Cock Crow
NEWSLETTER OF BRESSINGHAM & WINFARTHING GROUP OF CHURCHES
APRIL/MAY 2013
Issue No: 2

Tentative Spring signs Low Road, Bressingham
My first yoga teacher was a spritely 60 year old who could do impressive physical feats, but what struck me more was that she had more energy and vitality than me. I was 18 at the time. My teacher's enthusiasm inspired me to stick at it. I am so glad I did.

At first I was so stiff I could not touch my toes or really achieve any of the most basic yoga poses, but ‘achieving’ yoga poses is not the point! Having a go, doing the best you can in the present moment, with your current body, is what it’s all about. It is also about having the discipline to keep getting back on your mat so you can make progress. Yoga is much more about having the mental strength and determination to do your best than physical prowess per se. There are some fantastic side effects to a regular yoga practice. After you have worked hard, you have the immediate benefit of feeling GREAT as the energy flows and you ease the body out. Over time the body does indeed become stronger and more flexible; it learns how to heal itself, it becomes easier to relax and you can achieve greater mental clarity and peace of mind.

After many years of practicing yoga with many different teachers, I decided to become one myself. There are several local community classes in South Norfolk, so come along and try one out. It is never too late to start practicing yoga and I would love to help you on your yoga path. Call me on 07866 442788 for more information.  

Carol Wilkinson

Diss Library

If you picked up a Great Big Read Goes to the Movies quiz sheet, don’t forget to return the completed quiz to the library by 14th April for a chance to win a Blu-ray player!

Our local branch of the Red Hat Society have a display in the library during April. You may have seen them in the carnival parade last June; if you want to know more about them, drop in to look at the display.

If you belong to a group or club and would like to tell everyone what you do, gain new members or celebrate an achievement, we can offer a free space for displays, helpdesks, demonstrations or workshops.

Online Databases All Norfolk libraries have free access to a range of online resources including Which? and the family history website Ancestry via our library computers. Keen family history researchers will be pleased to know that Ancestry now has the 1911 census returns for Norfolk online, and that they can use the complete Ancestry database for free at all of our libraries.

Surf’s Up Course We are now recruiting for our next Surf’s Up course. This 7-week course is for older people who are new to the Internet and is a great way to start learning about computers, email and everything online in a friendly environment. The course is on Tuesday afternoons, starting on 28th May.

Baby Bounce & Rhyme time continues on Fridays at 10.30am and new faces are assured of a welcome.

All libraries will be closed for Easter Bank Holiday on Monday 1st April, and the Spring Bank Holidays in May on Monday May 6th and Monday May 27th.

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

GOOD NEWS

Do you want to play bowls?

Let us teach you!

The Diss & District Bowls Club is situated in Lower Denmark Street (Fair Green), behind The Cock Pub. The Club have over 300 members with indoor and outdoor greens. Any time from 13th April to the end of August you can join us for a six week beginners course. It runs on a Saturday from 10am to 12noon. It is free to juniors over 10 years old and £5 to all others per lesson. The lessons continue on at £2.20 for members and £3.20 for non-members up to late August. Bowls and flat footwear (bowls shoes) can be provided. For further information call 01379 642908 evenings only, or just turn up.

THE DISS & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

DISS HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 83 Leavers Reunion

Park Hotel Diss
Sat 18th May
7.30pm till midnight
Disco and live band

Tickets £7.50 available from: Mere Moments Coffee House or email dissclassof83@gmail.com

Proceeds after costs to charity

Facebook page:
Diss High School Leavers of ‘83
‘Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord’

This is a quiet Easter statement for a collection of people who must have been amazed. These words do not suggest excitement but rather a quiet confidence, like that of a reunion between old friends. The first Christians were quietly confident rather than sensational.

As we celebrate Easter it is not always easy to reflect this quiet certainty, particularly when we find ourselves aware of so much tragedy and suffering. The question ‘Why?’ does not die away, it just gets asked with even greater aggression. We are constantly confronted by the dark, demonic dimensions of human nature which can, at times, cause even the most resilient spirit to quake and quiver. We can so easily be thus accused of not caring.

It is, therefore, good to remember who was glad on that first Easter day. The disciples of Jesus had much to feel ashamed about; they had betrayed, deserted and denied Christ, and yet it was to them that Jesus first appeared! Their first experience of Easter gladness was forgiveness – discovering that God still loved them and was never going to let them go ever again. His love was seen to be for the guilty, as it still is for today. On that first Easter day no one was confounded or proved to be in the wrong, or forced into faith. No one was pulled into line or convinced by some dramatic display of magical power. That day was a day when those who had least right to expect it were shown total love and forgiveness.

So may we, this Easter, know again that in spite of all our faults and failings we can never put ourselves out of the reach of God’s love, and so go on to grasp the fresh start that waits each of us every day.

May you all experience a very happy Easter.

Canon Tony Billett
Stop Press – Urgent!
We have been advised that a little lorry was seen near the church car park on the main road (A1066) one evening in mid March. If you see anything suspicious which might be someone taking more lead one evening in mid March. If you see anything suspicious please contact the Police to ask you to phone 999. Please try and get a description of any vehicles and number plate if at all possible.

