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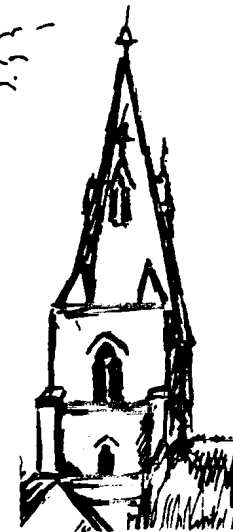
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NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 2013



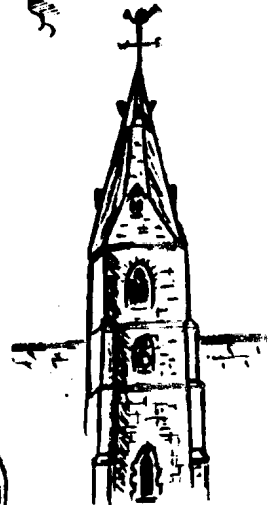
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PLEASE NOTE THAT A COPY OF ALL ENTRIES MUST REACH THE EDITOR BY THE 16TH OF THE MONTH

Preparation for Printing Pete Hickman

Tel: 01780 754417

Please e-mail articles (in MS Word format) to Towersandpires@hotmail.co.uk

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Barholm with Stow. - Mrs C Baldwin.
Tel 01778 560586

Braceborough - Mrs F Grindey,
The Old Coachouse, Tel: 01778 560570

Greatford - Mrs B Everitt,
Greatford Gardens. Tel: 01778 560473

Tallington - Mrs L Pollock
St Lawrence Way. Tel 01780 740445

Uffington - Mrs Gail Genever,
Uffington Tel: 01780 765005
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Dear Friends,

We're starting this month with a celebration. Over the last 18 months, churchgoers from our parishes and from Stamford have been taking part in a lay ministry training course, and on the 3rd February the first course members will be formally authorised for their ministry in this group of parishes – indeed, this deanery, because the idea is that all the lay ministers can help out anywhere in the Stamford Deanery.

The service is going to be at All Saints' in Stamford, at 6.30pm, and the Archdeacon of Lincoln will be preaching; three people from our congregations are to be authorised, Les Baillie and Donna and Geoff Radley; and there will be no evensong at Barholm that day, so that we can all go to All Saints to support them and the others being authorised.

In this group, our lay ministers will be running the new youth group, leading worship, and visiting, among other things. Lay ministers do a one year Parish Foundation Course, then modules, long and short, in areas they're interested in – like worship, visiting, working with children and young people, older people, those who have been bereaved, and plenty more options besides. You can develop skills you already have, or explore new ones; start something new in the parish, carry on with what's already there, or think about faith and work. There is a new Foundation Course planned for later this year – do contact me (or Martin Brebner) if you're interested.

Important as authorised lay ministry is, tho', especially in a group like ours, there are many things to do that don't require taking a course, and we're always in need of volunteers – to look after people, to look after the buildings and the churchyards, to help keep the church running.

It's becoming increasingly difficult to find people to take on jobs in the church – and I know we're not alone, plenty of other organisations and charities are finding the same thing. People feel more and more stretched at work and at home with all the pressures of life, so taking on yet more responsibility isn't very attractive.

Without people to do things, though, the whole system breaks down. I can only dash around the countryside taking several services on a Sunday because someone else has arrived in time to get the building open and everything set up; I have more than enough paperwork to do without trying to do the accounts for seven churches; and I can't really chair meetings *and* take the minutes (besides, I'm really bad at it).

Continued over:

Rector's letter continued:

There are, luckily, still people who are taking on the jobs of being churchwarden, treasurer and secretary – but in this group, with seven churches, we need 14 churchwardens, 7 treasurers and 7 secretaries, and we don't have nearly that many. So if you think that you could take on any of those jobs, do come and talk to me, to find out what it involves. Churchwardens need to come to church, of course – but it's not unknown for someone to become churchwarden first, then start coming to the services more regularly! And treasurers don't necessarily come to all the services, or secretaries either.

