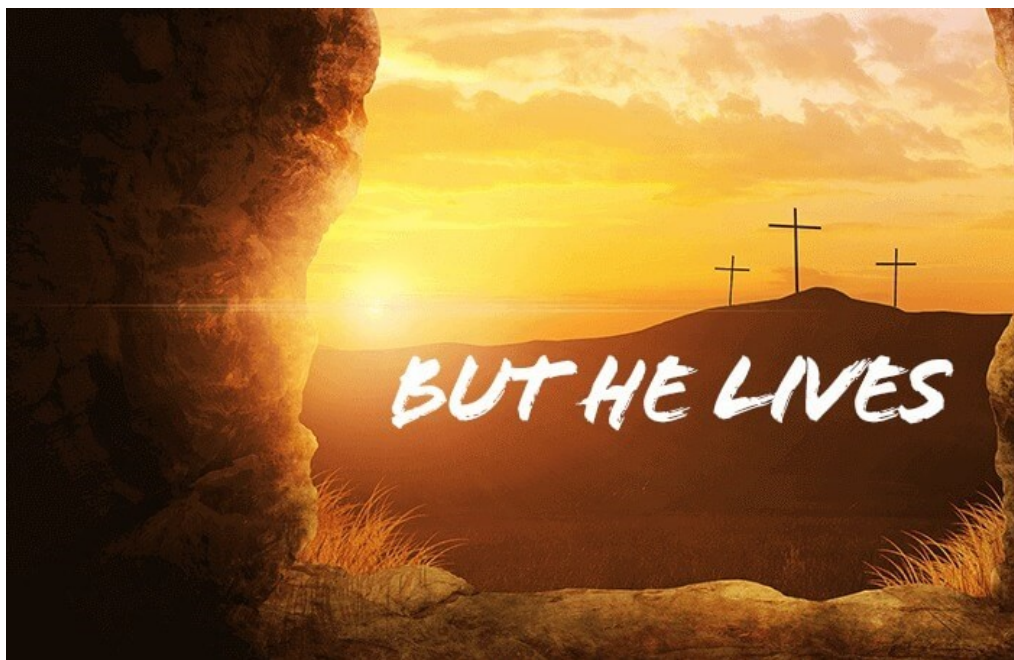


Mattishall and Tudd Valley



*Easter Greetings from the churches
in East Tuddenham, Hockering,
Mattishall,
North Tuddenham, Welborne
and Yaxham
2021*

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Welcome

The last year and a bit have been hard for many, many people. Even for some of us oldies (I'm pushing 63 myself), it has been a time unlike any other we can remember. The huge change since early 2020 has been a shock to the system. Early on things were changing rapidly, but as the months wore on, so many of us became tired, so very tired. Now, there is hope that the darkest days are generally behind us, though thousands upon thousands of families have lost loved ones and many who have had Covid-19 are still struggling with ongoing symptoms. For some, such difficulties are still to come.

So where has God been in all this? For Christians, this sort of question is difficult to answer. I don't think any Christian can honestly say they have the complete answer.

However, we do know someone who does and it is someone who has suffered immense pain and suffering himself. The bible teaches that Jesus was "in very nature God", yet was born as a human being into this world where there was so much pain and suffering. He knew and knows what it is to suffer.

There was a state-sponsored attempt on his life as a baby, he was a refugee as a baby, he was brought up in an ordinary family in an occupied country and when he began his public ministry around the age of 30 he had "nowhere to lay his head". He was betrayed by a close friend, arrested, beaten, scourged and then nailed to a cross to die a horrific death. On top of that was something that we struggle to understand, his abandonment by his Father. On the cross Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?!" Those words are the opening line of Psalm 22, one of the psalms that he, as a Jewish man, would have known by heart. It was this psalm, which Jesus prayed on that cross.

Yet, the day Jesus died, the day we call "Good Friday", was followed by Easter Sunday. Jesus had died on the cross to pay for our sins (the actions and attitudes that separate us from God), to make a way back to God for us. His Father demonstrated his acceptance of what Jesus did by raising him from the dead early that Easter Sunday. There was an end to the darkness.

Those who love and follow Jesus Christ, who know his forgiveness, have a hope that God has given us. If you read the whole of Psalm 22, you will see that despite the horror of the first verses the psalmist (King David) is able to trust God through that horror and have hope. It isn't wishful thinking, but a hope based on the God that David knew. For Christians, things are clearer than they were for King David, who lived hundreds of years before Jesus did. For Christians we can see that Jesus conquered death and promised the same for those who turn to him.

Maybe we will get back to some sort of normality this year, but there will always be things that life will throw at us, things we can't handle. Yet there is a God who loves us, who wants to be with you through those bad things (and in the good things too). In the relatively comfortable West, we so often ignore him, yet elsewhere in the world many people are driven by their circumstances to look at what is really important in their life. They have come to the conclusion that what matters above all else is knowing the God who loves them. Covid-19 has turned our lives upside down. May it lead to us knowing that what matters above all else is the same for us too, knowing the God who loves us, both now and for all eternity. Want to know more? Grab yourself a bible and read about what Jesus said and what Jesus did in the New Testament. Maybe you heard about some of it when you were young and in Sunday School and have distant memories of it. If you look again now and dig deep, you'll meet the Jesus who has been through it all himself and wants you back.



