

Village Voices

December 2022

Covering the areas of Gorefield, Guyhirn, Murrow, Parson Drove, Rings End, Thorney Toll, & Wisbech St Mary



CHURCHES AT YOUR SERVICE EACH MONTH

Residents and visitors of all ages are very welcome at any of these services.

Emmanuel Church - Parson Drove and Murrow

4th December Christingle 9am
11th December Holy Communion 9am
18th December Breakfast Church 9am
24th December Carol and Crib Service 5pm

St. Paul's Church - Gorefield.

4th December Holy Communion 10am
11th December Morning Prayer 10am
18th December Carol Service 6pm
Christmas Day Morning Prayer 9.30am

Wisbech St. Mary & Guyhirn Parish Church

4th December Christingle & Christmas Play 11.15am
11th December Holy Communion 11.15am
18th December Carol Service 11.15am
24th December Midnight Communion 11.30pm

Chapel of Ease, Guyhirn

Saturday 17th December Carol Service 1.30pm

Zoom Services

11th December Holy Communion 4pm
Christmas Day Holy Communion 9.30am
Please contact The Rector for joining details for the Zoom services. (sandra.gardner952@btinternet.com)

Sunday 1st January Joint Holy Communion Service for all the Benefice at Newton Church.



Parish Register

Baptisms



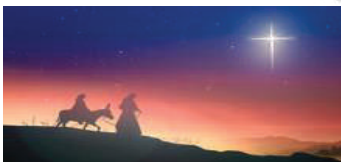
Emma Price (Parson Drove)
Charlie Fyson (Parson Drove)
Evelynn Loureiro-Swann (Leverington)

Funerals



Gordon Dade (Wisbech St Mary)
Sylvia Saunders (Wisbech St Mary)
Ken Brighton (Leverington)
Gordon Robinson (Leverington)
Gina Shorter (Leverington)

Marlene Dix (Gorefield)
Reginald Rose (Parson Drove)
John Pooley (Gorefield)



Ramblings from
Rev Sandra



One of the joys of Christmas is being able to sing carols. If I had to choose my favourite carol, then it would have to be 'Joy to the World' – for me it sums up what Christmas is all about. 'Joy!'. The word is not used much in everyday language – it means a feeling of delight, great pleasure and jubilation. Although it is, of course, about being happy – it is beyond happy, joy goes deeper and isn't dependent on external factors.

The season of Christmas is all about joy. Something the disciple John wrote in the Bible sums up why Jesus came as that baby, which we celebrate at Christmas, he wrote: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes will not perish but have eternal life.' Knowing ourselves to be loved this much brings a sense of joy that our circumstances can't take away.

There are certainly many circumstances in the world around us that are joy-less, but Christmas can serve to remind us that with an attitude of love for our fellow humans we could make the world a better place – a joy-full one.

In this carol we sing 'Let every heart prepare him room' – so as we make our preparations for Christmas, may we all open our hearts to make room for God to bring in peace, comfort and joy.

Sandra

All bookings for baptisms and wedding are now taken at the Vestry mornings held at St Leonard's Leverington.

The next Vestry mornings are:

10th December 10 – 12 Noon

7th January 10 – 11am

4th February 10 – 11am

CONTACT DETAILS

Rev Sandra Gardner 01945 581486
sandra.gardner952@btinternet.com
Rev Janet Phillips 01945 589034
Kate Pateman 01945 870154
Margaret Tanner 07796 172025

Murrow Methodist Church
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CHRISTMAS BAZZAR

WISBECH ST MARY & GUYHIRN CHURCH
Church Road, Wisbech St. Mary.

Saturday 10th December 2022
10am - 1pm

Sale of homemade produce, cakes, sausage rolls
Preserves and plants, books.

Christmas Stalls

Pre orders taken for Christmas goodies
sausage rolls, mince pies, and table
arrangements.

Festive music

Children's games, quizzes, competitions.
Christmas cake Raffle, Tombola stall,
Christmas Hamper Raffle

Light lunch available from 11.30

A warm welcome to all



When Christmas had twelve days! by Diane Calton Smith

No sooner has Halloween passed, it seems, that the world starts turning towards Christmas. The long run up to the festive season, with all its anticipation, planning and commercialism, can sometimes absorb us as much as the festival itself. Christmas Day, when it finally comes, is over in a flash, and that, it seems, is that.

Yet it hasn't always been like this. The whole twelve days of Christmas were honoured in full by our medieval ancestors. Each day had a different significance. Christmas Day (the first day of Christmas) was for feasting in celebration of Jesus' birth, but other days, such as the Feast of the Holy Innocents (the fourth day) were marked with sober reflection.

Christmas followed four weeks of fasting in Advent and it wasn't until late on Christmas Eve that people began to celebrate. They decorated their homes with holly, fir and ivy from the hedgerows and looked forward to sharing Christmas Day with family and friends. Even the poorest folk, who often relied on charity to get them through winter, saved up what morsels they could to make a modest feast and drowned their sorrows in ale. Christmas gave them a few days' respite from their labours and that, together with many traditional games, must have felt like a gift in itself.

