Mattishall & Tudd Valley Benefice



The true meaning of Christmas

It's that time of year,
To celebrate and have fun,
Have you got holly?
Is the shopping nearly done?

Order the turkey,
Bake sausage rolls and mince pies,
There are endless jobs,
And stress levels start to rise.

Forget your worries, Take a moment to just chill, Why all the rushing? It's far better to be still.

Happy Christmas one and all! May your days be bright, Spare a thought for Jesus Christ, He can bring you Light.

Nicola C

Christmas Greetings*
from the churches of Hockering,
Mattishall, Yaxham, Welborne,
East Tuddenham and
North Tuddenham.





The Church of England's theme this Christmas is "joy". Why? After all, there doesn't seem to be much of it around much of the time. We can have times of great happiness, perhaps when someone gets married or a baby is born, we get a new job or we see someone we love whom we haven't seen in ages. Often our happiness depends greatly on what is going on around us. In the ups and downs of life we can also have times of great sadness, maybe seeming to last forever. Are we condemned to being thrown back and forth between happiness and sadness? Is "joy" something rather different to "happiness"?

When the bible promises joy to God's people, it is speaking of something much deeper, something that does not depend on what is going on around us. It speaks of "joy" or "rejoicing" over 300 times. It speaks of God's people having "joy" despite problems in life, even in times of great darkness. For the Christian, great or small, young or old, joy is the assurance that God is with us and, sometimes contrary to what seems to be the case, that He is in control and working for the good of those who love him (see the apostle Paul's letter in Romans 8:18-30 in the New Testament).

In 1944, two Dutch sisters and their father were arrested for hiding Jewish people from the Nazis. The father died soon after, but the sisters, Betsie and Corrie Ten Boom *, were sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp. In the midst of that horror Betsie was able to tell others, "There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still." (quoted from Corrie's book, The Hiding Place). Betsie was to die in Ravensbrück, but Corrie would be released due to an administrative error. Though her father had died and her sister and many others had been murdered, Corrie was able to tell others for the rest of her life that God's love is truly that deep. Corrie Ten

Boom was a lady who genuinely knew the joy God promises his people. How? She knew God had accepted her, with all her faults, and that one day she would meet God face-to-face in a renewed world where all pain had gone.

Isn't this something worth pursuing?

Wishing you a very happy (and joyful) Christmas!

Alan Cossey

*https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/corrie-tenboom

News!

In the summer this year we said good bye to Revd. Sally as she retired from parish ministry. We have lost a wise minister and good friend to many, albeit Sally is still very much alive and kicking in the community of Yaxham. We wait to hear what God has in store for her after she has rested well.



We are still looking for a new Rector to lead the 6 parishes and firmly believe God has a plan. We are praying for the new person, whoever that may be, so do join us in praying, thank you. Maybe we will know by Christmas who is coming, as interviews should be held in December and after this booklet has been printed. Watch out for a 'Stop Press'.

Therefore, the Ministry Team is much depleted to the Lay Ministers, Alan, Mel and Jackie but soldiers on in God's grace. Mandy in the Church Office is working hard for you all as are the Churchwardens and many others who work behind the scenes.

Jackie Crisp



This Christmas please pop in for a warm welcome at **Green Pastures Christian Book and Gift Shop**.

We have lots of cards and gifts for you to choose.

Don't forget we also sell National Book Tokens.

Everyone is welcome so please do pop in and see us.

Green Pastures, Award winning Christian Bookshop of the Year

https://www.greenpasturesdereham.org.uk 20 Norwich Street, Dereham, Norfolk. NR19 1BX Tel: 01362 697953



COFFEE MORNINGS in aid of St. Michael's Church, Hockering

Please join us for tea, coffee, squash, cake, sausage rolls, biscuits as well as games & stalls and most importantly to catch up with friends and make new ones.



We meet on Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 12 Noon in Hockering Village Hall, Heath Road, Hockering. This year's Christmas Coffee Morning is Saturday 29th November 2025.

