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	Tím Frost	01284 787442
	Angela Pearce	01359 230395
Verger	Línda Scoles	01359 230392
PCC Secretary	Jane Dalton	01284 788613
Treasurer	Kathy Drakes	01284 787746
Reader	Kathy Drakes	01284 787746

Letter from Fr Ben

"I hope your Christmases were merry - I must say a huge thank you to the many people that came to our Carol Services, the Crib Services on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day. It certainly delivered the spirit of Christmas to me to see our community engaging with the Christmas story. I know that all those who helped make our Christmas services special will have felt the same - our church wardens, those organising refreshments, Christmas Trees, snow machines, readings, music, and carols - huge thanks goes to all those who work hard to bring those things together.

So now that the fairy lights and tinsel are packed away, and our storytelling of Jesus moves on from the Nativity, what now? For many of you, thoughts of the mystery of Jesus the Christ are packed away too, and that's okay. But for our church communities, we keep on diving into that mystery, discovering more about God's presence alongside us all.

And so, I would like to formally invite YOU, one and all, to come and hear about that presence and what it might mean for your community, your family, and friends, and you. To explore together what it might mean to be part of the divine flow of the universe, part of all things. To discover how love is at the very centre of every molecule, every atom, every particle of the substances of which we're made, and how that love is for you, always and forever.

Come and journey with us on a journey that doesn't dictate the answers but explores the possibilities, hear what that tiny infant laid in a manger came to teach and gives us the grace to make our own minds up about this special gift of life, it's joys, it's sorrows, it's terrors and triumphs. You are ALL welcome, and just like at Christmas time, we will love to have you with us."

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

200 Club Draw for November 2023

The draw was made at The Christmas Dinner In the Village Hall on Friday 15th December 2023

£100 Roger Boyes (214)

£25 Jane Dalton (182)

Tim Frost Administrator

Holy Innocents Christmas Draw

The Christmas Draw took place at the Christmas Dinner in the Village Hall on 15th December 2023. The winners being:

The Hamper Eileen Rogers

The Wine Box Margaret Bottle

Thank you to all those who supported the draw, by buying tickets and providing items for the draw.

Tim Frost Churchwarden

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th February at 11am in The Rock and will be a talk from Age U K -- 'Lasting Power of Attorney Made Easy'.

Come and join us at the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 1st March. It has been composed by the women of Palestine and will be held in The Rock at St. Peter's Church at 11am.

Thank you, All Good Wishes. Gill.

Great Barton and Thurston Benefice Services February 2024

Sunday 4th February

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

Wednesday 7th February:

Holy Communion at Montana at 11.15am

Sunday 11th February:

Sung Eucharist at St Peter's at 10.30am Evensong at Holy Innocents at 3.30pm

Wednesday 14th February: Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion Ash Wednesday Holy Innocents at 7.30pm

Sunday 18th February: (First Sunday of Lent)

Holy Communion (BCP) at Holy Innocents at 8.30am
Together Family Church at Thurston Primary Academy at 10.00am

Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Evensong at St Peter's at 3.30pm

Wednesday 21st February:

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

Sunday 25th February:

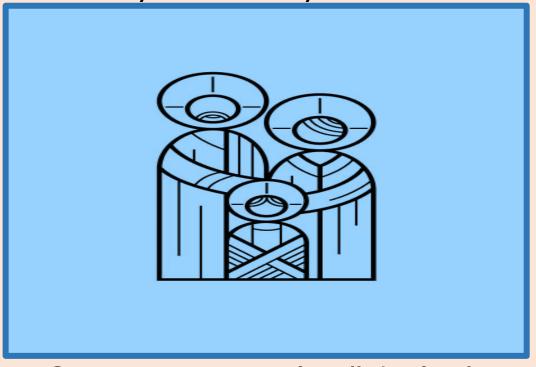
All Age Holy Communion at St Peter's at 10.30am

Wednesday 28th February:

Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

(CW Common Worship, BCP Book of Common Prayer)

St Peter's Church, Thurston All Age Holy Communion Sunday 25th February at 10.30am.



