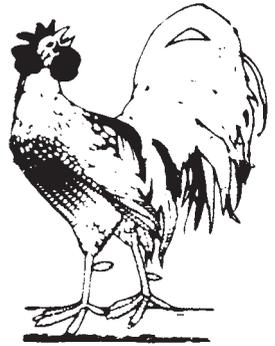


Cock Crow

NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM &
WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2012-13

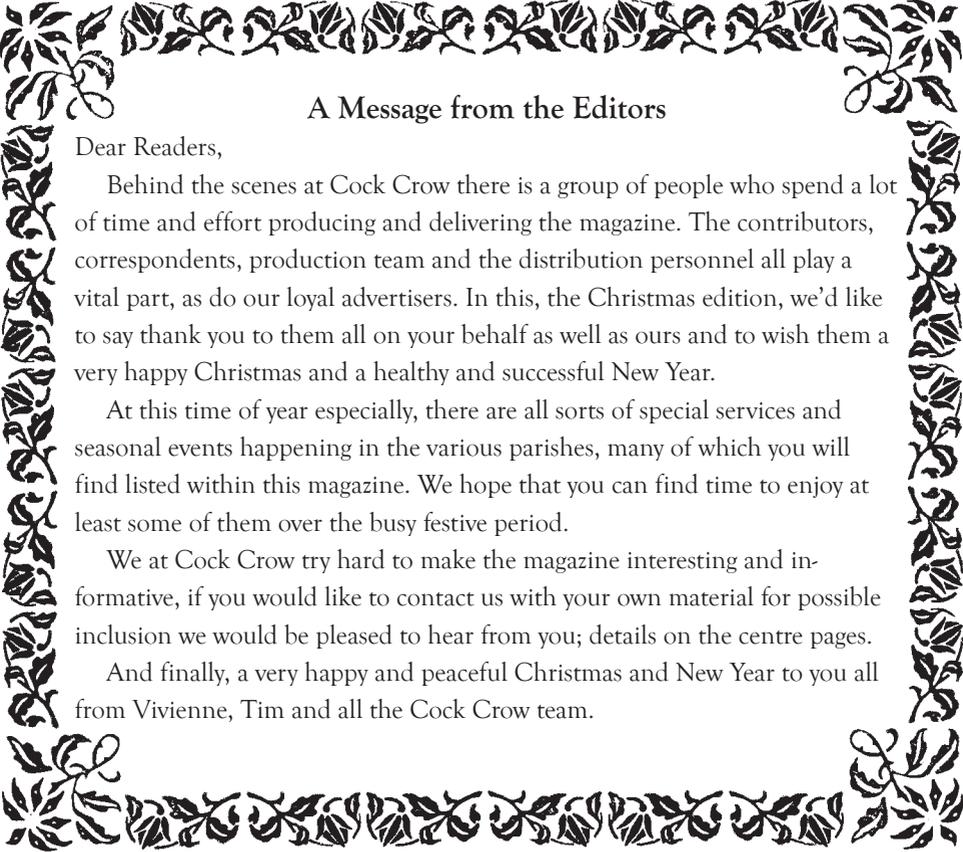
Issue No: 6



The Christmas Stable, Park Farm, Winfarthing



Editors' Notice Board



A Message from the Editors

Dear Readers,

Behind the scenes at Cock Crow there is a group of people who spend a lot of time and effort producing and delivering the magazine. The contributors, correspondents, production team and the distribution personnel all play a vital part, as do our loyal advertisers. In this, the Christmas edition, we'd like to say thank you to them all on your behalf as well as ours and to wish them a very happy Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year.

At this time of year especially, there are all sorts of special services and seasonal events happening in the various parishes, many of which you will find listed within this magazine. We hope that you can find time to enjoy at least some of them over the busy festive period.

We at Cock Crow try hard to make the magazine interesting and informative, if you would like to contact us with your own material for possible inclusion we would be pleased to hear from you; details on the centre pages.

And finally, a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year to you all from Vivienne, Tim and all the Cock Crow team.

 Other items the Editors think you might like to know about

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Did you know Norfolk libraries loan out 'reminiscence packs'? These are popular with care homes and those caring for the elderly but are also a great resource for all sorts of situations and can be borrowed by anybody. The 1970s reminiscence pack certainly entertained me and brought back some memories! We have both large – suitcase sized – and smaller packs available. Libraries in South Norfolk also have a lovely pack for use with children and teenagers who have suffered bereavement. These were put together by Rosedale funeral services and can be borrowed in the normal way.

All Norfolk libraries will close for Christmas on Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th December, and Tuesday 1st January 2013

DVDs taken out on 18th December will be issued for 3 weeks, those taken out on 17th or 19th December will be issued for two weeks, giving extra loan time for the same price, which is an economical way of entertaining the family over the holiday.

Throughout January, Norfolk Library and Information Service is promoting all the benefits of becoming a library member with a promotion called 'Join-Up January'. There are libraries and mobile libraries across Norfolk, which means there is likely to be one fairly close to where you live, and there's so much more to them than a place to borrow books.

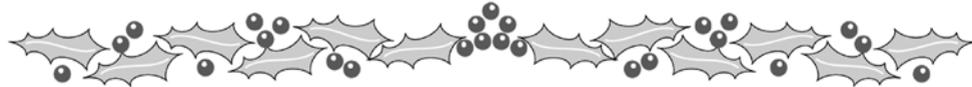
Norfolk Libraries really do have something for everyone: from console games to the latest best-sellers. We can teach older people how to use the internet on one of our free Surf's Up courses; lend out toys and books for children in our brilliant Story Sacks; help you reminisce with someone you're caring for using one of our beautiful reminiscence kits or even deliver books direct to your door if you find it difficult to get to the library.

With ebooks to download, our online catalogue you can search from home, renewals available 24 hours a day online or by phone and 47 libraries (not to mention our 13 mobile libraries) across Norfolk, it's never been easier to use your library service.

There are always events, activities and clubs for both children and adults going on in libraries, and in January we will be giving away vouchers for DVD loans and book requests to encourage you to join and use our services.

It's free to join the library and quick and easy. You can do it online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries or drop into your local library and staff will take your details and get you up and running in just a few of minutes.

For library opening times and more information on all our events and services visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries, or call Diss library on 01379 642609



Calling all Diss High School 1983 leavers

We are organising a reunion at the Park Hotel in Diss on 18th May 2013. We are looking for everybody who left school in this year or if you know anybody who did ask them to get in touch and we will keep them informed of all the event details.

Email dissclassof83@gmail.com Facebook Diss High School Leavers of '83
Lets make this a great event, so please get in touch

Whilst you are wrapping the presents

Dear Readers,

You're busy, we know, but please pause to read this story passed on by some Baptist friends?

Mary's Dream

'I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They decorated the house and bought new clothes. They went shopping and bought expensive gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son!

They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They decorated the tree also; the branches were full of glowing lights and sparkling ornaments.

There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like an angel. Oh, it was beautiful! Everyone was happy and laughing. They were all excited about the gifts they gave each other, Joseph, but there was none for our Son.

I do not think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name.

It seems so odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate the birthday of someone they do not even know. I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration he would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry.

How sad for Jesus not to be invited or wanted at his own birthday celebration. I'm glad it was only a dream.

How terrible it would have been, Joseph, if that were for real'. (Author unknown)

Naturally this story doesn't apply to us - or does it? Do we lose sight of the real point of the season?

What can we give Him? Our time? Some kindness to the less fortunate? Certainly our love and gratitude for all that He gave for us.

May you know the Peace and Joy of this Happy Holy Season.

Benefice News

There are two important changes to the usual pattern of services in December:

Sunday 9th December

10am at Bressingham Church. A final United Service of Holy Communion for the five parishes of the Upper Waveney Benefice, with the Rt Revd Alan Winton, Bishop of Thetford, before the new Diss Team Ministry comes into being during the coming months. We hope as many as possible will come to give thanks for the past years as a group, and to pray for the success of the venture that lies ahead.

Sunday 30th December

10.30am in Diss Church. The five parishes will join the congregation of Diss for Holy Communion, the only service that day, and the Launch for all six parishes of the Diss Team Ministry, serving the parishes of Bressingham, Diss, Fersfield, North Lopham, South Lopham and Roydon.

New Year – New Team – New Timings

There will be slight changes of time to enable the new Team to work harmoniously: The evening services will be at 6pm in all churches; Roydon will move the mid morning service to 11am each week.