The dates for 2026 are planned for 17th January, 21st February, 21st March, 25th April, 23rd May, 20th June, 19th September, October 17th and the Christmas Coffee Morning November 28th 2026.

These dates are correct at the time of printing, but please double check the Notice Boards in Hockering for up-to-date posters and see the mini-leaflets which are delivered to as many Hockering homes as possible before each event.

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)

There are also prayer boxes in each of our churches and these requests will be included in our prayers.

Our Father's Love Letter

Dear Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you	Psalm 139:1
I know when you sit down and when you rise up	Psalm 139:2
I am familiar with all your ways	Psalm 139:3
Even the very hairs on your head are numbered	Matthew 10:29-31
For you were made in my image	Genesis 1:27
In me you live and move and have your being	Acts 17:28
For you are my offspring	Acts 17:28
l knew you even before you were conceived	Jeremiah 1:4-5
I chose you when I planned creation	Ephesians 1:11-12
You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book	Psalm 139:15-16
I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live	Acts 17:26
You are fearfully and wonderfully made	Psalm 139:14
I knit you together in your mother's womb	Psalm 139:13
And brought you forth on the day you were born	Psalm 71:6
I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me	John 8:41-44
I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love	2 1 John 4:16
And it is my desire to lavish my love on you	1 John 3:1
Simply because you are my child and I am your father	1 John 3:1
I offer you more than your earthly father ever could	Matthew 7:11
For I am the perfect father	Matthew 5:48
Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand	James 1:17
For I am your provider and I meet all your needs	Matthew 6:31-33
My plan for your future has always been filled with hope	Jeremiah 29:11
Because I love you with an everlasting love	Jeremiah 31:3
My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore	Psalms 139:17-18
And I rejoice over you with singing	Zephaniah 3:17
I will never stop doing good to you	Jeremiah 32:40
For you are my treasured possession	Exodus 19:5
I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul	Jeremiah 32:41

And I want to show you great and marvellous things	Jeremiah 33:3
If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me	Deuteronomy 4:29
Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart	Psalm 37:4
For it is I who gave you those desires	Philippians 2:13
I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine	Ephesians 3:20
For I am your greatest encourager	2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles	2 Corinthians 1:3-4
When you are broken hearted, I am close to you	Psalm 34:18
As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my he	eart Isaiah 40:11
One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes	Revelation 21:3-4
And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth	Revelation 21:3-4
I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus	John 17:23
For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed	John 17:26
He is the exact representation of my being	Hebrews 1:3
He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you	Romans 8:31
And to tell you that I am not counting your sins	2 Corinthians 5:18-19
Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled	2 Corinthians 5:18-19
His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you	1 John 4:10
I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love	Romans 8:31-32
If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me	1 John 2:23
And nothing will ever separate you from my love again	Romans 8:38-39
Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever so	een Luke 15:7
I have always been Father, and will always be Father	Ephesians 3:14-15
My question isWill you be my child?	John 1:12-13
I am waiting for you	Luke 15:11-32



Love, Your Dad.

Almighty God.

Sheila and David Rudling

This is All Saints Mattishall's oldest church member Sheila. She celebrated with family and friends her 100th birthday in October. Sadly a few weeks prior to the happy event, her beloved husband died and as you can imagine, Sheila misses him dearly.



Several years ago they made a pact together, that whenever they saw a white feather, they would be reminded of their love for each other. During the burial service of David, a white feather floated down on the coffin, which as you can imagine, delighted and touched Sheila greatly.

Their love for each other was only surpassed by their love for God. Sheila testifies to the great support and comfort that their Heavenly Father has brought them over the years and most especially to Sheila over the last few difficult months of illness, separation and loss.

June Rootham

Shepherds and Wise Men Welcome!

Christmas is on the horizon again.

Season of good cheer, warmth and welcome to the whole world!

It doesn't seem 12 months since we had the last one but we will all be there with the traditions and the usual activities – because that's what Christmas is about, isn't it?

