

The Messenger



Holy Innocents Church Gt. Barton Newsletter

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
Reader	Kathy Drakes	01284 787746

Fr Ben's Thoughts for April

This month I'd like to share with you a reflection that a member of our church sent on to me. It arrived in my email box in quite a timely manner, when I had been praying for God to send me some guidance. As is almost always the case, that guidance came through a person, just when I needed it – God's timing is always perfect. Perhaps as you read

this, it will be the perfect time for you to read it too.

It was a piece found on Facebook, and appeared on a blog by Ken Gray. The Facebook post said.

“I visited Matthew, the owner of Lucy’s Flour Shop a little while back. As I nibbled on an enormous chocolate chip cookie I began to tell him a story.

A few years back on a bitterly cold December evening, there was a visitation at the funeral home across the street from his bakery. The people, bundled up in coats, scarves, and blankets were lined up around the building waiting to hug the family of the deceased. Seemingly out of nowhere, a man showed up and began giving away hot coffee to the people outside. People who entered the funeral home with coffee in their hands whispered of a mysterious man handing out free coffee, and how much they appreciated it.

I looked at Matthew and said, “I have a suspicion that you were that man. Is that right?”

Matthew very humbly replied, “Yes, I felt so bad for them and wanted to do something, but all I could do was make coffee, so I made coffee.”

I responded that he blessed so many people that night by helping them warm up and by showing there’s good in the world. He added a positive note to a devastating situation.

I paused, then added, “That visitation was for my sixteen-year-old son. Thank you for being so kind.”

Ken Gray remarked that we can sometimes feel as if we have no power to make any difference to our world or to any situation. And yet we can do *something*, however small, that can make a huge difference to the lives of others. We’d all like to be able to fix our world, with all it’s troubles and disasters. But if each of us were able just play our part, to ‘make

coffee’ in our community, in our nation, in our world, then our lives would look and feel so different.

Ken Gray signs off his blog with the questions, “What is *my* coffee?”. And what is yours?

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

Holy Innocents' A P C M

Holy Innocents' Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th April in the Church Institute, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7 pm.

We will be presenting the Electoral Roll, Annual Report and Accounts, reports on various Church organisations, as well as electing PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives, and electing Churchwardens and an Assistant Churchwarden at our Annual Parish Meeting.

Do come – your presence at the meetings would be greatly valued. Nomination forms for these positions are available at the back of the church. If you want to explore the idea of one of these posts, please contact Fr. Ben at revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com, tel. 07522 386387, or Jane Dalton, PCC Secretary at jane.dalton648@gmail.com, 01284 788613, or have a word when you see them.

As regards Churchwardens, do contact Tim Frost on 01284 787442 or 07840 249448, or Angela Pearce on 01359 230395



The History of Knockers

Great Barton and Thurston Benefice Services
April 2024

Wednesday 3rd April

No Service

Sunday 7th April:

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's at 8.30am
Benefice Sung Eucharist at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Wednesday 10th April:

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

Sunday 14th April:

Benefice Sung Eucharist at St Peter's at 10.30am

Choral Evensong at Holy Innocents at 6.30pm

Wednesday 17th April:

Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Sunday 21st April:

Holy Communion (BCP) at Holy Innocents at 8.30am

Together Family Church at Thurston Primary at 10.00am

All Age Holy Communion at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Choral Evensong at St Peter's at 6.30pm

Wednesday 24th April:

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

Sunday 28th April:

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

(CW Common Worship, BCP Book of Common Prayer)



**PILGRIMAGE TO ISTANBUL, THE SEVEN
CHURCHES OF
REVELATION AND CAPPADOCIA 2-12 or 14 May 2025**

200 Club Draw for February 2024

The draw was made at the Luncheon Club in the Village Hall, on the Friday 8th March 2024.

£100 Tim Frost (101)

£25 Joan Pierson (273)

**Tim Frost
Administrator**



**Our next meeting will be Tuesday 9th April.
at 11am in The Rock at St Peters Church when**

A photograph of a cream tea set. In the foreground, a white plate holds several scones, some plain and some topped with cream and jam. To the left, a small white bowl contains red jam. In the background, a white teacup filled with tea sits on a saucer. The entire scene is set against a light, neutral background.

Cream Tea

It's Cream Tea time again at Gt Barton Church Institute, on Monday May 6th at 3.30pm.

