

Easingwold with Raskelf Parish Magazine

December 2017



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✉ vicar@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org

Vicar	Rev'd Margaret Young	☎ 01347 821394
Assistant Curates	Rev'd Catherine Toase	☎ 07777 672400
	Rev'd Charlotte Cranfield	☎ 07807 941528
		☎ 01347 824399
Churchwardens	Ian Peel	☎ 01347 823548
	Juliette Jennings	☎ 01347 823955
Retired Clergy assisting in the parish	Rev'd Chris Peel	
	Rev'd Beryl Bowes	
	Rev'd Dr Peter Bowes	
	Rev'd Robin Davill	
	Rev'd Steve Jarratt	
	Rev'd Canon Barbara Wilkinson	

CONTACTS

PCC Secretary	Sue Thorn	☎ 01347 823235
PCC Treasurer	Bill Henebury	☎ 01347 239178
Raskelf Secretary	Graham Bingham	☎ 01347 821715
Flowers - <i>Easingwold</i>	Geraldine Boast	☎ 01347 823034
	Pat Brooks	☎ 01347 824120
<i>- Raskelf</i>	Juliette Jennings	☎ 01347 823955
Mothers' Union	Margaret Summerscales	☎ 01347 822084
Bible Reading Fellowship	Joan Green	☎ 01347 821389
Children's Society Boxes	Janet Scurrah	☎ 01347 822234
Choir & Organist Co-ordinator	Alfred Boddison	☎ 01347 821668
Bell Ringing	Alizon Leese	☎ 01347 823806
Half Yearly Boxes	Janet Boddison	☎ 01347 821668
Parish Rooms Bookings	Doreen Hayes	☎ 01347 821371
Parish Rooms Caretaker	Doreen Moss	☎ 01347 824150
Magazine Distribution	Margaret Summerscales	☎ 01347 822084
Magazine Editorial Team		✉ magazine@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org

www.easingwoldraskelfanglican.org

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From the Vicar . . .

December is here again, the year seems to have gone so quickly. One of the highlights for me was our few days away in Iona. The peace and tranquillity gave the island its own unique spirituality especially after the last ferry of the day had left and the day trippers had gone. It gave a time to think about what is special about being a Christian and the hope that we have through the love of Christ demonstrated through his death and resurrection. Jesus, a baby born in a stable, not the most advantageous start in life. This small bundle would grow up to challenge and change the way the world thought and believed. The baby came with a message of love and forgiveness.

The humble beginnings of his birth were echoed in the humble beginnings of Christianity on Iona itself. It is said that St Columba arrived on the island with 12 followers and set up the first Celtic Church and established a monastic community in 563AD. This small island of Iona influenced Christianity far more than any other island of its size. Iona's history hasn't been a fairy tale; 250 years after the abbey was established it was burned down and attacked by Vikings. The Reformation meant that the abbey was dismantled and the monks and the nuns moved on.

Jesus' life, like our lives, was not idyllic. He became a refugee escaping to Egypt. His life was in danger before it had really started. As the Son of God, he is able to understand the problems that we face on a day to day basis. But for a short while, life seemed perfect, a little baby born healthy, his mother survived too. The traumas of childbirth were ignored in the Bible, birth pains forgotten; our focus is not on his mother but on the little boy lying in a manger. A star was overhead, visitors came and left gifts. Peace had come to earth in God incarnate.

Isaiah predicted this event

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

The Prince of Peace came in glory for the people of 2000 years ago and his influence has spread across the world. Our lovely trip to Iona showed us how 1500 years ago those small beginnings of Christianity led to God's word being taken across the world.

Today we look forward to celebrating the birth of this little boy and the snapshot in time. We look forward to the birth of a fully human and fully divine being who taught us so much about our world and the creator who made it all happen.

Have a wonderful, joyous and peaceful Christmas. *Margaret*

Joseph and the Mince Pies

I hoped my mum was not going to be angry with me. It was my birthday and she wanted me to have something special, but she doesn't have very much money. Since my Dad died a couple of years ago, she has struggled to make ends meet. She takes in washing and sells some of the stuff she can grow, as well as eggs from the chickens and some milk from the cow. I help her as much as I can, but she says I must go to the little school that the Rabbi runs, so I can't help her all the time. And I want to learn as much as I can so that when I grow up I may be able to get a proper job and look after her when she gets old.

But, as I said, it was my birthday, so she got out her last few coins and said:

"Joseph, run down to the Bethlehem Bakery and get two of those little pies he makes, with the figs and dried fruit. We can have them as a special treat for your birthday, after supper."

