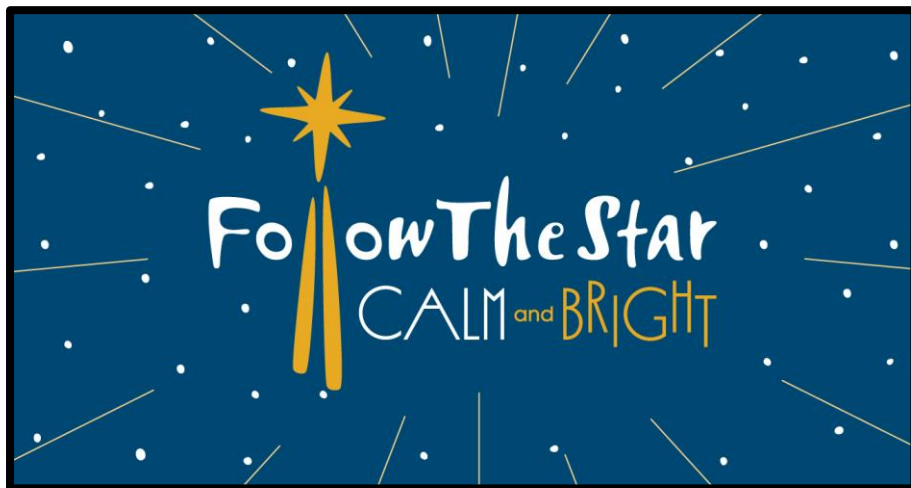


Mattishall & Tudd Valley Benefice



*Christmas Greetings
from the churches of Hockering,
Mattishall, Yaxham, Welborne,
East Tuddenham and
North Tuddenham.
2024*



Christmas is a great time for families to get together (if you have one) and generally people seem to be nicer to each other around this time. We enjoy the festivities. We may get a nice warm feeling about life for a while. We might even go to church!

But the basics of Christmas go much deeper than this. Christmas, in its essentials, is about God putting into action his plan to solve the fundamental problems of mankind. Sometimes we admit to ourselves that we aren't what we want to be, what we realise we ought to be, and we know we can't solve this problem ourselves. We realise that this life is not *ultimately* fulfilling. It was at that first Christmas, 2000 or so years ago, that God became one of us, as Jesus, in an event full of intrigue, involving foreign agents infiltrating a state run by a ruthless ruler, the murder of innocent children and people being forced to flee abroad. It was messy and hard for those caught up in it, including Jesus and his family

Why would we want to think of such things at Christmas, a time of such fun? It might be because we want to see past the trappings and the tinsel and find the deeper reality of life. Forget what you have read before or seen or heard in a nativity play, fun though they are. Have a read of the first 3 chapters of Luke's gospel and see what God was doing as he entered our world to live as one of us on the first step of a journey that would lead, 30 years or so later, to the heartbreak of Good Friday and the triumph of Easter Day. God is not "up there" just telling us what to do; he became one of us, with all the messiness that life entails, to sort you and me out so we can live a life now "in all its fullness" (John 10:10), to bring us into his family and for us eventually to spend eternity with him, beyond all the pains, aggro and hurt of this present life.

Seems to me that this is worth checking out in case, somehow, it is actually true. What do you think?

Alan Cossey - Lay Minister

News!

In summer, this year, we said goodbye and thank you to Revd. Mark, our Rector and Revd. Tori, our curate. Each of them has gone on to pastures new and we sent them off with gratitude and love for all they had done for the communities they served and led.



We are now looking for a new Rector and prayerfully hope a new Rector can be announced in early spring 2025. Please do pray for God's person to come, to both lead and serve us.

Thank you!

Jackie Crisp – Lay Minister

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.

Away in a Manger

It was the beginning of December but there was little sign of Christmas in the village of Dangebora in Bangladesh.

We had been listening in silent shock and sadness to the voice of the elderly Dr Haque, as he indicated the empty medicine shelves in his dark little "surgery", and quietly told us of his uncertainties for when he dies....

We stumbled out into the harsh sunlight - and there, not fairy lights and Christmas trees, but vibrant, glowing colours and the sound of drums and pipes, as the villagers greeted their important visitors (us!) with songs and chanting, and their beautiful traditional costumes. They led us in procession to the centre of their community, sat us in the best seats and then entertained us with their dancing and singing and reciting..... Every group in the village had something to contribute. We were there for hours, as the sun set around us.