Parish Council
Mr Cattermole acted as Chairman for the March meeting with 5 Councillors present, also Mr Spratt (NCC) and Mr Weeks (SNDC).
Mr Cattermole reported that the map of Fersfield churchyard had been found and was in safe keeping.
In his report Mr Spratt spoke of the effect of cuts in the budget from Central Government. Councillors were critical of the state of roads in the Parish and Mr Spratt said this reduced fund had to be shared between Children’s Services, Adult Social Services and Highways and the share for roads was insufficient to deal with the backlog of problems. Mr Hewitt had carried out a survey of the roads in both villages showing the many dangerous potholes, areas of verge damage and problems left after poor work by Utility Companies. The Parish Council will send a letter detailing these problems to the Leader of the County Council.
On a positive note, Mr Spratt said the Government was putting money into the Hethel Enterprise which would lead to more jobs in technology.
Mr Weeks reported that there is a vacancy in Pipers Piece but stressed that residents in the parish or those with a close connection will be given priority for the house.
At the allotments work is in progress preparing the land and marking out the unused plots. It was agreed to fund the cost of markers for the footpaths.
A Charities update report was given. The Land Registration is going ahead but is a lengthy process.
Before the close of the meeting the site of the bottle bank was discussed. The area around it becomes slippery and dangerous in bad weather and inquiries into a safer surround will be made.

Village Hall
Bressingham and Fersfield
We are now having a quiz night every other month. The next one is due on Saturday 4th May. Details 01579 688375.
Eastern Angles Drama returns on Tuesday the 7th May. Details 01579 687729.

Dates for the Diary
Flower Show and Fete will be on Saturday 13th July. Details 01579 688360.
Sports Road Show will be on the Playing Field and Hall on Saturday 27th April. 10–2pm Details 01379 688375. All taster sports are FREE
Inter Village Sports Sunday 9th June. If interested in sports please contact Brenda 01379 688375
Drama Group We had another successful panto which raised a final net figure of £1,300. These profits all go back to the Village Hall Fund. The Group has other productions in the pipe line which will be advertised nearer the time.
Archery This still runs regularly in the Village Hall, if interested please call 01379 688375

Tennis Remember the Court is available and can be used by calling 01379 688375 for the access code after paying a yearly fee of £10.
If anyone would like to see anything else happen in the Village please contact Allan Byrne 01379 687729.

Ladies Club
We all enjoyed our party in January, including a delicious buffet provided by members. Good food and good company was a perfect antidote to the cold weather, with the raffle raising just over £100 for Cancer Research.

Our speaker in March was Mike Booty from the South Norfolk Symphonic Youth Band, whose inspiration has encouraged many youngsters in the area to develop their musical skills with the emphasis on fun. We enjoyed a lovely slide show of their trip to Thailand and can look forward to attending one of their concerts in Diss later in the year.
In March we will have a speaker from the East Road Truckers charity, and in April we are delighted that John Gionis will be coming to talk to us on Astronomy (husbands will be welcome to come along to this meeting).
We are a friendly group who meet on the third Monday of the month at Bressingham Village Hall (7.45pm) If you would like to come along you will be most welcome, or call Sue 01379 687541 for further information.

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Events at Redgrave and Lopham Fen
Tuesday 2 April, 2pm – 4pm Springtime magic family afternoon Spring at the Fen: outdoor activities, games and crafts. £2.50 per person, children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking a must: 01379 688333
Saturday 13 April, 10.30am – 12.30pm Wildlife Watch Group A club for 6–12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508
Sunday 14 April, 10am – 4pm Plant Sale Over 20 award-winning and specialist nurseries. Perennials, trees, shrubs, ferns, fruit bushes, herbs, seeds and lots more! Adults £1.50, children free. Refreshments available. Dogs on leads welcome. 01379 688333
Monday 13 May, 10am – 1pm Water voles Learn about them with Penny Hemphill. Aimed at beginners. £15/£12.50 concessions. Booking essential 01473 890089
Saturday 18 May, 10am – 3pm Botanical Illustration: all levels Join professional botanical illustrator, Christine Grey-Wilson. The emphasis will be on botanical accuracy using seasonal spring flowers. £20 Booking essential 01473 890089
Tuesday 28 May, 2pm – 4pm Family pond dipping afternoon Fun for everyone. Children must be accompanied by an adult. £2.50 per person. Booking essential 01379 688333
The Lophams’ Society

