

The Messenger

Holy Innocents Church Gt. Barton

Messenger Newsletter

July 2023

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

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July 2023 Parish Letter from Fr Ben

Being Christian can be difficult, mainly because of other Christians! News stories arise about how Churches are getting things terribly wrong. Some Christians, especially in the USA, have embraced a form of nationalism which annexes Christianity; uses the words of the Bible to justify the exertion of control over politics. Exclusionary policies have arisen in the USA, driven by wrong-headed interpretations that defy the teaching of Jesus. Refugees and immigrants are shunned; Transgender people vilified; equity for LGBT+ folk eroded; the rights of women to govern their own bodies in terms of pregnancy removed. In Uganda, LGBT+ folk have been effectively outlawed, with some backwards looking laws resulting in a potential death penalty. We still hear stories of abuses in the Church of England, and those in charge of safeguarding getting it horribly wrong.

It seems as if some Christians are dragging humanity backwards rather than continuing with humanity on its journey forwards. For most of us, this devolving into spiteful, barbaristic exclusion is abhorrent. How can we, the congregations of Holy Innocents and St Peter's churches possibly, hand on heart, invite you along to our faith community in such times? What does it say about our faith?

Some churches believe that the Bible should be followed as if it is without flaw, interpreted only in the way it appears to speak, like a Haynes motor manual, or a rulebook to a game, that if you follow the rules correctly, that's how you will 'win'. We believe this is wrong.

St Peter's and Holy Innocents knows that there is far more to the Christian faith - following rules on face value isn't what Jesus taught. We understand that the Bible isn't an instruction or science manual, but a collection of ancient stories and poems and accounts and songs that speak about the human experience of the divine, both extraordinary and everyday.

And they evoke in us a far deeper truth than the idea that 'you shouldn't do this, you shouldn't think that, you have to do xyz'. The Bible carries

within it the spirit of the living God, our creator, that seeks to guide us towards participating in *love*. Yes, knowing that we *are* loved, but also knowing that God *IS* the loving, God *IS* the process of loving.

Being Christian isn't about being perfect, or more virtuous, or always doing the right thing, or being the 'right' sort of person, or knowing when to stand up or cross oneself, or getting on the coffee rota, or having a firm and unassailable faith – it's about being there, to be listened to, to be counted, to be part of, to be welcomed, to be human, to be accepted and loved.

This is what guides us as a faith community – trusting in the love of God, and the process of loving others – being present to them, seeing the divine in them, listening to them, welcoming them and accepting them, and sharing the signs of God's loving action both in worship and in the world, joining with others to see the divine right here and now, together finding a life bursting with joy right here and now, finding the vitality of life right here and now – not as if our lives are some sort of test for after we die, but for **LIVING NOW!**

I know that, looking at many Christians, you might conclude that the Christian faith belongs firmly in the past, that it is dying. But I tell you, it is **ALIVE** in Thurston & Great Barton, yearning to transform lives with love.



THE MEETING POINT COMMUNITY CAFÉ

OPENING TIME

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 11.00AM – 1.30PM

All Welcome!

A Great place to meet up with friends for lunch or to relax and enjoy a Tea or Coffee with a slice of Cake.



Come and join us for
FREE Tea and Coffee.

We also serve
Homemade Cakes,
freshly prepared lunches
to order.





MOTHERS UNION

We meet once a month on the second Tuesday at 2.30pm in either The Rock Thurston or The Institute at Gt Barton.

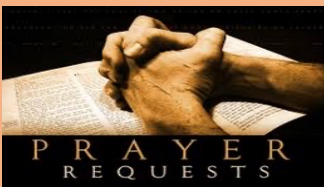
Our thanks to Rev. Sharon Connell who gave us an insight into her work as Hospice Chaplain in June.

We are lunching at The Victoria pub in Thurston on Tuesday 11th July at 12.30pm. I shall need menu choices and monies for this beforehand.

This will be the seniors menu at £7.99 for two courses (please see their website).

There is no meeting in August but would encourage you to meet informally over a cuppa which many do anyway! We meet in St Peters Church on 12th September for our corporate communion service which will be conducted by Rev. Fr Ben Edwards.

For further information, ring Jill Rood on 231647.



Prayer Chain

We all need others to pray for us sometimes. If you would like our prayer team to pray for you this week, please send your prayer request to (Kathy Drakes: email: kathy@drakesfamily.org). Requests are only shared confidentially between the vicar and the prayer team.