Diocese of Norwich

There are two Lay Development, on-line courses being run through the winter months, they are both free of charge but should be booked in advance.

“What is the ‘Naked Gospel’?” is based on the ten chapters of Vincent Donovan’s ‘Christianity Rediscovered’ alongside ten readings from the Acts of the Apostles and thus is a very appropriate follow-on from the diocesan ‘Committed to Growth with Acts’ days. For full details and to book go to: www.norwich.anglican.org/calendar/e5361

“Come, Holy Spirit – Online Learning” was originally designed as a face-to-face course in the Emmaus ‘The Way of Faith’ series for Christians who want to learn more about their faith and has a more integrated approach than previous online learning courses. For full details and to book go to: www.norwich.anglican.org/calendar/e5039.

Caspar James, Assistant to the Lay Development & Training Co-ordinator

BRESSINGHAM NEWS

Church News

On the 10th October, a beautiful morning, the skeleton found following the Chequers’ fire was laid to rest just inside the churchyard to the west of the lych-gate. Rev’d Canon Tony Billett conducted a moving service attended by several villagers including Joan Green and Rita Soar, former residents of ‘The Chequers’, and Brenda Oates and Stella Taylor who laid flowers. Thanks go to those who provided the refreshments that followed, especially Kay and Reg Brock. DNA tests have dated ‘him’ at about 665AD. Originally buried in a Christian fashion, the PCC thought it right to return him to the village. Donations towards the cost of the DNA tests would be welcome.

Sunday 28th October was a very special day. The baptism in church of Henry and Faye Butler, the children of Tom and Natalie, was followed, that afternoon, by the Harvest Festival, for the first time held in a grain store at The Oaks, thanks to the Aves family. We were surrounded by wheat and straw, a large bale was used as the altar and sunflowers, sheaves of corn and sugar beet decorated the venue. John Brooke provided small straw bales for seats. Rev’d Reg Dakin led the service helped by Rev’d Ben Sasada, Richard Hewitt, the churchwardens and the organist Adrian Kitchen. Afterwards, a hearty cold supper was enjoyed by all. We are very grateful to the Rev’d Dakin who suggested it and to Rodger and Millie for all their hard work which made this event such a success. We are sad to acknowledge the Rev’d Ben Sasada’s retirement. He has been a wonderful help to all our churches over many years and we hope to see him and Rene at some of our future services.

I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Diana

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

Mr Aves opened the November meeting attended by seven Parish Councillors, County Councillor Spratt, District Councillor Weeks and two members of the public.

Mr Spratt said that Council tax is frozen for the coming year. In spite of cuts in services, the future of small schools is safe.

Mr Weeks said that planning guidelines are being improved. S. Norfolk has 6 new Speed Awareness Machines available for loan.

Concerns: regarding ash die-back disease and that horses are back on Shelfanger Common.

Mr Claybrook said that a noise meter had been used in two properties in Fersfield Street and results are being analysed.

Highways: the potholes have been filled but there was concern over the type of material used. Cut out gullies in the verges are too big and overflowing ditches are flooding some roads. Overhanging hedges and trees, the responsibility of the landowner, are a problem for traffic and pedestrians.

A sub-committee of four, two of whom are Parish Councillors, was formed, to act as Trustees for the day to day running of the newly combined Charity. It was agreed that the Charity will cover certain costs involved in the burial of the skeleton in Bressingham churchyard.

Finance, the budget for 2013/14 was agreed including increased payments to both Bressingham and Fersfield PCCs.

Mr Cattermole said it is important that a map showing the graves in the burial ground at Fersfield is found. The Clerk is to follow up his earlier enquiry with the Church warden.

Mr Hewitt said that Bressingham and Fersfield churches now come under the guidance of Diss.

Next meeting: January 7th, 2013

Bressingham Archery

There is archery on all Sundays before Christmas 3–5pm at the Village hall. If you want to have a try, a session costs £6. All equipment is supplied by our fully qualified coach. Ladies and gents from age 6 years upwards are welcome; it’s not too strenuous and lots of fun!

Bressingham and Fersfield Village Hall

During October we held a quiz evening. Seven teams from around our area competed to answer a range of interesting questions and enjoyed a ploughman’s supper. The general feeling was that we should hold

a regular quiz every two months. The next one will be on Friday 28th December at 7.30pm. Entry is £6.50 per head including a light supper. Tables of four or come along and we will fit you in. Contact 01379 688375 or the Village shop for tickets; come and join the fun!

Drama Group

We will be performing our annual Pantomime ‘Hansel and Gretel’ in February on 21st 22nd and Saturday 23rd. at 7.30 Tickets cost Thursday £5 and £3 under 12 and Friday/Saturday £6 and £4; available from the Village shop or 01379 688375.

Alternative Village Games

These will be held on Sunday 27th January at UEA Sport spark, Norwich. We intend to enter teams in Volleyball, Handball, Dodgeball and Ultimate Frisbee. For more information, please contact me, Brenda Webb, on 01379 688375.

Bressingham and District Ladies Club

Another enjoyable year is coming to an end. We have listened to a wide variety of visiting speakers and held social events too. We really value our club; it provides us with an ideal opportunity to catch up with each other with life being so hectic.

We all enjoyed a ‘Coffee & Cakes’ evening in October and in November we had a talk about the East Anglian Dialect (another excuse for a mardle...)

On 17th December there is a festive evening with mulled wine and a visit from Yaxley Hand Bell Ringers and on 21st January we welcome the return of Linda Scoles, her topic being ‘Help, I need a lifestyle adviser’.

We are a friendly group who meet on the third Monday of the month at Bressingham Village Hall (7.45pm) You are most welcome to come along and join us, please call Sue 01379 687541 for details.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

A ‘BIG thank you’ from Reg and Kay Brock to all who helped with, attended and donated to the Macmillan Coffee Morning at ‘Abbotswood’ on 28th September. An impressive £400.90 will go towards helping families cope with the distressing effects of cancer.

FERSFIELD NEWS

Church News

Since Rev'd Rob's retirement, the benefice has been very well served by Rev'd Reg, Rev'd Ben, Canon George, Richard Hewitt and the home teams. The benefice's five churches will now come under the umbrella of St Mary's Church, Diss, and Canon Tony Billett, bringing the benefit of extra clergy to take our services. This means a change of title, we will no longer be a benefice, and our new name will encompass St Mary's.

Roger and Millie Aves came to the rescue when the Bressingham/Fersfield harvest supper was cancelled due to the sudden closure of the Chequers Pub. They invited everyone to a harvest service in their barn and although it was very cold, everyone sang their heart out and enjoyed the 'nibbles' afterwards.

St Andrew's harvest service was taken by Richard Hewitt, assisted by two 'young-uns', Deaglan and Niamh Bowman. It involved many of the farming, village and young people of the community. Richard emphasised the need to 'keep moving forward' whilst retaining traditional values like dedication, vocation and the work ethic. A JCB 'Fastrac' tractor was parked outside the church around which we said a prayer for farmers and said 'thank you' for their skills. Richard also talked about the need to share the world's resources with the global community, sharing responsibility and care. The church was beautifully and traditionally decorated and the tasty after service food provided by Jan S, Jan H and Pam had a harvest theme.

Our Carol Service

Thursday 20th December at 7.30pm. Please note starting time. We are hoping to have some visiting singers to help the evening ring loud and clear. Proceeds, as usual, will be forwarded to SHELTER.

On St Andrew's Day we usually hold a Gift Day for donations towards a particular Church project. At present we are concentrating on upgrading the heating system and would be enormously grateful for any help you feel able to give. Please bring

donations to the Carol Service or to the Family Service on Christmas morning. If you cannot come to either of the services but would like to contribute, ring Jan 687711 or Richard 687679 who will arrange for someone to call on you.

The dance held on the 27th October in the Lophams' village hall was enjoyed by all. The finger buffet prepared by Brenda and her friend Janice was scrumptious as usual. I say, 'If you don't dance, just come for the food!'

The PCC would like to say thank you to Rev'd Reg Dakin and Richard Hewitt for the services which they have led this year and to Jennie for her musical accompaniment. Thanks too to those special people who work tirelessly keeping the Church looking good, especially 'team Jan' for their glorious floral displays, Sue Catermole and Richard V. for maintaining the churchyard, and all those kind people who provide so much practical help and support us when we hold our fund-raising events.

