

# The Messenger



*Holy Innocents Church Gt. Barton  
Newsletter*

*Our on-line magazine can be found on our  
website: <http://themessengergtbarton.suffolk.cloud>*

## *Church Officers*

<i>Churchwardens</i>	<i>Tim Frost</i>	<i>01284 787442</i>
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<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<i>Jane Dalton</i>	<i>01284 788613</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Kathy Drakes</i>	<i>01284 787746</i>
<i>Reader</i>	<i>Kathy Drakes</i>	<i>01284 787746</i>

## Fr Ben's Reflection for August

I recently celebrated my fifth year as a priest, and in recalling my ordination at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, I remember the words of one of my friends, when they said, "I'm surprised God didn't strike me down as soon as I walked in!" Well, I gave a chuckle, as you do, and the day moved on. But thinking about the time that has elapsed since then, I can recall more and more people making similar remarks – that they would burst into flames, or they wouldn't be welcomed by God in church, chiefly it seems because of what they perceive to be their sin.

It's a strange concept to many in modern times, sin. It has been diluted to be thought of as things that we indulge in, that we derive pleasure from – perhaps some pleasures that others may disapprove of! It can be equated with benign 'naughtiness' rather than serious misdemeanours, like eating a cream cake when you're on a diet, or another glass of wine at a party.

But what I find saddening is that people understand sin as 'things we do that make God angry, angry enough to punish us'. People do seem sometimes to believe that we can be rejected by God and even bring divine punishment upon ourselves by the things that we think, say and do.

This is not the God that I have come to understand. Neither is it the God that Julian of Norwich, 14<sup>th</sup> century Christian mystic understood either. In her incredible book (the first book written in English by a woman, as far as we know), she describes divine visions gifted to her by God as she lay gravely ill, and her understandings of what they meant. Julian said,

"I was continually shown that our Lord God, as far as he himself is concerned, does not have to forgive because he is unable to be angry. It would be impossible for him!"

**To me, God is the perfect parent, always showing us love, kindness and concern. Our sin is not something that makes God angry or ready to punish with furrowed brow – sin is our thoughts, words and actions that hurt ourselves, other people or creation. And more often than not, the consequences of that sin leave us wracked with guilt, self-loathing and a crushed spirit. On the contrary, the best place for someone who, by the sins in their lives, have hurt others, are guilt-ridden, lost and broken – is with God – coming to God with arms outstretched, yearning for God’s loving embrace. The church is not the only place that you can find God’s grace waiting for you – but it is a place where one can begin to understand the fathomless compassion of a God that will never turn away those who cry out.**

**You won’t spontaneously combust! The sky will not darken, hurling thunderbolts your way! The flowers will not wither as you enter the church! But perhaps something else will bloom in your heart as you come before God in your moment of need – peace; the peace of God which is waiting for all those who come with outstretched hands, to be seen, to be known, to be loved.**

*The Rev'd Fr Benjamin Edwards  
Vicar of Great Barton & Thurston*



**A Bangers and Bingo evening is planned for Saturday, 5 October, 6:00/6:30, in The Institute, School Road, Great Barton. £10 to include supper and Bingo cards. Items for the Draw are welcomed. Ring Molly Lumley (01284) 787621 for reservations.**

**Great Barton and Thurston Benefice Services**

**August 2024**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August: (*Transfiguration of our Lord*)**

**Sung Eucharist at Holy Innocents at 10.30am**

**Choral Evensong St Peter's 6.30pm**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August:**

**No Service**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August:**

**Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's at 8.30am**

**Sung Eucharist at St Peter's at 10.30am**

**Choral Evensong, at Holy Innocents, at 6.30pm**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August:**

**Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August:**

**Holy Communion (BCP) at Holy Innocents, at 8.30am**

**Benefice Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents, at 10.30am.**

**Songs of Praise at St Peter's at 6.30pm**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August:**

**Holy Communion (CW) at St Peter's at 10.30am**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August:**

**Benefice Communion (CW) at St Peter's at 10.30am.**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August:**

**Holy Communion (CW) at Holy Innocents at 10.30am**

***(CW Common Worship, BCP Book of Common Prayer)***



## **Gt Barton and Thurston Mothers' Union**

**On July 9th we enjoyed lunch at The Victoria in Thurston.  
We don't meet in August so the next date for you to remember is  
September 10th when we will meet for  
our Corporate Communion Service at 2:30 in Holy Innocents  
Church with the Reverend Ben Edwards.  
We look forward to seeing you there.  
Gill Flower and Linda Scoles.**