Great Barton and Thurston Benefice Services

July 2023

Sunday 2nd July:

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's at 8.30am

Sung Eucharist at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Wednesday 5th July:

Holy Communion (CW) at Montana Chapel at 11.15am

Sunday 9th July: (Sea Sunday)

Sung Eucharist at St Peter's at 10.30am

Choral Evensong, at Holy Innocents, Gt Barton at 6.30pm

Wednesday 12th July:

Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Sunday 16th July:

Holy Communion (BCP) at Holy Innocents, Great Barton at 8.30am

Together Café Church at Thurston Primary Academy, 10.00am

Benefice Communion Service (CW) at Holy Innocents, Great Barton at 10.30am.

Choral Evensong at St Peter's at 6.30pm

Wednesday 19th July:

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

Sunday 23rd July: Mary Magdalene.

Benefice Communion Service (CW) at St Peter's Thurston at 10.30am.

Wednesday 27th July:

Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Sunday 30th July: Pilgrimage Sunday

Benefice Communion Service (CW) at St Peter's, Thurston at 10.30am

Songs of Praise at Holy Innocents at 6.30pm

(CW Common Worship, BCP Book of Common Prayer)

200 Club Draw for May 2023

**The draw was made at Meeting Point in the Church Institute
on June 21st 2023**

£100 Mel Smith (141)

£25 John Glen (247)

**Tim Frost
Administrator**

Together Family Church



Sunday 16th July 2023

Starting at 10.00am

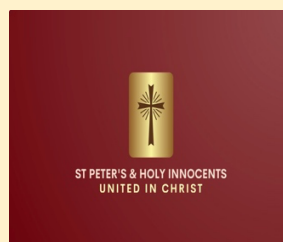
For breakfast and the fun begins at 10.30am.

TOGETHER FAMILY CHURCH

ALL ONE IN CHRIST

Songs, Activities, Prayer and Mayhem!

**ALL ONE IN CHRIST in
Thurston Primary Academy**



From a Gardeners Notebook, July 2023

How were your borders in June? Height and colour with delphiniums, the perfume and beauty of roses. Peonies and honeysuckle. Why do all these wonderful things happen at once? The rewards for all our efforts and care reach their peak for approximately two weeks in June. Do not be despondent and think that the garden is nothing for the rest of the year. Over the last three years I have made suggestions for planting, and extending the season; also I encourage winter gardening. If you are clever enough the area around your home can have interest 365 days of the year.

Cut back hardy geraniums, also centaurea; these will flower again. Open spaces, clear of daffodil and tulip foliage can be planted with annuals, cosmos and cleome, as recommended for spring planting. Cleome will grace your garden from July to September and attract interest and questions from visitors.

Whilst writing such a column on a continuous basis it is inevitable that information gets repeated. The gardeners calendar is cyclical.

Propagation in July and August – sterilise your pans.

Time to enjoy new potatoes, broad beans, and beetroot. At the end of the month, picking fruit and making jam – I am down to my last pot of plum.

Pruning – Philadelphus – after flowering. Wisteria – side shoots and ramblers. If you have not clipped your box, you had better do that too. Remember, we prune for three reasons. 1) Horticultural correctness – and care of the plant. 2) To give it good shape. 3) The safety of people.

Lastly – watch the temperature in your greenhouse if you still have plants in it, they may burn if you are not careful.

I hope that you have found lots of interesting things in “Open Gardens”. Don’t forget to recycle grey water.

Mary

**Cream Tea raising funds for Christian Aid Turkey/Syria
Earthquake Appeal.**

Thank you to all who supported the Cream Tea at Gt. Barton Church Institute on May 29th. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all and £246 was raised.

Sarah Robinson

Holy Innocents Salad Lunch and Entertainment for Christian Aid

Thanks to all who joined us for a lovely afternoon last Sunday. I have always enjoyed this occasion and am very sorry to have to announce that I am not able to continue. But I think we all had a good time. The Home-made Entertainment was great fun: Tim read two of his poems, and explained the background to his writing them, which made them even more interesting to hear. Jane gave a lovely reading, that I think may have featured in her schooling, as I saw two or three of her listeners saying the words with her. Mary played 4 songs for us, finishing with a rousing March in honour of the Coronation. David Sheppard brought a very humorous reading about gardening, but his voice sounded remarkably like Pat's. (They do say we grow to be like those we live with for an extended time.) And I told a story with a very important song at the end.

Thanks, too, to those who helped with the clearing up, particularly Betty Holdgate and Jane Dalton, who washed up, vacuumed the hall, and mopped the kitchen while I persistently got in their way.

