

December 2020



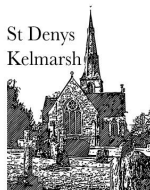
All Saints, Naseby



All Saints, Clipston



St Michael's Haselbech



St Denys
Kelmarsh

For it is in giving . . .

The Magazine

...that we receive
St. Francis of Assisi



Welford
Congregational Chapel



St Helen's Sibbertoft



St Mary The Virgin, Welford



St Nicholas' Marston Trussell



News & Views

Haselbech, Kelmarsh, Marston Trussell,
Naseby, Welford, Sibbertoft & Clipston

DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

United Benefice of Clipston, Haselbech, Kelmarsh, Marston Trussell, Naseby, Sibbertoft and Welford

Priest in Charge	Rev Canon Miranda Hayes The Rectory, Church Lane Clipston LE16 9RW rector@nasebygroup.org	525342
Curate	Kris Seward, The Vicarage, The Leys, Welford curate@nasebygroup.org	575909
Readers	Kairen Ball, 11 Salford Close, Welford Diane Parton, 26 Welland Rise, Sibbertoft Trevor Lake, Swallow Brook, Naseby Road, Clipston Gordon Temple The Leys, Welford Valerie Carpenter	575331 880972 07785242904
Magazine	Julian Howell-Jones, 83 West Street, Welford	575757
<u>St. Mary the Virgin, Welford</u>		
Churchwardens	Michael Morson, 3 Wakefield Drive, Welford Julian Howell-Jones 83 West Street, Welford	575333 575757
Treasurer	Julie Newman, 30 Wakefield Drive, Welford	575335
Secretary	Ann Barraclough, 38 West End, Welford	575269
Organist	Alan Barraclough, 38 West End, Welford	575269
Tower Captain	Kelvin Broad, 3 Newlands Road, Welford	575683
Mothers' Union	Anne Wing, 8 Millers Road, Welford	571063
<u>St. Helen, Sibbertoft</u>		
Churchwarden	Toby Jackson, Wry Furlong, Welford Rd, Sibbertoft	881091
Treasurer	Lesley Hartshorne, Roserie Cottage, Westhorpe, Sibbertoft	880112
Secretary	Viv Arrowsmith, 5Beeches Close, Sibbertoft	880988
<u>St. Nicholas, Marston Trussell</u>		
Churchwarden		
Treasurer	Christine Otway, 9 Main Street, Marston Trussell LE16 9TY	289516
Secretary	Diane Parton 26 Welland Rise, Sibbertoft	880972
<u>All Saints, Clipstom</u>		
Churchwarden	Steve Carpenter, The Covers, Harborough Rd	525120
Treasurer/Organist	Julie Connell, The Wooden Owl, 10a The Green	525336
<u>St Michael's, Haselbech</u>		
Churchwardens	Ellie Bletsoe-Brown The Croft, Haselbech John Poulter 1 Wethill Close. Kettering	01604 686633 07711995772
Treasurer	Michael Hopkins Orton House, Welford Road, Naseby	01604740309
<u>St. Deny's Kelmarsh</u>		
Churchwarden	Bob Swinfen Lyndale Rectory Farm, Kelmarsh	01604686676
Treasurer	Gina Hankins Scotland Wood Farm, Kelmarsh	01604686216
<u>All Saints, Naseby</u>		
Churchwarden	Margaret Diack 11 Hall Close, Naseby	01604743820
Treasurer	Maurice Cave 84 Church Street, Naseby	01604740388

Welford Congregational Chapel

Pastor	Barrie Woodward The Bakehouse, 17 West Street, Welford	575586
Treasurer /Secretary	Denise Bott Copper Bottom, Northampton Road, Welford	575746

Dear Friends,

As we begin December, we have no idea what sort of a Christmas we will be having. Will we be able to meet up with friends and loved ones? Will we be able to worship in Church? Will we be able to sing? We just don't know!

Of course, we may soon have clearer idea as we come out of lockdown but it seems likely that there will still be a degree of uncertainty, a degree of mystery í í í í í .

