

Mattishall and Tudd Valley



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

Index

Welcome	3
Thoughts of Christmas from Carole, Yaxham Chapel.....	5
Lest We Forget	8
Yaxham Cares	8
Hockering Coffee Morning, Saturday 27th November	9
Yaxham Community Café.....	9
A day in the life of a volunteer at Moria Refugee Camp	10
The Christmas Story	12
Fair Trade for Christmas!	13
Don't be alone at Christmas.....	15
Bumps & Babies and Little Angels group	16
Christmas Fayre, Saturday 27th November	16
Yaxham United Village Carol Service	17
Christmas Services across the Benefice	18
Advent Quiet Morning.....	19
An Afternoon of Christmas Activities	19
Rum Christmas Cake.....	20
Testimony of Denise Colston	21
'Christmas Wrapping'	24
Drop In	25
Mid Norfolk Food Bank.....	26
Say a Prayer For	26
The Bright Party 2021	27
East Tuddenham Festival 2022.....	28
The Chosen	29
The Christmas Story – Bible Readings.....	30
Walking in Shadows	31
Book Review“Dear England...”	34
Who Let The Dads Out?	35
Contact Us	36

Welcome

What is the best future you could ever imagine?

Are you feeling hopeful?

For Simon Kofe, the foreign minister of the Pacific nation of Tuvalu, the answer is No. He filmed himself in the sea to address the COP26 climate change conference - drawing attention to the real impact of sea level rises on his low-lying island nation. He foresees the nation's extinction under the waves.



The commentator Rob Law says “younger people are understandably losing hopes for their futures on a hotter planet. We are seeing the rise of what is known as climate or ecological grief.”

The same lack of hope can be felt by those most affected by Covid-19 - through loss of loved ones or livelihood, or for whom this whole last 18 months has had a personal impact. The increase reported in those suffering from mental health struggles bears testimony to this.

In the face of such huge global challenges, which can dwarf or overwhelm us, where can we find hope?

The bible tells us that we can find hope in Jesus. That's why the church as people or buildings exist: these medieval buildings in our villages that have stood for centuries are testimony to a belief in a better future that transcends the present huge challenges.

They have seen pandemics, wars, and huge changes in society before, but have also seen past challenges overcome, and our society made better. The church is full of those who have a hope that the future can be better

than the past because we believe that Jesus, that Christmas baby, is alive and wants to work in us to transform the world for the better. We believe in hope.

Are you hopeful? Where can you find hope?

Join us in 2022 to find that hope, or to renew it. What is the best future you could ever imagine? Join one of our **Hope Explored** courses to discover for yourself.

With every blessing,

Mark

Rev Mark McCaghrey

Rector: Mattishall and Tudd Valley Benefice



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

Thoughts of Christmas from Carole, Yaxham Chapel

Christmas! It's almost here. It's a busy time of the year, everyone rushing about shopping for food, cards and presents. With the shops all decorated and the Christmas music playing, there's crowds of people, all trying to shop at the same time, making queues, lines of shoppers waiting to pay.

But we all know there is much more to Christmas than shopping, there's much more to Christmas than the turkey, crackers, presents and cards, lovely as these things are. This year will probably be different from the last with different Covid rules, the possible effects of food shortages

"Where's the line to see Jesus" (An original song) by Steve Haupt and Chris Loesh.

Christmas time was approaching,
Snow was starting to fall.
Shoppers choosing their presents,
People filling the mall.
Children waiting for Santa,
With excitement and glee.
A little boy tugged at my sweater,
Looked up and asked me.

(Chorus)
Where's the line to see Jesus?
Is He here at the store?
If Christmas time is His birthday,
Why don't we see Him more?

As I stood in amazement,
At this message profound,
I looked down to thank him,
He was nowhere around.
The little boy at the mall
Might as well have had wings.
As the tears filled my eyes
Thought I heard him sing-
Where's the line to see Jesus?

He was born for me.
Santa Claus brought me presents
But Christ gave His life for me.

In the blink of an eye
At the sound of His trump,
We'll all stand in line at His throne.
Every knee shall bow down,
Every tongue will confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

(Chorus)

Where's the line to see Jesus?
He was born for me.
Santa brought me presents
But Christ gave His life for me.
Where's the line,
Where's the line,
Where's the line for the Lord.

Thinking of that first Christmas over 2000 years ago, there were people waiting to see Jesus. The first one to see Jesus I'm sure would have been his mother Mary. A very special young woman who loved God and knew His word (the Bible). She was given the greatest honour God has ever given to a young woman, to carry, deliver and bring up His own son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Although very surprised by the angel and the message he brought, she was ready to line up and do exactly what God asked of her.

Are you ready to get in linewait for..... and be available to do what God asks?