If those jobs still seem like too much for you at the moment, there are plenty of smaller jobs, from reading the lesson to giving out the books to arranging flowers, washing linen or polishing pews, weeding neglected graves or trying to control the churchyard ivy. And of course, we do all of these things to keep the churches open so that anyone can come to worship God, in the services or dropping into a peaceful church during the week – so if you're dashing round too much to be able to volunteer, why not come and enjoy some peace – join us for a service on a Sunday, or just come and share the space and beauty of our buildings or the peace of the churchyards and take time to be with God.

Yours in Christ,

Carolyn Kennedy

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Usually, the readings for communion services are the NT and Gospel, and for Morning or Evening Prayer the Psalm, OT and NT.

	Psalm	OT	NT	Gospel
3rd February Candlemas	24	Malachi 3:1-5	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
10th February Next before Lent	99	Exodus 34:29-35	2 Corinth. 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36
17th February Lent 1	91:1-2 + 9-16	Deut. 26:1-11	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
24th February Lent 2	27	Genesis 15:1-12, 17- 18	Philippian s 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31- 35
3rd March Lent 3	63:1-9	Isaiah 55:1-9	1 Corinth. 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9

The colour in church is white/gold for the first Sunday in February, green for the next, then purple (or blue) from Ash Wednesday (13th) – and, of course, there are no flowers in church in Lent.

TALLINGTON

Church Flowers

3rd February - Mrs C Bamford

10th February - Mrs A Knox

17th/24th February - Lent

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2012: Barbara and John Smith once again would like to express their thanks for the generosity of those who kindly gave to their collection. The amount raised was £272.00. Many thanks to you all. We both wish you a very happy new year. Barbara and John.

200 Club December Winners: No 5 Mrs A Needham £50: No 78 Mr G Mayling £25: No 107 Mr James Allen £10.

Social Evening: The Village Hall Committee were delighted to see so many of you at the Christmas Social Evening and to thank those who gave raffle prizes as well as all the people who bought raffle tickets. The February social will be held on the last Friday of the month as usual so we hope to see you on the 22nd.

Flying the Flag: The flag was flown on Sunday 23rd December 2012 to celebrate the birth of William and Felicity, twin great grandchildren of Amy Warren.

Village Hall Bookings: The Village Hall Committee are very grateful to Chris Bamford who, for many years, has taken all the bookings made for the Village Hall. She has now passed the responsibility to Mrs Sam O'Herlihy of 10 St Lawrence Way, telephone number 740085, who will be pleased to receive your enquiry.

Mobile Library Service: The Mobile Library will be in Church Lane on Thursday 14th February between 10.00 and 10.30am.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

16th December Uffington Eloise Mary Clarke

Funeral

16th January Tallington Michael Dennis (Jimmy) Fry (60)

Burial

18th January Braceborough Alec Alan Blanchard (77)
(service at Witham-on-the-Hill)



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BRACEBOROUGH

Sunday 3 February - Holy Communion at 9am. Please come along and join us for Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday Lunch in the Village Hall. The Sunday Lunch in aid of church funds on 13 January raised £ 386. A big 'thank you' to everyone who helped by supplying and/or preparing food, serving & tidying away. Of course, thank you to all those who attended!

Flying the Flag.

Date	Event	Sponsor
11 December	To celebrate Jennifer's birthday	Hugo

Poppy Appeal. Please note Hugo raised £237.30 from his collection in the village last November. Apologies if this was inaccurately reported in a previous Towers & Spires.

Sponsored Cycle Ride. Belated apologies to Clare, who once again raised valuable funds for St Margaret's and the Old Lincs Churches Trust. Every year Clare continues to raise funds with her September ride. Thank you.

Thursday 7th February, The Hut People at the Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm. This is a hot act on the UK folk scene. With an often hilarious performance style this is a mix of accordion and mind-boggling array of exotic percussion. The audience is taken on a voyage across the globe in a show which even has Quebecois foot percussion and dancing included for good measure! Sam Pirt, accordion, has performed with Kathryn Tickell and The Dubliners whilst Gary Hammond (percussion) worked with Nina Simone & toured for 12 years with The Beautiful South. James, Janet & I have seen this act & they are good! Adults £8, Children of school age £6. Box Office 01778560417. Organised with Lincs Rural & Community Touring Scheme.

