln Lane: visit by enforcement officer is awaited
- Appeals pending - Field Shelter on land adjoining Low Common and permitted development of barn at Noddle Farm
- Application for permission recently registered to extend Weavers, Thetford Road.

HIGHWAYS:

- Gully on A1066 on Thetford Road: NCC to repair in near future
- Running water on A1066 east of the White Horse is due for investigation by NCC on 12th November.
- Damaged tree on A1066 east of the White Horse: Highways notified and will remove shortly.
- Hedge on Blo Norton road: owners to be contacted re possible highway encroachment

WORKS: Councillors to inspect and consider refurbishment of War Memorial 2016 Bus shelter to be inspected and any necessary repairs and refurbishment reported to the Council.

WEBSITE: this has now been updated.

Date and time of next meeting is 7th January 2016 7.30pm at Valley Farm.

Friends of South Lopham Church

The Friends held their Annual General Meeting in the church on Tuesday 27th October 2015. The

following officers were elected, Chairman, Evelyn Logsdail; Secretary, Marion Crisp; and Treasurer, David Huggins. Thanks were given to all those who have supported us over the last year.

On 30th October 2015 in the village hall, the Friends also held a Slide Show entitled 'Lophams' through the 20th Century'. This event was well attended and our thanks go to Mr Kevin Pilmer who showed slides from both North and South Lopham, cake and coffee were served. All monies raised go towards the maintenance of our beautiful Church.

Murphy's Rambles

Hello folks

We are getting ready for winter as it is on its way but we have just had two such hot afternoons that it's hard to believe that it's November; mind you, the thick mists give us a clue! We have had a few early frosts now – human is not so keen but I love them, just the feel of the ice on your fur when you have a good roll in the grass – bliss.

We saw quite a few deer whilst the wheat harvest was finishing but, as the fields emptied and before the new crops germinated – no sightings at all. However, one morning we spotted a doe and her two youngsters. A Town Meadows walk is usually a sure bet and sometimes you even get to see the barn owl hunting; just so amazing to watch. It was surreal at the end of September when we were walking with the light of a full moon on one side and, on the other, a red ball of rising sun. We love gloomy mornings when the world takes on a pinkish hue. Quite often we have had rain. I don't mind but human is a bit funny sometimes – something to do with the wrong coat – what's the problem? We don't dissolve!!

South Lopham Estate Charity

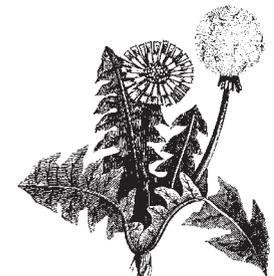
The trustees met on 20th October and received the Treasurer's report and the school report from the Governor Representative.

For details of the charity and a simple application form please contact the Secretary on 01379 687985. Please be assured that all applications will be treated sympathetically and with complete confidentiality. The trustees are particularly interested in helping young people in South Lopham with the expenses of education and training, including travel.

We have had some lovely afternoon ambles. Well I walk her fast till I have let off some steam; then I let her walk back at her pace. I check out the exciting smells and she grazes on the blackberries. We both watch the leaves changing daily to a kaleidoscope of yellows and oranges. Human is just like a puppy if we find a leaf strewn path, shuffling her feet to make crunchy noises. One afternoon we stood for ages watching crows mobbing a persistent sparrow hawk until they finally drove it away from 'their' patch.

Catkins are now appearing ready for next spring, sloes are in abundance and the hedges are studded with bright scarlet rosehips, but we miss the flowers. All we have is a few knapweed and the odd dandelions; still, it won't be too long till we are searching for the first snowdrops.

Take care and don't let the weather keep you indoors – coats & wellies on and away!!!





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
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Tel: 01379 643646
E-mail: revdfmills1812@gmail.com

Diss Team Ministry www.dissteamministry.org.uk

The four parishes, and Roydon, are all parishes of the Diss Team Ministry, led by The Revd Canon Tony Billett, Rector of Diss, and part time Team Vicar, the Revd Wendy Evans. 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
December 6	9.30 MP	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
December 9	6.00 Christingle				
December 13	8.00 HC	11.00 Carols	3.00 Carols	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
December 20	3.00 4SS	11.00 MP	8.00 HC	3.00 Carols	6.00 Carols+VC
December 24			23.30 HC	5.30 HC	
December 25	10.00 Chapel	11.00 HC	10.00 HC		
December 27	10.50 5/P HC				
January 3	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
January 6** & February 2*	7.00 EP				
January 10	8.00 HC	Join Tivetshall	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
January 17	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	8.00 HC	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
January 24	3.00 EP	11.00 MP	11.00 MP	Join Gissing	9.30 HC
January 31	10.30 5/P HC				
February 7	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 FS	9.30 MP

