



The Messenger

**Holy Innocents Church Gt. Barton
Messenger Newsletter
May 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 |

May 2023 Parish Letter from Fr Ben

If you are a fan of Star Wars, particularly the Disney+ series, The Mandalorian, you will know that the Mandalorian people have a saying which they repeat after asserting thoughts and actions about who they are, what makes them Mandalorian. They say, “This is the Way”

At the Last Supper, Jesus gives us information about what it is to be children of God, followers of the Way, Christians. Jesus teaches us so much on the eve of his passion, that we ought not to be in doubt that This is the Way.

“Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”

Jesus kneels at the feet of his friends, bathing their tired feet, the dust and dirt washing into the water, slowly revealing the skin beneath. The water slowly turning cloudy, the stubborn dirt gently but persistently scrubbed off onto the towel around Jesus’ waist. An act of servitude, of humility, of taking the lowest position, the creator of the universe bowing before his creation in love and care.

But also something else. A spiritual washing, removing the spiritual dirt and detritus of the world. The focused attention of loving service washing not just the dirt of the physical world but the dirt of the soul, an act which has both a physical and a spiritual effect, cleansing the body and soul to reveal the truth of us beneath – the sacred creation of God that we all are.

This is the Way.

“Not all of you are clean”.

We have to walk in this world, even those of us who regularly wash ourselves in the rituals and prayers of our faith, and our feet become dirty again. We return to worship and pray and receive Holy Communion in order to keep ourselves spiritually cleansed. We gather in church, take part in the rituals, the services, in order that we might re-cleansed ourselves. Many others undertake rituals that too remind them of the path of Jesus, even if they call it by another name or visualise the Way of Christ with different stories. But there are many who lose themselves beneath the weight and dirt of sin, becoming buried beneath it and struggle to distinguish their true selves from the strata of the world they find themselves entombed in. Not all are clean, but the living water of Christ is for everyone, and he will pour himself out for everyone.

This is the Way.

“You also ought to wash one another’s feet”.

As we are washed by Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion, renewing our commitment to walk Christ's way, so too can we wash the feet of others by our actions in the world – by our service to our community, by our kindness and compassion to others, by those things which we do with a servant heart, by listening, having soft hearts which will change with the needs of those who suffer and mourn and yearn in our world. We will wash the dirt of the world away with our tenderness, our compassion and our love.

This is the Way

“Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another”.

There is no greater way of telling people about Jesus Christ than by being Jesus Christ. By being with the poor. By feeding and healing those who need to be fed and healed. By being alongside the outcast, the prisoner, the foreigner. By our hospitality. By our care of each other, by our acceptance of each other. By listening and listening and listening. And by our prayers for people, for lifting them to God, faithfully. And by letting go of our attachment to that which serves us, in order that we might serve them. This is the Way. Everyone will know that we are His disciples if we have love for one another.

Where Jesus Christ went, to Golgotha, to an agony beyond our mortal understanding, we cannot go. It can never, nor need ever, be repeated. As we think upon the Last Supper, there Jesus' work, his Passion, lay ahead of him. And he tells his disciples, and us today, that we cannot go where he is to go. But we can continue to give power to his work upon the cross as we wash each other, as our love poured out becomes the very living water of Christ, and brings all those who witness our walking of the Way to join us upon the path to an eternal life.

This is the Way. And we invite you to walk it with us.

Amen.



MOTHERS UNION

We meet once a month on the **second Tuesday** of each month at 2.30pm.

Our thanks to Tim Frost who was our speaker in April. We are now far more enlightened as to the many tasks a churchwarden carries out.

Daloni Peel is our speaker on **Tuesday 9th May**. This will be held in The Rock adjacent St Peters in Thurston.

Daloni is well known to many Thurston ladies for her informative and humorous talks, and we are looking forward to meeting her again.

In June we have Rev. Sharon Connell (Cora's daughter) speaking about her role as Chaplain to St Nicholas Hospice.

FORWARD NOTICE

We shall be lunching at The Victoria pub in Thurston on Tuesday 11th July. I shall need menu choices and monies for this before we meet there so will be organising this from May onwards. The menus are available online for lunches, but I will try and get paper copies beforehand.

Contact Jill Rood on 01359 231647 for lifts or further information.



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.



