

DECEMBER 2023 NASEBY GROUP SERVICES

3 rd	10:30am 6:00pm	Benefice Holy Communion Advent Carols	Kelmarsh Welford
10 th	9:30am 10:00am 6:00pm	Holy Communion Café Church Evensong	Sibbertoft Clipston Welford
17 th	9:30am 4:00pm 5:30pm 6:00pm	Holy Communion Nine Lessons & Carols Christmas Celebration Nine Lessons & Carols	Naseby Sibbertoft Clipston Welford
20 th	11:00am	Sibbertoft Manor Carols <i>at St Helen's - all welcome</i>	Sibbertoft
24 th	Christmas Eve 4:00pm 4:00pm 4:00pm 6:00pm 6:00pm 8:00pm 11:30pm	Crib Service Crib Service Lessons & Carols Lessons & Carols Lessons & Carols Come & Sing Carols Midnight Holy Communion	Clipston Welford Haselbech Marston Trussell Naseby Welford Welford
25 th	Christmas Day 9:30am 9:30am 10:00am 10:00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion (by xtn) Christmas Special	Naseby Sibbertoft Clipston Welford
31 st	10:30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Clipston

*For other services across the Benefice and updates
see the website calendar:
www.nasebygroup.org/calendar*

Dear Friends,

Some thoughts about Christmas

Many of you may be reading this in the runup to Christmas. You may have started your preparations, perhaps by sending out of Christmas cards with their expected messages of 'Peace and Joy' and 'Goodwill to all'.

Re-telling the Christmas story and celebrating its importance provides a basis for some of the most memorable times for children and adults alike. This may be especially so when it means reuniting with family and friends, exchanging gifts and simply enjoying quality time together on Christmas Day. In our more contemplative moments, we may wonder how the message and spirit of Christmas sit with the prevailing context of intolerance, inequality and fake news that seems to dominate the discourse around multiple situations we see at home and worldwide.

How, we may ask ourselves, can the positive and peaceful message of Christmas, cut through the many divisions we see developing in our increasingly fractured world.

Biblical history shows us that humankind has always been beset by difficulties that may be as much personal and attitudinal as they are geo-political. An example of this can be found in Paul's letter to the Romans. The Apostle Paul we may remember, was not one of Jesus' disciples, but received a direct revelation from God through which he was given the task of spreading the Christian message and leading work to grow the early Church.

Paul embarked on his important mission by travelling beyond what we now call the Holy Land to embrace a wide expanse across Asia and Europe. This took him into the pagan cultures of both the Greeks and of the Romans. What he found in Rome were numbers of people wishing to convert to Christianity but finding obstacles being placed in their way by Christians who were of Jewish descent.

Continued overleaf

The Magazine.

If you would like an entry in the January edition of the magazine please
Send copy by 15th December to jules1044@gmail.com
83 West Street, Welford. 01858 575757

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We can imagine the difficulties, can't we? The gentile Christians adopting Christianity as the basis of a completely new faith and one very different from their pagan backgrounds. Meanwhile, many Jewish converts felt that Christianity relied on building on customs and practices that they and their families had followed for generations. It was a volatile situation and a tricky one for Paul to resolve.

Paul was unequivocal in his view that the Christian Church would only truly 'get off the ground' if its followers were prepared to put Christian unity first and foremost in their considerations and to see issues of cultural heritage and individual preferences as secondary.

As tempers rose and agreement seemed far away, Paul was unflinching in telling believers to: 'live out' their faith, to place equality and cohesion as central. He understood the reasons for discord, but he challenged them to act in ways that aligned with the faith they professed

"Be devoted to one another in love,' he insisted. 'Honour one another above yourselves. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer. Share with people who are in need and practice hospitality. [Romans 12:10&12] Paul's words still resonate with such compelling relevance] in today's complex and more disunited world.

We may even ask ourselves if we as individuals, communities and governments were to adopt the principles espoused by Paul 2000 years ago, perhaps our world could become one in which "Peace and Goodwill" would be seen and felt all around us....and not just at Christmas!