Flooding. Some progress can be reported following strong representation by the Parish Council together with individual residents who have established contact with the Highways department to report and complain about the failure of the standing water drainage system within the village. We have been promised a visit early in the New Year by senior staff to check & test the current system and to agree any remedial work required to free blocked drains etc. An undertaking to send a gang to carry out further road repairs in Church Lane has also been made.

Parish Plan. A reminder that work is progressing well to generate a Parish Plan for Braceborough & Wilsthorpe. A Questionnaire is in the process of being drafted which will be sent to every household in the 2 villages. Householders will be asked to complete a number of easy to understand questions and invited to make comments on a range of key issues which could affect the parish in the future. It is intended to have this available during the first quarter of 2013. Please look out for it, take a little time to complete & return it. Your opinion is valuable!

Date for Your Diary - Saturday 2 March. Pot Luck Supper in Village Hall - Details to follow.

UFFINGTON

Church Flowers

Feb 3rd - Jane Naylor
Feb 10th - Jane Heap
Feb 17th24th - Lent

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

Date	Event	Sponsor(s)
15 th Jan	Amelia Rose Barwell's 2 nd birthday	(Grandparents) Peter and Sue Barwell
20 th Jan	In memory of Betty Patterson (of London) My beloved Mum, who passed away suddenly on 20th Jan 2012; always in my thoughts, forever in my heart.	Maureen Jackson
31 st Jan	Anniversary of AVM Johnnie Johnson's death	John Edwards

Uffington Walkers. A small friendly group of walkers have put together a schedule of walks for 2013. The walks take place on 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, meeting at 10.00am. If you would like to join us on any of these walks please email your name and contact details to uffingtonwalkers@yahoo.co.uk and we will provide you with further details. Alternatively please contact:

Janet Warburton 01778560620 Jenny Phipps 07818878754
Phil Archer 07756175105

Uffington Carol Service Choir. May I, through the pages of this magazine, extend my gratitude to all those who sang in the choir at the Uffington Carol service on Sunday 23rd December. Rehearsals were hard work but good fun, and it was very rewarding to work with such a large and committed group. The choir performed extremely well at the service; their singing of Harold Darke's exquisite piece "In the bleak mid-winter" was particularly delightful. I am indebted to Judith Graham and Kate Moore, both of whom assisted in accompanying the choir at rehearsals. The biggest burden – as always – fell on Tim Grace, who played the organ for the rehearsal in church and also for the service itself. He spent countless hours practising the music, and my grateful thanks are extended to him for his highly skilful and unselfish contribution to our worship. Finally, I am much indebted to John and Anne Teesdale, who not only lent us the Music Room at Cophthill School for our rehearsals but also arranged for us to have some most welcome refreshments. The Teesdales always work quietly behind the scenes on our behalf, and we are extremely grateful for their generosity and support. Our thanks also go to Linda Randall for organising and serving the refreshments. In an ideal world, it would be splendid if everyone who sang in the choir could attend all (or most) of the rehearsals. One doesn't have to be able to read music, but simply have a willingness to sing and the availability to attend just five rehearsals. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, then please contact David Genever on 01780 765005. You will be made most welcome. **Tim Hurst-Brown.**

Continued elsewhere:

Uffington Continued:

St Michaels & All Angels. It is again time for parishioners of Uffington to sign a new Electoral Role. Application forms are available from the back of the Church and a collection box is also there. Any queries please contact Jane on 756375.

Roof Fund – The next ‘Winter Talk’ is on February 23rd in the Village Hall at 2.30pm and it will be Ian Hall telling us about the history of Stamford Town Hall. Tickets are available from Michael Crowe Tel: 01780 762490 at a cost of £10 to include tea and cakes.

Church Altar Flowers – May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the flowers arranging in Church during the year. Jane Naylor will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to go on the ‘Flower Rota’ as she has a few spaces to fill for the coming year, please give her a ring on Tel: 754404. Perhaps, if you feel you are not an arranger, you would like to contribute towards the flowers for someone else to arrange!