Forthcoming Events

Coffee morning in the church, 1st December 10am 'till 12 noon – usual tombola, table top etc.

Christmas Services

2nd December Evensong 6.30pm.

20th December Carol Service at 7.30pm

23rd December Holy Communion at 9.30am

25th December Family Service at 10.30am.

This year Midnight Mass will be held in St Andrew's Church, South Lopham.

Please Note For January/February/March 2013 evening services at Fersfield church will take place at 4pm instead of 6.30pm.

With every blessing this Christmas and throughout the year ahead.

Website; remember to check out the website: <http://www.bressinghamandfersfield.org>



LOPHAMS NEWS

St Andrew's Primary School

St Andrew's pupils, parents, staff and governors have had a busy two months including welcoming new pupils to the villages and school.

The term began with St Andrew's launching its new website: www.standrews.schoolpartnership.org. This contains the latest information about the school including the school prospectus, learning opportunities and correspondence with parents. Following the launch teachers invited parents for class meetings. These were well attended and enabled staff to share what children would be learning this year and how they could be supported at home. The school is now setting up a reading café where parents of children in Reception, years 1 and 2 will be able to come and join their children in learning about reading in a creative and fun way.

St Andrew's explored its catchment area this year by in September, celebrating Harvest Festival at St Andrew's Church, South Lopham, where Reception and years 1 and 2 sang, years 3 and 4 wrote and read prayers and years 5 and 6 performed two poems; and in October by visiting a Sunday morning service in St Andrew's Church, Blo Norton where children sang, read from the bible, led prayers and assisted with the collection. St Andrew's now looks forward to the Partnership service in St Mary's Church, Winfarthing with the Bishop of Norwich.

As part of their learning about London, year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils joined All Saints upper school on a day trip to the capital. This was a popular and enjoyable educational visit for the children. They came back and eagerly reflected on the cultural heritage of the city including Buckingham Palace, The National Art Gallery, Covent Garden and Westminster – to name a few. According to local commuters, the children's behaviour was exemplary. St Andrew's is now busy planning to revisit to London to see the musical 'Shrek' in February!

Years 3 and 4 also enjoyed an educational visit to Norwich Cathedral where they focused on Global Christianity. They worked in collaboration with pupils from other Norfolk schools and came back

eager to share their Gospel Music.

In early October, St Andrew's pupils celebrated Book Week with a feast of activities. Pupil achievement of the summer reading challenge was celebrated, parents visited and shared favourite childhood texts, book reviews were written and pupils returned to school one evening for a bedtime read with a cup of hot chocolate!

FOSTA have also been very active. They purchased i-pads to enhance pupils' classroom learning and organised a film night with popcorn.

Concerning sport, St Andrew's netballers and footballers are proud of their recent wins against other schools in the small school league.

St Andrew's now looks forward to exciting opportunities in the term ahead including Road Safety week, Anti bullying week, an educational visit to Strangers Hall, and Christmas festivities.

For further information about St Andrew's Primary or to bring your child to visit, whether you are within the catchment or neighbours, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01379 642767 or by e-mail head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

*Louise Norgate, Executive Headteacher
All Saints and St Andrew's Partnership*

FOSTA

At the AGM on the 28th September, J Pursehouse, after a 5 year term as Treasurer, was replaced by A Ramm. Jim is thanked for his dedication over this time. J Bernard remains as Chair and E Aldous as secretary.

FOSTA has raised £1731 this year from a wide variety of events. Altogether, £855 has been spent on a disco, portable PA system, leavers' presents and insurance.

FOSTA will buy 4 ipads for the school at a cost of £1200, St Andrews will purchase 2 more and a sync machine. Together, this equipment will greatly help the children.

FOSTA would like to thank everyone for their continued support.



Lophams' Ladies

Meeting in the Village Hall; 7.15pm for 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

At our October meeting, Jason Salisbury described how he became a 'first generation farmer' and with his wife started up his Suffolk Cheese business.

At November's open meeting we welcomed visitors to hear well known TV weatherman Jim Bacon's thoroughly enjoyable talk about his earlier experiences in front of the camera.

December 4th will be a Christmas Lunch at the Kings Head and on January 8th a member of the 'First Responders' will be coming to talk. This meeting will be at 2pm in the Village hall.

New members and visitors always welcome. Tel 01379 687337 for details.

Lophams' Garden Club

Meets at Blooms Garden Centre, 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

At September's meeting Bob Coutts, Head Gardener at Somerleyton, talked about 'Gardening for the Autumn' giving lots of down-to-earth advice about jobs to be tackled at this time of year including taking cuttings and planting up containers.

On 3rd October Yvonne and David Leonard gave their 'Autumn Bounty' presentation. Autumn is a beautiful and productive time of year and we were shown some of the flowers, fruits and berries which are so useful both to us and to wildlife.

Matthew Tanton Brown brought many plants to illustrate his informative and highly amusing talk 'Plants for the Dry Garden' at our November meeting.

Tickets are on sale for our Christmas Dinner on December 5th.

At our next meeting on 6th February 2013 we will welcome Elizabeth Browne from the 'Urban Jungle'.

Visitors and new members are always welcome at our meetings. Please telephone 01379 687833 for details.

Lophams' Village Hall

Bonfire & Firework Event Saturday 3rd November.

The weather was almost perfect, the firework team soon had the electronics sorted and thanks to

everyone who donated materials and Jim Harris' skill with the teleporter there was a good blaze. The climax was the terrific 'eye-popping' display. Hot food and drinks in the hall were very welcome, and the children loved the novelty items on sale. There were some brilliant entries in the picture competition – congratulations to Niamh, Phoebe and Joanna, in the over eights, and to Freddie, Caspar and Mia in the seven and unders. Thanks go to all those who helped in any way.

The Lottery: our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too. In the September draw the 1st prize of £186 was won by F Weber; 2nd prizes of £46.50 each were won by S Savereux and S Blyth. In October the 1st prize of £188 was won by C Watson; 2nd prizes of £47 each went to A Mitchell and P Reeder. New members, and those who need to renew are urged to get in touch: Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen, tel; 01379 687608, from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer, tel; 01379 687718, from other Village Hall Committee members (see the website for details), or at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

Farmers' Markets are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm. Recently, a number of new vendors have increased the variety of produce for sale. December's Christmas Market is on Saturday 22nd, when the extra Christmas Bonanza prize draw takes place as well as the usual three.

For market details, call Mike on 01379 687235.

Judo is on Mondays and Wednesdays (Details from Howard on 1379 688258)

Dog Training is held most Tuesday evenings, trainer Elaine (07845 776110) will provide information.

Lopham Art Group: meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. All painters are welcome. Contact 01379 687718 for more details.

Yoga with P: is a welcome new addition to the weekly programme. Sessions are on Thursdays, 5.30–6.30pm and 7–8pm. Booking is essential,

01379 890955; or 07932 010720; e-mail piaternella.jarvie@gmail.com

To book the hall for private functions, please contact 01379 687679. for more information about the hall, visit the web-site at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk

Lophams' Harvest Luncheon

A wedding marquee made a sumptuous setting for sixty-five people to sit down to a delicious meal at the Harvest Lunch in September. Afterwards, many stayed for Music, Praise and Worship, with guest speaker Irene Sayer.

By popular request, a lunch time meal will be the pattern for next year's Harvest celebration, though the setting will be more ordinary – the Village Hall!

Grateful thanks go to all who helped to make the occasion such a success, especially Cynthia Huggins who made sure the meat and chicken were beautifully cooked.

Lophams Society

Eight teams vied enthusiastically for top place at the Autumn Quiz on 17th November. Finally, table 1 took the honours (and the wine) and runners up, table 5, were consoled with chocolates. The interval supper was provided by Cynthia Huggins, Bill Bedford and their stalwart team of helpers. Chairman Granville Horan thanked Robert McCaw for providing an enjoyable set of questions and question master Simon Dilloway who kept it all moving.

Free Christmas Drop-In

The Lophams' Society

All residents of North and South Lopham welcome

Friday 14th December 6–9pm
Village Hall

Join us for mulled wine, mince pies, festive food, music and carol singing.

We are hoping to have a visit from Father Christmas (his schedule permitting)

NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

Parish Council

14th November 2012. Attended by all councillors and two members of the public.

Finance Weathering has made the memorial to the American airmen illegible. £225 expenditure approved for restoration.

