

The Whitton Times



The Parish of
Whitton
with Thurleston & Akenham

The Church of England serving Whitton, Castle Hill, the Dales and Akenham

Autumn 2020

Sending Christmas Blessings to You All



Our vision is to be **a vibrant** and **inclusive Christian Family**. **Meeting together to worship God**, **serve our community** and **draw others into the family of faith**; we seek to **make the love of Christ, known in the world**.

Christmas Services

Sunday 13th Advent III	9.30am	Christingle with Eucharist	St Mary and St Botolph's S
Sunday December 20 th Advent IV	09.30am	Said Eucharist	St Mary and St Botolph's St Mary and St Botolph's S
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	
Tuesday December 22 nd	6.30pm	Blue Christmas Service for those Bereaved	St Mary and St Botolph's
Wednesday 23 rd December	10.30am	Eucharist with Carols	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Blue Christmas Service for those Bereaved	St Mary and St Botolph's
Thursday 24 th December	3.30pm	Crib Service	St Mary and St Botolph's S
	11pm	Midnight Mass	St Mary and St Botolph
Friday 25 th December	10am	Christmas Morning Said Eucharist	St Mary and St Botolph S?
Sunday 27 th December		NO SERVICE TODAY	
Wednesday 30 th December		NO SERVICE TODAY	
Sunday 3 rd January The Epiphany	09.30am	Morning Worship with Eucharist	St Mary and St Botolph's S

Please note Services marked **S** we plan to Live Stream via Facebook – 'Parish of Whitton' Facebook Page – please keep an eye out on the page for latest update! These will also be open for attendance, observing Social Distancing rules and the compulsory wearing of masks. We are still unable to sing in person in the church building (with exception of the choir) however there will be the familiar carols and music.

Please do not just turn up, it is vital that places are booked by telephone with Pam Neesam on 01473 257723. As we are so limited this year in numbers we are able to accommodate, we would respectfully ask that you only book a place when you are certain you can come along, unless illness prevents this, and that you do not book a place 'in case'. Thank you.

This is not the way any of us would like this to be, and 'booking' a place is as alien as it can be from what is right, however the difficult circumstances means we must do so to keep everyone safe.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICES

A GENTLE SERVICE OF CONTEMPLATION, CAROLS AND PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH LOSS, GRIEF OR SADNESS IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

TUESDAY 22ND AND WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER

6.30PM AT ST MARY AND ST BOTOLPH CHURCH

ALL WELCOME

Mary's Message

I am writing this just a few days before the start of Advent, for the church Advent is a time of waiting and preparation and hope. We wait for, prepare for and hope for the birth of Jesus – God's love wrapped up in a baby. I am sure that the thing we are all waiting and preparing for the most is the hope of a return to a way of life that does not restrict how we live and who we can see. So, we wait and there is now hope with the promise of more than one vaccine on the horizon and rapid testing. We wait, hope and pray for a better year ahead.

The past year has been tough for everyone in all sorts of ways and especially for those who have lost a loved one this past year. Saying our goodbyes well is so important and my experience through the many funerals I have been privileged to conduct is that this has not been possible. Christmas will be all the harder for these people and hence we are holding two Blue Christmas Services to allow space for those who wish to spend some quiet time and acknowledge the difficulty that Christmas will bring. Please come if this time would be helpful.

I have been reflecting on why this has been so tough, and heard more than once people say that it really has not been so long and that previous generations had to endure much more and longer hardship through both the first and second world wars. This got me thinking to what is different, I have so far concluded that much may be similar but for me what is so very different is that during those times people huddled together in air raid shelters or under tables or the stairs, they learned to hold each other tight. What this virus has deprived us of that is so damaging is human touch. We are physical beings and at Christmas we celebrate the love of God made real in a physical human being.

The human need for touch is part of our very being and we see Jesus use touch many times in his ministry. Jesus used touch to heal and bring wholeness to those who suffered. Touch and being close to each other are fundamental to our wellbeing, yet we have lived through almost 10 months where touch has been potentially mortally dangerous and avoided. The damage done by not being able to hug our loved ones, be close to them and present in their lives or to put an arm around a shoulder or to huddle together for comfort is naturally damaging to our souls. So, feeling challenged and fatigued by our current plight is ok and understandable. I pray that in the weeks ahead we may all look to a time when we can hug and comfort and support each other safely.

