

Lt. Thetford Newsletter

February/March 2011

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*Items for the next newsletter to Mrs. J. Staines 38 The Wyches, by March 15th please.
Copy may also be e-mailed to jennifer.staines@btinternet.com.*

St. Georges Church

May we wish all in Little Thetford a Peaceful New Year. Everyone is welcome to events and services at St George's.

February

6th, 9.30am, Morning Praise
13th, 10.30am, United Family Service at the Baptist Chapel
20th, 9.30am, Holy Communion
27th, 9.30am, Morning Praise

March

6th, 9.30am, Morning Praise
13th, 10.30am, United Family Service in St George's
20th, 9.30am, Holy Communion
27th 9.30am, Morning Praise.

In February, we begin an occasional sermon series exploring, from the Bible, our Inheritance in Christ. Fuller details on the leaflets in church.

There is Creche space with toddler books, toys, and games available for those bringing babies and toddlers, and there is Sunday Club in the "Upper Room" for older children.

As I write, we are planning "Messy Church" for the end of January, which will have happened by the time you read this – maybe you came along! This is an informal event for families, and we hope it may begin to happen once a month, probably 4-5.30pm. The flexible pattern is to start with games, activities, crafts and general fun – with tea and coffee for the adults. We then have a Bible story, sometimes on DVD, with maybe a creative prayer and a song, and then we have tea time together, with plenty of time to chat and make friends. Children, you just need to bring an adult with you! Watch out for notices and leaflets about future dates.

If you wish to enquire about baptisms, weddings, or other pastoral matters
please contact Rev Margaret Harper 01353 645128

Friends of St. Georges

First of all, the concert with Cadenza in December went very well in spite of the very cold weather, with some lovely music. We just hope that we don't have to wait another 3 years before they return !

We have no events booked for the next few months as we spend all our energies on organising the Flower Festival which will be held over the weekend of 11/12th. June. The theme is confirmed as 20th century village life with involvement of as many village groups as is possible. We are aiming for 9 display topics. So much happened here during this time that we have no problems with subjects, whether it is the impact of the two

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world wars, the demise of horse drawn vehicles and the rise of motor transport, the provision of electricity, raising funds for and building the village hall. It's all there. As an additional attraction, historian Mike Petty has agreed to give an illustrated talk on the subject on the Saturday evening. This is a big project for us and we hope to be able to welcome you all to the Church over the weekend. If you would like to help us in any way please contact Tony Shaw on 649470 or alternatively come along to our next meeting on **Tuesday 1st. March at 7.15pm.** at the Church.

Looking a bit further ahead, in July we are welcoming back John Sansom who many will remember was our Vicar until he retired some 8 years ago. John is an accomplished artist and he has agreed to paint a picture as he chats to us about the subject, yes, just like Rolf Harris! This is a repeat of the very successful evening that we ran 10 years ago. He is happy for the evening to be titled 'a brush with the old vicar' this time and we have **Friday July 15th.** booked Make a date if you can, last time was a sellout.

Little Thetford Baptist Chapel.

Firstly, a belated happy new year to all in the village. We had a leisurely start to the year, our first service being held on January 16th. However, we aim to continue to move forward in the Lord's work this year.

Thank you to all those that donated gifts to the Emmaus Community during the Tree Service held at the Chapel in December. The gifts were gratefully received and appreciated. One of the companions from the community has made a wooden cross that will be erected onto the Chapel shortly.

Once again, may I encourage all within the village to come along to one of the church services held at the chapel or St. George's. You will be warmly welcomed.

Services:

Sunday 6 th February	10.30am - All Age Service and Communion	(Led by Tudor Parsons)
Sunday 13 th February	10.30am - Joint Family Service at The Chapel	(Led by Tudor Parsons)
Sunday 20 th February	10.30am - All Age Service	(Led by Rev. Glyn Jones)
Sunday 27 th February	10.30am - All Age Service	(Led by Liz Herrington)
Sunday 6 th March	10.30am - All Age Service and Communion	(Led by Tudor Parsons)
Sunday 13 th March	10.30am - Joint Family Service at St. George's	
Sunday 20 th March	10.30am - All Age Service	(Led by Tudor Parsons)
Sunday 27 th March	10.30am - All Age Service	(Led by Keith Rawlinson)

Coffee Mornings:

Wednesday 2 nd February	10am	Wednesday 16 th February	10am
Wednesday 2 nd March	10am	Wednesday 16 th March	10am

All very welcome to come along for a coffee, cake and chat.

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For free estimates call:- Mike Wilson, Ely 648484. 41 Cowslip Drive.

Girls Brigade: Meets each Friday at 6pm during term time.

Next Family Film Club: Saturday 19th March

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Conservation Area.