At the other end of the scale, Henry VIII is remembered for his lavish enjoyment of Christmas. His court would light up with festivity, dancing, gift-giving and games. Much later, during the time of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth, the festive season was dealt a cruel blow. Celebration of this special time was severely discouraged and folk with little else to look forward to, in lives marked by poverty and gruellingly hard work, were denied this most traditional of comforts.

The Victorian era brought a whole new brand of Christmas entertainment. The cards, tree and bright decorations which we accept today as a normal part of our festivities were introduced at that time. Not everyone approved of this extravagance, however. In 1881, a contributor to the Cambridge Chronicle wrote to complain that, 'so many yield to noxious drinking and many move to noxious and expensive gluttony.' Though a different choice of vocabulary would be used these days, there are still people who might agree!



JOHN BEND'S UNITED CHARITIES PARSON DROVE

(Charity nos: 201667 & 311353)

Applications are invited from those living in the Parish of Parson Drove who are in need, hardship or distress, according to the governing document of the above charity.

Applicants must be over 65 years of age and have lived in the village for more than five years.

All applicants will be treated sympathetically, confidentially and any special circumstances considered.

Anyone already in receipt of the grant will automatically receive an application form.

Please return the completed application form to the clerk by 31st December 2022. Late applications will not be accepted.

For new applicants please apply for application form to :Mrs D Newland (Clerk to the Trustees)

The Lodge, Mouth Lane, Guyhirn, Cambs PE13 4ES

e-mail:clerk.johnbendscharity@yahoo.com

Tel: 07870862649 / 01945 450225



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SUNDAY 18 TH DECEMBER	16:00
TUESDAY 20 TH DECEMBER	18:00
WEDNESDAY 21 ST DECEMBER	18:00
THURSDAY 22 ND DECEMBER	18:00
FRIDAY 23 RD DECEMBER	18:00
SATURDAY 24 TH DECEMBER	13:00
SATURDAY 24 TH DECEMBER	16:30

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Wisbech St Mary Church of England Academy

LEST WE FORGET. In November, our children attended a special Remembrance Day Assembly in Wisbech St Mary church. This special assembly was led by Revd. Sandra Gardner, who spoke to the children about why we observe Remembrance Day. She explained that this is a commonwealth-wide event that has taken place since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who have served our country and defended our freedom.



WELCOME BACK! We have been delighted to be able to host our Family Cafes again after a 2 year hiatus. Family members of the children from each of our classes are invited into school to join their children in fun activities for a few hours in the morning. These events are so popular with parents and children alike and give parents a fabulous opportunity to see what their children are learning and to engage with them in this learning.



NEW NAME FOR PRESCHOOL. Our pre-school class is now called Hill Class! As all of our classes in school are named after local historical



figures/people of influence, we have been looking for a local person after whom to name our preschool class and discovered the work of Caroline Southwood Hill, the mother of Octavia Hill. In 1837, Caroline Hill and her husband, James, constructed Wisbech Infant School on part of the Wisbech Theatre site, which survives today as the foyer of the Angles Theatre, and in the school – which Caroline ran – children were taught ‘the importance of truth, justice and mutual kindness and forbearance’. We feel that the work of Caroline Hill highlights the importance of the Early Years Foundation Stage as the foundation of education and therefore the perfect pairing with our preschool class.



THANK YOU! A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Firework Extravaganza this year. We made an incredible profit of £13,000! We are so very grateful to everyone involved in the planning of the event, to those who helped over the weekend, and to the local companies and community who donated their time and resources. Your time and effort is invaluable and so very much appreciated. Every single penny of the money raised will be used by

our school to pay for vital resources which support our children’s learning.



Beavers have enjoyed carving pumpkins for Halloween, lots of ‘happy’ pumpkins instead of scary ones. Bonfire night wasn’t forgotten with tasty hotdogs going down a treat. Following a safety talk the Beavers were given sparklers to draw amazing patterns in the dark.



Cubs have been very busy with many new members adding to the pack. Cubs participated in ‘Parliament Week’ where we investigated the structure of parliament, how to vote and how to hold a debate – we chose to debate various energy sources, costs involved and the environmental impact. With Christmas fast approaching Cubs have many exciting festive activities planned.



Scouts have started to brush up on their first aid skills. First aid is a valuable skill that we feel is very important for our young people to learn. Starting with assessing the situation calmly, how to make a 999 call, the Scouts are taught what do if someone is unconscious, unconscious and not breathing, is bleeding, has a burn, has heat exhaustion, has hypothermia, is choking or is having an asthma attack.

Meanwhile, the Explorer unit have been teaching their new members various ways to build and light a successful campfire for cooking on. Damp wood has its challenges but Explorers have the skills to manage this.

We’re pleased to announce that we now have spaces within all sections (ages 6 – 18)! If you are interested in your child or young person becoming a member of scouting, get in touch via our website.

