

South Croxton Churches

The parishes of Ashby Folville & Barsby, Gaddesby, South Croxton with Beeby
and Twyford, Thorpe Satchville & John O'Gaunt

Newsletter December 2014 and January 2015

Guest writer **Canon David Winter** considers the way in which carols proclaim the story

Carolling in frosty air . . .

Christmas and carols go together. You can't have one without the other. It would require a high degree of ingenuity for anyone to get through the Christmas season without hearing a carol – and probably singing one, too.

They're on the speakers in the supermarket, they're on the radio, carol singers come round the streets singing them, the brass band plays them in the market place – and, of course, there's the church carol service, the crib service and the midnight communion. Most of us could name lots of them: *Hark the Herald*, *Good King Wenceslaus*, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, *Away in a Manger*, *Once in Royal David's City* . . . and so on.

Some of those carols are very old, some relatively modern. They're perhaps the only Christian songs we actually know the words of – but familiarity can breed if not



contempt, then at least inattention. Occasionally in those familiar lines we sing absolute nonsense: 'In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron' – in Bethlehem? 'Little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes' – so the baby Jesus wasn't human after all? 'And io, io, io by priest and people sungen'? No, not a bad case of the stutters, but a medieval carol-writer's mischievous description of the mumbo-jumbo of incomprehensible Latin in church.

We've been spared other bafflement by the work of editors. Charles Wesley's first line was originally 'Hark how all the welkin rings' – no 'herald angels'. 'Welkin' comes from an Old English word meaning 'heaven' and has absolutely nothing to do with shell-fish.

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But enough of problems. On the whole carols are wonderfully clear in their message and profoundly moving in a simple and touching way. The last verse of *Once in Royal David's City* always moves me:

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high.

Trust Mrs Alexander to get it exactly right. And Christina Rossetti's last verse, tellingly quoted at the end of the Queen's Christmas message last year, asks a question so searching that her meteorological musings fade into thin air:

What shall I give him, poor as I am?
if I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Church notices

The South Croxton Benefice is part of the South West Framland (SWF) Group which operates an office. For all baptism and wedding enquiries please contact the Administrator Mr Vic Allsop at the SWF Group Office, 29 Main Street, Great Dalby, LE14 2ET (561909) or clusteradmin@btinternet.com.

See Page 9 for your village contact and further details

n **Community Lunch:** The Parish Community Hub celebrated Christmas with a lunch at Ashby Folville Village Hall in November.

Thank you to everyone who joined us. There is no community lunch in December. The next event is at Sysonby Knoll, Melton Mowbray, on Tuesday January 27, 12 noon for a 12.30 pm start. We do hope that you will be able to join us. If you would like more information please contact either:

Annette Piper (840627); Davina Bates (454201); Beryl Newman (0116 2603247); Vic Allsop (434697). We are most grateful to our volunteer drivers who will be happy to pick up anyone from our villages who needs transport. If you are thinking of joining us for the first time (and we are getting new members all the time), please get in touch to find out more. The lunches are a great opportunity for the people of our villages to meet up and enjoy each other's company.

The Community Lunch Team.



It had started with coffee and biscuits after the service.

○ Christmas services:

Sunday December 14, 6.00 pm, Carol Service	Ashby Folville
Sunday December 14, 6.30 pm, Carol Service	Beeby
Wednesday December 17, 7.00 pm, United Carol Service	Twyford
Thursday December 18, 7.00 pm, Carol Service	Gaddesby
Sunday December 21, 10.30 am, Nativity Service	Gaddesby
Sunday December 21, 6.00 pm, Carol Service	South Croxton
Wednesday December 24, 5.00 pm, Crib and Carol Service	Thorpe Satchville
Wednesday December 24, 11.30 pm, Midnight Communion	Ashby Folville
Thursday December 25, 10.30 am, All Age Communion	South Croxton
Sunday December 28, 8.30 am, United Holy Communion	Ragdale

Christingle services: There will be two opportunities to share in a Christingle celebration — Wednesday December 17 at 7.00 pm in Twyford Church for United Carol and Christingle Service and Sunday January 25 at 4.00 pm in South Croxton Church.