£25 donation to the Royal British Legion was approved.

£20 expenditure approved for 20, A3 size, self adhesive posters to be placed on 'wheelie' bins to remind drivers of the speed limit – see SNAP meeting.

Planning Two pending applications at 14 The Green; 11 The Street – approved.

Highways and Footpaths Pavements recently cleaned by Serco need to be redone.

Resurfacing at the Harling Road junction is already breaking up, road markings incomplete – Highways informed.

Church Road drain has been jetted again; Kings Head Lane drains to be jetted.

Wide vehicles are damaging the verges, overhanging hedges still a problem.

Dog fouling in Primrose Lane seems less since placing the notices.

Thanks expressed to Laurie Farren-Bradley for grass cutting in Back Lane.

Village Clean Up Nine people turned up on a nasty day and collected two bags of rubbish mostly from south of the village. Thanks to Mike McManus for tidying the trees at the pond and to George and Angie for refreshments afterwards.

SNAP North Lopham is now a speeding priority area. An application for a 20mph limit around the school is under consideration.

Next meeting 9th January 2013

Remembrance 2012

Community members, veterans and the RBL Standard for the Lophams and Kenninghall, were joined by the oldest St Andrew's School pupils for a poignant ceremony at the War Memorial on 9th November. The children read part of the Exhortation

and Koheima epitaph, as well as their own prayers and assisted with the wreath laying before planting individual crosses round the memorial and singing a special Remembrance song.

On Remembrance Sunday, members of the congregation took part in ceremonies at both services, honouring those from the village who gave their lives in the two World Wars, and remembering those who suffer as a result of more recent conflicts.

Samaritan's Purse

Thanks go to everyone who filled boxes for the 2012 appeal. By now, fifty boxes will be on their way to Belarus, the home area of the Chernobyl Children.

St Nicholas' Church

Harvest Thanksgiving at St Nicholas' Church was wonderful this year, a whole team decorated church so beautifully, thank you all. The real, single furrow plough outside the church was a great attraction for all the children who attended the Family Service. Two very good congregations shared the day and we are very grateful to everyone who took an active part in the worship. The response to the Gift Day Appeal was very heartening; funds have topped £500 so far. Thank you to all the generous donors.

Art Exhibition 2012; around 150 pictures were exhibited and people came from near and far. Over £4,000 of sales resulted with 25% coming to the church. Including the raffle and refreshments sales, the total raised just topped £1,500. 10% has been sent to Sight Savers leaving a goodly sum for funds.

Church members are immensely grateful to all who took part and especially to Tony and Gill, who inspired and planned it all.

The Festival of Cribbs closes the Church Year, setting the scene for the seasons of Advent to Epiphany. We hope many readers will have been to enjoy this event, especially the new exhibits and the children's corner with its Angel Crafts.

Advent to Epiphany

We hope that many readers will come along to share in some of the many services and events that make the midwinter months special. All services are listed in the centre of the magazine, but please look out for the seasonal highlights in North Lopham:

The Toy Service at 11am on 2nd; St Nicholas' Day, actually 6th December, is marked at this service. You are invited to bring a gift, wrapped and labelled with the age and gender for which it is intended, so that we can make Christmas special for some deprived families in Thetford, who would otherwise have no gifts. The parcels will be delivered to Prospect House, a project run by Action for Children, in good time for distribution before 25th December.

Advent Carols at 6.30pm on 9th: Do come along to share in some of the most beautiful words and music for this season, as we prepare to re-enact the Christmas story.

Family Carol Service at 11am on 16th: The younger members of the congregation will tell the story of the Nativity, interspersed with well loved carols and songs.

The Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve is a magical time for all ages as the figures are placed in the stable scene as the story unfolds – a little oasis of calm before the excitement of Christmas Day.

The first Communion of Christmas is at South Lopham at 11.30pm, after Carols at 11pm.

Epiphany Carols at 6.30pm on 13th January. The main celebration season ends with more wonderful music and readings, secular as well as biblical. Do join us!

Postscript At the end of a momentous year, the churchwardens, PCC and people of North Lopham say a sincere thank you to all those who have helped in any way with the care of the church, its grounds, or its activities in the community throughout 2012, and wish all readers a Happy & Blessed Christmas, and Good Health to enjoy the New Year 2013.



SOUTH LOPHAM NEWS

St Andrew's Church News

The Harvest celebrations took place on Sunday 23rd September with St Andrew's Church adorned by a delightful array of flowers, fruits, vegetables, sugar beet, corn and tinned produce. The Family Harvest Service in the morning was taken by Richard Vere with a talk by Jenny Vere. The Evening Harvest Praise was led by Dr Sue Drake and Jane Hines.

Tuesday 25th September: we welcomed Head Teacher Louise Norgate and children and parents from St Andrew's School for their Harvest Service.

Thank you to all who gave produce and gifts, the perishable items have gone to Fenners, in Fersfield, the other items are going to the Food Bank in Diss.

Christmas Services The Christmas Service at St Andrew's Church this year is Midnight Communion on Monday 24th December with Carol Singing at 11pm and Holy Communion at 11.30pm.

South Lopham Parish Council

The following points arose from the meeting held on Thursday, 8th November 2012:

Robert McCaw announced that he and Madeleine had sold their house and were moving to Wiltshire. The next meeting on Thursday, 10th January will be his last as a councillor and Chairman. Anyone interested in joining the Parish Council please let Robert know on 01379 687776 or robmad@btinternet.com.

Having discussed the budget for next year (2013/2014) the Council resolved to increase the precept from £2,900 to £3,000.

With a view to discouraging motorists from speeding through the village it has been decided to purchase A3 sized posters saying in bold lettering 'SLOW DOWN IN OUR VILLAGE' for sticking to wheelie bins when they are put out for collection on Fridays. Would anyone willing to display such posters please request some from the Parish Clerk, Caroline Phillips, at clerk@southlopham.co.uk or from Robert McCaw (as in 1 above).

Rob Webb reminded the meeting that Norfolk County Council no longer carries out any

maintenance on local footpaths. It is therefore the primary responsibility of the landowner to make sure that all public rights of way are kept clear.

Granville Horan (on behalf of the Lophams Society) expressed his disappointment at the poor attendance at the Music Evening held on 22nd September. Parishioners are urged to give greater support to local events, failing which, the Society will no longer feel able to put them on and may have to disband.

Granville suggested that all local organisations should publish their future events in, say, the Cock Crow so that clashes may be avoided. He will attempt to follow up by contacting local societies.

Friends of South Lopham Church

At the AGM of The Friends of South Lopham Mrs Evelyn Logsdail was elected chairman, Mrs Marion Crisp as secretary and David Huggins as treasurer. A successful Ceilidh was held with North Lopham and it was decided to have two functions during this year. We are always happy to welcome anyone who would like to be involved, please contact either Marion 01379 687953 or Evelyn 01379 687281.

Little Ouse Headwaters Project

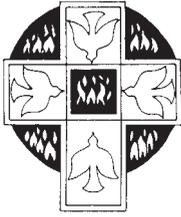
Annual talk, members' evening and AGM

**Thursday 13th December 2012, 7.30pm
Redgrave Activities Centre, IP22 1RL**

AGM at 7.30 followed by a photographic round-up of our September event 'Food and Folk on the Frith' then at 8pm, our annual talk 'Flowers of the Little Ouse headwaters – a national treasure' by Jonny Stone, an expert in the very special flora of the LOHP sites.

Seasonal refreshments and a raffle will follow the talk (contributions of finger foods and raffle prizes very welcome!)

All welcome – free to members but we will appreciate a donation of £2 from non-members to cover costs.



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

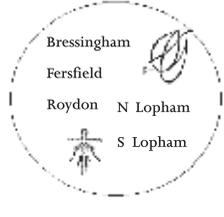
**BURSTON
GISSING
SHELFANGER
TIVETSHALL
WINFARTHING**

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

Rector of the Upper Waveney Benefice
The Benefice is moving towards being part of all SIX parishes, led by The Rev'd Canon Tony Billett, Rector of Diss and 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 below, who will put you in touch with the appropriate individual.