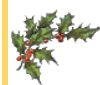
Visit www.15thwisbechscouts.org for more information #skillsforlife

WISBECH ST MARY WI

Our October meeting was held in Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church, where we were entertained by the organist David Stone. He played tunes we had requested the previous month. As it was our birthday month, we shared a delicious cake made by our President, iced by one of our members and had a floral decoration on top made by one of our members who has now left to live in Scotland. Our November meeting was our AGM, so we started at 7pm. We also had a demonstration on Christmas cake icing and mince pie variations.

If anyone would like to join us at any meeting, please ring 01945 479764.

Parson Drove Ukulele Club



Presents Sing along
On December 21st

Bar, Tea and Coffee, Mulled wine Mince pies
Free entry (Donations taken).

Everyone is welcome- Come along and enjoy.

19:00

Parson Drove Village Hall



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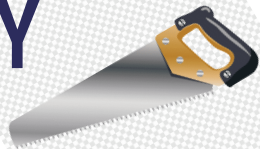
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
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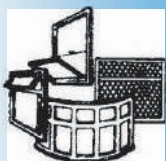
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MURROW STREET PRIDE
 Who Doesn't Love Coffee,
 Cake and a Chat! There is
 more to Murrow Street Pride than litter
 picking.



A friendly, lively atmosphere was enjoyed by many when Murrow Street Pride Group welcomed over 50 friends from Murrow and Parson Drove to a recently held coffee morning in Murrow Village Hall. It was a wonderful opportunity for new people in the villages to meet others and we were delighted that some took the plunge and joined us. Our advertising did not exclude anyone in other nearby villages from attending, quite the opposite we were very encouraging, and hopefully next time they will venture over to Murrow.

All the hard work by the team of volunteers paid off when a whopping £157.02 profit was made which will go towards the maintenance costs of caring for the planters/barrels and grass cutting around them throughout the village. Thank you very much to everyone who generously parted with their money, it was much appreciated.

Murrow Street Pride volunteers willingly give up their time to litter picking and gardening at the planters and really do appreciate all the kind remarks made by residents and visitors who enjoy the well cared for look our village has. So, keep them rolling in! Keep an eye out for all our future advertising.

Diane Cutler - Chairman/secretary
 Email: murrowstreetpride@gmail.com
 FaceBook Page: Murrow Street Pride Group

WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council recognise that the parish has little access to public transport therefore residents rely heavily on their own means of transport to be able to go to places of work and education, and yet, has some of the worst maintained roads to travel on in Fenland.

The Parish Council are asking residents to make their opinion count, if you see **a pot hole - report it**, if you see road edges falling away - report it, if you feel the road surface is breaking up - report it and if you see weeds starting to grow up through the road REPORT IT.

The more instances of poor maintenance that are reported on the Cambridgeshire County Council reporting tool, the greater the chance to be heard. If you have access to the internet access the reporting tool at:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

If you don't have access to the internet, ask a neighbour or family friend to help it get reported.



If you see it... Report it!

Murrow Methodist Church

Monthly stall –

Cakes, preserves, bric a brac, books, games etc.



Saturday 10th December

9am - 12 noon

Everyone welcome



**THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, PARSON DROVE
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**WISBECH SALVATION ARMY BAND
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SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER 6pm

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Do you, or someone you know need help with:

Cooking
Baking together and batch cooking

Would you like to go out
Visit a garden centre, cafe, food and personal shopping,
out for the day

Would you like company
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GOREFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



In **Penguins** class they have been learning about painting and have a board full of wonderful painting done by the Penguins children. They have also been looking at building blocks and they built an awesome fort between them! They have been using balance bikes and are getting on brilliantly. In their free time they can choose one of these to use and the balance bikes are very popular.

France class Y2 maths group have been learning column addition and subtraction and have been progressing amazingly! Year 1 have been looking at subtraction and difference. They have also been historians and looking at family trees. Science is awesome as the children have learnt about amphibians and mammals.

In **Zimbabwe** class they have been learning about seasonal foods, they have been lucky enough to have made grilled fruit skewers and apple crumbles. In science lessons they have started to investigate life cycles. History was exciting for them as they are starting a new topic about the Ancient Egyptians.

Samoa class have been learning about World War 1 and have been writing and planning a diary entry. Year six also went to war graves on the 11th of November to read poems and held 2 minutes of silence to remember all those who lost their lives. They were very lucky to have Mr Thatcher, the local historian, accompany them. In RE they have been learning the true meaning of a Christian Christmas and have also been making word art in the form of a Christmas tree.

Our school council were proud to attend an awards ceremony for Pride in Fenland, they were nominated and received a certificate for their hard work litter picking in and around our school.

