

South Croxton Churches

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

Newsletter December 2015 and January 2016

Why the world was ready for Christmas

Ever wonder why Jesus was born when He was? The Bible tells us that “when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son ...” The Jewish people had been waiting for their Messiah for centuries. Why did God send Him precisely when He did?

Many biblical scholars believe that the ‘time had fully come’ for Jesus because of the politics of the time. The Roman Empire’s sheer size and dominance had achieved something unique in world history: the opportunity for travel from Bethlehem to Berwick on Tweed without ever crossing into ‘enemy territory’ or needing a ‘passport’.

For the first time ever, it was possible for ‘common’ people to travel wide and far, and quickly spread news and ideas. And all you needed were two languages – Greek to the east of Rome, and Latin to the west and north. You could set sail from Joppa (Tel Aviv) and head for any port on the Med. And the Roman roads ran straight and true throughout the empire.

So the Roman Empire achieved something it never intended: it helped spread news of Christianity far and wide for 400 years.

After that, the Empire crumbled, and the borders shut down. Not until the 19th Century would people again roam so freely. The time for Jesus to be born, and for news of him to be able to travel, had indeed ‘fully come’.



“I’m sorry Michael — even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to ‘Away In a Manger’, it’s still ALL mobiles OFF!”



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.

Village contacts and further details on Page 9.

See the card that accompanies
the magazine for all your special
Christmas services



■ **Community Lunch:** The Parish Community Hub held its most recent get-together at the Blue Bell Inn, Hoby. 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 19, 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) or Maureen Coleman (434120). A big “thank you” to every one of our many valuable volunteers; in particular those who volunteer to drive and collect people for the community lunches. They are able to pick up anyone from our villages who would like transport. We are always looking out for new volunteer drivers, so do please get in touch with one of the committee if you could help out from time to time.

Also a big thank you to all those who host our lunches and support the ethos of bringing people together to meet up with each other and to share conversation over an enjoyable meal. Do come and join us!

The Community Lunch Team.

■ **Funeral:** A service of thanksgiving for the life of Michael Hubert of Gaddesby was held at St Luke’s Church on Tuesday November 24. Mike, who leaves a wife, Elizabeth, and two daughters, Rebecca and Helen, died at the age of 64 while on holiday in Skegness on November 8. More than 70 people attended the service, conducted by Reader Malcolm Britton followed by refreshments at The Cheney Arms. Among other things, Mike will be remembered for a long stint as treasurer of Gaddesby Parochial Church Council. We offer our sympathy to his family and friends.

■ **Evensong:** During the winter months (October to March, outside of British Summer Time) this service will be held at 3.00 pm. The decision, which takes effect from January 1, was agreed at the SWF Group Council meeting in November and applies to all parishes in the group.

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 14 at Gaddesby Village Hall, at 6.45 pm. The following meeting is on Monday January 11 at Ashby and Barsby Village Hall.. 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 at Thorpe Satchville Village Hall on Tuesday December 15 at 2.00 pm. The following meeting will be on Tuesday January 20, at 7.30 pm, at Twyford Village Hall.

South Croxton Parish Council: The council will meet on Thursday, December 3, at the village hall at 6.30 pm.

WI meetings

Barsby & Ashby Folville: Members will be holding a Christmas party on Wednesday December 9.

Gaddesby: The WI Centenary year is drawing to its close and at the annual meeting in November, we were reminded of some of the highlights experienced and celebrations attended. We were also enlightened about some other anniversaries that had happened down the centuries – some well known, like the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215 and the Battle of Waterloo in 1815; some more obscure, like Canute's invasion of England in 1015 and the introduction of photographs in British passports in 1915; and did you know that on September 21, 1915, Stonehenge was bought at auction for £6,600 by a certain Cecil Chubb as a present for his wife? She apparently didn't much like the idea so the site was given to the nation! Some people are so ungrateful!

On Wednesday December 9 we bring 2015 to a close with our annual Christmas party. There will be a raffle and the surprise 'beetle' game – and don't forget to bring your promised food! The competition is a 'Decorated Candle'

Don't forget we will be decorating the church on Wednesday December 16 at 10.30 am in readiness for the carol service the following night.

On January 13, 2016, Alison Leight, from 'Headway' will tell us about the work of the charity. There will be a bring and buy in aid of ACWW and the competition is 'Anything Australian'. *Daphne Tucker*

South Croxton: Members will be entertained by a local Irish dance group, the MacManus Dancing School, at their meeting on Thursday December 10. There will also be a large Christmas buffet with wine.