During the extremely bad weather before Christmas when the ground was snow-covered and puddles, ponds and ditches were frozen over, (the conservation area being no exception) some bright spark, or sparks, decided it would be great fun to throw the conservation area pond life-belts into the water. Not only did they throw the rings but the whole of the attached safety rope as well so far into the pond that they could not be reached. The pond iced over and the rings and ropes were held solidly by the ice in the middle of the pond. There was evidence of some idiots then actually playing on the ice. It wasn't for several days that the life-rings could be reached and replaced in their housings ready for use in a genuine emergency should one occur. Whilst the life-rings were held firmly in the ice they could obviously not be used should anybody who had been foolish enough to venture onto the ice get into difficulties. A second set of equipment was purchased (at a cost of £69 – money that had been raised and donated by village residents for conservation) although it did not arrive until after the originals had been retrieved. They will now be kept in store as spares. Whilst the pond was without life-ring protection, conservation volunteers and Parish Councillors assisted by other parishioners made numerous visits to the area, in extremely bitter weather, in efforts to ensure the safety of irresponsible as well as responsible users of our very popular recreational and conservation facility. It is to be hoped that we have seen the last of the very cold weather for this winter and that the pond will not freeze over again. Whereas the pond and conservation area as a whole is perfectly safe if used wisely and responsibly for the purpose for which it is intended, it really goes without saying, or should do, that ICE, is **DANGEROUS**. It should **NOT** be played on. The pond is for everybody's enjoyment but it is NOT for paddling or swimming in no matter how adventurous you might feel. Adults should be aware of this and parents really must make their children aware of the risks involved. Removing the life rings from their proper places is NOT a game; it could literally mean the difference between life and death to someone, even possibly for those irresponsible enough to play loose with other peoples' safety as well as their own.

Dog Fouling (AGAIN!)

Dog fouling remains a problem throughout the village as a whole and is the subject of regular complaints. It is increasingly prevalent on "Oakfields" sport and recreational field. The vast majority of dog owners and walkers are highly responsible and pick up their pet's residue and put it into the bins provided around the village. Unfortunately there must still be some owners around who are more anti-social than most and who create a bad image of dog owners in general. Dog fouling is unpleasant, unsocial and un-hygienic. The poor dogs can't help it, but their walkers can. Will dog walkers please be aware that children as well as youths and adults play on the games field. It's not nice, and could be potentially injurious to health, for a kiddie to step in, or worse, to fall into a pile of excrement; nor when you've completed a superb sliding tackle to get up with your kit and skin covered in . . .!! PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, if you are not in the habit of clearing up after your dog, start now, for everybody's sake. The playing field is for every ones enjoyment not just yours. And don't you know your pet will be happier too knowing that it and its owner are being 'good'. Enjoy your walk and help everybody to enjoy theirs.

LITTLE THETFORD W.I.

The next meeting of the WI is **February 7th at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. A talk and demonstration of knitting and crochet, by Christine Brown. The meeting on the **7th of March**, same time and place is entitled "Rude Health" an illustrated talk by Louise Shea-Simonds. All ladies of the village welcome. Any queries please phone Christine Bullen on 01353 649 268

Meningitis UK

If you missed the newspaper article reporting on this event, mentioned in the last village newsletter, the grand sum of £4,250. has been passed to Meningitis U.K. raised on December 29th here in Lt. Thetford – a superb effort and congratulations to all involved.



Both the pre-school and out of school clubs have welcomed lots of new faces at the start of this year, and more new starters will be joining throughout the term. We had a lovely time at the end of last year with the children's Christmas performance and party being very successful.

We will be holding a Valentine Cake Sale on Monday 14 February at 12.15pm so please come along to buy some lovely cakes.

Our Holiday Club will be running during February half term (21 – 25 Feb) so please contact Clair on 649234 or admin@LittleThetfordAcorns.org.uk to book a place. The children will be able to enjoy circus fun, games, cooking, music and much more..!

Once again we would like to request that dog owners pick up after their dogs. There is a large amount of dog mess on the path leading to our setting and we have had several instances of children stepping in it, which is not nice for them or the setting. Thank you.

John Townsend Charity

Registered Charity 202685

0.44 acres of arable land available for rent on Stretham Station Road in Wilburton Parish (situated in Grunty Fen) as from 1st October 2011, or possibly sooner. Other uses may be considered. Enquiries to the Clerk of the Charity:

Mrs J M Wardle
John Townsend Charity
30 New Close Road
Little Thetford Ely, Cambs CB6 3HQ
Telephone: 01353 648820
Email: jtownsendcharity@btinternet.com

Coach day excursions and short breaks

direct from Little Thetford.
Contact: Eagle Tours Cambridge
01353 648950 or visit
www.eagletourscambridge.co.uk

Parish Council.

The Telephone Box has now been passed to our ownership and as soon as the weather allows repairs and repainting will take place before it is turned into a local information point.

County Highways warned earlier this winter about the possibility that it would only be able to refill the grit bins once during this winter season and we are

asked to remind residents that the grit which is provided in the bins around the Parish is supplied for use on roads pavements & cycle ways only – not on private property. On a wider scale if you would like to become involved in deciding which areas are to be treated, training, equipment & insurance more details are available on www.surveymonkey.com/s/highwayswinter

A Working Party of Parish Councillors recently met with Parents and children of 11+ for a very positive meeting about the provision of activity areas designed for this age group. Further meetings will be held to move this project forward. If any 11+ year olds were not present but would be willing to complete a survey please contact Cllr Staines (see Newsletter header for contacts)

Next Parish Council meeting:- Monday February 14th 7:30pm

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