Then our Christian Aid minder, Mohammad, turned to us and said, " They would like you to sing now." A moment's discussion among us, and we started to sing *Away in a Manger*.

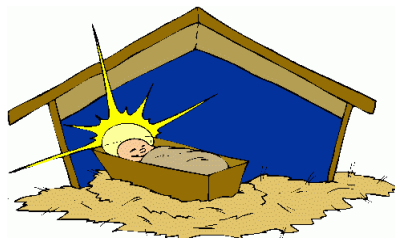
There in front of us now, their big wondering eyes following our every move , were the children of Dangebora, listening as we sang to the end ..

"Bless all the dear children in thy tender care".

To this day, every Christmas, I remember those children from Bangladesh - the poorest of the poor, living with such rampant injustice, but rich in warmth and love and enjoyment of life. Singing that carol always brings a lump to my throat. God bless all the dear children.....

Happy Christmas.

Frances Middleton



Did Jesus really exist?

Well, the following people, all within 80 years of his life were certain enough that they wrote about him as a real person:

Mark (the author of that gospel).

Matthew (the author of that gospel and who took some of his info from Mark, but also added plenty of his own details as well).

Luke (the author of the gospel and who took some of his info from Mark, but also added plenty of his own details as well. He also wrote Acts of the Apostles).

John (the author of that gospel).

Paul (former enemy of the Christians, who wrote several letters to churches and individuals).

Peter (yes, the one who opened his mouth so often before engaging his brain, but went on to be a pillar of the Christian church).

James (half-brother of Jesus?). Leader of the church in Jerusalem, who was murdered in the early 60s.

Jude (half-brother of Jesus?).

Whoever wrote the Letter to the Hebrews.

Suetonius (probably – A Roman historian who mentions a person called Chrestus, the cause of trouble in Rome which led to the Jews there being expelled for a time. Chrestus was an alternative spelling of Christus, just like Chrestianoï (Christians) was an alternative spelling for Christianoï until at least the 4th century AD).

Tacitus – A Roman historian.

Pliny the Younger – A Roman politician who wrote to the Emperor asking what to do about Christians in his area and mentions who they thought Jesus was.

Josephus – a Jewish historian. His biggest piece of work seems to have had some bits added later (probably by Christians later), but there is an underlying passage generally agreed to be original. Separately speaks about John the Baptist.



Clement – A 1st century Christian leader of the church in Rome.

Alan Cossey – Lay Minister

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 is Hope Explored?

Six hundred years before Jesus was born, a prophecy was made about him, that he would be called “Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”. The gospel of Luke, which is an account of Jesus’s life, explains how these prophecies came true, and that this is great news for all people.



All over the world millions of people find hope and help in knowing Jesus Christ. Hope Explored is a three-session series about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that examines his extraordinary claims. Through teaching from Rico Tice and studies from Luke’s Gospel, Hope Explored shows how Jesus offers us a hope worth having, a hope that won’t disappoint us.

What is each session about?

Over three sessions, Hope Explored presents the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and provides an opportunity to discover how he fulfils three great longings we all experience: the longing for hope, peace, and purpose.

The structure of each session is simple: a short Bible study, a talk and a discussion based on the talk.

If you would be interested in knowing more about this short course, please do let me know. **jackie.crisp@matvchurch.uk**



**This Christmas, please pop in for a warm welcome at Green Pastures.
We have lots of Christmas cards and gifts for you to browse,
We sell a range of different gifts. You can buy National Book Tokens
here too!**

<https://www.greenpasturesdereham.org.uk/>

20 Norwich Street, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1BX

Tel: 01362 697953

MYTH BUSTING!!

Did you know nearly every parish in the country has an Anglican church, (the people and the building) where those in the parish can turn to for whatever reason? Such is the beauty of the Church of England!

Did you know the churches are all open and kept open for you by the congregations and supporters of those churches? They receive no outside financial support, except for occasional part-funding of building repairs.

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

Did you also know, three churches in this group of churches in the Mattishall group, have joined a relatively new initiative, The Parish Giving Scheme. This new scheme enables all in the parish to support their church very efficiently. Each church may have a project which you may be interested in supporting.