Probably the second person to see the baby would have been His earthly father, Joseph. A young man, a carpenter, but someone ready to marry a young woman expecting a baby that he had nothing to do with, not worrying about what other people thought but doing God's will. Now he finds himself in a strange town, where maybe he didn't know anyone and where Roman governors were ruling over the people. He may have been frightened and worried for his wife and baby.

There were shepherds, very poor men whose job was looking after sheep, out on the hills around Bethlehem, probably a bit dirty from sleeping and living out on the hills, a bit smelly even. These shepherds came quickly to see the baby telling how they had had an angel visitor who told them God had given to them and all people, a Saviour and they would find Him in a manger in a stable. Other angels had joined in with this wonderful news, praising God. They just knew they had to get in line to see Him, they wanted Him for their Saviour.

Much later the wise men came. They journeyed a long way to see Jesus. We think of these men as rich and important, learned men, probably because of the gifts they brought.

There may have been others who came to see Jesus, perhaps the innkeeper, his wife, people staying at the inn, we don't know.

The people we do know who came to see Jesus were all different, they were young and old, rich and important and poor. It doesn't matter who we are or where we come from or what we have done in our lives, we can all get in line to see Jesus, to ask Him to be our Saviour and Lord of our lives. If we haven't taken that step, what a wonderful time to make that commitment, today, as Christmas is approaching.

We will all stand in line, in front of Him, at His throne one day and He will know whether we loved Him as Saviour and Lord of our lives. There is a decision to be made by each one of us. "Join the line to see Jesus" and have a very blessed Christmas in these worrying and uncertain times.



Lest We Forget

We remember

From 14th November and the traditional Sunday service of remembrance, through the following week, when most of our parish churches were open and to Sunday 21st November, when there were services especially allowing a space to remember those we have lost and the annual memorial service in Mattishall; in this season of remembrance, the church provided a range of places and opportunities for all to reflect on that which we have lost. All were able to seek God's presence and power and to discover His healing and peace.

If you weren't aware of these opportunities and would like us to pray for and/or with you, then contact us. See the back page.



 GOOD
NEIGHBOURS
NETWORK



YAXHAM CARES

HERE FOR YOU, HERE FOR US ALL

07765 263389

YAXHAMCARES@GMAIL.COM



**Saturday 27th November
10 - 12**

Hockering Village Hall

*Start the festive season at our family
friendly coffee morning*

Everyone Welcome

**Delicious cakes, tombola, books, bric-a-brac,
light refreshments and more!**

***Can you beat the Bagatelle and the
Flower Pot game?!***



**Wishing you ALL a very
Merry Christmas**

**All proceeds towards
St Michael's Church**



**Yaxham
Community
Café
Yaxham
Village Hall**

**A friendly café atmosphere awaits you in
the village hall twice a month.**

**Come and meet some new faces or bring
your own company.**

**We're open on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the
month.**



December – 9th
January – 13th & 27th
February – 10th & 24th
March – 10th & 24th
April – 7th & 21st

Need transportation ?? please
contact us on :

Café Coordinator:
07765 263389
yaxhamcommunity@gmail.com

A Day in the life of a volunteer at Moria Refugee Camp

Get up. Find clothes. Water bottle. Eat. Brush teeth. Go to camp. Briefing. Working. Tents. My friend, I need shoes. Tea. My friend, I need a blanket. Tarps. My friend, I need a jacket. Tools. My friend... Nightfall. Fighting. Pregnant refugee friend beaten. Keep working. Another fight. Man. Drunk. Keep working. Radio. Fire.

Stop.

Sometimes in a day there are defining moments. 'Fire', that's one of those moments. A simple enough word, just four letters, sometimes a good thing; cosy, warm, bright. In a refugee camp you don't want to hear that word. So when it comes, crackly and urgent over the radio, you have a moment amongst yourselves where your eyes quickly meet, and in unison, you move. You burst out of the volunteer container, follow your shift coordinator through the gate and run towards it, the blaze atop a hill that you know shouldn't be there. That's Section E- a ridge on a hill filled with tents from the UN, a place for families, a place that you told an Afghan family earlier in the night would be safer for them, as you persuaded them to move in. Fire... Accident? Arson? Fire...

Follow shift coordinator. Shift coordinator runs into heart of the blaze. LOUD. Explosion. Fire meets night sky. Stop. A quick flush of sickness. Adrenaline. Action. Call people back, call people back. High-vis-vests stand out. Crowds. Turn back. Gather volunteers into container. Get phone from bag, get flashlight from bag, grab a walkie. Call people back using the walkie. Volunteers returning. One of your volunteer friends stumbles back. Wailing. Crying. Sobbing. Somebody has died. Don't think about that now. Responsibility- gather volunteers. Get volunteers out. Another volunteer friend returns. Wailing. Crying. Sobbing. Rips off high-vis-vest. Anger. Punching. Walls. Pray. Aloud.