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

Cost £6.50 per person

All proceeds to Christian Aid

Contact Sarah Robinson.

Email; spandj@icloud.com or Tel. 07484 674815



It seems to be quite correct to say our weather is defiantly changing, with endless rain and very little frost in the mornings pear trees and apple trees have not had enough frost, for their germination and good growth.

The Hornbeam, I planted in July 2006, when we first moved to Great Barton has developed well providing much wanted shade in our back garden. There were no little birds in our garden when we arrived, but constantly filling feeders has helped a great deal. A very special treat in March 2007 was a flock of some 2,000 Golden Plovers, which we reported to the Suffolk Wild Trust.

For our novice gardeners I'd like to suggest that they observe the seasons with interest and note when plants and trees flower and so on. A tree paeony will take one week from bud to flower, if the weather is warm. Last month I suggested looking out for second hand tools; this month look for books

Oxfam have special book and music shops in Bury St Edmunds and Cambridge excellent books perhaps originally £20 may be sold at £4. When unable to get outside take the chance to read and learn more. Has anyone had a failure with geranium seed this year? I have met one other person who like myself has had no joy.

How is your greenhouse? I hope you have given it a good clean this will make such a difference to the light for your plants.

Prompt Points: time to sow runner beans in pots. There are many shrubs to prune in April as in March, here are just three.

- a) Forsythia, flower shoots only, do not hack!
- b) Tree paeony dead branches
- c) Perowskia Russian sage. Just above the ground level.
- d) Lastly, look out for plant sales, they start this month.

Listen for the cuckoo you might just get lucky. With Easter now behind us may I wish you all, happiness and pleasure this season.

Sincerely, Mary

VOLUNTEER HELP REQUIRED

Due to increasing popularity the Meeting Point Community Cafe, held each Wednesday at Gt. Barton Church Institute, require additional help between 10.30am and 2pm on a rota basis to assist with serving light lunches, tea and coffee to mostly senior citizens from the surrounding area.

Lunch and tea/coffee will be provided.

Please contact Betty Holdgate on 01284 788196 if you could spare a little of your free time.



THE MEETING POINT COMMUNITY CAFÉ



At The Church Institute,
The Street,
Great Barton

OPENING TIME:

EVERY WEDNESDAY

11.00AM – 1.30PM

LUNCHES SERVED FROM 12.00 NOON

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 serve Homemade
Cakes, freshly prepared
hot lunches to order.



Dear Friends, Thank you to all who have made my 80th Birthday exciting, enjoyable, and great fun. The gifts, cards and good wishes have been amazing. I send my best wishes back to every one of you; and, of course, my Love for such a wonderful circle of friends. I am blessed. Linda



One of my favourite things....

is trying to make sense out of the senseless.

I have always loved my birthday. It just makes me happy: can't help it, can't explain it.

But 80 Years Old? How did that happen? My Grandparents, all 4 of them, and my parents, just 2 of them, did not make 80 years. And for a lot of my life, they were OLD. I don't, at least on a good day, feel as old as my Grandparents looked.

The time just rushes past, it seems. It is only when I think of all the things that have happened to me, where I've been, the people I have known, that I can understand the passage of time.

For instance, it is 53 years since the Scoles family came to live in Great Barton. I have lived here more than half of my life. Yet I remember my early life vividly, and I can never get away with claiming to be British-born because my accent gives me away almost immediately.

I don't mind being 80 - the alternative is not too good, after all. I am just amazed. I was amazed when I turned 50, too. At that time, I wrote a poem about it.

I wrote that when one is young, the lifegoal is often to be Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise. I was evaluating that goal from my half-century achievement. My summation of my life then still holds firm today:

"At 50 (read 80), I am lucky to be Healthy.
If counted in family and friends, I am Wealthy.
But when, O Lord, when will I be Wise?"

With love, Linda

Choir Leader

The Benefice Choir of Holy Innocents Great Barton and St Peter's Thurston are looking for a Choir Leader.

Our choir is looking for someone who will take them forward with new hymns and Anthems; someone to arrange regular practice and lead the choir into the future.

You would work with the organist and Fr Ben the Vicar.

Our choir sing at all our services including evensong and on occasions at Funerals and Weddings.

The choir would also like someone who would encourage them to sing in other venues arranged by the Royal School of Church Music.

