

# TOGETHER

*Helmingham, Debenham*



*Framsden, Kenton*



*Pettaugh, Aspall*



*Winston*

# Winter 2016

December to February

Distributed free within the Debenham and Helmingham Benefice

## **From the Benefice Coordinator, Winter 2016**

OK, I'm not part of the Ministry Team but they're busy people and there's still some space to fill up so here are some thoughts from myself instead.

Reading and singing the Psalms was a key part of life in Christian communities of past centuries. Easy for us to find in the Bible (because it's in the middle), monks recited them while walking and learned them by heart, while during their many liturgies they would sing them. We inherit this tradition in our peculiar mixture of plainsong and melody, using Coverdale's translation in England while in Scotland many churches sing metrical psalms instead.

They also featured in my youth: in a parish church choir in Kent, singing them in the two 1662 services each Sunday. Cathedrals carry on this tradition in Choral Evensong using the many choral settings written over 400 years, while Common Worship sadly has no choral settings that I'm aware of.

Yet the sweetness of choral singing masks the raw emotion of the Psalms. Also when psalms are said or sung we sometimes omit the "nasty" parts. Take Psalm 139 for instance: verses 1-18 are well known, starting as follows:

*1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar...*

Then in verse 19 the tone changes abruptly:

*19 O that you would slay the wicked, O God,  
that the bloodthirsty might depart from me!*

The author boasts how much he hates God's enemies! Did you know that the weeping willow tree, *salix babylonica*, is named after Psalm 137?

*1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.  
2 As for our lyres, we hung them up on the willows that grow in that land.*

Later the author, one of the Israelites exiled to Babylon in around 600 BC, tells God what he thinks of his captors:

*8 O daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy the one who repays  
you for all you have done to us;  
9 Who takes your little ones, and dashes them against the rock.*

At the Forge Church in November Duncan Banks spoke of how the Psalms include every emotion from lament to praise, depression to joy, anger to thanks, love to hate. I found them very helpful when for three years I joined Patrick at Morning Prayer every weekday, reading through all the psalms in sequence. If you find yourself having dark thoughts about God (or about anyone else), try reading the Psalms. Not just the nice ones like Psalm 23, but the gloom of Psalm 88, the frustration of Psalm 77 and so on. Others have been there before. *Tony Hutt*

## **Progress towards appointing a new incumbent**

The appointment of a new vicar is a process enshrined in church law, and to most people in a benefice with a vacancy it seems archaic and long-winded; it certainly

seems so to me. Despite it being almost six months since Patrick left I do not feel we are much further forward. We have held what are known as section 11 and section 12 meetings with the Archdeacon and the Bishop and we have put together our benefice profile. The benefice profile is a document that contains the information that we provide to tell any prospective candidates what sort of benefice we are and it contains contributions from all the parishes. All churchwardens have been sent a copy, if you would like to know what it contains please ask. There is a copy at the back of St Mary Magdalene, Debenham. In addition the Archdeacon has put together the rest of the paperwork needed for candidates. I have been told that the vacancy will appear on the diocesan website ([www.cofesuffolk.org/vacancies](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/vacancies)) soon. I was told that a few weeks ago and it has not happened yet but I remain hopeful!

An advertisement will not be placed in the Church Times until the New Year. This is to allow time for the Bishops and the Archdeacon to make direct approaches to people they know who may be interested in moving from their current post. They feel this may be more productive than an advertisement; though if this proves to be unsuccessful we will have to pay for an advert. Once there are prospective candidates interviews will be planned. Each parish has chosen two representatives who will be part of the appointment process though not all of these will sit on the interview panel as this would be unwieldy.

Wardens will be able to keep you abreast of any future developments. Once somebody is appointed, it is likely that they will have to work three months' notice in their current post so the earliest we could expect a new priest to join us would be around Easter next year. Watch this space!

*Chris Bishop*

## **Evening Prayer during the interregnum**

During the interregnum (i.e. until a new Parish Priest is appointed) there will be an Evening Prayer service at Debenham Parish Church on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. This will be a short, informal service, typically following the Common Worship format.

## **PETLAUGH**

The **Carol Service** will be held on **Saturday afternoon 24<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30 pm**. The church will be lit by candle light and the service will consist of carols and readings, both religious and secular appropriate to the season. A Communion Service will be held on Christmas morning at 10 am.

