

VILLAGE VOICES

March 2009

Village Voices is produced by the parish churches for the local community providing news and information for :
Guyhirn–Gorefield–Morrow–Parson Drove–Rings End–Tholomas Drove–Thorney Toll–Wisbech St Mary

Vicar's Verbals'

Snow is still lying on the paths and gardens as I write this and the world is cold and grey – what a long chill winter it has been! I have attended and conducted so many funerals this winter that it seems as if every family and household in all of the villages I serve must know someone – a friend, relative or dear parent or partner – who has passed away. And yet the snow in the churchyard was bright with sunshine as I came home from morning prayer, the birds were singing, and the snowdrops were peeping through the slush. Spring is on the way and there is new life all around us. If you have lost someone close to you this winter, I hope that the pain of their loss will begin to subside as the days grow longer, but if their parting still casts a bleak shadow over your life, please remember that the Churches are there to serve you and to stand by you in your time of sorrow. You need only call me, or one of my colleagues from the other denominations, or make time to come to Church on a Sunday morning, where sympathetic folk will give you space or sit with you awhile.

Matthew.

900 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE DIOCESE OF ELY

Rachael and Leah Dade were among 2000 people who attended the inaugural service of the 900th anniversary of the Diocese in Ely Cathedral in January. This is their report.

On Saturday the 24th of January, three members from Wisbech St Mary church were invited to Ely Cathedral. As young church members, we were honoured to be invited together with Mrs Lilian Brigden, to the communion service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev and Rt Hon Rowan Douglas Williams. Members from churches all over the diocese of Ely came. The service was very High Church, with a wonderful choir, who sang the Latin hymns and one hymn in Welsh, The Archbishop was carrying what looked like a shepherd's crook; this symbolised that, as a congregation, we are being



cared for, as the shepherd does his flock. The service lasted about two hours. The whole mood was set

by the dedication of the Christian faith. The theme was about making the church more visible and part of the local community. The task is about making people of all ages more aware of what the church is about and how it can fit into their lives, because everyone knows the name "God" but don't know how his teachings can be translated into modern day life. At the end the Archbishop shook hands with everyone as they left the cathedral. We felt very privileged to witness such a wonderful celebration by the head of our church. For those who have never been to Ely Cathedral, or Wisbech St Mary church, it is well worth a visit.

WELCOME, GOREFIELD!

Copy deadline: 15th of every month.

Please e-mail articles to paynewsm@btinternet.com
or on paper to Anne Wallis in Guyhirn (450466)

Elaine Harvey in Gorefield (870558)
David Pearce in PD (700454)
Brian Payne in WSM (410755)

Advertising

Enquiries please email Jennie village.voices1@btinternet.com
or phone Terry Brigden 450481

With this issue Village Voices welcomes residents of Gorefield parish. The newsletter is delivered free of charge each month, and will regularly contain news of the village and its organisations. We look forward to hearing from you. Welcome aboard!

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Parish Church:

11am. SUNG EUCHARIST Every Sunday exc 1st.
8am Communion, 11am Family Service: 1st Sunday.
6pm Evening Prayer: 3rd Sunday.
Other services as announced.

Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove:

9.30am Morning service 1st Sunday in month.
9.30am Communion 2nd & 3rd Sundays
9.30am Communion or Morning Prayer, 5th Sun.
United Service at St Mark's 4th Sunday 9.30am.

Flower Rota: March 22nd Mothering Sunday, Mrs J French. No flowers during Lent.

St Paul's Church, Gorefield:

10.00am: Holy Communion except 3rd Sunday.

8.00am: Holy Communion 3rd Sunday.

WISBECH ST MARY METHODIST CHURCH:

10.45am each Sunday

ST MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH, PARSON DROVE:

March 1st: Murrow: 10.30am Local Arrangement.

P Drove: 10.30am: Mrs E Bennett.