But there are precious things to hang onto and the central message of Christmas is one of them. I reflected recently in a message to the children at Castle Hill school that there had been some silly rumours about, and some grown-ups were saying Christmas might be cancelled. Well you can't cancel Christmas as it's already happened – 2000 years ago God wrapped all his love up in a human baby and sent it to us to teach us how to live and how to love each other and reflect God's love and light into our world. Love came down at Christmas and it came to a world that was dark and difficult and in a world that is still dark and difficult love remains today, as the Bible reminds us Love never ends. This Christmas maybe we can be determined to show love and peace, we all need it these dark days. How about a sign in your window wishing people the LOVE, PEACE, JOY and HOPE of the Christ Child this Christmas.

Each day as a church congregation we use our prayer directory to pray for various aspects of life in our parish – you can see these daily on our Facebook page, and, over the course of a month we pray for those who live in every street of our parish. So now especially at Christmas we send our love joy and peace to all and most especially HOPE.

God Bless

Vicar Mary

The Reverend Mary Sokanovic

Email: marysokanovic@outlook.com

Tel: 07824 323073

The Ascension, Larchcroft Road IP1 6AN





Hello everyone, let me introduce myself, although for some the face may already be familiar. As a Minister I have for the past ten years been a Reader at Whitton Parish church, until September when I was Ordained Deacon and became Reverend Maureen Bonsall and appointed Assistant Curate to the Parish. The post is part time and is voluntary.

I have recently moved into the Parish but have worshipped at Whitton since a child as I grew up in Akenham and went to school at Thurleston (now OEA). For a number of years, I ran 1st Whitton Brownies and at one time was District Commissioner for Thurleston District. Following my marriage (to Steve) I moved to another part of the town but continued to worship mostly at Whitton but returned here when my twin sons joined Sunday School. That was in 1987 and since then my faith has grown and deepened, and for many years I had felt a call to explore my vocation. This in turn led to me being selected for training as a Reader and four years later I was licensed. However, when I felt my vocation was sorted and settled God had other ideas and with support and encouragement, I began the journey on the road to Ordination. I was selected for this and my training began in August 2019.

This makes it sound quite simple and easy but the road to this point is full of many stories and challenges. It simply could not have been achieved without the support and encouragement of many people including Revd Mary Sokanovic, our Priest in Charge.

Following the birth of my children, having previously been a secretary I decided to retrain into the field of Early Years Education and spent 37 years working in Independent Schools as a Nursery Nurse and then in the 4 years leading up to my retirement in 2018 as a Teaching Assistant.

So what now you may be asking. Well the road that I thought God might lead me along has been diverted at this time due to the current restrictions imposed upon us, meanwhile I am currently heading up our Pop- Up community shop which you can read more about in this issue of Whitton Times. When allowed back into our churches you will find me assisting with our services and preaching. As my training continues I shall be involved in funeral ministry and pastoral care before I am hopefully ordained Priest next summer.

As well as my husband, my family of support extends to my sons, their wives and my four young grandchildren who fill my spare time with joy and delight, along with reading, baking and especially in the summer spending time at our beach hut in Felixstowe.

If you need to contact me my details can be found in this edition but if you see me around the parish please do stop for a chat.

God bless,

Revd. Maureen

Tel: 07762 001086



Parish of Whitton Page.

Many have found us on 'Facebook Live' for Sunday services and for 9pm Compline each evening. If you would like to know more, would like to join us when we can return to the building for our services or simply make contact with us, please either use the 'messenger' facility or email marysokanovic@outlook.com



POP UP COMMUNITY SHOP

In recent months, a team from the church have been exploring the possibility of establishing, in conjunction with the BASIC Life Community Charity, a Pop-Up shop for the people of the parish.

BASIC Life is a Christian charity who endeavour to provide encouragement and support to those in the community who may be less able than ourselves.

After seeking a team of volunteers to assist in the project our shop opened on Wednesday 18th

November and is held each Wednesday in the church between 1-2pm. In exchange for £2 a re-usable bag is provided which may be filled with items from the produce available. The bag can then be brought back to re-fill in the following weeks for a cost of £2.

The produce on offer varies from fresh fruit and vegetables to pasta and long-life milk, tinned goods and toiletries. Anyone in need may come, no referral is required and there is no means testing.

All are welcome and please let others know.

Rev. Maureen



Scouts do their best!!

Despite the forced absence from Church halls 10th Ipswich Scouts are still earning awards and badges. The Wednesday section of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been busy keeping occupied with challenges, badgework, games and fun over the internet video link up of Zoom. Lately there have been around 60 young members taking part weekly with their friends. New members have been joining up through this time. The Monday sections based at Thomas Wolsey School are also joining in, but in smaller numbers as it's a difficult task for most.

Obviously everyone is really missing the weekly get together, the trips and the camps, and the extra friendships that come along. Our leaders too are yearning for the return – and our parents. The parents have been drafted in not only for home schooling, but home Scouting too and have learned many new skills themselves. All fingers are crossed for a full return in the new year.

