

the Stetchworth Newsletter

March 2024

St. Peter's Church – Services for March

10th March, 9.00 am : Communion service

25th March, 3.00 pm : Evensong

29th March, 7.00 pm : Good Friday service combined with the URC



If you wish to book a baptism, wedding, etc., please contact Patrick or one of the churchwardens, details below :

Rev'd Patrick J McEune

The Rectory

23 Stetchworth Road

Dullingham CB8 9UJ

Tel: 07411 761883

email: frpatrick@btinternet.com

Usual working days:

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

CHURCHWARDENS:

Mrs Lily Whymer

22 Coopers Close

Stetchworth

Newmarket CB8 9TT

Tel: 01638 507576

e-mail: lilywhymer@gmail.com

Mr Alastair France

61 High Street

Stetchworth

Newmarket CB8 9TH

Tel: 01638 508335

e-mail: afrance@jdpw.com

Ash Wednesday was the start of Lent. The distinctive English word "Lent" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word for "spring", because Lent always falls in the springtime. Notwithstanding the fact that autumn occurs at this time in the southern hemisphere, the English word has the advantage over the Latin words based on "quadraginta" or "forty" because it calls to mind the new life, growth, hope and change that should characterise this time of prayer, penance and conversion; this season of initiation into the grace life of the Church.

The Lent fast of forty days chiefly commemorates that of Jesus when He went into the wilderness to pray. After He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, He was tempted by the Devil, but overcame the temptations.

The forty days extend from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve, leaving out the Sundays, which are not fast days.

We can use the time of Lent to reflect and pray. We could still join the Lent Group or why not come to the Mothering Sunday Service at 10.30 at St Mary's Dullingham.

Go well

Fr Patrick The **Rev'd Patrick J McEune**

Rector of The Benefice of Raddesley Group of Parishes

MERGING OF THE STETCHWORTH AND DULLINGHAM NEWSLETTERS

From next month the two newsletters are going to be merged. A lot of the content (eg Ellesmere news, WI, Vicar's letter) is the same in both. There won't be a lot of difference – there will still be Stetchworth church pieces and probably Dullingham church news. The Stetchworth version will probably be the same size (two A3 pages folded = 8 pages), or possibly one page larger – the Dullingham version will be larger than previously as it has customarily been one folded A3 sheet – 4 pages. The Stetchworth editor, Catherine Hartness will be editing the merged newsletter.

Lily Whymer - Tel: 01638 507576

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(Booking Advisable)

Tel: 01638 507327

St. Peter's Church, Stetchworth

Lent Course: This will be at the Rectory at 10.30 am on Wednesdays during Lent – 21st, 28th February and 6th, 13th and 20th March. We will be studying 'A Christian Look at the Environment'. A couple of the sessions will have taken place by the time you receive this newsletter, but you can join at any time – attend one session or all, each week's study will stand on its own.

Possible Church Closure: You will have had a letter about work that is to be undertaken at the Church. Not all the funding for the tower has yet been assured, but we know that work will be done on the chancel at least at some point this year. At that time we might have to close the church temporarily – we will keep you updated via this newsletter. It will be good to get the work done, but we are hoping that it won't take too many months.

Lily Whymer - Tel: 01638 507576

lilywhymer@gmail.com

Cambridgeshire County Council / East Cambridgeshire District Council Report

Cambridgeshire District Council (CCC)

More Traffic Restrictions : The GCP are now looking at road classifications throughout Cambridge, which will restrict traffic even more and, in my opinion, cause more congestion. CCC have a stated aim of getting people out of their cars and use public transport, which is admirable, but it must come with reliable services otherwise that will not happen.

A complete rethink of the road plans for Cambridge is required, but the ruling administration refuse to listen to constructive comments. The ruling administration voted down at a County Council meeting last year, a Conservative group proposal to have a cross party working group to look at the issues and try to resolve them. Working together for all residents. They refused that.

I welcome ideas from residents on how we can solve traffic issues within and outside the City, as people are going elsewhere to shop rather than put up with the congestion. I will continue to put proposals forward that will resolve some of the issues.