Cream Tea

**Its Cream Tea time again at
Gt Barton Church Institute,
Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29th May at
3pm**

**Do come along and have an enjoyable
afternoon with family and friends and make
new friends.**

Cost £6 per person payable on booking.

**All proceeds to Christian Aid Turkey/Syria
earthquake appeal**

Contact Sarah Robinson. Email; spandj@icloud.com

Great Barton and Thurston Benefice Services
May 2023

Wednesday 3rd May:

Holy Communion at Montana at 11.15am

Sunday 7th May

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

Sung Eucharist at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Coronation Family Service at St Peter's at 6.30pm

Wednesday 10th May:

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

Sunday 14th May:

Sung Eucharist at St Peter's at 10.30am

Evensong at Holy Innocents at 6.30pm

Thursday 18th May:

Ascension Day. Communion (CW) Holy Innocents at 7.30pm.

Sunday 21st May:

Together Family Church at Thurston Primary Academy at 10.00am

Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Wednesday 24th May:

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

Sunday 28th May

Holy Communion (BCP) at Holy Innocents at 8.30am

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

Evensong at St Peter's at 6.30pm

Wednesday 31st May:

Holy Communion at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

(CW Common Worship, BCP Book of Common Prayer)

200 Club Draw for March 2023

The draw was made at The Luncheon Club in the Village Hall on April 14th

£100 Pat Humphry (117)

£25 Claire Mackickhan (144)

**Tim Frost
Administrator**

Together Family Church



Sunday 21st May 2023

Starting at 10.00am

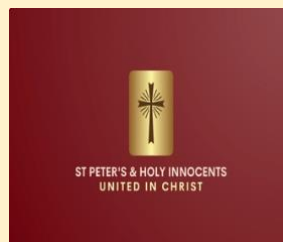
For breakfast and the fun begins at 10.30am.

TOGETHER FAMILY CHURCH

ALL ONE IN CHRIST

Songs, Activities, Prayer and Mayhem!

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





VISIT TO RHS GARDENS WISLEY

Join our Coach excursion on Thursday June 15th 2023 to RHS Wisley and enjoy the beautiful gardens and all they have to offer, the garden centre and other retail opportunities as well as a variety of eateries.

We will travel by Mulleys coach with WC facilities and will depart at 7.30am from Gt Barton Village Hall where parking is available, returning from Wisley at 4.30pm.

The cost of COACH ONLY will be £32.50, and you will then purchase your own entry tickets on arrival. [RHS members free]

To book and pay for your place on the coach please contact either.

Mary Edwards. Email: mary.windrush@yahoo.com

Or

Sarah Robinson. Email: spandj@icloud.com

Coronation Weekend

Coronation Fish and Chip Supper

Great Barton Village Hall

Arrangements by Holy Innocents Parish Church.

All ages welcome.

Reservations for Coronation Fish and Chip Supper

Date: Friday, 5 May, Great Barton Village Hall

When: Doors open at 5:30 for 6:00 delivery.

Menu: Fish and Chips: £7.50

Chicken and Chips: £6.50

2 Sausage and Chips: £4.30

1 Sausage and Chips: £3.30

***Please mention special dietary needs on your reservation form. ***

****Ice creams may be purchased on the night. **Coffee, tea, and squash complimentary.**

For a reservation form please visit our website at:

<http://themessengergtbarton.suffolk.cloud/>

For more information

Linda Scoles 01359 230392

From a Gardeners Notebook, May 2023

In previous May articles I have covered the subjects of ‘pots and tubs’, also the vegetable garden. This is the time to attend to these jobs. Only a few years ago we had approximately 700 plants to choose from for our gardens, but believe it or not the figure is nearer 7000 today, so I hope that you will try some new things this year. In both large and small gardens we can practice the four layered principal.

Bulbs

Herbaceous

Shrubs

Trees

Look for pink phloxes – we have all known the yellow variety for so long, but the pink is most attractive. Try some of the monardas; a good tip to remember here is that they must be dry in winter and wet in summer.

To massage and manipulate flowers is not my style, but if you have heard the expression ‘The Chelsea Chop’, practiced in the third week in May, this is to trim perennials with garden shears – thereby making the plant flower at a later time. For both a large and small garden you need integrants, because without such things your garden is like writing without punctuation. Lastly, if you are looking to freshen your garden, why not reshape or change the edges and outlines of your borders. Two stakes and a line in conjunction with a sharp edging tool could make all the difference to your garden. It will have cost you nothing at all, other than a little time and effort.