An important future event will be the 2017 **Marvellous Marmalade Competition** to be held in Dove Cottage, Debenham on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March** from 10 am to 12.30 pm. Tea, coffee and cakes, including a cake stall, will be sold in aid of St Catherine's Church. The competition last year was very popular and we look forward to another enjoyable event in 2017. Three categories will again be open for entries, marmalade made from Seville oranges, marmalade from Seville orange plus another citrus fruit, or marmalade from any citrus fruit. Please put the date of 11<sup>th</sup> March for the competition in your diaries.

## **Why are our churches always fundraising?**

First of all a very big thank you to everyone who helps at, donates to or attends any of our fundraising events. Without your support our village churches would not survive.

In our current position, awaiting a new vicar to head our joint Benefice, we have had to have a hard look at finances and thought it might be helpful to explain the seemingly endless need to fundraise.

## **How do our local churches support themselves?**

Each church has a group of volunteers who form a Parochial Church Council (PCC) that is responsible for the upkeep and running of the church (and in some cases village hall).

Each parish must contribute to the Diocese mainly to pay for the vicar as well as for support and administration. For most of our small churches that is just short of £5000 per annum. In addition the church must be insured, bills paid and buildings maintained (another £2-3000).

## **How can we achieve this?**

- Through regular giving at services, by envelope scheme or by standing order.
- One off donations
- Fundraising

## **A combination of hard work and enormous generosity!**

If you feel you could make a regular donation (however small or large) to your parish church, please contact your churchwardens for further information.

You could help to keep your village church open and even if in today's busy world, you don't have time to attend the weekly services regularly, many of us continue to come together to celebrate Christmas, festivals, weddings and christenings.

*continued from page 3*

The Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle Ride was held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September raising much-needed funds for our church and we are very grateful to our local organiser, Ruth, for all her hard work (and cycling). The Harvest Supper was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October with the church filled with parishioners enjoying good company and food to celebrate this seasonal event.

Parishioners and visitors to the churchyard will have noted that two large horse chestnut trees alongside the footpath and a yew tree in the churchyard have had to be felled for safety reasons. A large, heavy branch from one of the horse chestnut trees had fallen onto the footpath without any warning and would have caused serious injury to a passer-by. An urgent professional inspection was undertaken and the opinion was that all three were diseased and dangerous and posed a risk, requiring felling of the trees. This essential safety work cost £3000 and represents a threat to the financial viability of the PCC. Those who attend services in the church just manage to cover the essential running costs of the church but the added burden of maintaining the churchyard, a public space enjoyed by many parishioners who use the footpath

and paths for leisure and walking, is becoming overwhelming. It is hoped that a solution may be found whereby these costs can be shared a little more by the parish.

Sadly Glenda Ransome passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> October in her Pettaugh home. Glenda, aged 29, moved to the village in 1967 with her husband Bob when he took up a position with G&J Cutting at Pettaugh Mill. They moved into 'The Bungalow' on Debenham Way with their daughter June aged 5 and son Ray aged 3. Glenda loved her 49 years in Pettaugh and her children have wonderful memories of their childhood here. She had several part-time jobs and could be seen cycling around the area, never missing any school event for her children at Helmingham and Debenham School. In 1988 when A1 Feeds was sold, Glenda and Bob moved to 6 Debenham Way where sadly Bob died in 2002. Glenda managed her life alone, supported by family and friends, a proud lady, always smiling who loved her garden. She will be dearly missed in the village and by her family, June & Nigel, Ray & Lynda and her only grandson Bradley who will be marrying Joanna next year. They would like to thank everyone for their kind words and especially to Veda Berriman who led the service for Bob and then Glenda.

Parishioners are again reminded that during the winter months, pedestrians may not be easily seen by drivers during the hours of dusk and darkness. Please wear a high-visibility item of clothing, carry a torch, always walk on the side of approaching traffic and be prepared to step on to the verge to avoid the risk of injury.

## HELMINGHAM

Our Harvest Festival was conducted by Revd. Richard Court. At his suggestion the responses were sung, to the enjoyment of everyone present. The produce was taken to the Salvation Army Hostel in Ipswich.

Many thanks to Graham, Robin and Bill who biked 41 miles, visited 21 churches and raised £575 for Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, half of which will be returned to St Mary's Church, we are grateful to everybody who supported them with generous donations.

Christmas Services:

- Carol Service 11th December at 6pm.
- Midnight Holy Communion 24th Dec at 11.30pm

Christmas drinks and canapes can be enjoyed at Helmingham Hall on Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>, at the kind invitation of Lord and Lady Tollemache, in aid of Church funds. More information available from PCC members or estate office 01473 890363

Best wishes to Daniel and Lilith Styles and family on the Baptism of Agatha Elizabeth on November 12th.