Val Carpenter
Lay Reader



SIBBERTOFT

	Lesson Reader	Intercessions	Sidesman
10/12	OT Peter Kirby NT Viv Arrowsmith	Caroline Jackson	Miles Lloyd
25/12	OT Peter Krafti NT Jose Kirby	Rev Pip Clements	Lesley Hartshorn
	Eucharistic Assistant 25/12 Viv Arrowsmith		

WELFORD

	Lesson Reader	Intercessions	Sidesman
10/11	OT P Lane NT S Lees	S Bevin	C Horner
24/12	OT G Newman NT J Newman	S Lees	G Newman
	Eucharistic Assistant 24/12 K Broad		

WELFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL

Services at 10.45am

	Preacher	Flowers
3/12	Rev Tony Avery	Mrs D Bott
10/12	Welford in Harmony 3.00pm	
17/12	Bobbie Wakeleigh-Jones	
24/12	Rev Tony Avery 3.00pm Mince Pies	
31/12	Taken by congregation	
7/1	Rev Tony Avery	Mrs A Bott

PSALMS AND READINGS – December

Sunday 10th December—2nd Advent

First Isaiah 40, 1 to 11

Second 2 Peter 3, 8 to 15

Gospel Mark 1, 1 to 8

Sunday 24th December—4th of Advent

First 2 Samuel 7, 1 to 11 and 16

Second Romans 16, 25 to end

Gospel Luke 1, 26 to 38

Sunday 31st December—1st of Christmas

First Isaiah 61, 10 to 62,3

Second Galatians 4, 4 to 7

Gospel Luke 2, 15 to 21 Page 15

DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

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

Priest in Charge We are in an Interregnum, please contact a Churchwarden

Readers	Kairen Ball, 11 Salford Close, Welford Trevor Lake. Swallow Brook, Naseby Road, Clipston Gordon Temple 14 The Leys, Welford Valerie Carpenter, The Covers, Harborough Road	575331 07785242904 07990887635 525120
Magazine	Julian Howell-Jones, 83 West Street, Welford	575757

St. Mary the Virgin, Welford

Churchwarden	Gordon Ball, 11 Salford Close	575331
Treasurer	Julie Newman, 30 Wakefield Drive, Welford	575335
Secretary	Judith Chadwick, 10 Browns Meadow	07790 906417
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

St. Helen, Sibbertoft

Churchwarden	Toby Jackson, Wry Furlong, Welford Rd, Sibbertoft	881091
Treasurer	Lesley Hartshorne, Roserie Cottage, Westhorpe, Sibbertoft	880112
Secretary	Viv Arrowsmith, 5 Beeches Close, Sibbertoft	880988

St. Nicholas, Marston Trussell

Churchwarden		
Treasurer	Christine Otway, 9 Main Street, Marston Trussell	289516

All Saints Clipson

Churchwarden	Steve Carpenter, The Covers, Harborough Rd	525120
Treasurer/Organist	Julie Connell, The Wooden Owl, 10a The Green	525336

St Michael's, Haselbech

Churchwardens	Tess Le Sueur, Haselbech Michelle Jeffrey	01604686266 07785 575169
Treasurer	Michael Hopkins Orton House, Welford Road, Naseby	01604740309

St. Deny's Kelmarsh

Churchwarden	Bob Swinfen Lyndale Rectory Farm, Kelmarsh	01604686676
Treasurer	Gina Hankins Scotland Wood Farm, Kelmarsh	01604686216

All Saints, Naseby

Churchwarden	Margaret Diack 11 Hall Close, Naseby	01604743820
Treasurer	Maurice Cave 84 Church Street, Naseby	01604740388

Welford Congregational Chapel

Pastor	Rev. Tony Avery	07850 052541
Treasurer /Secretary	Denise Bott Copper Bottom, Northampton Road,	575746

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Join us in St Mary's to celebrate the first Sunday of Advent on
December 3rd at 6 o'clock with a service of
lessons and hymns looking forward to the coming of light into
darkness.



WELFORD CRIB SERVICE
24 th December at 4pm
in St. Mary's church

If you would like to come dressed as a person in the Christmas story
(angel? donkey? Shepherd etc) then please do so.
Also the winners of the competition will be announced
(see November's magazine for details. See elsewhere in this magazine
for how to present your entry).



COME AND SING CAROLS

Start Christmas proper the traditional Welford way by
joining us on Christmas Eve at 8 o'clock in St Mary's
Church for a light-hearted hour of carol singing. All
money raised will be divided between the Children's
Society and The Cynthia Spencer Hospice.
If you are unable to attend but would still like to support
these two worthy causes, please contact me,
annbarracough@hotmail.com



Christmas Good Neighbours

Coffee morning with mince pies

Tuesday December 5th

10-12

Betty's Christmas Hamper

This year Betty is supporting prostate cancer with her annual Christmas hamper raffle. Tickets are on sale now from Jane Cottrell at 38 High Street or whenever you see me at village events. (£1 each) They will also be on sale at the coffee morning when the draw will take place.