**A group of us has just returned from another moving and  
challenging two-day immersion into the world of the Holocaust in  
1940s Poland. On these tours, we typically spend a whole day in  
Auschwitz-Birkenau, followed by a day in the Jewish ghetto in  
Krakow, including the amazing Oskar Schindler museum. This gives  
us a powerful insight into what it was like to live in a Nazi run ghetto  
before being transported to a death camp.**

**I am planning to lead another group pilgrimage there in the spring of  
next year and would like to hear if anyone is interested in joining us.  
I have four places left to fill.**

**The almost inclusive two day and three-night experience will cost in  
the region of £550.**

**For further information, please contact the Rev'd Mark Hunt on  
07964 941501 or email: [jmarknhunt@gmail.com](mailto:jmarknhunt@gmail.com)**

**Mark**



## **From a Gardener's Notebook**

**Despite the “English Summer”, of showers and sunshine our gardens still have plenty of colour; around the village there are many lovely buddleias in assorted colours. Many of the beautiful plants that enhance our gardens in summer are not from this country, a few notes on two such flowers.**

**Firstly, the Agapanthus, beautiful at this time especially planted in attractive pots. Blooms of assorted blues and white are from South Africa and in their natural forms on the country roadsides. These plants are tender and should be over wintered in a green house or conservatory, putting them back outside at the beginning of June. About every third year repot and divide for good results; some types will reach 4 feet high. Secondly the wonderful and long-time favourite the geranium, member of the pelargonium family are native in Africa, the Middle East and Turkey and Australia They just love the heat and the sunshine. We can over winter these plants too, also take cuttings from your own grown plants, ready for next spring. Take cuttings from about 4 inches, plant in a pan, about five cuttings in one pot. Use a well-draining compost with plenty of sharp sand and grit. Make a topping of about 1 inch of sand, do not over water, and keep in a greenhouse for winter.**

**Time to think about bulbs again, you may well have made a note of blank places last spring. Although it may seem slightly at the wrong time prune, almond plum and peach.**

**Some of our hottest days were recorded in July this year, plant asters the sun will encourage these old favourites. If you cut down your delphs and lupins to ground level, you may well get some autumn flowers.**

**“The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies”**

**Gertrude Jekyll (1843 – 1932)**

**Happy gardening, Mary**

## St Peter's Church News



### **St Peter's Church Thurston**

**is in URGENT need of an honorary treasurer. Is this a role you could fill? We believe there is someone out there who could help us.**

- **Are you numerate and experienced in using accounting software?**
- **Could you manage the financial performance of our church?**
- **Do you have good communication skills?**
- 

**If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact the following people.**

**Fr Ben at [revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com](mailto:revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com)**

**Pat Sadler at [patsadler@hotmail.com](mailto:patsadler@hotmail.com)**



## *St Peter's Church*



## *Teddy Bear Zipline*

**Come and whizz your teddies and soft toys down our Zipline from the bell tower of St Peter's church from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. on Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**There is a suggested donation of 50p for teddy's ride. Also, for £1, have a go on our 'Teddy Bear and Soft Toy Tombola'. There are plenty of soft toys waiting to find a new home.**