Ashby Folville & Barsby

Poignant: Evensong at Ashby, on November 15, was a beautiful and poignant service, taken by Malcolm Britton. In a darkened church a candle was lit, and two minutes'

silence observed for the victims of the Paris atrocity. The service concluded with a rendering of the Marseillaise. *R.H.*

Clean-up: Many thanks to David for getting the churchyard path cleaned from the growth of moss and other debris. *RH*

Carols: Ashby Folville and Barsby Women's Institute members will be carol singing in Ashby Folville on Friday December 18 to raise money for the East Midlands air ambulance. *Angela Patton*

Welcome: The Carington Arms has a new management team, headed by Catherine Kersey. Catherine moved from five-star London hotels to become the manager of the cafe bar at the Broadway Cinema in Nottingham and has more recently project-managed the opening of a new cafe bar at the Tyneside Cinema in the centre of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. She will be assisted by her husband, Guy Kersey, an event management specialist. Catherine and Guy spent two years in Las Vegas so you can expect elements of US entertainment and service to appear. However the Carington will definitely remain a traditional English pub. "Come along and say 'hello'. We would love to meet you," say Catherine and Guy. There is also a new yellow box in the car park, alongside the Ashby Folville bottle bank, in which you can deposit old clothes to help fund the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance.

Gaddesby



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Candlelight: The annual Candlelight Carol Service will be held on Thursday December 17 at 7.00 pm. We are very pleased that Gaddesby Primary School choir will be joining us again this year. Everyone is welcome and there will be mince pies and mulled wine to warm us up afterwards. We look forward to celebrating together.

Gaddesby Gallop 2015: This year's event will be on Saturday December 19. Registration begins at 9.30 am at Gaddesby Village Hall with the race starting at 11.00 am. The 5.25-mile cross-country course includes mud, brooks, dew ponds and drainage pipes across heavy terrain but is great fun. The event is sponsored by Everards and there will be refreshments and a presentation of trophies at the Cheney Arms. If you want to watch a five-minute video to get you inspired, go to www.gaddesby.org.uk/gaddesbygallop2013.

To follow on Facebook, where there is a registration form and more information, go to 'gaddesby gallop'. If you have any questions or would be interested in volunteering to help marshall the event please call Sam Burdett (07748084529/01664840626) or Lance Shaw (07966015851/01664840550).



Village hall

Why Not Come Dancing (WNCD) which runs on Saturdays from 7.00—11.00 pm, is putting on another course for beginners, starting on January 9 at 7.30 pm. “Give it a try,” says organiser Barry Preston. The lessons include ballroom, Latin and Jive, £10 per couple. Contact Barry (840381) for details, or just turn up.

Other activities are: 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 the Gaddesby Women’s Institute, second Wednesday of the month, 7.30—10.00 pm, contact Daphne Tucker (841184).

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

South Croxton

Children’s Christmas Party: For village children, grandchildren/godchildren up to and including 14 years of age, Sunday December 20, 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 (840310).

Lottery: The October winner was John Redfern. 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, 2.00—4.00 pm, December 2 and 16; January 13 and 27.

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

Thorpe Satchville

Thorpe Satchville Church: We would like to add to our current team of church volunteers to help in any of a variety of different ways, no matter how small. You are warmly invited to contact Jane (840876) or Judith (840249)

It is with great pleasure that we learn that Hughie Jones is planning to return to live in Leicestershire. More details to follow in the new year.

Village hall: There will be no pub night in December but there will be one on January 29, possibly combined with a whisky tasting to honour a well-known Scottish poet. A curry night is planned for February 26. If anyone is prepared to help run the bar, the committee would be very grateful.



The special silverware only came out once a year.

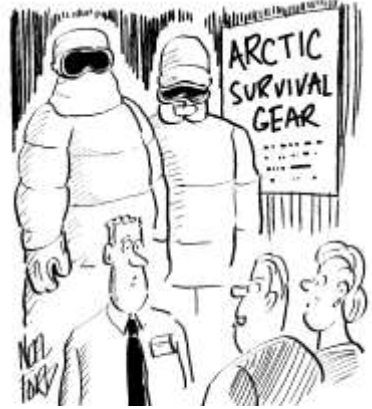
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The village hall is available for hire for £10 an hour before 6.00 pm and £15 per hour after 6.00 pm. It is very well maintained and has a catering kitchen, fridges and freezer.

It is attached to the village playing field, which makes it an ideal venue for children's parties.

For information on any of the above, please contact Annie Jones (07871 277177)

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 (07510370108) or Tim Ashton, cub leader (07976 378795).*



"We're looking for something to help us survive our early morning winter services."

Twyford

Village hall:

■ DECEMBER

It's a Wonderful Life: Farnham Maltings presents a theatre version of 'Britain's favourite Christmas film' at Twyford Village Hall, on Thursday December 3 at 7.30 pm. Don't miss this – book now. This production is based on a classic movie, and presented by a celebrated theatre company. Bar available. Book your tickets now (840774).