I held the coins very tightly and set off through the village. It was very busy, with lots of people about, because the Roman Emperor had said that everybody had to go back to their home village to be counted (so the Romans can get more money out of us, the Rabbi says). Also, the Roman soldiers around were drinking and making a lot of noise: I heard somebody say that they are celebrating the feast of one of their gods – Saturn. It's very strange that the Romans have many gods; surely they can't worship them

all? Anyway, as the Rabbi says, there is of course only one God, who helped get our people out of Egypt a long time ago.

I went very carefully, trying to avoid the crowd and the soldiers who were staggering around. You have to be very careful not to upset the Romans – a while ago my friend little Samuel accidentally kicked a ball against a soldier's legs and he got a real thrashing.

Anyway, I bought the last two pies in the shop (he had almost sold out because of all the people around) and set off back past the inn. It was dark by this time. Next to the inn there is an old lean-to stable, where the innkeeper puts a few animals during the winter and I was surprised to see there was a light flickering inside (the animals don't usually read bedtime stories!) So I looked inside and there was a beautiful lady dressed in a blue robe, with her husband! And in the manger used to feed the beasts there was a tiny baby, wrapped in cloths and lying on some straw to keep him warm. They told me that there were no rooms free at the inn next door, but the man had said they could shelter in his stable. I said I was sorry I didn't have a present for the baby, but they both looked a bit hungry, so I asked if they would like the pies, and they were very grateful.

I thought I was going to be in big trouble when I got home and told my mum about the baby and what I had done. But she gave me a big hug – and started crying! Funny things, Mums!

M.W.

St Mary's Gets More TLC

Visitors to Raskelf church will have noticed a transformation at the rear of the nave where the exposed stonework has been re-pointed, and fresh plasterwork added to the wall and window reveals. The existing plaster, which was cement-based and impervious to water, was removed to allow the stone behind it to dry out over the summer. This has now been dressed and the new pointing is lime-based which will allow the walls to breathe and thus combat the previous damp which is always a danger in

medieval buildings without modern drainage and damp-courses. There is still a little more to be done with the lower levels of stone, which have crumbled in the damp conditions and will need to be replaced in due course once the drying process is complete

The work has been expertly done by craftsman John Campbell, and very kindly funded by a local parishioner, and we are hugely grateful to them for their help in caring for our lovely ancient building.

Ian and Juliette, Churchwardens



From this . . .



To this . . .



Mothers' Union

Social Afternoon

Wednesday December 13th 2.30 Parish Room



November 25th to December 10th marks an annual campaign to bring the issue of gender-based violence to the forefront of people's minds. On a global level, Mothers' Union sends representatives to the United Nations Commission on the status of women. Through their various programmes in many countries, trained MU workers discuss issues with men and women which particularly affect their community. In Africa violence within marriage is acceptable; in the Democratic Republic of Congo rape has been used as part of the war. Domestic abuse in this country is not fully understood. The focus of the campaign this year is on the stigma and shame felt by the women, their communities' attitude to them and the need to discuss this to enable change.

Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to write down a list of what they thought were the seven wonders of the world.

Though there was some disagreement, the following received the most votes:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Egypt's Great Pyramids | 4. The Panama Canal |
| 2. The Taj Mahal | 5. The Empire State Building |
| 3. The Grand Canyon | 6. St. Peter's Basilica |

Whilst gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little – I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many". The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help". The girl hesitated, then read:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. To See | 5. To Feel |
| 2. To Hear | 6. To Laugh |
| 3. To Touch | 7. To Love |
| 4. To Taste | |

The room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary, and that we take for granted, are totally wondrous. A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought.



Prayer Corner



Prayer is at the heart of what the church is about and the prayer corner in St John's continues to be used regularly. Please write the names of people you would like to be remembered in the book there. We also have a prayer chain, where a number of people pray for those in special need. If you would like prayers for yourself or another, in church or on our confidential Prayer Circle, please contact Deacon Chris Peel on 823548.

Please include in your prayers this month:

1. All Christmas planning and activities; that all may think of others less fortunate than themselves
2. Those who will be alone this Christmas; the poor, the homeless, and those who feel forgotten and unloved
3. Easingwold and District Churches Together
4. Those - charities and individuals - who try to support all especially in need at this time, but also providing support throughout the year



Services and Events

December 2017

To contact the **Revd Margaret Young**
Tel: 01347-821394 or **Email: vicar@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org**