What about the rest of the year, though? Does the same thing happen then?

It didn't this last summer, in and around the hotels where asylum seekers were living, courtesy of Norwich City Council. In the heat of the late summer days, and a sudden plethora of flags and banners. Asylum seekers and those who are on their side, felt intimidated and worried.

Jesus was first welcomed into this world by local shepherds, looked down on and largely ignored by the good folk of Bethlehem, or anywhere else in Palestine at that time. Shepherds were not important in anyone's eyes – except God's. What a surprise that they shouted the news of the Messiah all over town!





The Magi, the Wise Men, were strange and foreign, wearing exotic clothes, speaking an unknown language, and out of place in the dirty streets of Bethlehem, yet they brought the first Christmas presents to the Messiah, after a journey similar to those of most asylum seekers who come to Norwich.

Shepherds and Wise Men are centre stage in our Nativities and pageants – a familiar and loved part of the Christmas story we retell every year. So why the difference in how we treat the marginalised and foreigners who don't come at Christmas?

The atmosphere in our city in the summer heat was nasty, threatening and toxic to those who sought sanctuary. And we can't blame all of it on people from outside Norfolk. We, the others, didn't shout "Stop!" when the chants started. We let the frightened people in the hotels stay that way, and told ourselves it was ok. "We have rights too!" we said.

Well, it wasn't Christian to look the other way. And have things changed because it will soon be Christmas? A little maybe; we are all more generous at this time of year.



But we need to widen our welcomes to include the like of those who first welcomed the Baby Jesus, those whom He held of prime importance when He grew up to bring God's message to the world – the outcast, the stranger, the foreigner, the poor of our society.

We need to speak up for those who are silenced, shout for those who have no voice, give support and sympathy as we listen to the stories they want to share.

If we can't do that, afraid of our own comfort and security, then the message of Christmas becomes meaningless and tawdry as tinsel..... That makes God sad. It should make us sad too. Frances Middleton



Each November Samaritan's
Purse accepts donations of
Christmas wrapped and
filled shoeboxes with
recommended items
suitable for children from 2

to 14 yrs old. Over the Christmas season these shoeboxes are transported across the world to less fortunate children who might otherwise receive nothing or very little during this time. For several years now our local toddler group "Little Angels", our local churches and communities have contributed to this incredible charity who puts LOVE into ACTION. Please do look up Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child UK and consider how you may be able to help in the coming year. This is a great teaching activity of giving and compassion to include your children and grandchildren in and can be started right now by bargain hunting for those sale items throughout the year and even recycling any new or unwanted small gift/toy items that will fit into a shoebox (do check out the accepted items on their website). Completed shoeboxes can be dropped off to the Benefice Church Office in Mattishall (next to the pharmacy/surgery) at any point during opening hours. Thank you.







An Atheist's View on Life

I will live my life according to these beliefs God does not exist It is just foolish to think that there is a God with a cosmic plan That God brings redemption & healing to the world is a comforting thought,

however it

is only wishful thinking

People can do as they wish w/o eternal consequences

The idea that

I am deserving of Hell

Because of sin

Is a lie meant to have me enslaved to those in power "The more you have, the happier you will be" Our existence has no grand meaning or purpose In a world with no God there is freedom to live Without God, It is ridiculous to think I am lost and in need of saving

A Christian's View on Life

(Read Bottom to Top)

JESUS ROCKS



DROP IN - We continue to meet weekly, Thursdays 10 - 12, and usually have between twenty and thirty people come along for a social morning having a chat over a cuppa. We meet in All Saints Church, Mattishall (ASM).

CHRISTMAS PARTY - On Thursday 18th December we are holding our final meeting before Christmas and will have singing and lunch. We meet that day from10am as normal and the fun starts around 11am followed by lunch and ending with a singalong of Christmas songs and carols. Each week we ask people, where possible, to make a small contribution of £2, although that is not essential but helps with costs. On the 18th December we ask that people increase that contribution to £5 as we provide lunch.