On a cold wet evening, The Lophams’ ‘Spring’ quiz on the 15th of March was attended by over 60 people and it was heartening to see so many familiar faces amongst the teams. At the end of eight rounds of sometimes challenging questions only half a point separated the two top teams, a win and six bottles of wine for table eleven and a consoling Easter egg for each member of table two. During the interval a warming chilli supper was provided by Paddy Miller, ably assisted by Jan Tate while Bill Bedford manned the bar. Simon Dilloway, who devised and asked the questions, was assisted by Steve Reynolds as scorer. The chairman, Granville Horan, who ran the evening, congratulated the Free Village to the Lady Anne West Awards for 2010. The award ceremony was held in the Village Hall, and sixty people attended. The winner of the award was the Lophams Village Garden Club, and the prize was presented by Cllr. Simon Dilloway. The Lophams Village Garden Club was formed in 1995 by a group of village residents who were interested in growing plants and flowers. The club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.15pm in the Village Hall and is open to anyone who wishes to join. The club holds two annual events: a spring flower show in May and a summer flower show in July. The club also organizes a series of lectures and workshops throughout the year, and members are encouraged to share their knowledge and skills with each other. The club’s achievements include the acquisition of a new garden shed and the creation of a new children’s play area. The club is run by a committee of volunteers who are responsible for organizing events and maintaining the garden. The club is very proud of its achievements and is looking forward to the future. The Lophams Village Garden Club is an excellent example of how a community can come together to achieve common goals. The club’s success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of its members, and the club is a credit to the village of Lophams.
go. It’s a fun way to support the hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize. January’s 1st prize of £188 was won by L Perry; second prizes of £47.00 each went to P Woolerton and A Jacob. February’s 1st prize of £190 went to M Birchall; second prizes of £47.50 went to D Hoyte and J Bush. Anyone who needs to renew, or who wishes to join is invited to make contact:-

Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen, tel. 01379 687008, 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. The March Market is on 23rd. For details, call Mike on 01379 687 255;

Judo is on Mondays and Wednesdays (Details from Howard on 01379 688 258)

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

Lopham Art Group meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £20 each month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an ‘expert’ once each month. Contact 01379 687718 for more details.

Yoga with P is a popular addition to the weekly programme. Sessions are on Thursdays, 7-8pm. Booking is essential, tel. 01379890955; or 07952010720; or e-mail pieternella.jarvie@gmail.com

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

Open Meeting and AGM

The annual Lophams’ Village Open Meeting and AGM of the Lophams’ Society will be held at the Lophams’ village hall on Friday 12 April 2013. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Reports will be given by the Parish Councils, local groups and the Lophams’ Society. All residents of North and South Lopham are invited. Light refreshments will be served and it is an ideal opportunity for you to find out what is going on in the villages and meet other residents. Representatives of local groups who would like to speak at the meeting are asked to contact the South Lopham Parish Clerk. Caroline Phillips on 01379 687950 or email clerk@southlopham.co.uk.

RED FEATHER CLUB

Quiz Night Saturday 4th May, at 7.30pm, admission is £5 per person including food, and you can contact John Kirkum 01379 384559 to book team tables

1940s Weekend Saturday/Sunday 18/19th May, with 1940s re-enactments on Sunday.

Open Days are on the last Sunday of every month from April to October (Sundays April 28th, May 26th, June 30th, July 29th, August 25th, September 29th & October 27th). The April and October events will include stalls and military vehicles. Sunday September 29th will include a vintage-style softball game between the 95th’s own Wallopers and the 1285th Military Police Company re-enactors’ Snowdrops who play in period dress.

The Red Feather Club, run by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association, is the official UK museum of the 95th Bomb Group. The award-winning museum houses only uniforms and memorabilia relating to the 95th Bomb Group who were based at Horham during WW2. The Red Feather Club is also the home of the 1285th Military Police Company re-enactors. The Red Feather Club, Horham, Suffolk, is four miles south-east of Eye off the B117 (IP21 5DG).

Tel (public enquiries): 01728 860930 (James Mutton, Parish Clerk); Email (public enquiries): jamesmutton@95thbg-horham.com.

NORTH LOPHAM NEWS

Parish Council

13th March. All councillors and 9 members of the public attended.

Affordable housing and play area nothing new to report.

Road Safety a joint meeting with highways and police on 6th March was felt to have been helpful. Suggestions included flashing 20mph signs at school times, possible narrowing of the road to produce a single lane priority system, addressing ‘over-taking points,’ replacing the missing 30mph signs, cutting back overgrown hedges and dropping kerbs for disabled access. The school will be involved in a road safety day when the children will have the use of a radar speed detector and will write to those drivers whom they ‘trap’.

Finance a breakdown of recent income/expenditure was presented including a refund of £250 from the now wound up Lophams Links.

Planning an update on the status of current applications was given. There followed an intense discussion involving members of the public and the applicant at 14a The Green which centred on development outside the settlement boundary. The discussion broadened to include another application which has been approved by Breckland and which is entirely outside the settlement boundary. A general dissatisfaction with the Breckland planning department over a long period of time was expressed coupled with disappointment that no one from Breckland would attend the meeting.

Roads and Footpaths 25 potholes and the damaged marker posts at Church Corner have been reported for repair. The partial blockage of the Letchmere drain needs to be investigated. Owners of nuisance hedges will be contacted.

Correspondence Councillor Bird was complimented for organising the ‘village clean’ by CPRE. A spring clean was suggested.

An objection to the adoption of the tracks to the west of The Street has been received. This now has to go to a local enquiry by a government inspector. Repeated efforts to have the grit bins refilled have so far failed.