Go outside. Try to reach shift coordinator. No response. Try again. Next in command makes the call. Evacuate. Get your stuff. Get ready. Go now. She leads from front, you'll lead from back. Try to lock door. Won't lock. Push harder. It locks. Now the outer gate. Translator friend shouts to leave it. Manage to lock it. See masses of people gathering by the flames. Shouting, screaming, burning. Go. Out by the shortcut. Down a hill. Skid down a track.

Duck under a tarp. Step over a tent. Walk fast. Angry shouts behind you. People beginning to fight. See you and get angrier. Begin to come after you. Shouting obscenities LOUDLY. Throws a metal barrel after you. Don't look back. Walk faster. Run? Out the gate. Turn left. Keep walking. Find the meeting point. Gather. Find muster list. Names. Missing. Names. Missing. Names. Missing. Three missing. Remember who. Radio. Wait. Three figures walking. Everyone here.

Fire looms in background. LOUD. Fire truck. LOUD. Two shots. Warning shots. Tear gas? Police. Riot police. Top gate bursts. People flooding downhill. Time to keep moving. Keep walking. Along the road. Dark. LOUD. Cars pass. Fast. Urgent. Keep to the side. Keep moving. See translator friends run back towards camp. Some cars stop. Volunteers picked up. Bit by bit. You're picked up. Drive. Quiet. Gather in the nearby village. Cold. Huddle. Talk. Pray.

Pregnant refugee friend is quiet. Find car. Send her to hospital. Frightened refugees arrive in village. Woman faints. Panic attack. Lies on ground. Crying. Cold. Huddle. Talk. Pray.

1am. Told to go home. Don't want to go. Want to go into camp. Time to go... Home.

When you wake up in the morning you never know what the day holds. Perhaps you have your plans, your intentions, but you never know for sure what's going to happen. Sometimes you can't begin to imagine what lies in store.

In memory of our friends, a Kurdish family, who passed away during the night of the fire.

Finally, be strong in the Lord
and in his mighty power.
EPHESIANS 6:10



The Christmas Story

The Christmas story is not about an apple cheek baby and fluffy donkeys. It is a gritty drama about a very pregnant, unmarried teenage girl, walking many miles as dictated by an occupying army, being offered no hospitality by anyone in a strange town, having to give birth in a cowshed surrounded by animal poo. No light or heating, no running hot water or baby care package, no midwife, no mum to hold her hand. Then a bunch of guys who smell like sheep turn up saying that angels told them to come. Then later being visited in the night by three foreign, rich guys, giving weird presents, which hardly help a new mum, I mean what exactly do you do with Frankincense anyway? Is must have been very confusing.

Just when Mary probably thinks things can't get any worse, Joseph, her fiancée, who knows he is not the baby's father, announces that an angel told him that the king is jealous and wants to kill baby Jesus and they must run to Egypt and must set off that night, 430 miles across the Arabian desert. When they eventually get there, the locals would not have been thrilled to see them; as Jews and Egyptians had a long history of not getting along. Jesus and his mum Mary spent the first part of his childhood as refugees. You can read the full story in the gospel of Matthew, chapter 2.

As we see from the news, the refugee crisis all over the world is growing. It is estimated that there are 80 million refugees in the world today, more than double the number there were at the end of World War Two. Covid 19 cancelled Christmas celebrations for many last year, and as we prepare to celebrate Christmas with our family and friends this year, let us remember those who do not have a comfortable, safe place to be. Let us open our hearts and homes to those who may be lonely or afraid. God promises a special blessing on those who welcome strangers and Jesus said 'whatever you do for the least of these my brothers and sisters you did it for me' Matthew 25:40. So let us remember it is not fluffy donkeys and fat men in red suits that make a truly wonderful Christmas, but how we treat those around and about us. Who can you reach out to this Christmas?



Paula Finlayson

FAIR TRADE FOR CHRISTMAS!

Make this a fair-trade Christmas! Here's why!

Covid19 and the climate emergency have had and are having, devastating effects on everyone, but it's much more serious if you haven't much money to start with! Many people, here and around the world, have found their environment changed completely and their livelihoods vanished. Like Farida in Bangladesh, who has had to rebuild her house because the sea level is now rising round her village, and Mwanaida in Tanzania, who is having to grow new climate resistant crops to get a harvest to sell. (Information from Traidcraft-Exchange)



But we can help them!