Both services will be followed by festive refreshments. As well as being able to receive a Christingle in the service it is also an opportunity to support the vital work of the Children’s Society, which helps many children and young people who are in great need. All are welcome

☐ Families are invited to come along to ‘Messy Church’ on the first Saturday of each month 3.00—4.30 pm at Thorpe Satchville Village Hall (£1 per family).

What is ‘Messy Church’? Come along and find out as we enjoy being together, making things together, eating together and celebrating God together through his word, through music and through prayer. All ages are welcome. The next ‘Messy Church’ session will be the Christmas party on December 6. Do join in the Christmas fun and stay for tea.

Enquiries: messychurch.thorpe@gmail.com

☐ Marriage: Samuel Rickitt and Alexandra Henton on November 15 and John Buckby and Hilary Campton on November 22. We wish these couples every happiness.

☐ **Funeral:** St Luke’s Church was full for the service for Esme Folwell of Gaddesby on Thursday November 27 reflecting her strong connections with Gaddesby, Twyford and Frisby on the Wreake and in particular with the farming community. A keen sportswoman, she was skilled at hockey and cricket and played several seasons for the county and was a tennis player throughout most of her life. She played an important role with many organisations teaching children to swim and taking keep-fit classes and in the Women’s Institute, Mothers’ Union and as an organist, churchwarden, church treasurer and in other roles on parochial church councils. In later years she became a JP on the Melton bench, becoming chairman before she retired. The former Rector of Gaddesby, Revd Susan Leighton, officiated.

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union meets on the first Thursday in the month. Further information from Annette Piper (840627).

Council notices

Gaddesby, Barsby & Ashby Folville Parish Council: The council's next meeting is on Monday December 8 at Ashby and Barsby Village Hall. The following meeting will be at Gaddesby Village Hall on Monday January 12. All start at 6.45 pm. Residents can raise questions at the beginning of meetings. Contact the clerk, Mrs Trudy Toon (840490).

Twyford and Thorpe Satchville Parish Council: The council will meet on Thursday December 16 at 2.30 pm, at Thorpe Satchville Village Hall and on Tuesday, January 20 at 7.30 pm at Twyford Village Hall.

South Croxton Parish Council: The council will meet on Thursday, December 4, at the village hall at 6.30 pm.

WI meetings

Barsby & Ashby Folville: Members will be holding a Christmas party on December 10.

Gaddesby: Thank you to everyone who supported the Fashion Show on November 14 and made it such a fun evening. Over £300 was raised to boost WI funds which will enable us to not only enhance our own facilities but also to support local charities. The Christmas party takes place on Wednesday December 10; please remember to bring a sweet or savoury dish. The competition is 'A table decoration'.

The speaker at the meeting on Wednesday January 14 will be Michaela Kelly talking about her life as an artist. The competition will be 'Anything RED'.

South Croxton. *Farming and conservation – 75 years at Rectory Farm* is the title of a talk to be delivered at the meeting on Thursday December 18 at 7.30 pm. The speaker at the meeting on Thursday January 22 will be Joyce Langham with the title *Lost in Translation*.

Ashby Folville & Barsby

Christmas services: A warm welcome to everyone who plans to celebrate Christmas at St. Mary's, as people have done for almost 1,000 years. Our carol service will be on Sunday December 14 at 6.00 pm, during which Martha Housby will give a presentation on her recent visit to Ghana. There will be a collection for the Salvation Army and seasonal refreshments afterwards. Christmas decorations will be ready for Advent Sunday on December 7 at 8.30 am. *RH*

Midnight communion: We welcome the Archdeacon of Leicester, the Very Rev Tim Stratford, for the service on Christmas Eve at 11.30 pm.