The face of the countryside changes rapidly during May; this is the month of combining the freshness of April with the warmth of June. May is musical with bird song, bees hum and bluebells appear in drifts in woodlands. Tender leaves uncurl. Then there is May covering hawthorn with white and pink blossom. What a joy to be part of the British Countryside.

Good luck with new ideas and plants.

Happy gardening, Mary

One of my favourite things....

is, as I wrote a few months ago, remembering favourite people from the past. Well, I want to write about another of those favourite people now.

Michael Bennet may not be a name that you recognise even though I wrote about him several years ago, much to his dismay. We buried his ashes last month in the family grave that he tended faithfully for many years; certainly the best-kept grave in our churchyard. Probably you walked past it many times without paying any particular attention. The Bennet grave is the second on the right as you go up the path from the main entrance.

I met Michael several years ago when I was one of the Churchwardens. Rev. Alan Gates had just retired, and we were searching for a new vicar. Alan had been having 'discussions' with Michael for months about what he was allowed to do with the family plot. Michael was determined to put a permanent edging around the grave as was done with many of the very old graves. But rules change, and we cannot do that now. Every time the two of them met they had the same 'discussion', to no avail. Michael didn't argue, he just ignored Alan. In frustration, Alan passed the problem to me before he left Gt. Barton for sunnier climes.

I, too, had several 'discussions' with Michael, and finally in desperation, I moved all of the large flints that Michael had so painstakingly and beautifully laid around the little site: a tiny private family garden. Michael put them back. I took them away. Michael ignored my protestations - and me. I could not see a solution to the problem, and I wasn't moving to sunnier climes, either, so it seemed a stalemate.

Then, one day I came up the path when Michael was working to tidy the grave, and I stopped. I spoke quietly to his back. "Michael, I am a nice person. I don't like this disagreement we have. I feel really badly that I have to insist that you stop what you are doing. I do, though, have

an idea that may suit both of us and the rules, too."

"We have just moved the Elizabeth II oak tree, and I've bought some plants to put around it. A flint border would be just the thing to keep it all tidy, and stop anyone running over the tree as it grows. Would you like to help me make a little garden back in the newer part of the churchyard? I will haul the flints for it, and you could have it just the way you want." He said, "Why would I want to do that?" Oh dear, I hadn't thought of that. With egg on my face, I stammered that he didn't have to do it at all, I had just thought he might enjoy it.

For the next half hour or so I staggered past him with flats of ground-cover plants, tools, watering can, etc. Then I pulled my grandson's little red wagon up the path and began filling it with flints. I knew he was paying attention every time I passed. Finally, "Where is this tree then?" From then on, Michael tended the Elizabeth (Lizzie, to me) tree and it's little flint-bordered garden as well as the Bennet family plot.

Gradually Michael and I began to chat to each other when we met. I would give him a ride to or from the church when he was walking. Then he and I worked together clearing tombstones and pruning trees. He piled all the cuttings and built the most perfect bonfires I have ever seen -- every bit burned, and the ashes neatly raked over when it was done. When I moved house I gave him some tools that he kept in a little shed in the churchyard so he didn't have to carry tools back and forth each time.

One day I happened to tell him that I was going to Burton-on-Crouch the following week to give a talk, and I learned that he grew up there. I asked if he would like to go with me. He did, and he walked around the area that he knew well, but hadn't seen for years, while I talked to the WI. On the way back we had a hamburger at a Little Chef (how I mourn their demise!). We both enjoyed the outing, except that Michael insisted on having the car windows open. I nearly froze.

I don't know Michael's age, considerably younger than mine, I'm sure. At an early age he had a stroke that meant that he could no

longer hold a job. He lived with his sister and her husband, and seemed to have few friends or interests. He found it very difficult or impossible to talk to strangers.

Michael had a loyalty to his family that was strong, and committed. He was a hard worker, a trait that I always appreciate. He took pride in doing a task well. And he had a sly, knowing sense of humour, rarely laughing but smiling to himself. From my point of view, Michael walked quietly through life, but didn't miss much of what was happening in his close vicinity. He seemed content with himself and his lot.

I liked Michael. I will miss him. And I wonder if someone will tend the family grave, his now, as lovingly as he did. RIP my friend.