Congratulations to Kieley Styles and George Wright on the birth of their son Dylan Robert, a grandson for Tess and Robert.

### **The Old School House Nursery**

Autumn has fully arrived at The Old School House Nursery with the children chasing the leaves in the playground, racking up leaves in the garden to fill their wheelbar-



Sue Walker (Nursery Assistant) painting the hands of Martha Styles to go on her bag for the Art Exhibition

rows and extending this learning to looking at the shape of the different leaves. Using colour mixing to make different colour greens, orange and brown, the children have painted the leaves and then printed them—all shapes and sizes. This of course then extends to painting hands and feet! The children describing the tickling of the brush on the bottom of their feet.

The weather has been extremely good and allowed for lots of outdoor play on bikes, small world on mats—overhearing the delightful conversations between characters and each other—a joy to hear. The

children choose to engage with activities outside even if it means wearing a coat and hat to put the princess in the tower of the castle.

Our recent Art Exhibition was amazing with parents coming to join us for a glass of wine whilst browsing the Nursery with all the art work on display from bespoke canvas bags printed with those hands and feet, frogs from pebbles, clay hedgehog night lights, pink flamingos, zebras, corn dollies and truly exceptional still life of sunflowers.

Music features highly in the Nursery with song sessions on a Monday with lots of instruments being played—the favourite being the lollypop drum which is used to sound out the children’s names. The children continue to enjoy cooking sessions on a Tuesday—making bread, soup, buns, cheese scones—often using the produce locally and picking blackberries up the lane. Wednesday Miss Pamela takes Dance, Thursday Agnes uses puppets to inspire the language of France and finishing off the week with our Woodland Walk on a Friday afternoon.

We are now preparing for the festive season practising songs for our Nativity Performance in December and looking forward to our annual Christmas Party with Kev’s Disco and a very special visitor all dressed in red.

Come and see us, visit our website [www.theoldschoolhousenursery.com](http://www.theoldschoolhousenursery.com) or call 01473 890950.

## WINSTON

The Harvest Festival service was held on Sunday 4th September and we thank all the flower arrangers for making the church look lovely. The ‘goodies’ from the service were taken by Kate to the Mencap home in Debenham. Veda received a lovely letter of thanks from the staff and residents.

The Garden Event held on Sunday

### Winston School Room

is available to hire: see back page for details.

8th September at Winston Grange was a great success. Special thanks to Lord and Lady Deben for hosting the event. Many thanks to the helpers, to everyone who donated the wonderful variety of cakes etc and to everyone who supported us on the day. The amount raised was a fantastic £827 for Winston Church and Schoolroom funds.

The carol service takes place on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm. Children are invited to take part by reading, singing or playing musical instruments etc. Please let us know if you'd like to take part. The collection goes to EACH (East Anglian Children's Hospices).

The Christmas Day service will be at 10am.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas and a peaceful and joyous New Year.

As I write this the date of the Annual Winston Quiz has yet to be decided but it is usually held during February/March in the Schoolroom. Look out for posters etc nearer the time, or ring Lyn Odell for more details on 01728 860859.

When visiting the Schoolroom please remember to bring your newspapers and put them in the paper bank. The value of old paper has gone down over the years but the money raised goes towards the Church and Schoolroom funds.

### **Winston Parish Council**

The next meeting will be 1st February 2017, Wednesday at 7:30pm in Winston Old School Road. All welcome.

Further complaints about safety and speeding traffic along Fenn Street have been received. The Parish Council have continued to work with Matthew Hicks and Suffolk Highways to pursue a solution and will be writing shortly to all residents along Fenn Street with information and providing an option to consider from Suffolk Highways.

## **FRAMSDEN**

We were delighted with the response for help with the Harvest decorations this year as ever. The Church looked beautiful, be-decked with colour and joy everywhere. It is a communal effort, helped along with much chatter and enthusiasm. Many, many thanks to all those who took part.

Framsdens Church **Christingle service: date to be confirmed**. Please join us and support a very worthwhile cause (NSPCC) at this very special Christmas service. All welcome!

### **Framsdens Woodland Group**

(Pictures at [framsdenwoodlandgroup.blogspot.com](http://framsdenwoodlandgroup.blogspot.com))

Some beautiful summer mornings have seen the woodland group pricking out, potting on and finally planting out foxglove seedlings as well as preparing the areas to be planted.

