

# THURSTON NEWSLETTER

October 2021



*Welcome to Reverend Ben Edwards,  
Vicar of the Benefice of Holy Innocents,  
Great Barton and St Peter's, Thurston*

Produced by Thurston Parish Council and St Peter's, your Parish Church

## WELCOME, BEN

We extend a warm welcome to Rev'd Ben Edwards who was installed as priest for the Benefice of Great Barton and Thurston on Monday, 27th September. We know Ben is very much looking forward to finding his way around the village and meeting you all.

We wish Ben every success in his new duties and assure him of our full support.

*Pat and Irene, Churchwardens*



## CHURCH LETTER

### THE CHURCHYARD IN THE AUTUMN

Last month we talked about 'New Beginnings' which are happening both at St. Peters and all around the village. This month sees us in a new season, autumn, when the duration of daylight becomes noticeably shorter and the temperature cools. And of course with autumn comes the striking change in colour of the countryside. These changes are taking place all around us, none so more than can be seen in our churchyard at the moment: our churchyard, a place of beauty and peace which requires constant attention to maintain it throughout all seasons.

The management of the churchyard needs to take into account a variety of things, from the burial rights of parishioners, to encouraging wildlife and making sure it is a safe place for people to wander through. An area, which is left uncut for wildlife to flourish in, is only a small part of our vast churchyard which takes a great deal of up keep. We were therefore delighted to find that a kind gentleman has been weeding the church path and cutting back some of the overgrowth. His generosity is greatly appreciated by the churchwardens.

The grass is now being cut more often so it is much easier to see what is around us. There are blackberries on some of the bushes and a cut down tree, which was left to nature, has been inhabited by various insects. (The Beavers visited one evening and had a lovely time looking at them and the wild plants in the churchyard.) Also this autumn there will be new roses planted along the main path to replace the ones that are sadly past their best. This is being organised by the daughter of a gentleman who loved our church and donations have been made by his family and friends to fund this planting on his death.

Our thanks go to all of you who tend graves regularly and keep them tidy, especially those of you who travel a great distance.

It is always good to see that graves are looked after but may we discreetly remind you that plastic flowers are not allowed. In view of the latest reasoning that plastics contaminate and damage the environment we would ask you to kindly not use them. Natural and fresh flowers add a lot more beauty to the churchyard.

There are as we have said no more grave spaces in the churchyard, although there is still room for burial of ashes, and so we will need to use the new graveyard across the road. The notice board is in the process of being made and will be erected very soon, as will a plaque on the gate acknowledging our thanks to the donors. Also a hedge will be planted this autumn, around the boundary, which will mature over the years, and hopefully when the building in the village is all finished, the footpath, which runs along one side, will be finished. In the meantime, we need a party of people to clear the weeds that have grown around the entrance area and we also require help on cutting an area needed for any burials. We are proposing to organise a working party in early November, details of which will appear in next month's issue. Can you spare the time to help? We would really appreciate it if you could. Remember this is the village churchyard and is for everyone, so please help it you can.

There are many verses in the bible about helping others that will inspire you to give a hand. One such verse is from Proverbs 11:25 which says, "Generous persons will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed". In other words knowing that you've been able to help someone is its own reward.

We look forward to your generous support.

*Pat & Irene (Churchwardens)*

More information about the **Benefice of Holy Innocents Church, Gt. Barton and St Peter's Church, Thurston**

can be found on Facebook  
or on our joint website

[www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk](http://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk)



**HOME COMMUNION AND VISITS**  
Unfortunately these have all been cancelled  
until further notice.

### St Peter's Church contacts

You can contact: -

Joy Bolwell for Baptisms 231301

Pat Sadler for Weddings 230865

Irene Churchus for Funerals 230652

**Secretary: Position vacant**

**Treasurer : Gillian Bush 271704**

**Churchwardens: Irene Churchus 230652  
& Pat Sadler 230865**

### PRAYER HELPLINE

If you or someone you know needs prayerful support,  
you can ring one of the following numbers.

