



The Messenger

**Holy Innocents Church Gt. Barton
Messenger Newsletter
January 2023**

**Our on-line magazine can be found on our
website: <http://themessengergtbarton.suffolk.cloud>**

Church Officers

Churchwardens	Tim Frost	01284 787442
	Angela Pearce	01359 230395
Verger	Linda Scoles	01359 230392
PCC Secretary	Jane Dalton	01284 788613
Treasurer	Kathy Drakes	01284 787746

January 2023 Parish Letter

I've been the Vicar of Great Barton and Thurston for over a year now. And I love it! I've been thinking about the New Year ahead, and what I might look to next as I serve you as the vicar of your churches.

A couple of things I hear quite often in conversation with people is the phrase, 'I'm spiritual but not religious' and 'I'd like to come to church, but I've no idea what's going on!'

To the first of those, well I can't hand on heart say I'm not religious! The collar is a bit of a giveaway! But I would say that actually I can get on board with that. Quite often in our lives, we feel that there is something missing – even when we feel pretty content with our lives, there's something else going on that leaves us wanting. I remember my Nan, who wasn't a churchgoer herself, when we talked about my faith, saying, "I don't know what it is, but I believe in SOMETHING. I've never been sure, but SOMETHING is here, next to me, with me".

Now, of course I'd *love* everyone to come to church and learn about that 'something', that divine force that is alongside us, listening, guiding and calling to us – the Universe, the Architect, the Blueprint, Mother Nature, God – whatever you call it and however you experience it. But I get that for so many, Christianity is a whole other language, a whole other culture that just seems alien!

One of the things I'm looking to do next year is to cut through some of the jargon (the 'Christianese'!) with some services where you can come along and learn what it's all about – Why do we have bread and wine? What do I do during prayers? What's with all the candles? When do I stand up/sit down? What's the difference between a cassock and a hassock? All those things about church that just seem a bit bonkers – we'll have some services that will explain all of that so that it's less scary and you haven't got to worry about doing the wrong thing or being the wrong person – everyone is welcome in our churches.

And what about if you still don't fancy coming to a church service yet, but really want to explore that 'something', that feeling that there is more to this life than your job or that holiday or that dream home or winning the lottery? There's something you believe in but can't quite grasp? I'd love to talk to you about it – not because I want to convince you about Christianity, although that's the experience I speak from, but to share our ideas of what our faith is and how it informs *our* lives and our lives as part of these communities – I'll be looking to find some spaces and places for informal discussions about all things faith, the sacred, the divine and what it means for you.

I look forward to this year ahead, of being part of these two great communities, these beautiful villages, welcoming those who are part of the village furniture and those of you who have recently arrived – both villages have lots of change in the air, but I think one thing will remain the same; the community spirit that is abundant in both Barton and Thurston – the belonging. You have all made my family and I feel that we belong – and I want you to know that you belong in your churches too.

So as this New Year comes, let's embrace that spirit of newness, exploring our spiritual selves and embrace that deep tradition that was ours all along, discovering anew what our churches have to offer. And as the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our family and our friends – each other. God bless you all.

If you would like to view Fr Ben's message online, please go to our website <https://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk> and follow the link

The Rev'd Fr Benjamin Edwards
Vicar of Great Barton & Thurston



Thank you form Debbie Lucas

Dear all, Many thanks to all who supported and sponsored me for my hair to be cut during 'Coffee for Giles'. We raised an amazing £711.

I have the Alzheimers certificate to show it.

I also gained one from Little Princess Trust who I sent my hair to. Debs Lucas

Now for next year's challenge.



MOTHERS UNION

We meet once a month on the second Tuesday from 2.30pm

We meet at Gt Barton Institute as need the room!

Happy New Year for 2023.

Our first meeting on 10th January in The Rock at Thurston.

Part social, part business and part speaker (Dr Karen Smith) Looking forward to seeing you in 2023.

Contact Jill Rood on 01359 231647.

Together Family Church
22nd January 2023
Starting at 10.00am
for breakfast and the fun
begins
at 10.30am.

TOGETHER FAMILY CHURCH
ALL ONE IN CHRIST

Songs, Activities, Prayer and
Mayhem!

