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Tickets are limited and the closing date is Wednesday 18th Dec

Karaoke last Friday of the month – Karaoke EXTRA on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Booze Raffle followed by live music – Date/Time TBA

Christmas Eve Disco & Prize Raffle (iPad, London Theatre Tickets, Kindle, Hamper plus many more)  
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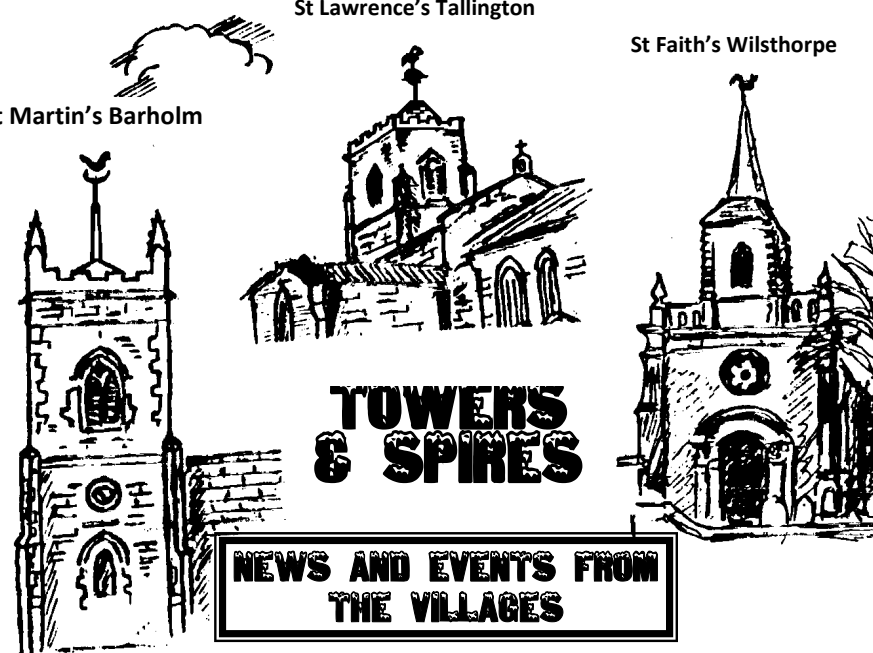
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**Please call for any information on the coming events**  
**Telephone: 01780 740557**

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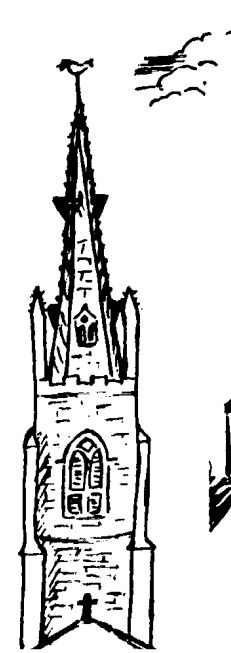
St Martin's Barholm



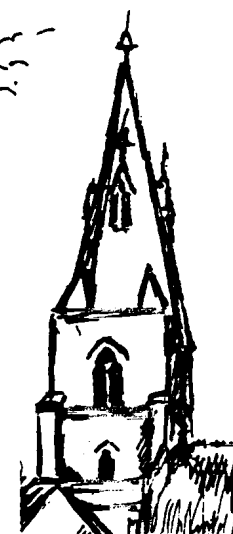
## TOWERS & SPIRES

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE VILLAGES

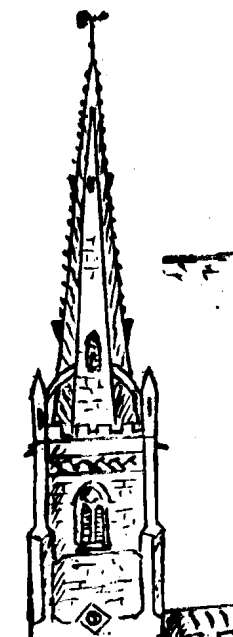
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Braceborough - Mrs F Grindey,

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Greatford - Mrs B Everitt,

Tel: 01778 560473

Tallington - Mrs L Pollock

Tel 01780 740445

Uffington - Mrs Gail Genever,

Tel: 01780 765005

[gailgenever@btinternet.com](mailto:gailgenever@btinternet.com)

West Deeping - Jean Stowe

Tel: 01778 346779

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### EDITORIAL SECRETARY

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Uffington Tel: 01780 765005

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### PREPARATION FOR PRINTING

**Pete Hickman**

Tel: 01780 754417

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## LETTER FROM BISHOP CHRISTOPHER

Dear Friends,

At its meeting at the end of September, the diocesan synod agreed that we should move forward together as a faithful, confident and joyful diocese.