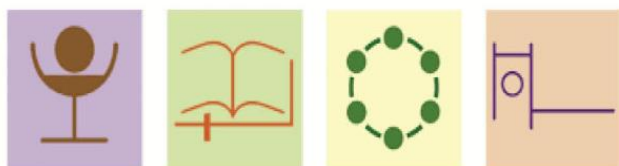
For further information, please contact:

All Saints' – Mattishall - sue.cossey@matvchurch.uk

St Mary's – North Tuddenham - mike_smith8@icloud.com

St Peter's – Yaxham - clarke@swallowbarns.co.uk

If your local church is not included in the scheme, please do still make contact with them if you would like to know more and feel you may be able to help them.



PARISHGIVINGSCHEME

<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/the-parish-giving-scheme/>

YAXHAM VILLAGE NATIVITY PLAY 2024



With, yet again, an exciting and amusing theme

Can you spot a SUPERHERO in this picture ?

**COME ALONG AND FIND OUT WHAT THIS
YEAR'S PLAY IS ALL ABOUT**

Yaxham Village Hall on **Sunday 8th December**
at 15:00

Yaxham Church on **Friday 13th December at 19:00**

ADMISSION IS FREE

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

**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 are open on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month from 10am – 12pm

Our **Christmas Café** is on the 12th December, usual time with a touch of festive glitter ☺

We return in January 2025 on the 2nd Thursday as

Need transportation please contact us on :
Café Coordinator:
07990 725728
yaxhamcommunity@gmail.com

Hockering Coffee Mornings



Please join us for companionship, beverages & cake and sausage rolls, games, stalls, fun and friendship. The venue is Hockering Village Hall, Heath Road, Hockering - 10.00 a.m. to 12 Noon (dates for 2025 are below.)

This year's **Christmas Coffee Morning** is **Saturday, 30th November 2024.**

The dates for 2025 are 18th January, 15th February, 15th March, 17th May, 21st June, 26th July, 20th September, 18th October and the **Christmas Coffee Morning** is 29th November, 2025

(Please also see Notice Boards in Hockering for up-to-date details and mini-leaflets are delivered to as many homes as possible in the village before each event.)

Christmas Community Supper

FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER
7.00 pm

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MATTISHALL

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG

Storytelling ∞ Music ∞ Quiz ∞ Christmas Singalong ∞ Supper

This is a FREE Event for all local people





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).

BOOK SWAP - We also have some books available to take away, just call in to the **DROP IN** at ASM to have a look.

CRAFTY - We offer the chance to bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery along to chat about with others and for people to have a go at knitting etc. and learn from each other.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - On Thursday 12th December we are holding our final meeting before Christmas and will have entertainment from Dereham based Bell Ringers and lunch. We meet that day from 10am as normal and the entertainment 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 12th 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, 1-2pm just before book club. The evening session is on the 4th Thursday

of the month from 7-8pm. Sessions are normally held in ASM - plenty of space and we arrive a bit early for a cuppa together before we start. Some meetings have been held in the church rooms (next to the surgery) when the heating has been out of action in the church but hopefully by the time this goes to print things will be back to the church.

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 and we have led community singing at social events in the village.

Our next event for the choir to lead the singing is at the **COMMUNITY SUPPER** to be held on Friday December 20th at 7pm 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 supper, quiz, singing and entertainment. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

At the summer supper over 65 people attended and we had a great night. For more information about any of the above, please contact Lizzie Loads on 01362 850491



**An Afternoon of
Christmas Activities**

Sunday 1st December, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

**All Saints' Church
Mattishall**

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

Free Entry

**Father Christmas will be in his grotto, in the church, between
2pm and 3.45pm. (£3 per child).**

**Carols will be sung in the church at 4 pm and the Christmas
Tree lights will be switched on at 5 pm on the Village Green.**