Buses : The CPCA mayor is increasing the mayoral precept by 200% from £12 to £36 for a Band D property, which will apparently be spent on bus transport including Demand Responsive Transport, one scheme that will be in East Cambridgeshire towards the east of the district, with no change to other services.

There is a potential proposal to move to a franchising model, which will mean that the Combined Authority (CPCA) as the transport authority could dictate where and when buses run, rather than the bus operators, as at present. Franchising costs a lot of money and there is no evidence that the money will be forthcoming from Government, which is the main source, based on previous poor bids that the CPCA have made.

There will be a public consultation on this later this year, once the Business Case has been published, so I will update once more details are known.

County Council Budget : The CCC decided at a meeting on 13th February to increase their portion of the Council tax by 4.99%, which is the maximum allowed. Our group put forward proposals to spend the money differently and put over £20m more into repairing our roads, but that was rejected. The County Council has nearly £300m of reserves so this was achievable.

Swaffham Heath/ A1303 Crossroads – Staggered Junction :

I have some great news. After a very long wait due to legal issues purchasing land around the junction, construction is due to start on Monday 4th March and last for 15 weeks.

This has been a long time coming, but I hope that this finally improves road safety at this important junction.

East Cambridgeshire District Council

ECDC Budget : East Cambs District Council voted on 20th February a NIL % increase in their portion of the Council tax. This is for the eleventh year running, without any reduction in service.

Waste Services : Government is working on changing the way that waste is collected and there will be a uniform system across the country, where at the present each Council can choose their own method. More detailed proposals will be issued over the coming months, with an implementation date likely to be 2026.

I am here to represent you, so if there are any issues that concern you, please contact me.

If I am not aware of an issue, I am not able to solve it.

Alan Sharp - Cambridgeshire County Councillor - Woodditton Division

Tel: 01638 507485 / 07794 292941

E-Mail: alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Raddesley Benefice Services for March ~ All Welcome

3rd March 3 rd Sunday of Lent (Purple) Exodus 20: 1-17 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2 12-22	9.00 am Brinkley 10.30 am Burrough Green	Holy Communion Family Service
10th March (Mothering Sunday) (Purple) Exodus 2: 1-10 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 Luke 2: 33-35	9.00 am Stetchworth 10.30 am Dullingham	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
17th March 5 th Sunday of Lent (Purple) Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33	9.00 am Burrough Green 10.30 am Brinkley	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
24th March Palm Sunday Red Liturgy of the Palms – Mark 11: 1-11	10.30 am Dullingham 3.00 pm Stetchworth	Holy Communion Evensong
25th March	7.00 pm Dullingham	Compline
26th March	7.00 pm Dullingham	Compline
27th March	7.00 pm Dullingham	Compline
28th March Maundy Thursday (Purple) Exodus 12: 1-4 (5-10) 11-14 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 John 13: 1-17, 31b - 35	7.00 pm Dullingham	Communion
29th March Good Friday (hangings removed)	7.00 pm Stetchworth	Joint service with URC at St Peters
31st March Easter Sunday White Isaiah 25: 6-9 Acts 10: 34-43 Mark 16: 1-8	10.30 am Westley Waterless 10.30 am Burrough Green	Benefice Communion Lay led Family Service

Ellesmere Garden Club

Thanks to everyone who joined us at the recent AGM – it was good to see so many members enjoying the following social and quiz. Remember membership subscriptions are now due and can be paid at the next meeting or by BACCS.



We are now into the season of new talks, starting with a fascinating one lined up for **Wednesday 13th March** – “**People and Plants - Molecules, Medicine, and Mischief**” to be given by **Gwenda Kyd**. Join us in the Ellesmere Centre at 7.30 pm.

Following this, on **Wednesday 10th April** there will be a talk from **Lucy Skellorn** “**My family and other Foster Irises**”. This also takes place at 7.30 pm in the Ellesmere Centre.

Please do come and support these speakers who are new to our club, and remember if you have any queries you can contact Sandie on 07903 584676.