While I hope that these three things – faith, confidence and joy – will help us to shape our common life as we discern God's will for our diocese in the years ahead, they also seem to me to be very relevant for the season of Advent.

In Advent, we prepare for the great gift from God that is coming: the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we receive redemption from our sins and fullness of life.

This gift, freely given by God, is the source of our hope and the ground of our faith. It is also a sign of God's faith in humanity, who loves us with a love that is far beyond anything we can imagine. In the life of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, that we see that love come down to earth and made manifest in ways that we can begin to understand.

In all the glitz and glamour of the Christmas season it can be easy to miss this

It is this faith in humanity, summed up in the birth in the stable in Bethlehem, from which we can take confidence to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, walking in his way and following his example. In him, the love of God is there for all to see. Through him, God has shown us the pattern for our lives.

May God inspire us with joy as we await the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ, and may I wish you a blessed and a holy Christmas.

**Bishop Christopher**

### BARHOLM & STOWE

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November another wonderful bonfire and fireworks display took place at Barholm. Again the chosen charity was the MacMillan's Nurses with just over eleven hundred pounds raised, thanks to the hard work of Jo, Kay and team. This Annual event has grown considerable from the days when it was held in the Memorial Field for members of the parish. This year the event attracted a record number of people who enjoyed a variety of food and excellent display of fireworks, thanks to Martin, John W, John M and Chris. This annual event is only possible due to people giving up their time before, during and after so thanks must go to Matt, Emma, Nick, Rosemary and finally everyone who come to support this important fund raising evening. THANK YOU.

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillors Kelham Cooke and Rosemary Woolley would like to wish everyone in Tallington, Uffington and Barholm & Stowe a Happy Christmas and New Year.

*The Rectory, Uffington*

*Merry Christmas!*

The year has vanished yet again, and Christmas is well and truly on the horizon – I've even bought some Christmas presents already (in fact, the first one has even been posted!) Here in the group we've got lots of Christmas services and events planned for all age groups, choir practices have started, and life this month is looking very busy for us all.

The first special services this season are the **Christingles** – at Uffington and Greatford (for days and times of these and all the December services, see the centre pages). If you've ever been to a Christingle, you'll know that it's a lovely service, especially for children (of all ages...). It's also a very important service for the Children's Society, as it supports their work both in prayer during the service, and by raising funds - if you'd like a money box to save some coins to bring to one of the services, please ask me, and there are Gift Aid envelopes available too.

There are also lots of chances to sing **Christmas carols** this year, as ever. The group carol service is in Uffington as usual, and the choir is practising at Cophill School on Wednesday evenings - it's not too late to join in. There will also be evening carol services at Tallington, West Deeping, Greatford and Braceborough, an afternoon service at Wilsthorpe, and, of course, carols at all the **Christmas services** themselves, with midnight masses this year at Barholm and West Deeping, and a service at each of the other churches on Christmas morning. Somewhere there should be a service with a day and a time to suit you.

There's so much to do getting ready for Christmas - I hope you don't all exhaust yourselves. And remember, as you're rushing round - the churches are there every day to provide you with a moment of peace. Why not drop in - with your shopping, as you come home from work, or on your way to collect the kids - for a few minutes peace, and a reminder that at the heart of all the activity is a quiet moment - the joy at the birth of a baby, and God's message of peace and goodwill to all people.

Hope to see you and celebrate with you during the Christmas season.

*Carolyn Kennedy.*

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### Baptism

17<sup>th</sup> November

Uffington

George John Fallowell

#### Funeral

21<sup>st</sup> October

Uffington

Winifred Russon (80)

## GREATFORD

**Church Flowers:** Rachel Barron-Clarke

**Church Cleaning:** Lois Webb and Carol Bettinson  
(plus communal effort after decoration is completed)

**Church Services:** The services – which everyone is most welcome to attend – are:

8<sup>th</sup> December: Holy Communion at 9am; and also on

8<sup>th</sup> December a Christingle Service at 4pm;

22<sup>nd</sup> December: Family Service at 9am;

24<sup>th</sup> December: Carols and Readings at 6pm;

25<sup>th</sup> December: Holy Communion at 9am;

29<sup>th</sup> December: Group Service at 10.30am.