Chp Family Service at Chapel | MW Morning Worship | FS Family Service | HC Holy Communion | MP Morning Prayer | 5/P HC 5 Parish Service | VC Village Church | MS Morning Service | **Epiphany | *Candlemas

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chloe.rudge84@gmail.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 6th Dec Advent 2	No service	No service	9.30am 11am HC Toy Service	No service
Sun 13th Dec Advent 3	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am 4pm FS Adv Car	No service
Sun 20th Dec	9.30am MS	No service	11am Family Carol S	9.30am HC
See Parish pages for details of special Christmas services				
Sun 27th Dec Christmas 1	No service	No service	11am Fam Christmas HC	No service
Sun 3rd January. Epiphany Sunday	No service	No service	9.30am 11am HC FS	No service
Sun 10th January Baptism of Jesus	9.30am HC	9.30am MS	11am 4pm FS Epiph Car	No service
Sun 17th January Epiphany 2	9.30am MS	No service	11am FS	9.30am HC
Sun 24th January Epiphany 3	No service	9.30am HC	11am FS	9.30am MS
Sun 31st January Candlemas	Fifth Sunday – Team Holy Communion at Diss at 10.30am			
Sun 7th February	No service	No service	9.30am 11.30am HC FS	No service

MP Morning Prayers | MS Morning Service | 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.

Connect Group: Meets on some Wednesday afternoons at 2pm in St Mary's Hall, Diss; contact Jennie (01379 687679) for precise dates.

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

Fersfield J Sumpter 01379 687 711 R Hewitt 01379 687355

N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989 R Vere 01379 687679

S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273 J Brundell 01379 687216; D Huggins (emeritus)



The Emotions of Christmas

I must admit that my curiosity quite often takes over during the Christmas season; especially when it comes to my emotions. I love the account of Christ's predicted birth and future ministry, but loathe the commercial exploitation that unfortunately goes with it. I often wonder what Jesus would make with all the marketable goods that have been advertised since September, and what that says about our present generation. Such as, you can only have a perfect Christmas if you purchase XYZ. If only true love could be bought; it cannot.

In the scriptural account of the nativity, the emotions are taken for a roller coaster ride from the depths of poverty and living in an occupied country, to the wonder and adoration of the angels, to whom wise men came to worship.

I often reflect on what emotions Joseph and Mary went through, such as Mary's obedience to God's command. How did they react to the gifts from the wise men? Gold was a gift to a future King; Frankincense was a gift to a future Priest; but Myrrh was given to someone who was about to die, as it was used in the embalming of a dead body.

Or what about the emotions of the Shepherds; quietly going about their shepherding duties, when they are suddenly confronted by the glory of the angels announcing the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem, which had been predicted in the Old Testament.

What emotions did King Herod have when the wise men informed him of the birth of a new King in Bethlehem? His reaction was to have all boys under 2 years to be immediately killed.

How about your emotions, a good story and nothing more? Or do you accept the birth of Jesus as the Messiah and worship Him with the adoration of the Angels and the wisdom of the Wise Men?

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Rev David F Mills
Rector of the Winfarthing Group

BURSTON NEWS

St Mary's Luncheon Club

This club is for retired folk from Burston and the surrounding villages. Members meet in the Church on the fourth Thursday of every month. 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.

Church Hire

If you are interested in hiring St Mary's Church for a special event please contact Rachel Hobson on 07712 670 928. Tables, chairs and tableware are available for hire.

A buffet can also be provided.

Burston Craft Group

Meetings are on Tuesdays from 10–12 at The Pavilion in Mill Road.

On the 15th December we will be making a table flower arrangement. In 2016 the group will meet on 19th January and 16th February. We would welcome all who would like to try a new craft or anyone who would be prepared to demonstrate to us so that we can extend our knowledge. For further details please contact Elaine Norman on 01379 640106.

