

The Grapevine

News for the parishes of the Carlford Benefice

December 2014



"Seasonal Spirit!"



You may have heard the story of the man who won £1,000,000 on the lottery. The next day his wife was at the front door, picking up the huge amount of post. She called out to her husband, "What shall I do with all the begging letters?" "Oh, for heavens' sake, we're not made of money! Keep sending them out, of course!"

I know Christmas is coming because (even before November 1st!) I've already had several appeals and unrequested Christmas cards from charities. Crisis at Christmas, Salvation Army, St Martin's-in-the-fields, The Ebola Crisis. And why shouldn't they tap into the seasonal spirit of goodwill? Many of them see even greater need in December, especially in contrast to the "extras" many of us look forward to at this time of year. (One response is to beat them to it – to decide (perhaps prayerfully) on a generous amount and send it off, before we brave the supermarkets or buy presents for the kids.)

But where did this tradition of giving at Christmas come from? (And some other religions have a similar custom, of course.) For Christians it comes from God taking the initiative in "giving" us Jesus-unrequested and undeserved – to show us a better way of living, to die for us, and to give us the hope of life beyond death. (Don't let these "religious beliefs" put us off exploring further. Many of us find it difficult to get our heads round them!) And so, in response to God's generosity, we give to others – family, friends, people in need.

I had a relation who we found it impossible to think of presents for. So we used to send a cheque. Years later he hadn't got round to paying the cheques in, so he hadn't enjoyed what we'd given him. I know someone from one of my past parishes a bit like that. Sue had heard the Christmas story many times. But after one particular carol service she decided to make it personal. She asked God to become real to her. The "lovely nativity story for children" became the wonderful focus for the whole of her life, and years later, for her husband too.

We have the opportunity to make a difference to others at Christmas. Perhaps Christmas will also make a difference to us.

Have a good one!

Fred Woods

A LIVING CRIB

Come & join Otley's Christmas Eve Celebration –
MESSY CHURCH & A CRIB SERVICE WITH A
DIFFERENCE

This year we are holding the CRIB SERVICE in a
real barn

We will tell the story of Jesus' birth by acting it
out with the youngsters

Singing, praying & rejoicing together
everyone is welcome to join us

There will be real sheep & donkeys I hope!
& we need Mary, Joseph, shepherds,
magi & lots more.

Messy Church & the rehearsal = 10.30am

The Crib Service = 4pm both on

24th December at Warren's Farm Barn, Otley.

Wrap up warm. For more details & offers of help
contact Jane Hall - 785251

CLOPTON GIFT SERVICE

9.30am

Clopton Church

December 14th.

Please give new/ as new toys and gifts.
These will be given to the Ormiston Trust in
Ipswich for them to give to some of the many
children they help throughout the year.



Services across the Carlford Benefice

December 7th A2

Is 40:1-11, 2 Pet 3:8-15a, Mk 1:1-8

8.00am	Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	CS
9.30am	Holy Communion	Burgh	CS
9.30am	Christingle	Hasketon	WG
9.30am	Holy Communion	Swilland	CB
11.00am	Holy Communion	Boulge	WG
11.00am	Toy Service & Baptism of Clementine	Grundisburgh	CS
11.00am	Advent Praise	Otley	JaneH

December 14th A3

Is 61:1-4, 8-end, 1 Thess 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28, Ps 126 or

Magnificat

8.00am	Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	CS
9.30am	Gift Service	Clopton	CS
9.30am	Par Euch	Hasketon	JW
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Boulge	Lay Led
11.00am	Par Euch	Grundisburgh	WG
11.00am	Morning Praise	Otley	CS

December 21st A4

Sam 7:1-11, 16 Roms 16:25-end, Lk 1:25-38, Ps 89:1-4, 19-26

8.00am	Carol Service	Grundisburgh	JW
9.30am	Family Holy Communion	Burgh	CS
11.00am	Carol Service	Swilland	CS
4.00pm	Carol Service	Ashbocking	CB
5.30pm	Carol Service	Hasketon	WG
5.30pm	Carol Service	Otley	CS
7.00pm	Carol Service	Grundisburgh	CS