Well, I suppose we could see that uncertainty and mystery as echoing something of that first Christmas. Something of the feeling that Mary and Joseph may have had in that animal shelter in Bethlehem as Jesus was born. We know what that birth signified and continues to signify, but they did not—they knew a little, of course, but they can hardly have imagined the immensity of the events in which they were so intimately and immediately involved. And uncertainty about the future? The Holy Family experienced that right from the beginning: they didn't go to Bethlehem expecting to meet the shepherds, or visitors, laden with gifts, to arrive from the East, and nor did they expect to have to travel to Egypt because of Herod's murderous intent.

And the shepherds: they knew something extraordinary had happened — after all, it's not every night you have hosts of angels appearing and speaking to you, and it was certainly extraordinary enough for them to leave their sheep and rush down into the town to see for themselves.

Continued overleaf

But they must have been uncertain as to the magnitude of it all, the true identity of the baby in the manger, and it must have remained something of a mystery for many years, perhaps throughout their lives. For the wise men too. After all, in the story of Jesus' life on earth, we have to wait until after the resurrection, for one of his disciples, Thomas to explicitly identify him, and say, "*My Lord, and **my God.***" So much mystery, then, wrapped in swaddling bands and laid in a manger. And whilst we know much more about Jesus now, much more about his life, his identity, his purpose, God remains largely and wonderfully a mystery=there is so much more to know, so much more to discover=so much more to experience of the limitless love which created us=love expressed through the miracle of a Son born some two thousand years ago.

Today, we face an uncertain and mysterious future but, as always, Christmas reminds us that the greatest yet most certain of all mysteries is God's love. We see in Jesus love made flesh and blood=love which lived among us=love which gave of itself fully and completely on the cross=love which never fails.

So much mystery in such a tiny baby,
- yet what comfort and joy he brings!

With my love and prayers for a Christmas of love and peace.

Miranda

Community Christmas Boxes

Would you like to spread some festive cheer to a deserving member of our village community this Christmas?

Between **1st and 15th December** we will be collecting festive boxes to be distributed to deserving residents just before Christmas.

Please get in touch if you would like to nominate someone who you think would appreciate a box - this could be someone on their own, someone who has had a difficult time this year, someone who has supported the community through lockdown, or simply someone who needs a bit of festive cheer! We are hopeful that we will receive enough boxes to ensure all those nominated receive one.

How to make up a box:

- Take a lidded box and wrap the box and lid separately in festive paper - a shoebox is a good option
- Include a festive greetings card - either homemade or commercial - and, if you have them, get the kids involved by making a festive collage or picture, maybe even a crafted item
- Fill the box with a selection of festive food items, ideally: mince pies, a small Christmas pudding, biscuits and crackers, jam and chutney (please ensure all food items have a shelf life beyond Christmas)

If you would like to help out, but don't want to donate a whole box, then we will gladly accept individual donations of the items above.

Boxes can be dropped off securely at the following locations between **1st and 15th December**:

**7 Millers Road
1 Browns Meadow
38 West End
25 High Street (up Gardner's Way)**

Please rest assured that boxes will be quarantined for **at least 5 days**, before delivery in the week commencing 21st December.

If you would like to **nominate a resident** to receive a box, or if you feel you can help out in any way, please contact:

welfordvolunteers@gmail.com

Hannah Bedard - 07493 638762 | **Niamh Bland** - 07837 579550

Go on, show some community spirit this Christmas!



SIBBERTOFT NEWS

Sibbertoft Services over Christmas

Given the uncertainty as to what will or will not be possible over Christmas, any decisions will be taken fairly last-minute during December and announced via Rev. Miranda at a zoom service and on the Sibbertoft WhatsApp group .



Sibbertoft 'Nan on the run fundraising 20/21' Start date 29/3/20
Challenge to run the equivalent of 25 marathons (650 miles in one
year).

November update.

We are now back in lock down! but hopeful by the time the magazine drops through your letter box in late November we will be looking forward to a relaxation of restrictions. Infection rates will be under control and we can make plans for our reduced Covid secure Christmas celebrations.