**Drinks and cake will be served on the day, or if you prefer, bring your own picnic.**

**(Our grateful thanks to 1<sup>st</sup> Thurston Scout Group for running the zipline.)**





**Join us for this monthly family-orientated church service and learn more about God, your family and you!**

**Breakfast, Songs, Crafts & Prayer**

**TOGETHER FAMILY CHURCH**

**ALL ONE IN CHRIST**

**WE'RE TAKING A BREAK IN AUGUST.**

**OUR NEXT FAMILY CHURCH WILL BE ON**

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**Thurston Primary Academy**

**10.00am for 10.30am start (40 mins)**

**If you would like to know more, please contact one of our Church Wardens.**

**Pat Sadler: 01359 230865 or 07552 234443.**

**Margery Ashford 07443 414622**

**The Rev'd Fr Benjamin Edwards  
Vicar of Great Barton & Thurston**

## Thurston Library News

Get involved in our new summer reading programme for children



### **The Reading Quest for 2-12 year olds**

**Reading Quest is a new programme that aims to inspire children and families to read together over the summer holidays and to take part in simple, fun activities based around books and reading. The activities are suitable for the whole family and can be accessible for all needs and abilities. They can be done in the house or while on holiday. As children complete activities, they can tell library staff and volunteers about them and collect rewards. A new reward is unlocked each week across the summer so families are encouraged to visit weekly. Families can do as many activities as they like across the summer and read as many books as they want!**

**Desk Times to come and tell us about your activities...**

**Tuesdays – 2.30pm - 4.30pm**

**Wednesdays – 11am - 1pm**

**Thursdays – 2.30pm - 4.30pm**

**Fridays – 11am - 1pm**

**Saturdays & Sundays – 11am - 1pm**

## **Nurse – Screens Please!**

**An illustrated talk by Terry O'Donoghue  
Secretary and Vice-Chair of The Bury Society  
- at Thurston Library  
7.00pm, Thursday 19 September 2024**



**An illustrated window into the history of medical provision in Bury St Edmunds and surrounding villages, in particular the founding of the original West Suffolk Hospital and its growth during the next 175 years until moving to the current site. The original voluntary hospital was designated an official emergency military hospital during both World Wars and saw itself change dramatically with the coming of the NHS in 1948. Throughout its life and ongoing, it has often been at the forefront of medical advances.**

*“This not too heavy reflection on the past will take in a few of the characters involved, some eccentric, some ground breaking, but not one of them boring.”*



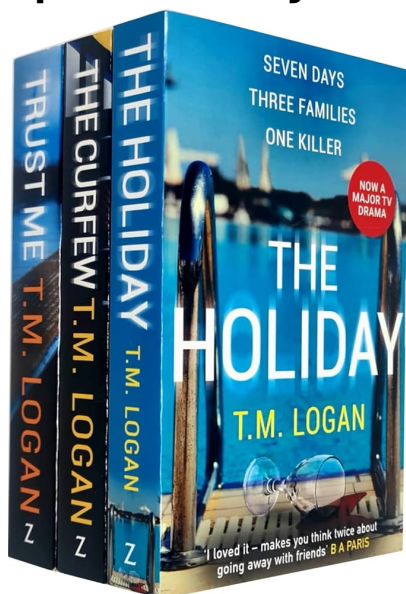
Historic Bury St Edmunds  
Nursing Staff and House Surgeon, Suffolk General Hospital.

**Tickets £6, to include refreshments,  
from Thurston Library**



**Save the dates ...**

**2pm Saturday 19th October at The Cavendish Hall**



**Meet T M Logan -  
Author of TV adapted thrillers  
*The Catch and The Holiday.***

**Tickets will be on sale next  
month at Thurston Library.**

*and*

**5-week hand-sewing class for children from 10 September**

**Book your place at [lizzie@feltfantastic.uk](mailto:lizzie@feltfantastic.uk)**



## **Thurston Library Sensory Garden**

Thurston Library sensory garden is nearly finished. Thanks to a CIL grant from Thurston Parish Council, we have been able to develop what was a piece of neglected land into a pleasant corner for everyone to enjoy. Perhaps a resting spot after a walk to the library or a place to meet up with friends.