March 8th: Murrow 10.30am. Mrs S Askew.

P.Drove 9.30. United Ser at Parish

Church

March 15th: Murrow 10.30am. H Comm. Revd Hannah

P.Drove: 10.30am. Mrs D Bailey.

March 22nd: Murrow: 10.30am. Local arrangement.

P Drove: 10.30am. United Service.
Revd L Stoker.

March 29th: Murrow & P.Drove: 10.45am.

United Holy Communion at Wisbech St Mary.

March 27th: 7.30pm "Shalom" at Marshland St James.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

The Church Calendar is racing towards the great festival of Easter, and parishioners might wish to make an advance note of special services around that time.

Ash Wednesday is February 25th. Holy Communion will be celebrated at WSM at 7.30pm.

Mothering Sunday services will take place in Parson Drove (10.30 United Service at St Mark's), Gorefield (10am) and WSM (11am).

A **Solemn Mass** will be held at WSM on Wednesday March 25th at 7.30pm to celebrate the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Palm Sunday April 5th. Services at usual times.

April 6, 7 and 8th, Mon, Tues, Wed of Holy Week.

Holy Communion will be celebrated in WSM church at 7.30pm each evening.

Maundy Thursday, April 9th. Eucharist at WSM followed by the Watch.

Good Friday. Solemn Meditation in all churches.

Children's activity at WSM from 1 - 2pm.

EASTER DAY: Services in all churches.

METHODIST CHURCH TEA SERVICES

On Wednesday February 25th the guest speaker at the Wisbech St Mary Chapel will be Joan Brown.

Colin Barnes will be the speaker on March 25th.

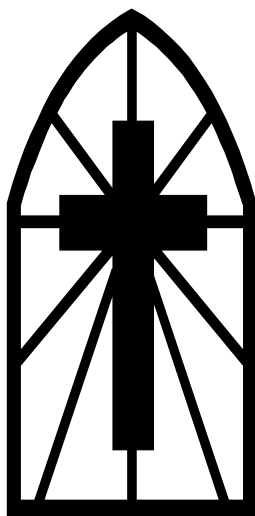
The popular Tea Services start at 4.30pm and visitors are very welcome

CHORAL EVENSONG AT WSM

A rare treat awaits the congregation at Wisbech St Mary church on Sunday March 15th at 4pm, when a visiting choir will take part in the service of Choral Evensong. All parishioners are invited to join us on this special occasion.

IN OUR THOUGHTS

AND PRAYERS



We say Goodbye to

Audrey Lilian Bubb, of Parson Drove, whose funeral service was at Peterborough Crematorium. on Friday January 16th 2009.

John Robert Whiter, of Murrow, whose funeral service was at Mintlyn on Thursday January 22nd

Phyllis Rose Quince, formerly of WSM, whose funeral service was at WSM church, followed by burial in the cemetery, on Monday February 2nd.

Alan Michael Parker, of Gorefield, whose funeral service was at Mintlyn on Monday February 9th.

Ray Popeley, of WSM, whose ashes were laid in the Garden of Remembrance on Wednesday January 21st.

John Sullivan, of Parson Drove, whose funeral service was at Mintlyn on Wednesday January 28th.

Elsie Ada Durrell, of Murrow, whose funeral service was at Mintlyn on Wednesday February 4th.

Doris Pauline Hale, of Murrow, whose funeral service was at Mintlyn on Friday February 6th.

We send our love to all the families

+ Solemn Mass for the Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary +

On Wednesday 25th March 2009 at 7.30pm, at the Parish Church of St Mary, Wisbech St Mary, the Vicar and two Priest Colleagues, the Revd Teresa Dixon and the Revd Richard Howells, will be celebrating a Solemn Mass in the Anglican High Church tradition. All are welcome to this event; please note that incense will be used.

Guyhirn Chapel of Ease Services for 2009

In addition to the two services organised each year by the Friends of the Chapel of Ease, some occasional services have been announced.