Community Action Team

We will be involved in the Candlelit Carols to be held in St George's, Shimpling at 7.30pm on Thursday 17th December. This Grade 1 listed building, which dates back to the 12th century, will be lit by 500 candles for a traditional service of nine lessons and 9 carols.



Everyone welcome but please wear boots and bring a torch as the track to the Church can be very rough and muddy and is not lit! There will be a retiring collection for the Churches Conservation Trust

St Mary's Church

Christmas Services

Christingle on Friday 4th December 2.30pm–3.15pm

Christmas Prayer and Praise on Sunday 20th December at 3pm

Please note

Christmas Eve: Five Parishes Midnight Mass at Shelfanger 11.30pm

Christmas Day: Service in Chapel

Burston Chapel

Carols on the Strike School Green on Saturday 19th December at 5pm followed by hot soup and/or hot chocolate

Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm

Christmas Day Service at 10am

Sunday Service on 27th December at 11am

We are looking forward to our second Christmas Concert with the Shelfanger Singers, on Tuesday 15th December at 7.30pm. Everyone enjoyed this event enormously last year – it is a great way to start your Christmas celebrations! Ticket prices remain at £4 for adults (children free) – and this includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. To book tickets please contact Len Hobson (07712 670926).

We are hoping that the repairs to the church roof will be completed by the end of the year. It will be great to get our church 'back to normal' after this period of upheaval. Thank you to everyone who has had to cope with the situation over the last year. In particular thanks to Dorothy and Yvonne who, as vergers, have had to prepare the church for services and other events without the usual facilities.

Rachel Hobson

Parish Council

Burston Playing field was alive with activity on Saturday 26th September for the official opening of the

new play equipment. Residents from all across the Parish were there to see the opening ceremony, and to enjoy the new play items in the glorious sunshine.

The opening was organised by Councillor Tom Grieve. The Friends of Burston School erected their marquee and provided tea and cakes throughout the afternoon. Magical Mark provided entertainment for the children, creating sweets from a mixture of toothpaste and washing-up liquid, as well as making animals and swords from balloons. The police provided an exhibition table and were handing out small items to the youngsters.

There was a 'score a goal' competition, which was run by Piers Bilston, where everyone had a chance to put a ball past an experienced goalie, to win a prize.

At the conclusion of the afternoon, after the Chairman of the Council, Nigel Frankland, had said a few words of thanks to all of those involved in the project and the opening ceremony, there was a balloon release, which revealed the sign which acknowledges all the help provided by the sponsors and grant-givers. A hundred balloons were held in a net to conceal the sign, and the pegs that held the net down were pulled out by the children who will be playing on the new play area. The balloon that goes furthest will win a prize for the finder, and for the lucky person who has claimed the number on that balloon. We know that one balloon got as far as Ware in Hertfordshire, and are waiting to see if any other balloons got any further. Nigel Frankland.

Burston School

In class 1 we have been learning about the gunpowder plot and how to keep safe around fireworks. In maths we are extending our knowledge on shapes by looking at sides, faces, edges and their names. On 10th November KS1 children will be taking part in a multi-skills festival at Diss High school. The children will be performing a nativity this year called 'A Miracle in Town'. We would like to invite you to the dress rehearsal on Monday 14th December at 10am at the school.

Throughout this term we have been learning about all the different people and places that help

us in our everyday living. It was very exciting to learn all about the RNLI and how they help to keep us safe when visiting the seaside. We all learnt lots about dogs that help people who are blind. Parsley, the dog, demonstrated with his owner how he negotiated obstacles and kept his owner from harm.

The whole class went on a walk around the village and across the fields following the footpaths picking blackberries as they went. We saw lots of wildlife and farming and were very tired when we got back to school.



The children are currently developing their handwriting through lots of different activities and would really appreciate anybody who has surplus unused diaries, past or present, calendars, envelopes, cards and any other unwanted stationery items.

We are really looking forward to this half term as the lead up to Christmas is always filled with fun activities. Class 3 are working on a range of English texts, beginning with *The Demon Headmaster*, which they are really enjoying. They are also working hard on number in maths, starting with a focus on fractions. In sports, we have had 5 children qualify for the cross country final at Earlham Park later this month. We will be taking part in the tag rugby tournament at Diss High school on the 18th November. KS2 children continue to swim every week at Diss pool. A visit to the Time and Tide Museum is planned for the 26th November, to support our work on Romans next term. This half term, we also have Christingle, the Nativity, Christmas jumper day and a trip to the theatre to see the Pantomime.