**Officially opened on July 27, the garden and open to all from July 30 during the library hours, it will be maintained by volunteers. If you would like to help, then do talk to Ellie Longman, the Librarian, for further details.**

**If you visit, please remember to shut the gate. Assistance dogs only are allowed. Please respect others who might be in the garden with you and remember to take your litter home.**

**Thank you**

**LIVE MUSIC RETURNS TO THURSTON LIBRARY!**

***Hear well-known tracks by the likes of The Eagles,  
The Beatles, The Monkees, Simon and Garfunkel,  
The Beach Boys, Crowded House and many more.***

*Yes, it's*

# ***The Blaggers***

***8pm Saturday, 7 September 2024***



**The band specialises in playing harmony-filled rock classics.**

*This is an event of anyone who appreciates great live music – particularly if they love catchy classic rock from the '60s through to the '90s!*

**There will be a reasonably priced bar selling beer, wine, cider and soft drinks**

**Tickets £10 from Thurston Library**

Thurston Library is now a drop-off point for the Moses Project.

We will be happy to receive

- Preloved baby clothes  
(size prem, tiny, newborn & 0 – 3 months only please)
- Moses baskets, sheets and blankets
- Nappies size 1 or 2
- Wipes
- Baby toiletries
- Board books
- Baby toys.

The Moses Project is a volunteer-led initiative that supports new families who are struggling to fulfil the financial and practical needs of a new baby.

The Project receives referrals from professionals working with the families and provides them with a Moses basket full of items for mum and baby.

### **Volunteers needed at Thurston Library!**



**Wednesdays**  
10am - 12noon  
for general Library tasks.



**Sundays**  
10am - 11am or  
2pm - 3pm  
For setting up/  
tidying away Lego Club bricks.



# Felt Fantastic®

## Thurston Library Sewing

Children's Fun & Creative Hand Sewing Classes  
At Thurston Library for ages 5-10 yr olds

Weekly classes after school

We meet Tuesdays at 4.30pm til 5.30pm

Set of five weekly classes £38.

Book your place: [lizzie@feltfantastic.uk](mailto:lizzie@feltfantastic.uk)

Welcome to visit before you commit to classes.

Perfect for beginners & children wishing to be creative & develop their sewing

Summer Holiday Sewing workshops are also available - see website for details.

Further information: [www.feltfantastic.uk/sewing](http://www.feltfantastic.uk/sewing)

## **Friends of Thurston Library**

**Thurston Library on Norton Road is open for all children and adults in  
Thurston and the surrounding area**

**Come to Thurston Library: we'd love to see you and it's free for everyone**

### **Thurston Library Opening Times**

**Monday Closed, Tuesday 2pm-6pm;  
Wednesday 10am-1pm; Thursday 2pm-6pm; Friday 10am-1pm  
Saturday and Sunday 10am-3pm**

## **Home Library Service**

**If you or someone you know is having difficulty getting to the Library to select books, then Carol, our friendly Home Library Service Volunteer will do that for you. She will visit once a month with your books and return any you have finished on your behalf.**

**Get in touch with Ellie on 01359 235048 to find out more or to sign up for this fabulous service!**

## **Did you know?**

**Your library card gives you access to thousands of eAudio and eBooks, Newspapers and eMagazines (Pressreader) indie films, documentaries, and courses (Kanopy) and you can download and stream music (Freegal). All for free!**

**Visit <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/elibrary>**

## **Friends of Thurston Library**

*Like to be involved with the planning activities and events with Friends of Thurston Library? Pick up a leaflet in the Library or contact Richard Fawcett [Thurstonlibfriends@gmail.com](mailto:Thurstonlibfriends@gmail.com) or 07889 427476.*

**More Information:** Please visit the Suffolk Libraries Thurston Library page [www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/thurston-Library](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/thurston-Library)  
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram (thurstoncommunityLibrary) and [thurstonLibraryfriends.suffolk.cloud](http://thurstonLibraryfriends.suffolk.cloud)  
for all the latest information on our groups and activities.

