Mattishall and Tudd Valley



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

2023





"A dog is not just for Christmas...."

Without a doubt, what makes Christmas special for so many are the traditions that only happen once a year — Christmas Crackers and the wearing of paper hats, Christmas presents, drinking concoctions that you wouldn't any other time of the year (for one member of my family it was Cherry Brandy — never drunk any other time). You will have your own list. Even in our contemporary society, where the habit of weekly attendance at church has waned, going to a Church service remains one of those popular traditions. All over England, people will go to their local church to sing carols, or make Christingles, or remember promises made long ago at confirmation services.

In our uncertain world, with brutality aplenty, many struggling day to day, and concerns about the changes in our climate and its increasing impact on lives around the world, where changes come thick and fast, what will you find when you join go to church? A few traditional songs, an orange with a candle, and nothing else? Behind the words of the carols, the symbolism of the Christingle and the promises made long ago in confirmation services, is the person of Jesus and what he means for us today. The bible says that he came to bring us peace — not just an absence of war, but a peace in our lives, and most especially with God. He walked on this earth like ours with brutality, struggles, fast changes and uncertainty, and his message was spoken for times like ours.

But just as a dog is not just for Christmas, it is for life, not a gift for one day to be put down the next, so is church, and the traditions behind it.

Jesus came not just for one day, but for a life which starts now and leads into eternity as a gift to be accepted and which keeps on giving.

So we look forward to welcoming you to one of our Christmas services and events in the name of Jesus whose gift we have opened, and in the hope that you find, through him, that peace which keeps on giving.

Mark McCaghrey

Rector: Mattishall and Tudd Valley Benefice

Phone: 01362 882260

Email: mark.mccaghrey@matvchurch.uk

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)

We pray for specific villages each morning at Morning Prayer on Zoom:

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

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

Christmas is a time for little things.

If I could sum up Christmas in one thing, it would be this. Not a mince pie, or a wrapped present, or a tree. But a small sugar mouse. I wonder if you remember them? I don't even know if you can still get them. Little shapes of sweetness with string tails. I always ate the ears first.



You see, when my brothers and I were teenagers, too grown and cynical for the magic of Christmas, we had a tradition on Christmas Eve. We would go into the city all together, for a little shopping, a hot chocolate somewhere. And my mum would buy four sugar mice. We would eat them on Christmas morning.

The first Christmas my husband and I had together at 22 years old and feeling somewhere between grown-up and clueless, my mum sent us a package. Among other things, two sugar mice.

My mum has now passed on. She died two weeks before Christmas one year, and as such, we didn't celebrate anything at all for a long while. But now I have children of my own, and new traditions to make. Little things to bring them great joy.

Because love is in the little things.

I wonder if God feels the same way. After all, Christmas is important for another reason. God, the ineffable, infinite and indescribable decided that it would be helpful to see what these humans were up to first hand. And the best way to do that was to arrive as a small, insignificant thing.

Human babies are peculiarly delicate. While some species are up and running within minutes, we have to be held carefully. Anyone who has seen a newborn can agree that they are perfect in miniature (those tiny toes! The fingernails!)

God, the God of all things, a tiny baby. Born not in a regal palace but amongst the straw and the muck. Angels and shepherds peeking in to marvel. So powerless that his parents had flee to another country to escape a mad ruler. So small that he could have been overlooked entirely.

I preached the other week on God's care for the lilies of the field, how beautiful they are considering they don't work for it. God is in the tiny details, in the small actions with great love.

In the newborn. In the sugar mouse.

So I hope your Christmases are glorious, but most of all, I hope you can, in the midst of the chaos and business and weirdness that surrounds this time of year, take a moment to appreciate the tiniest of things. And perhaps take a moment to give thanks to the God that looks at the insignificant and the tiny with great love.

Rev Tori Venmore-Rowland

The Christmas Story

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

- 1. Isaiah 9:6-7 The prophesy
- 2. Matthew 1:18-23 Mary and Joseph
- 3. Luke 2:1-7 The birth of Jesus
- **4.** Luke 2:8-16 the shepherds and the angels
- 5. Matthew 2:1-12 The Wise Men

You can read the rest of the story in the New Testament in the books of Matthew and Luke. There is so much more to discover...... Enjoy

What would you say?

If you were asked what Jesus meant to you, what would you say? I was recently asked this question and here's my answer...

수수수수수수수수

He brings me hope when all seems hopeless in the world;

He brings me peace in the midst of a crisis;

He helps me love those who appear unlovable;

He brings me joy in times of testing;

He brings me comfort at times of sadness and loss;

He gives me faith in times of uncertainty;

He brings me stillness in the storms of life;

He shines His light into the dark times of my life;

He gives me strength when I am tired and weary.



So, what would you say?