Uffington Cricket Club New Pavilion Fund. ‘Uffington Come Dancing’. On the evening of 23rd February we will see the inaugural Uffington Come Dancing Party in the Village Hall. The idea is that we will have 10 – 15 couples who will dance to 1 song of their choice (keep the song a secret!) Entry for dancing couples is free, but you do need to pre-register so your music can be prepared. It will be a **fun** event so don’t worry if you’re not Fred & Ginger! Attendees will then mark dancers in a secret ballot and the winner will take home the trophy and prizes. A bar and hot dogs will be available and an entry fee for non-dancers will be £1. Please contact Dean Cornish on 07725 952466 to pre-register or for more details.

Uffington Parish Council. Report from Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th January, 2013. The Tallington Crossing is in the Planning Stage but a definite decision must be made before March 2014 to guarantee funding. Highways have been informed regarding various points i.e. Pot Holes in and around the Village, flooding on Newstead Corner, Verge erosion on Newstead Lane and Essendine Road. Since the meeting the Clerk has been informed that highway work will take place on Newstead Lane, date to be confirmed. A copy of this area’s salting routes has been put on the Uffington Web site by Mr. Irvine. The Clerk had contacted the Environment Agency regarding the water damage to Uffington River Bridge, Agency staff had been seen at the bridge but nothing as yet has been reported. PCSO Michelle Laughton reported that she had spoken to the workmen at 1 Main Road regarding the state of the verge outside the property. They stated that it would be reinstated when the work was finished, she would monitor the situation. Cllr. Mulvaney stated that permission had been given by the owners of the Bertie Arms for parents to park in the car park as the parents were trying to organise a “walking bus” to school. District Councillor K. Cooke reported that a District Council working group had conducted a review of the boundaries and they proposed a reduction of three Councillors. This proposal had been reported to the Independent Commission who will review their submission. It is most likely that the Truesdale Ward (our Ward) will be split into two as the current government would like to see single seat wards. Date of next meeting Wednesday, 20th February, 2013 at 8pm.

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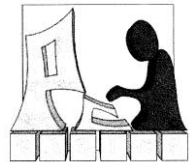
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WILDLIFE GARDENING IN FEBRUARY

You may have received a bird nest box for Christmas and are wondering where would be the best and safest place for it in the garden. The answer largely depends on the type of box and what bird species it is hoped will nest in it. Although nest boxes are best put up in the autumn as birds will look around during the autumn and winter months for roosting or feeding, they may use the same boxes for nesting the following spring. However, many birds will start nesting from February (depending on the weather). In general, try to place the box so birds have a clear flight path to the nest, and tilt it forward slightly to prevent driving rain from entering. Unless there are trees or buildings to provide shade during the day, face the box between north and east, so as to avoid strong sunlight (and summer heat) and the wettest winds (usually from the west). It is also important to site the box away from any bird feeding stations (bird tables etc). Boxes for tits, sparrows or starlings should be fixed two to four metres up a tree or a wall. House sparrows and starlings like nestboxes placed high up under the eaves. Since these birds nest in loose colonies, two or three can be sited spaced out on the same side of the house, or use a communal nesting box with several compartments and separate entrance holes. But keep these away from areas where house martins normally nest. Open-fronted boxes for robins and wrens need to be below 2m, well hidden in vegetation. Those for spotted flycatchers 2-4m high, sheltered by vegetation, and woodpecker boxes should be 3-5m high on a tree trunk and away from disturbance. Fixing your nestbox with nails may damage the tree so it is better to attach it either with a nylon bolt or with wire around the trunk or branch. Use a piece of hose or section of car tyre around the wire to prevent damage to the tree. The fixing should be checked every couple of years as the tree grows in girth as well as height. The RSPB provides lots more information about types of nest boxes, and their siting and cleaning – see www.rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds

Donna and Tim

DON'T JUST GIVE UP - TAKE UP SOMETHING FOR LENT

Easter is early this year, falling on the 31st March. Full details of services and events for Holy Week and Easter will be in next month's magazine, but Lent is almost upon us already. Shrove Tuesday is on the 12th February, so you'd better start thinking about pancakes soon, then Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on the 13th. Lent is traditionally a time to think about our lives and our relationship with God, review where things might be going wrong, and make a fresh start – and we begin that process with a special service on Ash Wednesday, at 7.30pm in Uffington, when we can all be marked with ashes (made from last year's palm crosses) as a sign of regret and sorrow for the past – a tradition going back thousands of years, to Old Testament times (except the palm crosses, of course!).