Christmas Eve

As per clergy choice

3.00pm	Crib Service	Hasketon	WG
4.00pm	Crib Service in Warren's Barn	Otley	JaneH/CB/ JamesH
4.30pm	Crib Service	Grundisburgh	CS
6.00pm	Carol Service	Clopton	CS
6.00pm	Carol Service	Burgh	WG
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Grundisburgh	CS
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Hasketon	WG
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Otley	JW

Christmas Day

As per clergy choice

9.30am	Family Holy Communion	Burgh	CS
9.30am	Holy Communion	Swilland	JaneH
11.00am	Christmas Praise with Holy Communion to follow	Ashbocking	CB
11.00am	BCP Holy Communion	Boulge	CS
11.00am	Family Communion	Clopton	JaneH

December 28th

Jer 31:15-17, 1 Cor 1:26-29, Matt 2:13-18, Ps 124

8.00am	Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	CS
11.00am	Benefice Communion	Swilland	WG/JamesH

January 4th

8.00am	Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Burgh	
9.30am	Family Service/Village Worship	Hasketon	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Swilland	
11.00am	Holy Communion	Boulge	
11.00am	Family Service/Village Worship	Grundisburgh	
11.00am	Family Service/Village Worship	Otley	

January 11th

8.00am	Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Clopton	
9.30am	Par Euch	Hasketon	
11.00am	Family Service/Village Worship	Ashbocking	
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Boulge	
11.00am	Par Euch	Grundisburgh	

Key – CS – Clare Sanders, CB – Catherine Beaumont, WG – Wendy Gourlay, FW – Fred Woods, JW – John Waine, BH – Bill Herbert, MS – Mark Sanders, JaneH (Jane Hall), JamesH (James Hall), RP – (Richard Pepper) RF – (Robert Fletcher) JaneW (Jane Woods)

Other Services in December/January

December 8 th	Holy Communion BCP	Hasketon	9.30am
December 10 th	Holy Communion BCP	Grundisburgh	9.30am
January 5 th	Holy Communion BCP	Hasketon	9.30am
January 7 th	Holy Communion BCP	Grundisburgh	9.30am
January 19 th	Holy Communion BCP	Hasketon	9.30am

What's On across the Carlford Benefice

December:-

1st Beyond Alpha Hasketon Village Hall 10.30am – 12 noon – See details elsewhere

1st Monday Housegroup meet 7.30pm – see details elsewhere.

2nd 6.30pm Benefice Prayer Group @ Burgh School Room

3rd 10.15am - 11.30am SWAPSHOP Grundisburgh Parish Room

5th Ashbocking Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.00 noon at the home of Nel and Rex Peries, Chez Onze, The Green, Ashbocking

5th 7.30pm UPBEAT Concert Grundisburgh Church

6th 10.30am – 12 noon Grundisburgh Coffee Morning

8th 10.30 – 12 noon Knit and Stitch at Burgh School Room

8th Poetry Group – Burgh School Room 1.00pm – with soup lunch – see elsewhere for details

11th Otley Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon at home of Fred and Jane Woods

11th Grundisburgh 2.30pm – 3.15pm Tiddlywinks Carer and Toddler Group

13th Christmas Coffee Morning at Burgh School Room 10.00am – 12 noon

15th School Rehearsal in Otley Church 10.00am

15th Burgh School Room Prayer Group 6.30pm-7.00pm

16th Christmas Floral Workshop at Burgh School Room 1.30pm onwards – Booking essential (01473 738877)

16th 1.45pm Otley School Christingle & Carol Service in Otley church

17th Clopton Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10.00am-12.00 noon

17th The Carlford Network Group at Grundisburgh Parish Rooms 2.30pm

18th Grundisburgh School Carol Service in Grundisburgh Church 6.00pm

19th Burgh Christmas Booze Up! Burgh School Room 7.00pm

21st Otley Carol Service 5.30pm

24th 10.15am Messy Church/Crib Rehearsal at Warren's Farm Barn, Otley



FANCY A COFFEE?



We have opportunities, throughout December, at

Grundisburgh –Wednesday 3rd at 10.15am-11.30am and Saturday 6th 10.30am – 12noon Grundisburgh Parish Rooms

Ashbocking –Friday 5th at the home of Nel and Rex Peries, Chez Onze, The Green, Ashbocking 10.30am – 12 noon

Otley –Thursday 11th at the home of, Fred and Jane Woods, 36 Church Road, Otley 10.00am – 12 noon

Clopton –Wednesday 17th at the Village Hall 10.00am – 12 noon

As a Ministry Team we share the responsibility for pastoral care.