Alan Cossey
Licensed Lay Minister

A song for Easter



This song was written by Linda Masson to cheer all and to counterbalance some of the fear and negativity with a feeling of thankfulness. It is to remind us all of God's precious promises which remain unchanged and certain. Each promise is personal and God's gift to me and to you. If we accept these gifts, we have all we need to face the future.

I am your God

I will never leave you
I will not forsake you
I will always be there by your side
(Hebrews 13:5)

I am your Father
You are my child
This is my promise for you!

I have always loved you
My love is everlasting
Love that will never let you go
(Jeremiah 31:3)

Your name is engraved
Engraved on my palms
No-one can pluck you from my hands
(Isaiah 49:16)

I am your refuge
My arms are underneath you
Your life is hid with Christ in God
(Deuteronomy 33:27)

My child I am with you
I am all you need
You have nothing else to fear
Nothing can harm you
You're safe in my care
Just Trust – For I am your God!

(Saxlingham Chapel – 2021)

In addition, we have the offer to accept the most precious gift of all. This Easter we will remember the agonising death of Jesus on the cross at Calvary. He was willing to go through it all for me and for you, so that one day we might be with him in heaven.

Forgiveness for our mistakes and with a love that surpasses anything we could imagine, God sent his one and only son Jesus that we might have the assurance of salvation and a home in heaven with Him, where there will be no more pain, sorrow or sadness. There will be no more Covid to worry about. There we will see Him face to face and praise Him for evermore.

Beryl Garner,
Yaxham Chapel



The image features a large, multi-colored rainbow arching across the center. Inside the rainbow, there is a logo of two hands shaking, with the text "YAXHAM CARES" below it. Further down, the text "HERE FOR YOU, HERE FOR US ALL" is written in a purple, cursive font. Below that, the phone number "07765 263389" is displayed in large, bold black digits. At the bottom of the rainbow, the email address "YAXHAMCARES@GMAIL.COM" is written in black. In the top left corner of the rainbow area, there is a small icon of a church building with the word "YAXHAM" underneath. In the top right corner, there is a logo for "GOOD NEIGHBOURS NETWORK" with a green leaf-like symbol.

Margaret Dixon, who passed away 7th January 2021

Many people who live in Mattishall and surrounding villages will have memories of Margaret, for different reasons

As a neighbour, as a friend, as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Her involvement with the Church as a Reader, as a Leader of a Home Group, helping others to a deeper knowledge of the Bible and being Christians, her pastoral care of the congregation at East Tuddenham Church, her involvement for many years with Mothers Union.



We each hold our own special thoughts of a Special Lady. Her many moments of laughter, enjoyment, when meeting for a coffee and toasted teacake at the Drop-in with people from the village, in fact Margaret along with Sue Walton started Drop-in. Those other times when plain speaking was uttered. Her sense of humour.

I remember at an event held in the Church Rooms, she gave a perfect imitation of Joyce Grenfell when reading an extract from the author's book.

I feel the words used at her funeral are a fitting epitaph, 'A Good and Faithful Servant' (of the Lord).



Pauline Cox (and with kind permission of Margaret's daughter Su McKinnell)

A better way to build back

The sun rises late in January and the grey mornings do not always translate into a fine day. But sometimes they do and then the light can glint on dew or even frost and the day takes on a whole new aspect. If it does, it is easier to believe in the regeneration of Spring. This year, it is hard, but the other morning, there were clear signs, green shafts edging up out of the grass by the lane; not very tall yet, and hardly noticeable in the verge, but there they are, daffodil shoots, proof that God's world is fighting back. After all the damage and negligence that we have been responsible for, the earth is being reborn once more this spring. God is once more showing us the ancient rhythm of winter into spring, from the special devastation that has been and still is, a global pandemic. Thank God that we can rely on that this year. But, we have much to regret and make amends for. It is highly likely, according to some scientists, that Covid-19 "jumped" species because humankind has not left enough room for the natural world to blossom and flourish. What a terrible judgment on our irresponsible stewardship! What a price many have paid and still are paying, for the exploitation and expropriation of the resources of our planet, given by God for us all to share. And now, we have the Vaccines, wonderful! Thank God for the knowledge and industry of the companies who have produced them! But it is NOT back to normal with a sigh of relief. We have to set a new agenda. We have to change our ways. We have to listen to those scientists who are pointing the way to a sustainable and equal sharing out, of all that Earth affords. We have to listen to God's prophets, Greta Thunberg, David Attenborough, Prince Charles (these are just the names we know!), calling us all to do more for God's beautiful Creation and all the creatures that share it with us. So, a new direction for 2021 is where we should all be heading.