Vacancy Gratitude to Val Garharn for her 26 years of service on the PC was expressed, a vacancy now exists. Councillor Potter expressed a desire to step down as chairman. Anyone who would like to serve as a councillor should contact the Parish Clerk, Mike Cox, for more information.

Open meeting the annual joint opening meeting is on 12th April 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Next Agenda Affordable housing and play area; on-going road safety matters.

Next meeting 8th May 2013 at The Mess, St Andrew’s School.

The Lent Lunches

Starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing on Tuesdays through Lent, were very happy, informal gatherings and look set to raise about £300 to help the two projects in Uganda which Bishop Graham chose as the focus for the diocesan Lent Appeal. World Shine Foundation is building a dormitory at a school in a poor part of west Uganda so children won’t have to walk up to 6 dangerous miles to school. The Oasis of Life is building a medical centre in Northern Uganda aiming to bring hope, health and happiness to a people devastated by war. Both projects have leaders from our diocese. Grateful thanks go to all our hosts for making everyone so welcome.

The Lent Connect Course

Passionate Christianity, has been much valued by all who took part. We are very grateful to the members of the Ministry Team who came out to lead us.

Starters and Sweets

As the dull winter dragged on, church people organised a very enjoyable evening to lighten the mood, at the Village Hall on 15th February. A happy crowd tried two soups and a wide range of savoury choic-
es, followed by delicious puds – some quite healthy, others ‘naughty but extremely nice’ – and a cheese board. It was good to welcome people from other villages and organisations to get to know each other better. Many thanks go to all those who prepared the food, donated prizes for the raffle or who helped with the setting up and clearing away. Though money wasn’t the prime object, it was pleasing to add £262 to the funds!

St Nicholas’ Church

Mothering Sunday on 10th March was a very special day, as we were able to share the 90th Birthday Celebrations for our most senior church member – Joan Muncila – with her family and friends. It was wonderful to have them all at the Family Service, then share the delicious buffet lunch they provided. All the ladies present received a daffodil posy; others were delivered to those who were not well enough to come along.

Thanks must go to Jayne Hinds, David Summers and the Revd Maggie Swayze for helping to make both services that day very memorable.

This magazine may be with you in time for a reminder: On Good Friday, 29th March, in St Nicholas’ Church there will be a service to mark the Last Mider: On Good Friday, 29th March, in St Nicholas’ Church there will be a service to mark the Last

Forthcoming events: There will be a Craft Fair in the Church on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st July. Would anyone interested in displaying their crafts at this event please contact Jill Brundell on 01379 687216

Friends of South Lopham Church

We held our Annual General Meeting in October and the following officers were elected. Evelyn Logsdail as Chairman, Marion Crisp as Secretary and David Huggins continuing as Treasurer. We held a successful Ceilidh last year and hope to arrange more entertaining events this year.

Parish Council

At a meeting on 14 March the Parish Council approved the appointment of John Crisp as a co-opted member and welcomed him to the Council. The Annual Village Meeting (North and South Lopham) will take place on 12 April in the Village Hall, 7.30pm. All village residents are invited to attend and local interest groups are encouraged to make brief presentations.

It was reported that the Emergency Services often find it very helpful to be given a Grid Reference for a property when attending a call-out. Householders are therefore urged to make a note of their own individual reference to quote in the event of an emergency. The website www.gridreferencefinder.com will provide this information.

Please remember that village news items and details of forthcoming events can be posted on the village website.

The Parish Council does not at present have an elected Chairperson. Members of the council are currently filling this role on a temporary rotational basis.
**THE COCK CROW TEAM**

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<tr>
<th>Editors</th>
<th>Correspondents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Winfarthing Group: Vivienne Wheeler, Jacks Barn, Common Road, Shelfanger IP22 2DR 01379 642621. <a href="mailto:Vivienne.wheeler@btinternet.com">Vivienne.wheeler@btinternet.com</a></td>
<td>Bressingham Diana Burroughes, Burrowswood, Wilney Green, Bressingham IP22 2AJ. 01379 688291. <a href="mailto:dianajb@btconnect.com">dianajb@btconnect.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bressingham Group: Tim Colyer, ‘Bermick’, Tanns Lane, North Lopham, IP22 3LZ 01379 687718 <a href="mailto:timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk">timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
<td>Burston Debbie Beck, ‘Bermick’, Tanns Lane, North Lopham, IP22 3LZ 01379 687718 <a href="mailto:timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk">timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>Secretary: Jennie Vere, Southlands, Church Corner, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk. 01379 687679 <a href="mailto:jennyvere@btinternet.com">jennyvere@btinternet.com</a></td>
<td>Bressingham Mrs Jennie Vere, Southlands, North Lopham. 01379 687679</td>
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<td>Treasurer: Marie Hewitt, 68 Common Road, Bressingham IP22 2BB. 01379 687242. Cheques for donations payable to ‘Cock Crow Committee’ please</td>
<td>South Lopham Jackie Brown, Bottle Cottage, Redgrave Rd, S Lopham IP22 2HL. 01379 687260 <a href="mailto:jackiebrown1@btinternet.com">jackiebrown1@btinternet.com</a></td>
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**ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR**