Fair trade and the advantages it brings, can make a huge difference. I've met Nadira, in Puducheri, India, who is now trained in making incense sticks, meaning her life as a single mother is more secure. And in Guatemala, Maria's skills as a potter mean she can send her son to high school, thanks to help accessing bigger markets for her pots. Florencina and her neighbours, talented knitters in Juliaca, Peru, are smiling these days. They have a proper, written contract, from fair traders, and some payment upfront so that they can afford the alpaca fleeces they need for their beautiful scarves and jumpers. (Yes, fleeces! They clean, card and spin the wool before starting the knitting - hard work.) They live on the Altiplano and life has become tougher because of increased droughts.

Buying where you see the fair-trade logo (traidcraftshop.com is a good place to start) means that skilled farmers and artisans get proper payment for their products, and can really use their talents and labour, to access more opportunities and consequently better housing, education and job choices for their families. Take a look at what Traidcraft has to offer on their website - and if you want to order locally, Fred Garner (01362 850750) will do that for you, as a Traidcraft rep. It couldn't be easier to do different. The Body Shop is great at any time of year - their trendy wrapping papers come fairly traded, straight from Kathmandu, and all their products are ethical and fair.

Now isn't that a great way to give at Christmas - three hearts cheered, you the giver, your family and the artisan or farmer who produced the present? And, post

COP26, our planet has to be part of the equation too. Fair trading also ticks that box because it is sustainable and environmentally ok.

Thank God for an easy way to bring joy to many this Christmas!.

Have a happy one!

Frances Middleton (01603 880345 if you want to hear more about my fair trade trips)



Tie dyeing talents in Thailand



Education at KTS in Nepal



Welcome at Kellapatti fair trade tea plantation, Sri Lanka



Don't be alone at Christmas, come share the day with your friends at Poppies, 12.30 pm onwards

Any residents of Yaxham / Clint Green, without friends, family, or carers to keep them company on Christmas day, are welcome.

£25 per head for 2 courses & will include a

glass of Sherry or wine :-

Roast Turkey dinner with all the trimmings
Xmas pudding or Apple pie, with custard or cream
Mince pies with Tea or coffee

Places are limited, reserve a seat with £10 deposit

We can cater for anyone with special dietary requirements, but we will need prior notification.

Poppies Cafe & Bistro
Yaxham Waters Holiday Park, Dereham Road
Yaxham, NR19 1RF

Telephone: 01362 562019

Bumps & Babies and Little Angels group

Bumps & Babies and Little Angels group each Wednesday during term time



We are up and running again!

Welcome to our group which is held in All Saints Church, Mattishall and is a group for all babies, pre-school children and their grown ups. We meet 9.00-11.30 each Wednesday during term time. For more details, please see our Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/LAMattishall.](http://www.facebook.com/LAMattishall)



Yaxham United Village Carol Service

19th December 2021 – 2 pm

For decades this carol service has taken place in the village hall but for this year, and hopefully for this year only, it will be in St Peter's Church at 2pm on Sunday 19th December.

We thought with Covid- possibly rearing its head, and the number of people who attend in a village hall (which gets very hot) it may be best to relocate to a larger building where people can sit in the nave or lady chapel and be away from others if they so chose. Don't worry the church is heated!

We look forward to welcoming you again this year as we celebrate Christmas together and sing the carols we all love.

Yaxham Chapel – Carol Service – Chapel at Clint Green 6.30 pm on 19th December – all are welcome

Yaxham chapel hopes to carol sing in Clint green again this year. On the 22nd December from Paper Street to the School and on the 24th Well Hill to Spring Lane



Christmas Services across the Mattishall and Tudd Valley Benefice

Carol Services

East Tuddenham	Fri 24 Dec	16.30	
Hockering	Sun 19 Dec	15.00	
Mattishall	Sun 19 Dec	18.00	
North Tuddenham	Sun 19 Dec	14.00	
Welborne	Sun 19 Dec	15.00	With the Salvation Army
Yaxham	Sun 19 Dec	14.00	

Christmas Eve/Day

East Tuddenham	Fri 24 Dec	16.30	Carol Service
Hockering	Fri 24 Dec	23.30	Holy Communion
Mattishall	Fri 24 Dec	16.00	Christingle
Mattishall	Sat 25 Dec	10.30	Holy Communion
Welborne	Fri 24 Dec	21.30	Holy Communion
Yaxham	Fri 24 Dec	20.00	Holy Communion
Yaxham	Sat 25 Dec	09.30	Crib Service

No service at North Tuddenham owing to building works

Boxing Day

Mattishall	Sun 26 Dec	10.00	St. Stephen's Day
------------	------------	-------	-------------------

Advent Quiet Morning

*All Saints Church, Mattishall
Saturday, 11th December 2021
10am – 12.30pm*



Come as you are for the whole morning or pop in for a short while.

We will be offering a quiet time of reflection in this busy season.