BOOK CLUB – Our very informal book club meets on the second Wednesday every month at 2.30pm in ASM. We do not all read the same book, we just bring along whatever we have been reading and give a brief description of the books and whether we

recommend them, or not! Lots of chat and laughing and the chance to find out about new authors and to swap the books among the group. We have a cuppa and cake as well so plenty to enjoy

SINGING FOR WELLBEING - These FREE sessions are great fun and we have new people coming along all the time to join in. At one meeting we had 20 people attend! We meet twice monthly, one evening and one lunchtime session, The lunchtime session is on the second Wednesday of the month, 1-2 pm just before book club. The evening session is on the 4th Thursday of the month from 7-8 pm. Sessions are held in All Saints Church, Mattishall - plenty of space and we arrive a bit early for a cuppa together before we start. You do not need to have a good voice or know anything about music, just to enjoy singing and having fun.

The aim is to leave with a smile on your face.



COMMUNITY CHOIR - this has developed from the singing sessions, again, nothing formal, just a group of people who enjoy singing. Our next event for the choir is to lead the singing at the COMMUNITY SUPPER to be held on Friday December 12th from 6pm in the church. This will be a FREE EVENT for anyone in the village to come along and have a great Christmas social evening with craft stalls, cheese and wine supper, quiz, singing and entertainment. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**.

For more information about any of the above, please contact Lizzie - 01362 850491

World Day of Prayer Service

Venue: MATTISHALL METHODIST CHURCH When: Friday 6th March 2026 at 2.00pm All are welcome to attend.

If anyone would like to take part in the set service prepared by the Christian women from Nigeria on the theme "I will give you rest, come" please contact Eileen on 01362 692809.

<u>Just For A Laugh</u>....There once was a man in Russia whose name was Rudolph the Red. He was standing in his house one day with his wife. He looked out of the window and saw something happening.

He said to his wife, "Look darling. Its raining." She, being the obstinate type, responded, "I don't think so dear. I think it's snowing."

But Rudolph knew better. So he said to his wife, "Let's step outside and we'll find out."

Lo and behold, they stepped outside and discovered it was in fact rain. And Rudolph turned to his wife and replied, "I knew it was raining. Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"

A Bucket of Surprises by J. John and Mark Stubbs, Monarch Books.



PRAYER





MATTISHALL CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY

CHEESE AND WINE SUPPER

All Saints Church Friday 12 December

Doors open at 6.00 pm to browse the craft stalls

Entertainment programme starts at 7.00 pm

Singing - Music - Storytelling - Community Choir

Cheese and wine supper plus mulled wine and Christmas treats

Craft Stalls - Quiz

This is a FREE EVENT for everyone to enjoy

If you would like to top-up the wine on your table please feel free to also bring your own bottle



Mattishall Methodist Church

Carol Service including Holy Communion-Sunday 21st December at 2.30pm with Revd. Neil Vels

Weekly Sunday Services at 2.30 p.m.

Weekly Bible Study - Thursdays at 2.00 pm. alternating with Garvestone Methodist Church. Contact Fred on 850750 for venue.

See Noticeboard for details. All welcome.

Meeting Rooms for hire - Enquiries to Fred on 850750.

Mattishall Evangelical Church ____

Christmas Services:

Sunday, December 21st, 4.00 pm, Carols by Candlelight

Christmas morning, 10.30



© Ray Taylor

Chapel Carol Service

Sunday, 21st December 2025 6.30pm Paul Fox and friends

Carol singing around Clint Green

Monday 22nd December 2025 7.00pm Well Hill

Wednesday 24th December 2025 7.00pm Paper Street



Christmas 2025 Events and Services

Decen	nber 2025		
7 th	09.00 hrs. All Saints, Welborne	Morning Worship	
7 th	09.00 hrs All Saints, Mattishall	Morning Worship	
7 th	9.00 hrs St. Michael, Hockering	Morning Worship	
7 th	10.30 hrs St. Mary, North Tuddenham	Morning Worship	
7 th	14.00 hrs All Saints, Mattishall	Fun afternoon (Not a service)	
14 th	10.00 hrs All Saints, Mattishall	Benefice Holy Communion	
14 th	15.00 hrs All Saints , Welborne	Carol Service with Salvation Army	
14 th	16.00 hrs All Saints, Mattishall	Oasis – for youngsters & their families	
16 th	19.00 hrs St. Peter, Yaxham	Carol Concert	
21 st	09.00 hrs All Saints, Welborne	Morning Worship	
21 st	10.30 hrs St. Peter, Yaxham	Morning Worship	
21 st	15.00 hrs St. Michael, Hockering	Carol Service	
21 st	15.00 hrs St. Mary, North Tuddenham	Carol Service	
21 st	18.00 hrs All Saints, Mattishall	Carol Service	
CHRISTMAS EVE			
24 th	15.00 hrs All Saints, East Tuddenham	Carol Service	
24 th	16.00 hrs All Saints, Mattishall	Christingle	
24 th	21.00 All Saints, Mattishall	Benefice Holy Communion	
CHRISTMAS DAY			
25 th	09.00 St. Peter, Yaxham	Morning Worship	
25 th	10.30 All Saints. Mattishall	Morning Worship	

All dates and times are correct at the time of printing – please check the Mattishall & Tudd Valley website – see back page





An evening to enjoy this Christmas season as we welcome you to our warm church with a programme of carols and choir pieces with

NORWICH MUSIC GROUP

And selected readings, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Carol Concert

St Peters, Yaxham, NR19 1RQ
7pm on Tuesday 16th December

Free to attend.



The origin of the Christmas Carol



If you hear the word "Carol" you will probably put "Christmas" in front of it.

The Old French word "Carole" was a popular circle dance accompanied by singing and "Caroles" [or simple songs] were sung all year round.

They became associated with Christmas and in 1552 the earliest known set of "Christmasse Carolles" was published by Wynkynn de Worde [honestly]

Protestant denominations excluded carols from services for being frivolous but they were still sung outside and wherever people gathered to enjoy singing together.

In 1867 Rev Henry Bramley and Sir John Stainer published "Christmas Carols Old and New" and "The First Nowell", "Once in Royal David's City" and other favourites were available to us all.

Enjoy celebrating the joy of our Saviour's birth by singing Christmas Carols with all you heart. Kathryn Rogers



St Peter's at Yaxham and All Saints' at East Tuddenham church buildings are open during daylight hours for anyone to visit and find peace or pray.

Keys for other churches are available — please contact the Church Office (See back page for contact details)

Are you a new mum/dad at home with a little one?

Our Little Angels Toddler Group runs EVERY WEDNESDAY IN TERM TIME AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MATTISHALL 9.00-11.30 AM

We have a dedicated area for young babies and plenty of space for toddlers with oodles of toys, including craft, messy play, construction, puzzles, soft play and role play.

Adults can enjoy refreshments throughout the morning with chance to chat and children have a healthy snack mid morning.

Cost is £2.00 for one child and £3.00 for two or more.

Do come and see us, pop in any Wednesday in term time, we would love to see you.





Or contact me on sue.cossey@matvchurch.uk for further information







Come and enjoy a time with your little ones in a safe, warm environment.

We're a friendly bunch of volunteers who love serving our community.



WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

FOR DADS, GRANDADS & FATHER FIGURES WITH CHILDREN UP TO YEAR 2

FIRST SATURDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
MATTISHALL
9:00AM - 10:30AM



WHAT'S INCLUDED?



Bacon rolls & hot drinks for adults



Unlimited snacks & drinks for children



Toys, games, crafts & fun activities for all



£3 PER FAMILY

A relaxed, friendly space to spend quality time with your children, meet other dads, and have fun together.

COME ALONG TO THE NEXT SESSION - WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!



FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN COME AND JOIN US ON A SUNDAY AFTER NOON

4.00 -5.30 PM

2ND SUNDAY EVERY MONTH

We start with a craft/game and follow with a short drama, telling a well known bible story.

Children love dressing up!

We pray, we sing and finish up with plenty of food to enjoy.

COME AND EXPLORE WITH YOUR YOUNG

CHILDREN

FREE!!



We need your help

The Anglican church strives to keep a Christian church open in every community and we here in the Tudd Valley benefit greatly from this. Our churches are open to all for wide ranging usage by the community alongside weekly worship.



Like everything, this does not come cheaply and local congregations are wholly responsible for the maintenance of these beautiful buildings. This is funded by the generous giving of church members and any grants we are able to obtain. This year, for example All Saints, Mattishall discovered that one of its buttresses was crumbling, potentially causing subsidence. Thankfully the congregation dug deep and was able to meet the £13,000 bill even when we were also paying for new heating installation. We wish to thank everyone who contributed both time and funds to keep our village church safe.

Disappointingly, we now find that another buttress is in need of work. Can you help? All contributions of funds, your time and labour will be gratefully received.

All our churches need similar help with maintenance and funds so do please consider this and make contact with us.

Thank you for your help in maintaining our heritage.

For further information please contact the Church Office in the first instance (see back page of booklet for contact details) or use this QR Code to make a donation.



Massive thanks to all who GIVE!

Thank you so much for all your support over the past year. We really appreciate everything you continue to do so we can make the greatest possible difference to people experiencing hardship across Mid Norfolk.



At the time of writing (mid-October) we have already given out more than 3,500 three-day emergency food parcels this year, with nearly 1,400 of those going to children.

We simply could not do this without the support of the local church and community - that's you!



Please donate food & essential toiletries at our collection points —our website lists the items needed most right now: https://midnorfolk.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/

You can also download the BanktheFood app on to your mobile phone to receive an up-to-date list of our food needs and drop-off points:

https://www.bankthefood. org/downloadapp/

Thank you!

As with most charities, volunteers are the lifeblood of our food bank. More than 70 now make up our team and their impact is impossible to measure — not only do they collectively give more than 8,000 hours a year in volunteering time, they also give their skills, personal experiences and compassion as they stand alongside people in hardship, struggling to afford the essentials.



Mid Norfolk Foodbank is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales under charity number 1151547

How I ended up in Uganda

Let me take you back to 15 yrs. ago. At a very desperate time, I yelled out to God one day and said "if you are real, prove it to me". I was immediately taken in to an encounter with Him where I had a "picture reel" appear before my eyes and I knew instantly in my heart that He



was, in fact, real; that Jesus was His son who died on the cross and rose again for me; and that I could not and would not deny His existence any longer.

Two months later I had another encounter where I saw myself with lots of happy and excited black children talking with them about the love of Jesus. Over the years I realised that I was called, by God, to go and serve in Africa. Fast forward to this year and in God's perfect timing, He provided a way for me to travel, alone, to Uganda, staying under the care of an English couple who are missionaries there with First Love Global Ministries. In a very busy scheduled week, I visited several schools meeting 100s of smiley Ugandan children and having the privilege of talking and praying with them. I spoke at a Ladies' Prayer Group of how God had impacted my last 15 yrs. with His love, peace and joy and then prayed for them and witnessed God heal their many emotional and physical needs including an elderly lady whose hearing was restored.



I was invited to a pastor's home to share about God and pray with his family and neighbours. Ugandans are very generous and grateful people who want to show their appreciation of you by giving you a gift, even when they have very little themselves. As I went to leave, the pastor presented me with a LIVE chicken as a thank you gift for my

time. Eeekkkkk – I can't even go past a butcher's shop in the UK without feeling queasy!!! Thankfully, 3 days later, said chicken

arrived to where I was staying, fully prepared for the oven, was then cooked ready for me and others to eat. KFC has a completely different image for me now.