ALL ONE IN CHRIST
in Gt Barton Primary Academy.

Great Barton and Thurston Benefice Services
January 2023

Sunday 1st January:

No Service

Wednesday 4th January:

No Service

Sunday 8th January:

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's at 8.00am

Holy Communion HI Patronal Service and Epiphany at 10.30am

Wednesday 11th January:

Holy Communion (CW) St Peter's at 10.30am

Sunday 15th January:

Together Family Church Thurston Primary Academy at 10.00am

Holy Communion: Plough Sunday at St Peter's at 10.30am

Evensong at Holy Innocents at 3.30pm

Wednesday 18th January:

Holy Communion (CW) Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Sunday 22nd January:

Together Family Church at Gt Barton Primary Academy at 10.00am

Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Wednesday 25th January:

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's at 10.30am

Sunday 29th January:

Holy Communion (BCP) at Holy Innocents at 8.00am

Holy Communion Candlemas at St Peter's at 10.30am

Evensong at St Peter's at 3.30pm

(CW Common Worship, BCP Book of Common Prayer)

Churchwardens

Holy Innocents Gt Barton

Tim Frost 01284 787442 or 07840 249448

Angela Pearce 01359 230395

St Peter's Thurston

Pat Sadler 01359 230865 or 07552 234443

Irene Churchus 01359 230652

One of My Favourite Things....

is sharing stories of friends and acquaintances from the past.

Last October I wrote about Dorothy Lawrence, and her insistence that we turned all the cup handles the same direction in the Church Institute.

Dorothy also ran the Sunday School in 1971. There were nearly 80 children in the Sunday School, which was held in the very cooooold church. There were about six classes, divided by ages. Three days after moving to Gt. Barton, we came to church with June Marsom, who, with husband Paul, had the Post Office, and were our landlords.

Two or three Sundays later, Dorothy announced that the Sunday School was short a couple of teachers, and that she would like volunteers to fill those vacancies. As three of the children were ours, I told her that I would be glad to be a “supply teacher”, to fill-in when a teacher was ill or away.

Dorothy was delighted and asked me to come the next Sunday. I turned up and was assigned the 8–10-year old’s class. There were no lesson plans, no materials of any kind at all, and definitely no part-time teachers!

When the PCC decided that Sunday School should be at the same time as the main service to encourage parents to come to church, Sunday School, now smaller, was held in the Children’s Corner, and up the North Isle. But that was very disturbing for the congregation. Then we moved into the tower bell-ringing chamber. The children loved it, but Health and Safety shut that down. Then we were in the porch for years. (Very drafty.) At different periods we were in the Institute, or the school, or the Vestry. Now we are back in the school with Together Café Church.

Dorothy was a strong character, and certainly had a great effect on my life in Gt. Barton, as I continued to teach Sunday School until Covid stopped all church activities.

This week I had a lovely letter from Jill Cooper telling me some of her memories of Dorothy, and many other people from our past. She said in part, “.... many times, I have recalled the cups in the cupboard, handles facing forwards. I think we all suffered the Sergeant Major’s wrath! However, I also remember her as a good friend, when Jim and I spent many a happy evening with Dorothy in her home.”

Jill mentioned Mary Curtis, Frank Aldous, Irene and Cyril Wade, John Baker, Derek and Janet Hill – each name bringing back my own memories. Jill concluded, “I feel very honoured not only to have known these people but to remember they have been part of my life.”

It has occurred to me since getting Jill’s letter, that we could continue this sharing of memories quite easily.

I propose, with our editor’s agreement, to start a “Do You Remember When.....?” page in the Messenger. If you have a memory or story about someone, email or mail your story to me, and we will see if it brings more stories to share.

How about if we start with Frank Aldous – a particular favourite of mine. Do you remember when.....?

With love, Linda

lindascoles@uwclub.net

or: 5 The Stables, Edwards Place

Stowlangtoft Hall, Stowlangtoft

Bury St Edmunds. IP31 3JY

Holy Innocents Christmas Draw 2022

The draw was made on Sunday 18th December following our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

The Christmas Hamper

Terry Thompson (wood turner at the Christmas Bazaar)

Box of Wine

Betty Blades

Thank you to all who took part by buying tickets and for those who donated prizes.