By **Hollie, School Reporter**



SANTA'S SLEIGH RIDE ROUND MURROW

THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER 2022
SANTA AND HIS TEAM OF ELVES WILL BE TOURING MURROW FROM 17:45



COME AND GIVE SANTA AND HIS ELVES A WAVE AS HE RIDES AROUND THE VILLAGE



SANTAS MERRY LITTLE ELVES WILL HAVE DONATION BUCKETS AS THEY WALK ROUND SO PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO Support local charities

LISTEN OUT FOR THE BELL RINGING AND THE MUSIC PLAYING.

JOIN IN WITH THE FESTIVE CHEER ONCE AGAIN
(Weather permitting, if bad weather it will be the following week)

PARSON DROVE STREET PRIDE FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

Once again, we would like to thank Brad at The Swan and, everybody who bought raffle tickets in support of Parson Drove Street Pride. Also, thanks to the many local businesses and individuals who donated prizes. Thanks to everybody's generosity we were able to raise £382 which will buy plants/bulbs for Parson Drove Village.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

10th December 10am-12. Members of Street Pride will be decorating the Christmas tree on the village green. Please feel free to join us.



If you are interested in becoming a member of Street Pride, please do get in touch. We always need new members to carry out an array of tasks throughout the year to keep our village beautiful.

Facebook - Parson Drove Street Pride
NextDoor Parson Drove

Please contact Heather on 01945 701375 for more information.



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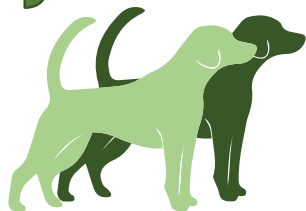
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Murrow Primary Academy



Zebra class

Zebra's have had a great start

to Autumn Term 2. They spent the first week learning all about bonfire night and why we celebrate it. They learnt about Guy Fawkes and his plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament and then created some fantastic firework safety posters. Our topic this half term is Transport so we will be learning lots about different vehicles from the past and how they have changed to what we see today.

Italy class

In Italy class we have been enjoying learning about animals in Science and this has linked well to our English, writing a non-chronological report about pets. It has been great fun finding out all the facts and investigating the different types of animals. In art we have been exploring printing techniques and using bright colours.

Canada class

In Canada class we have just started our new History topic on Ancient Egypt. We have been finding out where Egypt is and why the Nile was useful to the Ancient Egyptians. Within our Science work we have started to learn about Cycles within Science starting with the changes in the seasons and how this affects plants and animals.

Spain class

Spain class have been enjoying their new English unit Clockwork! They have been meeting the characters and making predictions about what they think is going to happen. They have been working hard on their arithmetic and are embracing the challenge!

Pumpkin Competition

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in our pumpkin competition at both schools at the end of last half-term. It was fantastic to see so many carved pumpkins outside of the schools and we know that everyone in the communities enjoyed viewing them.

Christmas

The children have many events planned during December which include 'carols around the tree', Christmas disco, jumper day and a special lunch

We would like to wish all the staff, pupils, parents and friends of the

school a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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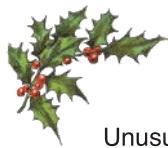
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Interesting and Curious Facts of Yesteryear

Unusual, fascinating and sometimes amusing, by the author of "Wisbech's Secret Princess," and "Interesting and Curious facts of Yesteryear, 31 stories of Wisbech & the Fenlands," Chris Donald

The Workhouse



But, not as Charles Dickens knew it

At Christmas time television often has the Christmas favourites. Films and plays

which have a connection with the winter season and of course, there's always James Bond. We see the films that have an Xmas feel as well as plays and adaptations of Christmas books. One of these books is "A Christmas Carol" written by Charles Dickens over 150 years ago but still popular now.

Another one of his novels is "Oliver Twist." It tells of the horrors of the Victorian Workhouse. Two films were made from the book as well as a musical, and even a pub at Guyhirn has it's name. If you were out of work in Victorian times most people ended up in the *Workhouse*.

Nowadays, if you're out of work you receive the Job Seekers Allowance.

But if you go back a few hundred years things were different. For the poor, all it needed was a bad harvest or a sudden illness and the whole family would end up in the workhouse. Sadly, families were split up. Men were housed in one section, ladies in another and children in another. Your clothes were taken from you and all inmates had to wear a uniform. It became a prison, beds were crammed close together and disease quickly spread through the building. There are countless tales of the severity and harshness of workhouses especially during the 1800's and Charles Dickens highlighted this in his book.

Inmates would rise, get dressed and washed by 6 o'clock. This would be followed by breakfast and prayers. Then, there would be work until lunch which consisted of bread and thin soup made with vegetables, bones and occasionally meat. More work and then supper which nearly always was bread and cheese, followed by more prayers and then bed.

The first workhouse to be built in Wisbech was in 1722 and was down in the Horse fair at Albion Place. It took up three acres and held up to 80 residents.

But, 114 years later, in 1836 the Wisbech Poor Law was created and in the following two years the Wisbech Union Workhouse was built at a cost of (£468,000) £6,900 in a grand Tudor Gothic style. It was massive and included, two school rooms, a dining room, shoe makers and tailor's shops, two sick wards, two hospitals, ten sitting rooms, twenty three bedrooms or dormitories, four clothing stores and kitchens.