**Bell Ringing practice** - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Thank You** to everyone who attended or gave donations for the coffee morning on 7<sup>th</sup> November for Macmillan Cancer Support and which raised an amazing £177.

**Carlby & District WI** has members attending from Carlby, Bourne, Thurlby, Wilsthorpe, Braceborough and Greatford. The surprise of the well-attended Members night on 12<sup>th</sup> November was speaker Sharon Paul of 'Simply Hat Hire' of Market Deeping. She had brought along her beautiful creations of hats and fascinators which she then allocated to the audience. The next meeting is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Carlby Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30 pm and will be the Christmas Dinner Party. New members and visitors are always welcome. For further information please telephone 01778 590180.

**Mobile Library** – Please try and use this service if you can as it is threatened with closure by the County Council. The van will call at Greatford opposite the phone box on Thursdays 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and January 16<sup>th</sup> 2014 from 11.30am to 12noon.

**Flying the Flag:** You can help to raise funds by having the Union Jack or the Flag of St George flown in honour of any special event. The Flags can be flown at the Village Hall in aid of Village Hall Funds or on the flagpole outside the Church in aid of Church Funds. Please contact Cyril Webb on 560437 in either case.

## WEST DEEPING

**West Deeping Walkers.** Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> is led by Roger and Joy 01788 343263, 15<sup>th</sup> December by Gill 01780 345589 and 29<sup>th</sup> December is a local walk. Meet outside Village Hall at 1.45pm. For further details call Annie, 01778 346805, or email [snewbigging@talktalk.net](mailto:snewbigging@talktalk.net)

**Bible Studies.** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2.45 for 3.00pm at Cromwell House, followed by tea. This will be the last meeting of the year before meeting again in January. For more information contact Susanna Aldred on 01778 380014.

**Welland Mother's Union Carol Singing** at Tallington Care Home. Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30pm. Please contact Elizabeth 01778 344674 if you would like to join us.

**Coffee Morning.** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December. 10.30am-12noon, for St Andrew's Church. West Deeping Village Hall. Home-baked cakes and preserves for sale and organized activities for children.

**Children's Christmas Party** with entertainment. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2.30pm, West Deeping Village Hall. All children and grandchildren welcome. Call Sylvia 01778 348899, Elizabeth or 10778 344674

**Rambling Readers.** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 7.45pm. The Christmas meeting is at 28 King Street. If you are interested in reading a new book each month, supplied by Lincolnshire Libraries, call Elizabeth Noble 01778 344674.

**Carpet Bowls Club.** There are sessions on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings Chairperson: June Thomas 01778 343434.

**West Deeping Heritage Group** is taking a break for two months, so the next talk will be in February 2014. We would like to thank everyone who supported the event on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October when the Stamford Canal interpretation boards were unveiled and we celebrated the completion of the project. Special thanks go to the Red Lion for putting on a wonderful buffet. A leaflet has been produced explaining the route of the canal through West Deeping and Tallington and where you can walk along it - copies are available from the Village Hall, the Red Lion and St Andrew's Church.



**The West Deeping Crib.** The Travelling Crib is a collection of knitted figures that make up a Nativity Scene. Every year in December you are invited to give a home to the crib and share The Christmas Story with your family. You will get to keep The Crib for a few days and then pass it on to the next family on the rota. Your child or grandchild is able to keep one of the woolly sheep as a memento. One reason for the Travelling Crib is to get to know more people in the village. You may receive the crib or deliver the crib to people you have not met or don't know very well. West Deeping is a small village; we all lead busy

lives and don't always find the time for our neighbours. So if you have children or grandchildren who would like to look after The Crib please contact Jane Ramsay, 54 King Street, West Deeping 01778 343329/07595 465682 or e mail: [janeramsay@btinternet.com](mailto:janeramsay@btinternet.com) If she's out please leave your name, address and phone number.