We're also going to hold a Lent Course – a weekly meeting for Bible study and discussion, for five weeks. This year's course has been prepared at the Bishop of Lincoln's request, and he has asked all the parishes in the diocese to run it. We're planning a course on Wednesday evenings, starting on the 20th February, but if you'd prefer a daytime (or can't do Wednesdays), please let the Rector know (01780 481786, or rector@uffingtongroup.org.uk), as more groups can easily be organised – and please let her know if you want to come on Wednesday evenings, too, so that she can work out where to meet.

WEST DEEPING

St Andrew's Church. Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at West Deeping. Allen and Wendy Calvert write, 'It was 11-28pm, there were seven people in the Church including the organist, Allan who was ringing the bells and Martin waiting to take the service. At 11-30pm when Martin came out of the vestry, there were about forty people in the congregation. It was a GOOD service. The guest organist, Kendall Mills made the organ work hard, this made the singing great. I spoke to Kendall after the service and he told me that we had a good organ, and how he enjoyed playing it. I think we might be inviting him to play for us sometime in the future. At least 36 took communion, Martin blessed another 4. During the service Santa must have called at our home, 68 King Street, so we were able to open the presents left under our Christmas tree when we got back.'

A Nativity Play was held in St Andrew's Church in conjunction with the carol service on 16th December. Jane Ramsay would like to thank the children and parents who helped. It went extremely well, after only 2 rehearsals. Jane also thanks everyone involved with the Christmas Crib, which went to eleven families this year.

Parish Council. West Deeping Parish Council meets six times a year usually on a Monday evening at 7.30pm. The next meeting is Monday 11th February. Further meetings for 2013 are scheduled for: - Monday 18th March; Monday 13th May; Monday 8th July; Monday 9th September; Monday 18th November. Residents are invited to attend an open session at the beginning and may remain when the formal agenda is pursued. If you want any item to be considered for the agenda please contact the Parish Clerk, David James 01778 380197 david@thelane.me.uk

Carpet Bowls Club. There are sessions on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings and the starting age is 11 years. We have only one teenager at present and we'd like others to try Carpet Bowls. Contact: Chairperson June Thomas 01778 343434.

West Deeping Walkers. Sunday 3rd February led by Annie and Clary, 01778 346805. (NB this is a date change). Sunday 10th February led by Margaret and Jim 01778 345547. Sunday 24th February led by Allan Crowson 01778 345393. Meet outside village hall at 1.45pm. For further details call Annie, number as above, or email snewbigging@talktalk.net. Walkers undertook carol singing in the village as usual, on 21st December, and everyone thanks Allan Crowson who organized it. A total of £140 was collected, and this has been sent to the Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance.

Continued elsewhere:

GREATFORD

West Deeping Continued:

Bible Studies. On Tuesdays 12th February and 26th February. 2.45 for 3.00pm Cromwell House. One hour's study and discussion is followed by tea. For more information contact Susanna Aldred on 01778 380014.

Coffee Morning. Saturday 16th February 10.30am-12noon West Deeping Village Hall. Members of St Andrew's Church will give you a friendly welcome. There'll be home-baked cakes and preserves for sale and organized activities for children as usual.

Rambling Readers. Friday 22nd February 7.45pm West Deeping Village Hall. We meet on the last Friday of the month. If you are interested in reading a new book each month, supplied by Lincolnshire Libraries, please ring Liz Noble 01778 344674.

West Deeping Heritage Group. All aboard! Get involved in 'The Boaty Story' a project to promote the old Stamford Canal as a heritage feature. At the next meeting Maggie Ashcroft will present plans and encourage people to take part in the project, which has won a grant through BBC 'All our Stories' from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The tasks are to explore the resources we already have, to plan a walk along the course of the canal, find out what we can do with laptops, tablets, cameras and video, discover more in archive collections, create a website and design interpretation boards. So come on Tuesday 5th February to West Deeping Village Hall at 7pm for refreshments before a 7.30pm start. There's no charge and everyone is welcome, particularly people from other villages along the route of the canal (Tallington, Copt Hill and Uffington). Contact Maggie on 01778 3447688 for more information about the project.