At the centre of this building was a big three storey

building with a bell tower. The rest of this impressive building was two stories high and the whole gave an impression of large grandeur.

The inmates were clothed and fed and it is said it was one of the best in the country. Far from Charles Dickens portraiture of a workhouse.

There was a census taken in 1881 and it showed that there were seven staff and two hundred and thirty eight residents. The children had separate accommodation and provision for elderly couples to be together was made. As well as this there were housed in the workhouse over eighty lunatics.

In the late 1800's the Vicar of Walsoken would spend his Christmas day carving a large joint for the inmates and telling them that he had visited many workhouses but none as good as Wisbech.

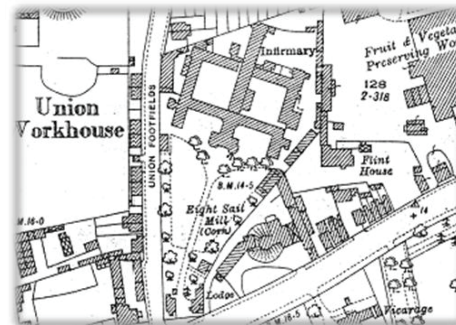
The workhouse inmates were treated to occasional entertainment and outings and the Mayor gave them special teas now and then.

Gradually, it changed it's use and became a hostel for the elderly and infirmed. And at this time there were tramps who would call in for a free meal. They could have a night's free lodging if they did one hours work in the morning.

There was a big piece of land down by the harbour railway line owned by the workhouse and inmates who were capable were sent to clean and feed the pigs that were kept there.

When the National Health Service started in 1948 the building became the Clarkson Geriatric Hospital and finally and again sadly, this building and all the history of it was demolished in 1982.

Wisbech has a connection with Charles Dickens. His original manuscript of "Great Expectations" is to be found in the Wisbech and Fenland Museum.



I hope you have an enjoyable Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Gorefield Ladies Group



The October guest speaker was Michael Clayton who gave a talk and slide show on the Life and Music of

Buddy Holly. The legacy he has left us, and although he was only 22 years old when he died in a plane crash, Buddy was an innovator and his music has an enduring influence. Michael also explained how important the music of Buddy and The Crickets has been to him in his own life. Thanks were given by Chris and refreshments were served by Marion Fisher and Margaret Tuck.

The next meeting will be on 14th December 7.30pm, at Gorefield Village Hall and will be the Christmas Party. New members are welcome.

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Nene Class

This half term Pre-school are learning about Journeys, different types of transport from the past and present. We are revisiting Ernest Shackleton and his journey to the South Pole. In maths we are doing lots of activities around size - big, small, little and large.

Moreton Class

In Moreton Class the children really enjoyed our visit from the Road Haulage Association, where they learned about road and lorry safety. This half term Year 1 will begin to read and re-tell the story 'Coming Home' by Michael Morpurgo, which tells the story of a Robin's journey home. They will also begin their history lessons where they will learn what History is and what a historian does. They will also enjoy pretending to be archaeologists. Reception begin a new topic called 'Journeys'. They will learn about transport old and new as well as learning about the Polar Explorer, Ernest Shackleton.

Marriott Class

The children have settled back fantastically after the half term holidays and have already been embracing their new learning challenges. We have started our addition and subtraction unit in Maths and the children are using their knowledge of place value and number to help them. In Science the children will be learning about living things and their habitats and cycles in nature - we are hoping to get out and about in the school grounds to explore our own environment. In history the Year 3 and 4 children will continue learning about the Ancient Greeks while the Year 2 begin to explore 'Powerful Voices'. Our Geography children learning will take us across to Mediterranean Europe where we will look at countries, flags & cities as well as exploring the climate and human & physical features. The children will be exploring texture and shape in Art and the Year 3 will be expanding their knowledge of form using Still Life as the focus. Our focus in PSHE will be anti-bullying.

Magdalene Class

In Magdalene class we are busy in all aspects of the curriculum. We are completing persuasive and historical reports in English. In math's we have a focus on formal methods for addition and subtraction. We have already enjoyed a careers day visit where the children learnt about engineering and the army. We are looking forward to learning about midwifery and law.

Christmas Bingo

FRoGs will be holding their annual Christmas

Bingo on Friday 9th December at 3:30pm (not 4pm as in previous edition). Please come along and join us, everyone is welcome.

Carol Service

We will be holding a Carol Service at Wisbech St Mary Church on Monday 19th December at 6pm. We are hoping to incorporate nativity scenes into the Carol Service and make this a really festive, family event. This will be open to all family members and the wider community as we will not be limited by space.

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When you visit an osteopath, they can provide advice on keeping active so you can stay healthier for longer and fend-off those aches and pains. Not sure where to begin? Osteopaths provide advice on how much physical activity you should be aiming for, how to get started and about the positive influence that physical activity can have on your health.