Anne Molyneux

Care for the Family



Since 1988, Care for the Family has sought to promote strong family life and help those who face family difficulties.

We focus primarily on the following areas of family life: marriage, parenting and bereavement. Our aim is to be accessible to every family whatever their circumstances and to create resources and support

that are preventative, evidence-based and easy to apply.

For more information on Care for the Family find us on Facebook or simply check out their website www.careforthefamily.org.uk

Anne Molyneux



MATTISHALL COMMUNITY HUB

Promoting social interaction and community projects

Mattishall Memorial Hall 2 – 4pm

Tuesday 5 December 2023

Come and enjoy a free cuppa (& mince pie!) a chat and a friendly welcome in a warm space

2024

First Tuesday of the month starting Tuesday 6 February 2 - 4pm



Charity money available

Some villages have charities associated with that village and applications can be made to receive grants.

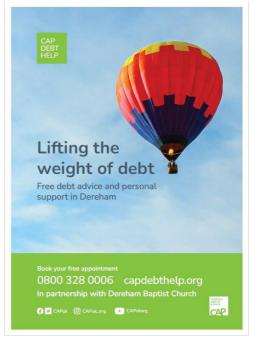
Please contact Rev Mark in the first instance. (See back page for contact details)



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**



WHAT'S ON:



You will find Father Christmas in his grotto in the church between 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. (£3.00 per child)

Then there will be Carol singing on the village green from 4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. with the Christmas Tree Lights being switched on at 5.00 p.m.

Yaxham Chapel

Carol Service in the chapel 6-30 p.m. on 17th December 2023 Carol Singing around Clint Green 21st & 23rd December 2023 starting 7.00 p.m.

Nativity Play:- THE BEST GIFT

Sunday 10th December in Yaxham Village Hall at 3.00 p.m. Friday 15th December in St. Peters Church, Yaxham at 7.00 p.m.

YAXHAM NATIVITY PLAY IS BACK AGAIN !!





Will there be a Spaceship.... Or a Jail ??



See our players in action as a King, sheep, camel, donkey and ???



Well, come and find out for yourself AT....

Yaxham Village Hall

on Sunday 10th December at 15:00

Yaxham Church

on Friday 15th December at 19:00

ADMISSION IS FRFF

Refreshments at the end of the play. Any donations will go to the Church and Chapel funds





DROP IN - Thursdays from 10am until midday

Every Thursday morning throughout the year our coffee morning takes place in All Saints' Church, Mattishall. This is a great opportunity to socialise, chat, eat biscuits and cake while enjoying a cuppa. Anyone is welcome to join us. If possible we would appreciate a donation towards our costs, including heating, (suggest £2). That is not bad for limitless tea/coffee/biscuits.

If anyone feels in need of support for any reason then please have a chat with me, Lizzie. We have lots of contacts with organisations and places where you can get support or you may just feel lonely.

We have our Christmas party after Drop In on the 14th December and then we are closed for 2 weeks, reopening on the 4th January 2024.

My details are Lizzie Loades - 01362 850491

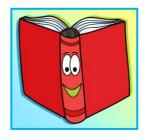
LIZZIE'S BOOK LOVERS CLUB

Very informal friendly group

2nd Wednesday of every month in All Saints Church, Mattishall at 2.30pm

No Set Reading, just a chance to swap books and have a chat about them.

Next meetings 13th December/10th January My details are Lizzie Loades - 01362 850491



Hockering Coffee Mornings

Please join us each month (except April, August & November) for companionship, beverages & cake, games, stalls, fun and friendship. Takes place in Hockering Village Hall 10.00 a.m. to 12 Noon. The Christmas Coffee Morning is 2nd December 2023. (Please see Notice Boards in Hockering for up-to-date details.)



| Christmas Services for the Mattishall & Tudd Valley Benefice | | | |
|--|------------|-------|------------------|
| Carol Services | | | |
| East Tuddenham | Sun 24 Dec | 15:00 | |
| Hockering | Sun 17 Dec | 15:00 | |
| Mattishall | Sun 17 Dec | 18:00 | |
| North Tuddenham | Sun 17 Dec | 15:00 | |
| Welborne | Sun 3 Dec | 15:00 | Salvation Army |
| Yaxham | Sun 17 Dec | 14:00 | |
| | | | |
| <u>Christmas Eve</u> | | | |
| East Tuddenham | Sun 24 Dec | 15:00 | Carol Service |
| Hockering | Sun 24 Dec | 23:30 | Holy Communion |
| Mattishall | Sun 24 Dec | 16:00 | Christingle |
| Welborne | Sun 24 Dec | 21:30 | Holy Communion |
| Yaxham | Sun 24 Dec | 20:00 | Holy Communion |
| | | | |
| <u>Christmas Day</u> | | | |
| Mattishall | Mon 25 Dec | 10:30 | Holy Communion |
| Yaxham | Mon 25 Dec | 09:30 | Christmas Praise |
| | | | |
| New Years Eve | | | |
| Hockering | Sun 31 Dec | 10:00 | New Year's Eve |
| | | | Communion |
| | | | |



Carol Singing around Clint Green
21st & 23rd December 2023 starting 7.00 p.m.