Hon Rectors
The Revd Reg Dakin
Tel: 01379 641167

The Revd Ben Sasada
01379 642174



	Burston	Gissing	Shelfanger	Tivetshall	Winfarthing
December 2			10.30 5P HC		
December 7	2.00 Christingle				
December 9	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	3.00 Ad/Chris	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
December 16	9.30 MP	11.00 Carol/S	8.00 HC	3.00 Carols/C	10.00 FS
December 23	3.00 Carol/S	11.00 MP	3.00 Carols/C	9.30 HC	6.00 Carol/S
December 24					11.30pm C
December 25	8.30 HC	11.00 HC	10.00 FS	10.00 HC	
December 30				10.30 5P HC	
January 6	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP
January 13	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	10.00 FS	11.00 FS	9.30 MP
January 20	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 PSS	9.30 HC	10.00 VC
January 27	3.00 4SS	11.00 MP	8.00 HC	(At Gissing)	9.30 HC
February 3	9.30 MP	8.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 MP	9.30 MP

EP Evening Prayer | HC Holy Communion | MW Morning Worship | PP Prayer & Praise | FS Family Service | FS/Chp Family Service in Chapel | PPS Plough Sunday Service | Carol S Carol Service | Carol/C candlelit

THE COCK CROW TEAM

EDITORS
Winfarthing Group: Vivienne Wheeler, Jacks Barn, Common Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DR 01379 642622 Vivienne.wheeler@btinternet.com

Bressingham Group: Tim Colyer, 'Bermick', Tanns Lane, North Lopham, IP22 2LZ 01379 687718 timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk

SECRETARY
Jennie Vere, Southlands, Church Corner, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk. 01379 687679 jennyvere@btinternet.com

TREASURER
Marie Hewitt, 68 Common Road, Bressingham IP22 2BB. 01379 687376. 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 Further details page 36

CORRESPONDENTS

BRESSINGHAM Diana Burroughes, Burrowood, Wilney Green, Bressingham IP22 2AJ, 01379 688291, dianajb@btconnect.com

BURSTON Debbie Beck 3, Higdon Close, Diss Road, Burston IP22 5UG 01379 740834

FERSFIELD Maureen Webb Scoggins Farm, Dennington Rd, Laxfield, Suffolk IP13 8HJ 01986 798072 mbenziger@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

SHELFANGER Frank Paice, The Laurels, Shelfanger. 01379 641538

TIVETSHALL Maggie Rowan, The Thatched House, Green Lane, Tivetshall NR15 2BJ 01379 674116 maggiearowan@aol.com

WINFARTHING Alun Howkins, Holly Farm Barn, The Street, Winfarthing 01379 652202 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)	Roydon St Remigius (C/W 1 & 2)
Sun 2nd Dec Advent 1	No Service	6.30pm EP	9.30am 11am HC Toy Service	No Service	8am 10am HC MP
Sun 9th Dec Advent 2	10.30am Ben HC Bishop Alan	No Service	6.30pm Advent Carols	No Service	No Service
Sun 16th Dec Advent 3	6.30pm EP	No Service	11am Fam Carols	9.30am HC	8am 10am HC Carol S
Sun 23rd Dec Advent 4	10.30am With Meth	9.30am HC	11am FS	No Service	10am MP
Mon 24th Dec Christmas Eve	No Service	No Service	4pm Crib Service	11.30pm Christmas HC	4pm 8.30am CribS ChrisHC
Tues 25th Dec Christmas Day	9.30am Christmas HC	10.30am Christmas FS	No Service	No Service	10am Christ HC
Sun 30th Dec Christmas 1	First Service for the Diss Team Ministry: Holy Communion – Diss at 10.30am				
Sun 6th Jan Epiphany	No Service	6pm EP	9.30am 11am HC Fam S	No Service	8am 11am HC Fam S
Sun 13th Jan Epiphany 1	9.30am HC	No Service	11am 6pm Fam S Epiph Car	No Service	11am HC
Sun 20th Jan Epiphany 2	6pm EP	No Service	11am Fam Service	9.30am HC	8am 11am HC MP
Sun 27th Jan Epiphany 3	10.30am With Meth	9.30am HC	11am Fam Service	6pm ES	11am HC
Sun 3rd Feb	No Service	6pm ES	9.30am 11am HC Fam Serv	No Service	8am 11am HC FS

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

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

Wednesday Communion: 9.45am every Wednesday in Roydon Church, until the end of this year 2012.

Fellowship Group meets on Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm contact Rob (688267) for location.

Roydon Afternoon Guild meets at 2pm in Roydon Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month.

Holy Bingo: 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	R Aves 01379 687263
	Fersfield	J Sumpter 01379 687 711	R Vere 01379 687679
	North Lopham	A Briggs 01953 681989	R Vere 01379 687679
	South Lopham	P Reeder 01379 687273	D Huggins 01379 687201
	Roydon	A Daniels 01379 643575	A Stratfold 01379 642033

Facts for Christmas



In AD 385 Pope Julius 1st declared 25th December as 'the day to celebrate Christ's birth, partly to challenge the pagan celebration of the Roman god Saturnalia, which was characterized by social disorder and immorality'. So when was Jesus born? History does not say. 'Spring is most likely, because shepherds were watching their flocks at night and this is when ewes bore their young. Around AD 200, theologians concluded Jesus was born on 20th May. Others argued for dates in April and March. This wasn't a major issue, since early Christians emphasize the Epiphany on the 6th January, marking Christ's baptism. One reference point of interest as to the timing Christ birth, can be found in the book of Daniel 9: 24-26; Christ's birth falls within this time'.

One of the main purposes of the Old Testament is to point towards the Messiah, 'The Anointed One' who was to come. There are about 40 major prophecies here; the odds of one person achieving this are around 16 trillion to one. It gives details like the time and place where he is to be born of a virgin. (Isaiah Chapter 53 – The suffering servant, Micah 5:2, Isaiah 7:14). For a considerable age, sceptics have raised the question that Nazareth never existed in biblical times. Dr. James Strange of the University of South Florida describes Nazareth as being 'a very small place, of about 60 acres, with a maximum population of about 480 at the beginning of the 1st century'. When Jerusalem fell in AD 70, priests were no longer needed. Archaeologists have found a list in Aramaic of priests who were relocated; one of them moved to Nazareth.

I have tried to show just a few of the facts regarding the coming of the Messiah which have been fulfilled in the risen Christ.

Christmas, as important as it is, is not the whole story. Why was the Messiah born in the first place? The answer to that can be found on Good Friday and Easter Day and what Jesus Christ achieved at the Cross.

Pax et bonum (peace & goodness)

Rev David F Mills

Quotations taken from 'The case for Christmas' by Lee Strobel published by Zondervan, ISBN-10: 0-310-25476-0

BURSTON NEWS

Community Primary School

Class 1 have become very interested in caring for animals and we have therefore set up a stable role play area outdoors and are organising a vet surgery indoors. We have been speaking with Uplands Way veterinary surgery and are hoping they will visit us to talk about their role in caring for animals. The topic this term involves electricity. We will be talking about the safety aspects surrounding electricity in addition to building our own circuits and so on. This will link with Class 3's work on Energy Busters.

Class 2 are working hard at including descriptive words and phrases in their writing and devised some evocative lines for their firework shape poems. In maths Class 2 have been applying their number and sorting skills to 'venn' diagrams and will shortly be learning how to put data into 'carroll' diagrams. They have learned that Lewis Carroll was a mathematician as well as a writer. The children also became Celtic warriors, using the beautifully decorated shields they made, in an outdoor imaginary battle against the Roman army.

Class 3 has now settled into the routines of school and are working happily. This term we are fortunate to have Energy Busters in. Children have done a school energy survey and will be designing posters and presenting an assembly on their finding. We are planning a switch off week from the 19th November. This does not mean all the heating will be turned off! We are also fortunate to have a local artist, Terri Lockton in to do stained glass work with the pupils. This has given the pupils the opportunity to work in a medium than otherwise would not have been available to them. It also allows for individuality and creativity with a hands-on practical approach.

Pupils are now attending tag rugby and netball clubs, arranged by Mrs Govier Schaay. We are extremely grateful for the support. We are hoping to have a new PE kit, consequently we are looking for local sponsors. Dates for your diaries, 7th December Christingle at the church; 12th December KS1 Nativity, 13th December KS2 play. 18th December – Mince pies! Venue to be confirmed.