Our usual books (£1) and jigsaws (£2) will also be available. We will be serving tea, coffee, biscuits and mince pies all for £1. There may even be a little Christmas surprise!

We look forward to seeing you. All are welcome.



Scouts Christmas Bazaar

**Friday 1st December
6:00pm to 7:30pm
Raffle Draw at 7:00pm**

**At the
Welford Youth and Community
Centre**

***Stalls, games, tombola, raffle,
refreshments and much more***

**Please come along and support
our fundraising event!**

With reference to the above it has a connection with the word Chaplain. Have you ever wondered where it comes from? It relates to the story of Martin a Roman Officer, later to become St. Martin of Tours. When Martin was on his way back to the barracks on very cold and wet night, he saw a poor beggar cold and almost naked. He got off his horse and cut his cloak in half and gave one half to him. When asleep at night Martin had a vision of our Lord with half of a cloak wrapped around Him. Our Lord spoke and said whatever you do for the least you do it for me That changed Martin's life, he left the army and eventually became a Bishop. So the Word Chaplain come from the Latin word for cape or cloak. Cappa, then Capella, where the sacred cloak was kept in a Chapel where it is preserved to this day. So from Latin to English we get the word Chaplain.

Prayer

Christ, come into our world of darkness. Light up our lives with your coming.

Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world. And to share the hope of your birth that each Christmas brings. Amen.

With all Christmas blessings and Hope for the New Year to come

Tony

Rev Anthony W Avery. Welford Congregational Chapel



CHAPEL COMMENT

A winters tale for children of God, from 1 to 100?

Two little children were sitting by the fire on a cold winter's night All at once they heard a timid knock at the door, and one of the children ran to open the door. There, outside in the cold and darkness, stood a child with no shoes and clad in thin, ragged garments. He was shivering with cold and he asked if he could come in to warm himself.

"Yes come" cried both the children, " You shall have our place by the fire" They drew the little stranger to their warm seat, shared their supper with him and gave him their bed, while they slept on the hard bench. In the night they were awakened by strains of sweet music, and looking out, they saw a band of children in shining garments approaching the house. They were playing on golden harps and the air was full of melody.

Suddenly the Stranger Child stood before them: no longer ragged, but clad in silvery light. His soft voice said, "I was cold and you took me in, I was hungry and you fed me, I was tired and you gave me your bed." I am the Christ Child, wandering through the world to bring peace and happiness to all good children. As you have given to me, so may this tree every year give rich fruit to you."

So saying he broke a branch from the fir tree that grew near the door and planted it in the ground, and disappeared. But the branch grew into a great tree and every year it bore wonderful goldenfruit.

The above story can relate to the passage in Matthews Gospel. Chapter 25:31-46

C



ADVENT

Starting on Wednesday 29th November at 7pm there will be a discussion group in Welford church where we will be exploring the meaning of the candles in the Advent wreath as we begin to prepare for Christmas. Everyone is welcome please contact Clare for more information.



T @ 2



Monday 4 th December at St Mary's Church between 2pm -3.15pm.
Everyone is welcome. There is no charge, but a donation would be gratefully received. Kairen



Remembrance Sunday – 12th November

From the many comments that I have received regarding our Village act of Commemoration of those who died in the pursuit of freedom for our country, I would like to say thank you for getting in touch. Nearly all of you commented on how lovely it was to have so many of the uniformed organisations there and particularly how clearly and confidently they led the prayers. So thank you not only to them, but to the parents for helping them to practice over the weekend. To the wreath layers and their escorts, and Monty the representative from WSSES, the standard bearers, the adults who read, and to Reverend Tony Avery who preached, along with the directors of the Parade and many other adults who kept everyone safe during the parade and at the Act of Commitment, Alan who provided uplifting music and those who cleaned and decorated the Church for this Village Remembrance, "Thank you for your presence and your contribution". All of this is a vital part of our Welford Community Commemoration. At the going down of the sun and in the morning "We will remember them".

It's competition time

In the November magazine there were details about a competition that we are running, up to Christmas this year. If you didn't see this article please contact me for a copy of the rules and the topic etc.