Christmas Events and Services

Dec.	
1 st	All Saints, Mattishall – 2 to 4 pm Christmas Fun afternoon followed by lighting of the tree and refreshments on the Village Green at 4.30 pm
8 th	Yaxham Village Hall – Yaxham Chapel Nativity Play – 3 pm ‘A Super Christmas’
8 th	All Saints, Welborne – Carols with the Salvation Army – 3 pm
13 th	St. Peter’s, Yaxham - Chapel Nativity Play – 7 pm ‘A Super Christmas’
15 th	St. Mary’s, North Tuddenham – Carol Service – 3 pm
17 th	St. Peter’s, Yaxham - Carol Concert – 7 pm
20 th	All Saints, Mattishall - Christmas Community Supper – 7 pm
22 nd	All Saints, Mattishall – Carol Service – 6 pm
22 nd	St. Michael, Hockering - Carol Service – 3 pm
22 nd	Yaxham Chapel, Clint Green - Carol Service – 6.30 pm Led by Glen Fox and friends from the village
24 th	All Saints, Mattishall - Christingle – 4 pm
24 th	All Saints, Welborne – Holy communion – 9.30 pm
24 th	All Saints, East Tuddenham – Carol Service – 3 pm
24 th	St. Peter’s, Yaxham – Holy Communion – 8 pm
25 th	St. Peter’s, Yaxham - Christmas Day – informal service – 9.30 am
25 th	All Saints, Mattishall - Christmas Day Holy communion - 10.30 am
29 th	All Saints, Welborne – Churches together –10 am - only service in the benefice.

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

Yaxham Carol singing around Clint Green:-

Monday 23rd December 7.00 Well Hill

Tuesday 24th December 7.00 Paper Street

Mattishall Methodist Church



Carol Service - Sunday 22nd December at 2.30pm with our new minister Revd Derek Grimshaw

Weekly Sunday Services at 2.30 p.m. See Noticeboard for details. All welcome.

Mattishall Evangelical Church

Christmas Services:

Sunday, December 22nd, 4.00 pm,
Carols by Candlelight

Christmas morning, 10.30 - short
service of celebration and
thanksgiving



© Ray Taylor

World Day of Prayer Service

Venue: MATTISHALL ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

When: Friday 7th March 2025 at 2.00pm

All welcome to attend.



If anyone would like to take part in the set service prepared by the Christian women of the COOK ISLANDS on the theme "I made you wonderful" please contact Eileen on 01362 692809.



As many of you know my beloved husband Ian died of Motor Neurone Disease - MND on 14th August 2024. I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support

Ian's Memorial Service at St Peter's was attended by almost 200 people; it was an amazing show of love and respect.

Over the past 20 years Ian had worked tirelessly to support Yaxham's interests. He was Chair of Governors at Yaxham Primary School, chair of the Neighbourhood Plan and a District Councillor.

Ian was a much loved husband and friend. The collection in memory of Ian in support of MND is still open. To date it has raised over £5,000

<https://ian-martin4.muchloved.com/>

Susan Martin



Van has been a timely gift as food bank demand continues

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



Above: Crayford & Abbs Sales Director Rupert Fox (left) hands over the keys to the new van to foodbank trustees Dave Pearson (far right) & Trevor Theobald and Operations Manager Suzanne

Our little workhorse van - made possible by a National Lottery Cost of Living grant last December - has been super busy since it arrived at our warehouse. We wonder how we ever managed without it! It has helped us move around 37 tonnes of food so far this year and is about to work even harder this coming Christmas and winter as

we provide emergency food parcels and Christmas boxes for those in financial crisis.

As food prices stay high, donations have at times dipped. So, we once again say thank you to those of you who regularly give food or support us with financial donations.



We know it's simply not right that people have to turn to charity for something as essential as food!

So please:

- Reach out to us if there's anything we can do to support you.
- Continue having conversations with friends and family about the impossible decisions people visiting foodbanks are facing and explain how they can help us in the coming months.
- Remember in prayer our hard-working 60-plus volunteers as we aim for a future where no-one needs emergency food parcels, and everyone *can* afford the essentials.

Contact details:

35 Neatherd Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 2AE

Tel: 07542 106107



Please donate food & essential toiletries via our collection points – check our website (or telephone us) to see what items are needed most right now:

<https://midnorfolk.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

*You can also download the BanktheFood app onto your mobile phone to receive the most up-to-date list of our food needs and drop-off points: **<https://www.bankthefood.org/downloadapp/>***

Any goodies like those in the picture (left) will be gratefully received until December 14th when we will be packing about 200 Christmas boxes.

Thank you !