GISSING NEWS

ENTER AND REFLECT... words inscribed on our newly installed Church ramp, in memory of David Pitcher, which was dedicated on Remembrance Sunday – the annual invitation to us all to ponder on the lessons that have not been learned from the legacy of two world wars and the continuing conflicts in many countries both far and near. At the same time the blue velvet curtains, hung at the south door in memory of Aubrey Ringer in 1987, were re-hung and re-dedicated – having been cleaned and restored to good health. Both of these items are fitting reminders of men who loved and served their community and who are remembered with respect and affection. A large gathering of villagers assembled at the village memorial to honour men that most of us know only by name – men long dead who served their country and lost their lives – when a wreath was laid and the plaintive sounds of Kevin Hegarty's bugle rang out whilst we stood in silence with bowed heads.

As always the collection, amounting £113, was sent to the Royal British Legion for their work in caring for ex-servicemen and women and their dependants. As readers will know, the Legion has many strings to its bow, giving advice on war pensions and on careers for those leaving the Forces. It can help with starting up a small business, provide funds in a temporary crisis – such as homelessness – or assist with loans for property repairs. And it provides practical support to those recovering from an illness or bereavement.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Poppy Appeal street collection in Gissing, the total of which will be detailed on the Upper Street noticeboard and in the next edition of *Cock Crow*.

Christmas and New Year services at St Mary's are detailed on the separate householders' news sheet. Don't forget our carol service on 13 December at 11am and remember to wrap up warm as it's the season of winter draughts and there is no underfloor heating!

DH

Friends of Gissing Church

Since the summer our work has been dominated by the need to help develop plans for the stage 2

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid to be submitted in the summer and there is a lot to do! Some of the Friends' Committee are working with the PCC as part of a joint project team. Planning work covers the urgent structural repairs to the church building, promotion of the heritage within the church, and the upgrading of the electricity supply to the building. The Development Phase lasts until 9th June 2016 which is the final deadline for the PCC/Friends to submit a comprehensive programme for all aspects of work that need to be carried out.

Acceptance by HLF determines whether or not Gissing will get the full grant and can start the repairs and improvements that are so necessary now.

November has been a busy month for the project. The architects have conducted their 'opening up' programme to give them a greater understanding of exactly what repair and renovation work is needed. A public meeting at the Old School has given Gissing residents a chance to learn about progress so far, and will have provided an opportunity to comment on the ideas being developed. The project team continues to liaise with the Parish Council and the Heart of Gissing on areas of mutual interest, to make sure that everyone is kept informed on the various developments.

A timely publication by Michael Rimmer, called 'The Angel Roofs of East Anglia' (www.angelroofs.com), features Gissing and praises its wonderful double hammer-beam angel roof – one of only 32 such roofs in the entire country. The angels will feature in our promotion activities and hopefully as part of a Diocesan 'Angel Trail' with other churches with these particular types of roofs. Michael has been invited to come and give a talk to Gissing about his book and Gissing's roof in particular, sometime in the spring – when the weather is warmer!!

Even so, we still have to demonstrate that a small percentage of the funds can be raised locally. We have already been lucky enough to secure a grant from the Norfolk Churches Trust and we will be applying to other grant bodies in the coming months to help with the shortfall.

However, we still need your help.

In early December the Friends will be supporting the St Nicholas Fayre, organised by the Heart of Gissing – a good way to get into the festive spirit.

Talking of spirit, anyone who would like to brave the church tower on New Year's Eve to help ring in the New Year will be most welcome, and we are sure that nips of whisky will be on hand to keep the bell ringers warm.



The Friends hope that you and your family have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

For further information please do get in touch with anyone of those listed below who are part of the HLF project team.

Fiona Turton, FoGC Chair, at fonaturton@btinternet.com
Ed Scoggins, FoGC Secretary at eddie.scoggins@live.co.uk
Denise Scoggins, PCC/FoGC Treasurer, at denisescoggins123@btinternet.com
George Hammond, PCC Lay Chair, at ghdesign@netmatters.co.uk
Joe Cromley, PCC Church Warden at joeatupperstreet@gmail.com
Paul Wright, at pstwright@outlook.com

Gissing Children's Centre

On Monday to Friday during term time, the Pre-school runs two 3-hour long sessions per day where children can attend from 9am–12 and/or from 12–3. Children can attend, unaccompanied, from 2 years up to 5 years old/starting school. Early years funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions. Any families wishing to bring their children to come and have a look, are welcome to contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9–3 during term time) or 07796 204367 (out of hours) or send enquiries to preschool@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk to arrange to call in. Do visit our website (www.gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk) and our Facebook page to see the sort of things we do. We are very pleased to welcome 5 new children and their families joining us from January 2016.

