



One inclusive and extensive  
Church family meeting in church,  
and gathering in homes everywhere  
around North and South Wootton  
near King's Lynn in North West Norfolk

Committed to God  
Committed to Community  
Committed to Growth

## News Sheet number 28

### **The Church in the Woottons Gift Day Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 9 – 4.00pm at St. Mary's Church**

We at The Church in the Woottons seek to serve God and our church and local community in the best way that we can. We offer Sunday services in both our churches, and we conduct regular weddings funerals and baptisms. The Church in the Woottons supports King's Lynn Foodbank, King's Lynn Winter Nightshelter and King's Lynn Debt Centre. In addition to these things, we try and offer support and guidance to whoever needs it.

In the last two years we have been able to complete two significant building projects. At St. Mary's Church we have made a great improvement to the balcony. These days, if you go up the balcony for service, you can actually see what is going on in church, from which ever pew you happen to be sitting on. We can't wait to welcome children, teachers and parents to church again for their festival services.

At All Saints Church we have almost completed a project to repair and re-furbish every window in church – this has been quite an undertaking. I must say that the church looks even more wonderful than before. The windows should remain in good repair now for many years to come. We are very grateful to those of you who were able to contribute to the cost of each of these schemes to repair and improve our churches.

Canon James Nash  
01553 673742:  
james@churchinthewoottons.net  
The Rectory, 47 Castle Rising Road,  
South Wootton, PE30 3JA  
rectoryoffice@churchinthewoottons.net

## Late Summer 2021

The Church in the Woottons balance sheet is under considerable pressure and we are finding it impossible to make ends meet. This is partly because of the need to complete the two building projects I've mentioned, but it is largely because of the pandemic. Over the last 18 months or so we have endured three lengthy periods during which are churches were closed completely. We could only conduct two weddings and one baptism in the whole of 2020, and all of our fundraising events were cancelled. July's Art and Soul exhibition was the first event we have run for a very long time.

All this means that we have been unable to meet all of our financial obligations for the last two years and this year we are expecting to end the financial year with a deficit of £12-15000.

With the hope of making good this expected shortfall we are holding a Gift Day at St. Mary's Church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 9 – 4.00pm. Can you help us? Coffee and cakes will be on offer all day!

We have held very successful Gift Days in past years, and we have always been encouraged by the support we receive from the church and local community. We will be very grateful for any gifts you can offer – large and small – and you can fill in a gift aid slip if you would like to – this will make your gift even more valuable. If you cannot bring your gift to St. Mary's Church on the 11<sup>th</sup> September please drop it into the Rectory - or of course you can post it.

The Revd. Dan Tansey  
01553 390615  
dan@churchinthewoottons.net

www.churchinthewoottons.net  
Facebook@churchinthewoottons



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### Parish Day Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

I have recently mentioned my hope that all of us could gather for a Parish Day in the early autumn. This day is now fixed for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October (at a venue to be arranged). I am very pleased to announce that Canon Keith James, Director of Ministry in the Diocese of Norwich will be leading the day.

As I see it, the purpose of the Parish Day is for us to worship, pray and talk with each other to get a sense of what God might be leading TCITW in the coming months and years. What aspects of our mission and ministry should we leave now? What new things should begin?

I hope that the Parish Day will help us grow closer to God, and closer to one another. Please pop the date in your diaries.

### New services

During August we have introduced two new services as alternatives to Holy Communion. On the second Sunday of each month the 10.30am service at All Saints Church will be Praise and Worship – a mixture of songs, prayers, readings and teaching. On the fourth Sunday of each month the 9.00am service at St. Mary's Church will be Morning Worship and will consist of hymns, prayers, liturgy, readings and teaching. We would value feedback from you when these new services begin.

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### Gathered Holy Communion

We are ready to re-start Gathered Holy Communion again. Gathered Holy Communion is for people who cannot easily get to church for our Sunday services. We arrange lifts and gather for Holy Communion at the home of David and Stephanie Lake once a month. From August we will be meeting on Wednesdays at 11.00am – our first one will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August. If you are interested in coming along, please get in touch with James.

### The Church in the Woottons Dropin

For a number of years now The Church in the Woottons has run a weekly Dropin at St Mary's church, South Wootton. This, of course, has been closed since March 2020. We are planning to restart the Dropin in North Wootton Village Hall on 6th October, between 9.00 and 11.45am each week.

For a reasonable, voluntary cost, We will provide drinks and homemade cakes, games, jigsaws, colouring and toys for small children. We always welcome everyone, and will be ensuring that it is Dementia friendly, so sufferers and carers will be able to visit for companionship.

We will need to build a sizeable team to make the Dropin work well. If anyone is interested in becoming part of the team please speak to Linda or James, phone 673742 or [lindanash3@googlemail.com](mailto:lindanash3@googlemail.com) [james@churchinthewoottons.net](http://james@churchinthewoottons.net)

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dan@churchinthewoottons.net

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### Coming to Church – what you need to know.

Although the Government has relaxed the laws covering all COVID based restrictions we are aware that the Delta variant of Covid 19 is still a threat locally and within The Church in the Woottons we hold the safety and wellbeing of all who are a part of our community in very high regard. Taking this into account we are following these guidelines:

- We strongly encourage you to continue to wear face covering in church during when we gather for any kind of worship.
- If you do not wish to wear a face covering in church, we will ask you to sit on the balcony at St. Mary's Church, or in the kitchen area at All Saints Church.
- We have relaxed social distancing rules to a large degree and work on the 1 metre rule rather than the 2 metre rule in most parts of the church and we are using every pew now.
- For those of you who wish to maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule we will invite you to in one of the front pews where only alternate pews will be used.
- Hand sanitiser will still be available in church.
- We will allow and encourage singing in church, but you will need to sing

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through face coverings for the time being.

- We hope to be able to offer coffee and tea after church soon. However, drinks will only be served outside, weather permitting.
- We still ask that you contact us to reserve seats.
- For the time being we will continue to offer only bread (wafers) at Holy Communion
- We will continue to share the peace using only words with no physical contact.
- We are currently restricting numbers who attend baptisms, weddings and funerals to 50 people for the time being

Everything is under constant review, and we expected to be relaxing these restrictions before long.

There are two other things I would like you to be aware of: Firstly, although we will be singing in church again we will not be reforming the church choir, or the music group until September at the earliest. David Hill, Linda Nash and Chris Symes will continue to be sole instrumentalists (and singer in Linda's case, from now on). Secondly, also in September, we intend to start the weekly 9.00am Breakfast at All Saints Church. I am sorry some aspects of church remain rather complicated and restrictive, but I thank you for your continued support and understanding. James



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