



WHO'S WHO AT WATTISFIELD

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Joint secretaries	Jo Patel (as above)	
	Michael Watson michaelwatson849@aol.com	07930 351702
Treasurer	Andrew Wright andrew@milesdrainage.co.uk	01379 898233
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Our website: www.wattisfieldurc.co.uk

Diss URC: www.dissurc.org.uk



THETFORD SERVICES

Good Friday 29th March A reflective service will be held late afternoon. Time to be confirmed.

Easter Sunday Service March 31st at 9.45am will come from Ipswich Rd URC either in person, on zoom or YouTube. Note – no service at Thetford.



(Contributions for the June-August issue to Frances by May 19th, please)



MAILING FROM JO

MARCH 2024

Dear Friends,

Another church season has come around, very quickly this year! We are already in the time of Lent, when the church remembers the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. During this time, we reflect on the events of Jesus's life leading up to his death, remembered on 'Good' Friday. This time before the celebrations of Easter Sunday is reflective, quiet and one where we reset our thoughts and look forward to the hope we have as Christians, as we see the first signs of spring and feel the warmer sunlight after the dark days of winter.

We have had lots of lovely celebrations at Chapel over the winter, with Christmas Puddle-Duck and Mary's delicious festive brunch that was enjoyed by us all. We had Carols and Christingles, where we sang and heard about Jesus, 'The Light of the World' as we put together oranges, ribbons, sweets and candles!



In January we celebrated with St Margaret's Church as we reaffirmed the covenant that was made between the churches to work together. Now that it is Lent, Christian unity is at the heart of everything we do, whichever church we are in or if we worship quietly at home, we are all together as one.

'Jesus existed before anything was made,

and now everything finds completion in Him.

By the blood of His cross, everything in heaven and earth

is brought back to himself – back to its original intent.'

(Colossians 1: 17 & 20)

The Bible tells us that we can find our 'complete' selves in God. He knows us so fully and he has such love for us, that as we give our life to him, he makes us whole, healed and complete. I think so much of the struggling we do in life is to find who we are, what we are doing here and to discover the answers to the many questions we have.

A life lived with Jesus doesn't mean we instantly have all the answers, but it allows us to let go of the frustrations and worries we carry and fall into the arms of a loving God, who will catch us, hold us and help us to feel whole. This is what this time of Lent is about. A time to reflect on our lives, who we are and how God sees us. We have hope as we are brought back to God by Jesus' death on the cross, and this will be our celebration at Easter.

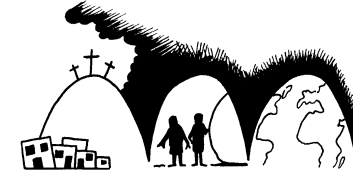


Jo

**As always you are very welcome to any of the services and events
we have coming up**

WORSHIP AT WATTISFIELD

March	3rd	11am	Rev Pat Atkinson from the Vidiyal Trust (Communion)
	10th	11am	Jo Patel - Mothering Sunday (see p3)
	17th	11am	Big Birthday Songs of Praise & Lunch - Jo Patel
	24th	11am	Andy Malcolm from the Fishermen's Mission
	31st	10am 11am	EASTER BREAKFAST followed by EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE - Jo Patel



April	7th	11am	Ron Wade, Thetford (Communion)
	14th	11am	Pat Mottram, East Harling
	21st	11am	Gwyneth Tilley, Bury St Edmunds
	28th	10.45	United service at Diss URC (No service at Wattisfield)
May	5th	11am	Rev Robin Pagan, Diss (Communion)
	12th	10.30	United service at Thetford URC (No service at Wattisfield)
	19th	11am	Jo Patel - Pet service (see p3)
	26th	11am	Paul Kemp, Stowmarket
June	2nd	11am	Jo Patel (Communion)



ON YOUR MARKS!

We will be having our usual March Marathon, i.e. a double bill of our Annual Church Meeting followed by an ordinary Church Meeting on **Tuesday March 12th** at 7.15pm in Connie's Room.