First point of contact is:

Ashbocking –Catherine Beaumont- 01473 890264

Burgh, Boulge & Grundisburgh–Clare Sanders 01473 735183

Clopton, Otley & Swilland –Jane Hall 01473 785251

Hasketon –Wendy Gourlay 01728 685335





Fairtrade Stalls In Grundisburgh

1st Sat Coffee Morning 10.30am Parish Room

1st & 2nd Sunday at 12.00noon in St. Mary's

Christmas Cards & Gifts

Chocolate Socks Cleaning Materials Grocery

Catalogues & Card Samples in St. Mary's

For info contact Pat Fletcher 01473 735 775

Thank you for supporting Fairtrade

Toy Service December 7th 11.00am at Grundisburgh

It is our tradition to collect gifts for children and young people in the care of West Villa – the homeless families unit in Ipswich.

The gifts should be new and unwrapped.
Donations of wrapping paper are welcomed too!
At any time West Villa can have babes in arms through to teenagers in their care- so gifts for children and young people of all ages are welcomed.

The Funsters will deliver these gifts to West Villa on Dec 10th.

Thank you for your generosity....
Did you see the thank you letter (in the porch) for our Harvest gifts- our help is so very much appreciated.



Burgh Food Bank Collection Point

There is now a box for FoodBank donations at the gateway of Larkhayes, in the centre of the village.

Thank you for your support for the work of FIND- it is much appreciated.

Christmas Services

Carol Services

- 16th 1.45pm at Otley School Christingle & Carol Service in the church
- 19th 7.00pm at Boulge
- 21st 11.00am at Swilland
- 21st 4.00pm at Ashbocking
- 21st 5.30pm at Otley
- 21st 5.30pm at Hasketon
- 21st 7.00pm at Grundisburgh
- 24th 6.00pm at Burgh
- 24th 6.00pm at Clopton

Christmas Communion

- 24th 11.30pm at Otley, Hasketon and Grundisburgh
- 25th 9.30am at Burgh and Swilland
- 25th 11.00am at Clopton, Boulge and Ashbocking

Crib Services

- **24th**
- 3.00pm at Hasketon
- 4.00pm at Warren's Barn, Otley
- 4.30pm at Grundisburgh



The Carlford Network Group

We will meet in the Grundisburgh Parish Room on Wednesday December 17th at 2.30pm when Rev Jane Hall of Otley will be speaking about her pilgrimage to Israel.

All welcome.

BURGH FESTIVITIES

The Burgh Schoolroom will host its Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday December **13th**. As usual there will be fabulous range of home- made cakes and a superb Christmas themed raffle. Our sales table will have a selection of attractive Christmas gifts, preserves and decorations at very reasonable prices so come along and see what we have on offer.

The Floral demonstration and workshop on the **16th** will enable you to make your own beautiful table arrangement. You will need to bring your own evergreen foliage but the £10 fee includes all other materials and tea/coffee/mince pie. Booking essential with Sally on 738877

Finally – why not get into the Festive Spirit on Friday **19th** at the Burgh Christmas Booze up! Mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas songs are on offer starting at 7.00. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Poetry and Reflection

in the Carlford Benefice

Would you like to widen your interest
in poetry & share ideas & reflections?

Monday lunchtimes, 1pm - 3pm

10thNov, 24thNov, 8thDec

Themes of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany

Burgh School Room (level access and facilities)

£2.50 includes delicious Soup and roll

(gluten free, available)

Bring a poem (or two) if you wish



(Revds) Wendy Gourlay and Jane Hall
(01728 685335 01473 785251)