An extra note from Vicar Mary – I have the privilege to see what they are up to on their group page and the leaders and scouts have done and achieved some awesome things. I can't praise the leaders highly enough for ingenuity and stamina to give so much to the youngsters and the youngsters (and parents!) for rising to the challenge so brilliantly.

Could you help?

We have been contacted by the 10th Ipswich Beaver, Cub and Scout Group. They are on the lookout for volunteers to help with their weekly meet-ups. If you are interested please call Kevin Bean on 07824 323073.



Buy a Brick!



1216 bricks have been bought to date and the brick fund now stands at **£6747.60** including gift aid. Our target was 1350 bricks or £6750, so financially we are within **£2.40** of reaching of our target! With gift aid on specific donations, we have exactly achieved our brick target! This is an excellent result particularly so in these troubled times and is a tribute to the generosity of so many people. We should be able to close this part of our fundraising for the North Aisle re-ordering by the end of the year and the book listing the names of all contributors will be available in church early in the New Year. However, we still need funds to convert this area for multipurpose use and this will take a great deal more funds. We know that St M & St B's is and always has been an important part of our community. You may think that you haven't got a connection with the Church, but who was Christened here? Went to Sunday School here (remember Miss Cooper and Miss Bendon, the Sunday School teachers!)? Who got married here? Who has said goodbye to loved ones here? So many of you have connections when you think about it. We want our Church, your Church, to grow and still be here for many generations to come. We don't want the church to be a museum, but rather a living and breathing place filled with life and you could be part of that. Donate by text through our Buybrick appeal:- Text "BUYBRICK 5" to 70470 to donate £5. BUYBRICK 10, 15 or 20 will also work if you are able to be more generous! *Texts will be charged at the standard rate by your service provider.* Thank you.



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in the Parish have been holding their meetings on zoom.

Rainbows enjoyed a virtual visit to an Alpaca farm and have adopted an Alpaca called Louis. They have also had a virtual drumming lesson, which was fun and very loud, celebrated VE Day making bunting, paper hats and whistles. They have made mug cakes and armpit fudge! Lots of badges have been gained and four girls gained their Gold Award, which was celebrated by a socially distanced picnic in the park.

Brownies only started meetings on zoom after half term but have had a Children in Need themed evening and have made Advent trees.

The two Guide units have done taskmaster evenings, yoga, had a peer educator take a session on mental health, made Remembrance poppy pinwheels, enjoyed a drumming session. A virtual archive and curating session with an archivist led to the girls curating items of special meaning to themselves during lockdown, and their work has been preserved for the future. Several sessions on photography techniques led to several taking their photography badge and then held a virtual exhibition of their work. Some programme activities have also been undertaken.

We all look forward to returning to normal meetings sometime in 2021. If anyone would like more information or would like to join us please go to the Girlguiding website www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the links.



News of The Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Appeal

And a very BIG thank you for bringing smiles to the faces of lots of children across the world.

With the very challenging year that 2020 has been we really didn't think that people would feel able to support this appeal, but how wrong can we be. So many really kind people like you were determined that you would support it in what ever way you could. Some were able to fill actual shoeboxes, some people made donations which meant we could order more shoeboxes on line on behalf of our church, and some made donations to help with the postage. All of you pulled the stops out to help and we want to say a very big thank you.

This year we have kindly been supported by Laurel Farm Garden Centre and Farm Shop, Henley Road and our grateful thanks go to them for advertising the appeal and for being a collection point for the shoe boxes.

When we got to Shoe Box Sunday which was planned for November 15th we were in lockdown again so were not able to deliver the boxes to start their journey until after lockdown but it gave us another few weeks to carry on collecting shoe boxes for which we thank you all.

Bridget Kemp



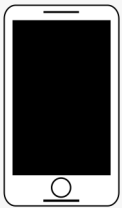


The Church of England Parish in Northwest Ipswich serving the people of Whitton,
Castle Hill, The Crofts and The Dales,

we're an inclusive church where all are welcome.

Good News! Whitton Parish Church has finally moved into the 21st century and now has a bright and shiny website. The website has been a long time in development but is finally up and running.

The site has everything you would ever want to know about Whitton Parish Church and the work we do within the Parish. If you have never been to a church service or have worshipped at another denomination we can help you feel more comfortable on your first visit to Whitton as we have pages to advise you on what to expect



We wanted the website to give you information on everything that you would expect a local parish church to provide to its people, from baptisms and celebrations of the birth of a child all the way to the other end of life's journey, to funeral services and the celebration of a person's life.

A Parish church is not just there for those who regularly worship, it is for everyone that lives within the parish boundaries and tries to provide a way to help celebrate all of life's milestones.