Let us pray, pray till your knees are sore, naming the people who are damaged by the climate chaos and whom AllWeCan, Christian Aid, Tearfund, Oxfam and the others are helping to change their lives. And those who look after our planet in practical ways, Friends of the Earth, World Wildlife Fund, Woodland Trust, RSPB, Greenpeace. The current prayer handbook, *The Earth is the Lord's*, has many excellent prayers. Here is one:

Creator God, you ignited nothingness with life and intricately knitted together the ecosystems of this world. Now the fabric of your planetary system is degrading. Humans and animals are being pushed into desperation. As those in power fail to listen, it is difficult to fathom what hope might look like. Teach us what being faithful looks like in this desperate time. Fill us with your thirst for justice and

action, so that we may be scared, but take a stand anyway; we may be afraid but speak out anyway. When our hearts ask, “Who am I to create change?” may a voice rise up and reply, “If not me, then who?” May we remember that Christ was arrested and executed for standing up for justice and that you have shown us the power of sacrificial love. Amen

(Holly-Anna Petersen, co-ordinator of Christian Climate Action)

Let us plant/an acorn, a conker, a chestnut, a fir cone, anything that will grow into a tree, wherever in your (at present limited!) environment there is a space. And look out for re-wilding projects you can support. Countryfile focussed on one the other week, the Woodland Trust too. Take another look, to improve your garden space into wild-ness!

Let us post our support for causes which aim to change the injustice made worse by the climate crisis. TearFund’s Reboot Campaign (www.tearfund.org/action) says, “Every fraction of a degree of warming matters. And right now we have an unprecedented opportunity to change course; decisions are being made that will shape our economy, society and climate for decades. The church has a vital role to play as we



pray, speak up and live out the values of God’s kingdom” Christian Aid too, has Climate action for us to be part of. And part of it we must be, using our freedom to shout out, write to our MPs and influence world opinions.

So, off we go into 2021! Let us be undeterred by the size of the issues; let us be confident in the size of God’s love and concern to bring good from the bad. God bless 2021 and all we can do in it!

Frances Middleton

‘God has written the promise of resurrection not in books but in every leaf of springtime’ – Martin Luther

My stole, My story – God’s Story



Back in September 2020 I presided at my first Holy Communion services and a number of people commented on my stole. This stole was designed by me and created by the wonderful Embroiderers guild at the Cathedral.

It tells a story, my story – God’s story.

It begins with:

A journey: A road, depicted here in gold, (Rev 21:21.) what you can’t quite see in the photo is that the fabric has a red underlay reminding me that Jesus Christ has walked with me every step of my journey and that it is only by his Blood that I can be called a child of God. (Hebrews 10:19, Acts 20:28)

Water: Baptised at 3 weeks old and raised in a loving Christian Family who have always taught me the value of love without limits and the joy of God’s grace.

Growing up by the sea I learned the lesson of nature’s rhythm with the ebb and flow of the tide. I love swimming in the sea particularly when the waves are rolling. Swimming with the wave was always a fast way to head back to shoreline. I think the Holy Spirit works like that. It is always a good idea to roll with the vision of the Spirit rather than against it. The Christian journey is just that, a journey, always moving however slowly, learning and growing into the best versions of ourselves that God created us to be. The unknown beyond the horizon taught me about having faith and trust in God who only requires our obedient hearts. (Prov 3:5-6)

A crown: Christ the King the only Lord, Master, (Col 1:13, Psalm 8:1) ‘

His crown also reminds me of my childhood church St Edmund’s Hunstanton. A Church where the emphasis of Sunday Worship was based around Holy Communion. As an adult I have experienced many different styles of Worship and this has given me a greater understanding of the greatness of God. I have learned that just as we all have different learning styles, so we all meet with God in different styles of worship and through different forms of spirituality. All are valid, so long as they do not become idols in themselves. The important thing is we meet with God just as we are. Church Family

at St Edmunds taught me the value of belonging, the value of service and working together with our different gifts as the body of Christ and what it is to be accepted as the person God created you to be.

Wheat: A reminder of Jesus the Bread of Life. Jesus who when he met with his friends, broke bread and gave God thanks. (I Corinthians 11:23-26) Confirmed at the age of 10, Holy Communion was and is an important part of Worship for me - a reminder of Jesus' Death and resurrection. (John 11:25-27, John 14:6, Matthew 26:26-28)

A cross of nails: The suffering Christ, Christ the carpenter. As a child growing up, Jesus learnt a trade, carpentry. The carpenter is both skilled at the plane and lathe, with hammer and chisel but he is also creative. It is no co- incidence therefore, that Christ; there at the beginning of time, as creation emerged, should die on a cross of wood with huge nails through his hands and feet, bearing the weight of our sin. Jesus knows what it is to suffer and walks with us when we suffer.



As I get older and look back on times of struggle, I am reminded that I am not alone (Deut 33:27) 'This cross made of nails also is a nod to my Dad who was also a carpenter by trade before becoming a teacher and then a priest. A man who has taught me what good craftsmanship is, how in the right hands a piece of driftwood, which some might throw on the fire, can become a thing of beauty. He also taught me the power of prayer, (Matthew 6: 1-8), the blessing of unconditional love (John 3:16) and the benefits and blessings of determination and perseverance (Philippians 3:12- 4-1.)

The Holy Trinity A relationship. A church family

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity- God- three in One. The Trinity arises from the relationship with the other persons: the nature of unity the fulfilment of God, complete, no beginning, no end.

The persons of the Trinity are who they are because of the other persons. We are who we are as Christians because of God's invitation to join in that community.