**Thurston Library: Norton Road, Thurston, IP31 3PB 01359 235048  
Library Manager: Ellie Longman**

## **In the Library during the week**

### **Sunday**

#### **Lego Club**

The Lego Club meets every Sunday  
10.30am - 2.30pm.

### **Monday**

#### **Simply Sing ... is on holiday in August**

The next meeting is 7pm - 8pm Monday,  
2 September. For more information  
contact Angie Murray on 07870 383526.

#### **Thurston Mini Movers ... is on holiday in August**

For more information and to book  
contact [sjfdance@outlook.com](mailto:sjfdance@outlook.com)

#### **The Last Monday Book Club**

Our meeting is at 7pm - 8.30pm on  
Monday, 19 August.

This month's reads: *Slow Horses* by  
Nick Herron and *Our Mutual Friend* by  
Charles Dickens.

For more details or to come along,  
please email

[thurston.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:thurston.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk)

### **Tuesday**

#### **Chat'n'Chill ...**

After school 3.15pm - 5pm every  
Tuesday during term time.

#### **The Last Tuesday Baking Club ... is on holiday in August**

Details of future meetings coming up  
[next month.](#)

### **Wednesday**

#### **The Watercolour Art Club**

1.30pm - 4.30pm every week.

New members welcome. Just turn up!

#### **Wordplay:**

#### **Baby Bounce for 0 - 4year-olds**

Every Wednesday 10.15am - 10.45am.  
Bring along your babies and pre-  
schoolers for songs and nursery rhymes  
in the Junior Library.

## **In the Library during the week**

### **Thursday**

#### **Twenty Minute Tales ... is on holiday in August**

3.45pm - 4.05pm weekly after school  
story time: term time only.

#### **Lego for Adults ... is on holiday in August**

The next meetings will be 7pm - 8.30pm  
on Thursdays 5 and 26 September.

### **Friday**

#### **Friday Sewcial**

10am every Friday. Just turn up. Bring  
an ongoing project to work on whilst  
having a chat.

### **Saturday**

#### **Knitting and Crochet Workshop**

Every Saturday 10.30am - noon. Free.  
Ever wanted to learn how to knit or  
crochet? Join us for this weekly session  
for beginners. Or you may have a project  
on the go and need some assistance –  
just come along.

#### **Ancestry Club is on holiday in August. Back in September**

#### **Who do you think you are?**

Usually 10am - noon 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays  
monthly. Everyone welcome! No  
expertise needed: friendly help is at hand  
on from

10am - noon. Email Jayne at  
[thurstonancestry@gmail.com](mailto:thurstonancestry@gmail.com)  
for more information.

Tea & coffee of course! And a good  
natter!

You will be made very welcome.

## **Christmas cheer returns at Blackthorpe Barn...**

Experience the magic of Christmas at Blackthorpe Barn, nestled in the enchanting woods of popular Rougham Estate near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The Estate is once again ready to ignite the Christmas spirit and bring seasonal magic to life. Offering a delightful array of Christmas decorations, arts and crafts fairs, workshops, and Christmas trees, it is the ultimate destination to embrace the festive season.

George Agnew, owner of Blackthorpe Barn and Rougham Estate says:

*“I’m eagerly anticipating opening our doors again this year. It’s another enchanting setting, perfect for visitors to immerse themselves in the festive spirit, find unique gifts for their loved ones, and soak up the magical atmosphere that truly signals the start of Christmas.*”

*This year, we’re thrilled to introduce new arts and craft makers who will be showcasing their creations. They are excited to share the passion and inspiration behind their pieces.*

*“I look forward to welcoming visitors old and new when the doors open to the Country Christmas Shop on 21st October.”*

### **Country Christmas Shop:**

It all starts when the popular Country Christmas Shop unveils its seasonal splendour on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October, opening every day until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

From classy, elegant high-end decorations to suit all colour palettes, shapes and sizes, to pretty wreaths, aromatics to stimulate the Christmas senses, gifts for all, and treats galore...not forgetting the beautiful lifestyle goodies that will be sure to add some extra-special glamour, decadence and finishing touches to even the most sumptuous of homes during this festive time.