GISSING NEWS

St Mary's Church held its annual Harvest Festival on Sunday, 23rd September. As has become customary, the Gissing Singers joined the congregation for this special and much loved service marking the end of the farming cycle in our agricultural village. In addition to joining in with the hymns, the Singers performed John Rutter's 'Look at the World', a piece which matched the occasion perfectly. The flowers for Harvest are always beautiful and this year there was a particular abundance, making the rather sombre church interior a blaze of colour. Many thanks are due to all who contributed to the success of the day; to the Singers, to all those who created the floral and seasonal arrangements, and to those who prepared the plentiful and delicious refreshments served after the service. Special thanks are due to Lynda Mansfield, who led our service. It was her first time with us, and we look forward to welcoming her again in the future.

St Mary's will hold its annual Christmas Festival of Carols and Lessons on Sunday, 16th December, at 11am. The Gissing Singers will be present to help the congregation along, joining in on the familiar carols, and singing several numbers on their own. Lessons will be read by parishioners and refreshments will be served after the service. As with every service, all are welcome at this festive village tradition.

Friends of Gissing Church

As you will probably know, Gissing cannot access grants for routine repairs and maintenance work for preserving the parish church and churchyard, which is why the 'Friends of Gissing Church' was formed. We rely solely on donations and regular giving.

Since the launch in July 2011, we now have 47 households in membership from Gissing, and beyond, and even a member in the USA! From this beginning, we were able to cover two of the main areas of expenditure for St Mary's last winter, namely the church insurance of £1,205.73 and the grounds maintenance bill of £525, totalling £1,730.73.

However, despite raising this sum, the funds left over after these bills were paid were not enough for

servicing the church organ or to build a contingency fund for any unexpected repairs or maintenance... and the next round of bills is due at Christmas!!

The Friends have been working hard to maintain current, and raise additional, funds with a summer membership campaign and through events. To recent new members we say many thanks for joining the Friends. We also thank our existing members for their continuing support, not least at the Friends' stall at the Gissing Summer Fete and at the Afternoon Tea and 'Christmas Shopping Opportunity' in October, both of which raised over £200 each!

There was also a 'Tractor Run' on November 18th which started from, and returned to, the Gissing Crown, ending in a most enjoyable lunch together. The 'Run' raised funds jointly for the Friends and the Greyhound Rescue.

Christmas cards are currently on sale in the church. They can also be purchased from the Gissing Crown. For details, see the pub notice board.

The Friends will be at the St Nicholas Fayre on Saturday, December 1st selling local hand-made pottery and produce cooked, bottled or baked by members of the Friends committee. All the produce and products will be donated, so we can maximise proceeds towards the Friends funds. Do come and support the Friends, other stall holders and the Heart of Gissing at this lovely Christmas Fayre.

Finally, if you fancy learning a new skill then why not join the Friends on New Year's Eve when they will be ringing in 2013 at St Mary's Church. Wrap up warm!

Anyone who is interested to find out more about the Friends and how they could help, can either take an information leaflet and

membership form which can be found in the church on the card sale stand, or if you would like to discuss this in person then please do contact Fiona Turton on 01379 677811.

The Friends of Gissing Church wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



Heart of Gissing

This is a charity 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. The Trustees 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 Heart of Gissing very much works with Gissing Children's Centre which is, and will remain, the primary user of the site. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 or email admin@heartofgissing.org.uk for a membership form and/or further details. Visit www.heartofgissing.org.uk for up to date information about groups, events and what is happening in the centre of the village.

St Nicholas Fayre

Saturday 1st December from 4-7pm at and around the Old School (Gissing 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 Christmas wish lists. For more information please contact Kelly Pitcher 01379 674511 or email kelpitcher@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you there.

Groups running at present include

Gissing Children's Centre (Pre-School and Play-scheme) Contact as below.

Gissing Baby and Toddler Group runs in Gissing Village Hall, Rectory Road, Gissing every Monday morning from 9.30-11.30 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 general information, please contact Vicky on 01379 674437 or 07946 212779 or email at 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, please contact Bernie on 07796 545929 or 01379 677254 or email at berniecalton@talktalk.net.

Gissing Reading Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 8.00 pm at the Old School. Forthcoming books include: December – poems about journeys; January 2013 – The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society – by Mary Ann Schaffer; February 2013 – The Master and Margarita by N Bulgakov. For further information about the group, please contact Jim Philip on 01379 677352 or just come along.

Gissing Gardening Group is taking its annual break in December and January, but will begin again on the evening of 20th February, with a programme on 'jams and chutneys', presented by Mark Hall. The Garden Group is open to everyone with an interest in gardening, from rank amateurs to accomplished horticulturalists. Come along, and see what you can learn about and do with your garden.

We usually meet on the third Wednesday evening of the month at the Old School. For enquiries about the group, contact 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 continues to run every Wednesday evening at the Children's Centre (the Old School). Call Sharon Calton on 07979 411644 or email at sharon@scalon.orangehome.co.uk for further details.

The Hegarty School of Dance offers a variety of 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@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.hegartyschoolofdance.co.uk.

Weekly 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 details, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 or by email at samiwatt@hotmail.co.uk.

Heart of Gissing Community Dance and Theatre Project (Formerly Dance 2000 Plus). Any queries regarding this group can be directed to Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email at rose@roseeddington.co.uk.

Stage HOGers This local theatre group puts on performances from time to time. Anyone interested in treading the boards, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 or email at samiwatt@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

Over 60s Group: contact Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email rose@roseeddington.co.uk.

Gissing Carpet Bowls: contact Derek Dewey on 01379 677162.

Gissing Bowls Club: contact Kevin Lake on 01379 677525.

Bookings to use Gissing Village Hall: contact Helen Vallier on 07712 171187.

Bookings to use Gissing Children's Centre: contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am to 3pm Monday to Friday during term time) or 07531 810704 out of hours.

Gissing Children's Centre

Our popular and successful Pre-School runs during term time and children can attend from 9.30 to 12 noon (standard session), to 1.15pm (extended session) or to 2.30pm every Monday to Friday inclusive. Early years funding for 3 and 4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions. We take children unaccompanied from 2½ years to 5 years old. Any families who wish to come and take a look are welcome to contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am-3pm during term time) or 07531 810704 (out of hours) or to send enquiries to email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk to arrange a visit at a time of your choice.

During the second half of the Autumn Term, the children at the Pre-school, in addition to having made a bonfire display with fireworks will be helping to prepare the backdrop and decorations, lights etc., for Santa's Grotto so that they can welcome Father Christmas from 4-6pm on Saturday 1st December at the Gissing St Nicholas Fayre. The children will also be working on their entry for this year's Dickleburgh Fifty Christmas Trees in a Church Festival to be held during the first week in

December. Closer to home, they will be decorating the font with angels in St Mary's Church, Gissing. As well as making Christmas Cards as a fundraiser, the children will be engaging in various craft projects to reflect celebrations such as the Hindu Diwali Festival of Lights and, of course, Christmas and will be making things to take home.

The Children's Centre may be running a Play-scheme day for primary school children in February (half-term) from 9.30 to 3 for children of primary school age where the cost would be £10 per child, bookable and payable in advance. Children would need to bring a packed lunch and a small amount of money for tuck. General enquiries can be directed to 07531 810704 or email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk. Flyers will be distributed to local schools early in the Spring term.

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL

Services are just a click away

Need to contact South Norfolk Council? Before picking up the phone why not try our online service?

On our homepage you'll find online services right in front of you under the headings: Pay for it; Request it; Report it, and Apply for it. You can resolve many popular requests for yourself; set up a direct debit, pay your council tax, and order bulky waste collections.

There is step-by-step guidance on our secure site, it's safe, reliable, easy to use and will probably save you time.

Specific information relating to your property is available from the homepage too. Type your postcode into the My South Norfolk section and click 'search' it will give you all sorts of useful details like your usual bin collection day and how to contact your local councillor.

And, it's all available 24/7!

So next time you need one of our services, try online. Visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk to find out more and see the full list of what's on offer under the 'Do it online' link.

SHELFANGER NEWS

All Saints' Church

'Welcome Home' to three people

Firstly, Mick Paines, back after his triple bypass heart operation – it will be great to have Mick back to his old self again.

Secondly, the Rector, David Mills, back after his sabbatical. He looks better externally and we hope he feels refreshed spiritually and invigorated in personal faith, internally.

Thirdly, Mrs Joyce Fox of Heywood Road, back after some problems following a fall. It was really nice to see her at church again – well done that girl!