So, my Journey continues to the Church of Holy Trinity Norwich. It was here that I began to grow and learn what it is to be a disciple of Christ. To join a community that worshipped and worked as the body of Christ. It was a large church, much bigger than I had ever been part of ,150- 200 people attending morning and evening services. I found this all very overwhelming to start with and so home-groups became invaluable and enabled me to get to know other people more deeply and learn more from the Bible on what it really meant to be a disciple and grow in the knowledge and love of God.

It was here that I discovered faith for myself, a relationship with God through Jesus

Christ.

This church, this family became very special to me. I met Tim here, it was the church we chose to raise our children in. As I got more and more involved in the life of the church, I got to know so many people. People who helped me discover my potential, who believed in me when I didn't believe in myself and people who constantly led me back to Jesus. I am so thankful for such an amazing experience during my twenty years worshipping in this community.

As I said earlier the Christian Journey does not stand still, it keeps moving and God called me on to the next part of my adventure with him.

Fishing. St Andrew my namesake and a fisher of people. A church family

I was born on the eve of St Andrew and therefore named Andrea. However, I have to say the character of the apostle Andrew is something to emulate. A person who, if you read the account of his first meeting with Jesus (John 1:35-42) likes to really know the facts. He really wanted to know as much about Jesus as he could. Then after talking all night he goes straight to his brother Simon and tells him 'Come and meet the Messiah.' The early church might have looked very different if Andrew hadn't done that.



Throughout the rest of his ministry Andrew is someone who appears to avoid the limelight but gets on with the business of telling others about Jesus always pointing away from himself and towards the Messiah.

One of the other traits I love about Andrew is his willingness to be inclusive. From the beginning he really understands that the kingdom of God is for all people for all time. (John 12:20-22)

Andrew the apostle truly lived out his calling to be a fisher of men.

God too has called me to share the Gospel as a priest, to proclaim a hope and a future to all people to share the love of Christ as his servant, shepherd and messenger.

This calling to leadership within the Church began to develop as I became more involved in the life of St Andrew's Eaton. In 2010 I was employed as a Children, Young people and Families worker as part of the staff team. I loved it. Within 6 months of being in my role I was asked to preach, not something I had ever done. However, with the encouragement of others I did it and this skill developed, and I enjoyed it.

I began to feel God calling me to reader ministry, a role I felt fitted well with the job and could only enhance the ministry God had called me to as a CYF worker. Life could not be that straight forward, there had to be a catch. Well not a catch exactly but a bolt out of the blue. As I began the discernment process two people one I knew well and one who was a vocations adviser I didn't really know at all both started mentioning the term Ordained Ministry.

Absolutely not this is not the plan I'm a CYF worker the ministry of reader will enhance that role, ordained ministry would mean a complete change of life. I was adamant that God was not calling me to be a priest. These two ladies didn't push it, but they were not convinced.

I did train as a reader. At the same time as working and family life and my husband losing his job. It was all a bit much and after training was complete I was exhausted and was forced to slow down the pace of life a bit. As I learned to be kinder to myself and I began to rely on God's Grace more that nagging voice of God started again, and we had a big exchange of views, I was never going to win.

To cut a very long story short. None of my excuses were going to get in the way of God's plan. God can do anything with anybody. The skills I had learnt up to this point in my life through Nursing and parenting and early years education and Children and families work and Reader ministry could still be used, nothing God creates is ever wasted. All that experience was all part of God's plan.

I started the discernment process again, with a very supportive congregation behind me and an incumbent who challenged and encouraged me in equal measure I could see God's plan unfolding, the Holy Spirit guiding me, the love of Christ beside me and a heavenly Father who opened all the doors. Within a year of saying yes to God I was accepted to train as a priest.

Andrew, an apostle of Christ, a fisherman knew what it meant to truly know Jesus, took time to get to know him more and spent his life making him known to others.

My life as a priest is just beginning and I know that I have to walk daily with God, desiring to know Jesus more each day and to make him better known, to lead a church which has Christ at its centre and love at its core, a church which serves its community and where all are welcome.

There are adventures to be had, who knows in the years to come there may be another stole with another story.

Revd Andrea Woods

The Devil Rides Out

I love rock music. Heavy rock, classic rock, heavy metal, call it what you will, I like my music with a bit of "oomph!"

Fortunately, our son, Matthew, has inherited my excellent taste in music and we've been to several rock concerts together and seen some big names. Several years ago, the two of us decided to go down to Wembley Arena to see Black Sabbath in concert.

Situated near the famous stadium, Wembley Arena is an enclosed oblong building with a capacity of 12,500 seats. It is a popular London venue and has hosted the X-Factor and Britain's Got Talent auditions.

When we went, the middle section was given over for standing, flanked by two, large banks of seats sideways on to the stage. Matthew and I got there early and had a good, diagonal view of the stage. Matthew sat to my left and I was closer to the performers.

There were to be two support acts prior to Black Sabbath appearing. These were American heavy metal bands Iced Earth and Lamb of God. When the first of these began, only about half of the seats were taken up, but there was not a seat to be had by the time the main act began.

