



WHO'S WHO AT WATTISFIELD

Local leader	Jo Patel	07808 487844
	jojopatel@btinternet.com	
Joint secretaries	Jo Patel (as above)	
	Michael Watson	07930 351702
	michaelwatson849@aol.com	
Treasurer	Andrew Wright	01379 898233
	andrew@milesdrainage.co.uk	
Puddle duck Café/ Hospitality	Mary Wright	01379 898233
	scillymary@yahoo.co.uk	
Junior Church Leader	Adrian Black	01953 681506
	adrian.black7@btopenworld.com	
'Contact' editor	Frances Emerson	01359 221274
	franticfran21@gmail.com	

Our website: www.wattisfieldurc.co.uk

Diss URC: www.dissurc.org.uk

Please note that Frances now has only one email address and if you email her on the old Post Office one (or if you've emailed her recently, your message will be lost in the ether!)

WAYSIDE PULPIT

Wireless communication is nothing new.
This church has been praying for centuries.

Contributions for the Spring issue of 'Contact' to be given to
Frances by Sunday 15th February, please.



MAILING FROM JO

December 2025

Dear Friends,

December is here again and it marks the start of the season of Advent in the church. For many of us Advent means a countdown to Christmas. Whether we have chocolate filled calendars or we are putting up lights and decorations, Advent is a time of preparation. The word 'advent' comes from the Latin *adventus*, which is about a coming or an arrival. Throughout Church history, Advent has traditionally meant preparing for Jesus' arrival, his birth, his coming to this earth as a tiny baby, God's gift to us.



Celebrating Advent also means taking time to reflect and to pray, a time to focus on what is really important in our lives.

The season of Advent is broken into 4 weeks, each week representing a gift from God - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Every Sunday we light a candle on the Advent wreath to express our prayers for hope, peace, joy and love to spread around the world and to remind us of the Christmas story. The Bible is a book where you can read about these things and more. The gospel written by John is a good place to start to learn about the true meaning of Christmas and who Jesus was.

John 3: 16 says "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."



John 16:33 says: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

We are always hearing about the 'tribulation' in the world; the suffering through war; humanity destroying itself through violence, greed and power. Jesus came to bring the opposite to everyone and to connect with us as individuals. He came to show us how to live with gentleness, humility, a giving heart and a generous spirit. He came to serve, to help us and sustain us through life, but this is only a reality when we get to know him and receive his gifts of love, peace, joy and hope. Advent is a time to reflect on God's gift of Hope in Jesus, Peace in our hearts, Joy for all that we have and Love - God's love for us which enables us to love others, to forgive and to live peacefully alongside even the most unlovable.



My prayer for us all is that we find new meaning this Christmas. May each of the 4 candles of Advent help us to make sense of this world and to focus on the heart of Christmas, the centre of everything and the fifth candle in the middle - **Jesus**.



Jo



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES IN WATTISFIELD



December	7th	11am	Revd Robin Pagan, Diss - Holy Communion
	3pm		Carol service at St Margaret's
	14th	11am	Paul Kemp, Bacton
	21st	11am	Carols & Christingle service led by Jo
	25th	10am	Christmas Day family service - Jo
	28th	10.45	United service at Diss - Revd David Ely (No service at Wbatisfield)



2026

January	4th	11am	Service taken by members & friends
	11th	11am	Revd Robin Pagan, Diss
	18th	11am	United service of Reaffirmation and Holy Communion with St Margaret's led by Jo
	25th	11am	Revd Pam Robson, Honington
February	1st	11am	Ron Wade, Thetford - Holy Communion
	8th	11am	Jo
	15th	11am	Pat Mottram, East Harling
	22nd	10.45	Graham Borley, Hopton
March	1st	11am	Jo - Holy Communion



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



DECEMBER

Saturday 13th	10.30-1.30	Puddle-Duck Christmas Brunch	URC
Sunday 21st	11am	Carols & Christingles at the chapel	URC
CHRISTMAS DAY	10-10.45am	Family service	URC

JANUARY

Wednesday 14th	1-3pm	Craftea Time	Connie's Room
Saturday 17th	10.30-12.30	Puddle-Duck Café	URC
Sunday 18th	11am	United service of Reaffirmation with St Margaret's/Communion	URC
Tuesday 20th	7.15pm	Church meeting	Connie's Room
Tuesday 27th	2pm	Benefice Bible Discussion at St Bartholomew's Church, Finningham	
Wednesday 28th	1-3pm	Scrabble Time	Connie's Room
Saturday 31st	10-12.30	Singing & Sandwiches - see p 7	URC

