

Blackbourne

Christmas

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9v6)

Often our birth names don't always describe us very well. *Phillip*, my own, means 'lover of horses'. Now, I may have ridden horses whilst on holiday, but I wouldn't describe myself as a lover of them. But it is *my* name, and coupled with my last name, it is the name by which I'm known and referred to – well, mostly! Unlike us, Jesus, God's Son, had a name and various titles that actually described his character and mission on earth. *Jesus* means the Lord saves; *Christ* or *Messiah* means anointed one; and the one we hear a lot of at Christmas, *Emmanuel*, means God with us, here on earth. These names are packed with meaning and promise. The Bible says that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven by which we can know God

May you and your loved ones know God's richest blessing this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, whose name has the power to totally change lives. PG

Christianity Explored

... continues to go well We have met six times, and have a regular group of four participants. The group has decided to continue to meet for a further three sessions, making ten in all, to engage with some optional material. Don and Pearl Godfrey and I are delighted by this. We now meet at Don and Pearl's home, and continue to enjoy a relaxed and engaging evening with participants asking some very insightful and thought-provoking questions. Please continue to pray for all on the course and for those leading it. Finally, we are very grateful to the person whose gift has underwritten a significant amount of the cost of putting on *Christianity Explored* - its publicity, study materials, and the hire of Troston Village Hall. PG



Christmas Services

... are listed on the back page of this Newsletter. A version of this list, arranged as an A4 poster, should be available at the back of church. Can you arrange to display one? Please call the editor for more copies

Christianity Explored

Monday December 5
Monday December 12
Monday December 19
7:30pm, Don & Pearl's

Small Service

Sunday 4 December
11am
Ingham Church

Meditative Prayer Group

Thursday 15 December
8–9pm
Ingham Church

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 17 December
8:15am
Great Livermere Hall

Carol and Crib Services

See page 4

Christmas Eve

See page 4

Christmas Day

See page 4

Sunday Service for Families at Ixworth: starts Sunday 15th January at 9:30 am!

We are pleased to announce the beginning of a new service on the 3rd Sunday of the month that will appeal to parents and their children. After a short time together, children will enjoy their very own Sunday Club in the heated Tower Room, and rejoin their parents at the end of the service. Suitable for children aged 4 to 9 years, Sunday Club will be led by church members Ingrid Garbett, Hilary Pearce, and Nicola Flowitt (all of whom have been CRB checked). They plan some exciting activities to help children learn more about the Christian faith. The service will begin at the usual time of 9:30am and will last about 50 minutes. PG

Grace Horn writes ...

Throughout my recent hospital stays, Richard (my son) and I were held in a cocoon of prayer. I felt so very safe held in your prayers and in the superb care of the staff of the West Suffolk hospital. Words cannot adequately express my sincere thanks to you all for your prayers, your cards and good wishes

Thank you, especially for supporting Richard through a very difficult time. He has never lived in Suffolk, but became very aware of your love and support during his stay. Remembering you all in my own prayers, *Grace*

Praying in the Churches: St Mary's Troston, Thursdays 9-9:30am

Join Phillip and Liz for prayers in Troston Church in December, or Dinkie Williamson and others at Bardwell. Common Worship Daily Prayer is used (text provided), with time to reflect together on the readings for the day. All are welcome. Prayers in January will be at St Peter's, Great Livermere. *PG*

Praying for the Parishes and those who minister

This month your prayers are asked for the congregation, PCC, Churchwardens and parishioners of Ingham, Ampton & Gt & Lt Livermere, and Honington w Sapiston. Pray too for the Readers in the Benefice, Margaret Hartley, Lesley Norburn and Audrey Ringrose, and their ministry among us. *PG*

Two Team Services in January!

Sunday January 1 at All Saints, Ixworth Thorpe, 10am. The first Sunday after Christmas is traditionally a Team Service at Ixworth Thorpe. This time it happens to be New Year's Day. What a wonderful opportunity to start the year together, worshipping Jesus

Sunday January 22 at St Mary's, Ixworth, 10am. We shall be meeting as a Team again on 22 January (not 29 January) in celebration of *The week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. Our guest speaker will be the Rev Robert Hufton, a Methodist Minister from Bury St Edmunds. Our friends from the Methodist Chapel in Ixworth will be joining us. *PG*

Informal Worship: next on Sunday January 15, 6:30pm at St Mary's, Ixworth

This is an opportunity to enjoy a variety of traditional and more contemporary songs in a relaxed atmosphere. A small group lead the singing accompanied by a keyboard. Each service has a theme that is explored in a variety of ways: images, music, poetry, Bible reading, prayer and interactive activities for example. All are welcome. (No informal Worship service in December)

Light Up A Light service

St Cuthbert's Church, Thetford on December 6 at 6:30 pm. Anyone whose loved ones have been looked after by the Hospice and would like to attend, please contact Jennie Unitt at St Nicholas Hospice, 01284-715572, to receive more information. The service is open to everyone

Meditative Prayer Group

... meets next on Thursday December 15. An opportunity to spend time in silence reflecting on Advent and Christmas: 8-9pm at Ingham church. The next *Meditative Prayer Group* will be in March

Men's Breakfasts

The next breakfast is on Saturday December 17, 8:15 to 9:30am, at Great Livermere Village Hall. The speaker will be David Phillips, *More Tales from the Footplate*

Blackbourne Team Homegroups

Please check with your group for meeting dates over the Christmas and New Year period

Around the Parishes ...