As the first band began, a lot of strange things seemed to happen all at once. All the lights in the massive building went off and on three times, there being less than a second between each going off and on. The last time the lights flashed on again, I saw about half a dozen figures standing on the stage. They appeared suddenly, they had not been there before. They looked like people who were standing perfectly straight and still, with their hands by their side, but with white sheets draped over them. The lights went off for the last time and then flashed back on again in the blink of an eye.

Precisely where the white figures had stood, were the band members, dressed in black, playing their guitars and other instruments. No sign of any white sheets anywhere. I was completely puzzled, musing, "How on earth did they do that? By mirrors?" I mentioned it to Matthew, but he replied, "I didn't see any white figures."

Stranger was to follow.

The volume was deafening and I dived for our earplugs to protect my ears. Matthew had already put his in before the music started. At the same time, we felt a strong atmosphere descend on the place. It is hard to describe: chilling, foreboding, just plain evil. It was very intense. Matthew was the first to feel it and, he later told me, looked round to see if I had the same feeling. He noticed a hand hovering over my left shoulder. It was a wizened, green, ugly hand. As his eyes alighted on it, it began to withdraw and, naturally, Matthew's eyes followed it, but there was no one there. No one was behind us for at least two rows.

The music from the support acts was diabolically bad and the only lyric I could make out from one of the bands was the "f" word.

Meanwhile, the huge standing crowd below us began going round and round in an enormous mass. From our high-up position, it appeared like water going round a plughole. It struck me like a scene from Dante's Inferno.

I feel as certain now as I did at the time that we were under demonic attack. I told Matthew that I was going to pray prayers of protection. I proceeded to do so, but found it incredibly difficult to pray. It was like there was a thick, black cloud above our heads and I had to force them through. Force them, I did, and that appeared to ease matters.

Nevertheless, it was only when Black Sabbath came on the stage that the feeling lifted completely, like the flick of a switch. The people below us stopped swirling round and stood there quietly, listening to the music. The whole atmosphere was completely different and much better.

I believe this episode has taught me several things, that evil is a reality for one. It also demonstrated the efficacy of earnest prayer. I never had any doubts that the power of good is greater than the power of evil and that would win the battle.



Looking back, I find it amusing that it never occurred to us to get up and leave. No, we wanted to see our idols! I'm glad we did.

Tom Cross -
Lay Minister

Good News - Easter Services etc!!!

***Church Buildings are open** from Good Friday to Easter Sunday inclusive and you would be most welcome to go into any of the churches (Not Nth Tuddenham due to the building works)

***An hour before the Cross on Good Friday at 2 pm** on zoom and in one of the churches

***Easter Sunday communion services** in each church throughout the villages (Not Nth Tuddenham)

See our website – www.matvchurch.uk, posters, FaceBook or speak to someone you know who goes to church for more details. Zoom information as our regular worship below.

All are welcome to our Zoom services on Sundays at 10 am. The details are:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83401400096?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83401400096?pwd=REJTTmIPUHlveHhSbmhBQURucHJnZz09)

pwd=REJTTmIPUHlveHhSbmhBQURucHJnZz09

or ‘phone—**0203 481 5237**

The meeting id and passwords are the same for both

Meeting ID: 834 0140 0096, Password: 858873

Also, each morning, Monday to Saturday inclusive, we ‘visit’ each village in our area to pray, everyone is welcome to join in and to ask for prayers at any time.

Monday—Hockering , Tuesday—Yaxham, Wednesday—Welborne, Thursday—East Tuddenham, Friday—North Tuddenham and Saturday—Mattishall

Zoom details: -[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83513925378?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83513925378?pwd=QnZEk0lQTMF3ZEQycTlQb21LV1JQUt09)

pwd=QnZEk0lQTMF3ZEQycTlQb21LV1JQUt09 with the ‘phone number above, the same

Meeting ID: 835 1392 5378

Password: 858873

Easter – A special time by Elizabeth Smith

Growing up our family Easter was treated as a special time, with Easter Sunday being a day for family to get together. It was special because it's a weekend where there are two bank holidays, so it felt like a proper break from work and a time to do DIY around the house or potter in the garden.

It was a tradition to eat fish on Good Friday and of course, hot cross buns! I had copious amounts of Easter Eggs that sometimes lasted through the year. I never wanted to break into the gorgeous packaging and destroy the beautiful eggs, so I'd make them last as long as I could!

My family had mixed views on what Easter was about and although we did not go to church or have discussions on the meaning of Easter, I did know that Good Friday was the day Christ died and Easter Sunday was the day he rose from the grave. I learnt that from lessons at school, being in the Girls Brigade and from my parents. Mum was brought up as a Christian and Dad was brought up as an Atheist but he did know what the Bible said on the subject. My Dad told me that Jesus was a good man but he didn't believe he was the Son of God nor did he believe Jesus rose from the dead, nor did he believe in the Holy Spirit being sent to us as our Helper.

Many years later, when I became a Christian (another story), the meaning of Easter changed for me. It was not just a special time but it became a precious time.

After many years of praying for my family, especially my Dad, he had an experience in church that those who were there, will never forget. Maybe that story is for another time but this experience was on Easter Sunday and the result was that Dad decided he needed to look into all this Christian 'stuff' and as a result found peace and love, his life was changed.

