



December 2023 & January 2024

# The Newsletter

When you're little, getting to Christmas takes for ages. When you're older - not so much. It isn't the seeing of so many Christmasses - more the preparation, the things to think about. Too little time, too much to do.

They tell children to be patient - not an interesting thing to have to learn. It doesn't come naturally. But better to learn it when you're young - when you haven't got a hundred more important things to do.

Patience isn't just for children. To say it's a virtue makes it sound optional. But patience is a necessity - traffic jams, waiting lists and automated answering systems are there to instruct the unwary.

And patience matters in the spiritual life. I can't have everything I want when I want it. It wouldn't be good for me. It may even dawn that other people have had to be patient with me. I am work in progress.

Advent is a season of waiting. Some things can't happen without the passing of time. Oak trees, elephants, landscapes. So also wisdom, character, understanding. And walking with the Lord. God's patience is his mercy. Time is a gift: it is not a right. Life (long or short) is God's gift.

Who'd want a world without hope? But hope is only possible if there's waiting to be done. And uncertainty. Faith too - time and uncertainty make faith not just necessary but *possible*. The same is even true of *love* (not just falling in love - that any fool can do: the only sure proof of real love is what's tested over a lifetime and that finds out anyone.)

And so T S Elliott:

I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope  
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,  
For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith  
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.

*Paul*

For all enquiries or pastoral matters, please contact the Rector:  
Revd Paul Burr, The Vicarage, The Common, Swardston, Norwich NR14 8EB  
Tel: 01508 570550 Email: pburr100@gmail.com

## Churchwardens

Intwood & Keswick:	John Scotting 01603 452893	Richard Dannatt 01603 259537
Swardeston:	Andrea Pithers 01508 570802	Lynn Hewitt: 01508 578767
Ketteringham:	Mary Parker 01603 811330	
East Carleton:	No wardens — enquiries to Peter Riches 01508 571449 or to Vicar	

## Prayer and Spirituality Group

We're starting a group for people wanting an introduction to Christian spirituality and prayer. If that interests you, please phone the Vicar 01508 570550

## Daily Prayer App

If you don't know where to begin in praying by yourself try Lectio 365. Just download the app onto your mobile and then set aside a few minutes each day.

## Concert by Clarinet Cascade

Clarinet Cascade, a group of local musicians led by Roger Miller, will play an assortment of clarinets with a varied musical programme - 2.30 pm on Sunday 10th December at St Mary's Church, East Carleton. Refreshments during the interval. Free entry - donations welcome. Proceeds to be shared equally between St Mary's Church and our village charity for this year, Cancer Research UK.

## Ketteringham & East Carleton History Group

The next meeting of the Ketteringham & East Carleton History Group will be held at 10.30am on 9th December & 10th February in the Village Hall. All welcome.

## Coffee Morning

Book swap coffee mornings on 6th December and 2nd and 16th January 10.30am to 12 noon. We meet in the Cavell Room behind Swardeston Church. All welcome.

## Norwich Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who contributed so much to the Foodbank, as part of the Intwood harvest festival. The box for donations will be at the back of Intwood church on 3rd, 10th and 17th December and 7th & 14th January.

## Knitters and Stitchers

Knitters and Stitchers meet every other Tuesday in the Cavell Room behind the Church for Knitting and Stitching, a cuppa and a chat. Please come and join us from 2-4pm. You will be most welcome. Even if you don't knit or sew come and join us for a social afternoon. For further information please contact Sue at Sueoxbury@aol.com or 01953 548283. Best wishes, Sue.

## **Swardeston Christmas Fayre**

Swardeston Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 2nd December in Swardeston Village Hall 10.30am - 1.30pm.

## **Swardeston Parish Council**

Swardeston Parish Council is applying to NCC Highways for funding towards enhanced signage along the B1113 to reinforce our 30mph speed limit - for the 2024/25 financial year. Excess speed through the village is a major concern. We should know if our bid is successful early next year.

## **Flooding on the B1113**

Weeks of investigation into the cause of flooding suggest both poor drainage from the A47 and excessive run-off from the Hornsea3 Windfarm site. Both parties deny responsibility. But now the B1113 has been promoted to being a flood priority. The County Council are trying to get action and update Swardeston Parish Council. Meanwhile for flooding and other highways issues go to <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem>

## **Swardeston Jubilee Club**

We meet for refreshments and chat every second Tuesday (12th December & 9th January) in the Social Club Lounge at Swardeston Village Hall between 10am and 12.00 noon. Make new friends or reconnect with old ones. Drop in for a cuppa and a slice of cake. No charge but donations welcome. If you need transport please contact [derek@enfield-house.co.uk](mailto:derek@enfield-house.co.uk) or call 01508 570249 and we'll try to assist if we can. Hope to see you there.

## **Remembrance Sunday Collection**

The collection of £50 at Ketteringham Church was sent to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal which supports the Armed Forces community.

## **Intwood Church Gift Day**

The final gift day for our 2023 charity, St Martin's Housing Trust, Norwich, will be the Carol Service on 17th December at Intwood Church.

## **Wisdom on prayer**

*Pray simply. Do not expect to find in your heart any remarkable gift of prayer. Consider yourself unworthy of it. Then you will find peace. Use the cold, empty dryness of your prayer as food for humility. Repeat: I am not worthy, Lord. I am not worthy. This humble prayer is acceptable to God. St Marakrii of Optino*

## Church Services: December 2023

Sunday 3rd Dec.	9.30am	Holy Communion	Swardeston Church
Advent Sunday	11am	Holy Communion	Intwood Church
	3.30pm	Evening Prayer	East Carleton Church
Sunday 10th Dec.	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Swardeston Church
Advent 2	9.30am	Holy Communion	Intwood Church
	5pm	Evening Prayer	Ketteringham Church
Sunday 17th Dec.	11am	Carol Service	Intwood Church
Advent 3	3pm	Carol Service	East Carleton Church
	5pm	Carol Service	Swardeston Church
Sunday 24th Nov.	9.30am	Holy Communion	Keswick Church
Christmas Eve	4pm	Crib Service	Ketteringham Church
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Swardeston Church
Christmas Day	9am	Christmas Communion	Keswick Church
	10.30am	Christmas Communion	East Carleton Church
Sunday 31st Dec.	10.30am	Christmas Communion	Swardeston Church
Christmas 1		(A Service for all our Churches)	

## Church Services: January 2024

Sunday 7th Jan.	9.30am	Holy Communion	Swardeston Church
Epiphany Sunday	11am	Holy Communion	Intwood Church
	3.30pm	Evening Prayer	East Carleton Church
Sunday 14th Jan.	9.30am	Holy Communion	Swardeston Church
Epiphany 2	11am	Holy Communion	Intwood Church
	3.30pm	Evening Prayer	Ketteringham Church
Sunday 21st Jan.	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Swardeston Church
Epiphany 3	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Keswick Church
	11am	Holy Communion	East Carleton Church
Sunday 28th Jan.	8am	Holy Communion	Keswick Church
Epiphany 4	9.30am	Holy Communion	Swardeston Church
	11am	Morning Prayer	Ketteringham Church

To receive the Newsletter direct into your in-box, email your request to the editor at  
**[thenewsletter@live.co.uk](mailto:thenewsletter@live.co.uk)**

Please email material for the next issue of the Newsletter to the editor by  
**Monday 22nd January 2024** also at **[thenewsletter@live.co.uk](mailto:thenewsletter@live.co.uk)**