*Reflective spaces, creative spaces, prayer path
or just be still.*

*To be Covid safe, please wear a mask.
Hands – Face – Space*

An Afternoon of Christmas Activities

Sunday 5th December, 2.30pm – 4pm

**All Saints Church
Mattishall**

**Lots of Family Fun
Crafts, Games, Refreshments and more!**

Free Entry



You will find Father Christmas in his grotto at the church between 2.30 – 3.45pm (£3 per child)

Followed by refreshments & Christmas songs on the **Village Green at 4pm**

with the switching on of Christmas Tree Lights at 5pm

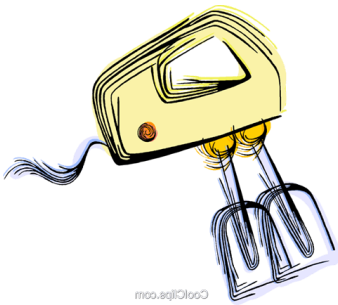
Hosted by Mattishall Parish Council



Rum Christmas cake

One Cup of sugar
 one teaspoon of baking powder
 1 Cup of water
 1 one teaspoon of salt
 One Cup of brown sugar
 lemon juice
 four large eggs
 nuts
 a bottle of rum
 two cups of dried fruit

Then sample a cup of rum to check quality take a large bowl check the rum again to be sure it is of the highest quality then repeat turn on the electric mixer beat 1 cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl add one teaspoon of sugar beat again at this point it is best to make sure the rum is still okay try another cup just in case turn off the mixerer thingy break two eggs and add to the bowl then Chuck in the cup of dried fruit pick the fruit up off the floor wash it



and put it in the bowl a piece at a time trying to count it mix on the Turner if the fried fruit getas stuck in the beateries just pry it loose with the drews schriever sample the rum to test for tonsisticity next sift 2 cups of salt or something check the rum now shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts add one table add a spoon of sugar or somefink whatever you can find greash the oven turn the cake tin 360



degrees and try not to fall over don't forget to beat off the Turner finally throw the bowl through the window finish the rum and wipe the counter with the cat

Richard Hipperson, a friend of Patricia Menaul's

I am honoured to share this very real and true story of hope and restoration. I am currently a missionary to Europe and have been travelling around the UK for 6 months. However, my story started a long time ago on a different continent.

I was born in Michigan USA. My parents were married but did not attend church nor did we discuss Jesus in our home. Very early in life my father went to prison for abusing a little girl and my mom became addicted to drugs. I was homeless, hungry, abused, and scared. I never had a home more than two years at a time. My aunt and grandmother did their best to rescue me from the living conditions that my mom subjected me too, but their rescue never lasted. I survived childhood.



At 10 years old I was invited to attend a vacation bible school event at the First Baptist Church in Florida. The church members came into my neighbourhood offering candy and a lot of fun if we would attend their week event. I went to this event for the candy bars, but I found Jesus. I accepted the invitation on the last day and walked to the front of the church with my young brother in tow holding my hand and gave my heart to Jesus. I was changed forever.

I prayed earnestly for my mom to receive salvation. In 1985, a miracle happened. My mom went to a home bible study and gave her heart to Jesus. I remember the walk home with her, she was so overjoyed to received Jesus that she threw her cigarettes away in the street. My mom died 7 years later of severe obesity. She was 610 lbs and only 44 years old. She is with Jesus now.

I grew up working hospitality jobs and finally at 28 completed my nursing degree and started my career as an emergency room nurse. I worked long hours as a nurse, but I loved the work.

Personally, I had several failed relationships over the years and ended up with 5

children to raise. (3 of my own and two stepchildren). I had determined to never get married again but then I met my dear Christian husband Mornas. He was a deputy sheriff at our county Sheriff's office. Mornas was divorced with two children. We had a year long courtship and determined that we could combine our families and make it work. We did just that.

Mornas and I raised our children and became caretakers for his parents in our first 4 years of marriage. His mom and dad both passed away in those first 4 years, but we continue to find joy in the day and in our love for each other. We attended church and filled our home with worship almost daily. It was a great life. Our children grew up and went off to either college or the military.

In 2016, on September 10 at 910pm I had a knock on the door. I went to answer the door and my world was turned upside down. I was told to get to the hospital because my husband was in a motorcycle accident. I arrived at the same hospital I had worked at and ran to the trauma room past the security and found my husband deceased on the hospital bed. He had a heart attack while riding his motorcycle and crashed. He was dead on the scene and had no hope for resuscitation.

I was hopeless for first time in my life. I had always been an optimistic person, the life of the party, the encourager, the nurse, the fixer but now I was broken, and I could not fix this.