The Vicar's day off is Monday

Children are welcome at all our services

Fri 1st	12.30pm	Advent Reflections @ Parish Rooms
	3.00pm	Christian Meditation led by Marko @ Galtres Centre
	3.45pm	Ignite for Primary School age in the Parish Rooms
Sat 2nd	2.30pm	Easingwold Singers Concert
Sunday 3rd		Advent 1
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.10am	Raskelf Eucharist
	10.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST with Church Mice
	12.30pm	Baptism: Charlie Scurr
	3.30pm	Evensong
Mon 4th	4.00pm	Choir Practice - All welcome
	6.30pm	ECY @ the Cozie Centre (Easingwold Christian Youth)
Tues 5th	6.00pm	Beavers Christingle Service
Wed 6th	9.00am	Holy Communion
Thurs 7th	7.30pm	Bell Ringing Practice
	7.30pm	Advent for Everyone in Choir Vestry
Fri 8th	11.00am	CTED Crib Service in Market Place
	12.30pm	Advent Reflections @ Parish Rooms
	3.00pm	Christian Meditation led by Marko @ Galtres Centre
	3.45pm	Ignite for Primary School age in the Parish Rooms
Sunday 10th		Advent 2
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Raskelf Family Service
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist with Church Mice
	3.00pm	Springhill Court Evening Service
Mon 11th	4.00pm	Choir Practice - All welcome
	6.30pm	ECY @ the Cozie Centre (Easingwold Christian Youth)

	7.30pm	Raskelf Carol Service
Tues 12th	10.00am	Bible Conversations @ 11 Whiteoak Ave – All welcome
	3.00pm	Springhill Court Holy Communion
Wed 13th	9.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Bootshop Christmas Service
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union meeting in Parish Rooms
	7.30pm	Advent for Everyone in Choir Vestry
Thurs 14th	7.30pm	Bell Ringing Practice
	8.00pm	Inspire Young Adults/young in faith @ vicarage
Fri 15th	12.30pm	Advent Reflections @ Parish Rooms
	3.00pm	Christian Meditation led by Marko @ Galtres Centre
	3.45pm	Ignite for Primary School age in the Parish Rooms
Sat 16th	10.00am to	Easingwold Nativity in Market Place
	12 noon	
Sunday 17th		Advent 3
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.10am	Raskelf Eucharist
	10.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST with Church Mice
	6.30pm	Easingwold Carol Service
Mon 18th	4.00pm	Choir Practice - All welcome
	6.30pm	ECY @ the Cozie Centre (Easingwold Christian Youth)
Tues 19th	6.30pm	Tiddlywinks Christmas Service
Wed 20th	9.00am	Holy Communion
	12 noon	Lite Bite Lunch @ Old Black Bull, Raskelf
	7.30pm	Advent for Everyone in Choir Vestry
Thurs 21st	7.30pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Fri 22nd	9.30am	Easingwold Primary School Christmas Service
	12.30pm	Advent Reflections @ Parish Rooms
	2.45pm	Ignite for Primary School age in the Parish Rooms
	3.00pm	Christian Meditation led by Marko @ Galtres Centre
Sat 23rd	9.30am	Church Decorating & Christingle making
Sunday 24th		Christmas Eve / Advent 4
	8.00am	Holy Communion - service cancelled
	10.30am	Family Eucharist
	3.00pm	Raskelf Crib Service
	4.30pm	Christingle
	10.00pm	Raskelf Midnight Eucharist
	11.30pm	Easingwold Midnight Eucharist
Monday 25th		Christmas Day
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist
Wed 27th	9.00am	Holy Communion – service cancelled
Fri 29th	3.00pm	Christian Meditation led by Marko @ Galtres Centre
Sunday 31st		Christmas 1
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist

Readings

3rd Dec 2017

Isaiah 64.1-9
1 Corinthians 1.3-9
Mark 13.24-37

Advent Sunday

Evensong

Isaiah 1.1-20
Matthew 21.1-13

10th Dec 2017

Isaiah 40.1-11
2 Peter 3.8-15a
Mark 1.1-8

2nd Sunday of Advent

Evensong @ Methodists

17th Dec 2017

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24
John 1.6-8,19-28

3rd Sunday of Advent

Evensong

Malachi 3.1-4; 4
Philippians 4.4-7

24th Dec 2017

2 Samuel 7.1-5,8-11,16
Luke 1.67-79

4th Sunday of Advent Family Service

Christmas Eve Midnight Service

Isaiah 52.7-10
John 1.1-14

25th Dec 2017

Titus 2.11-14
Luke 2.1-20

Christmas Day

31st Dec 2017

Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3
Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.15-21



The Church
Mice



You are invited to our Sunday School for ages 3-11,
which continues at 10.30am on **December 3rd, 10th & 17th**
Many activities: Learning through the Bible - in term time

You are also very welcome on any Sunday
Easingwold Parish Church St John & All Saints, Church Hill

Advent for Everyone

What does advent mean for you? Calendars? Nowadays you can have advent calendars containing gin, beer, cosmetics or chocolate amongst other things. For me it is a frenzied time of writing and sending cards and presents, for others it might be parties, celebrating and catch-ups with friends. The season can turn into a frenzied chase around in ever decreasing circles so that when the Christmas season eventually arrives, we feel like a marathon runner crossing the finishing line in an exhausted heap.