Au Revoir

Mrs Anne Chinn has moved up to Sleaford in Lincolnshire, where her daughter and family live. Anne will leave a large gap in church and village affairs. She led the flower arranging team, making All Saints' well known for its superb Harvest, Christmas and Easter floral arrangements. Anne was a stalwart of the Winfarthing and Shelfanger WI, serving many years as chairman. She was renowned for her coffee mornings, strawberry teas and her hospitality at Glebe Cottage. She will be much missed at church, at PCC meetings, behind the church stall at the fete and in the kitchen of the village hall for Harvest Suppers. Anne had a great send-off and a presentation painting is on its way. All our love and best wishes to you, Anne.

All Saints' Patronal Service

This was taken on Sunday 4th November by Frank Paice, our reader, and was preceded by Gift Morning on Saturday 3rd November. The parish of Shelfanger has responded magnificently, as it has so often. At the time of writing, the total stands and £1200 and is still rising. This generosity will help to keep the church 'in being' as a building and as a community of witness to the Christian faith for another stretch of time. Thank you all most sincerely. The PCC would like the anonymous donor of a sub-

stantial sum to know their appreciation, whilst letters to other donors are on their way.

Gift Morning was further enlivened by a mass visit from the Suffolk Guild of Ringers, who rang some first rate short pieces.



Harvest Festival

This service on October 7th was well attended and taken by our Reader, Frank Paice. The church was decorated with magnificent flowers on sills, pedestals and tables, whilst vegetables (even in this tricky growing year) loaded every other surface. The church was full of God's rural bounty and Frank avoided knocking down any of the pulpit onions, thus causing one warden to lose a £5 bet!

The sale of produce from the bus shelter on Monday 9th October raised the terrific sum of £92! Peter and Pam Harries are very good street traders!

Thank you

To the 2 Shelfangerians who have come forward to help the Church Friday Team of maintenance volunteers (often known as the rotary club).

Howard Yates and Darren Bear are lending their muscle power to bolster the work of the existing group during a difficult time. Well done chaps!

The ongoing efforts of Peter Harries, Ray Leeder, Mick Paines, Des Doherty and Roger Challoner, and also the refreshments organised by Jean Challoner are much appreciated. Cheers all!

Christmas

Please come, if you can, to at least one of your Church's Christmas services.

A service of Christingle for the Children's Society on Sunday 9th December at 3pm.

The Candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 23rd December at 3pm.

The famous and lively short family service on Christmas Day at 10am.

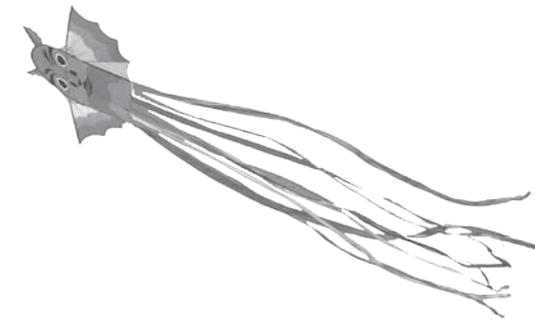
You will all be most warmly welcomed to any or all of these services.

Best Christmas & New Year wishes to you all!

Friends of Boyland Common Family Picnic

On the afternoon of the 22nd September the 'Friends of Boyland Common' hosted an informal event, inviting families to come together and enjoy the activities and relaxed atmosphere on the Common for a few hours.

The event was well attended with around 40 people dropping by to enjoy their picnics and have a chat, sitting around on straw bales kindly provided by John Webster. People were able to take part in the simple activities, many of which were designed to increase awareness of the diversity of flora and fauna that may be seen in such a habitat.



Funding from the Big Lottery Community Spaces, Groundworks scheme have enabled the 'Friends of Boyland Common' group to purchase equipment to make such events a possibility although, on this occasion, blessed with glorious weather we didn't need to seek shelter in the party tent or gazebo.

Children and adults tried their hands at kite flying, there being six different kites to try, and there was just enough wind to make that activity a great success.

At 2.30pm the 'Out on a Wing' falconry gave a wonderful display with their beautiful birds, accompanied by an interesting and informative commentary on the activities and training of the birds.

It is hoped that we may be able to organise a similar event next year.

Pam Ross, Chairman

Tivetshall St Margaret Allotment Trust

New Trustee Needed The Trustees thank Katherine Brodie for her work as secretary to the Trust for the past 5 years and wish her well. This does mean we need a new trustee to join the board. The work is not onerous – we only have one meeting a year and, as we are all busy people, make all other decisions on the phone! If you live in Tivetshall St Margaret and are interested in finding out more, please contact Becky Chamberlain on 01379 674509 or see our page on the Charity Commission website: www.charity-commission.gov.uk (Charity No. 212271).

Applications Invited The charity has funds available to help people living within the parish of Tivetshall St Margaret for a wide variety of needs. This could include help towards school, college or work uniforms and equipment, hospital travel expenses, Lifeline telephones, aids and adaptations, school trips, optician or dental costs, home security or insulation, funerals and many other things. Applications are also invited from groups or organisations benefitting the parishioners of Tivetshall St Margaret. Grants for groups or projects are awarded at the discretion of the Trustees.

If there is something you think we could help with, please do not hesitate to contact us. Individuals and groups may apply to Becky Chamberlain, Treasurer and Trustee, at 11 Thwaites Oak Close, Tivetshall St Margaret; 01379 674509. All applications are treated confidentially.

Lifeline Telephones Do you live in Tivetshall St Margaret and have a 'Lifeline' telephone or think having one would be a good idea? If so, the Tivetshall St Margaret Allotment Trust can take over the payments for you and even help towards any costs of installing one. For more information, please contact Becky Chamberlain on 01379 674509.

1st Tivetshall Rainbows

We are looking for new members!

Rainbows is for girls aged 5–7

Contact Becky for more details, 01379 674 509 or fristivetshall-rainbows@yahoo.co.uk

St Margaret's Church

Harvest Festival

£35 was raised from the sale of produce following the service; this has been sent to Tear Fund.

Annual Church Cycle Ride

Many thank to the Barton family who raised £142. Half of this goes to The Norfolk Churches Trust and the other half directly to St Margaret's.

Christmas Services

At the time of writing the annual school Christingle service has yet to be arranged.

There will be a Carol Service by candlelight on December 16th at 3pm.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Christmas Day at 10am.

There will be a Christmas tree in the church and stars available for parishioners to hang in memory of a loved one.

Church Cleaners

Unfortunately Doreen Gray and Val Warren are unable to continue on the cleaning rota. We thank them for all their work in the past.

Is there anyone who feels able to replace them? It would mean working 1–2 hours every 5 weeks.

If you would like to help then please ring Bryan Fletcher on 01367 676697.

Jubilee committee update

Two village charities, FOTS & TVHMCM formed the majority of the Jubilee committee, they organised the BBQ, commemorative tree, sound system, licensed bar and helped set up before, and clear up after the event, an initial outlay of over £1,184 was split between them. Members of the Parish Council were also part of the Jubilee Committee and also helped decorate the hall and clear up after the event along with many others from the village, our thanks go to every one involved with, or who attended the Jubilee celebrations. The Parish council covered the cost of the live band, children's entertainer, children's tea party, celebration mugs, just over half the cost of the magician and Buffys brewery generously donated a barrel of beer towards the event.

The efforts of the members of both FOTS & TVHMC raised enough money to cover all their expenses and make a small profit which was split equally between both charities giving £434.12 to FOTS and £434.12 to TVHMC (out of which TVHMC spent £219 to purchase a large gas BBQ and covered the halls expenses during the event). We hope every one enjoyed the celebrations, any one wishing to view full details of the expenditure and money raised should contact a member of the Jubilee committee.

Village Hall

Seasons greetings and our thanks go to all who have used or supported the hall during the year, if you would like to find out more or even get involved with the running of the hall then please attend our AGM which is being held at the hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 4th December, all are welcome.



Tivetshall Community Primary School

We began the term at Tivetshall with eight new children. Welcome to all of you – we know that you will enjoy your time with us.

It has not been a good year for fruit but we still enjoyed our blackberry picking expedition. It is always hard to believe children who tell you that they haven't eaten any blackberries when their faces, tongues and teeth are suspiciously purple! Toddler Samuel was especially messy-faced but obviously enjoyed himself.

The first meeting of our new mother and toddler group was a great success. If you or anyone that you know has a pre-school child and would like to join us, on alternate Monday afternoons, for coffee and a chat while the children play together please contact the school on 01379 677350.