This is a Communion service for all the family to enjoy



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.

Thank You

Many thanks to you all for being so disciplined when approaching me and Coco. I know it is a great temptation to tickle a dog's ears, but as you know a working dog, is when the harness is on its back, and should be ignored totally until she is off duty, I appreciate all your efforts in this regard.

It would be of great assistance to me if when you approach you could say your name, please, as I have a great talent for calling Petunia, "Humphrey" and Humphrey, "Petunia". You will also have noticed that when I am speaking to you, I tend to look to my right, that is beyond your left ear, as it is my left eye that does the most seeing from stuck. I am not being shifty I'm doing my best to look you in the face, but in most cases fail miserably. Please don't think that I am being rude to you. thank you so much.

Rev Canon (Emeritus) Stephne Van Der Toorn.

Great Barton Film Night



The Film we will be showing on Saturday February 17th is

Living (2022) Cert 12

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

Teas, Coffees and Ice Creams On Sale

Great Barton Village Hall

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

revdbeniaminedwards@gmail.com

Treasurer

Can you help?

The Treasurers in both St Peter's Thurston and Holy Innocents are retiring after many years of service to their respective churches. We are now looking for someone to take over the role of the treasurer. The treasurer will be an integral part of our team and will be supported by the relevant PCC's.

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

For St Peter's:

Fr Ben at revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com

Gill Bush at gillianbush@metronet.co.uk

Pat Sadler at patsadler@hotmail.com

For Holy Innocents:

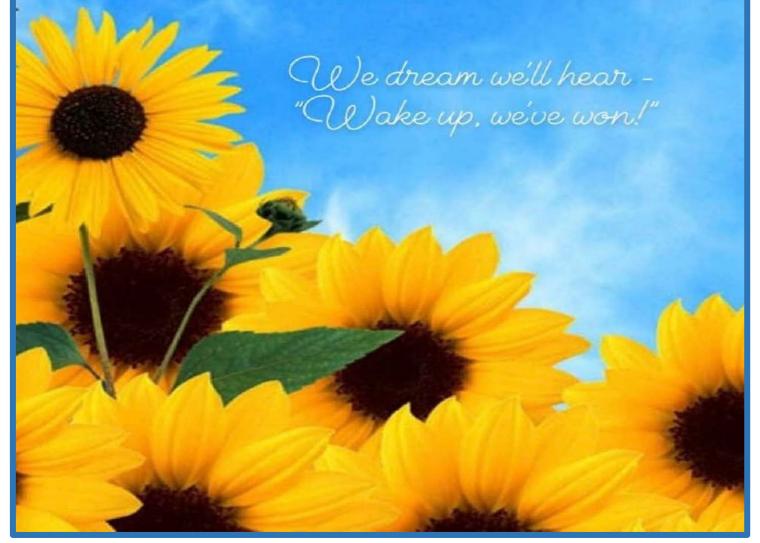
Fr Ben at revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com Kathy Drakes at kathy@drakesfamily.org

Tim Frost at timfr0st@yahoo.co.uk



Angel Hill 11:00-12:00

Please, stand with us to show your support for Ukraine and to let people know that the struggle continues.



Good Samaritan

Last Sunday, as I was driving back from Bury, I had difficulty engaging the gears on my Audi and eventually came to a juddering halt, outside the Peugeot garage, with the car by now filled with smoke. I switched on the hazard lights, got out of the car and stood wondering what to do, whereupon a young woman appeared and said "we were driving past and saw that you had trouble. Is there any way in which we can help?"

There certainly was! Her husband, who'd joined us after going round the corner to park their car, immediately phoned the AA for me and was told that someone would be with me within the hour, because of my long-standing membership (61 years--age does sometimes have its advantages). The couple then kindly drove me back home to Thurston, where 5 minutes later the AA man appeared to collect the car key. He took the car to Cracknell's garage and to my surprise, reappeared a short while later with my blue disabled badge, as he thought I might need it, if I was offered a lift in someone else's car while mine was being repaired.