With love, Linda

St Peter's Church News

A call to all flower arrangers and helpers

St Peter's Church is holding a Flower Festival on the 9th and 10th September. Our theme is 'Hurrah for Harvest!' If you would like to create an arrangement or volunteer to help, please contact Margery Ashford on 01359 231007 or 07443 414622 for further details.

Thank you.



St Peter's Church Thurston has an action Packed Coronation Sunday lined up for all the family

**Contact Fr Ben by email
revdbenjaminwards@gmail.com**



Teddy Bear Zipline

Come and whizz your teddies and soft toys down our Zipline from the bell tower of St Peter's church from 3.30pm – 5.30pm. A suggested donation of 50p for teddy's ride.

Hotdogs and drinks available or bring your own picnic.

And at 6.30pm, join us for our special Coronation service and Sing for the King with a very special hymn produced by the Royal Society of Church Music and sung by our choir and guests.

The Coronation Year: St Peter's Church supporting the next generation.

On **Sunday 7th May at 6.30pm** there will be a special service at St Peter's to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Reverend Ben Edwards will dedicate our new oak noticeboards, which commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of our late Queen, Her Majesty Elizabeth II. Our church has permanent features marking Her silver, golden and diamond jubilees and, indeed, the foliage panels on our font and our medieval pews conceal images of a Green Man as chosen by our new King for the invitations to his Coronation. Therefore, **it seems fitting, that in this Coronation Year, we should fundraise to ensure that our beautiful, much loved church, dating back to medieval times, is preserved for the generations to come.** This year, we have **already raised £10,000** allowing us to resurface the path, redecorate the porch and install the new noticeboards. The Coronation weekend will see us launch our programme for the remainder of the year to:

- **improve our Children's Corner**
- **introduce a new space for older children and young people**
- **apply fresh limewash to the interior of the church**
- **upgrade our heating – you may be aware that it can get rather chilly!**

As a church community, we also want to support St Nicholas Hospice as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. The pandemic was especially difficult for many children and young people and so our donation will be to **Nicky's Way, the Hospice's support programme for bereaved children and young people.**

More details of all the events will follow in successive newsletters but we have set out below an outline of our programme, hoping you will save the dates.

We know that St Peter's is much loved with many residents having celebrated important milestones in their own lives or with loved ones and friends there. We know that it is also appreciated for its beauty but it is a very expensive building to maintain. So, do please come and join us at as many events as possible, maybe just to watch some of the fun 'happenings', you will be most welcome, and help us to enhance and preserve OUR church.

Thank you.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Coronation Events

Sunday 7th May: The Teddy Bear's Zip Wire and picnic

Sunday 7th May: Coronation Service at St Peter's at 6.30pm

St Peter's Day Events

Thursday 29th June: Lunchtime recital by local students

Thursday 29th June: Afternoon Concert by pupils from Thurston Primary School conducted by Timothy Parsons, Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Saturday 1st July: Gift Day, Church open 10am – 4pm to receive donations with a chance to view a photographic display of the church over the years. Electronic payment methods will also be available remotely and in the church.

Saturday 1st July: Evening Concert (proceeds shared with St Nicholas Hospice)

Harvest Events

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September: Flower Festival in St Peter's Church
The flowers can still be viewed on Monday 11th September. During the festival, there will be a **recital** given by **James Thomas**, well-known organist.

Saturday 9th September: 'Ride & Stride': the annual Suffolk event where sponsored cyclists and walkers raise money, half of which goes to Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and half to St Peter's. We can supply a cycling and a walking route or you can plan your own.

Saturday 9th September: 'Walk & Talk': join us to complete your sponsored laps. You will enjoy a good walk and a chat with half of the monies raised going to St Peter's and half to the Hospice. **A fun occasion for ALL**, young and old. For the children, there will be prizes for the best fancy dress on a Harvest theme.

End of August into early September: there will be an **Online Auction** with many great lots and promises to bid for. Profits will be shared with the Hospice.

Christmas Events

Saturday 25th November: Christmas Bazaar in the Cavendish Hall. This will be even bigger and better this year with a mix of new stalls and old favourites. Father Christmas will be joining us!

1st December: Church Quiz Evening

December: a fitting end to our fundraising year – our final event will be announced soon.



**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