Once your entry (individual, or group) is complete you need to obtain an entry form to complete for your entry/entries. If you or your child/children attend WSSSES there will be forms available from the School office. Alternatively you can contact me electronically and I can send you a copy of the entry form to complete and return to me. Or you can ring me and we can arrange to have one delivered.

The completed form needs to be delivered to myself and there are instructions on when and where to deliver your entries to, before the classes are judged so that the winners and entry prizes can be celebrated at the Crib service on 24 th December. There is no cost to enter, and you can be part of more than one team. You do not have to have children Involved, you could be a couple, or two adult friends and the form questions will enable us to enter everyone into the appropriate age group. I hope we have lots of entries but more importantly that whoever you decide to do this with, it will spark your creativity as well as encouraging you to discuss the events of Christmas for the holy family and to take a little time to dwell on "the reason for the season" and the answer you come away with is "Jesus, is the reason for the season".

575331, or Kairen.ball@gmail.com

Secret Santa

Thank you very much to everyone who volunteered (or had their arms twisted) to sew the bags for the Secret Santa gifts this year. Because there were so many volunteers it has meant that we didn't have as many to each make as we have had to do in years previously.

To those who have given monetary donations thank you very much, I am most grateful. If you still want to give a donation please do so as soon as possible, but by 8 th December which will allow me time to purchase the last gifts for the Secret Santa.

You can deliver the donation in an envelope , with your name on the outside of the envelope, or by delivering to 11, Salford Close, Welford. Or if you prefer to ring me on 01858 575331, or email me on Kairen.ball@gmail.com and I will arrange to come and collect your donation. Thank you once again for your support. Kairen

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, SIBBERTOFT



We are thrilled to announce that



The Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra

phoenixsax.org.uk

will be performing a special winter-themed concert,
sprinkled with festive tunes.

Friday 15th December 7.30-9.30 p.m.

Venue: Saint Helen's church
(which will be decorated for Christmas)

Tickets:

Adults £15.00 to include a drink and nibbles
Children 16 and under £5.00 (accompanied by an adult)

A great way to start your Christmas festivities
and support a special village fund-raiser.

Tickets available from:
Lesley Hartshorne - lesley1702@aol.com



Choir for 20 th December for the Carol Service for Sibbertoft Manor in St. Helen's Sibbertoft

To be held on Wednesday 20 th December at 11am. As in past years we would like to put together an impromptu choir to assist the singing as well as to sing two choir pieces. If you would like to be part of this choir please contact Ann Barraclough on 575269 and you will be advised of the date/time of a short rehearsal – an opportunity to lubricate your voices so we can give a wonderful Christmas experience for the residents, family members and friends, as well as anyone else who would like to attend the service, and allow you to meet your fellow singers. The service itself will last about 30-40 minutes. Many thanks,
Kairen

SIBBERTOFT NEWS

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

17th December 4.00 p.m. **Nine lessons and carols**, followed by mulled wine
20th December 11.00 a.m. **Carol Service** in church for Sibbertoft Manor - all
welcome
25th December Christmas Day - 9.30 a.m. Christmas Communion

Sibbertoft Sunday Teas 2023

Another successful season which included our 30year celebrations in late
May.

Each week we are supported by 4 members of our faithful and reliable
volunteer team made up of 40 villagers, family and friends. We all aim to
deliver high quality consistent service to our discerning visitors
through out the 31 week season. We receive kind and positive feed back
from many of our loyal regulars who appreciate the time and effort
given.

Following a successful piece of editorial in the Swift Flash in late May our
visitor numbers increased. Our income this year pre expenses rose to
£9573.

This is a wonderful boost to our fundraising following the difficult Covid
years.

In addition to fund raising the value of this project goes way beyond
finances.

Sibbertoft Sunday Teas is a Mecca for many people to meet with friends
and enjoy conversation in a safe and beautiful environment.

The last four weeks of the season support different fundraising groups.
This year they included Clipston PTA 2 weeks £609
Sibbertoft Reading Room committee £273
and Guide dogs.

A HUGE THANK YOU GOES TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT THIS
ANNUAL COMMUNITY PROJECT. OUR CAKE BAKERS & WEEKLY
VOLUNTEERS. THOSE WHO VISIT AND ENJOY THE DELIGHTS OF
AFTERNOON TEA.
AND FOR BUYING OUR HOME PRODUCED PLANTS, JAMS, FLOWERS
ETC.