# a.d.walker

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## BRACEBOROUGH

A huge 'thank you' to all those who came along to St Margaret's autumn maintenance morning on 26<sup>th</sup> October. We completed all the required tasks to help ensure we have a safer, weatherproof building and an even tidier churchyard as winter approaches. The path was weeded, the nasties cleared from the north-west corner, the western boundary cleared and many of the yews were sympathetically trimmed to improve light penetration and enhance the view of the church from the road. Gutters and drains were checked & cleared and lots of mossy (and messy) deposits removed.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec - Holy Communion at 9am.** Please come along and join us. Everyone is welcome.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Eve Carol Service at 6pm in church.** Eileen Bangay has kindly offered to lead our service this year and the organist is organised! Please make a diary note to come and join us for this year's service. The candles will all be lit, the super-efficient wall heaters will be on and there are lots of favourite carols on offer- we just need you all to come and help sing them! Drinks and nibbles in village hall afterwards. Everyone welcome. Please let Malcolm know if you are willing to read, play some music, sing or recite (or any combination of these) as the schedule for the service is currently being programmed.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Day Holy Communion at 9am.** Everyone is welcome to this service. Please try and come along if you can.

### Dates for the Diary

**New Years Eve Party 8pm in the Village Hall.** Bring a contribution to the food table and your own drinks. Admission by ticket only. Music & then chimes at midnight.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Sunday lunch at the Village Hall.** In aid of St Margaret's Church. Roast lunch. Licensed Bar & Raffle.

**26<sup>th</sup> April - Hot Potato Syncopators.** Concert. More details next month.

**Braceborough Gold Apple Trees.** There are still a few available! James has grafted the seedling apple tree in the village hall grounds. It has a crisp, yellow fruit. Some are on M9 rootstock (grows to c. 8 by 9 ft.) and others on M27 rootstock (grows to c.6 by 5ft). The trees should start fruiting in 2-3 years. These are grafted from a seedling tree so are unique to Braceborough. Minimum donation £17-50 each, with a minimum of £10 going to the defibrillator fund for each one sold. Advice is available from James.

## STAY WARM AND WELL

### A Successful scheme helping vulnerable people to stay warm is being run again from this month (October)

Responders to Warmth (R2W) provided practical support to over 4000 residents last winter – particularly older and more isolated people. The scheme is aimed at those on low income with health problems. Measures included everything from energy advice, loft/cavity wall insulation and emergency heaters to help with joining bulk oil schemes offering cheaper fuel. For this winter, Lincolnshire County Council has given R2W – managed by the Lincolnshire Community Foundation – a further £500,000. Cllr Patricia Bradwell, executive councillor for adult care and health, said: "Helping people keep warm in winter is essential to good health. Not only does it help avoid unnecessary illness, it reduces the number of people living in miserable and uncomfortable circumstances."

For more information and to find out if you could be eligible for support, phone 0845 606 4566 or visit [www.responderstowarmth.co.uk](http://www.responderstowarmth.co.uk)

## UFFINGTON

### Church Flowers

1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Dec – Advent

15<sup>th</sup> Dec – Copthill School for Carol Service

22<sup>nd</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Dec – Free

**Uffington WI.** Jam and Jerusalem? Tai Chi, Scottish dancing, quilting, vintage aircraft, Cold War bunkers, and equine vets are among the items members of Uffington WI say they want to see on next year's programme of talks and visits. Discussion was initiated by Margaret Walker when the branch held its November meeting in the village hall, and there was no shortage of ideas. Just a few weeks earlier, members had enjoyed a day out looking at the industrial heritage of Birmingham's famous Jewellery Quarter, and visiting its museum where time slides away to reveal a fascinating world of beautiful and precious handmade objects, forgotten tools and obsolete office equipment in a workshop which closed its doors one day in the 1980s and never opened for business again. The speaker at November's meeting was Louise Duly, who demonstrated the French-originated craft of Decopatch, using coloured papers, paste and varnish to transform a variety of discarded household objects. The branch's next outing will be its annual post-Christmas night out, on the second Wednesday in January at the Bertie Arms, Uffington. Uffington's President, Maggie Carter, thanked Vanessa Kimberley, who has agreed to be the WI Representative on the village hall committee. Sheila Croft has volunteered to be a delegate at the Spring Council Meeting at Springfields, Spalding, on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The Lincolnshire South County News sheet will in future be distributed in two copies to each branch, though individual members may have a copy emailed to them on request. A competition for a piece of royal memorabilia was won by 1 Chris Redfern, 2 equal Mary Johnston and Sue Naden, and 3 Jenny Peear. The next meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> will feature the now-traditional Christmas bran tub, mince pies, wine, and a talk entitled Tales From a Farmer's Wife by Jane Barnes. The competition will be for a home-assembled Christmas cracker.