I felt this tale of, not one, but three Good Samaritans was worth sharing. I shall long remember their kindness. All I now have to do is pay the repair bill!!

Daloni Peel



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.

From a Gardeners Notebook, February 2023

The weather has not done much to support the gardener in January, I have managed an hour or two for little jobs. Do remember to go indoors before you get too cold, do not worry we always manage to catch up. At the time of writing early snowdrops are out, celandines and primulas.

If you have not yet had your pruning tools sharpened attend to this first as it is time to prune your roses, toward the end of the month, by 25th for example. The majority of other pruning is done in March and April but never prune frosted growth, as advised in previous articles. Pruning at the correct time will bring dividends.

Although we have had plenty of rain so far in 2024, remember the old country saying of February fill dike. Items to prune now are Winter Sweet, Climbing roses and Rhus one foot above the ground. It is always good to try new things, I have chosen Camassia, a bulb of considerable size in blue and white flowers, mine are planted in pots. I will report my efforts in due course. We can start to plant annual seeds in February, Cosmos one of my favourites as many of you know. I hope to have plenty at my next plant sale in May. Check your green house for those little pests, also water any plants on warm days when the soil might dry out.

With regard to vegetables, sow early beans and peas, also buy or order for early cropping, potatoes, sprout them in a light room or shed. As we had no article in January,

may I wish you a Happy 2024 and success with your garden through the next season.

"O cruel and remorseless winter, like the other seasons I love your beauty".

Happy gardening,

Mary

One of my favourite things....

is not the month of February. Although it is the shortest month, it always seems the longest. And the greyest; the dreariest; the soggiest; sometimes the coldest. I try to keep my spirits up by searching often for the aconites on Church Road. As soon as those glorious golden yellow blooms appear I know that Spring is on the way, and I am cheered.

Recently I visited with 3 dear friends who have each been unwell, but are now improving, and better than I had expected. That certainly made me smile a lot, both while I was with them, and after. God is good, I feel, when those I love are healing.

As I was leaving, one of those friends said she had something for me. It was a poem that I had asked her many years ago to copy in her best calligraphy, which I planned to frame as a gift for another friend who has since died. This poem always makes me think of that lovely, fiercely loyal friend. I was so lucky to have had her in my life.

Oh, the comfort The inexpressible comfort of feeling
Safe with a person,
Having neither to weigh thoughts,
Nor measure words - but pouring them all
Right out - just as they are Chaff and grain together Certain that a faithful hand will
Take and sift them Keep what is worth keeping And with the breath of kindness
blow the rest away.

Dinah Craik

The poem could have been describing Jesus, and I frequently make him my sounding board. But there is nothing quite so wonderful as a woman friend to spout off to and feel safe while doing it. What a Blessing. We should all have the comfort of a human friend like this, to keep our spirits up through cranky February, and all the rest of the year, too.

With love, Linda

St Peter's Church News

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



Our January Update

We hope that 2024 has started well for you all.

We are delighted to report that our annual Christmas Bazaar was a huge success and we are grateful to all those who supported it. Our combination of new attractions and old favourites proved very popular and we made a grand total of £1,353. We have also received a further £5,120 from a successful grant application and further donations to our Coronation Year Appeal. This means we have now raised an incredible £25,911 and can announce that the work on lime washing the church walls will commence in the next few weeks.

As you know, our theme for the Coronation Year was 'By the Young for the Young' and includes supporting 'Nicky's Way,' St Nicholas' Hospice's programme for bereaved children and young people. We received a donation in lieu of payment from those who did the Face Painting at our Bazaar. As a result, we have now raised £4,106, slightly exceeding our target of £4,025. This represents £100 for each of St Nicholas Hospice's 40 years and £25 for Nicky's Way's 25th anniversary next month. We are having a cheque presentation to 'Nicky's Way' and we will provide a report in the next newsletter.