THANK YOU

My very grateful thanks to all my friends at chapel who conspired and contrived to make my recent Big Birthday celebrations so special. I was fêted with cards, cake, flowers and a birthday serenade on the clarinet! Not to mention visitors for coffee and cake on the day itself with yet more gifts including some delightful potted miniature roses. I was also very touched by all the kind messages from our Puddle-Duck friends.



I'm seriously thinking of having a 'special' birthday every year!

Frances

"Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live." (Anon)

PALM SUNDAY

There will be a service at St Margaret's Church at 11am on Sunday March 24th.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

May 12th – 19th is Christian Aid week and Adrian will run the verge sale from his house again. We'll have a raffle and collection at Puddle Duck on Saturday 18th as well. The Pet Service is the following day.

MOTHERING SUNDAY



On Sunday 10th March 11am we have our celebration for Mother's Day for all ages, which will be full of flowers, crafts and cakes!

EASTER SUNDAY

A few weeks later, more food and flowers will bring us together to celebrate Easter Sunday, which is 31st March. At 10am we will have breakfast followed by a relaxed family service at 11am.



PET SERVICE



Then in May, we are going to try a new venture for our four-legged friends . . . a village Pet Service! A request came along and knowing that this happens in many villages, we thought we'd see if our furry friends would like to join us one Sunday! The date is set for Sunday 19th May at 11am, outside in the chapel garden, when hopefully the sun will shine on us and we can enjoy a short service to say thank you for our pets, followed by refreshments for all!



It will be a Christian Aid service as it comes at the end of Christian Aid week, and funds raised are used by the charity to buy sheep, goats and cattle.

Rev Canon Pat Atkinson

40 Years of Ministry

On Sunday 10th December 2023 Mary and Andrew joined “a good tidy few” others at St Andrews & St Peters Church, Blofield, for an Advent service, which was also in celebration of Rev Pat Atkinson’s 40 years of ministry. The congregation included local church members, supporters of the Vidiyal Trust and Pat’s family and friends.

Blofield Church in Norfolk is just off the A47, and its Rector is Rev Kevin Billson. Apparently it was very unusual for Kevin and Pat to be leading a service of worship together, as normally they are at different churches in the benefice.

Our URC church at Wattisfield has supported Pat’s work with The Vidiyal Trust for a number of years, so this service was made more special as Muthukumar, who runs the day-to-day operations for the charity in India, attended the service as he was in the UK for two weeks. This was a trip that had been delayed due to the Covid pandemic.

In her address Pat highlighted how she was ordained as a Deaconess at a time when there were not many female priests within the Church of England. A period after her Ordination she had a chance to become a Deacon, but decided to remain a Deaconess, unlike most of her colleagues. She is now one of only two Deaconesses in the country and the only one still ministering.

Pat felt that her calling to Ministry was to serve others and this became even more evident when she first visited India and saw a great need there, which resulted in the formation of the Vidiyal Trust.

Pat thanked all those who had supported her with prayers and financial help, with special mention to the support of her family and the sacrifices that they had made.

ROS NUNN

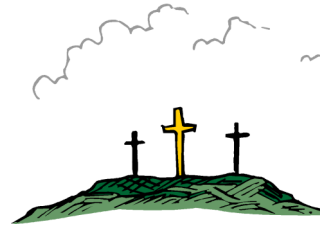
We’re sad to report the death of Ros just before Christmas, a dear friend to many of us. She and Ralph came regularly to our Sunday evening harvest services and the Monday night auctions, and could be relied on to go away with plenty of produce and preserves! Although she was usually committed to Thelnetham Church as their regular organist, she helped us out here by playing for an occasional service.

Ros led an extremely busy life as a farmer’s wife, mother and grandmother, a local primary school teacher, a member of Thelnetham PCC for over 50 years and churchwarden and organist for most of that time! She was also one of the original Trustees of the Village Hall from its opening in the 1960s, and continued to serve as a Trustee and committee member alongside all her other commitments. Ros could always be relied upon to roll up her sleeves and muck in!

Thelnetham Church was packed for Ros’s thanksgiving service, and the singing was inspirational in both worship and volume! She was fondly remembered in tributes from many of her family who recalled amusing anecdotes by the dozen. The atmosphere was certainly one of thanksgiving for her Christian life and witness, and there was much laughter as well as the inevitable sadness. We send all the family our sympathy and prayers.