Rural Arts. Saturday 9th February 7:30pm, West Deeping Village Hall. *Kings of the Cloth of Gold.* The year is 1520. Henry VIII of England meets Francis I of France in a French field and the rival kings proceed to display their fabulous power and wealth. For ten days they attempt to outdo each other in displays of wealth, feasting and battlefield prowess, ably assisted by their trusted squires. A new comedy by Tony Lidington. Tickets cost £10, £9 concession, £6 under 16. We usually sell out in advance but do feel free to ring 01778 380197 to ask about returns.

Church Flowers: Marian Brebner (*until Ash Wednesday, 13 Feb*)

Church Cleaning: Marian Brebner and Janet Kingsmill

Greatford Church: As many of you know there has been a fall of plaster and lath from the nave roof and the matter is now in the hands of the church architect. The church is still open as normal but please be aware.

Church Cleaning: Do you have 4 hours a YEAR to spare to help keep our beautiful church clean? Are you a student who would like to join the cleaning rota for your D of E voluntary work? If so please contact Cazz Anders on 561032. We are extremely grateful to Greg Anders who carried out this voluntary commitment for two years. The work done voluntarily by churchyard workers and flower decorators throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

Carlby & District WI: This WI has members attending from Carlby, Bourne, Thurlby, Wilsthorpe, Braceborough and Greatford. The next meeting is at Carlby Village Hall on Tuesday February 12th at 7.30 pm when there will be a talk by a member of staff of Shaws Coaches. New members and visitors are always welcome. For further information please telephone 01778 590180.

Mobile Library: The mobile library visits Greatford every four weeks on a Thursday and the next visits are on February 14th and March 14th from 11.30 to 12.00 at the Phone Box in Main Street.

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.

Play equipment in playing field: George Aylett is looking for a volunteer to take over the supervision of the playing field and play equipment – please contact George (01778 560005) if you can help.

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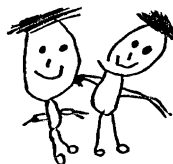
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**CHURCH SERVICES AND DIARY DATES
FOR FEBRUARY 2013 VOLUME 27 NUMBER 11**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
3rd	4th	5th
Candlemas 9am Braceborough HC 10.15am WDeeping MP 10.30am Wilsthorpe HC 10.30am Uffington HC 1.45pm WDeeping Walkers Barholm NO SERVICE 6.30pm Deanery Service at All Saints Stamford to authorise new lay ministers	1.45pm Tallington VH Whist	7 for 7.30pm WD VH Heritage Group
10th	11th	12th
Next Before Lent 9am Greatford HC 10.15am WDeeping HC 10.30am Uffington MP 1.45pm WDeeping Walkers 6pm Tallington ES	1.45pm Tallington VH Whist 7.30pm WD Parish Council Meeting	2.45pm WD Cromwell House – Bible Study
17th	18th	19th
LENT 1 9am Barholm HC 10.15am WDeeping MP 10.30am Uffington HC	1.45pm Tallington VH Whist	
24th	25th	26th
LENT 2 9am Greatford HC 10.15am WDeeping HC 10.30am Uffington FS 10.30am Tallington HC 1.45pm WDeeping Walkers	1.45pm Tallington VH Whist	2.45pm WD Cromwell House – Bible Study

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1st	2nd
6th	7th	8th	9th
2pm Tallington VH Bingo 2-4pm WD VH Bowls	8-10pm WD VH Bowls		7.30pm WD VH Rural Arts Performance
13th	14th	15th	16th
Ash Wednesday 2pm Tallington VH Welcome Club 2-4pm WD VH Bowls 7.30pm Uffington HC with Ashing	8-10pm WD VH Bowls		10.30am WD VH St Andrew's Church Coffee Morning
20th	21st	22nd	23rd
2pm Tallington VH Welcome Club 2-4pm WD VH Bowls	8-10pm WD VH Bowls	7pm Tallington VH Social 7.45pm WD VH Rambling Readers	
27th	28th		
2pm Tallington VH Welcome Club 2-4pm WD VH Bowls	8-10pm WD VH Bowls		