For more information, please contact Fr Ben at revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com

Great Barton Film Night

The Film we will be showing on Saturday 20th April is



Dream Horse 2020 cert PG

Doors Open 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Cost £4

Teas, Coffees and Ice Creams On Sale

Great Barton Village Hall



Thankful: a service of remembrance and celebration

Sunday 12 May 2024 at 3.30pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Angel Hill,
Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A special service of remembrance for all who have received our care during the past 40 years. It is also an opportunity to celebrate those who have made this possible and a unique time to thank everyone involved in building our legacy.

Everyone is welcome to attend and if you would like to join us, you must reserve your seat(s) by April 26, and the easiest way to do this is via a form on our website, which you can find using the QR code below. Alternatively, you can contact Supporter Care on 01284 715566



4  *years of caring*
St Nicholas
Hospice Care

A Registered Charity No. 287773



St Peter's Church News

Vacancies for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Peter's Church, Thurston

We have a small number of vacancies to serve on the PCC. Being a member is a really good way to help shape the future direction of your parish. As a group we are friendly and welcoming, and no prior specialist knowledge is required. The PCC usually meets five times a year. We warmly invite you to speak to Rev'd Ben, Pat Sadler or Margery Ashford if you are interested and would like to find out more. The new PCC will be confirmed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday 23rd April at 7.30 pm so you have plenty of time to consider joining us.

St Peter's Thurston.

A huge thank you to all who attended and supported our coffee morning in whatever way. The goodly sum of £96 was raised for church funds.

Many thanks
Pat & Margery



Can you help?

The Treasurer at St Peter's Thurston is retiring after many years of service.

We are now looking for someone to take over this role. The treasurer will be an integral part of our team and will be supported by St Peter's PCC.

If you have experience and would like to know more, please contact the following people.

Fr Ben at revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com

Pat Sadler at patsadler@hotmail.com



Christian Aid: Fundraising Lunches

For six consecutive Sundays, I am hosting a fundraising lunch for paid guests in my own home.

The meal is a traditional Sunday roast followed by dessert or cheese and biscuits. Tea, coffee and soft drinks included. A donation of £25 per diner is requested.¹ Gross proceeds to Christian Aid. You are welcome to bring your own bottle, if required.

Places are limited to six guests per meal. Advance booking essential.

The venue is 1 Hunter Drive, Thurston, IP31 3QQ, off Barton Road (next to the Fox and Hounds). Parking permitted on Barton Road.

The dates are:

April	7	14	21	28
May	5	19		

1.30 pm for 1.45 pm. (Note: there is no meal on Sunday 12 May). Everyone is invited. A warm welcome awaits. Please contact me to book (01359 233489).

We shall also be handing out Christian Aid collection envelopes in St. Peter's Church nearer to Christian Aid week.

I look forward to your support. God bless you all,

**Barbara Sanwo
(Christian Aid rep, Thurston)**

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

'Nicky's Way' receives our cheque!

While St Nicholas Hospice continues to celebrate its 40th anniversary, Nicky's Way reached its 25th

anniversary in February. To mark this milestone, St Peter's presented its cheque and, to thank you for all your support, we share a photo and a shortened version of their account of our visit.

because
you matter

St Nicholas
Hospice Care

A Registered Charity No. 287773

Thousands are raised for child bereavement service!

Thousands of pounds have been raised to help support a local hospice's bereavement service for children.

St Peter's Church in Thurston has handed over £4,106 to St Nicholas Hospice Care, and the funds will be used to support their Nicky's Way service, which helps children and young

people facing grief.

Last year, the church ran its initiative 'By the Young for the Young,' which aimed to give youngsters the chance to have experiences they had missed out on mainly due to the pandemic, and they decided to raise some money for a good cause, too. To raise funds, the church organised several activities, including concerts, workshops and displays involving students from local schools, St Martin's Voices, The Voice Squad, a family walkathon and online auction, which saw more than 40 local businesses kindly provide lots. A family who received support from Nicky's Way, who had a special festive-themed trip to Melford Hall, enjoyed one such auction lot.

Vicky Butler's children were supported by Nicky's Way following the death of Vicky's brother and their nanny. Vicky said: "We were very thankful for the gift to go and have the day together to make some happy memories, and we really appreciate everything that Nicky's Way has done and is doing to support my children."

George Chilvers, the hospice's community fundraising manager, said: "We are really grateful to everyone at St Peter's Church for all of their support. To have raised more than £4,000 is fantastic, and I know this money will make a big difference to our Nicky's Way service and the children it supports.