CAROL SINGERS IN SWILLAND

I am seeking carol singers for the village. You don't have to be good, just willing to add your two pennyworth to raise the roof of the houses we walk past along High Road on Friday 19th December starting @ 7pm. We aim to assemble at the water tower and then proceed down High Road to finish at the Moon & Mushroom. There together with a similar group of like minded warblers whom Nikki Gavin has recruited on our behalf to achieve harmony we plan to join the merry makers within and give expert rendering to any carols not already sung. No doubt there will be opportunity to wet your whistle as well, if you are so inclined. If you can make that time and date and could also come to a rehearsal in the Church on Thursday 4th December at 7pm to tune up then great. We are going to make a house collection and give half to the Hospice and put the other half into Church funds to give our tired church organ a major refurb, so your efforts will be meaningful. I know many of you are shy, but the village needs both you and your vocal chords! Please sign up and contact Brian Williams either by email bfwdent@btinternet.com or by phone [01473 785726](tel:01473785726) or [07768 285670](tel:07768285670) so I know we will be able to raise a good head of steam on the nights concerned.

Monday House Group

We shall meet at 7.30pm **1st December** - The life of Elizabeth in Luke's Gospel New members would be most welcome, so come along.

Contact Robert Fletcher [01473 735 775](tel:01473735775)

Grundisburgh Parish Rooms

Swap Shop 3rd

10.15am - 11.30am

Over a drink of tea or coffee
an opportunity to swap stories,
news, toys, veg,
fruit, flowers, books,
recipes, cakes etc

THE MEN'S GROUP
Monday 15th December
6.30pm

(The Moon & Mushroom,
Swilland).

Please contact Brian
Williams for those wanting
Supper. **Tel 01473 785726**
bfwdent@btinternet.com

The speaker for this
select erudite group is Dr.
Laurence Howard OBE,
the Lord Lieutenant
of Rutland. The title on
which he will speak is "What
would the Queen do?"
Intriguing I hear you
say? What is all that going
to be about?. Well come
along on the night and find
out.
And for the price of a pint
and the cost of a meal
you can drink good beer and
eat tasty food afterwards
and wax lyrical about
Laurence's talk and any
other item for discussion
that takes your fancy.

FROM THE RECTOR!

"POSADA"

What you ask? It is a Sth American Advent tradition- in which the crib figures of Mary and Joseph travel from house to house throughout the month- eventually arriving at the Crib/Christmas service. As the figures are taken on each day, and the door is knocked on- the question is asked "is there room in your home for the Holy Family tonight"? As you welcome the figures in, you welcome your guests in too, and have an opportunity to get to know someone previously unknown, or to have a good natter with someone who is already a friend.

It's a really lovely addition to the our established Advent traditions - do please get involved- talk to Jane /Catherine/Wendy or me, dependent on which of our villages you live in!

Have a good Advent and a very Happy Christmas, Clare

HOST

HOST is looking for kind, friendly, hospitable people of all ages whose imaginations are caught by the idea of welcoming an international student at university here, far from his or her own family, to their home, for a day, a weekend or at Christmas. You don't need to live near a university, as students will travel for the privilege of meeting you, learning about real life in this country, and sharing their own culture. HOST is a voluntary activity which makes ambassadors for international goodwill of us all.

Please see www.hostuk.org or call local organiser Sally Ann O'Neill [01728 685604](tel:01728685604). Thank you

'Beyond Alpha' - Autumn 2014 What does the Bible really say about . . . ?

The 7th run of this highly successful group, giving opportunity to discuss aspects of Christian Faith at five meetings held at Hasketon Village Hall from 10:30 - 12:00.

The Final Session takes place on Dec 1st. The meeting will be facilitated by Revd Wendy Gourlay. Tea and coffee will be available and a warm welcome to all. £1 each session please, covers costs.

Session 5 - December 1st A Biblical event - The Birth of Jesus When was Jesus born? Where was he born? What do we know about his childhood? What relationship did he have with John the Baptist? Were his teachings new or borrowed from elsewhere? **Preparation:** Mk 1:1; Micah 5:2; Jn 8:58; Malachi 3:1-2; The Gospel accounts - see chart handout 'Life of Christ' from NIV Study Bible. Jn 1:1; Acts 17:16-34.

Haven't been along yet, then why not join us this Autumn 2014?

Enquiries: Paul on: 01473 738474 or paulwiffen222@btinternet.com

From the Editor The cut off date for material to be included is the 8th of the month and material should be sent to Clare at revclaresanders@tiscali.co.uk & Amy at bakergirl174@gmail.com please.