We thank everyone who made our Witchy Woodland Fayre held on 17th October such a success. We extend a particular 'thank you' to Roger Manly for creating a most wonderful Hansel and Gretel cottage and the marvellous foxes throughout the woodland.

Our next venture is the Children's Centre's part of the St Nicholas Fayre where visits to Father Christmas can be made from 2.30–5.30. We hope to see you there.

Heart of Gissing

To keep up to date with progress on our Big Lottery bid to provide new community space at the Old School in Gissing, (result mid December) and find out what's happening in Gissing, you can Google our Facebook page 'Gissing Village Life' and hopefully 'like' us.

Our next fundraising event is: The St Nicholas Fayre on Saturday 5th December from 2.30 pm 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 magical, festive 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 Christmas wish lists. For more information please contact Kelly Pitcher Tel 01379 674511 or email kelpitcher@aol.com. Otherwise look forward to seeing you there.

Saturday 12th December is a Carol Concert, with pupils from the Musical Theatre Group and also Dickleburgh School singing some favourite Carols in St Mary's Church at 6 pm.

We are currently running our full range of interest and user groups; here is a small selection:

The Toddler Group at Gissing Village Hall

Come and join us every Monday during term time from 10–11.30 for a chat and a cuppa whilst the children play. Children from 0–5yrs £1.50 (includes a drink, a snack, and a different craft activity each week). Check our Facebook page for what's on 'The Toddler Group at Gissing Village Hall'. Or contact Vicky at vhcillum@hotmail.com or 01379 674729.

Gissing Youth Group

Is running a series of winter Adventure Sundays from 10.30–12 noon on 13th December, 10th January and 14th February for children aged 8–13 years at the Old School. Outdoor activities will include: archery, air rifles, camp cooking, pioneering and tracking hunt; indoor activities to include: miniature pioneering, roller coaster challenge and blind test. Sessions are £4. Volunteers are very welcome. Bookings can be made via Sarah Willett on swillett_ip22@yahoo.com tel: 01379 677567 or 07917 645867.

Performing Arts East

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

Weekly Musical Theatre Class

Musical theatre classes run every Wednesday from 5 pm 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 then do recitals for family at the end of term. For further details, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 or by email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com

Show Stars

A musical, theatrical and craft group for young adults with learning difficulties continues to be a resounding success. If you know anyone who you think might enjoy this group, please contact Amanda on 01379 741788 or email: mummysheep@tiscali.co.uk Sessions run on alternate Tuesday evenings from 5.30–7.30pm and costs £5 per session.

Stage HOGers

This local theatre group is staging 'King Arthur' for the New Year Panto, due to be shown at the end of January. Rehearsals are already well under way so look out for posters. Anyone interested in treading the boards, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 or email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com



SHELFANGER NEWS

All Saints' Church

On Saturday 12th September the church was open for the annual Norfolk Churches Cycle Ride. Sincere thanks to Peter, Pam, Derek, Anne, Brenda and Sheila for being stewards during the day and to Tig and Jane Ross for their donation in lieu of their usual bike ride. Details of the total funds raised across Norfolk & Suffolk will be published in a later Cock Crow.

Glorious sunshine greeted the arrival of the bride at the wedding of Jessica Watkins and Edward Bailey on Friday 18th September. The service was conducted by the Revd Nigel Tufnell of Harleston and carefully observed by the couple's Newfoundland dog, Darcy, who played a dignified part. The married couple were able to complete most of the photographs and embark in the cars just before a torrential downpour made the journey to the reception a hazardous affair!

As hoped for, your church of All Saints was filled with flowers, vegetables, fruit and other produce for the Harvest Thanksgiving. The little building looked magnificent and had that marvellous autumn aroma of fruit and flowers. Very many thanks to the church flower arranging team who excelled themselves with a terrific display and to all who donated produce from their gardens or allotments. The service was led by members of the church Home Team. Prayers, hymns and readings reflected our thanks to God for all the blessings of the countryside. On the Monday following the service, wardens Peter and Roger assisted by Pam cleared and packed all the perishable goods and from 2 pm onward sold them at the Shelfanger bus shelter, raising a wonderful total of £106 for church funds.