"Thank you, St Peter's Church, and thank you to everyone who got behind them and supported their fundraising."

Together Family Church

Join us for this monthly family-orientated church service and learn more about God, your family and you!

Breakfast, Songs, Crafts & Prayer

TOGETHER FAMILY CHURCH

ALL ONE IN CHRIST

Every 3rd SUNDAY
@ Thurston Primary

10am for 1030 start (40mins)

Thurston Library News



From the Friends of Thurston Library ...
The Heart of Suffolk Distillery, Bacton

Presents

7pm 10 May in Thurston Library

A talk ... and a taste!

All About Gin

Three tastings ... and a full glass at the end of the evening!

Tickets, £10 available from Thurston Library



The Moses Project and Thurston Library

Thurston Library is now a drop-off point for the Moses Project.

We will be happy to receive

- Preloved baby clothes
(**size prem, tiny, newborn & 0 – 3 months only please**)
- Moses baskets, sheets and blankets
- Nappies size 1 or 2
- Wipes
- Baby toiletries
- Board books
- Baby toys.

The Moses Project is a volunteer-led initiative that supports new families who are struggling to fulfil the financial and practical needs of a new baby.

The Project receives referrals from professionals working with the families and provides them with a Moses basket full of items for mum and baby.

DiscoverReads is back for 2024!

DISCOVERREADS

DiscoverReads is the Suffolk Libraries programme to help you find new and exciting reads and get you talking about books.

With a selection of 5 great books chosen by readers all over Suffolk, over the next 3 months we will be focussing on getting your views on these titles, whether as a Book Group or as individual readers.

As part of this Project there are have 2 events at Thurston Library;

Event 1

Thursday 18 April 7pm - 8.30pm

Discover more Book Group reads!

A free event. Come along if you are part of a Book Group or if you are interested in becoming part of one to share best reads and find out about the 5 titles in the DiscoverReads programme for 2024.

Call or visit Thurston Library during opening hours for more details or to book your place.

As part of this Project we have 2 events at Thurston Library;

Event 1 - Discover more Book Group reads!

A free event. Thursday 18th April 7-8.30pm

Come along if you are part of a Book Group or if you are interested in becoming part of one to share best reads and find out about the 5 titles in the DiscoverReads programme for 2024.

Call or visit Thurston Library during opening hours for more details or to book your place.

Event 2

Friday 7 June 7pm - 8pm



Kate Sawyer, author

Dystopian thriller novelist Kate, will be talking to us about her career so far and her award-winning novel [The Stranding](#). Including audience Q&A and book

signing.

Tickets are £5 from the library or visit

<https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/discoverreads-author-event-with-kate-saw>



NEW DATE

An Illustrated Armchair Tour of Bury St Edmunds

with John Dolan

Bury St Edmunds Official Tour Guide
at Thurston Library

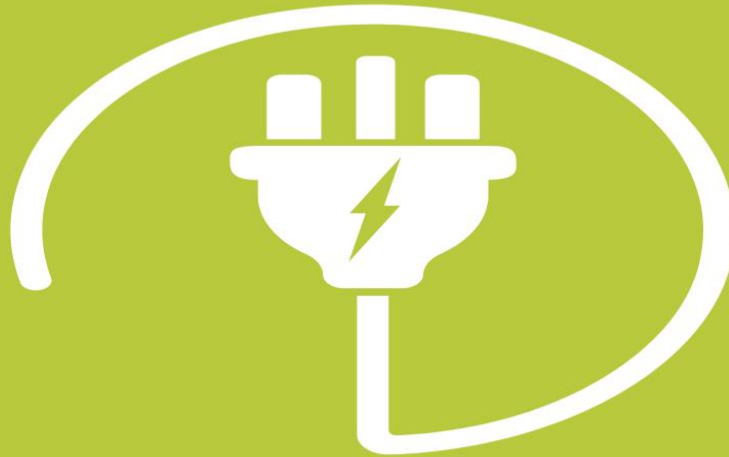


7pm, Friday 12 April 2024



Tickets £6, to include refreshments, from Thurston Library

**Please feel free to use this plug
to charge your device**



Please do not leave devices unattended

**Suffolk Libraries does not take responsibility for any personal
items left unattended**

**A universal phone charger is available to borrow from the library
counter (you will need a library card)**

suffolklibraries.co.uk



By donating to Suffolk Libraries you can help us fund crucial additional services that reduce social, digital and rural isolation in our communities. For details visit www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/donate

HMRC charity number: XT34476

A Monthly Monday Evening Book Club

On the right page for you?