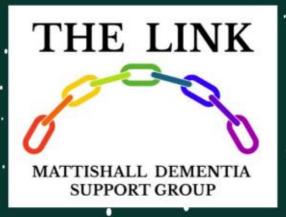
Bible Journaling

We are a friendly group that meets up once a week to be creative around God's word. Learn new techniques and enjoy chatting over a nice cup of coffee. You don't have to be artistic. I provide pictures if you'd just like to glue and stick. There's no right or wrong way! We would love to have you join us every Thursday 10.00 a.m. to 12 Noon at All Saints' church Mattishall. Everyone will be made very welcome. Hope to see you there. Cheryl B.





MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM



WE ARE A VOLUNTARILY RUN AND FUNDED GROUP
FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE DIAGNOSED WITH

DEMENTIA & THEIR CARERS
WE HAVE A SEPARATE CARERS GROUP WHICH RUNS
ALONGSIDE, FOR EXTRA SUPPORT

10AM - 12NOON
EVERY 1ST & 3RD TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH

MATTISHALL METHODIST CHURCH





WHO LET THE DAD'S OUT?

On the first Saturday of every month dads/male carers join us with their children (up to school year 2) for a fun time with



games, toys and crafts. There is always a cuppa with a bacon roll on offer and crisps/snacks for the children. It's a chance for dads to engage with their children or just to chat with other menfolk. We'd love you to join us anytime from 9.00 am - 10.30 am. Cost is £2.00 per family to cover snacks.

For more information please contact alan.cossey@matvchurch.uk





SINGING FOR FUN AND WELLBEING



This is a very informal fun singalong session held monthly. Singing can be uplifting and the aim of this group is to go home smiling.

SONGS ARE ALL WELL KNOWN
We meet in All Saints' Church, Mattishall
1-2pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month
Next sessions 13th December/10th January

Everyone is welcome, no matter what your voice is like!!

My details are Lizzie Loades - 01362 850491

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY AT ALL SAINTS, **MATTISHALL**

LITTLE ANGELS TODDLER GROUP



Party time as some of our older big school

Every Wednesday in term time between 9.00 and 11.30 a.m. the church is buzzing with preschool children enjoying themselves with craft, toys and singing. The adults have chance to chat over coffee and sometimes cake! An area is specifically designated for young children not yet walking while older children can enjoy pretend play, or some messy play. Quieter activities such as craft, construction, puzzles and books are encouraged as well.

If you are a parent/carer at home with preschool children do pop along, meet us and see what you think. It's £1.50 for one child, £2.00 for two or more. We'd love to children leave for welcome you. For more information please contact sue.cossey@matvchurch.uk



Morning session



Parachute fun!

OASIS

On a Sunday afternoon (2nd in the month) we are now running a time for families to come along and explore well known bible stories through drama, craft and song....and it's free!



Upon arrival the children start off with some craft related to the story. It's simple and suitable for young children. We move into the story time with a drama and the children are encouraged to join in. This is followed by a couple of songs with actions that can get everyone involved.

Lastly we finish with food! Savoury foods and sweet are provided for all to enjoy and a chance to chat and mix together.

It takes place in All Saints' Church, Mattishall, starts at **4.00 pm** and finishes around **5.00 pm** depending on how long we spend over food!!

For more information please contact sue.cossey@matvchurch.uk

The Space 4pm - 5:30pm @ Mattishall, Church Rooms

After half term we are starting a Youth Drop-In in Mattishall for year 6 upwards on a Thursday afternoon after school **every other week.**

It will be very chilled and lots of fun. Feel free to join us after you have got off the bus.

You'd be very welcome.



What's on elsewhere in Mattishall:

Mattishall WI 2nd Wednesday. of month @ 7.30 p.m. Mattishall Memorial Hall, South Green, Mattishall. NR20 3JT. *Contact:* Jackie Tooke

Email: jackierosina81@gmail.com Tel: 01362 858447 Mobile: 07508 917460



https://www.facebook.com/SqueezEastConcertinas

Mattishall Sports & Social Club South Green, Mattishall

Various Sports and Social Activities Contact: 01362 850246

Scout HQ School grounds for girls & boys (Term time only)

Beavers ages 6 - 8 Tues. @ 6.15 - 7.30pm

Contact: Su McKinnell 07514 032678

Cubs age 8 - 10 Weds. 6.15 - 7.30pm

Contact: Emma Day eeyore41983@aol.com

Scouts ages 10 - 14 Mon. 7.00 - 9pm

Contact: Ann Futter ann.futter@live.co.uk



Mid Norfolk Foodbank saw its busiest summer holiday period in its 11-year history this year and continues to experience growing demand for its service. Annual food distribution has increased by 52% on the previous year and a very busy winter at

the foodbank is anticipated.