Lynda Sullivan, Rosario Cottage, Rectory Road, Tivetshall St Mary NR15 2AL. 01379 676713 copyforcrow@keme.co.uk Farther detail page 16

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

**THE COCRO CROW TEAM**

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<td>Fersfield Maureen Webb, Scoggins Farm, Dennington Rd, Laxfield, Suffolk IP13 8HJ 01986 798072 <a href="mailto:mbenziger@mac.com">mbenziger@mac.com</a></td>
<td>N Lopham St Nicholas (BCP &amp;) (C/W Order 1)</td>
<td>S Lopham St Andrew (BCP &amp;) (C/W Order 2)</td>
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**Date** | **Bressingham** | **Fersfield** | **N Lopham** | **S Lopham** |
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<td>Sun 7th April</td>
<td>St John the Baptist (BCP)</td>
<td>St Andrew (BCP &amp;) (C/W Order 2)</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>11am FS</td>
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<td>Easter 2</td>
<td>No Service</td>
<td>6pm EP</td>
<td>No Service</td>
<td>4pm MPW</td>
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<td>Sun 14th April</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>No Service</td>
<td>11am FS</td>
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<td>Easter 3</td>
<td>EP</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>3pm</td>
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<td>Sun 21st April</td>
<td>10.30am with Meth</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>11am</td>
<td>6pm FS</td>
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<td>Easter 6 (Rogation)</td>
<td>No Service</td>
<td>6pm EP</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>11am Fam S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 5th May</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>No Service</td>
<td>11am Fam S</td>
<td>No Service</td>
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<td>Easter 6 (Rogation)</td>
<td>6pm EP</td>
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<td>Sun 12th May</td>
<td>Pentecost</td>
<td>6pm EP</td>
<td>11am Pentecost Family Party Service</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
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<td>Sun 26th May</td>
<td>No Service</td>
<td>10.30am with Meth</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>6pm</td>
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<td>Trinity Sunday</td>
<td>No Service</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>11am</td>
<td>6pm FS</td>
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<td>Sun 2nd June</td>
<td>1 after Trinity</td>
<td>No Service</td>
<td>9.30am HC</td>
<td>11am Fam S</td>
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<td>1 after Trinity</td>
<td>No Service</td>
<td>6pm FS</td>
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**Morning Prayer**: At present is at 8.30am on Monday and Tuesday at North Lopham and 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 at St Mary’s Church Diss.

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

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

**Churchwardens**: Bressingham D Burroughes 01379 688291 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
What’s in a name?

How strange that within 48 hours Pope Francis was enthroned as the new Bishop of Rome, followed by Justin Welby being consecrated as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Both people of God called to fulfil a specific and prophetic ministry amongst the people of God. I had only been ordained a Deacon for 8 days when I realised that I was not on the fast track for high office. The reason being – Thomas Beckett went from being a lay person to being Archbishop of Canterbury in 8 days. Considering the outcome and eventual martyrdom of Thomas, I am glad that I am not a personal friend of the Monarch.

For me, the essence of Christian Ministry is in the service that we should have for one another. If Jesus was prepared to wash the dirty, dusty feet of his disciples, what should we be doing for others? I was impressed that the new Pontiff took the name of Francis of Assisi. Francis had a wayward and rebellious background until his encounter with Christ. He rejected the power and wealth granted to him via his father and led a very simple lifestyle. Even today he is well known for his love of creation and of animals; for his acts of giving to the poor. What I personally liked about Francis was his sense of fun and his sheer enjoyment of life. It is said of Francis that he suddenly and unexpectedly sung out God’s praises. One of the best descriptions of Francis is that of a troubadour for Christ, taking the love of creation and of animals; for his acts of giving to the poor.

So what’s in a name? Be it Pontiff, Pope, Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop of Rome, priest, troubadour, Catholic, or Christian. It is how we commend our ally liked about Francis was his sense of fun and his sheer enjoyment of life. It is how we commend our love of creation and of animals; for his acts of giving to the poor.

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As a councillor you can become a voice for our community and affect real change. It helps if you’re a ‘people person’ who enjoys talking to other residents but, more importantly, you need to have the concerns and best interests of the Parish as a whole at heart. Councillors are community leaders and should represent the aspirations of the public that they serve.

Parish councils are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public. Why don’t you offer yourself to be a co-opted member of the Parish Council and see what difference you can make to our local community?

How much time does it take up & when? On average, less than a couple of hours a week – obviously there are some councillors who spend more time than this, and some less, but in the main being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work. Council meetings are always held in the evening – as are most meetings of the other groups which councillors attend on the Council’s behalf.

Talking and listening to your fellow parishioners can be done at any time but you must be able to spend a couple of hours every month attending the Council meetings which take place every second Monday in the month at 7.30pm.

If you would like to be considered for co-option, please contact our Parish Clerk, Pam Anderson, on Monday in the month at 7.30pm.

The Council meetings which take place every second month can be done at any time but you must be able to attend and refreshments will be available on the night.