We offer a listening ear and will offer to pray for  
and with you.

Alf Nightingale - 01359 231155

Christopher Wells - 01359 231573

## CHURCH NEWS

### GREAT BARTON AND THURSTON BENEFICE SERVICES OCTOBER 2021

#### The following services will take place in the Benefice:

- Sunday, 3rd October: Holy Communion (BCP) at Holy Innocents, Great Barton at 8.00am  
Holy Communion at St Peter's, Thurston at 10.30am  
**(We warmly welcome our newly installed Priest, Ben Edwards, to take this service.)**
- Sunday, 10th October: Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's, Thurston at 8.00am  
Holy Communion at Holy Innocents, Great Barton at 10.30am
- Sunday, 17th October: Holy Communion at Holy Innocents, Great Barton at 10.30am (Harvest Festival)
- Sunday, 24th October: Holy Communion at St Peter's, Thurston at 10.30am
- Sunday, 31st October: Holy Communion at St Peter's, Thurston at 10.30am (All Saints)  
All Souls Service at Holy Innocents, Great Barton at 3.00pm

*(BCP Book of Common Prayer)*

You no longer require to book a place to attend a service. However, we strongly recommend that you scan the QR code poster to help the NHS Test and Trace.

Please check our noticeboard, pew sheet, Facebook pages or the benefice website for any changes and updated information: <http://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk>

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: NOT SO FAR AWAY!

**Saturday, 18th and Sunday, 19th December 2021**

Christmas is coming... the trees are being planned!

St Peter's Church and The Friends of Thurston Library will be organising a Christmas Tree Festival this year.

Trees welcomed from individuals, groups and businesses.

The theme, for those who like to have a tree-with-a-theme, is **Hopes and Dreams**.

As mentioned last month, how about adding a green touch?

An enthusiast for all things green tells us:

*Pick grasses dried poppies and other flowers (wild and grown) to hang up in dark cool place to finish drying.*

*Come late November these flowers, grasses, stems etc. can be painted or interwoven with ribbons or eco coloured twine. Twigs with berries, and teasels can also be collected in mid/late autumn. Drying or pressing the coloured autumn leaves is another possibility.*

You can find out more here:

<https://www.countrylife.co.uk/interiors/how-to-make-dried-flowers-what-to-pick-when-to-pick-them-and-how-to-dry-them-230891>

<https://www.realflowers.co.uk/blog/autumn-and-winter-foraging-guide/>



### SUFFOLK CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE

A big thank you to all those who took part in Ride and Stride: the cyclists, the sponsors and those who sat and recorded the people coming to Thurston.

There were 33 visitors, some of whom were lucky enough to enjoy the sound of the bells as there was a wedding that day too.

St Peter's is very grateful for the money that has been raised.  
*Mary Fawcett*

### ST. PETER'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2021

**SATURDAY, 27th NOVEMBER 10am - 2pm**

Please put this in your diary.

We welcome everyone to come to browse and buy at the stalls and enjoy snacks both savoury and sweet prepared in the new kitchen at the Cavendish Hall for your lunch.

We also hope that many of you will donate items for our stalls but please not things we will have to throw away.

If any of you have new ideas for stalls or can run one for us we would love to hear from you.

Next month we will put further details in the newsletter for you but in the meantime if you have any queries please give me a ring.

*Irene (Churchwarden) 01359 230652*



**We are pleased to announce that both Gt Barton and Thurston MU have now joined together as one group.**

We will be retaining our present days of meeting (2nd Tuesday of the month and 3rd Thursday of the month both starting at **2.30pm**) but will alternate meetings between the two villages.

Our **October** meeting will be held in the **Gt Barton Institute on Thursday, 21st October** when we have Clare Thomas from the Diocese who will be bringing a selection of MU Enterprise gifts, cards, calendars, diaries etc.

Refreshments will be served.

*For more information ring Jill Rood on 01359 231647.*