WITNESS AT DISS



On Good Friday March 29th there will be a Churches Together Walk of Witness starting at 10am with a short service at the Mere and processing up to St Mary’s Church for a service at 10.30am.

“There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin.”

(REGULAR) DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



MARCH			
Date	Time	Event	Where
Saturday 2nd	10.30am	Puddle-Duck	URC
Wednesday 13th	1-3pm	Craftea time	Connie's Room
Saturday 16th	10.30am	Puddle-Duck	URC
Wednesday 27th	2-4pm	ScrabbleTea time	Connie's Room
APRIL			
Saturday 6th	10.30am	Puddle-Duck	URC
Wednesday 10th	2-4pm	Craftea time	Connie's Room
Saturday 20th	10.30am	Puddle-Duck	URC
Wednesday 24th	2-4pm	ScrabbleTea time	Connie's Room
MAY			
Saturday 4th	10.30am	Puddle-Duck	URC
Wednesday 8th	2-4pm	Craftea time	Connie's Room
Saturday 18th	10.30am	Puddle-Duck	URC
Wednesday 22nd	2-4pm	ScrabbleTea time	Connie's Room

She also made it clear that without Muthukumar's help the work of the Vidiyal Trust would not be anywhere near as effective, and that they have developed a strong bond from the time they first met.

The hymn that Pat chose for the service which sums up her 40 years of Ministry is as follows:-

*Where can we find you, Lord Jesus our Master?
We want to serve you, to answer your call.
Where do you lead us and ask us to follow?
What should we do in our service for all?*

**“Go to the hungry, to those who have nothing;
Go where the farmlands are empty and bare.
I broke the bread for the people around me;
Out of my plenty, think what you can share.**

**Go to the homeless, to those who have nowhere;
Go where my people sleep out in the rain.
I had no comforts but what others gave me;
Offer them shelter, give ease to their pain.**

**Go to the outcast, to those who have no-one;
Go where my sheep are rejected and lost.
I dined with sinners and reached out to lepers;
Go and do likewise, and don't count the cost.”**

*Where will we find you, Lord Jesus our Master?
We are your servants who answer your call.
You go before us, and there we will follow,
Taking our cross in the service of all.*

WORSHIP AND DRAMA AT DISS

I recently went to two special events at Diss URC. Firstly on 28th January was a time of Taizé Worship. Taizé is a village in Burgundy in France where an ecumenical community of brothers was set up by Brother Roger in 1940. It grew in number and now over 100 brothers from over 30 countries of catholic and protestant tradition live there. It has become a very popular place of Christian pilgrimage and over 100,000 people go there every year. The community lives a Christ-centred life.

Taizé music became very popular and influential. The songs/chants emphasise simple phrases which are usually lines from Psalms, so when repeated several times become very meditative and reflective. Ecumenical services based on this model of worship are held in many churches around the world. The service, organised by Churches Together in Diss, was very well attended and the music was beautiful. We were accompanied by Maggie on the base recorder, Robin on the cello, Laura flute and Sue violin, not forgetting Judith who sang with us and harmonised, altogether a wonderful sound. It was a lovely way to pray, to worship and feel closer to God.



The second event on 3rd Feb. was a performance by Stefan Smart called “1 Mark”. This was quite a dramatic reciting of the Gospel of Mark.

Stefan had memorised the whole gospel and moved around the stage dramatizing each part. It was very compelling and brought the story of Jesus to life. I’m sure we all went away with a lot to think about as to Jesus not always being the meek and mild man he was often depicted. Like all of us he got angry, disappointed and frustrated - but all the time he loved all with whom he came in contact.

Pam

Benefice Lent Course 2024

Watch and Pray: Wisdom and Hope
for Lent and life

**Seek God in both familiar and
unfamiliar places this Lent**



**Four Wednesday Mornings
at 10am ~ in a different parish each week**

21st February ~ The White Horse, Badwell Ash

28th Feb ~ Apple Tree Cottage, Finningham

6th March ~ The Priory Room, Walsham

13th March ~ The URC Chapel, Wattisfield

**Each session will last about an hour
including prayer**

For further details, please contact
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