Class 1 had a very enjoyable, if slightly chaotic, start to their Airport topic when lots of mums and dads came to spend the afternoon building aeroplanes from cardboard boxes. They look very impressive and will be very valuable for role play and topic work.

As ever our Macmillan coffee morning, which we combine with our Harvest Festival, was very successful. We raised over £100 for Macmillan – a brilliant effort for a small school – and everyone tucked into drinks and delicious cakes and chatted with friends and family. Especially popular with the children was a 'soil' cake complete with worms! Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We had a brilliant turnout of parents and staff on a glorious Autumn Saturday when we worked on the outdoor areas of the school. The raised beds are now much more accessible; the garden shed was moved; all the tubs and beds were weeded and tidied; all hard surfaces were power washed; and, most importantly, the chickens now have a much larger enclosure and are very happy. If you are a keen gardener and/or have an interest in all things 'green' and ecologically friendly and feel that you might be able to offer the school some of your time, we would be most grateful if you could get in touch and ask to speak to the head teacher or either of the teachers.

Class 1 enjoyed a walk to the church. Years 1 and 2 were looking at the font as part of their work on Christenings and the children in Reception were looking at numbers in the environment.

Class 2 enjoyed a trip to Ipswich Museum to learn all about The Egyptians. They learned some rather gory facts about mummies and were very grateful to the staff at Ipswich who made the whole event so interesting and informative.

Class 2 have had a very successful few days. Everyone in Years 5 and 6 passed their cycling proficiency test and the netball team came second in a competition at Diss High School against twelve other teams – many from much larger schools. They are through to the next round of the competition.

We completed the half-term with a very successful 'Wear it Pink' day organised by Thomas and Tia in Year 6 which raised over £30 for Breast Cancer Research. Well done to both of you.

WINFARTHING NEWS

Casserole and Quiz

Friday November 23rd 7pm Village Hall

What ever you do don't forget this great annual do. Wonderful food, huge prizes (well prizes) and a good night out. £6.50 per head which includes the food. Bring your own drinks.

Candlelit Carol Service

St Mary's Winfarthing, Sunday 23rd December at 6pm. A beautiful service to start Christmas; traditional carols will be sung and we hope many of the young people of the village will be involved.

The service will end with mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies. Please do come and join us at this special time.

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.

PCC Harvest Lunch

On Sunday 7th October over 60 people from the village and beyond enjoyed a traditional roast dinner. Beef and turkey were served with a good selection of vegetables followed by a delicious array of home-made puddings. Thank you to everyone who kindly made and donated the desserts. A secret auction followed, providing great entertainment. The lunch raised £457 and the auction £313 totalling a fantastic £770. Winfarthing PCC thanks all those who gave their time and helped to organise the event and for everyone who came along, supporting their local Church... watch out for the next event!

Village Church Service

The new, all age, informal monthly village service continues on 16th December at 10am, the theme will be 'Family'. This Christmas service will focus on the start of a wonderful new family of which we can all be part, with the birth of a very special baby, Jesus.

The January service will be at 10am on the 20th, with the theme 'New Year'. As always at our Village Church Services, tea/coffee & cake plus catching up with neighbours and friends conclude our 1 hour time together.

The last 2 services were on the themes of 'New Beginnings' (September) and 'Community' (October). We identified that with God's help, we can put behind us regrets, sorrows and difficulties and focus on the days ahead, as God is one of new beginnings. A quiz in the style of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire', on the subject of 'Winfarthing', kept us on our toes (quite literally) in October. We considered how every one of us has a contribution to make and reflected on 2 questions a) in our community, what is good that we could get behind and support either with our time, money or prayers and b) who is in front of us that we could support practically.

If you are enquiring about the world, your own life, or God, or have never been to church before and would like to find out more, then do join us on 3rd Sunday of the month, or contact Jane Marchant on 01379 640502 or Ann Leitch on 07747 758308.

Winfarthing Village Band

Calling musicians and singers – if you are interested in being in a band, playing at the Village Church Service once a month, please give Ann Leitch a call on 07747 758308. Equally, if you are a pianist with organist aspirations, please also get in touch!

Winfarthing Walkers

Why not join this local group on the morning of third Wednesday of the month. Each walk is 5–6 miles at a gentle pace and they usually attract 12–15 people. The group walks in South Norfolk and North Suffolk, a chance to discover the lanes and footpaths of our area, as well getting to know you neighbours.

For details contact Marion Williams on 01953 860535 or Ken and Di Barrell on 01379 642125.

Changes

Thanks to Margaret Beeslee for all her service as Winfarthing correspondent for Cock Crow. She has handed this over to me – Alun Howkins. I live at Holly Farm Barn, The Street. Details of any village or parish events should now go to me. For preference

e-mail alun.howkins@btinternet.com, phone 01379 652202 or just drop anything round – I will type it if it's not too long. Please don't hesitate; let me know what is happening in our village! Copy for next issue before January 8th please.

Winfarthing Church Bells

We attempted to ring a peal on October 6th to commemorate the centenary of the first peal rung on October 5th 1912. Unfortunately, this attempt was unsuccessful; we are determined to do it, so we are attempting it again on December 15th at 3pm.

This time we are going to ring a peal called 'Winfarthing Surprise Minor', which sounds quite appropriate. We hope that all goes well.

Clem Le Grys, Tower Captain

All Saints' Primary School

All Saints pupils, parents, staff and governors have had a busy two months.

The term began with All Saints launching its new website: www.allsaints.schoolpartnership.org. This contains the latest information about the school including the prospectus, learning opportunities and correspondence with parents. Following the launch teachers invited parents for class meetings. These were well attended and enabled staff to share what children would be learning and how they could be supported at home. The school is now setting up a maths café where parents of children in year 1 and 2 will be able to come and join their children in learning about maths in a creative and fun way.

In mid-September All Saints celebrated Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church, Winfarthing. This was a popular service and produce was generously given. Reception shared their hand made scarecrows, year 1 and 2 read a poem and sung, year 3 and 4 wrote and read prayers and year 5 and 6 offered a choral piece. All Saints now looks forward to the Partnership service in St Mary's Church with the Bishop of Norwich.

As part of their learning about London, year 5 and 6 pupils joined St Andrew's upper school on a day trip to the capital. This was a popular educational visit and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They came back and eagerly reflected on the cultural heritage of the city including Buckingham

Palace, The National Art Gallery, Covent Garden and Westminster – to name a few. Positive feedback was also received from local commuters who said the children's behaviour was exemplary. All Saints is now busy planning for another trip to London to see the musical Shrek in February!

Year 3 and 4 have also enjoyed an educational visit to Norwich Cathedral where they focused on Global Christianity. Here they worked in collaboration with pupils from other Norfolk schools and came back eager to share their Gospel Music.

At the beginning of October, All Saints pupils celebrated Book Week with a feast of activities. Pupil achievement of the summer reading challenge was celebrated, parents came in and shared favourite childhood texts, book reviews were written and pupils came dressed as their book character!

The Home School Association has been very active during the last half term offering some great fundraising events. The first in September was in partnership with the local farmers, where children worked collaboratively to make scarecrows for the fields. If you enter Winfarthing look out for the very stylish scarecrows standing in the fields. At the end of September a family bingo night was held, with a number of children and adults winning great prizes. The end of October saw a wonderful fancy dress disco, which was well attended and ended with the traditional partnership Macarena and Conga!

All Saints has also enjoyed celebrating its sporting and writing achievements. Whilst the netballers drew their recent away match, the footballers won! Year 6s were also very proud when 18% had their poems for published in the Eastern Daily Press.

All Saints now looks forward to exciting opportunities in the term ahead. These include Road Safety week, Anti bullying week, an visit to Strangers Hall, and Christmas festivities including the Christmas Fayre, on Saturday 8th December 12–2pm.

If you would like further information about All Saints Primary or wish to bring your child to visit, whether you are within the village or from neighbouring villages, please contact the school on 01379 642767 or by e-mail head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

Louise Norgate, Executive Head Teacher All Saints and St Andrew's Partnership

From the Registers

Bressingham Group

WEDDINGS

Jessica Cooper and Stephen Hartley 3rd
November Roydon

FUNERALS

Albert Arnold Crook 4th October North
Lopham

BAPTISMS

Henry Butler October 21st Bressingham
Faye Butler October 21st Bressingham