Fortunately I can keep up the miles regardless of Covid and in truth I have found the challenge a way of maintaining positive focus and purpose through out the pandemic.

My limbs regularly remind me that my youth is now a distant memory and although the knees are definitely feeling better my feet are starting to complain and I am battling tendinitis! Undaunted I am carrying on but including a few walked miles ó the end is now in sight!

2021 is not far way and we must all be joyous and grateful for the announcement that a successful vaccine will be available very soon.

Fund raising has now topped £5000 I am immensely grateful to all the support I have received. Without this recognition and investment it would be difficult to find the motivation to keep on running especially as the last 6 marathons will be run in the winter months. 19 Marathons completed almost 500 miles!

Thank you to all who have donated thus far. I know we can smash the target as many people have pledged their future/continued support.

Make a Christmas gift to Sibbertoft Community buildings fund.

Visit give.net search nan on the run20/21

or cash /cheque payable to Saint Helens Church Sibbertoft.

All funds raised will be divided between the reading room kitchen refurbishment project and Saint Helens church maintenance fund.



Sibbertoft Christmas Pop up Shop

Saturday December 5th 11am-3pm.

(Due to the 2nd lock down we have moved the date forward by one week).

The Christmas festivities will go ahead! In order to facilitate social distancing we are spreading the location of the stalls to 3 separate venues through out the village. Directional signs will be in place on the day.

Wrap up warm put on your Santa hats and Christmas Jumpers. Log fires and Mulled wine stations will be available to warm you while you browse the wonderful hand crafted festive fayre on offer. A variety of Crafts, beautiful Seasonal Stationary, Decorations and Toys located in the Garage at 25 **Welland Rise** where you can also collect your pre-ordered Sibbertoft 2021 Calender. There may be some spare copies available.

Walk to the top of **Westhorpe** and come inside the Greenhouse and Workshop at **Roserie Cottage** to view and collect your Sibbertoft together Christmas wreath. Try your luck on the festive themed Tombola which includes special children's prizes.

Cross the road to **Kingsley House** where you will find the garage bursting with sweet and savoury treats. Our village bakers have been busy creating some festive surprises as well as all the usual traditional goodies plus jams and chutneys.

This event is a fund raising activity and an opportunity to celebrate Sibbertoft Community working and coming together in 2020.

Please ensure you observe all covid 19 secure protocols.

Mask wearing, distancing and hand sanitising.

Thank you.

**All funds raised go to
'Nan on the Run' 20/21 community buildings project.**

**Visitors from across the benefice, friends and family
are all welcome.**



WELFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FARM
Family run Christmas Tree Farm for over 20 years
Trees, Wreaths, Gifts, Santa
9.00am to 6.00pm everyday until 24th December
Late nights Thursday till 8.00pm
Must pre-book an entry ticket on any weekend
1 ticket per car (not per person)



Good Neighbours - **Change of date**

If allowed and lockdown is lifted, we will be holding the December Good Neighbours Coffee Morning on Thursday December 10th from 10.00-12.00 in Welford Village Hall. Cost £1 for coffee/tea and biscuits.

As last time, please bring the right money and your own mug. It will be table service again and we ask you to wear a mask until seated and your order taken. Please only sit in the four seats set out at each table and keep 2 metres distance if you stop to say hello to someone on the way to your seat!

There will be some books (£1) and jigsaws (£2) for sale this time and we ask you to bring the right money and only one person at a time at the table please.

We look forward to seeing some of you again.