The Friends Committee, and I am sure the members of the Friends as well, would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda Steel who will be stepping down as the Friends’ Treasurer at the AGM. Linda has worked very hard to establish a sound financial footing for the Friends over the last 2 years and we are all very grateful for her support.

Members of the Friends will also be taking part in a Litter Picking Day in early April. This is part of a South Norfolk scheme to encourage communities to clear litter from hedgerows, verges, footpaths and lanes, with a chance to be placed in a prize draw for a chance to win £250, which would be a welcome addition to the Friends’ funds.

The Friends’ fund also benefited from a share of the donations raised from the Tractor Run held in March. Thank you to all those who organised, ran and took part in the Run.

Currently the Friends are looking forward to Saturday, June 15th when the Gissing Singers will be holding an evening concert in the church. The programme will include folk songs, sacred music and spirituals, and refreshments will be provided by the Friends’ Committee members. Further information will be available nearer the date. We hope to see you there.

Anyone who is interested to find out more about the Friends and how they could help, can take an information leaflet and membership form which can be found in the church itself on the card sale stand. If you would like to discuss this in person, then contact Fiona Turton on 01379 678711 or email her on fionaturton@btinternet.com.

The Heart of Gissing 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. Fundraising events are organised jointly to maximise effort and ensure the sustainability of both groups. 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. Please visit the new website at www.heartofgissing.org.uk for up to date information about groups, events and what is happening in the centre of the village.

Many thanks to all those people who helped make the Evening with Ray Hubbard on 22nd February a sell-out. The insight into his amazing life and work with Suffolk Horses followed by Norfolk Dialect songs and stories, together with a ploughman’s supper, made for a very entertaining and enjoyable evening. Forthcoming fundraising events include:

An Auction of Promises is being planned for June; more details in due course.

An even bigger and better Summer Fayre, possibly including a weekend of music and flowers in the Church, is being planned for the August Bank Holiday weekend; more details in due course.

Groups running at present include:

Gissing Children’s Centre (Pre-School and Play scheme) Contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am to 3pm term time) or 07796 204567 out of hours or email to email@gissingchildrencentre.co.uk.

Gissing Baby and Toddler Group runs in Gissing Village Hall, Rectory Road, Gissing every Monday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am. 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 about the group, please contact Vicky on 01379 674437 or 07946 212779 or email at vhcellum@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 pm at the Old School. Forthcoming books include: April: Narrow Dog to Carcasonne by Terry Darlington; May: Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen; June: Harvest by Jim Crace; July – a theatre trip. For further information about the group, contact Jim Philip on 01379 677352 or just come along.

Gissing Gardening Group generally meets 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 is 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 sharon@scalton.orangehome.co.uk for further details.
All Saints’ Church

It has certainly seemed a long, long winter. Snow, wind and frost are again the order of the day, nearly two months after the last Shelfanger notes were written. So far, only one service has had to be cancelled—the 8am Holy Communion on 27th January—when, because of major flooding and thawing snow, hardly any of the congregation could get to the church.

Every effort is made to keep the church open, cheerful and warm.

The church’s AGM was held on Tuesday 5th March. Peter Harries and Roger Challoner were again elected as churchwardens to serve for the coming year. The existing Church Council were re-elected ‘en bloc’ with Sheila Churchyard joining for the first time.

Heartfelt thanks were expressed to all those unsung heroes who keep the church going; those who manage the paperwork, those who manage the finances, those who clean, those who keep the interior decorated with flowers, those who carry out interior and exterior maintenance, those who produce and deliver the Cock Crow magazine and other leaflets, those who wind the clock and those who give specialist advice on practical issues. Thanks also to those who read lessons, assist in Home Team services, take collections, make items for specialist services, prepare refreshments, maintain fabrics and exterior maintenance, those who produce and deliver the Cock Crow magazine and other leaflets, those who wind the clock and those who give specialist advice on practical issues. Thanks also to those who read lessons, assist in Home Team services, take collections, make items for specialist services, prepare refreshments, maintain fabrics and exterior maintenance.

Only a short time before her death, whilst playing Scrabble with her neighbour Sally, Joyce converted ‘act’ like a flash to ‘factotum’ thus earning a substantial score.

She and her sense of fun will be much missed and our condolences go to her daughters, Wendy and Cheryl, coupled with our thanks for the wonderful care they gave her.

Village Fete

Two meetings of the Fete committee have been held. Plans for this July 20th event are shaping up nicely under the baton of Tig Ross.

Social Club

The social club committee are striving to maximise profits at the club whilst making every effort to keep prices down. Fruitful contact has been made with the new Greene King representative for the area who is doing much to help the club at present. Thanks to Ivan, Ray, Marilyn, Derek, Helen and Roger for their efforts. Cheers from the committee to all!

Village Hall

The village hall continues its busy life. On Mondays there is Dog Training and also meetings in the evening for Parish Council and Social Club. On Tuesdays there is Dog Training again with Gateway Club in the evening. On Wednesdays the Diss & Roydon Model Railway Club meet at the hall. On Thursdays there is a yoga class with meetings of the Village Hall committee and Sheelwins in the evening.