Find an activity you enjoy

You don't need to spend hours in the gym if you don't want to, find something that you enjoy instead. You will then be able to fit it into your life and sustain doing it. Gardening, dancing or a walk in the park – every little helps. So how much is enough and what level of activity is appropriate? The guidelines differ slightly depending on your age, but everyone is advised to do some physical activity every day. This should include aerobic and strengthening exercises.

Adults aged 19 – 65 should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity (e.g. cycling, brisk walking or pushing a lawn mower) every week, or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity (e.g. running, a game of singles tennis or using a skipping rope). Additionally, strength exercises should be done on two or more days a week. These should work all the major muscles (arms, legs, back, abdomen and chest).

If you are over 65 you should also include balancing exercises twice a week (such as yoga, Tai Chi or dancing) as this will reduce your risk of falls.

What types of activity should I do?

A mixture of moderate and vigorous intensity aerobic exercises is also acceptable. As a rule of thumb, one minute of vigorous activity provides the same health benefits as two minutes of moderate activity. Moderate activity should leave you still able to continue a conversation without pausing for breath whereas with vigorous activity this will not be possible.

Different types of exercise and what they do

Aerobic/cardiovascular exercises: exercise that stimulates the heart and lungs to improve their function e.g. cycling, vigorous housework or mowing the lawn.

Strengthening/resistance training: this is where you are using the muscles against resistance such as lifting weights or using resistance bands or even activities that involve you resisting your own body's weight such as sit-ups or press-ups.

Stretching/flexibility exercises: these help to loosen stiff muscles, joints, scar tissue, and help you relax e.g. yoga or Pilates.

Balance: this can help with the control of movement and ensure that muscles are ready to support the body when needed e.g. dancing, Tai Chi or yoga. This is especially beneficial for those over the age of 65.

Tips for getting started

- It is important to build up slowly and allow your body time to get used to the new activity
- It is normal to feel a little sore or uncomfortable after exercise, but this does tend to lessen with time
- You are more likely to keep your new activity up if you start off with something that you enjoy, can do regularly or if you exercise with others

Remember any exercise, even a little, is better than none. If you have been inspired to become more active but want more advice on how to get started or if an injury is stopping you, an osteopath may be able to help.

How can your osteopath help?

It is common to feel some minor discomfort after exercise as the body takes a little time to recover and adapt to the demands of your activities. Soreness often quickly resolves itself, but occasionally it may persist for more than a few days or make it difficult for you to continue your normal activities. In these instances you may want to seek advice from an osteopath. Osteopaths are highly trained healthcare professionals, regulated by law and recognised as one of the Allied Health Professions by NHS England. Osteopathic care is a safe and effective therapy that aims to promote the health of people through the use of manual therapy, exercise and health advice. It is suitable for all ages, from babies to the elderly.

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& Carols**

at St Paul's Church, Gorefield

**Come and sing
alongside our Christmas choir**

**Free mince pie, with either sherry or juice
available after the service**

*A retiring collection will be taken
to aid the upkeep of St Paul's*

Contact and Enquiries: villagevoices@wisbechstmarychurch.org.uk

Wisbech St Mary Sports & Community Centre

Trustees AGM Mon. 5th Dec. at 7.30 in the Sidings
- ALL WELCOME -

Station Bar & Restaurant

Upcoming Entertainment – free Entry

Dec. 3rd Carnaby Sounds – 60's & Booze Brothers!

Dec. 24th Tony G – Great Music on Xmas Eve!

Dec. 31st NYE – Red Door Café Band - Ticket Event (Hall)

Feb. 18th Ska Dust – Very Popular Ska Duo

March 11th Kristie Read – Vocalist/Entertainer

Station Bar – Opening

Mon Closed. Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri – from 6.pm

Sat./Sun. – from 12.00 Noon

Restaurant - Opening

Mon. & Thurs. Closed

Tues. Wed. Fri. from 6.000pm – Full Menu

Sat. from 12.00 noon – Full Menu

Sun. from 12.00 noon – CARVERY

**For further info: to pre – book, luncheon clubs, buffets,
event catering; Tel. 07833 605437**

User Groups/Activities

Mon. Short Mat Bowls 7.30 – 9.00 tel. Robert 07488 397629

Tues. Tea Dance 2.00 – 4.00 (monthly) Live Music with Tanya tel. 01945 410473

Tues. Open Music Night - from 7.30 (monthly Station Bar) tel. 01945 410432

Tues. Line Dance Tuition – from 6.00 – 7.00 Beginners tel. 01354 656641

Tues. Line Dance Tuition - from 7.30 – 9.00 Intermediate tel. 01354 656641

Thurs. Ballroom & Sequence Tuition – 7.30 – 9.00 tel. 01354 656641

Fri. Cash Bingo – Doors Open 6.30 eyes down 7.30 (monthly) tel. 01945 410432

WSM Social Fishing Club tel. 01945 410274

Additional groups or activities within The Community Centre, The Sunset Sports Facility or on The Field are always welcome.