Death: We were very sad to hear that Mrs Noreen Smith-Carington passed away at home on November 24. The widow of Wing Commander John Smith-Carington, she

was a very respected lady and a much-loved grandmother and great grandmother. Our deepest sympathy to Shiona and family. The funeral is taking place at 11.00 am on Wednesday December 3 at Ashby Folville. *RH*

Bell-ringers: Maurice Deacon has retired from the post of tower captain at St. Mary's after many years of training new ringers, giving much time and infinite patience, as well as maintaining the belfry. Many thanks to Maurice and welcome to Peter Brown, out new captain. *RH*

Carols: Ashby Folville and Barsby Women's Institute members will be carol singing in Ashby Folville on Friday December 19 to raise money for the East Midlands air ambulance. *Angela Patton*

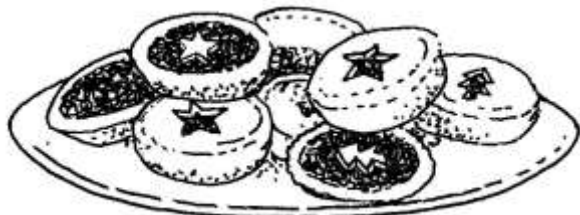
Gaddesby

Candlelight: The Annual Candlelight Carol Service is on Thursday December 18 at 7.00 pm when our special guests will be the children of Gaddesby Primary School Choir. Everyone is welcome and there will be mulled wine and mince pies after the service.

Gaddesby Gallop 2014: This year's event will be on Saturday December 20. Registration begins at 9.30 am in Gaddesby Village Hall with the race starting at 11.00 am from the field opposite the Cheney Arms. The 5.25-mile cross-country course includes muddy fields, passing through a dew pond, drainage pipe and a brook. It is always a very messy and fun race. Entry is £6 on the day with a free Santa hat included. To get you inspired, there is a video clip of last year's race at www.gaddesby.org.uk/gaddesbygallop2013. The prizes will be awarded at the Cheney Arms at 12.30 pm with tea, coffee and hot rolls available. More information from Sam Burdett (840626 / 07748 084529) or Lance Shaw (840550 / 07966 015851). Hope to see you there!

Defibrillator: The application to adopt the phone box was successful and the defibrillator equipment was installed in it in November. The defibrillator is not yet operational because it has to be commissioned by the Community Heartbeat Trust and then registered with the East Midlands Ambulance Service before it can be put into service. We also need to set up a rota to undertake the regular test and report activities required to keep it operational. This may take a few weeks. Volunteers are refurbishing the telephone box. Specialist paint has been donated by a paint manufacturer and work

to the box will take place when the weather and time allows. We even have gold paint to pick out the crown around the top of the box, so it will look very smart when all the work is completed. Non-slip floor tiles have been donated by



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a local company and these will be laid inside the box. We are also investigating the possibilities of reinstating the path across the grass to the box to improve access. I can now confirm that the Great Gaddesby Fun Weekend raised sufficient money to provide the village with a fully funded defibrillator for the expected life of the equipment (seven—10 years).

Two further donations of £650 will be made; one to St Luke's heating fund and a second to the air ambulance. Representatives of the organising committee plan to visit East Midlands Airport on December 12 to see the air ambulance, meet the crew and make our donation. Arrangements are being made to make the donation to the church.

Sarah McWilliam

Village hall

The hall is used for Zumba, Mondays, 7.00—8.00 pm, contact Jess Warrington (840732); Yoga, Tuesdays, 7.30—9.00 pm, contact Barbara Jackson (424487); Aerobics, Thursdays, 7.00—8.00 pm, contact Justine Hunt (840435) and Why Not Come Dancing (WNCD) Saturdays, 7.00—11.00 pm, contact Barry Preston (840381) and the Gaddesby Women's Institute, second Wednesday of the month, 7.30—10.00 pm, contact Daphne Tucker (841184).