A Morning Service will be held on the following Sundays at 9.30am: April 26, June 21, September 13, October 18 and December 13. We will continue the tradition of Ascension Day services in the Chapel by holding Evening Prayer on Thursday May 21 at 6.30pm.

On Saturday October 31 at 2.30pm there is an opportunity for bereaved families and friends to spend a quiet time together in the Chapel.

The Friends' Annual Thanksgiving Service will be held on Saturday July 18 at 2.30pm., followed by their Annual Meeting and tea.

Please make a note in your diary. All parishioners and visitors are most welcome at all the services

PANCAKE DAY

Pancakes are associated with the day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up rich foodstuffs such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. The liturgical fasting emphasized eating plainer food: in many cultures this meant no meat, and in some, no food prepared with dairy or eggs. Therefore, rich ingredients were cooked to use them immediately prior to the commencement of the fast. Pancakes and doughnuts also provided a minor celebratory feast prior to the fast itself. Pancake Day is more formally known as Shrove Tuesday. The word *shrove* is a past tense of the English verb "*shrive*," which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by confessing and doing penance.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance and it marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes were used in ancient times, according to the Bible, to express mourning. Dusting oneself with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and failures.

A service of Holy Communion, including the imposition of Ashes, will be held in Wisbech St Mary church at 7.30pm on Wednesday February 25th.

All residents welcome.

THANK YOU!

The management team of Village Voices gratefully acknowledges a donation of £20 from Casey and Barbara, Parson Drove Bingo.

PARSON DROVE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A warm welcome awaits you at Parson Drove Women's Institute. We meet in the Methodist Chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. You can come as a visitor for £2 per meeting for up to three meetings a year, or you are welcome to join us. We have a raffle, tea and biscuits, social half-hour, trading stall and lots of chat and laughs!

Our February meeting began with a minute of silence in memory of Val Lancaster (a WI member and past President) who died after a long illness. We will miss her very much.

Our speaker in February was Mr Paul Bass from the Trading Standards department who gave an interesting talk about his work.

Future topics are: March 10th "Body Shop at home", Emma Cannons;

April 14th "First Aid in the home", Dr E Summerville;

May 12th "Wartime Food", Fiona Lucraft

WSM MOTHERS UNION

On Tuesday February 3rd, Rev Matthew Bradbury enrolled two new members, Sarah and Wendy, into our branch. We heard about Abbess Etheldreda, who founded a religious house at Ely

WSM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship's February meeting was cancelled due to a heavy snowstorm on February 12th, which was predicted by Liz and Mary four days before the snow arrived!

for both men and women. She died on June 23rd 678, before the cathedral was built.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday March 3rd, when we will look at Fairtrade. We meet at 2.15pm in Church House, Wisbech St Mary, and everyone from the three parishes are welcome to come to any meeting. Love to you all, Lilian Brigden

THE CHURCH MART at WISBECH ST MARY

The next Mart at Wisbech St Mary is **Saturday March 14th** from 9.00am to sell-out time. The Mart is held in the Church House, opposite the church gate, where you will find a selection of home-made cakes and marmalade and other produce to buy. Come early and catch up with the village news, whilst you enjoy a cup of coffee and biscuits.

The organisers are always looking for extra volunteers to help with the Mart. Could you spare a couple of hours on a Saturday morning?

WSM LUNCHEON CLUB

Lunch dates for March 2009 are Tuesdays 3rd and 17th.

We meet at midday at the Bridge Inn. If anyone can't make the lunch, or would wish to join us, please contact Marjorie on 410511 or the Bridge Inn on 410555.

WSM GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

Cathy Waterton has retired as Secretary to the Good Companions Club, and the new Secretary will be Betty Hayden on 410708. We meet fortnightly on a Thursday at the Village Hall. Doors open at 2pm for 2.30pm start, ending at 4.30pm. Do come along and join us; you will be very welcome.