There is always more to do and if you would still like to donate, please visit: https://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk/news-2/st-peters-donation-page/

The mathematicians amongst you will have worked out that having raised £25,911 and £4,106, our total stands at £30,017.

£30,000 was very much an aspirational target for us and we are delighted to have reached it.

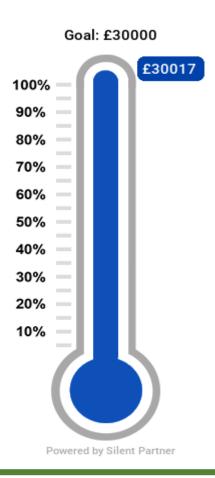


The Coronation Year: St Peter's Church supporting the next generation

We made it!

Last year, **our much loved St Peter's Church** had a new path, a refurbished porch, new bespoke notice boards, new curtains in the Lady's Chapel and a newly polished floor. It will shortly have newly lime washed aisles and plans for its children's corner are progressing.

In addition, our projects have provided **opportunities for children and** young people that were denied them during the pandemic and all appreciated our range of **intergenerational events.** They have also allowed us to look outward to the wider community, particularly in **supporting 'Nicky's Way'** at St Nicholas Hospice.



Together Family Church

Join us for this monthly familyorientated 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

An Illustrated Armchair Tour of Bury St Edmunds

with John Dolan

Bury St Edmunds Official Tour Guide

at Thurston Library

7pm, Friday 16 February 2024



Tickets £6, to include refreshments, from Thurston Library



Thurston Community Players - 'Cinderella' - Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd March

Oh yes it is!... It is with great delight that I bring the exciting news that Thurston Community Players' inaugural production 'Cinderella' will be staged at the Thurston Community College Theatre on the weekend of 2nd & 3rd March 2024.

Having gained an enormous amount of support from Thurston Parish Council, we formed the group in the summer and auditioned for the cast in September. Since then, our feet have not touched the ground. Full of locally grown talent, this production takes the well-loved tale of Cinderella and her dysfunctional family, and then adds in lots of pantomime traditions as well as jokes, music

and song.

Our Ugly Sisters are really ugly, revoltingly funny (and just a tiny bit saucy) and our Cinderella suitably delightful. She plays alongside our two principal boys, who play Prince Charming and Dandini with great aplomb! Throw in a cheeky Fairy Godmother, a truly wicked Stepmother, a forlorn Baron Hardup and a lovelorn Buttons and you have all the right ingredients for a super piece of entertainment.

Suitable for all the family, please come along to the show and support your new local theatre group. Tickets are available via Ticket Source by either visiting their website and searching for the 'Thurston Cinderella' event or by using the QR code on the poster below that will take you directly to our booking page.

If you struggle with, or are unable to use this system, please feel free to drop into Thurston Library where Ellie, Thurston's Librarian, will be happy to help you access the system via one of the library computers.

For any other enquiries call Sarah on 07900 242738 or Sam on 07792 493324, or email us on thurstoncommunityplayers@gmail.com

We very much hope this show will be the first of many but we will be relying on local support to keep going. Who knows? You might want to join us next time!

I look forward to welcoming you all to the Theatre in March

Sarah Cornell Director



SUFFOLK LIBRARIES DAY 2024

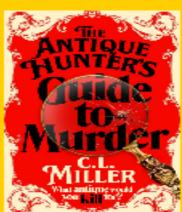
Saturday 23 March



Author event with C.L. Miller Cavendish Hall, Thurston 2:30pm, arrivals from 2pm

Join us for an author interview with audience Q&A, followed by a book signing with C.L.Miller.