New members have joined and we had a fabulous social gathering with the fire pit grill at full capacity.

## Index to Advertisers

Chimney Sweep .....	14
Clifford Painter and Decorator .....	17
Coni's Cleaning .....	14
David Coupe, Boiler and Heating services .....	17
Deben Boiler Services .....	18
Deben Valley Equine Veterinary Clinic .....	19
Debenham Vets, Practice, Peter Wilson .....	15
Earthwood Tree Company .....	12
Farthing Funeral Service (Pecks).....	9
Fusion Furniture, Robin Barnes.....	19
Hair at Home .....	14
Helmingham Free Range Pork, John Cutting .....	17
Henry Abbott hardware and housewares .....	12
Jennifer Baker, Catering & Accommodation.....	13
Jo Kelly, Foot Health Practitioner .....	16
Kindlewood, wood and tree services .....	13
Lawn Mower Servicing .....	14
Limes Garage.....	14
Mark Jardine, Plumber.....	16
Old School House Nursery, Helmingham .....	17
Pauline, sewing and repairs .....	19
Rachael Towler, Accountancy .....	12
Reiki, Mark Pragnell.....	18
Simon Kimmins, Builder .....	18
Steve Thornton, Property Maintenance & Repair ..	14
Suffolk Chimney Sweeps .....	19
The Cycle Workshop, Ian Hines.....	15
WhatChores Property Preservation.....	13

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For advertising rates see page 10.

In September the Stonham Aspal Guides concluded an evening ramble with toasted marshmallows around the fire.

## KENTON

The Carol Service will be at 5pm on Sunday 18th December.

Ring Ann on 01728 860088 for more details of events in Kenton.

## DEBENHAM

### Philosophy 7 talk/ discussion series

On 28th October, Winston Schoolroom hosted the fifth and final Philosophy 7 talk and discussion event of the year. Julia Payne, former resident of Winston, is now a newly qualified junior doctor working in Nottingham City Hospital and as part of her medical training spent six weeks with the charity Love the One ([www.lovetheone.org](http://www.lovetheone.org)), which is a children's charity in India. She talked about Love the One and the work it does for disadvantaged children in India, including some of the challenges it faces. Social and medical miracles are being accomplished by the staff and volunteers with very limited funds, whereas many children go untreated because of prejudice or poverty. It was inspiring to see the dedication and commitment of the charity, who put Christian compassion into practice (not just for

Christians of course) and made us grateful for our National Health Service despite its limitations. We never have to take our credit or debit card to hospital to pay for treatment, however expensive. Julia is keen to revisit Love the One in the future.

Other talks during the year included *Trident* by Prof Ewan Anderson (with a very lively discussion!), *Old Men Dream Dreams* by Patrick Cotton, *The good that men*

*do lives after them* by Hilary Marlow and *An End of Imperialism* by The Rt Hon. the Lord Deben. We hope to continue the series in the future, so if you have suggestions for speakers please contact me. Or if you have a talk up your sleeve yourself! I also have an email list which you can join to be informed of future events. *Tony Hutt*

## Editor's notes

The Copy deadline for the next *Together* (March to May) magazine is **25 January**, normally published about two weeks later. Quarterly, A5 format. 700 copies printed and collated on Rizograph stencil copier, distributed free by members of Winston church.

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**Advertising** payments to Kate Branch, The Red House, Winston, Stowmarket IP14 6LG Tel (01728) 861004 Email: [cmcbranch@btinternet.com](mailto:cmcbranch@btinternet.com) (payable to Winston PCC) rizontal slice: 1/8 page for £20 p.a. (4 issues); ¼ page for £40 p.a.; ½ page for £80 p.a. Send advertising enquiries and advertising copy to Tony Hutt.