THANKS FROM ART GROUP

May I take the opportunity through the Village Voices to thank everyone who either joined or made enquires to join our art group?

Village Voices was kind enough to print my invitation to all artists or complete beginners at art to meet to share a common interest in art.

We are now meeting on a regular basis every Thursday from 1.30 to 3.30 in Murrow. We paint, draw and do a lot of chatting. There's no fee just the occasional packet of biscuits!.

If you are interested in coming along to join us please phone Jacqui on 01495 701671.

Hopefully the scheduled speaker, Tim Dent, of the Woodland Trust, will speak to us in the new year.

The next meeting, on March 12th, will be a talk by Alison Napier, of the National Trust, about the gardens of Peckover House.

Tickets will be on sale for the Fellowship's Social in May, price at £5.

WISBECH ST MARY SOCIAL CLUB

The Club offers you the chance to shed those Christmas pounds by joining their weekly Line Dancing sessions every Tuesday 7.30-9.00pm, and monthly Tea Dances.

Every Thursday: Slimming World from 7.30pm.

Highlights of the next few weeks are

Feb 28: Live Music. 3-piece band "THE DOGHOUSE"

March 17: Tea Dance 2.00 – 4.00pm. Live music from Tanya.

March 21: DISCO. All the best sounds around.

March 28: Members' Night with "Diamond White"

WSM SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Short Mat Bowls Club meets in Wisbech St Mary Village Hall each Monday evening from 7.30 to 9.30pm. New members welcome. Contact 01945 410452 for details.

PARSON DROVE LINEDANCERS' SOCIAL

The Parson Drove Linedancers are holding a Social on Saturday March 21st in the Village Hall, from 7.30 till late. It will include an introduction to Squaredancing. All proceeds will go to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Enquiries: Michelle 01945 701239.

UPDATE FROM WISBECH ST MARY SPORTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE TRUSTEES

WSM Youth Club –

Held in the Village Hall Thursday Evenings from 7.00 - 9.00

All 10 - 16 year olds very welcome - new young people and ideas always welcome.

Please tel. 01945 410986 for further details.

New Community Centre Update

Still fingers crossed! Following further information and discussions with the lottery we are waiting for a final decision towards the end of February.

Play Equipment

Installation is planned to start on 23rd February with completion at the end of March. The equipment is in two levels and designed for use by toddlers and 8 - 13 year olds.

The date of an official opening ceremony is to be confirmed.

EDUCATION GRANTS

The **Wisbech St Mary Poors Allotment Charity** still has funds available to help anyone, within the Charity's boundaries, engaged in further education, whatever their age. Please contact the Clerk, (Mrs C Jobson, 30 les Baux Place, Wisbech, PE13 2SU. Tel: 01945 474364), in writing sending proof of payment for university fees or purchase of books. etc. This will save time and allow us to reimburse you without delay.

<p>WRITER'S CIRCLE SEEKING WRITERS The March & Doddington Writer's Circle is seeking new members. If you are a writer or would like to write contact Danny MacCulloch on 01945 410033 who will be pleased to give you further details. The Group, the only writer's group in this area, meet on the third Tuesday of each month on the Upper Floor of the United Services Club, March, between 7 and 8pm.</p>	<p>MURROW 200 CLUB WINNERS The winners for weeks 10 & 11 are: S Kennelly, Murrow. D Read, Murrow. E Sattin, Murrow. R Patrick, Parson Drove.</p>
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WISBECH ST MARY VILLAGE PLAN TO BE REVIEWED

Residents of Wisbech St Mary are invited to attend a meeting in the Village Hall at 7pm on Tuesday March 31st to review the Village Plan and to discuss the needs of the village in the next few years.

The original Plan was produced about five years ago, and a number of its recommendations have been implemented. However, it is important that residents have the opportunity to meet with Parish councillors to see how things are progressing, and to make any new suggestions that may now be relevant.