Jane & Sue





COME AND SING CAROLS

In 1960 Mr Twemlow, the headmaster of Welford School and conductor of Welford and District Choral Society, instituted the first 'Come and Sing Carols' on Christmas Eve in Welford Church. When 'Twemmy' died in 1976, Philip Gardner continued the tradition and when W&DCS ceased in 2000, the young people of Welford Church Choir led the event, replaced in recent years by former choristers joined by 'more mature' volunteers. This year would have been the 60th Anniversary of an event that has marked the joyous and enthusiastic start to Christmas proper for so many and has raised a considerable amount of money for charity - just in the past 14 years over £15000, a portion of which included the proceeds of carol singing around the village and the generous contribution of WSS&S Christmas concerts. Since 2001 this money has been divided between the Cynthia Spencer Hospice and a number of child-orientated charities. Such charities are extremely hard-hit by the pandemic which has affected all our lives in such dramatic and, for many, devastating ways. (if anyone would like to donate to one of our usual charities, do contact us for details on 575269, email annbarracrough@hotmail.com). The pandemic has managed to cause what rain and tempest, frost and flood could not: the cancellation of an event that has brought to so many in Welford and beyond a joyous and interactive start to the Christmas festivities. Even supposing regulations are somewhat relaxed before Christmas, there is no likelihood of the go-ahead being given to mass gatherings, particularly if they involve choral events which are seen to pose a greater risk of Covid19 transmission. If you are one of the many in the community who have joined us over the years, fear not: in 2021 we shall have an even more uplifting and joyous 'Come and Sing'

Ann and Alan Barracrough



This Advent lets continue to spread some Comfort & Joy to our communities

As we approach Advent and look forward to celebrating Christ's birth at Christmas, I am reminded of the uncertainty and hardship that Mary and Joseph experienced much as we are now. I am thankful for the hope that the Christ child brought and continues to bring to a world that is weary and hurting. It was the Angels that heralded Christ's coming into the world and gave that message of comfort and joy to Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds. As a group of Churches serving our communities and with the help of our schools we would love to continue to spread this message of *comfort and joy to each and every one of you, as we look to support one another. So let's continue to spread that Comfort and Joy and join together in the following ways:*

1.

Throughout advent we are asking that you display an Angel of Comfort and Joy in your window to show your support, love and prayers for those around you. Why not create your own Angel or click on the link below and select an Angel to print off and display.

2.

Can you create a nativity scene window to be displayed in our Christmas stables? We need 24 windows for each of our stables at Clipston, Naseby, & Welford. The art work should be on 4 x A4 sheets arranged in a rectangle and in landscape form. We need these by 29th November.

3.

Could you spread some comfort and Joy by painting some advent stones? We need Mary & Joseph, Baby Jesus, Angels, Shepherds, Sheep, and the Three Kings. Once painted we would encourage you to place them around the village from 29th November for others to find as bit of fun. If you find one please bring it along to the churchyards and place it where the rest of the stones are gathering.

Our hope is that you find some comfort and joy in these activities. I join in the prayer of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York that through this Christmas season you will know that Jesus journeys with you. May you know God's comfort and, in whatever your circumstances, be surprised by God's joy.

Fr. Kris Seward





Hope is a progressive anti-poverty charity that works to improve the lives of anyone affected by poverty and the homeless.

The Hope Food Club is currently supporting some 150 families providing a weekly supply of tinned, dried and fresh food.

For the past six months we have been collecting weekly donations from villages within the Benefice and taking them in to the Food Club in Northampton.

The incredible support from our local community has enabled us to supply to date in excess of 4,000 items.

Christmas for many is a time of fear and dread as families try to find the means to provide some of the extra little Christmas treats. The Hope food Club are hoping to collect sufficient Christmas produce to be able to give a **Christmas food box** to each family and individual in need. To enable them to do this your help would be hugely appreciated.

Christmas food contributions such as puddings, mince pies, stuffing, cranberry jelly, Christmas cakes will make a massive difference.

These will be delivered the week of the 14th December.

(Home-made produce can be accepted but please ensure that it is properly wrapped and labelled with the date on which it was baked and please state if it contains nuts).

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me :

Carolyn Robinson
Email: cr@dunanuk.com

Mob: 07919 253391

FROM MARSTON TRUSSELL

The Magazine

Everyone, we hope, in the Parish currently receives a paper copy but all the information therein is also available on the web-site nasebygroup.org where there is also a lot more information of our Benefice.

Please can you let me know if you would STILL like to receive a paper copy, as you may not be able to access it online or would prefer a copy to hand.