Gift Morning was held on 31st October as part of the church's patronal festival weekend. Wardens and church members were present to chat and talk about the church, to receive gifts and share refreshments during the morning. A very generous start has been made with approaching £1,000 raised on the day and further funds are still being received.

Remembrance Sunday was marked at Shelfanger

with the laying of wreaths and the two minute traditional silence at the village war memorial. The well-attended service which followed was led by the Rector, David Mills, in his capacity both of parish priest and as retiring army chaplain.

Saturday 5th December sees the wedding of Emma Skilton and Andrew Corbyn at All Saints. A full report of this ceremony will appear in the next Cock Crow issue.

A Christmas Services Reminder The annual Shelfanger Village Candlelit Carol Service will take place at 3 pm on Sunday 13th December.

The main five parish Midnight Communion is hosted by Shelfanger Church this year. This attractive service begins at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve.

If you are not able to get to a Christmas service or communion and need help please ring wardens, Roger or Peter, on 01379 642286 or 651524.

Finally, as the autumn leaves fall and the grass continues to grow it's again time to say thank you to Ray, Des, Peter, Roy and Francis who make up the Shelfanger mower-pushing 'rotary club'.

Village Hall News

LEAF Good news! A new social group for adults with learning difficulties has been formed at Shelfanger Village Hall. The former Waveney & District Gateway Club has been re-launched under the new name LEAF (Leisure, Entertainment & Friendship). The group meets from 7.30–9.30 on the last Tuesday of each month. If you would like to join the group or would like to volunteer as a helper, please phone Jeanette on 01953 488358.

All those who were saddened when the original Gateway Club had to cease its invaluable activities will be much heartened by the formation of this new group and wish it well. At the same time, it would be fitting to say 'well done' to Steve, Bonty and all the original helpers and to Ivan, Ray and Derek from Shelfanger for their support.

Running repairs The Village Hall Committee are not just pretty faces, they are highly practical maintenance workers as well. Well done to John Kemp, Ivan Cotton and Derek Lord for several recent repair tasks expertly carried out.

Rugby World Cup The Social Club continues its lively way. A recent highlight was the special opening to view the Rugby final. A large, vocal and partisan group gathered to cheer on Wallabies or All Blacks and a lively session ensued. No one was actually sent off, but a nameless member had to spend some time in the sin bin. Some slight cracks that have appeared in the ceiling are testimony to the level of noise. Pizzas strengthened the body mass while the plentiful supply of ales and lagers refreshed the souls. Thanks Tig for a great afternoon.

Shelfanger Parish Council

Footpaths The footpaths are exercising not only the feet but also the minds of the parish council. The council has tried to contact landowners where public footpaths cross their land but if any members of the public find paths which not being maintained please either speak to the landowner or contact the council via Shelfanger.com website or direct to the clerk Helen Green on 652199 or shelfanger@dsl.pipex.com. The County Councillor, Beverly Spratt, would also like to be informed of any poorly maintained paths.

Footpaths Officer Shelfanger needs a footpath officer which involves checking all the paths. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact the Parish Council as above.

The Parish Council wishes a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all parishioners.

Shelfanger Stitchers

The group continues to meet fortnightly. One of the latest projects is to make single bed blankets for the St Martin's Trust in Norwich. If anyone would like to knit squares of any size which can be sewn together to make a blanket, please do so and pass them to Helen. (Tel: 01379 652199)

Shelwins

On Thursday 22nd October Shelwins and friends enjoyed a highly successful visit to Alan Gray's garden at The Old Rectory, East Ruston. Following exploration of the nearly seven acres of varied and beautiful garden, the group had sustaining refreshments, purchased plants and viewed the interesting collection of garden implements from down the years. Tom

Blake and Ray Leeder were still disputing the use of one peculiar implement nearly a week later.

The visit to north-east Norfolk ended with a satisfying meal and drink at the Lighthouse pub at Walcot. Well done Vicci Day and Marilyn Hurst for a lovely visit.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The valiant and faithful collectors, Peter Harries and Tig Ross, thank all those who donated to the fund this year. No official figure is available as yet but Pete and Tig report great generosity and a probable total of £300 plus.