Carol Singing: Please meet at the village hall on December 22. All welcome – charity collection round the village.



Ins and Outs: Christmas party, Tuesday December 8, 7.30 pm. Games, music, prizes, £2.50 each. Bring something for the supper table and a drink. Thanks to all who planned this year's events, and bring your ideas for next year. *Paula (840787)*

Woolly Days: Knitting, spinning, crochet, weaving and more on Saturday December 12, 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. More details from Lizzie (07754 497004).

Book and Film Club: Everyone welcome at this friendly group. Please phone Joy (840774) or Sheelagh (840605) for December and January details and books.

Karate: Sundays, 10.00 am, December 6, 13; Wednesdays, 6.00 pm, December 2, 9, 16.

Carpet Bowls: Mondays, 8.00 pm, December 7 and 21.

Drop In: Friday, December 11, 10.30 am.

Whist Drive: Fridays, 7.00 pm, December 11.

Yoga: Mixed ability, Mondays, 11.00 am, December 7, 14, 21; men's, Thursdays, 7.00 pm, December 3, 10, 17.

■ JANUARY

Ins and Outs: Tuesday January 12, 7.30 pm. Get your brains in gear after Christmas with the Inns and Outs Quiz! £2.50 each. Bring a drink and something for the supper table. Contact Paula (840787)

Woolly Days: Knitting, spinning, crochet, weaving and more on Saturday January 9, 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. For more details contact Lizzie (07754 497004).

Karate: Sundays, 10.00 am, January 10, 17, 24, 31; Wednesdays, 6.00 pm, January 6, 13, 20, 27.

Carpet Bowls: Mondays, 8.00 pm, January 4, 18.

Drop In: Fridays, 10.30 am, January 8, 22.

Whist Drives: Fridays, 7.00 pm, January 8, 22.

Yoga: Mixed ability, Mondays, 11.00 am, January 4, 11, 18, 25; men's, Thursdays, 7.00 pm, January 7, 14, 21, 28..

Book and Film Club: Thursday January 28, 4.00 pm at The Saddle. Everyone welcome – please contact Sheelagh (840605) or Joy (840774) for further details.

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).

Music Quiz: Mark Henshaw would like to thank everyone who attended and made his October Inns & Outs Music Quiz evening such a success. Donations of £30 each from the event have been made to Dove Cottage (in memory of Roger Milner), and to our recreation ground and to St Andrew's church.

Village book: A *Twyford and John o'Gaunt* village book, compiled by Wendy Atton and Dorothy Spencer, is available to view at Dotty Gallery. It contains lots of memorabilia, photographs and newspaper cuttings that will be of interest to Twyfordians and villages nearby. Please call in, have a coffee with Lesley at Dotty's to have a look through it or take it away (she will take your name address and telephone number as a contact for its return) and enjoy those bygone memories.

Allotment: There is a vacant allotment in Twyford – plot 9 (see gate for site plan). This could be split into two halves, each half to rent at £9.50 per annum. If interested, please contact Phil Challenor (840422) clerk to the parish council, or Sandy Johnson (840454) chairperson.



Farewell to Dad's Army – 70 years on

'Dad's Army' has been one of the BBC's most popular sit-coms, its characters' catch-phrases universally known: 'Don't panic!', 'You stupid boy!', 'We're doomed!' Generations of TV viewers feel they know all about the Home Guard. This month marks the date of its final disbandment, on December 31st 1945, seventy years ago.

The Home Guard – originally the 'Local Defence Volunteers' – came into being in the summer of 1940, when the Nazi forces were encamped across the Channel, waiting for orders to invade Britain. People were understandably nervous. Civilians clamoured to be given weapons to defend their towns and villages.

In response, the Government began recruiting local volunteers – men who already possessed weapons (farmers with shot-guns, typically) and others who could make and use 'Molotov cocktails' – petrol bombs. The new prime minister, Winston Churchill, wanted something more recognisably military, and at his insistence these volunteers were mobilised in a 'citizen army' which he called the Home Guard. The Government expected about 150,000 volunteers – within a month there were 750,000.



Over the war years these men (and later a few women) who were either too young or too old for military service or deemed unfit for it, guarded air fields and strategic buildings, manned coastal look-outs, and watched for enemy parachutists, freeing regular soldiers for combat duties.

Even so, 1206 members of the Home Guard were killed 'in action', mostly by bombs or rockets. Dubbed 'Dad's Army' at the time, their contribution to final victory was certainly no joke.

How do we manage 16,000 churches?

As part of its *Reform and Renewal* programme, which was debated in the General Synod in February, the Church of England has now published a report and launched a consultation on proposals to improve support for its 16,000 church buildings. The report is the first attempt in many years to undertake a comprehensive review of the Church of England's stewardship of its church buildings.