Thankyou. CONTACT: Jenny Bradshaw 07989169782



Doorstep Carols

In the meantime, a Nationwide local radio initiative called 'Doorstep Carols' is taking place on December 16th at 6.00pm, where you can sing along to Radio Northampton on your doorstep, hopefully with your neighbours and instruments are encouraged! Radio Northampton is on 103.6/104.2 FM. Carols will be playing until 7.00pm. You can download a carol sheet/sheet music from their website. It looks like they are repeating it on Christmas Eve but no further details are available at the moment.

doorstepcarols.co.uk

PRIVATE PRAYER IN WELFORD

The times for private prayer will change
from **5th January**

to

Every Tuesday 10.30am to 12 noon



WELFORD, SIBBERTOFT & SULBY
ENDOWED SCHOOL



Our School seeks a Community Governor

- Are you community-minded?
- Do you like to support groups and activities in your neighbourhood?
- Would you like to help your local school and its children and families?

If you answered YES to these questions then this might be the voluntary role for you!

Our local school, Welford, Sibbertoft and Sulby Endowed School (WSSSES), is seeking a local person to serve on its governing body: a newly-constituted community-focussed Academy Governance Committee.

Set in the heart of Welford village WSSSES is an OFSTED rated 'good' school. In their report they described the school as '*a happy and friendly place*'. It is a Church of England school and one of the Peterborough Diocese Education Trust family of academies. A recent SIAMS (Church) inspection also rated the school 'good' and said of it: '*the welcoming Christian vision is lived out at all levels of the academy where releasing the God-given potential of each member is foremost.*'

The Academy Governance Committee is made up of parents, staff and appointed persons from the community. It is responsible for setting and upholding the school's vision and ethos, monitoring and supporting compliance with statutory requirements, and developing and monitoring the school's engagement with the whole community.

A key role of a Community Governor is to help to shape our future and foster links with the local vicinity. This is a crucial part of our school ethos and reflects our values as we are 'Living and learning together, celebrating life in all its fullness'.

For this important voluntary role:

- No previous experience is needed
- Training will be provided
- There is an annual time commitment of 6 meetings per year and occasional attendance at school and school events

If you are interested in being part of this welcoming local school and would like to know more please contact either,

- Michelle Pye, Headteacher on 01858 575431 or email: head@wssses.northants-ecl.gov.uk or
- Dr Gordon Temple, Chair of Governors on email: gtemple@wssses.co.uk

Living and learning together, celebrating life in all its fullness



CHAPEL COMMENT

The Joy of Giving.

Somehow, not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to youL
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.

John Greenleaf Whittier

NASEBY GROUP BENEFICE

Sunday 6th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

10am	Holy Communion	Virtual Service
6pm	Advent Service^	Welford

Sunday 13th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

10am	Holy Communion	Virtual Service
6pm	Holy Communion^	Clipston

Sunday 20th December: 4th Sunday of Advent

10am	Holy Communion	Virtual Service
6pm	Holy Communion^	Welford

Thursday 24th December: Christmas Eve

3pm	Crib Services at the stables	Clipston+Naseby+Welford
3pm	Family Service	Haselbech
5pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	Virtual Service
11:30pm	Midnight Mass	Welford

Friday 25th December: Christmas Day

9:30am	Holy Communion*	Marston Trussell+Naseby
10am	Family Communion*	Sibbertoft
11am	Family Communion*	Clipston
11am	Family Service*	Welford

Sunday 27th December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

9:30am	Holy Communion*	Kelmarsh
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^Subject to government regulations

*If these physical services are not permitted by regulations there will be Virtual Services at 10am on 25th and 27th December.

Virtual services on Zoom ID 697 715 534

Visit the Naseby Group website (nasebygroup.org) for updates.

Churches open for Individual Prayer

Welford	Tuesdays	9:30am – 12:00
Clipston	Wednesdays	1:00 – 2:30pm

WELFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL

Sunday Worship 10.45am

Preacher

- * 6th. Rev. Tony Avery
- * 13th. Bobby Wakeleigh-Jones
- *20th Carol Service at 3.00pm
- 27th. No Service

* Subject to government guidelines