200 Club Draw for November 2022

The draw was made at Meeting Point Christmas Lunch December 7th

£100 Sue Ward (224)

£25 David Johnson (148)

**Tim Frost
Administrator**

From a Gardeners Notebook, January 2023

“ O come on Mary, you don’t want us out there in January?”

“Sure thing”

“It’s a total waste of time! I’d rather be indoors, in the warm. Anyway, I put my garden to bed in November, and I shan’t be out again until a week before Easter”
This is the opinion of too many people; but I would like to get you to change your mind, and see that you derive pleasure from your “Winter Garden”. Here are a few facts and suggestions towards that aim.

Mornings are best, before lunch – take a late lunch if the weather is kind. It does tend to be better earlier in the day than later at this time of year. Your garden looks and is better in reality than through your windows. Make a real effort to be ahead of the game by the middle of March – you will really notice the benefit later in the season. Proceed with care on occasions, gently rake leaves away with your fingers, rather than going hard at it with a heavy rake, and damaging the tips of your bulbs.

The garden will remain approximately the same for three months, or more. You could not say this at any other time of the year. Remove any perennial weeds, especially those with tap-roots; dig them out with a large fork, making sure that you get all the root. Brambles too: dig or mattock them out. You must find the crown, or they will be back. Enjoy the beauty in the frost; watch how it will change the hue on leaves of evergreens; you may even see shades of red on euonymus.

Prompt points – you may care to protect your broad beans, if they are through now. Check your outdoor propagation and make sure that it is not too wet, and that mushy leaves are not spoiling herbaceous plants. Prune your rhododendron and cut out any dead wood. Time to shape amelanchier again.

Like me, I am sure that you have observed last autumn as very long lasting. The leaves of oaks, limes and beech trees still cling to the twigs. Why not keep a notebook yourself – record rainy days, frost patterns and much more: another dimension to your garden and the general appreciation of our natural history. Watch little birds, such as wrens sparrows or robins – they will looking to pair: the cycle continues.

Happy New Year to everyone, Mary

Meeting Point

The start of the New Year will be an opportunity for a visit to the Meeting Point Community Café at The Institute, Gt Barton.

We now hold Meeting Point every Wednesday from 11.00am to 2.00pm. We welcome everyone to join us for a tea/coffee, or you can also enjoy lunch, which is prepared and served to you by our lovely volunteers.





HAPPY
New
Year

Get Involved with The Messenger

Would you like to contribute to Your Messenger? We would love to hear from you, share your favourite recipe, a funny story, your favourite holiday memory. If you would like to share something you feel will be of interest to your neighbours or anyone living in Gt Barton, please contact:

Tim Frost: 01284 787442 or email: timfr0st@yahoo.co.uk

Peter Robinson: 07814 946841 or email: beneficepr@gmail.com

The following Business Adverts are in the on-line version Supporting The Messenger.

David Martin: Vehicle Engineers. 01359 230538

admin@davidmartinmotorengineer.co.uk

Ecosweep. 01359 232335 ecosweep@live.com

FixaLeak. 01842 763165 peter@fixaleak.co.uk

Guildhall Studio. 07880 797124 jmartinzz@gmail.com www.guidhallstudio.com

John Ranson. 01284 788248 07770932799 jwransonbuilding@gmail.com

Metcalfe, Copeman, Pettefar LLP. 01842 756100 Dawn.collier@mcp-law.co.uk

Rothwells Carpet Cleaning. 01638 428060 info@rothwells.biz

Strands Hair Salon. 01359 230300 sjanef23@gmail.com

TBS Hire 01284 788122 info@tbs-hire.co.uk

The Clean Plumber. 01284 765453 justask@thecleanplumber.co.uk

The Sausage Shop. 01359 235237 kate.hitchcock@hotmail.co.uk

Home Care – Paula Drewry 079800 17043 pauladrewry@hotmail.com

ELITE FENCING & LANDSCAPING 01359 221128 trevor@elite-fencing.co.uk