Would you be interested in being part of a monthly Monday evening book group?



We would meet at Thurston Library.

**Please email Ellie Longman,
our Thurston librarian at**

**thurston.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk to
register your interest or for more details.**



Friends of Thurston Library

**Thurston Library on Norton Road is open for all children and adults
in Thurston and the surrounding area**

**Come to Thurston Library: we'd love to see you and it's free for
everyone**

Thurston Library Opening Times

**Monday Closed, Tuesday 2pm-6pm;
Wednesday 10am-1pm; Thursday 2pm-6pm; Friday 10am-1pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am-3pm**

In the Library during the week

Sunday

Lego Club

The Lego Club meets every Sunday
10.30am - 2.30pm.

Monday

Simply Sing

7pm - 8pm Monday 6 November.
If you like to sing, come along and
join us for Simply Sing.

You will be made most welcome.
For more information contact
Angie Murray on 07870 383526.

Thurston Mini Movers

Mini movers weekly 10am -
11.30am. For more information &
to book, please
contact zoe.ablitt@danceeast.co.uk
or phone 01473 295230.

Thurston Mini Movers is supported
by Mid Suffolk District Council

Tuesday

Chat'n'Chill ...

After school 3.15pm - 5pm every
Tuesday during term time.

The Last Tuesday Baking Club

Tuesday 28 November.
Contact Ellie in the Library for
details.

Wednesday ...Wordplay:

Baby Bounce for 0 - 4year-olds

Wednesdays 10.15am - 10.45am.
Bring along your babies and pre-
schoolers in the Junior Library.

Wednesday Watercolour Art Club



2pm - 5pm every week.
New members welcome. Just turn
up!

Thursday

Twenty Minute Tales

Weekly after school story time.

Friday

Friday Sewcial

10am every Friday. Just turn up.
Bring an ongoing project to work
on whilst having a chat.

Saturday

Knitting and Crochet Workshop

Every Saturday 10.30am - noon.
Free. Ever wanted to learn how to
knit? Join us for this weekly session
for beginners. Or you may have a
project on the go and need some
assistance – just come along.

Ancestry Club

Who do you think you are?

10am - noon 1st & 3rd Saturdays
Everyone welcome!
No expertise needed: friendly help
is at hand on from 10am - noon.
Email Jayne at
thurstonancestry@gmail.com
for more information.
Tea & coffee of course! And a good
natter! You'll be very welcome!

Home Library Service

If you or someone you know is having difficulty getting to the Library to select books, then Carol, our friendly Home Library Service Volunteer will do that for you. She will visit once a month with your books and return any you have finished on your behalf.

Get in touch with Ellie on 01359 235048 to find out more or to sign up for this fabulous service!

Did you know?

Your library card gives you access to thousands of eAudio and eBooks, Newspapers and eMagazines (Pressreader) indie films, documentaries, and courses (Kanopy) and you can download and stream music (Freegal). All for free!

Visit <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/elibrary>

Friends of Thurston Library

Like to be involved with the planning activities and events with Friends of Thurston Library? Pick up a leaflet in the Library or contact Richard Fawcett Thurstonlibfriends@gmail.com or 07889 427476.

More Information: Please visit the Suffolk Libraries Thurston Library page

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/thurston-Library

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram (thurstoncommunityLibrary) and thurstonLibraryfriends.suffolk.cloud

for all the latest information on our groups and activities.

Thurston Library: Norton Road, Thurston, IP31 3PB 01359 235048
Library Manager: Ellie Longman



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:

The Editor: 07814 946841 or email: beneficepr@gmail.com

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

Pest Control Services: N.J.Leonard: 07979 648857

John Ranson. 01284 788248 07770932799

jwransonbuilding@gmail.com

Metcalfe, Copeman, Pettefar LLP. Dawn.coller@mcp-law.co.uk

Home Support – Mrs Eden. 07557 337872 or Mrs Drewry 01638 730469 pauladrewry@hotmail.com

ELITE FENCING & LANDSCAPING 01359 221128

trevor@elite-fencing.co.uk

Ian Ball, General Builder. 01359 250697, or 07785 988191.