It includes a wide range of statistics, a substantial theological reflection and a survey of various initiatives being taken in individual dioceses. It identifies a number of principles that should shape the Church's approach and makes some specific recommendations.

The report comes from the Church Buildings review group, chaired by the Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Revd Dr John Inge. Certainly the group found some big challenges: more than three-quarters of the Church of England's

churches are listed, and the Church of England is responsible for nearly half of the grade I listed buildings in England. More than half of churches are in rural areas (where 17% of the population lives) and more than 90% of these are listed.

Bishop John says: "Our 16,000 church buildings are a visible sign of ongoing Christian faith in communities throughout England, as well as being an unparalleled part of our country's heritage.

"This report looks at how we can best support the thousands of local volunteers who care deeply for and about churches and offer wonderful service to their communities using their churches. There is no single solution to the challenges posed by our extensive responsibility for part of the nation's heritage."

The consultation period runs until Friday January 29.

Who's who in the South Croxton Benefice

Priest in Charge (Area Dean): Revd Canon Michael Covington (454015); e-mail: michael.covington1@btinternet.com

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

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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 Canon Michael Covington.

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 contact: 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 2016

Where to Worship in South West Framland Parish

January 3 Christmas 2	8.30am	Holy Communion	Frisby
	10.30am	Family Worship	Rotherby
	10.30am	Family Worship	Burrough
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Gaddesby
	4.00pm	Holy Communion	Great Dalby
January 10 Baptism of Christ	8.30am	Holy Communion	Ashby Folville
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Kirby Bellars
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Little Dalby
	10.30am	Family Worship	Thorpe Satchville
January 17 Epiphany 2	8.30am	Holy Communion	Hoby
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ragdale
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Pickwell
	10.30am	Holy Communion	South Croxton
	3.00pm	United Covenant Service	Great Dalby MC
	3.00pm	United Covenant Service	Somerby MC
	3.00pm	Evensong	Thorpe Satchville
January 24 Epiphany 3	8.30am	Holy Communion	Twyford
	10.30am	United Covenant Service	Frisby
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Somerby
	4.00pm	Christingle	South Croxton
January 31 Epiphany 4	10.30am	United Group Service	Brooksby
Wednesdays	9.15am	Holy Communion	Frisby

MC = Methodist Centre/Church VH = Village Hall

Please note that during the interregnum in 2016 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.



December 2015

Where to Worship in South West Framland Parish

December 5 Saturday	3.00pm	Messy Church	Frisby MC
December 6 Advent 2	8.30am	Holy Communion	Ragdale
	10.30am	Holy Communion and Baptism	Great Dalby
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Gaddesby
	3.00pm	United Christingle and Carols	Somerby
December 8 Tuesday	7.00pm	Christmas Concert	Brooksby
December 13 Advent 3	8.30am	Holy Communion	Frisby
	10.30am	Family Worship	Hoby
	10.30am	Holy Communion & Carols	Little Dalby
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Thorpe Satchville
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Rotherby
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Ashby Folville
	6.30pm	Carol Service	Beeby
December 16 Wednesday	7.00pm	United Carol and Christingle Service	Twynford
December 17 Thursday	7.00pm	Carol Service	Gaddesby
December 18 Friday	7.00pm	Carol Service	Ragdale
December 19 Saturday	3.00pm	United Family Carol Service and Tea	Frisby MC
December 20 Advent 4	8.30am	Holy Communion	Kirby Bellars
	10.30am	Nativity Service	Gaddesby
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Somerby
	3.00pm	Carol Service	Kirby Bellars
	3.00pm	United Lessons & Carols	Somerby MC
	3.00pm	United Carol Service	Great Dalby MC
	6.00pm	United Carol Service	Hoby
	6.00pm	Carol Service	South Croxton

Christmas services

(Continued from previous page)



	6.00pm	Carol Service	Burrough
December 21 Monday	7.00pm	Sing Christmas at The Bell and Brasserie	Frisby
December 24 Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib and Carol Service	Great Dalby
	4.00pm	Nativity Service	Somerby
	5.00pm	Crib and Carol Service	Thorpe Satchville
	6.00pm	United Christingle Service	Frisby
	11.30pm	Holy Communion	Burrough
	11.30pm	United Holy Communion	Frisby
	11.30pm	Holy Communion	Thorpe Satchville
December 25 Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Communion	Twyford
	10.30am	United Family Worship	Hoby MC
	10.30am	Family Communion	Pickwell
December 27 St. John the Apostle	10.30am	United Group Service of Holy Communion	Ashby Folville
Wednesdays in December, (but not 30th).	9.15am	Holy Communion	Frisby

MC = Methodist Centre/Church,

Services during the interregnum could be subject to change at short notice. If you are unsure about a service please check with the Churchwarden/s or the Office on 01664 561909 or clusteradmin@btinternet.com

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