Rising food prices have impacted on our donations so if you are able to, please give an item or two when you shop to help those in food poverty. You can give locally at both Tesco and Morrisons stores in Dereham. We are very grateful to both supermarkets for their support.

As we approach our busiest time of the year, our most-needed items are:

- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned meat and fish
- Instant mash
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned rice pudding
- Long life fruit juice & UHT milk

And as Christmas approaches, please consider donating an item which we can put in our Christmas boxes, such as Christmas puddings, tinned custard, small boxes of chocolates, savoury and sweet biscuits and selection boxes.

Please see our website for details of other donation points in our region and items we most need - https://midnorfolk.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

If you are struggling to put food on the table, please visit https://midnorfolk.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/

Thank you for your support.

Mid Norfolk Foodbank Newsletter

Mid Norfolk Foodbank has been serving the Dereham, Fakenham and Swaffham area for 11 years. It is part of the Trussell Trust Foodbank network of more than 1,300 foodbanks nationally, providing practical support to people who can't afford the essentials. We have more than 60 volunteers helping keep our foodbank up and running. They are the life blood of the organisation.

We provide 3 days' worth of nutritionally balanced food as well as toiletries, nappies, baby milk and pet food to those who have been affected by a sudden crisis. There are many reasons why a person may need emergency food. Some of these are unemployment, bereavement, sickness, domestic violence, immigration status, debt, delays to a benefit claim or a benefit sanction to name just a few.

In the past year we have handled approximately 115 tonnes of food. 56 tonnes has come in, 32 tonnes of that being donated through supermarket collection bins and 8 tonnes from local churches. Just under 60 tonnes has been given away – the equivalent of 60,000 kilo bags of pasta!!

We have responded to 2,048 requests for emergency food in the past year, feeding 5,574 people, within those 2,246 are children. The 2023 6-week summer holiday was our busiest ever with a 62% increase in food parcels given out.

Since opening in 2012 the foodbank has fed 31,500 people, that's not far off the total population of the 3 towns of Dereham, Swaffham and Fakenham put together.

None of this would have been possible without the support of churches, community groups, schools, local businesses, and the general public and so we say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us this past decade.

Our vision is to see an end to the need for foodbanks in the UK – but while we

work towards that goal, we are ever grateful for your ongoing support as we continue to meet the needs of those in food poverty.



foodbank

COLLECTION

Some of the Mid Norfolk Foodbank volunteers pack food parcels in the Dereham warehouse.







Yaxham Primary Academy

As we move towards Christmas at Yaxham, we have been reflecting on the value of generosity.

As a small school, we benefit so much from the help and support received

from volunteers. We couldn't achieve all that we do without the generosity of the community that supports us through giving their time to work with us, as well as fundraising.

2 Corinthians 9:7
Each one must give as
he has decided in his
heart, not reluctantly
or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful
giver.

Reflecting on the support we receive, and learning from others, has inspired children to look at how they can give to our community. The children provide support to others in school, supporting each other and volunteering for a range of roles. This year we worked together to raise over £500 for The Brain Tumour Charity through a non-uniform day and carwash, collected 60g of donations for the Mid-Norfolk Foodbank and supported the Dereham Community Litterpickers, collecting 30 bags, 107kg of rubbish!







Yaxham prinary School is a place where we all care for each other.

Children are now thinking about how they can leave their legacy and

improve Yaxham Primary for children in years to come.

We give thanks to all those who have inspired and supported us. We couldn't be prouder of our children, with the care they have for the A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit.

- Greek proverb

community and the responsible citizens they are becoming, making our world a better place. We look forward to sharing their achievements in the future.



Please pop in for a warm welcome at Green Pastures. We have lots of Christmas cards and gifts for you to browse. We also sell Christening, Baptism, Wedding and Confirmation gifts. You can buy National Book Tokens here too!

And, if you don't fancy the trip, we have a webstore where you can do your shopping online.

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

Hockering Church of England Primary Academy

Hockering 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.





We have enjoyed maths cafés in both classes this half term. A chance to see how the children learn calculations in school, focusing on number, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing.

We have also been learning about our community;. Looking at our village and the local area and learning about the features of the landscape and surrounding area. 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 at Dereham.

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.trinityfederation.co.uk



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!

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. Tori Venmore-Rowland

Email: tori.venmore-rowland@matvchurch.uk

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 and 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.