**Flying the Flag.** Either the Union Jack or St George's Flag has been flown as follows:

Date	Event	Sponsor(s)
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	PCC
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Armistice Day	PCC
24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Christening of our granddaughter Daisy Lillian Feetham	Bob & Carol Feetham

Mark your special date by sponsoring either the Union Jack or St George's flag, and make a £5 donation to Church funds. Contact David & Gail Genever or Graham Creedy (481084)

**Uffington Village Hall News - Dates for your diary: Children's Christmas Party - Saturday, 7th**

**December** for all children of Uffington aged 4-11 (younger children must be accompanied by parent/guardian). In order to provide catering and find out arrangements for presents from Santa please contact Anita Hassall tel. 01780 749373 as soon as possible.

**Adults' Christmas Party** - Saturday, 14th December; this event is almost sold out but there are a few places left. A meal by Lucy's Kitchen will be served; there will also be a bar and mystery raffle. All donations gratefully accepted! Contact Karen Cozens 754656 if you want to join us.

**Bookings Secretary** - Vanessa Kimberley (W.I. representative) has kindly volunteered to act as temporary bookings secretary. If you wish to hire the hall or check on any bookings you have made for the next three months please give her a call - Tel. 01780 239463

**Continued Elsewhere:**

### Uffington Village Hall News Continued:

**Roof Fund** - A wonderful evening of Proms music in Uffington church on October 18th raised nearly £400 for our fund. The committee would like to thank the choir of St John's church Grantham for donating their time and providing a splendid concert of both popular tunes and well known classics. A big thank you to Church Wardens and the School (for lending their toilet facilities). We hope very much that the choir will pay a return visit next year and that the turnout will be even bigger!

**Uffington Over 60's Christmas Lunch** at Cophill School (by kind permission of the Teesdale Family) on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 1.15pm. Tickets available at £5 each from Mrs Mary Johnson Tel: 751809.

### TALLINGTON

#### Church Flowers

1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> December - Advent

15<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> December - Advent

25<sup>th</sup> December - Mrs R Thurlby

**St Lawrence's Church:** The final total for the Gift Day was £1315. The Parochial Church Council thank all contributors for their generosity which is much appreciated. The PCC also wish to thank all those who have helped the Church in many different ways during this past year: opening and shutting the Church on a daily basis, flower arranging, making the Church always look welcoming, keeping the Churchyard clean and tidy as well as the Church itself.

**Travelling Crib:** Available on a rota basis for families in the Village during December. To book the Crib for its use on three days contact Anne Knox (740268).

**200 Club:** The winners for October were:

No 56 Tom O'Malley £15; 107 James Allen £10; 75 Gordon Berridge £5.

**Social Evening:** A Christmas Fayre evening will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm with light refreshments and drinks available, the big 200 Club draw (£50, £25, £10) and a grand Christmas raffle. Why not come along to help get your Christmas off to a good start.

**Mobile Library Service:** The Mobile Library will be in Church Lane on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December between 10 and 10.30am.

**Theft in Tallington:** During the night of the 14/15<sup>th</sup> November a catalytic converter was stolen from a car parked in the drive of a home in West Street. The owners of the car have provided this information so that residents can be made aware that such thieves are working in the area.

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## WILSTHORPE

### Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Ian Kirkpatrick gave a report on the position of the proposed First Time Sewerage Scheme at Wilsthorpe. He informed the meeting that it would not be taking place as proposed in November but had been postponed until the spring of 2015. A Flood Risk Assessment had to be completed before the site for the pumping station could be considered by Lincolnshire County Council Planning Committee. It was expected that the trees would be removed in September 2014 to make way for the access road to the proposed site, after a bat survey had been completed. He reported that the purchase of the land for the pumping station was still going ahead. A structural survey of properties along the route would take place prior to commencement of work. A question & answer session then took place. The Date for the next meeting would take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at St Faith's Church, Wilsthorpe at 7pm. All welcome.