It was Easter Sunday when Dad met Jesus, Easter Saturday when he made his commitment in public and was confirmed in Norwich Cathedral. He was 71 years old and it was a wonderful day! Easter Sunday that year was extra special to me and I have to admit a bottle of champagne was opened!

Easter became even more precious after this and our family kept up some traditions but it was then known as Dad's special time. We continued with our family traditions

but with a difference. We would have a quieter day on Good Friday, reflecting on the gift Jesus gave us on that dark day, so long ago. Our day tended to include going to church, a time of reading a few verses of Scripture, listening to worship and yes, we got together and had a fish dinner, laughed, chatted and spent time together. We were thankful for all that Jesus did for us on the cross and we had Easter Sunday to look forward to and the hope that day brings.

When Dad passed away his funeral took place on Easter Saturday and this, for us, could not have been a more appropriate and special day.

People say that Christmas is a time of miracles but in our experience, in our family, Easter has been a time of miracles.

We still reflect, pause and rest on Good Friday and then celebrate on Easter Sunday. Last year was the first year we weren't able to go to church and have family with us, it was very different. It wasn't easy to celebrate but we still felt the wonder of the miracle of the Resurrection and God's perfect love for us and how this was demonstrated on the cross.

For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever so believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3 v 16



***Reg Chapman -
enjoying his wine***



Reg in relaxed mode

I guess like a lot of people **Psalm 23** is a favourite. It the one which starts with, 'The Lord is my Shepherd'

The small bit of this famous Psalm I would like to pass comment on is, 'my cup runneth over.'

It is always good to look at the context of bible passages. This one is interesting. Really? I hear you ask. At the time when this Psalm was written, this reference to always having an overflowing cup, refers to the practice that if your host wished you to stay with him, then he would keep your cup full. If he wanted you to go, he did not fill your cup and when it was empty, it was time for you to go home. Maybe it would be a good convention to reintroduce?!

The meaning for us today is that God keeps our cup overflowing because He enjoys our company and wants to be with those He loves.



A beautiful word picture for a beautiful God wanting to be with us.

Jackie Crisp

Licensed Lay Minister

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd.....

THAT'S RELATIONSHIP!

I shall not want

THAT'S SUPPLY....

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures....

THAT'S REST!

He leadeth me beside still waters....

THAT'S REFRESHMENT!

He restoreth my soul....

THAT'S HEALING

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness....

THAT'S' GUIDANCE!

For His name sake....

THAT'S PURPOSE!

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.....

THAT'S CHALLENGE!

I will fear no evil....

THAT'S ASSURANCE!

For thou are with me....

THAT'S FAITHFULNESS!

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me....

THAT'S SHELTER!

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies....

THAT'S HOPE!

Thou anointest my head with oil....

THAT'S CONSECRATION!

My cup runneth over....

THAT'S ABUNDANCE!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life....

THAT'S BLESSING!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord ...

THAT'S SECURITY!

Forever....

THAT'S ETERNITY!

Amen (so be it)

From A Bucket of Surprises, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books

**Forgiveness is for the forgiver
and the forgiven**

A true uplifting story.....

Back in 2011 I had been praying to the Lord that I would trust Him more. I had a job, a car and a nice place to live but I knew that I relied on me and not on Him. As I was praying this, I felt the Lord say, 'are you sure?' I thought this strange as the Bible is full of *Trust Me* verses. So, I said 'yes I'm sure'. I felt I was asked this question a number of times and each time I answer that I was sure.

Early in the morning on 3rd January 2012, Hurricane Sandy came across the Atlantic and hit our apartment, on the West Coast of Scotland. I heard a loud bang and jumped out of bed, as I did, the ceiling landed on the bed! I ran into the middle of the apartment and saw that our flat roof had peeled back and was now laying in the back garden. The plaster was falling and the rain was coming through. As I saw all this I prayed 'Lord what should I do?' He said, 'Trust Me' I said 'great I trust you – but what should I do?'

I grabbed my hard hat from the cupboard and turned off the electric, gas and water. I knew I was the only person in the block as the other properties were holiday homes and Derek was already at work. First things first, I realised I needed to get dressed! I ran in and out of the bedroom grabbing random clothing. I couldn't call Derek as he was driving a bus, so I phoned our vicar.

'Good morning' says I.

'Good morning' says he.

'May I come to your house?' says I

'Of course, says he, any particular time or reason?' says he.

'Yes, my roof is in the back garden and I would like to come now!'

At this he and his wife jumped in their car, still in their dressing gowns and came and got me. So, there I was stood outside in the pouring rain, with my hard hat and odd assortment of clothing with my cat under one arm and insurance papers under the other.

It took me two days to get through to the insurance company and three weeks for them to come out, by which time most of our belongings had been destroyed as it

had not stopped raining.

The insurance company put us up in temporary accommodation and started work. About three weeks later I got an email that was copied to me by mistake from the underwriter to the builder telling them to stop work as there was a problem with the insurance. After a lot of discussion, they decided that we were not insured and had to leave their accommodation. We ended up living in a caravan in February, in the snow and it was miserable. We had many people praying for us as it was so unjust. As we were praying, we felt the Lord say, 'Trust me'. Well great but what about the mess? We had lost our home and our belongings.

