

North Tuddenham The Mardle



'Adoration of the Magi' c.1495-1505 by Andrea Mantegna

A Parish Newsletter **January 2024**

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO IS HAVING DIFFICULTY IN
OBTAINING A PRINTED COPY OF 'THE MARDLE' **PLEASE RING**
MIKE: 07951 956906

Issue 483

St. Mary the Virgin—Church Notice Board

Rector

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Church Office: 01362 858873

e-mail: contact@matvchurch.uk **Website: matvchurch.uk**

Churchwardens

Mrs Jools Smith Tel: 07719 341282

Mrs Christine Blake Tel: 07836 708874

JANUARY 2024 — CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday 7th —10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 21st—10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

For Sunday Services held at other parish churches within the Benefice, please ring Church Office or see Website :

matvchurch.uk for times

AND all of you with access to the Internet, do please join a Service being held at 9.00—9.30 am each Friday morning specifically with St. Mary's and North Tuddenham parishioners in mind

<https://tinyurl.com/matv-weekdays>

QUOTATION: I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.

Jeremiah 29:11

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Village News

63 church attendees was the best turnout for a Carol Service since 2017.

Rector Mark presided over the occasion. The 9 volunteers from the village delivered bible readings with confidence; the congregation sang loudly; munched their way hungrily through the mince pies and biscuits; supped the mulled wine and some even rolled dice down the aisle of the church! That was definitely a first!

And everyone showed tremendous generosity in contributing a record amount to the church collection.

Thank you so much.

Raising funds will be vital for the survival of the church in the medium term, not just through collections, donations and grants, but through community activities that bring the village closer together .

We have a beautiful church with some unique examples of heritage, plus fantastic acoustics!

Working together with the Community Association and others, we owe it to sponsors of the restoration to maximise the potential of our treasured building and integrate it better into the community and maintain its viability.

Parish Council

Whilst your Parish Councillors enjoy their festive season break, Vicky has asked me to remind you that the next Parish Council meeting is on

Tuesday 9th January at 7:30pm

High on the agenda will be deciding the way forward on the Village Development Plan,

This is why a healthy attendance at PC meetings is essential for good democratic decisions.

Highways

The Courts in London will hear the appeal by Dr Boswell against the A47 projects.

Meanwhile Norfolk County Council's Cabinet has approved amended plans for the Norwich Western Link and this will now be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

***That's it , briefly , for now
See you in 2024 . A busy year!'***

RECIPE FOR JANUARY

Smoked Haddock Chowder

*It's a simple healthy soup. if you want a kick at the end of it you can add a dash of Tabasco sauce. **It's a big favourite in my household!***



Ingredients

1 onion chopped
2 potatoes scrubbed and sliced
500ml vegetable stock
2 smoked haddock fillets, 100g each and cut into chunks
1 tin of creamed corn milk or sweet corn with milk, if you prefer
Handful of parsley, chopped -just to finish

Method

Put the onions and potatoes into a large sauté pan.
Pour over the vegetable stock and simmer for 6 to 8 minutes until the potatoes are soft but still have a slight bite.
Add the chunks of smoked haddock, dip in the creamed corn and add a little milk if you like a thick chowder, more if you like it thinner.
Gently simmer for five to seven minutes until the haddock is cooked. It should flake when poked with a fork.
Sprinkle over the parsley if using and ladle the chowder into the bowls.
Serve with crusty bread.

It makes a lovely lunch or supper

JS / BBC 101 One-Pot Dishes

T.E.S.

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December 'Mindteasers' Answers 1% Club

- Q1. **T&E** (can replace & in others with *and* to make words)
- Q2. **Ten** (inside other words are eight & nine)
- Q3. **Forty** (alphabetical order)
- Q4 . **NEWS** (compass points)
- Q5 . **Lion** (First letter of listed animals spells *ANIMAL*)



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January Mindteasers

- 1. What letter can replace the question mark in this sequence?
f, e, ?, r, h**
- 2. In sport, if FT gets you GD and SD gets you SR, what does TD get you?**
- 3. What pattern do all these words have in common?**

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Magi: In Christian tradition, the noble pilgrims “from the East” who followed a miraculous guiding star to Bethlehem, following the star to the house where Jesus and Mary were, where they paid homage to the young child Jesus as king of the Jews. They were probably Persian or Arabian astrologers who charted the stars and attached religious significance to their movements. They were not kings as is sometimes thought, and Christian theological tradition has always stressed that not only Jews but Gentiles came to worship the Christ Child. Also they did not arrive with the shepherds; Jesus may have been as old as 2 when they came.