**Rosemary Woolley Clerk to the Council.**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 10.30 Holy Communion.** Please come along and join us, where you will be made most welcome.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council Meeting **7pm** St Faith's Church Wilsthorpe.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December** – We will be decorating the church for Christmas, any help would be greatly appreciated. The church will be open all day but if you require any further information please contact Susan at Corner Cottage [560720].

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve!** The Candle Light Carol Service and dressing of the crib will be at 3pm, followed by light refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies.

### **HANDEL'S MESSIAH – DUNSBY – SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Handel's Messiah will be performed by candlelight at All Saints' Church, Dunsby, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2013, at 7.00pm. This promises to be a wonderful performance, with soprano soloists Geraldine Morley (formerly Geraldine Consoli) and Glenys Page, alto soloists Caroline Dyson and Nicholas Jackson, tenor soloists Jon Brent and John Riley and bass soloist Martin Muir. They will be supported by a choir of talented local choristers, several of whom sing regularly at Bourne Abbey at the monthly Choral Evensong service. The accompanist will be Marijke Harris, and the work will be conducted by Michael Kee, who has conducted this work many times previously in both Lincolnshire and Norfolk. All Saints' Church, Dunsby, has excellent acoustics, and this should be a magical candlelit performance – a pre-Christmas treat for everyone who can attend. There is plenty of free parking available on the Fen Road, Dunsby, just a few yards from the church. Tickets, priced at £10 and £8, for reserved seating, are available from Hoppers the Jewellers, North Street, Bourne, and from Pamela Oldreive, Dunsby (tel 01778 440234). Light refreshments will be available, the church will be heated, and all proceeds will go towards the church organ fund. Please book in good time to ensure that you have a seat!

## BRACEBOROUGH

### Clerk's notes of Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at Braceborough Village Hall

Before the Parish Council Meeting residents of Wilsthorpe met with representatives of Anglianwater to discuss the First Time Sewerage Scheme for the village. The clerk reported that the problems of flooding at Quincey's Lane seem to have been resolved and it was hoped that Lincolnshire County Council Highways department would be able to arrange for a camera to go along the pipes from Main Street to Quincey's Lane to see if there are any further problems. Part of the dyke at the Cocked Hat had been dug out to allow water to drain off the road at the junction.

The potholes and road side breakup from Wilsthorpe to Braceborough had been dealt with.

The sewerage scheme at Wilsthorpe had been postponed and the road would no longer be closed. It was agreed that dog fouling notices should be placed around Braceborough and possibly Wilsthorpe. The clerk reported that the second half of the grant to pay the community cleaner had been received.

A discussion took place about the precept for 2014-15. It was agreed that Cllr Morriss should be allowed dispensation when discussing the precept (Cllrs Kentish, Odell, Shorrocks and Burgoin were given this at a previous meeting). Cllrs Burgoin & Shorrocks to canvas residents of Wilsthorpe for their views and volunteers for training to enable the village to have its own defibrillator.

It had been reported that residents from Braceborough were parking on the grass verge, Main Street. Concern was expressed because of the possibility of churning up the grass during winter, damage to the spring bulbs and also the verge would not be able to be cut by LCC contractors. The Delaine bus was again parking outside Farmside at Wilsthorpe and causing road side breakup.

It had been reported that Ivy was growing across the footpath at Wilsthorpe. C.Cllr Trollope-Bellew reported that the Library Consultation had closed and that there had been a response of only one percent throughout the county. He reported that there would be a boundary review of the County Council.

Please note that the December meeting has been altered from 2<sup>nd</sup> December to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at St Faith's Church, Wilsthorpe at 7pm. All welcome.

**Rosemary Woolley, Clerk to the Council. Email-bwparishcouncil@msn.com or 560634 (answer machine).**

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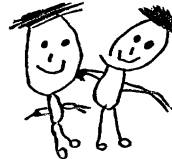
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	Psalm	OT	NT	Gospel
<b>1<sup>st</sup> December</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	122	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 13:11-end	Matthew 24:36-44
<b>8<sup>th</sup> December</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent	72:1-7	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	146:4-end	Isaiah 35	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	80:1-8	Isaiah 7:10-16	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-end
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b> Christmas Day			Hebrews 1:1-4	John 1:1-14
<b>29<sup>th</sup> December</b> St. Thomas Becket			Ecclesiasticus 51:1-8	Matthew 10:28-32
<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b> Epiphany	72	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12

Colours in church: purple/blue for Advent, then white/gold for Christmas and Epiphany, and red for St. Thomas – but no flowers during Advent, of course. Year A begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, so if you read from a printed up lectionary, it's back to the beginning of the book.