The revised Plan will then go to the Parish Council for adoption.

This is an ideal opportunity for people to express their thoughts to help prepare Wisbech St Mary for the immediate future.

NEW DEVELOPMENT NAMED in WISBECH St MARY

Village Voices understands that the new development at the corner of Bevis Lane, Wisbech St Mary, is to be named Jackson Close. It commemorates the first vicar of Wisbech St Mary, Rev Henry Jackson, who was a great benefactor to the parish by building a school in the village, a vicarage which stands diagonally opposite the new homes and a church at Murrow. He was also a successful farmer in the parish. Mowbray Close and Woodhouse Way also commemorate former incumbents.

<p>CAR BOOT SALES at GOREFIELD Gorefield Sport & Amenity Car Boot sales will be held on the playing field, Wolf Lane, Gorefield, on the following Saturdays: -March 14th & 18th April 4th & 18th, May 9th & 23rd June 6th & 27th, July 18th & 25th, August 18th & 22nd, September 12th & 26th, October 3rd. Please make a note in your diaries.</p>	<p>BRIC-A-BRAC AT MURROW The Bric-a-Brac stall outside Murrow Chapel will be open again on Saturday March 14th from 11am to 2pm, selling homemade cakes, jams and marmalades. Come and browse, and support your local village!</p>	
<p>Everyone is welcome at Bingo Sessions in Gorefield Village Hall on March 6th and March 20th. Eyes down 7.30 Proceeds for Hall funds.</p>	<p>PARSON DROVE STREET PRIDE The Annual General Meeting of Parson Drove Street Pride is to be held on March 17th 2009 in the Parson Drove Pavilion at 7.30pm. All welcome.</p>	<p>GOREFIELD EASTER BINGO Sport and Amenity are holding a Easter Bingo on Wednesday April 8th in the Parish Room, Gote Lane. Doors open at 6.30 and Eyes Down at 7.30pm. Good prizes and refreshments. Contact: Norman Carroll 870387.</p>

USEFUL CONTACTS

Churches

Revd Matthew Bradbury 410814
Lilian Brigden (Reader) 450481
Revd Nigel Hannah [Methodist] 466426

Village Halls (bookings)

Gorefield 870829
Guyhirn 450835
Murrow 700212
Parson Drove 700729
Thorney Toll 07887754869
or 07961957878
410539

WSM Village Hall

Parish Council Clerks

Gorefield 870454
Parson Drove 700501
Wisbech St Mary 474191

Rev M L Bradbury, BA, The Vicarage, Church Road,
Wisbech St Mary, Cambs. PE13 4RN.

Schools

Gorefield School 870321
Gorefield Pre-school 870439
Guyhirn School 450247
Murrow School 700357
Murrow Pre School 07952573973
Payne School Parson Drove 700275
Parson Drove Pre-School 07880 606450
WSM School 410312
WSM Play Group 07944 719586

Health & Security

Parson Drove Surgery 700223
North Cambs Hospital 585781
Queen Elizabeth Hospital 01553 613613
Social Services 481100
P. Drove Surgery Car Service 07766534280
WSM Community Car Scheme 07592407283
Gorefield Social Car Scheme 870539

Police (non-emergency) 01354 652561

WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

February 2009 NEWSLETTER

Wisbech St Mary is one of the largest parishes in Fenland District. It includes Murrow, Guyhirn, Thorney Toll, Tholomas Drove and Wisbech St Mary.