Bardwell

- *Christmas Coffee Morning*: Saturday December 3 in the Tithe Barn, 10:30-12:30 - for Church funds
- *Community Tea*: Wednesday December 6, at The Dun Cow, 2:30-4:30pm
- *Messy church*: Saturday December 10, Bardwell School, 2:30-4:30pm

Barnham

- *Advent Home Group*: 2pm on December 1 / 8 / 15 at Walnut Tree Cottage, Thetford Road, Barnham. Enquiries to Karen 01842-763164
- Our primary schools are singing carols at the Cathedral Tuesday December 6, 1:30pm. Anyone can go
- *Open the Book*: Wednesday December 7 at Barnham School 9:00am. Enquiries to Sue Nutt or Karen Burton
- *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service*: January 27, 8:30 at St Gregorys, Barnham. The preacher will be Ven David Jenkins, Archdeacon of Sudbury. Supper will be served at Sue Nutt's house afterwards. Enquiries to Sue Nutt (01842-890409)

Great Livermere

- *Parish Prayers* on Thursdays December 1 / 8 / 15 / 22 / 29, 6 to 6:30pm
- *Great Livermere Christmas Bazaar*: Saturday December 3, 10am to 4pm in Great Livermere Village Hall. Big variety of stalls, Tombola, cakes, fresh produce, refreshments.
- *Great Livermere Housegroup*: Tuesday December 6 at 8pm at 'Mere View' Church Road IP31 1JR (home of Jim and Margaret). A special Advent evening

Ingham

- *Small Service*: Sunday December 4 at 11am. An informal worship time which is aimed at families and those who are not traditional worshippers. Open to anyone from across the team
- *Ingham Carols and Nativity Play*: Monday December 19 at 7pm, with the band of the Salvation Army - something special!
- *Ingham church pre school activity time*: 3rd Tuesday of every month. 2pm in Ingham church. Anyone from across the team would be welcomed so long as they are accompanied by at least one pre school child. Time for play, for sharing and for worship

Troston

- *Carol singing* round the village in aid of 2nd Chance (stroke group). Friday December 16, meet 6 pm. at village hall : all ages welcome— refreshments afterwards
- *Gift Day and Coffee Morning*: Saturday December 3. 10:00am to 12 noon at Troston Village Hall

Blackbourne Team Prayer

We are publishing the Blackbourne Team Prayer again this month. Phillip told me that he found it lurking among some old paperwork; it appeared to be several years old. Do you know where it came from, when it was first used, who wrote it? It would be interesting to find out. Please reply to the editor. Thank you

Blackbourne Team Prayer. Be with us Lord Jesus. Let your light shine upon us as we meet in your name. Call us to your service and kindle in us the fire of your unfailing love. Bring us together in our endeavours to do your work on earth. Open our hearts and unite us in your love and remain in our hearts, now and for ever, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen

Church Services at Christmas

Christingle Services

Sunday 4 December

Barnham 2:30pm
Ixworth 9:30am

Sunday 11 December

Bardwell 11am
Honington 9:30am

Sunday 8 January

Troston 11am

Carol Services

Sunday 11 December

Ampton 6pm

Sunday 18 December

Bardwell 4pm
Barnham 6pm
Euston 11am
Fakenham Mag 2:30pm
Gt Livermere 6pm
Honington 6pm
Ixworth 3:30pm
Troston 11am

Monday 19 December

Ingham 7pm

Crib Services

Sunday 18 December

Gt Livermere 6pm

Saturday 24 December

Bardwell 4pm
Barnham 5pm
Ixworth 5pm

Christmas Eve

Bardwell 11:30pm
Barnham 11:30pm
Gt Livermere 11:30pm
Honington 11:30pm
Ixworth 11:30pm

Christmas Day Services

Bardwell	10am	Family Service
Barnham	9:30am	Family Service (foll by HC)
Euston	10:30am	Holy Communion BCP
Fakenham Mag	8:30am	Holy Communion
Honington	9:30am	Family Service
Ingham	10am	Family Service
Ixworth	9:30am	Holy Communion
Sapiston	8am	Holy Communion BCP
Troston	10am	Family Service

Contacts

Rev Phillip Garbett, Team Rector,
tel 01359-234415

Rev Liz Jump, Team Vicar,
tel 01359-269265

Staff Rest Days

Phillip, usually Mondays
Liz, usually Friday

January 2012 Newsletter to be published 1 January

Please submit items to Pearl Godfrey pmg@capstonesystems.co.uk,
by Thursday December 22 (not December 29, as previously requested)

The Blackbourne Team Ministry

The Blackbourne Team of Churches consists of the parishes of Bardwell, Barnham, Euston, Fakenham Magna, Honington-with-Sapiston, Ingham with Ampton & Gt & Lt Livermere, Ixworth-with-Ixworth Thorpe, Troston