As you can imagine this was a very stressful time and I could not concentrate on my job so my company offered me unpaid leave for 10 months or I could just leave. I took the unpaid leave. Derek and I had been talking about doing our sailing licences for sometime, so we went to Gibraltar for 3 months to live on a small sailing boat and learn. At about this time our case was referred to the Insurance Ombudsman to adjudicate. As we were about to take our final exams, we got a five page letter from the Ombudsman saying that they could not help us and they closed the case in August 2012. At this ruling the Insurance company black listed us for making a fraudulent claim and our neighbours were threatening to sue us as they could not get on with their repairs. This was the darkest time. We had lost our home, our possessions, my salary and now our reputation. We continued to pray and God said 'Trust me' I complained that the more I trusted, the more I lost!

In October 2012 I went back to work, we were living in a place with no furniture, sleeping on the floor and facing mounting debt as the mortgage still had to be paid and had the threat of being sued. In November 2012 I got an email from the Ombudsmen that they were going to reopen the case – this was a miracle as they had closed it 3 months before and we had not objected. In December 2012 they sent another email explaining that they had changed their minds and overturned their decision – we were insured and would be compensated for our loss!

We entered 2013 debt free! As everything was going right and we were Hallalujahing, I felt the Lord say 'you wanted to trust me, so trust me – give up your job' I was not happy and I threw out my toys and complained to God that He

obviously didn't understand what I had just been through to ask such a thing now. But the message was clear and eventually I did resign. As I was sitting in an apartment that was not mine wondering what to do with my life, I got a phone call from The Vine Trust saying they had a ship in Gibraltar that was being converted into a hospital ship and would I go and help. So, I said 'ok when do you want me to go?' 'Tomorrow' they said – so off I went. After a couple of weeks it became clear that this project could last a while. So after much prayer Derek decided to give up his job and join me. From there we got an email from a mission in Sweden asking us to go and help them for the summer and when that finished a mission in Greece asked us to go and help with their boat. During this time, we meet the leader of Next Wave and he asked us to join YWAM (Youth With A Mission)

Eventually our apartment was finished and we sold it for the amount owed on the mortgage as the property market had crashed – but we were debt free.

We have not had paid employment since 2013 and we don't own much, but God has proved himself to be faithful. We have never been without a meal or a bed. We have been to 11 countries on 4 Continents sailing ships and preaching the gospel. I want to encourage you with these words, that *Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ – not angels or demons; not the past nor the present*, not collapsing roofs or even the Corona Virus can separate us from His love or His faithfulness. I would further encourage you that if God is telling you to Trust him in anything, great or small – do it. He is trustworthy!

Paula Finlayson, Somewhere in the world!





The Mid Norfolk Foodbank works hard in this area to feed many people and families who would otherwise not have the necessary resources to purchase basic food items.

Can you imagine not being able to buy food for your family or having to decide whether to buy food or pay for the heating? Not a comfortable place to be.

If you would like to help, I am more than happy to receive donations of non-perishable, non-alcoholic products, and any hygiene products. These donations are taken on a weekly basis (Mondays at present) to the warehouse where items are sorted ready for distribution.

Your donations can be left at 4 MILL ROAD, MATTISHALL, NR20 3RN. Please leave them on my front doorstep and ring the bell to alert me that something has been left.

In this day and age of plenty this should not be happening but it is! Please donate as much or as little as you feel able. Monetary gifts can be accepted in the form of a cheque made payable to Mid Norfolk Foodbank.



Thanks for your generosity,

SUFFERING.....

“God does not bring about everything that happens in the world. Because God is a God of love, he allows creatures to be themselves and to make themselves. That sort of valuable, worthwhile, independent creation has a cost. We see that in the terrible cruel choices of humankind. We also see it in the physical history of the world. Exactly the same bio-chemical processes that enable some cells to mutate and produce new forms of life – the very engine that has driven the amazingly fruitful history of life on earth – will allow other cells to mutate and to become malignant. You just cannot have one without the other. The tragic fact that there is cancer in the world is not because God did not bother – it is a necessity in a world allowed to make itself.”

John Polkinghorne, Professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge University

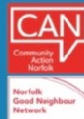
From A Bucket of Surprises, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books

MATTISHALL VOLUNTEER HUB

07940 764588

mattishallvolunteerhub@outlook.com

or find us on Facebook



It's hard to believe that Mattishall Volunteer Hub will have celebrated its first anniversary in March! In that time we have helped over 100 of our neighbours in Mattishall and Welborne who have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. We have an amazing team of volunteers providing free assistance wherever needed. MVH is only possible because of their fantastic dedication, enthusiasm and generosity.

Our volunteers have continued to collect and deliver prescriptions, shopping, pre-paid orders, parcels and letters etc. throughout the past year - come rain, shine and snow! At Christmas a team of MVH volunteers delivered cards and small gifts to many local residents as a way of thanking them for supporting us and to remind them that we were still in existence should they need our help.

MVH has also, temporarily, teamed up with the local Community Car Scheme specifically to take people, who cannot get there without help, to their Covid-19 vaccination appointments. All of our drivers are DBS checked and are following the Govt. guidelines for transporting people in their vehicles. (NB there is a small charge for this service.)