The Bible does not tell us how many Magi came to Palestine. It only says: “Magi from the east came to Jerusalem.” *Matthew 2:1*. In one catacomb painting in St. Peter Cemetery there are 2 Magi. In the Lateran Museum and in the Catacomb of Peter and Marcellinus there are 3. In the Domitilla Catacomb there are 4. A vase painting in the Kircherian Museum in Rome has 8 wise men crowding the house where Jesus and Mary reside. The number of Magi in very early Christian art ranges from two to a gaggle.

Although their names are not recorded in the biblical account, the names of three Magi—Bithisarea, Melichior, and Gathaspa—appeared in a chronicle known as the *Excerpta latina barbari* in about the 8th century; they have become known most commonly as Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar (or Casper). However, traditions and legends identify a variety of different names for them.

Apart from their names, the three Magi developed distinct characteristics in Christian tradition, so that between them they represented the three ages of (adult) man, three geographical and cultural areas, and sometimes other things. In *one tradition* **Caspar** is old, normally with a white beard, and gives the gold; he is “King of Tarsus, land of merchants” on the Mediterranean coast of modern Turkey, and is first in line to kneel to Christ. **Melchior** is middle-aged, giving frankincense from Arabia, and **Balthazar** is a young man, very often and increasingly black-skinned, with myrrh from Saba (modern southern Yemen). Their ages were often given as 60, 40 and 20 respectively, and their geographical origins were rather variable, with Balthazar increasingly coming from Aksum or other parts of Africa, and being represented accordingly. Balthazar's blackness has been the subject of considerable recent scholarly attention.

Cont.....

The subject of which king is which and who brought which gift is not without variation depending on the tradition. The gift of gold is sometimes associated with Melchior as well as Caspar and in some traditions Melchior is the old man of the three Magi, a Babylonian scholar. Not only the gifts, but the place of origin of each of the Magi is also somewhat conflicting:-

Melchior, legendary figure, said to be one of the Magi who paid homage to the infant Jesus. According to Western church tradition, Melchior is often represented as a king of Persia and is usually said to have given the gift of gold to the Christ Child. In art he is frequently depicted as the oldest of the three Magi, often with a long white beard. The three named Magi are venerated as saints and martyrs and are celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany in the West.

Balthasar, the second legendary figure said to be one of the Magi who paid homage to the infant Jesus. According to Western church tradition, Balthasar is often represented as a king of Arabia or sometimes Ethiopia and is thus frequently depicted as a Middle Eastern or Black man in art. He is usually said to have given the gift of myrrh to the Christ Child.

Gaspar, or Caspar—the third legendary figure said to have been one of the Magi who paid homage to the infant. According to Western church tradition, Gaspar is often represented as a king of India and is usually said to have given the gift of frankincense to the Christ Child. In art he is frequently depicted with a reddish beard.

The three gifts **are** explicitly identified in the gospel of Mathew: gold, frankincense and myrrh. In Koine Greek these are *chrysós* (χρυσός), *líbanos* (λίβανος) and *smýrna* (σμύρνα).

Many different theories of the meaning and symbolism of the gifts have been brought forward. While gold is fairly obviously explained, frankincense and particularly myrrh, are more obscure. All three gifts being ordinary offerings and gifts given to a king. Myrrh commonly used as an anointing oil, frankincense as a perfume, and gold as a valuable. The three gifts also had a spiritual meaning; gold as a symbol of kingship on earth, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of deity, and myrrh (an embalming oil) as a symbol.

JANUARY 2024—VILLAGE EVENTS

All held at Village Hall unless otherwise stated

7th Mid-Norfolk Guild of Spinners & Weavers 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.

9th Parish Council Meeting 7.30 prompt

10th Windmill Quilters 10.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m. Jenny Smith 01362
422051

16th Windmill Quilters 7.00 p.m.-9.00 p.m.

24th Windmill Quilters 10.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.

25th 7.30 p.m.—£1.50 p.p. to include refreshments.
D. Riches 01603 880458 — ALL warmly welcomed.

27th Mid-Norfolk Guild of Spinners & Weavers 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.

Sincere thanks to Christine Mobbs for vital Village Hall information

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Village Hall is available for hire @ very reasonable rates.

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