The ShelFaNger News

The All Saints’ congregation was greatly saddened recently by the death of Mrs Joyce Fox, who lived in Heywood Road. Shelfanger. Joyce was a grand and feisty Christian lady, generous with her support for our church and a real character.

Only a short time before her death, whilst playing Scrabble with her neighbour Sally, Joyce converted ‘act’ like a flash to ‘factotum’ thus earning a substantial score.

She and her sense of fun will be much missed and our condolences go to her daughters, Wendy and Cheryl, coupled with our thanks for the wonderful care they gave her.

Village News

The Hegarty School of Dance offers ballet, tap, street dance 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 details, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 by email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com or visit www.hegartyschoolofdance.co.uk.

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 will 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.

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

Stage HOGers is a local theatre group putting on performances from time to time. Anyone interested in treading the boards, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 or email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com for further information.

Friends of Gissing Church: contact Fiona Turton on 01379 677811 or email fionaturton@btinternet.com.

Over 60s Group: contact Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email at 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, term time) or 07796 204367 out of hours.

Gissing Children’s Centre

This popular and successful Pre-School runs Monday to Friday during term time. From the Summer Term 2015 (after Easter) the Pre-school will be extending sessions to 3 hours when children will be able to attend from 9am to 12 noon and from 12 noon to 3pm each day. Early years funding for 3 and 4 year olds can be used for both morning and afternoon sessions and the Pre-school has recently become an accredited setting able to offer a limited number of funded places for 2 year olds. Children can attend 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 07796 204367 (out of hours) or email gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk to arrange a visit. Spaces are filling up quickly for this school year, but the Pre-school operates a working waiting list so will aim to meet your requirements, and reserve places, where possible.

The Children’s Centre will be holding an Easter Playscheme on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th April from 9.30am to 3pm for children of primary school age. The cost is £10 per child, bookable and payable in advance, by ringing 07531 810704 or by contacting email@gissingchildrenscentre.co.uk.

Children will need to bring a packed lunch and a change of clothes. There are activities planned throughout the week and a trip to the Parkland Centre on Saturday 1st June. Sellers packs are available from Karen on 01379 742996 or on holmes.karen@btinternet.com.

专业人员提供关于商业、金融、科技和科学的建议，以便你更好地理解这些领域。
On Fridays the Social club is open. On Saturdays it is available for functions and dances and the Social club again. On Sundays there are often functions and football matches.

It’s all go. If you need to know anything about the Village Hall, give Ivan a call on 01379 644006.

Parish Council

This has been a relatively quiet period for the Council. The speed awareness camera is now booked for May, when it will operate on the B1077 through the village. Be warned!

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Flowers for Easter

If anyone would like to decorate a window or put some flowers in the church for Easter. Please feel free to do so on Easter Saturday. Thank you.

Flower Festival

This is to be held in conjunction with Harvest Festival on the weekend of 14th/15th September. We shall be contacting those that have helped in the past but if anyone else would like to help either with an arrangement or refreshments please contact Maureen Drury on 01379 677541 or Maggie Rowan on 01379 674116. You really do not have to be a professional arranger to take part – many of us are certainly not. Why not give it a try? You may surprise yourself. All proceeds will go towards the restoration fund.

Barbara Helen Buckman (late of Tivetshall St Mary), died in her sleep at The Depperhaugh Nursing Home on 4th March 2013 aged 84 years.

Village Hall

Already at the end of March 2013 it seems like only yesterday when we had our annual General Meeting in December 2012. I wish to thank the members of public who attended our meeting and members of the committee who were re-elected and continue our commitment to keeping the hall open for the local community.

The annual question regarding hire rates was discussed and I am pleased to confirm that for the fifth year in a row no increase was levied on our hourly rates. This is only made possible by the fact that we are a very resourceful committee and have been able to maintain a good level of regular and one-off hirers over the year. Like any ‘business’ our overheads (with the exception of power, water and heat) are fixed so the more people we can encourage to hire the hall the smaller a percentage of the hourly rate the fixed costs become. Thus every extra ‘hire’ of the hall enables us to hold our rates at a very competitive level for the size of the facility we provide.

Currently we have regular availability on Monday and Thursday evenings and three Tuesday evenings a month, so if you are thinking about holding a club or regular activity please check out our rates. This is only made possible by the fact that we have such a large and versatile facility in the small village of Tivetshall. The committee who were re-elected and continue our commitment to keeping the hall open for the local community.

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Community Primary School

It has been a rather quiet start to the new year with snow days and children suffering from coughs and colds but February has seen us getting back to normal. Class 1 enjoyed themselves at a Dance Festival at Diss High School joining other local primary schools for a morning of street dance. The children were very well-behaved and joined in confidently.

Thomas and Tia from Year 6 had a great time during a morning of Gifted and Talented ICT at Roydon, coming back to school full of excitement about what they had learned. Later that same day they manned a cake stall at which we raised £35.75 towards chicken food. Thank you to everyone who baked and bought cakes.

We enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with many exciting activities including cooking chow mein, fried rice and pineapple fritters; making lanterns; tangrams; learning the story of the Chinese zodiac; learning some Chinese New Year customs; and listening to Chinese New Year music.

The very next day was Shrove Tuesday so there was more cooking going on as every child cooked and ate pancakes – most with a variety of sugary toppings and fillings!

Years 3 and 4 began the new half-term with a cross country event at Diss Rugby Club. They were especially commended for their excellent behaviour and team spirit and came back to school full of enthusiasm. Later in the week the whole school took part in a Road and Rail Safety Day. An officer from the Transport Police explained how to keep safe around railway tracks and we did lots of work on railway vocabulary; rules for using pedestrian crossings; and seatbelts, car seats and booster seats. Class 1 also made road signs to use outside with the wheeled toys.
Village Hall Update
As readers will remember we reported in the last issue that Winfarthing Village Hall Committee had secured a grant from Norfolk County Council Community Construction Fund for work on the Hall. The committee have now appointed local architect Nick Clarke to prepare preliminary drawings. Once these are passed they will be looking to find builders for the work. The first phase will be the roof, the second lowering the windows to give more light and thirdly (if the money lasts!), work on the toilets, especially those for the disabled.

The committee is seeking more grant aid for the hall, especially the third ‘phase’ but volunteers are always needed and very welcome whatever they can contribute to the project. If you can help in any way contact Granville Horan on 01379 640355 or Nick Griffiths on 01379 643718.

Village Church Service
This all age, informal and interactive monthly service is held every 3rd Sunday at 10am – 11am, including hot drinks, squash and homemade cake at the end of the service. On 17th March 2013, we will be considering how we can grow through difficult times, when our theme will be ‘Transformers – growing through tough times’. In a fun and lively way, on 21st April 2013 with the theme ‘Fact or Fiction’, we will be exploring the evidence for Jesus. As always, this is also a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends.

If you have never been to church before or would like to find out more, please contact either Jane Marchant on 01379 640502 or Ann Leitch on 07747 758308. The first phase will be the roof, the second lowering the windows to give more light and thirdly (if the money lasts!), work on the toilets, especially those for the disabled.

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Winfarthing Walkers
As Spring approaches the group continues its Wednesday morning rambles in the hope of sun, leaping lambs and bird song. If you would like to join them for a not too strenuous walk of 5-6 miles on the third Wednesday of the month contact Marion Williams on 01953 860535 or Ken and Di Barrell on 01379 642125.

Anyone in Winfarthing parish who would like to contribute to this review of how our local church is equipped in prayer, service and discipleship is most welcome to attend. The framework for the review is based on Robert Warren’s influential book ‘The Healthy Churches Handbook’. The day will be highly enjoyable, celebrating our current strengths, identifying those areas which might benefit from more focus and agreeing how we want to move forward.

The day starts at 10am with coffee, and finishes mid afternoon. Please bring a packed lunch with you. Any queries, please contact either Jane Marchant on 01379 640502 or Ann Leitch on 07747 758308.

Shelwins
Shelwins was formed in 2000 when, after the closure of first Winfarthing and then Shelfanger WI, there was felt to be a need for a ladies group. At our first get together, 26 ladies decided to meet every month, on the third Thursday at 7.30pm in Shelfanger Village Hall. Our next meeting is on the 21st March; our numbers remain steady, and we always welcome anyone from the villages.

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strawberries and cream, syrup as well as the traditional lemon and sugar.

Just before half term, over half of the school enjoyed an inspirational visit to London to see Shrek, the Musical. Although a long day, it was a thoroughly enjoyable visit to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, to see this unique musical before it closes. Children, parents and staff are now exploring what they would like to see next year.

The half term finished with a Valentine theme. Children entered a cake competition and went to the school evening disco starring the DJ, Mr Moule.

Since returning from half term holidays, All Saints’ pupils have enjoyed celebrating the Cross Country success of one of their pupils who came sixth in the South Norfolk race and twentieth in the County finals. Other sporting successes have included the netball team winning 11–3 against a local team and the football team winning 4–3. We wish them continued success with their future matches.

All Saints’ now looks forward to the eight weeks ahead. Plans to date include a bake-off for Comic Relief, celebrating St Patrick’s Day, and Easter egg lottery and the end of term Easter service.

If you would like to know more about All Saints’ school, please contact us on 01379 642767 or by email executivehead@schoolpartnership.org and arrange to come and look around. We would love to hear from you.

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

From the Registers

Bressingham Group

FUNERALS
Hilda Jessie Elizabeth James 30th January, South Lopham
Gladys Edith Knott 30th January, South Lopham
Margaret Joan West 6th February, North Lopham
John Sidney Musk 19th February, North Lopham
(Alphonso (Al) Torrance, lay reader 22nd February, Roydon)
Norman Edward Henderson 4th March, North Lopham
Albert (John) Pretty 12th March, Bressingham

Winfarthing Group

FUNERALS
Barbara Deakin 14th February, Burston
Joyce Fox 21st February, Shelfanger
Barbara Huggins 19th March, Gissing