Leafmould is formed from decaying leaves and produces an invaluable soil conditioner. It is sustainable, reduces the need for other inputs and costs very little to make. The best quality leafmould is produced from the leaves of oak, beech or hornbeam, but it is suitable for all fallen leaves and needles. Start the process off in the autumn, when most leaves fall, but carry on through December collecting as many leaves as you can.

Thick leaves are slow to breakdown and those from sycamore, walnut, horse chestnut and sweet chestnut are best shredded first before going into the leafmould pile or onto the compost. Similarly, evergreens such as holly, *Aucuba*, cherry laurel and most conifer clippings are best shredded before going into the compost as they all take several years to decay.

Pine needles from your Christmas tree and from pine trees in the garden (which are shed through the year) are worth gathering and keeping in a separate pile as they produce a leafmould which is good for mulching ericaceous plants such as rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and *Pieris*. This can reduce the need for other, peat-based compounds

Leaves are easier to collect when the weather is dry and still, and can be raked up from borders (though care needs to be taken to prevent including weeds – and garden plants!) and from lawns. A rotary mower is useful as it not only shreds the leaves (which speeds up the rotting process) but also includes grass cuttings which add to the nutrient value of the leafmould.

Place the leaves in a bin liner, add a little water if the leaves are dry, make some holes in the bag, tie loosely and leave for about 2 years. Or make an enclosure in a sheltered area, using chicken wire, staking it at the corners, turning over occasionally and adding water in dry weather.

The resultant well-rotted leafmould can be used for seed-sowing or, when mixed with sharp sand, garden compost and soil, used as potting compost. For further information see websites for the RHS and 'Wild about Gardens' at [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk) and [www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk](http://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk)

Donna and Tim

**CHURCH SERVICES AND DIARY DATES  
FOR DECEMBER 2013 VOLUME 28 NUMBER 9**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9am Braceborough HC 10.15am WDeeping MP 10.30am Wilsthorpe HC 10.30am Uffington HC 12.30am Uffington Baptism 1.45pm WDVH Walkers 6pm Barholm EP		2.30pm Uffington Christingle
8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9am Greatford HC 10.15am WDeeping HC 10.30am Uffington MP 3pm Greatford Christingle 6pm Tallington Carol Service		1.15pm Copthill School Uffington over 60s Christmas Lunch 2.45pm Bible Study at Cromwell House
15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9am Barholm HC 10.15am WDeeping MP 10.30am Uffington HC & Sun Club 1.45pm WDVH Walkers 4pm WDeeping Carol Service		
22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9am Greatford FS 10.15am WDeeping HC 10.30am Tallington HC 6pm Uffington Group Carol Service		<b>Christmas Eve</b> 11.30am Tallington HC 11.30am WDeeping HC 3pm Wilsthorpe Carol & Crib Service 6pm Braceborough Carol Service 6pm Greatford Carol Service
29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>St Thomas Becket</b> 10.30am Greatford Group Service St Thomas Becket 1.45pm WDVH Walkers		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
2-4pm WDVH Bowls 7.30pm Uffington WI Tales from a Farmer's Wife – Mrs Jane Barnes Competition: Homemade Christmas Cracker	8-10pm WDVH Bowls		Uffington VH Children's Christmas Party
11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>
2-4pm WDVH Bowls	8-10pm WDVH Bowls		Uffington VH Adults Christmas Party
18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
2-4pm WDVH Bowls	8-10pm WDVH Bowls		10.30am WDVH St Andrew's Church Coffee Morning 2.30pm WDVH Children's Xmas Party
25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Christmas Day</b> 8am Barholm HC 9am Braceborough HC 9am Greatford HC 10.30am Uffington HC 10.30am Wilsthorpe HC			
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	
		7.45pm Rambling Readers at 28 King St, WD	