

REACHING OUT....



.....on behalf of the
Benefice Churches of
Bradfield St Clare,
Bradfield St George
with Little
Whelnetnam,
Cockfield, Felsham
and Gedding

Issue 73
January 2019

Dear Friends,

I hope that you had a very jolly time over Christmas, and I'm sure that many of you will be celebrating on New Year's Eve as we say goodbye to 2018 and welcome in 2019. At the start of a new year many of us make promises (I'm not going to refer to them as 'resolutions') about the things that we would like to change (or perhaps begin) during the year. As I reflect back on 2018, one of the promises that I have made to myself is to be more thankful to God for all that I have, and to be as generous as I can be to those who are less fortunate than I am. And there are many opportunities to be generous....

Over 2018 this benefice has given very generously to various charities, including farming charities, the shoebox appeal, Global Hope, Christian Aid, Crisis at Christmas, the Ipswich Winter Night Shelter and CHIPS among others. We are able to do this because God has been very generous to us.

We have just celebrated Christmas when God gave us the greatest gift of all, that of his Son Jesus Christ. We continue to think of gifts as we celebrate the Epiphany on 6th January, which this year happens to fall on a Sunday. This marks the visit of the three Wise Men (Matthew Chapter 2:1). For some the appearance of the wise men symbolises the fact that Jesus came not just for the Jews, but for all.

As I've been thinking about gifts, one of the other thoughts in my mind has been about love. I received some very lovely gifts this Christmas, some from parishioners, some from friends and family. And there were many who came to our services over the Christmas period who greeted me heartily and gave me good wishes. I may be getting more emotional in my old age, but I have felt very loved and valued, which is something that we all want to feel.

So, my other promise for 2019 is to seek out those who perhaps do not feel as loved and valued as I do, and to tell that that Jesus loves them, and so do I, as a follower of Jesus. I pray that you will join me in fulfilling this promise this year.

Yours in Christ,



Rev Sharon Potter

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Messy Church News Follow The Star

By the time you read this the latest Messy Church would have been a long time ago as it was at the end of November!



We decided to put together a Messy Church session entitled "Follow The Star" as this was the Church of England's theme for Christmas 2018. The difficulty that I had when planning the activities was not **what** to do but **which** ones to do! There were so many possibilities for star themed craft activities and I thoroughly enjoyed trying many of them out!

In the end we decided upon

- sparkly pipe cleaner stars that were made by winding the pipe cleaner round a pencil,



- gold and silver star cards made on tracing paper,
- star mince pies or jam tarts,
- stars that lit up with LED lights,
- stables made from wood using real tools,
- a camel racing game
- hobby camels! These were like hobby horses but camels instead! They were VERY popular.
- paper plate stars using sparkly wool
- canvas pictures using the text from John 3 v 16 “God loved the world that He gave his only son” drawn in a Christmas tree shape.
- Star prayers to hang on a Christmas prayer tree.
- a stable picture made from a brown envelope with “Emmanuel God is with us” printed on it.



So, you can see that we were really star struck and all in the hope of conveying something of the true message of Christmas to our Messy Church families.

Before tea we all sat around and

were captivated by Richard telling the story of Amal and the Night Visitors. It’s a lovely story in which Amal gives up his most treasured possession and in return is rewarded by something much better. Google it if you are not familiar with it.

After a star themed tea everyone went home clutching their stars and camels and a copy of a Christmas activity book to share as a family. Please remember to pray for our Messy Church families and the team of enthusiastic adults.



The next Messy Church is **January 26 2019** in Felsham Village hall. Further details form Christine christinestainer57@gmail.com or 01284 388175.

News from Village Friends

Village friends has supported Operation Christmas Child Shoe box campaign for many years and we feel it's time for a change in 2019. Why are we telling you in January? Well, the new group we will be supporting puts different things in their shoe boxes, wraps them differently and provides gifts for families and the elderly. They also have a significantly lower shipping charge.

“Link to Hope” is a Christian charity rebuilding lives and communities in Eastern Europe through education and social care since 1991. Boxes are sent to **Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine**. The charity is small enough that we can have a personal relationship with all the key contacts in Eastern Europe who distribute your Shoeboxes and they do spot checks to ensure that boxes are received by the correct people. They are a Christian charity who believe in distributing love to those in need **regardless of background, colour, creed or religion**.

Our list contains items for all family members and includes items such a shower gel/shampoo, family games, stationary items, gifts for mum and dad as well as sweets, soft toys, hats, scarves etc.

FAMILY SHOEBOX APPEAL

The **Family Shoeboxes** of gifts are given to families who often have to make a choice between buying food or fuel at Christmas time – buying presents is just not a priority. Many of these families do not have running water, heating or electricity. Some live in appalling conditions, often living in just one or two rooms, and life for them is a real struggle to survive.

A shoebox for a family means that everyone receives a gift. A scarf for mum, a tape measure for dad, toys and games for the children as well as stationery and coloured pens. Also toiletries, toothpaste, small shampoo and wrapped soap to keep everyone clean and free from the germs that make them ill. And of course sweets and chocolates for everyone – a family favourite.

ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL

Due to the number of elderly people that are now being left alone due to their families leaving to work away, we have launched the **Elderly Shoebox Appeal**. The boxes are similar - however the children's games and education

materials are replaced with a wind-up torch, sensory items, candle and holder etc.

So please keep knitting hats and gloves. Also please **start collecting empty shoe boxes** for us now. This charity does not provide pre-printed shoe boxes we can buy and so we will need to collect all year to get enough. Boxes from larger men's shoes are the best so if you buy some ladies shoes that would have a smaller box, just ask in the shop if you can have a larger box if they have one. If you cannot store boxes please give them to Lynn Cardale in church or leave on the doorstep at West Lodge, Bradfield St George IP30 ODL. (Boot boxes are too big!).

Many people collect items for boxes all year, adding one to each supermarket shop to spread the cost – it's a good way of remembering the world's poor all the year round. Even if you can only afford one or two items for a box, by the time we have pooled our resources we always have lots of things to fill them with. Gifts for older children always welcome especially small balls, playing cards, small tool kits, hair brushes, dominoes, wind-up torches.

Warm thanks to all our supporters in 2018!

Cockfield Benefice members have once again faithfully supported Global Hope's work over the past year and we are most grateful! Many of you have prayed for our work and many have given generously, both regularly and as one-off gifts, all of which has helped to make a real difference to some of the very poor and destitute in the developing world. A highlight of 2018 was Sharon's sponsored run in October which many of you supported, and the proceeds of that – totaling almost £1400 – went to help our work with Syrian refugees in Armenia, a country that's largely ignored by the international community.



Thanks to your support, we have also been able to donate to refugee programmes in Jordan and Lebanon and to emergency relief work in Bangladesh and elsewhere. We are also developing longer-term health care and income generation programmes in these and other countries, such as Myanmar (Burma) and India. As a Benefice we were also privileged to have Sushil Marandi, Regional field director for South Asia, visit us in June. Sushil

gave us a first-hand account of the challenges of tackling rural poverty in North-East India as well as some of the recent progress made there.

If any of you would like more information about our work, what we do or how you can help, please contact either of us or visit our website at www.ghni.org. With our sincere thanks again for your support in 2018 and very best wishes for 2019.

Malcolm Gifford (01284.827516, malcolmgifford@btinternet.com)

Mike Swiney (01284.828652, michael.swiney@btinternet.com)

A date for your diary!

Saturday March 2 2019

Bradfield St George Village Hall

An evening with Mark Thompson

Science broadcaster , BBC, ITV & Discovery Channel.& Author

with supper and a bar

More details to follow but book the date NOW!

To order tickets see

Lynn 01284 386327

Andy Price 01284 388305

Christine 01284 388175



Village Friends 2019

The first meeting for 2019 takes place on Thursday 17th January, 2-4pm. This month we will be having a talk on the work of the Hospice and tea. Please note that this meeting – and all meetings for 2019 will take place at Felsham Village Hall. For more information contact Sue Jell 01284 828327 or Lynn Cardale 01284 386327.

Could you spare 3 hours a month?

Just Traid (The Fair Trade shop and café in St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds) is looking for volunteers to serve in the shop and/or café. Full training is given and it is an enjoyable and rewarding experience.



Speak to Christine Stainer on 01284 388175 or Georgina Ford on 01284 479 if you would like to know more. Or contact Hayley on 01284 756860.

The Seven Deadly Sins by David Williams - #5 Wrath

The old woman lifted her head her eyes blazing above crimson cheeks. Her lips curled into a cruel smirk revealing yellowing teeth and a pointed, purple tongue, a wizened claw wiped the drool from her mouth. "You did what" she screamed. She rose from her chair towering over the infant as he shrank under her withering glare. The dark forbidding space under the stairs was infinitely more preferable to the full force of her wrath in the open so he scurried for refuge. He crouched shivering in the darkness nervously listening to the thud of her stick as she got closer. The door opened and two small eyes looked out surrounded by tears, his mouth was dry as he struggled to speak. "Sorry Grandma!"

If you would like to contribute an article to 'Reaching Out' please contact Revd Sharon at revsharon@btinternet.com. You can also submit handwritten pieces! All articles/adverts need to be submitted by 21st of the month for publication the following month

Cockfield Benefice Services – January 2019

Sunday 6 th January Epiphany	9.30am Communion	Bradfield St George
	11am Communion	Bradfield St Clare
	6pm Six2seven	Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 13 th January Epiphany 2/Baptism of Christ	9.30am Communion BCP	Gedding
	11am Communion	Cockfield
	4pm Healing Eucharist	Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 20 th January Epiphany 3	8am Said Communion BCP	Cockfield
	9.30am Benefice Family Service	Fesham
Saturday 26 th January	3-5pm 	Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 27 th January	9.30am Morning Prayer	Bradfield St George
	9.30am Morning Prayer BCP	Gedding
	11am Communion	Cockfield

Daily Prayer – all are welcome to come and say prayers in each of our benefice churches through the week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
5pm Gedding	9am Cockfield	5pm Felsham	5pm Bradfield St Clare	5pm Bradfield St George

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com