The hall is also busy most days with Gaddesby Pre-School which provides care for children aged two to five years and is open to all pre-school children, not just those who live in Gaddesby. Contact the Pre-School Manager Linda Dunmore (07876 055823).

The hall is available for children's and christening parties, wedding receptions and other functions. Contact Sue Evans (840305).

South Croxton



Alison preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves.

Lottery: The October winner was Jo Charles. Anyone wishing to join the monthly lottery can contact Tracy Campbell (840042), Ann Crawford (840231) or Angela Wood (840620).

Village hall

Crafty Chatter Tea/coffee, chat and craft, alternate Wednesdays at the village hall, 2.0—4.00 pm. Dates: December 3 and 17 and January 14 and 28.

Children's Christmas Party: For village children, grandchildren/godchildren up to and including 14 years of age, Sunday December 21, 2.00—4.00 pm. Free entry, but you need to bring a plate of food and a present from Santa (value no more than £5). For more information ring Della on 840310.

n The committee would like to thank all who supported bonfire night and the craft fair by attending, helping and/or donating. We raised £875 for continuing improvements to the hall.

The hall is available for events, parties and classes. Contact Caroline (840272) to make your booking.

Thorpe Satchville

Thorpe Trussell's Educational Foundation (Reg. Charity No. 528025): The trustees of TTEF would like to remind further education students that any grant applications for 2014 should be applied for by December 31.

To qualify, students must have resided in Thorpe Satchville for a minimum of two years and be studying to further their education such as attending college/university or serving an apprenticeship. Grants are available towards books/tools etc. Please provide original receipts and course details when applying in writing to either: Flora Johnson, 17 Main Street, Thorpe Satchville, or Carol Taylor, Little Thorpe Farm, Thorpe Satchville.

Thorpe Trussell's Charity (Reg. Charity No. 234363): The trustees of TTC would like to bring attention to the necessary updating of the charity's objectives.

Full details of the changes can be viewed on the village notice board or on the Charity Commission website.

Village hall:

Scout groups: The beavers meet every Thursday evening 5.30—6.30 at the village hall and the cubs every other Thursday evening 7.40—8.15. The groups are looking for new young people to join. Contact lthorpescouts@gmail.com or come along at 5.30 pm onwards for beavers and 6.45 onwards for cubs. *Petra Johnston, beaver leader (07971602609) or Tim Ashton, cub leader (07976 378795).*

Twyford

Village hall:

Public Meeting – Community Bus Partnership: Tuesday December 16 (about 6.00 pm). Please check later for advertised start time. Organised by Leicestershire County Council.

Carol Singing round the village: Friday December 19, 6.15 – 7.15. Whatever your age, please come and join us, or at the very least give us a cheery wave and a donation for charity as we serenade you! Meet at the village hall at 6.15 pm and bring torches!

Music Evening – Churchfitters: Sunday January 25, 7:30 pm. The Churchfitters is a folk band like no other – three virtuoso musicians from England and France. Mike Harding, a self-confessed 'huge, huge fan', calls their music 'totally brilliant and beautiful'. This band has played at many well-known venues and they have a big following. We've already sold tickets so please book early! Tickets (£8 adult, £5 child) from 01664 840774

Ins and Outs: Christmas party, Tuesday December 9, 7.30 pm. Bring drinks and a plate of food to share, £2.50. Tuesday January 13, 7.30 pm, quiz evening to get your new year brains going, £2.50 and bring a plate of food to share.

Woolly Days: Knitting, spinning, crochet, weaving and more on Saturday December 13 and Saturday January 14, 10.30—3.30 pm at the village hall. Bring your work with you and enjoy a day with like-minded people. Everyone welcome, £5 and something for a shared lunch.