All the children returned home, and we buried my husband a week later and I was numb. I was a widow at 48. I went back to work and threw myself into projects at my corporate level job. I worked with a team that open several hospitals all over the United States. Two years had gone by, and I was working 60-100 hours a week in my career. The stress and grief became so great that every night I was drinking myself to sleep. One glass of wine became two bottles along with sleeping pills to just shut down my brain. I was crying at home constantly praying and hiding all the pain of losing my beloved husband. I was slowly subconsciously attempting to leaving this world.

But God. Jesus met me in the middle of my pain. On April 20, 2018, I was flying home from Chicago to Orlando on Southwest Airlines. I had a massive hangover from the celebratory business meeting the night before. We landed on the tarmac, and I got my carry-on luggage and began to deboard the plane. While walking up the jet bridge I felt a heavy weight lift off me. I was stunned and turned around to see who touched me. No one. It felt as if I was wearing a

heavy wet fur coat, and someone took it off me. I recognized it was the Lord, but I did not know then the totality of that moment. I was in the presence of the Holy Spirit, and He was not leaving. I could not stop noticing the Love of God in me, around me, through me and with me. He was in my car, in my bedroom, in my kitchen, He was everywhere. He did not leave. The tangible presence of God was flooding my soul, my spirit, and my body.

The evidence of my encounter with Jesus began to manifest in my body. I was weighing 275 lbs (19.64 stones). I began to lose weight very quickly. With dieting. I lost 50 lbs. in three months. I was completely healed of Hashimoto's disease and vitamin D deficiency. I was a diabetic and was completely healed and was asked to stop my medication at one of my doctor's visits. My life changed by being in the presence of God.

The biggest change that happened is that I was no longer blaming God for my husband's death. I had a bad view of Father God at that time. I would pray to Jesus, but I was afraid of God the Father. I know it's messed up. I was healed. Holy Spirit revealed to me that God is not a thief, He is a good Father, and He loves me. God's plans for me are good and not evil to give me an expected end. I now believe that.

Holy Spirit invited me to retire from nursing a year later. He said "I have a great adventure for you. I retired after 22 years of nursing. I travelled solo across North America (from Florida to Alaska and back across Canada then down to Colorado) I have since graduated with a degree and minister licence from Bible College in the USA.

While at bible college Holy Spirit showed me my purpose in life is to be a missionary and tell my testimony and the gospel of Jesus to as many as He tells me. He said to me "Preach the Preaching that I bid thee." My home church prayed and agreed and sent me out. Now I am a missionary to Europe. I began in the UK in May 2021, and I have travelled and ministered from Plymouth to the Shetland Islands, from Wales to Norfolk and many places in the middle of this beautiful island.

Listen, God has a plan for you and it's good and it's never too late to hear God.

Blessings

Denise Colston

comeseeglobal@gmail.com

'Christmas Wrapping'

Just as we unwrap Christmas presents let us try to unwrap Christ Mass. Who, What, When, Where, Why, How ?

Primarily we know why God came to live amongst us. To pay the price of sin. God had decreed, a soul that sins must die. God kept this law but wondrously came and paid that price himself, so much does He love us. That essentially answers the queries What, Why and How and most of Who.



'When' is more difficult! Jesus was born in the Northern Spring, probably mid-March because that was when Hebrew shepherds led their flocks out to pasture from their Winter quarters. March /April is Passover time and this corresponds with the Paschal lamb who is Yeshua Ha Messiah, Jesus the Messiah. It was the early church that decided to hold Christ Mass at the year end to wean people away from the orgiastic Saturnala festival in late December.

In answering Who, we have Mary and Joseph. Had Joseph lost his first wife? Did he have other children? He is now betrothed to Mary. She tells him she is pregnant, but he has not touched her. He decides to break off the betrothal but in a dream God tells him to marry Mary.

Now he has to go to Bethlehem to register and many others are doing the same. Joseph has family in Bethlehem. Why does he decide to go to an inn? Is he embarrassed and wants to avoid family because his fiancée is pregnant? There is no vacancy at the hostelry, so he has to accept hospitality from relatives who live upstairs above the donkey manger. When Mary commences labour the women of the household lead her downstairs for privacy and make a cradle in the hay.

Shepherds hear the angel choir and see the brightness of the star. What about the neighbours? Do they crowd around amazed and wondering?

There are no wise men at the birth, they came later. What happened to the costly presents they gave Jesus?

There is so much more to know of Jesus' birth. Forgive me for wondering, but join me in praising God for so loving us that He sacrificed the human Jesus so that believers will be forever with the Divine Jesus.

Malcolm Hunt

DROP IN

Hi

Each Thursday morning we hold a coffee morning in All Saints Church, Mattishall from 10am until 12. Everyone is welcome to come along, meet friends and maybe make new ones. We serve tea, coffee, wrapped cakes, biscuits and other treats. There is no charge but we do ask for a donation if you are able to give, (suggest £1 minimum) to cover some of the cost. Not bad for as many cuppas that you can drink during the morning!