As the Church has been in existence for longer than many of the houses within the parish we have also provided an historical archive for some of the social history of the parish, in particular the sacrifices made by residents of the parish during times of conflict such as both World Wars.

We hope you find the web site useful.

Find us at www.whittonparish.co.uk

Or on our facebook page ['Parish of Whitton'](#)

This is where you will find all our streamed services.

Regular Church Services at present

Streamed from our Facebook page (see above)

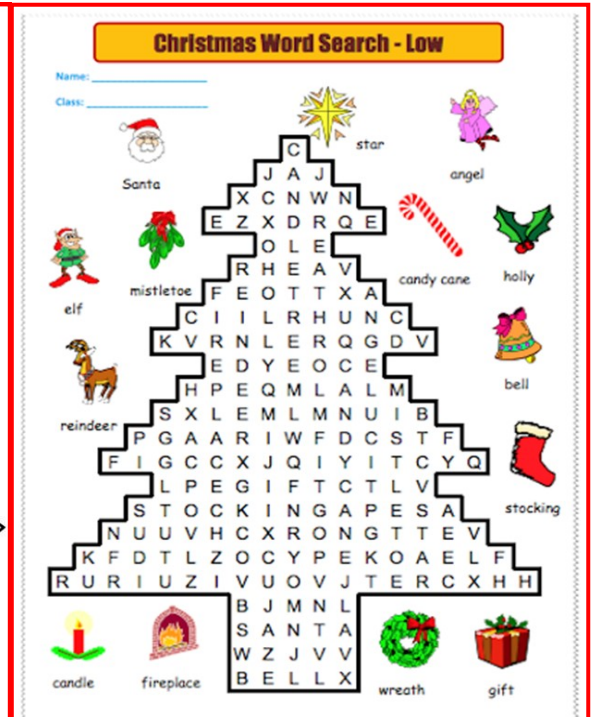
9.30am Sunday Morning Worship.

9pm Compline (Every evening)

Answers to Quiz's overleaf!

Christmas Carols – Away in a Manger, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, Good King Wenceslas, God Rest you Merry Gentlemen, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, The First Nowell, Silent Night, Joy to the World, O Come all ye Faithful, Deck the Halls, We Three Kings, The Holly and the Ivy, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Once in Royal David's City, In the Bleak Mid Winter.

Christmas Word Scramble – 1. Wonderland 2. Scrooge 3. Santa Claus 4. Present 5. Rudolph 6. Jesus 7. Christmas Tree 8. Bows 9. Noel 10. Snowman 11. Wreath 12. Candy Cane 13. Holly 14. Gifts 15. Grinch 16. Merry 17. Stocking 18. Wrapping 19. Decorations 20. Bells



Why did the jelly baby go to school?

—Because he wanted to become a smartiel

What do you get if Santa
and a duck cross the road?
A Christmas cwacker!

How does an ocean say
hello to another ocean?

It waves!

Can you guess the traditional Christmas
Carols from the initials below.

AIAM

ICUTMC

GKW

GRYMG

HTHAS

TFN

SN

JTTW

OCAVF

DTH

WTK

THATI

OLTOB

OIRDC

ITBMW

What's the difference between the Christmas

alphabet and the regular alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has Noel.

Why do hairdressers make such good drivers?

Because they know all the short cuts.

CHRISTMAS WORD SCRAMBLE

1. dnorewadnl
2. escrogo
3. asnat lacsu
4. teesrns
5. uhrdplo
6. ejssu
7. mashcris eert
8. bwos
9. enol
10. wnmosan
11. rwehta
12. ndyca ance
13. yollh
14. ftgis
15. nirgch
16. emryr
17. ngtsioike
18. gnwraipp
19. tooeicadrsn
20. ebls

Nativity Word Search

X S M B I Y L V Y Y J U H O L Y S F
D O S E C A M E L S O J G S Z S T G
J V T T Z A M A N G E R T Y F J A I
O B A H Z O Y S C T Z G J J I Q B F
S D R L N A T I V I T Y C R E P L T
E B Y E Q D D O N K E Y I A I S E S
P A J H J Y X E E J H U V A N J U G
H B O E S H E P H E R D S N M D L S
O Y H M T C R J X W A R X G T P L I
P E X L O V E P E A C E C E R E V E
K I N G S I Y F Y B P X A L D Y L P
D H P J Y A U A D V E N T M A R Y Q

ADVENT ANGEL BABY BETHLEHEM CAMEL
CANDLE DONKEY GIFTS HOLY JESUS
JOSEPH KINGS LOVE MANGER NATIVITY
PEACE SHEPHERDS STABLE STAR MARY