EACH PERSON IS A VALUABLE PART OF THIS SPECIAL JIGSAW!
WE CAN NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

SEE YOU IN 2024.



MORNING PRAYER

**Revd Clare invites you to join her in saying Morning
Prayer on
Thursday mornings in St Marys, Welford at 10:00am
on 7 th and 21 st December.**

Welford WI November Meeting

The President, Denise Bott, welcomed 31 members and 3 guests and after the
singing of Jerusalem the October minutes were read and signed. The cakes for
the Brownie's coffee morning on the 21st October were very gratefully received,
the WI walk and lunch was a success even though the walk had to be postponed
due to weather, games being played instead, and the first coffee club at Louisa's
Place was enjoyed by all. Our nominated charity total now stands at £909.03.
Several members attended the County AGM in Northampton and Viv Journeaux
was our delegate. She gave an interesting report on the various items of busi-
ness, competitions and the speaker Heather Jacks, a BBC Great British Sewing
Bee winner. A range of clothes with the WI Logo on was launched and Denise
Bott suggested we purchased some for when we are promoting the WI in the
community. This was agreed. Menus went round for our evening meal at Casa
Nostra at 6.30 on the 29th November. Anyone wanting to participate in the
Christmas Toys on the Table to take direct to the stall in Market Harborough mar-
ket.

Our speaker, Julia Doherty, then gave a lively talk about the benefits of walking
on our mental health, accompanied by pictures of various walking groups she has
taken on long distance hikes. She was talking on behalf of a charity called Shout
which provides a text service to young people with mental health issues. She was
thanked by Julie Newman.

Lovely refreshments were provided and served by Pauline Matthew, Ann
Thorington and Pauline Underhill. The competition for A Photo from a Walk,
organised by Mary Crowther, was won by Julie Newman, 2nd Sue Brotherton and
3rd Sue Wilson. The raffle organised by Sue Brotherton was won by Catherine
Digby, Sue Walton and Val Jackson. The meeting closed at 9.20.

WELFORD VILLAGE HALL ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Village Hall Committee has commissioned improvements to the accessibility of the Village Hall.

Thanks to the grants obtained because of lockdown and the careful management of finances. There are sufficient funds available to change, for the better, access to the Village Hall. We have been advised that the steps up from the street are posing significant potential hazards of slips, trips, and falls, and that the existing slope is not fit for purpose as a ramp for people using wheelchairs and other mobility aids. The improvements will be a longer ramp with a much reduce slope that will go from the current emergency exit at the right-hand end of the building, through what is currently a garden area, along to the front door. The existing steps will be removed but the current ramp will be left in place and will continue to provide access directly from the car park for the more able bodied. Those who find the slope too steep will be able to walk up West Street and gain access to the hall by way of the new ramp.

Work is scheduled to commence towards the end of January. Inevitably, the work will cause some disruption along West Street. The local contactor, STJ (Northants) Ltd., will do all he can to minimise the problem but there may be occasions when there are deliveries, particularly concrete, when the road will be blocked for a time. We have planned to keep the disruption minimal for all our regular users and the public and hope that all will appreciate the improvements to a well-used and popularvillage amenity.

Geoff Newman
Chairman WVHMC



- Which is the only planet in the Solar System to rotate clockwise? .
 - Mercury
 - Venus
 - Saturn
 - Uranus
- Which of these is the hottest?
 - Bolt of lightning
 - Surface of the Sun
 - The Earth's core
 - A bonfire
- What is the Earth's fastest growing plant?
 - Bamboo
 - Giant Sequoia
 - Kudzu Cress
 - Duck weed
- Which of these was invented most recently?
 - Train
 - Bicycle
 - Microscope
 - Light bulb
- What is Scolionophobia a fear of?
 - Scorpions
 - School
 - Snakes
 - Sandwiches
- Which country consumes the most chocolate per person?
 - USA
 - Switzerland
 - France
 - Belgium

Answers next page



Welford in Harmony
Christmas Concert
Sunday 10th December
3.00pm in the Chapel

Join us for a feast of festive songs and stories
Conducted by Rebecca Schneider

FREE entry.

Refreshments available. Donations will be shared between the Chapel and our chosen charity,
Springbridge Driving for the Disabled.

1. Venus 2. Bolt of lightning 3. Bamboo 4. Bicycle 5. School 6. Switzerland
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