List of Councillors

Name	Address	Telephone Number
Mr K Bagg	Meadow View, Gull Road, Guyhirn, Nr Wisbech PE13 4ER	01945 450713
Mr P Barnes	Westview, 38 Murrow Bank, Murrow, PE13 4HB	01945 700200
Mr B Britain	Fort Farm, Gull Drove, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4HB	
Mr J Carney	52 Murrow Bank, Murrow PE13 4HD	01945 700569
Mr P Davies	Riverside, Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4ED	01945 450234
Mr J Fish	17 Lindens Close, Thorney Toll, Wisbech PE13 4AR	07887754869
Mr T Fowler	<u>Bramble Corner, Splash Drove, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SP</u>	01945 410425
Mr C Fryett	Llanberis, Gull Road, Guyhirn PE13 4ER	01945 450340
Mr J Parrin	Paradene, Church Road, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4RN	01945 410539
Mr B Payne	7 Churchfield Way, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SY	01945 410755
Mrs D Thrower	Acquest, Front Road, Murrow PE13 4JQ	01945 700213

List of Parish Council Meetings for 2009 and January 2010

Monday, 2nd March 2009 at The Chequers, Tholomas Drove

Monday, 30th March 2009 at The Chequers Tholomas Drove

Monday 27th April 2009 at The Chequers Tholomas Drove

Mon, 18th May 2009 Annual Assembly 7.00 pm followed by AGM, at Thorney Toll Village Hall.

Monday, 15th June 2009 at Murrow Village Hall

Monday, 13th July 2009 at WSM Field Pavillion. (change of venue)

Monday 17th August 2009 at The Chequers Tholomas Drove

Monday, 14th September 2009 at Guyhirn Village Hall

Monday, 12th October 2009 at Murrow Village Hall

Monday 9th November 2009 at WSM Playing Field Pavillion

Monday, 7th December 2009 at The Chequers Tholomas Drove

Monday, 4th January 2010 at Guyhirn Village Hall

Please note that we are again having our meetings in the Village Halls in order to try and make our meetings more accessible to all of the parishioners.

Fenland District Council and Parish Council elections took place on the 11th December 2008 and Mr R Scrimshaw was elected as a District Councillor and Mr B Britain was elected as a Parish Councillor. We would like to welcome Mr Britain to the Parish Council and congratulate Mr Scrimshaw

Parishioners are invited to attend any of the above meetings. Please do attend and voice your opinion on any subject relevant to the Parish during the Open Forum at the beginning of every meeting. The Parish Council is very pleased that many Parishioners attend the Parish Council meetings on a regular basis, together with representatives from the Police and Fenland Links.

Precept

The Parish Council on the 1st December 2008 built a budget for the financial year 2009/2010 and has set the precept at £43732.00, no increase on last year. The members intend to continue with the grants to local clubs and associations as far as possible within financial

constraints and will use any carry forward from the current financial year 2008/2009 to ensure that this happens.

Highway Matters

The Parish Council was unsuccessful in their two bids for jointly funded minor highway improvements. These bids were for a footpath at Bunkers Hill from Rat Row to Bridge Inn and to put in a barrier to enhance safety on the A47 at the Gull Road slip road. We will of course reapply in the next bidding round in 2009/2010.

The Parish Council continues to identify roads and footpaths that are in need of repair and continue to lobby the Highways Department to ensure that this work is carried out as soon as possible.

In the current financial year we have undertaken maintenance work on all of the bus shelters. In addition, we are trying to improve the disabled access to the bus shelter in Guyhirn.

The Parish Council is in the process of purchasing land from the Fenland District Council to increase the size of the Guyhirn Playing Field.

Inspector Sissons attended our meeting on the 1st December 2008 to outline details of the Community Speed Watch Scheme. This is for members of the community to get involved in stopping speeding. Members of the public will be trained to use the camera, but will not be able to operate it in their own parish so it is important that parishioners get involved as without volunteers to work in other parishes it is doubtful that any members of other parishes will want to come into our parish.

Notices and Agendas of meetings together with Council minutes are displayed on all the parish notice boards and the minutes on the Wisbech St Mary website on www.wisbechstmary.org.uk.

Mrs C Jobson
Clerk to the Council
30 Les Baux Place, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2SU Tel. No. 01945 474364