Oh, and with the help of three donations equalling £25, we will send £315 to Christian Aid. Good food, good fun, good companionship, and great giving. Perfect!

Thank you to all who took part in our fun.

Linda Scoles

One of my favourite things.....

is hearing stories of local history. These stories make a place come alive for me, and often bring the people of those past times alive, too. Every student at Great Barton Primary School (sorry, Academy - sometimes I live in the past) learns about Bertuna, and the story of Lord Bunbury and his horse Diomed, who won the first Derby.

My husband Jim was a historian, a natural teacher and mesmerising story teller. He made dull history come alive. So it was natural that our first outing after we settled in Great Barton was to the Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds. His purpose was particularly to take us to the site of the Abbey ruins. He showed us the tablets on the ruins which record where the Barons of England met at Bury in 1214 to swear before the High Alter to force King John to grant the Magna Carta. With mental pictures of great knights and their large cortege of minions, destriers rearing and stamping, armoury shining, sergeants bellowing orders, weary foot soldiers covered in dust scurrying to make camp, and priests of the Abbey offering hospitality to the Barons, Jim told us that this meeting had a direct impact on us and "all English-speaking people as the source of our Constitutional liberties" [from Suffolk Summer by John Appleby, 1948].

From Bury St Edmunds, through the Magna Carta to the writing of the United States Constitution - Jim thrilled his family with the history of our new home and our strong connection with it. Our daughter, Stacy, recently incorporated this connection into her final paper for her Master's Degree to strengthen her own teaching of history in Washington State. Great stories from great teachers to inspire those who come next.

With this background, it is natural that every guest who ever stayed with us was "treated" to a tour of Bury St Edmunds with emphasis on the Abbey and the Barons of 1214. In the 1990s we had a couple from Montana who were travelling with a choir, singing in several places in England. I don't remember exactly how it happened, but this young couple stayed with us for a couple of nights at the end of their tour. The

wife was singing, and her husband was along for the holiday. He was getting tired after several repeats of the same concert, so Jim offered to show him around Bury, while the concert was on. He jumped at the offer. As they walked into the Abbey Gardens, Jim began telling him "The Bury St Edmunds Story, and the Abbey ruins came into sight. The fellow stopped short, moaned, and said, "Oh no! Not AOPR!!" Jim looked around wildly, completely off his stride. "Where? What? AOPR? What's that?" Shoulders slumped, the exhausted American said, "Another Old Pile of Rocks. I can't take any more. Can we just go for a pint?"

Even great teachers and storytellers have to admit failure sometimes, but I'm told that a pint of Green King Bitter heals the hurt.

With love, Linda

St Peter's Church News

St Peter's Flower Festival

on the theme of 'Hurrah for Harvest' on the weekend of 9th and 10th September. Featuring, inspiring flower displays, a plant stall, cake stall, refreshments, and a raffle. There will be something for everyone, including an organ recital by James Thomas on the Saturday afternoon.

WANTED CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

St Peters Church has a rota for cleaning the whole church.

We need a few more willing volunteers for a rota beginning on 1st July.

There are several of us so you would be paired up with someone on a 5th/6th weekly basis.

All cleaning materials and hoover already provided.

There is some flexibility, but most prefer to clean on either a Friday afternoon or a Saturday morning.

Please contact Jill Rood on 01359 231647

WALK and TALK

The Thurston ‘Walk and Talk’ event for all the family on the morning of 9th September, including children’s fancy dress, with sponsorship split between our church and The Hospice.

RIDE & STRIDE

The annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust ‘Ride and Stride’ is also on 9th September where sponsorship monies are split between the Trust and St Peter’s.

**An online auction with the proceeds shared with the Hospice.
More information will be in the August Issue**

Please keep the 9th and 10th September free. Full details, including how to collect your sponsors, will be in the August edition of the village newsletter and through our social media. We are very grateful for all your generosity and will give an update on our new total next month.



Calling all history and photography lovers!

If you are interested in the history of our beautiful village church and/or enjoy looking at photographs, there will be a special exhibition in St Peter’s, Thurston between 29th June and 9th

July. 10.00-4.00 (Sun from 1.00)

Do come and enjoy the display mounted by students from Thurston Community College and explore our lovely church. There is a children’s quiz too.

Suggested donation: £2.

We are especially grateful to Richard Fawcett and Ray Dale for their help in providing so many photographs for the students to use.



**ST PETER'S & HOLY INNOCENTS
UNITED IN CHRIST**

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 jwranonbuilding@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