On another occasion myself and the First Love team visited some of the poorer and more vulnerable families in the local community, giving out food parcels and praying with them. Many were visibly touched by God's love and provision for them. Another young man in his 20s explained how



he had a motorbike accident 2 years ago and now was left, after surgeries, with one leg shorter than the other. Myself and team members prayed for his shorter leg to grow, in the name of Jesus and it did before our very eyes! That's the power of the true living God.

I led a Sunday School session for 2.5 hrs in the hot sun with 30+children, from all walks of life, who were grateful to receive bottles of water and food and then make lion masks and hear the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. I experienced so much more during this trip and saw first hand some of the real heart-breaking poverty; circumstances that people there live with on a daily basis. It really put into perspective, for me, what matters and is worth being concerned about, and what isn't. I believe I will be visiting Africa again but am trusting fully in God's timing, provision and direction — He has my YES to lead me where He wants me to go and it really is the best position to be in. If you do not know Him personally yet as your Lord and Saviour or are sceptical of the whole Christian faith thing ... maybe try what I did, and ask Him to show you if He is real. I can promise you that it is a heartfelt question that you won't regret.

Mandy



Hockering Church of England Primary Academy

Hockering School is a small, rural village academy with a friendly community atmosphere.

As a Church of England academy, Hockering has a distinctive character which makes the academy a place of Christian love and care where all are welcomed and included.

All of the children have successfully completed Cross Country Events and Discoverer class attended a Football Festival.

The children have been doing a study of the local area, exploring landmarks and learning about map reading. They have also been learning about significant historical local people.



We have just completed the renovation of our toilets, which was

kindly funded by our PTA, The Friends of Hockering School.



We celebrated the Harvest Festival last half term, thinking about how our community supports and cares for others. As a part of this, the pupils organised donations for the local Food Bank.

Contact – Roisin Hill – Head of School Amanda Shaw - School Secretary Hockering Church of England Primary Academy The Street, Hockering, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 3HN

Tel: 01603 880310

E-mail: officehockering@trinity.dneat.org

Web: www.edenfederation.co.uk

Yaxham Primary Academy

Message from Yaxham Church of England Primary Academy Governors

Our Vision at Yaxham Primary is:

"Through loving God and loving others, we flourish learn & grow" which is inspired by Matthew 22:37-40:

"Jesus said:

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul and with all your mind.'

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: 'Love your Neighbour as yourself.'

All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments."

As Local School Governors within the context of Christian belief and practices, we aim to serve our community by supporting the school team to provide an excellent education which develops enquiring minds and a life-long love of learning. All members of our community are loved, valued and valuable in the eyes of God and each other. We support and challenge everyone to achieve their full potential.

To achieve this, we support the school as it strives to achieve this vision by providing strategic oversight, local monitoring visits and attending termly local governance committee meetings. Currently we have a vacancy for someone to join our Governance team, if you are interested in becoming more involved in your local school please contact the school office for more information.

At Yaxham Church of England Primary Academy we aim to:

- Teach a stimulating, balanced and relevant curriculum in school and within the wider community
- Encourage high aspirations

- Provide daily collective, Christian Worship
- Treat everyone with equal respect
- Promote and encourage strong partnerships between school, parents, the church and the wider community,

On behalf of the Yaxham Local Governance committee.

Through loving God and loving others, we flourish, learn & grow.

Yaxham Village Nativity Play 2025

" JERUSALEM NEWS "

"Have we got news for you"

Come along and find out what this year's play is all about



St. Peter's Church, Yaxham on Friday 12th December at 19:00 hrs.

Yaxham Village Hall on Sunday 14th December at 15.00 hrs.

Admission Free

Refreshments at end of play

Any donations split between Church and Chapel funds

Kairos Torch Prison Ministry for 18-25 year-olds

This adventure with God began on a hot summers Saturday evening in June 2025 in an Airbnb in the Lincolnshire fens miles from anyone I knew. After a long,



lovely day at a stitching festival, I was just dozing off when I heard a voice calling "Jane, Jane". I was spooked! It was 2am!