**For General information, hall and room hire/bookings please
contact info@wsmcommunity.com or tel. Joanne 07795 361208**

Contact and Enquiries: villagevoices@wisbechstmarychurch.org.uk



Our school councillors visited Wisbech Council Chambers in November. The mayor gave a talk on what happens behind the scenes and the history of the chambers and how it impacts us today. Children were able to try on special hats, sit in grand chairs and even pretend to be the mayor – meeting adjourned!!!



The wonderful ELSA team; Mrs Allen and Mrs Clarke who support the emotional needs of our pupils, organised a pumpkin competition! Children got creating over half term and the lucky winners had fun carving out their own pumpkins. Well done team!



We are looking for volunteers to listen to our children read in the afternoon. You will need to be police checked. If you are interested then please contact the office on **01945 700275**.




Monday to Friday 8-8:40am £2 per child
No booking required

We serve cereals, bagels, toast, fruit, juice, milk and water and activities include Lego, games and colouring.

All enquiries to
admin@aldermanpayne.cambs.sch.uk
Or visit www.aldermanpayne.co.uk

St Mark's Parson Drove Methodist Church
Carol Service
11th December at 2:30pm
conducted by the Reverend Roger Taylor and Others
Mince Pies with Tea and Coffee's to follow.



The Hobby Gardener

December is a month when our gardens are not uppermost in our minds, Christmas is, a time to celebrate with our families and friends the birth of Jesus Christ. Traditionally there are plants we associate with Christmas, holly, ivy, mistletoe, and Christmas trees the main ones.



Many ancient civilisations believed evergreens to have magical powers because their green shiny leaves remained on the trees when others lost theirs, so they brought them inside to pay homage to their gods, even the romans considered evergreens to be a symbol of good luck .It was during Queen Victorias reign that it became popular for families to gather evergreens to decorate their houses on Christmas eve and to take them out on twelfth night.



HOLLY-signifies eternal life, once used as a deterrent for witches, but Christians accepted the symbolism of it and now associate the thorns with the crown of thorns and the berries as the blood of Jesus.

In Scandinavia holly is known as the Christ thorn.

IVY-was considered a symbol of good luck and if it grew up your house walls it would protect the occupants from harm and evil spirits. During the great plague a vinegar made from the berries was supposed to help you and cups carved from holly wood were used to drink from. I would not advise that today as many plants are poisonous.



MISTLETOE-Throughout the ages mistletoe has been given an aura of mystery, probably because it is a parasite growing on branches of other trees, often apple. It was important to druids and used to be hung over doors to bring peace and hospitality to the occupants and protection against lightning, poisons and evil spirits. During Victorian times it was shaped into balls and hung up for kissing games, 1 berry was removed for each kiss until they had all gone and then it stopped, so I suggest you buy a big bunch!

CHRISTMAS TREES-one of the earliest references is to St Boniface in the eighth century who cut down a sacred oak to save a young boys life and a young fir tree grew in its roots. Martin Luther illuminated a tree with candles to remind children of the light Jesus Christ brought into a dark world. In 1841 Prince Albert set up a lit tree in Windsor castle and today it would not be Christmas without one. Happy Christmas to you all. I think I will put my feet up with a glass of Baileys and look at some seed catalogues.



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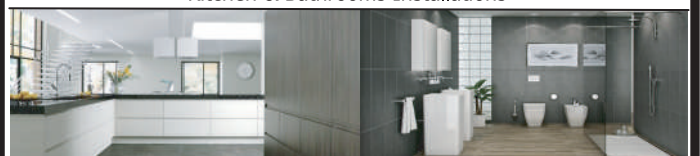
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Chris Coates on 07850 253860

**or John Hunt on 01945 700070 or 07866108111
or email johnshunt@gmail.com**



A colourful cornucopia

**St Paul's windows were beautifully
decorated with the colours of autumn for
our harvest service in October, led by Rev Janet
Phillips.**

Fruit, vegetables, jams, cakes, chocolates and numerous bottles were generously donated for our **fundraising Harvest Supper and Auction, and £780 was raised** which will help towards the annual maintenance of St Paul's Church, Gorefield. The supper and auction were enjoyed by 48.

We are very grateful to David Pope, who did a fantastic job as auctioneer. And big thanks to every single person who helped during the evening, and to all of you who attended, to make it a success.

St Paul's PCC, Gorefield



**FENLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
INTERESTING FACTS**

One of my male ancestors was named Alma Alfred Hawkes, which I thought was a girl's name. I discovered in 1855 many boys were named Alma, after the River Alma in the Crimea and the first battle won in that war. I have recently found similarly named boys after famous events, including Verdun. Other children are named after places including Verona, Pretoria, Paris, India, Sienna and even Infield. I wonder the reasons behind those names. Our team find many strange names when recording gravestone inscriptions. Mount Pleasant cemetery has a long list of unusual first names, including Boaz Erra, Glendora, Hezekiah, Lepaukdro, Hegekiah, Temperence Britton Otley MILLER a great name to research. In Wisbech St Mary we found Annie Militant in 1884. In Whittlesey they found among many others Tryphena & Drusilla. In Chatteris Ethelreada, Fidela, and Zella, Our Family History Society has recorded most of the gravestone inscriptions in the area and they are available to anyone interested.