Tickets: £5 including refreshments. Available online: suffolklibraries.co.uk or in person from Thurston Library



Make a difference & get involved

For more information visit suffolklibraries.co.uk/sld





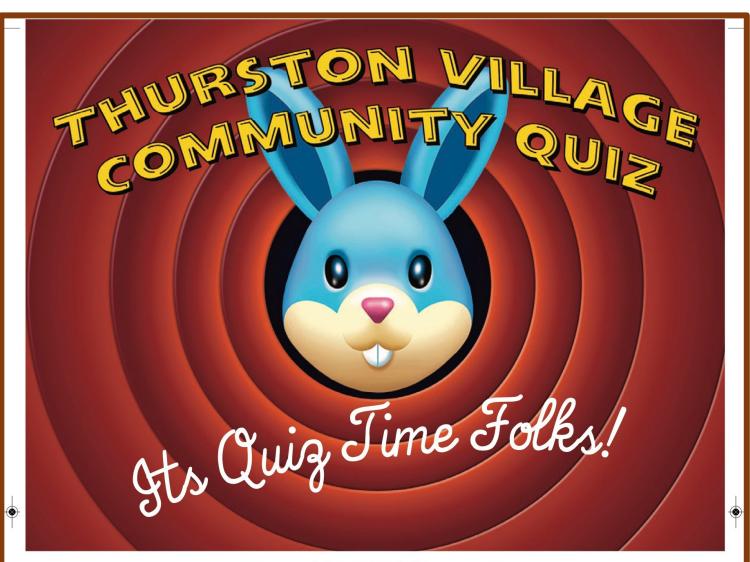




Volunteers Needed in Thurston Library

We are looking for people who have a couple of hours a week spare to help with looking after our collection of book donations. Basic computer skills are helpful as this is a research-based project.

If you are interested, please see Ellie at the desk, call the library during opening hours, or email ellie.longman@suffolklibraries.co.uk





A village event organised by ...

The Friends of Thurston Library

with bar and refreshments by...
The Friends of
Thurston School



Friday 22nd March 2024 at Thurston Primary Academy

(opposite the Victoria pub)

Doors Open at 7pm — Quizzing Starts at 7.30pm

(Bar and refreshments available from 7pm)

Teams of up to Four : Entry £20 per Team

(Everyone welcome, but please note that quiz subjects may not align with younger knowledge)

Multiple prizes for various achievements throughout the evening, plus ...

The Village Quiz Trophy

(with a year of bragging rights!)

and a

Special Jackpot Prize

Team tickets available in advance from Thurston Library

So..... what is happening with Thurston Library garden?



For just over a year now there has been a volunteer group working towards creating a sensory garden which can be accessible by all residents in and around Thurston.

The plan is to plant up the garden with safe plants for everyone's enjoyment all the way up to senior residents who can come and sit, chat and enjoy the new garden. The garden will be open during library opening hours.

The garden will also be dementia-friendly too. This will be achieved by seating being specific colours, planting brightly coloured flowers and shrubs, clear signage and an easy-to-navigate garden area.

Assistance dogs will be welcome.

We anticipate the garden being ready and open around May time 2024.

If you, or if you know of anyone, who would like to volunteer and lend a hand to maintain the garden especially in summer months, please do get in touch with Ellie, Thurston Library manager.

We would also be very grateful for any unwanted garden tools that you may wish to donate to the project. These can be left with Ellie at the library.

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 <u>zoe.ablitt@danceeast.co.uk</u> 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 preschoolers 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

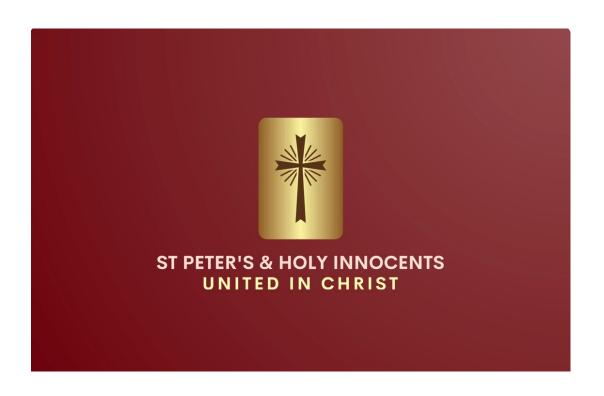
Friends of Thurston Library

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



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.