Mid Norfolk Foodbank is a CIO registered in England and Wales under charity number 1151547

LITTLE ANGELS

Our toddler group Little Angels meets every Wednesday morning in term time from 9.00 am until 11.30 am in All Saints Church, Mattishall. We offer a safe space where pre-school children can play with an array of toys giving the mums/dads/carers a chance to



chat over a cup of coffee or tea. Grandparents are also most welcome. Each week activities include creative play with play dough, sand area (or other messy play!) colouring or painting, a simple craft which is based on a well-known bible story, plus role play, soft play and much more.

There is a separate quieter baby area for those with little ones not yet walking but you are free to join in around any area of the church with the other children if you wish to mix with other adults. Mid-morning small tables are cleared, and snacks are prepared for the little ones. Some weeks cake is available for the adults! Once finished, play continues until we gather for story and songs, closing off the morning with bubbles and sometimes a parachute action song.

We would love you to join us with your little ones. We charge £1.50 per session with one child or £2.00 with 2 or more which covers expenses for snacks, heating and replacement of toys. All our helpers are volunteers as we love to serve our community. Currently we have mainly 2 to 4 year olds but not many babies. So, if you are new to the area and are currently at home with a new baby (or pre-school children of any age) do pop along and give us a visit, we would love to meet you.

If you need any further information please contact me on **sue.cossey@matvchurch.uk** or the Church Office on **contact@matvchurch.uk**

Who Let The Dads

For 5 years or so we have been running Who Let The Dads Out? on the 1st Saturday of each month at All Saints, Mattishall. It is a time where dads (and the occasional granddad) bring their young children (new-born to school year 2) to spend some time together, chat and, maybe, give mum a bit of peace and quiet back home. There are plenty of toys and games for the children and the dads, e.g. table football and air hockey, and we have bacon rolls, snacks and drinks for everyone. We finish up with having a bit of fun together up at the front of the church.



We'd love you join us anytime from 9.00 am to 10.30 am, staying for as long or as short a time as you like. The cost is still £2.00 per family, however many children come along.

For more information, please contact us at alan.cossey@matvchurch.uk.



OASIS

Oasis is an event we have started up at All Saints Church, Mattishall in the last 2 years for families with young children. This runs from 4.00 pm until about 5.00 pm. We commence with a simple craft which relates to the story for that session. The story is acted out in a little drama sketch, which the children are invited to join in with and dress up in if they want. This is followed by a short prayer and then an action song that is easy to follow for both children and adults alike! As with many things we do at All Saints, we finish off with food, consisting of a light tea of savoury and sweet goodies!

Just turn up there is no booking or charge. Our next session will be 8th December (The Christmas story) We would love to welcome you.

If you need any further information please contact me on
sue.cossey@matvchurch.uk
or the Church Office on **contact@matvchurch.uk**

It got me thinking!

I wonder how you felt the evening of the 29th October, when you discovered that there was little or no water in your taps - an event that, by the time you read this, you have forgotten about! How did that realisation make you feel? Annoyed? Frustrated? Vulnerable? I remember waking up the next morning wondering if I was able to make a cup of tea! It got me thinking! If that's the only problem I've got to wake up to today, then well, "*praise the Lord!*"



Some years ago, my family lived in India where power cuts could happen 2 - 3 times a day and very often the water was cut off for hours and on occasions, for days at a time! We very quickly learnt how to adapt in that sort of environment. Those occasions made me very mindful of those living in the slums and out in the fields who toiled through daily life without those basic human essentials.

In our community, we very often take so much for granted. We turn on the tap and water pours out; when we flick a switch, our lights come on; we can make our beloved cuppa without a second thought; we cook our meals on a stove; we probably have a freezer stocked with food without worrying about it perishing and many of us can ramp up the heating when it's cold.

It got me thinking further! We have the freedom to walk down our streets in safety; we have free access to medical care, education and welfare; we can shop in a supermarket stacked with food from all corners of the globe; we can drive or take buses on safe, maintained roads into our local towns and our stunning countryside; we can sleep safely at night and so **so** much more...

We have **so** much to be grateful for. Maybe as you read this, remember to say a prayer for those who are trapped in war zones, those who are homeless or feel vulnerable in their own homes, those who daily struggle to make ends meet and for those who will be lonely this Christmas.

Rather than focus on the things we don't have, let us focus on what we do have and have an attitude of gratitude towards God for His provision...it's all His anyway!!