Karate: Sundays, 10.00 am, December 7, 14, 21 and January 11, 18, 25; Tuesday, 6.00 pm, December 2 and January 6; Wednesdays, 6.00 pm, December 3, 10, 17 and

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January 7, 14, 21, 28.

Carpet Bowls: Mondays, 8.00 pm, December 8 and January 5, 19..

Drop In: Fridays, December 12 and January 9, 23, 10.30 am.

Whist Drives: Fridays, 7.00 pm, December 12 and January 9, 23.

Village Hall Bookings: Twyford Village Hall is available for booking for your party, wedding, meeting or other event. Please contact Chris (07811 859813 or 840774) for information.

Thank you: Twyford Recreation Ground committee would like to thank the many people in the village who helped out on bonfire night. We had a great turnout and the weather was kind to us as well. I am not advised as yet how much we made for the charity, but it was one of the best bonfire/firework events we have held. *Sandy*

Mother in a storm

One cold winter night, during a violent storm, a mother was tucking her small frightened boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he said with a tremor in his voice: "Mummy, will you stay with me tonight?" Mummy smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said, "I have to sleep with Daddy." A long silence – and then came his shaky reply: "The big coward!"

Bishop welcomes 'at risk' register

THE Church of England has welcomed the recent publication of the latest edition of English Heritage's 'At Risk' register, which includes a comprehensive survey of churches for the first time. It shows that only six per cent of listed places of worship are physically 'at risk', fewer than previously thought.

ChurchCare, which supports those looking after the Church of England's 16,000 churches and 42 Cathedrals, has assisted English Heritage by managing a review of the quinquennial inspection reports for all churches to contribute to the most comprehensive survey ever undertaken of the condition of England's churches and other places of worship.

The findings will show that of the six per cent of places of worship on the register (887 buildings, of which 806 are Church of England churches) – roof, gutters, and high level stonework are the major issues resulting in

churches becoming at risk of structural failure, a problem often caused by vandalism and metal theft.

The Bishop of Worcester, Rt Revd Dr John Inge, lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings said: "The fact that fewer churches are at risk than was expected is good news and testament to the hard work of countless people up and down the country.

"This important work cannot be done by the congregation members alone, and I would urge all communities to get involved in the maintenance of their local churches to ensure they are still there to be enjoyed and used by future generations.

"Our churches are a precious and unparalleled treasure: they not only represent an invaluable part of our built heritage: they provide space for people to meet, reflect and pray – as well as serve their communities in all sorts of ways."

Who's who in the South Croxton Benefice

Priest in Charge (Area Dean): Revd Kevin
Ashby (01664) 503535 Office (01664) 562267

e-mail

rector@meltonparish.org.uk

Reader: Mr Malcolm Britton: 34 Hall
Orchard Lane, Frisby-on-the-Wreake.
(434490), *mr.britton@virgin.net*



The South Croxton Benefice is part of the South West Framland (SWF) Group which operates an office. For all baptism and wedding enquiries please contact the **Administrator Mr Vic Allsop** at the SWF Group Office, 29 Main Street, Great Dalby, LE14 2ET (561909) or *clusteradmin@btinternet.com*.

During Parish Vacancy: For funerals, visits to those who are ill and home communions contact Malcolm Britton (see above) and/or your churchwarden. General enquiries about the local churches – any of the churchwardens or contacts. If the services of a priest are required contact Revd Kevin Ashby.

Churchwardens (all numbers preceded by area code 01664)

Ashby Folville & Barsby: Rosemary Holt (840783)

South Croxton with Beeby: Ann Crawford (840231); Brian Piper (840627)

Twyford & John O'Gaunt: Dorothy Edwards (840591); Stephen Hardcastle (840733)

Gaddesby contacts: Diana Pritchard (840267), assistant churchwarden; David Wyrko (840385), building.