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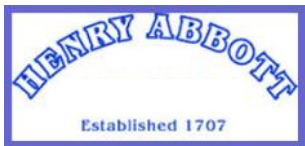
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<b>December 2016</b>	<b>Helmingham</b>	<b>Framsden</b>	<b>Pettaugh</b>
3rd		<b>4pm Christingle</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	10am All Age, Communion Service 3pm, Framsd		
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6pm Carols</b>	11am Family Service	11am Holy Com- munion
18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Commu- ion	9.30 Morning Prayer <b>6pm Carols</b>	<b>3.30pm Carols</b>
Christmas Eve	11.30pm Holy Commu- ion		
Christmas Day		10am HC <i>by Extension</i>	10am Holy Com- munion
<b>January 2017</b>	<b>Helmingham</b>	<b>Framsden</b>	<b>Pettaugh</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	10am All Age Communion Service Winston		
8 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm Evening Service	11am Family Service	11am Holy Com- munion
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Commu- ion	9.30am Morning Pray- er	11am Morning Prayer
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Commu- ion	11am Morning Prayer
29 <sup>th</sup>	10am Benefice Communion at Debenham		
<b>February 2017</b>	<b>Helmingham</b>	<b>Framsden</b>	<b>Pettaugh</b>
5 <sup>th</sup>	10am All Age Communion Service Pettaugh		
12 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm Evening Service	11am Family Service	11am Holy Com- munion
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Commu- ion	9.30am Morning Pray- er	11am Morning Prayer
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Commu- ion	11am Morning Prayer

	<b>Winston</b>	<b>Aspall</b>	<b>Kenton</b>	<b>Debenham</b>
en		8am Holy Communion	11am Family Service	9.30am Family Service
	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Carols	8am Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
	11am Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion	<b>5pm Carols</b>	9.30am Holy Communion
	<b>6.30pm Carols</b>			<b>5.30pm Crib Service</b> <b>11.30pm Holy Communion</b>
	10.30am Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion	10.30 am Family Service + Communion	9.30am Family Service
	<b>Winston</b>	<b>Aspall</b>	<b>Kenton</b>	<b>Debenham</b>
		8am Holy Communion	11am Family Service	9.30am Family Service
	9.30am Morning Prayer		8am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
	11am Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion 4pm Sunday School
	9.30am Morning Prayer			9.30am Holy Communion
		8am Holy Communion	10am Benefice Communion at Debenham	
	<b>Winston</b>	<b>Aspall</b>	<b>Kenton</b>	<b>Debenham</b>
		8am Holy Communion	11am Family Service	9.30am Family Service
	9.30am Morning Prayer		8am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
	11am Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion 4pm Sunday School
	9.30am Morning Prayer			9.30am Holy Communion



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**Friday 2 December  
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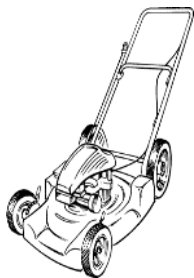
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Contact: Mark Prangell on 07977 042693

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## **How do I find out more?**

Mark Prangell is a Reiki Master living and practicing in Framsdon and would be delighted to hear from you.

He can be contacted on 07977 042693 or by email: [mark@reiki-energyforlife.co.uk](mailto:mark@reiki-energyforlife.co.uk)

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE

*During the time whilst we are waiting for a new parish priest, please contact church wardens or the Benefice Administrator.*

### Ministry Team

Revd. Robin Barnes 01379 678850 robin@whisper01.plus.com  
Mrs Veda Berriman 01728 861363 r.berriman111@btinternet.com  
Mr Mark Trevitt 01473 890568

### Churchwardens

#### Debenham

Mr Chris Bishop 01728 860124 chris.bishopsuffolk@gmail.com  
Mrs Carole Edgley 01728 860389 caroleedgley@gmail.com

#### Helmingham

Dr Peter Haas 01473 785381 doris-haas@tiscali.co.uk  
Mr Robert Styles 01728 860239 rstyles172@btinternet.com

#### Aspall

Mr John Chevalier-Guild 01728 860492 hall@aspall.co.uk  
Mr Andrew Ward 01728 860343

#### Framsden

Mr Peter Syers 01728 860505 peter.syers@googlemail.com  
Mrs Christine Schofield 01449 723650 christine@cpwc.co.uk

#### Kenton

Mr Vic Woodgate 01728 811118 vicwoodgate@winterbrook.co.uk

#### Pettaugh

Mrs Sheila Janson 01473 890883 s.janson@btinternet.com  
Dr Hilary Marlow 01473 892090 stcatherinepettaughpcc@hotmail.co.uk

#### Winston

Mr William James 01728 860233 jameswinstonhall@aol.com  
Mr Brian Branch 01728 861004 cmcbranch@btinternet.com

#### Benefice Administrator and Editor of *Together* magazine

Mr Tony Hutt 01728 860173 tony@tonyhutt.co.uk

19 Priory Lane Debenham, Stowmarket IP14 6QD

Website : [www.achurchnearyou.com/debenham](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/debenham) (*this page has links to the other churches in the Benefice*).