You may like to say this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, as we celebrate Your birth this Christmas, we thank you for all the good things You give us and for Your protection on our lives (*take time to name the things you are grateful for*). Help us never to take these things for granted. May we receive Your love, peace, patience and kindness so we can share those blessings from You with others, especially those who are lonely or vulnerable. Amen.

In the Bible it says: 'Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for his answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians 4v6-7

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas.

Anne Molyneux



A Universal Heart.

“Author’s Note on the 2005 Edition.” by Kathryn Spink

“On 16 August 2005 news of the violent death of the gentle and much loved founder of Taizé, who had devoted his life to the quest for peace and reconciliation, shocked the world. When a voice at the other end of the telephone line relayed what had happened, a series of memories came rushing back to me: the time when Brother Roger first opened his arms wide and greeted me with the exclamation: ‘You have come and you are young!’; The shawl he once removed from his shoulders and placed upon mine; The prayers and notes he sent to my husband, thanking him for putting up with my absence from home; the time he spent holding my elderly mother’s hand in the Church of Reconciliation; the way in which he would draw an idea out of the air and leave it somewhere suspended, then search my face with eyes somehow always focused on the invisible, to see whether I was following him; and the spiritual vision he had communicated to me over the years, as much by his presence as by any words.



At Taizé, messages of sympathy and solidarity poured in from far and near. More than ever, it was realized, the community's calling to forgiveness, peace, reconciliation and trust was being put to the test. Brother Roger himself put his trust in the mystery of the transfiguration, that process by which God penetrates those places within us that are hardened, incredulous or disquieting with the life of his Spirit and so transforms them. God, Brother Roger insisted, would traverse them to give them his face. In the days that followed his death, it became apparent to the brothers that dismay at what had happened was being transformed – transfigured even – through the prayers, solidarity and immense sense of communion with people throughout the world.



It is out of the same sense of communion that this book has been reissued, [see details below] in order that those seeking to know about Brother Roger and the community committed to continuing his ecumenical vocation might discover just a little more. It has not been possible to revise completely the original edition, published in 1986, but only to add an epilogue encompassing the major developments of the interim years. The spirit of Taizé, however, has remained the same. It is a spirit of contemplative expectation, trust and hope based on the recognition that God loves us first before inviting us to love him. Such a spirit allows for unlimited possibilities even in moments of trial, perhaps particularly in moments of trial. 'In your darkness', proclaimed Brother Roger, 'a fire is lit which will never be extinguished. You who would be the bearer of a fire into the very hearts of humanity, will you allow the inner life to grow within you?' The continual growth of that life was, in the vision of Brother Roger, the supreme human adventure"

I am hoping this extract may have interested you in finding out more about Brother Roger. It is taken from the book **'A Universal Heart – the Life and Vision of Brother Roger of Taizé'** (2nd Edition) a biography of Brother Roger's life.
<https://www.taize.fr/en>

(The book is available from

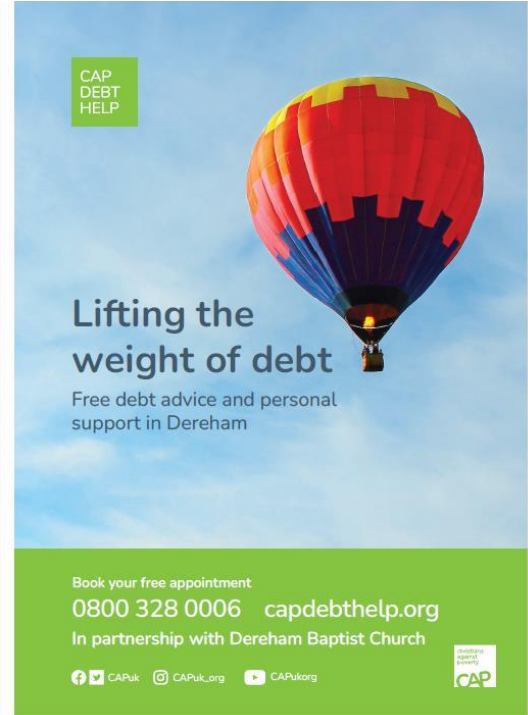
<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/catalogsearch/result/?q=A+Universal+Heart>

(or you are very welcome to borrow my copy.)

Heather Flint

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.