How can someone be calling my name?

When I calmed down, I realised just like Samuel in the Bible Old Testament (1 Samuel Chapter 3) I had heard the audible voice of God and out loud I said, "Ok I hear you, I will do what you are calling me to, if you show me the way".

I determined at that moment not to return to the stitching festival the next day but to go to the 9:30am service at the C of E church just down the road.

They sang four hymns, one of which was, "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?" I smiled and, in my heart, said, "OK Lord, I hear you, you lead I'll follow, but you will have to show me where we are going!".

The following Saturday we had a gathering for members of our local Cursillo (the best kept secret in the Anglican church!) and we had a visitor called Richard Stephens spoke about the **Kairos Prison Ministry.** He was seeking volunteers to be part of a pioneering team to go into Norwich Prison with the **Kairos Torch Ministry** for 18–25-year-old offenders as it had never been run anywhere in the UK before.

I knew this was why God had called my name as I was moved to tears as Richard spoke. I signed up. The rest they say is history!

I was selected to join the team at a meeting in Cambridge and had to attend a residential training weekend and two more training days because we had to experience for ourselves what the young men would experience. We shared our life stories and were completely open with each other which was very healing for us.

Our final team of 12 included a chap who travelled from USA and two Kairos newbies from Norwich. The others were all experienced in Kairos for adult prisoners.

Our 3 days in Norwich prison were challenging, amazing and life changing, not just for me and the team but for the chaps who attended. We started with 10 names. 9 arrived and 2 left after first 30 minutes. The other 7 stuck with us, and we watched as amazing changes took place in them. These 7 became known as the "Norwich 7".

None of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts of the **Prison Chaplaincy** because they know that behind every prison door is a broken heart and Jesus heals the broken hearted, a heart hardened by abuse can be softened by divine love, a memory distorted by guilt will respond to an offer of divine forgiveness. A mind that is confused can be clarified by divine wisdom, a conscience that is seared can be renewed by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and trust that has been destroyed by abuse can be healed by human kindness offered over a sustained period.

Some of the team will continue to meet with the "Norwich 7" on a weekly basis to mentor them and help them continue the new path they have found.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, and the motto of Kairos is:

"Listen, Listen, Love, Love".

Love is the key that unlocks the chains and enables the change because in every situation.... Love wins.

For more information about Kairos see

https://kairosprisonministry.org.uk/

Do you know you have a Saviour who loves you too, regardless of your past? His name is Jesus.

Why not find out more about him today just like the "Norwich 7" and start on a new path.

For more information about Norwich Anglican Cursillo contact the editor of this booklet through the office contact details on the back page. Written by a Cursiesta from Taverham. (A Cursiesta is a person who has been a participant on a Cursillo Retreat.)

CAP - local news

If you are in debt or not in debt, the offer of a private, personal health check on your finances may be a good thing to consider. You can make contact — see poster or contact our Benefice Office for even more local information. We are working in conjunction with Dereham Baptist Church to promote this service.

Local Contact: **The Church Office** Phone: **01362 858873**Email: contact@matvchurch.uk



Charity money available



Some villages have charities associated with that village and applications can be made to receive grants. Please contact Benefice Office in the first instance. (See back page for contact details)



www.matvchurch.uk

Check out our website for information on who we are, 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!

To Contact Us — for whatever reason.....

<u>Life Events</u> – weddings, funerals, baptisms, memorial services, thanksgiving for a child.....

If anyone wishes to hold a life event in one of our churches, please, in the first instance, contact the Church Office. See below for contact details. Thank you.

Rector: to be announced

Church Office: Dereham Road, Mattishall, NR20 3QA

Phone: 01362 858873

Email: contact@matvchurch.uk

Open: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.00 a.m.- 1.00 p.m.

(except Bank Holidays and annual leave.)

Mattishall & Tudd Valley Benefice

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

Please Note: Information in this publication was correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. Please check with contributors.