We are a very friendly group having lots of chat, fun and friendship to brighten up Thursday morning. Some of us then move on to have lunch together in The Swan, it makes a nice outing for us and saves having to cook!

We will be meeting during December until the 16th when we will have our Christmas buffet party from 12 in the church. For this date we suggest a £5 donation as we will provide lots of lovely Christmas food and treats and we will be singing carols and Christmas songs.

There will be no Drop In on the 23rd or 30th December. We will be starting again in the New Year on 6th January 2022.

We love to see new faces any time.

God Bless

Lizzie





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,

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.)

The Bright Party 2021



SO MUCH FUN was had at All Saints Mattishall church on Sunday 31st October by many local families. It was so good to be able to get together again for our **Annual Bright Party** (a safer alternative to Halloween) after being halted during the pandemic! Craft activities, games, biscuit decorating, gift bags and lovely refreshments were enjoyed by all. **LOVE in ACTION.**



The background of the entire poster is a photograph of the stone tower of St Mary's Church. The tower is a tall, multi-story structure with arched windows and a crenellated top. It is surrounded by green trees and grass. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

NORTH TUDDENHAM FESTIVAL 2022!

CELEBRATING THE RENOVATION OF ST MARY'S CHURCH TOWER

Friday 6th May 2022

“MUSIC ALIVE!”

A night of great sounds and easy listening

Saturday 7th May 2022

**“FARMING FOCUS and
WILDLIFE WANDERINGS”**

**Agricultural advances in our village today
& the vibrant life of NT Common**

“CINEMA IN THE NAVE AT NIGHT”

Hollywood is coming home!

Sunday 8th May 2022

SERVICE & TOWER DEDICATION

HISTORICAL TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

COMPETITIONS FOR THE CHILDREN

GRAND FINALE BONFIRE & PARTY!

THE CHOSEN by Alan Cossey

Have you struggled to picture realistically how the events in the gospels happened? If you are like most people, you will have. What if there was a TV series that went more deeply into the events and the characters involved than you get in your usual “Jesus film”? Interested?



“The Chosen” is a crowd-funded, multi-season television drama about Jesus Christ and takes us deeper and interestingly into what the New Testament gospels portray. To quote the producers, the aim of the drama is ‘not only to dig deeper into the people who encountered Jesus and to see Jesus through the eyes of those who met him, but also to show him in a way that is more “personal, intimate, immediate.”’ We started watching it in our weekly home group in October and have loved it as it made the events in the gospels so much more real to us. It has also got us looking more deeply into the gospels themselves.

The first episode introduces us to Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and Nicodemus, giving us possible back stories for each of the characters, seeing their troubles and their joys and introduces us to Jesus near the end of the episode. Episodes from then on are centred on Jesus. To quote part of the opening credits, “All biblical and historical context and any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures. Viewers are encouraged to read the gospels.”

“The Chosen” is a wonderfully produced way of making the events of the gospels come alive and see who Jesus truly is. It can be watched for free on

apps on iPhones and Android devices, from YouTube or directly from their website at <https://thechosen.tv>.



Alan Cossey

The Christmas Story

If you would like to read the Christmas Story in the bible here is a suggestion for you:

Isaiah Chapter 9, verses 6-7

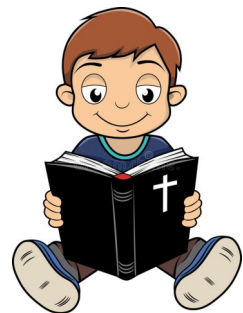
Matthew Chapter 1, verses 18-23

Luke Chapter 2, verses 1-7

Luke Chapter 2, verses 8-14

Luke Chapter 2, verses 15-16

Matthew Chapter 2, verses 1-12



Enjoy and be joyful

Walking in Shadows by Revd Andrea Woods

When I get up in the morning one of the first things I do, is to open the curtains in the kitchen. We are very blessed that our Kitchen window gives us a view of open fields. In the last few weeks, I have been greeted with the most amazing sunrises. The golden ball of fire emerging through the morning mist.



In the winter that sunshine provides such an amazing gift as the hours of daylight are reduced and we spend more time in darkness.

Over the past 2 years we will have all experienced those moments of light in the darkness. The kindness of friends and neighbours, the wonders of technology that have allowed us to keep in touch with family and friends. There has also been change after change as rules and regulations have had to be adapted in the fight against Corona virus.

These changes, along with trying to continue in some state of normality have played havoc with emotions and I for one have really had to learn to be kinder to myself.

I am blessed that I have been able to continue to work through this pandemic and while some activities are on hold and some have moved on- line, I still have a job.