Thorpe Satchville contacts: Janet Collins (840649) & Jane Smith (840876)

Newsletter Editor: Glyn Tucker (841184) Contributions, news, events and notices may be emailed to *churchmaged@gmail.com* or left at/posted to 18 Ashby Road, Gaddesby, LE7 4WF (next to the village hall car park).

The deadline for the February edition is January 22.

January 2015

Where to Worship in South West Framland

January 4 Christmas 2	8.30am	Holy Communion	Frisby
	10.30am	All Age Worship	Rotherby
	10.30am	All Age Worship	Burrough
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Gaddesby
	4.00pm	Holy Communion	Great Dalby
January 11 Baptism of Christ	8.30am	Holy Communion	Ashby Folville
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Kirby Bellars
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Little Dalby
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Thorpe Satchville Village Hall
January 18 Epiphany 2 Week of PrayerFor Christian Unity	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hoby
	10.30am	United Café Church	Frisby
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Pickwell
	10.30am	Holy Communion	South Croxton
January 26 Conversion of St Paul	8.30am	Holy Communion	Twyford
	10.30am	United Covenant Service	Frisby MC
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Somerby
	4.00pm	Christingle	South Croxton
Wednesdays	9.15am	Holy Communion	Frisby

MC = Methodist Centre/Church VH = Village Hall

Please note that during the interregnum in 2015 some services may be subject to alteration at short notice. Please see your weekly pew sheet for details or contact the office if you are unsure or require any clarification at any point.

Church rules

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!" "Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."



December 2014

Where to Worship in the South West Framland Group

December 6 Saturday	3.00pm	Messy Church, Christmas Fun	Thorpe Satchville Village Hall
	3.00pm	Messy Church - Advent	Frisby MC
December 7 Advent 2	8.30am	Holy Communion	Frisby
	8.30am	Holy Communion	Ashby Folville
	10.30am	Parish Communion and Baptism	Hoby
	10.30am	Holy Communion	South Croxton
	3.00pm	United Christingle and Carols	Somerby
December 8 Monday	7.00pm	Carol Service	Brooksby
December 14 Advent 3	8.30am	Holy Communion	Brooksby
	10.30am	Holy Communion (Thorpe Satchville joining with Great Dalby today)	Great Dalby
	10.30am	Parish Worship	Kirby Bellars
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Rotherby
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Ashby Folville
	6.30pm	Carol Service	Beeby
December 17 Wednesday	7.00pm	United Carol and Christingle Service	Twyford
	7.00pm	Carol Service	Ragdale
December 18 Thursday	7.00pm	Carol Service	Gaddesby
December 20 Saturday	3.00pm	Messy Church Jesus' Birthday Party	Frisby MC
December 21 Advent 4	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hoby
	8.30am	Holy Communion	Twyford
	10.30am	Nativity Service	Gaddesby
	10.30am	Holy Communion and Carols	Little Dalby
	3.00pm	Carol Service	Kirby Bellars

Christmas services

(Continued from previous page)



December 21 Advent 4 (Continued)	4.00pm	United Carol Service	Great Dalby
	5.00pm	United Carol Service	Hoby
	6.00pm	Carol Service	South Croxton
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Burrough
December 22 Monday	7.00pm	Sing Christmas at The Saddle	Twyford
	7.00pm	Sing Christmas at The Bell	Frisby
December 24 Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib and Carol Service	Great Dalby
	5.00pm	Crib and Carol Service	Thorpe Satchville Village Hall
	6.00pm	United Christingle Service	Frisby
	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	Somerby
	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	Kirby Bellars
	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	Ashby Folville
December 25 Christmas Day	10.30am	United Service	Frisby MC
	10.30am	All Age Communion	Pickwell
	10.30am	All Age Communion	South Croxton
	10.30am	Family Service	Ragdale
December 28 Holy Innocents	8.30am	Group Service, United Holy Communion	Ragdale
Wednesdays in December	9.15am	Holy Communion	Frisby

MC = Methodist Centre/Church, VH = Village Hall,

January church services — Page 10