To book please contact Anita at the Community Car Scheme on **01362 858376**

Following a year of the Covid-19 restrictions, many of our isolated neighbours are really missing social interaction so we are making more telephone calls and writing letters in order to make connections with these residents. Both parties gain from sharing their experiences and stories, particularly about the villages that we all live in. In fact, it's become clear that practical help is only a part of the valuable service that MVH provides. Sometimes just having a bit of a chat with another person can make all the difference to your day. If you would like to get a call from one of our friendly volunteers - or if you like sending and receiving letters - then, please, ring our helpline number or e-mail us.

With the success of the vaccination rollout and the blooming of Spring flowers, there is now a feeling of real hope that very soon all of our neighbours who have been particularly affected by this awful pandemic, either directly through illness or indirectly because of the restriction of movement, will be able to regain some of their independence and re-engage with their community.

Meanwhile, if anyone in Mattishall or Welborne needs our help, please, call Helen on **07940 764588**

or e-mail mattishallvolunteerhub@outlook.com

Helen Brook
Project Coordinator
Mattishall Volunteer Hub

Mattishall Volunteer Hub Christmas 2020



Volunteers Sue, Jo, Andy, Mel (& son Zach) preparing to deliver Christmas goodies



Volunteer (MVH Coordinator) Helen delivering a Christmas gift and card to Yvonne.



Volunteer Cheryl delivering shopping to Andrew

Mattishall & Welborne
Mattishall Volunteer Hub
 is your local Good Neighbour Team
 providing practical and social support to anyone in
 Mattishall or Welborne who may need some extra help -
 especially during the continuing Covid-19 situation.

07940 764588 to request help or to volunteer.

A Time for Everything – Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, verses 1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
 a time to be born and a time to die,
 a time to plant and a time to uproot,
 a time to kill and a time to heal,
 a time to tear down and a time to build,
 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
 a time to mourn and a time to dance,
 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
 a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
 a time to search and a time to give up,
 a time to keep and a time to throw away,
 a time to tear and a time to mend,
 a time to be silent and a time to speak,
 a time to love and a time to hate,
 a time for war and a time for peace.

New International Bible Version

God Loves each one of us, God is love

Through prayer God can change things - try praying for a week and see what happens.



We can also pray for you, just ask someone you know who goes to Church or contact the Church Office (next door to Mattishall Surgery— full contact details on the last page of this booklet.)

Recommended reading – Mark’s Gospel

This book of the new testament is thought to have been written by Mark (not the vicar!)

Mark was a child when Jesus was crucified but he was soon in the thick of the movement. He messed up on his first missionary trip but his cousin, Barnabas, stuck with him and by the time Mark was in his forties, he was based in Rome and working with both Peter and Paul, the movement’s two heavyweights. Then disaster struck. A fire destroyed half of Rome and Emperor Nero diverted blame from himself to the unpopular sect of Christians. Many, including Peter, were brutally executed. For several years Mark had been collecting Peter’s memories of Jesus and now with the urgency of persecution driving him, Mark wrote down the whole story.....

It’s a great read and is the shortest of the Gospels. If you don’t have a bible or a copy of this gospel, let us know, see the back page and we will get one to you.

From the Message Bible introduction to the Gospel.



The Bible in 50 Words



God Made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained

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WHO LET THE DADS OUT! AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH – FIRST SATURDAY IN THE MONTH



What a prospect!!

Before Covid -19 came along we were having a wonderful regular monthly Saturday morning fun time for children up to and including Year 1 school age with their dads or male carers. The sessions started at 9.00 am and ran until 10.30 am.

A good selection of toys, a craft activity and fun were available to children to have some quality time with their dads. Also, a good chance for the dads to socialise with other dads.

A selection of snacks were available and bacon butties and toast were served with coffee or cold drinks. Pricing at £2.00 per family per session.

As a team at All Saints, we thoroughly enjoyed these mornings and are keen to start again as soon as government guidelines will allow us.



If you are a dad or other father figure keep an eye open for posters around the village, in shops, on social media or the Mattishall Church website for when we start up again. Please contact Alan Cossey for any further details on

Email: alan.cossey@matvchurch.uk or ring 01362 857904

We'd love you to join us, come as often or as little as you are able, no commitment to join, we just ask for contact details for registering for safety purposes.

We will be up and running again as soon as we are permitted.

WLTD0 team.



www.matvchurch.uk

Check out our website for information on what we do, where we do it and how we do it!

You have an open invitation to all events and are most welcome to worship with us, we would love to see you!

Contact Us—for whatever reason.....

Rector: Rev. Mark McCaghrey

Phone: 01362 882260

Email: mark.mccaghrey@matvchurch.uk

Assistant Priest: Rev. Sally Thurgill

Phone: 01362 692745

Email: sally.thurgill@matvchurch.uk

Assistant Curate: Rev. Andrea Woods

Email: andrea.woods@matvchurch.uk

Church Office: Dereham Road, Mattishall, NR20 3QA

Phone: 01362 858873

Email: contact@matvchurch.uk

Open: Monday, Thursday & Friday 9.00am- 1.00pm

Mattishall and Tudd Valley

serves the villages of East & North Tuddenham, Hockering, Mattishall, Welborne and Yaxham