There have been times of darkness. My dad was chronically ill for a while with no particular diagnosis and only phone conversations with Doctors. He was admitted to hospital 3 times with Pneumonia and eventually, earlier this year he died. As his health worsened and he got weaker there was still light. His faith in the Lord Jesus Christ allowed him to speak with such wisdom about

death and his desire to be with The Lord he had loved and served all his life. In grief these conversations have been a great comfort.

There have also been times of Joy. The birth of our first grandson, definitely a light in the darkness, a real reminder of new life and of the hope we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. He is about to turn one and moves at the speed of light and his laughter is contagious.

However, with so much that has changed I for the most part have felt a sense of walking in shadow. This did get me down until I began to realise what shadow was.

We all go through times in our lives when life hurts, when people upset us or when things just don't go the way we thought they would.

As I began to reflect on shadows, I was actually encouraged there is always light if we look for it.

My first thoughts occurred during one particular sleepless night. I was wide awake at 4 am. I opened the curtains, the sky was clear, the stars shone brightly, and I was reminded of God's promise to Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars. (Genesis 15:5). The star that led the Magi to worship Jesus (Matthew 2). Jesus saying: 'I am the light of the World.' (John 8:12)

Psalm 119:105 *'Your word is light to my feet and a light to my path.'*

There in the darkness of the morning was light.

Often at funerals we read Psalm 23. As I read this in preparation for one particular funeral I was struck by the line *'Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil.'*

It occurred to me in that moment that there can be no shadow without light behind it. Where there is shadow there is light, there is hope.

Shadow can only be created by light. Therefore, if we walk in shadow then by its very nature, we know that there is light behind it and we can have hope that Christ walks with us in that shadow.



Covid 19 is still with us but there is no fear in shadow. Where the sun still rises in all its glory and the moon and stars give light to the night there is always hope.

As the church enters the season of Advent, a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus, we can have hope that the light of the world was born in order that we might live life in all its fullness.

This hope is found in Christ alone, our Saviour, Emmanuel – God with us.

With every blessing for Christmas

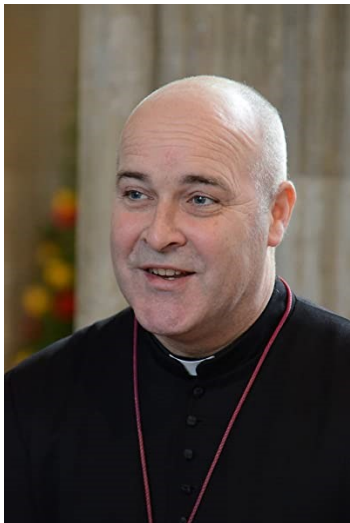
Andrea

Rev Andrea Woods

Assistant Curate



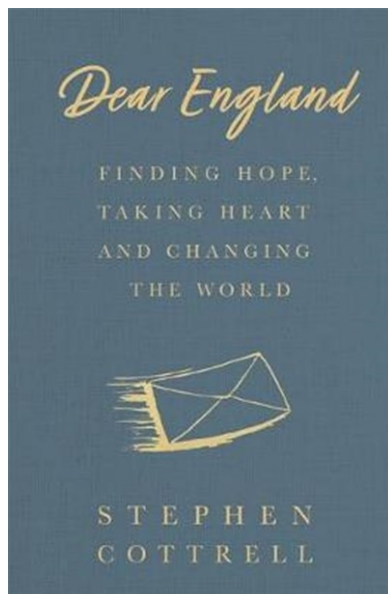
Dear England by Stephen Cottrell



This book is written by Stephen Cottrell (Archbishop of York) after a young woman asked him 'What made you become a priest?' The conversation took place by a coffee bar on Paddington Station and he was just off to catch his train. The ensuing conversation was brief and the author felt, inconclusive. He then reflected on that conversation and the result is this book.

It is a contemporary view on the world and relevance with his faith in God, written with the current context of Brexit, COVID and climate change. It is not full of jargon and easy to read, an eyeopener in many places.

A thought provoking book which may cause you to think about matters in a different way, it may even begin to change your life and so help change the world! A bold statement for a bold book. Enjoy and reflect.



Review by Jackie Crisp.



Who Let the Dads Out? (AKA WLTD0!)

Back in May 2019 we started a monthly group for dads and young children. The various lockdowns stopped us from meeting for 18 months or so, but we are now back meeting on 1st Saturday of each month 9.00 - 10.30 a.m. in All Saints' Church, Mattishall. If you are a dad (or other male carer) and have one or more little ones aged 0 up to and including school year 2, then do please join us. Feel free to stay for as long or as short a spell as you want. We have lots of toys for the kiddies and table football and air hockey for the dads and the older children as well as snacks and hot and cold drinks. We even have bacon butties!



The cost is £2 per family per session.

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

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