Pulham Players presents

Jack & the Beanstalk

A traditional family pantomime

Thursday 7th of January

to

Saturday 9th of January
at 7.30pm

with a matinée on

Saturday 9th of January at
2.30pm

The Memorial Hall
Pulham Market

Tickets £8–£9, available from
Sandra on 01379 676769

More details on the website
www.pulhamplayers.com

St Margaret's Church

Graveyard Maintenance Since the last Cock Crow we have had 2 offers of help with this and will be contacting people soon. If anybody else feels able to give a few hours each month during the grass cutting season please contact Bryan Fletcher on 01379 676697.

Members of the congregation have given the church a thorough autumn clean and cobwebs removed from as high as possible! Many thanks to those that gave their time to do this.

Christmas at St Margaret's There will be a Christmas tree inside the church and stars available to hang from it in remembrance of loved ones.

9th December 6pm: School Christingle Service.

20th December 3pm: Carols by Candlelight.

24th December 5.30pm: Holy Communion.

NB There will be no service in the church on Christmas Day.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Tivetshall Parish Council

We are asking electors to come forward with suggestions for co-option onto the Parish Council.

Eligible persons must be over 18 years of age and have lived in the parish of Tivetshall St Margaret or Tivetshall St Mary, or within three miles of the borders, for the last year. People who work in the parishes are also eligible to join the council. (A copy of the full qualification criteria can be found on our web site: search for 'Tivetshall Parish Council'.)

The Parish Council is the first tier of government and is closest to the people of the parish. It makes decisions about how much money to ask the parishioners to provide and what to spend that money on. It makes recommendations on planning applications within the parishes and cares for the playing field and the playground. Those who serve on the council make a positive contribution to their community.

Tivetshall Council currently has only three councillors out of a full complement of seven, and as such is dangerously close to not being able to function at

all. Should this come to pass, control will be handed over to South Norfolk District Council, and it would be a pity if local people no longer had a say in local matters.

So please come forward and suggest someone to fill one of our empty chairs, or maybe even volunteer yourself. The current councillors are committed to supporting any new member and there is training available.

Contact: Lynn Jollans on 01379 677881 or e-mail Parish.Clerk@tivetshall.org.uk

Tivetshall Village Hall

A big thank you from the hall's management committee to all those who have hired or attended the hall during the year. The hall continues to host regular clubs (details of which can be found alongside our bookings calendar on our web site <http://www.tivetshallvillagehall.org.uk>) and has been host to many family celebrations especially children's parties where there is space for entertainers and plenty of room for the kids to burn off energy and enjoy themselves in a safe environment.

On a more serious note, the hall hosts regular Parish Council meetings and as government continues to give more powers to local people it is important that we all support the meetings that decide how some of our money is spent around the Parish.

On 22nd October a public meeting was held to discuss the benefits, use and installation of a defibrillator at the hall. A number of villagers have already generously donated to this equipment (thank you) but despite advertising on the village notice boards and in the post office, only three members of public attended to discuss what could potentially be a life saving piece of equipment for all ages. Maybe notice boards are not so well viewed these days, as we all whiz past in cars, so it would be interesting to hear from villagers how best to communicate dates of local events at the hall or important decisions (that could affect us all and use our money to fund them) are to be discussed. Emails seem to be a method that most people receive on their phones, tablets or computers, so if anyone has any suggestions as to how we can improve on the village hall notice boards please contact davidevansvillagehall@outlook.com

Finally, to those volunteers who work behind the

scenes to keep the hall running; without you the hall would not be available for all to use.

I thank you for your time and effort and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Tivetshall Primary School

The first major event of the new school year was a trip to the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth. We learnt story writing skills based around a shipwreck and had a very interesting day out.

Later that week we held our annual Macmillan coffee morning and Harvest Festival assembly. After much cooking at school and home there were lots of delicious cakes on sale along with tea and coffee. Everyone had a great time and raised more than £90. Many thanks to all of those who donated cakes or came along and many thanks to Miss Brown, Miss Cason and Mrs Tibbs who worked so hard on the day.

Class 1 hosted a Grammar and Punctuation café for parents where we looked at all the grammar and punctuation terms that the younger children are expected to know and use – and improved our own knowledge too! We also listened to the story of The Rainbow Fish and enjoyed lots of art and craft activities in the hall with parents.