I am sure there is more to Advent than this. To find out more about Advent and preparation for the coming of our Lord, join us for Advent for Everyone study course in the Choir vestry at 7:30pm as follows:

Wed 29th Nov, Thur 7th Dec, Wed 13th Dec and Wed 20th Dec.

Daytime Advent Reflections

12:30 pm @ The Parish Room

On Fridays 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd December . . . All Welcome

Christmas Flower Demonstration

*By
Lynne Price - Amstel Florist*

**Friday 8th December
2017
Easingwold Parish Rooms
7pm**



Flower Raffle

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Admission by Ticket : £8

*Tickets Available From:
Tempo Home Entertainment : 01347 821371
Lynne Price: 01347 824768
Pat Allen: 01347 821139*



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All Proceeds to Raskelf Church Restoration Fund



Hark! Hear The Bells.
Time to celebrate Christmas.

A Concert by
Jubilate Ladies' Choir

Friday 15 December 7:30 pm
At Easingwold Methodist Church
Tickets £8 (including refreshments)

available from: members of the choir; Tempo; or 01347 822592

Through Remembrance, We Yearn For Peace!

This was the slogan adopted by Churches Together in Easingwold and District (CTED) for their 'Day of Peace' on Armistice Day, last month. Joined by friends from the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, we thought of the meaning of Peace and resolved to promote Peace in our communities.

Front Cover Image

The front cover of this issue, which was designed by Allan Green FRPS, shows a stained-glass scene from the Parish Church in Easingwold with a backdrop of St Mary's church in Raskelf – i.e. one Christmas image that combines the two churches in the parish.

A Surprise Visitor at the Peels

Walking from Felixstowe, in the south, to Perth, in Scotland, Harry Lynch spent the night in Easingwold at the end of October. He is raising funds for the Faraja Orphanage and Children's Home in Arusha, Tanzania. This is a non-profit organisation established in 2008 with only 5 children. There are now over 200 with ages from 3-15. It runs strictly on donations and volunteer work and provides shelter, food and education. Harry started off pushing a trolley for his belongings but the trolley soon gave up, and so he was carrying all on his back – some 25 kilograms! If you feel able to support his endeavours then please go to the Just Giving page online for more information – Just Giving Faraja Support Harry Lynch.



Churches Together - Angels

Churches Together hope to be able to hand out angels in the square around Christmas time. If you can do simple knitting, please can you make one (or more!) for us? Ask Chris Peel (823548) or Elizabeth Cushion (821460) for a copy of the pattern.

Well Being Café

The Well Being Café continues to meet at the Methodist Chapel in Chapel Street every Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. If you know of someone with dementia or are beginning to suffer yourself, please do come along. Carers are welcome too. Cost £4 includes coffee and biscuits and a light lunch, plus activities.



An easy way to raise funds for Easingwold with Raskelf PCC – at no extra cost to you – every time you buy anything online with the UK's leading online fundraising service, EasyFundraising.

With over 3,200 shops and sites on board including Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, Virgin Trains and Aviva, you can get donations on everything from your weekly shop to your annual holiday and it doesn't cost a penny extra! It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and, under "Join now" search for "Easingwold with Raskelf PCC" and join for free.
2. Every time you want to shop go to EasyFundraising, find the site you want and start shopping
3. When you check out, Easingwold with Raskelf PCC gets a donation for no extra cost whatsoever!

The shops and sites give EasyFundraising a percentage of what you spend and they turn that into a donation, it's that easy. There's no catch or hidden charges and Easingwold with Raskelf PCC will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support!

Registers . . .

Baptisms	5th November 19th November 26th November	Charlie, Alfie and Harry Ledgard Teddy Dixon George Hartley
Marriages	NONE	
Funerals	NONE	

ST MARY'S CHURCH, RASKELF

Sunday 3rd December
Communion, 9.10am

Sunday 10th December
Family Service, 10.30am

Monday 11th December
Carol Service, 7.30pm

Sunday 17th December
Communion 9.10am

Wednesday 20th December
Lite Bite Lunch, Old Black Bull @ 12 noon
(a festive affair with turkey baps and mince pies)



Christmas Eve

Crib Service, 3.00pm

Midnight Eucharist, 10.00pm

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