A poster for CAP Debt Help. At the top left is a green square with the text 'CAP DEBT HELP' in white. The main image is a hot air balloon with red, orange, and blue sections, floating against a blue sky with light clouds. Below the balloon, the text 'Lifting the weight of debt' is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. Underneath that, in a smaller font, is 'Free debt advice and personal support in Dereham'. At the bottom of the poster is a green horizontal band. Inside this band, on the left, is the text 'Book your free appointment' followed by '0800 328 0006' and 'capdebthelp.org'. Below this is 'In partnership with Dereham Baptist Church'. On the far right of the green band is a small logo for 'CAP' with the tagline 'working against poverty' above it. Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are also present on the left side of the green band, each followed by the text 'CAPuk', 'CAPuk.org', and 'CAPukorg' respectively.

CAP DEBT HELP

Lifting the weight of debt

Free debt advice and personal support in Dereham

Book your free appointment
0800 328 0006 capdebthelp.org
In partnership with Dereham Baptist Church

Facebook CAPuk, Instagram CAPuk.org, YouTube CAPukorg

CAP working against poverty

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)



Yaxham Primary Academy

It is hard to believe that another year has passed and we are already preparing for the festive period in school.



We light this candle to remind us of all those who travel,

We remember all who search for truth,

We remember all refugees and those who search for homes,

We remember all who care and comfort those in need.

May God bless us all as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

Amen

This

year we have taken time to reflect on what this means to us as a church school.

Every year we enjoy the tradition of the Posada. Children link the story of Mary and Joseph travelling

and being welcomed, to their own experience of being welcomed into Yaxham. This year we have been thinking about how to make our school even more welcoming. It has been lovely to see some of the children's ideas put into practice with the Friends of Yaxham buying new books for our classrooms and funding improvements to our outdoor area. Our oldest children planned and organised a bake sale in order to buy a new football and goal!

We are always so proud of our children and they are able to make a positive change based on what they see. In July we were visited by the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) who recognised the confidence in our children and how they are 'empowered to be agents of change.'

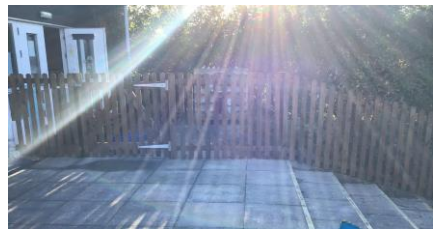
In line with the vision, the school has established a positive culture in which pupils and adults are treated well. With close support from the Trust, they are shown care and compassion. Each member is a valued part of the school community. Staff and pupils have positive and affirming interactions.

Pupils thoughtfully support each other. Staff ensure a school culture of positive behaviour by reinforcing character development. Restorative conversations with pupils build trust and further establish a school culture of care. This is evident in classrooms and around the school as pupils are happy, calm and polite to each other.

SIAMs July 2024

As a team, we can't wait to see how the children continue to have a positive impact on their community as they learn and grow.

With very best wishes to you all, from everyone at Yaxham Primary



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





Hockering Church of England **Primary Academy**

We have been busy at Hockering School since the start of the school year. We celebrated Autumn with our Harvest Service in October at St Michael's Church. The children have been collecting food for the Mid Norfolk Food Bank in Dereham as part of our Harvest celebrations.

Our PTA has been busy redeveloping our pond and garden area with the support of local companies. With the help of volunteers they are clearing



an overgrown area which will become a mixture of 'wild' nature and cultivated areas. This area will be used for outdoor learning and also a space where pupils can relax, reflect and connect with nature.

Current Garden Area

All of our pupils had the opportunity to attend Cross Country Events at another school in October. They enjoyed taking part in this sporting activity and supported and encouraged each other to do their very best. We even managed to avoid the rain!





THE LINK



MATTISHALL DEMENTIA
SUPPORT GROUP

Volunteers and other attendees at The Link
Wish all people with dementia and their carers
In Mattishall

A Happy, Healthy and Peaceful
Christmas and New Year



The Link (Mattishall Dementia Support Group) meets on the 1st
and 3rd Tuesday each month at Mattishall Methodist Church
10am-12 noon.

Due to low numbers The Link may close in the New Year. Our
Christmas Party will be on the 17th December. Any past carers and
members are welcome to come. Please let us know beforehand.
Tel 07769573499.



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



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.....

Rector: to be announced

Assistant Priest: Revd. Sally Thurgill

Phone: **01362 562419**

Email: **sally.thurgill@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 & 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.