Class 1 continued a busy week with blackberry picking the following day. Many thanks to Mums and Grandmas who came to help. Lots of children went home with purple faces and full tummies!

We were very privileged to be visited by Simon and his guide dog Parsley. Simon kept us entertained with information, pictures and games but also talked to us on the subject of trust and the trust between himself and his dog. Trust is the value that we are focussing on this term.

During the following week we had more visitors. This time from the RNLI who came to talk to us about Water Safety as part of Water Safety Day. We looked at the role of the coastguard and lifeguards and the meaning of safety flags on the beach.

The half-term ended with the Key Stage 2 cross country event in Diss. Everybody who attended tried very hard and six children made it through to the next round, including Elizabeth Henson who came first in the Year 3 girls' race.

Sandra Potter, Head of School

WINFARTHING NEWS

All Saints' Primary School

It has been a busy start to term with the new intake settling in very well. It was an honour to achieve the Gold standard award for PE at the start of term.

In the last half term, Rhino class have settled into school really well and have got to grips with school routines. They have been able to meet the teachers and children from the other schools in our federation during our Harvest Experience and Dinosaur Day. Rhino class have been working really hard on learning their phonics and are beginning to put these into practise with our reading over the rest of the year. This half term, Rhinos are looking forward to learning more about Dinosaurs and taking in part in the school production for Christmas!

Chimps Class have enjoyed investigating different animal groups and learning about their skeleton. A great day was had with a visitor who brought lots of fossils to explore. Chimps have learnt many new sounds and tasted different fruits. They have enjoyed reading a variety of stories and using exciting adjectives in their writing. The room has turned into a dinosaur cave with trees and moving models.

Panda Class began their swimming lessons on 17th September and have demonstrated a tremendous amount of perseverance. On 23rd September Panda Class visited St Martin's Church in New Buckenham and the children asked lots of interesting questions. They were particularly fascinated by a very old pocket bible which had been issued to soldiers during WW1.

They spent a couple of weeks creating poems about emotions and entered their work into a poetry competition. They are hoping to be good enough to win first prize (£1,000) for the school and there will also be the opportunity to see some of our poems printed in a book with other entries.

Four children in the class came in the top 10 runners in their categories during the Cross Country Running event at Diss High School during the last week of the half-term. This means they will represent the school again during the next heat of the competition on 17th November.

Last term, Dolphin class were looking at the book Beowulf. They looked into the characters and the setting and even created their own courtroom to defend or indict Grendel. In maths they looked at probability and areas of irregular shapes and wrote their own help sheets. They also created our own glow in the dark Beowulf dioramas in Art which showcased Grendel on the hunt.

If you would like to know more about All Saints' Primary School and visit, please contact the school office on 01379 642767.

Diss Library News

Do you need help with using your computer, laptop or tablet? All libraries run a range of basic courses for people new to IT or trying to get the best out of their computers. To find out more about what's on offer locally please contact the library. On 10th December at 2.30pm we will be running an informal session on our library online resources which include ebooks, audiobooks and online magazines, so if you are thinking of asking Santa for an iPad, Android or other tablet device come along and see what we can offer.

Regular Events

Knit & Natter for all crafters is every Wednesday 2pm–4pm

Baby Bounce & Rhyme time will take a Christmas break in the school holidays, starting again on Friday 7th January at 10.30am.

Our 'Wordsworth' junior reading group will meet at 3.30pm on Monday December 7th and will be trying some play reading. New faces are assured of a welcome at all our regular groups.

All Norfolk libraries will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, the extra Bank Holiday on Monday 28th December and on New Years Day 2016. For more information on all our events and services visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries, or call Diss library on 01379 642609. For mobile library dates and details call 01603 222267 or follow the links to mobile libraries on our website.

Opening Hours

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 9–5
Tuesday, Saturday: 9–1
Wednesday: 9–1; 2–7.30



From the Registers

Winfarthing Group

CHRISTENING

Bethany Grace Butler 15th November,
Shelfanger.

BURIAL

Margaret Munford 19th November,
Winfarthing.

CELEBRATION FOR THE LIFE

Rachel Tarry 27th November, Gissing.

WEDDING

Emma Skilton & Andrew Corbyn
5th December, Shelfanger.

Bressingham Group

FUNERALS

Marie Edith Layton 9th October, South
Lopham

Winifred Garvie 13th November,
Bressingham