### **Arts & Crafts Fair:**

The ‘Arts & Crafts Fair’ will get under way on 16<sup>th</sup> November, for five consecutive weekends. It’s the place to get genuine one-off, unique and high-quality items crafted by the talented artists. The makers themselves will be on-hand at the events – an essential part of exhibiting at Blackthorpe Barn – thereby allowing visitors to ‘meet the makers’ from all over the country, and learn more about the inspiration behind their wonderful pieces. Each weekend

will see a change of exhibitors, so there will always be fresh, innovative items to explore on each visit.

### **Christmas Trees:**

Christmas is not complete without a Rougham Estate Christmas Tree, renowned for their quality and longevity and for being chosen to bring festivity to Bury St Edmunds town centre.

For two weekends 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November – visitors can choose their own living Nordmann Fir trees from the plantations close to the Barn and collect them after they have been hand cut, especially for them.

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> November pre-cut Christmas trees, and smaller pot-grown trees are available in many shapes and sizes, at the same time the PYO trees can be collected. Each tree comes with a dedicated care guide to help keep it in tip-top condition over the festive period.

### **Christmas Workshops:**

There are many other Christmas pleasures to discover, too, such as creative workshops, where visitors can get away from the fast-paced world for a while and focus on unleashing their own unique skills. This year, under the expert tutelage of talented artists and craft-makers, visitors can learn how to create beautiful items, such as decorative wreaths. More details on the website.

### **Roots Café and food vendors:**

To enjoy a break from all the festivities, our Roots Café including the courtyard and sunken garden is open daily. It links up with the existing Country Christmas Shop, bringing everything under one roof. Serving tasty treats and refreshments, with plenty of choice for vegetarians, vegans and those with special dietary requirements. Roots Cafe courtyard will be under-roof during this period, with heating, to accommodate the extra footfall. There will also be a range of food vendors on site over the Arts & Craft Fair weekends, to offer a wide range of choice.

### **Where to find us:**

Blackthorpe Barn is located just three miles east of Bury St Edmunds, in Suffolk, off the A14 at junction 45 (Sat Nav IP30 9HZ). what3words: [newly.sofas.debating](https://www.what3words.com/newly.sofas.debating)

### **Image Caption:**

Festive Delights: Christmas at Blackthorpe Barn.[CREDIT: Blackthorpe Barn / Rougham Estate] [Image to use](#)

**For more information and opening times for the various Christmas events, see [www.roughamestate.com](http://www.roughamestate.com)**



ST PETER'S & HOLY INNOCENTS  
UNITED IN CHRIST

### **Get Involved with The Messenger**

**Would you like to contribute to Your Messenger? We would love to hear from you, share your favourite recipe, a funny story, your favourite holiday memory. If you would like to share something you feel will be of interest to your neighbours or anyone living in Gt Barton, please contact:**

**The Editor: 07814 946841 or email: [beneficepr@gmail.com](mailto:beneficepr@gmail.com)**

**The following Business Adverts are in the on-line version Supporting The Messenger.**

**Pest Control Services: N.J.Leonard: 07979 648857**

**John Ranson. 01284 788248 07770932799**

**[jwransonbuilding@gmail.com](mailto:jwransonbuilding@gmail.com)**

**Metcalf, Copeman, Pettefar LLP. [Dawn.collier@mcp-law.co.uk](mailto:Dawn.collier@mcp-law.co.uk)**

**Home Support – Mrs Eden. 07557 337872 or Mrs Drewry 01638 730469 [pauladrewry@hotmail.com](mailto:pauladrewry@hotmail.com)**

**ELITE FENCING & LANDSCAPING 01359 221128**

**[trevor@elite-fencing.co.uk](mailto:trevor@elite-fencing.co.uk)**

**Ian Ball, General Builder. 01359 250697, or 07785 988191.**