OUR FENLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Our aims are to support and help our members interested in family history no matter where the family originated. In addition our team of researchers are willing to attend local events with a display linked to the theme of the event being held. If WiFi is available

we can offer family research to visitors. We record and transcribe records in the Fenland area, which covers three counties. We often get requests to look up a record, or to photograph a grave for distant members. Not all records are online, so we maybe able to provide the information members are looking for.

Our MONTHLY MEETINGS- Held on the FOURTH Thursday of the month except August and December. In Wisbech Library from 7 - 9pm. Everyone welcome. Our October meeting was a greatly amusing talk by Chris DONALD. Our Thursday 26th January meeting will be Steve Manning on Saving Your Research. Keeping your research safe without subscribing to online firms.

Everyone welcome to attend our meetings. Members Free, Visitors a £2 donation **OUR COMPUTER RESEARCH SESSIONS.** Our research sessions are at Wisbech Library on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of each month from 10 - 12 noon, on the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month from 11am - 2.30pm in the restaurant at Baytree Garden Centre in Hilgay near Downham Market. We offer help with family research to any visitors at the garden centre.

OUR SPEAKERS are available to attend other groups and clubs to give talks in the local area.

'The Fun of Family History' about a long journey by land, air and sea to find her roots.

'My Naughty Great Aunt Eliza' unravelling a story of lies and deceit.

'The Ups & Downs of Being a Magistrate' a real life experience.

'The Sad Tale of The Blacksmiths Family' the story of a great great grandfather.

The Angels of St Clements Church a tour and talk about the angels in the Outwell Church For further information on any of the above please phone Bridget HUNTER 01945 587723

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What's on and When

Date	Times	Event	Location
30th Nov	3.30pm	Wisbech St Mary Parish Tea	WSM Church
1st dec	1200	Guyhirn Luncheon Club	Deweys Diner
3rd Dec	1-3pm	Christmas Wreath Workshop- see ad	St Johns Parson drove
4th Dec	9am	Christingle service at Parson Drove	Emmanuel Church, PD.
4th Dec	10-2pm	Christmas Craft Fair	PD Village Hall
4th Dec	11.15am	Christingle and Christmas Play	WSM Church
6th Dec	10-12noon	Coffee morning	PD Village Hall
6th Dec	11am	Coffee morning	Guyhirn community hall
9th Dec	4pm	Christmas Bingo- see ad	Guyhirn School
10th Dec	10-1pm	Christmas Bazaar-see ad	WSM Church
10th Dec	10am	Murrow Methodist Monthly stall- see ad	Murrow Methodist Chapel
10th Dec	10am-12	Vestry morning for booking baptisms and weddings	Leverington Church
10th Dec	10am-3pm	Craft Fair at March Bears Rugby Club	Elm Rd, PE15 0BH
10th Dec	10am	PD Street Pride Christmas Tree decorating	The Cage, Parson Drove.
10th Dec	2pm	A Seasonal Afternoon Tea- see ad	Emmanuel Church, PD.
11th Dec	2.30pm	St Marks Parson Drove Carol Service- see ad.	St Marks Methodist, PD.
10th Dec	5.30pm	Murrow Street Pride-Carols, mulled wine & pies	Murrow Village Hall
11th Dec	4-5pm	PD Street Pride Christmas sing-along	The Cage, Parson Drove.
14th Dec	12 noon	RAOB and St Marks - hosting a dinner- see ad	St Marks Methodist, PD.
14th Dec	7.30pm	Gorefield Ladies Group	Gorefield Village Hall
15th Dec	5.45pm	Santas Sleigh Ride around Murrow- See ad	Murrow
17th Dec	1.30pm	Chapel of Ease Carol Service	Guyhirn Chapel of Ease
18th Dec	11.15am	Carol Service	WSM Church
18th Dec	6.30pm	Gorefield Carol Service-see ad	St Paul's Church, Gorefield
21st Dec	7pm	Parson Drove Ukelele Group- see ad	PD Village Hall
24th Dec	5pm	Parson Drove Carol and Crib service	Emmanuel Church, PD.
24th Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	WSM Church
<i>All events subject to any restrictions at the time</i>			

Gorefield in the Past

The school Christmas party was always a time of great excitement. Here is a delightful picture of the first Gorefield school Christmas Party with Mr Peace as the headteacher. It is thought to have been early 1950's, perhaps 1950/1. Almost all the children seem to have a party hat, but they definitely look as if they are enjoying the occasion. I'm sure several familiar faces will be seen.



Researched by Peter Thatcher

Contact and Enquiries: villagevoices@wisbechstmarychurch.org.uk



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