 What's On...
<p>New to the Ellesmere on Saturdays and Sundays</p> <p>Fluffy Paws Pet Grooming</p> <p>Please call Sugi on 07707 538861</p>
<p>Seniors Table Tennis</p> <p>Thursdays : 7.30pm - 9.30pm Fridays : 1.00 - 3.00pm</p> <p>All Welcome</p>
<p>Walking for Health</p> <p>Every Thursday (weather permitting) Meet at the Ellesmere at 2.00pm Back for a hot drink and a biscuit afterwards Please contact the office for more details</p>
<p>Chair Yoga</p> <p>Friday Mornings from 10.00 - 10.45am Contact Nicole 07508 025941</p>
<p>Follow us on Facebook or Twitter @CentreEllesmere e-mail: office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk or alternatively call us on 01638 508212</p>

<p>ELLESMERE</p> <p>ARTS</p> <p>will be performing</p> <p>The Good Life</p> <p>on</p> <p>23rd, 24th and 25th May 2024</p> <p>Further details in next month's newsletter</p>

<p>ELLESMERE CENTRE VILLAGE SHOP</p> <p>will be celebrating its</p> <p>40th Birthday</p> <p>on Friday 24th May 2024</p> <p>Please come along and join in the celebrations</p> <p>Serving the community for 40 years</p>

Stetchworth and Cheveley United Reformed Church

Services and Events

Sunday 3rd March, 11.00 am: Revd Dr Janet Tollington
Sunday 10th March, 11.00 am: Mrs Wendy Roe
Sunday 17th March, 11.00 am: Service led by the members
Sunday 24th March, 11.00 am: Service led by the members
Friday 29th March, 7.00 pm: Joint Good Friday service at Parish Church
Sunday 31st March, 11.00 am: Mrs Wendy Roe (Easter Sunday)

Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 9th March 10.30 - 12.00. All welcome. This will include a **Jigsaw Swap** - bring a jigsaw you have finished with and take a different one home.



Mobile Library

Jubilee Court, Stetchworth (Route F18)

The mobile library visits on the third Thursday of every month, arriving at 2.25pm and leaving at 3.00pm.

Each mobile library vehicle carries up to 3,000 items of stock including fiction, non fiction, large print, books on CD and cassette and children's books.

Books borrowed from mobile libraries are issued for 5 weeks and you can renew them for up to three months.

HEARING AID BATTERIES: You can pick-up your free NHS hearing aid batteries and you don't need to be a library member to collect them.



You are invited to

DULLINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

**Thursday 14th March 2024
8.00pm**

The Taylor Hall, Church Close,
Dullingham CB8 9XE

*Come and enjoy a fun evening with
a demonstration by
David Wright
entitled 'Those Summer Nights'*

Admission £8
to include tea/coffee and biscuits

Raffle:
**The raffle will include all the arrangements
made during the evening.**

Please contact Lesley Bird
for further information
Tel: 01638 507658 or 07786 817154

DATE FOR DIARY:
Next Meeting - Thursday 11th April
Demonstration by Emma-Lou Florist

Stetchworth WI

In the midst of a cold and wet February evening, our gathering sparkled with warmth and cheer. The meeting was filled with elections, resolutions, recognition for our dedicated committee members, awards, and a delightful birthday celebration with chocolate cake. The unforeseen absence of our guest speaker paved the way for an impromptu quiz. This brought out the best in our members as they collaborated in teams of four, tackling questions, such as how many claws does a cat have, who invented electricity? Laughter as always echoed throughout the room, making it a truly memorable and enjoyable event.

We invite you to mark your calendars for our next meeting on **Tuesday 5th March** at 7:30 pm at The Ellesmere Centre. This time, we have a talk by author Susan Grossey on Policing & Financial Crime in Regency London.

Competition: An item you have made from wool, fabric or felt.

Guests welcome (18 yrs plus) - £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.



For any other information
contact Liz Brown on 07757
251010 or visit our website
stetchworthwi.weebly.com

A Note from the Editor

The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in April. If you would like to share any items of interest, news, or information please e-mail me at stetchworthnews@gmail.com. The deadline for articles is **20th March**.

Newsletter content does not reflect the editor's views.

Catherine Hartness, Editor