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 11th	1-3pm	Craftea Time	Connie's Room
Sunday 15th	3pm	Taize service of music & prayer	Diss URC
Saturday 21st	10.30-12.30	Puddle-Duck Café	URC
Tuesday 24th	6pm	Benefice Bible Discussion at St Bartholomew's Church, Finningham	
Wednesday 25th	1-3pm	Scrabble Time	Connie's Room

GOOD NEWS FROM TENERIFE

"We are delighted to be back here despite all the setbacks. At one stage we thought we would never make it!

Our delightful landlord and family left us a fridge full of goodies to help with the first couple of days; by then we had recovered enough to face the shops! With my daughter's help we filled the store room shelves with necessities for the next few weeks.

People here are so very kind and we have near neighbours to carry water bottles up to the apartment for us. So all is good at this time and we have only been here for just over the week.

Let's hope we just get stronger every day as the warm climate really does make going in and out so much easier when we don't have to put boots and coats on as well!

Our love and best wishes to you all for the festive season."

Margaret & Michael



It's great to hear such happy and positive news from Margaret who kindly stepped into the breach with a message from them both, particularly when I had only asked for a couple of lines with Christmas greetings! We wish them a **very** Happy Christmas and New Year, returning refreshed and reinvigorated in the Spring.

WAYSIDE PULPIT
DOWN IN THE DUMPS?
Come in for a faith lift!

CHRISTMAS AT THE CHAPEL

Saturday 13th December is...



PUDDLE DUCK CAFÉ CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

with Quizzes, Music & Emporium

10.30am – 1.30pm

Brunch served from 11.30am

(Suggested donation £7pp)



Sunday 21st December 11am

Come & join us for

Carols & Christingles,

Mulled wine & Mince pies



CHRISTMAS DAY at 10AM

Family Service led by Jo



NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

As we bid farewell to the past year, **we thank you for your faithfulness** through every season. Thank you for the blessings, the lessons, and your presence in both our joys and challenges.

As we step into the next year, **we place our hopes and plans in your hands.** Help us not to lean on our own understanding, but to be guided by your Word and your Holy Spirit living in us. Fill us with peace and purpose; guide us by your wisdom and love. Help us to trust you in all that lies ahead, **knowing that you promise to walk with us every step of the way.**

In Jesus' name, Amen

(from the Compassion UK website)



A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE



O Lord we do not ask to see the distant scene, knowing that we can only take one step at a time. Make that first step plain to us that we may see where our duty lies, but give us a push that we may start in the right direction.

Peter Marshall

TIME TO REFLECT

Join us at DISS United Reformed Church,
Mere Street, Diss IP22 4AD

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY '26 at 3pm

for a reflective Taizé service of music & prayer
Refreshments afterwards



**There will also be a joint churches Taizé Service
at Southgate Church (Community Centre)
Caie Walk, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2PJ**

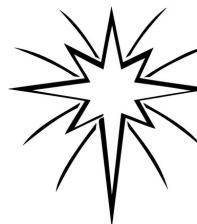
SUNDAY 1ST MARCH '26 at 3pm

**Everyone Welcome
(See Jo for more details)**

WAYSIDER PULPIT

Seven days without prayer
Makes ONE WEAK

GOD WITH US



Let a star shine out through the darkness,
let a new song greet the dawn,
let the whole earth hear good tidings,
for a Saviour has been born.
Sing, sing, sing to the Lord,
let the earth be filled with his glory.

Let the wise set out on their journey,
let the watchers hail his birth,
let the heavens ring with rejoicing,
for a Saviour's come to earth.
Sing, sing, sing to the Lord,
let the earth be filled with his glory.



Let the air be vibrant with music,
spread the news without delay,
let the joy be universal,
for a Saviour's born today.
Sing, sing, sing to the Lord,
let the earth be filled with his glory.

**Thanks be to God
who has come to meet us in a human life,
bringing light to our darkness,
hope to our despair
joy to ease our sorrows
and peace which springs from the knowledge
that, despite all our follies,
we are held fast
in an unfailing love
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

Edmund Banyard

THEN IN 2026....

Everyone is welcome to join us for the Reaffirmation of the Covenant Partnership between the URC & St Margaret's Church

This service with Holy Communion will be held at the URC Chapel on Sunday 18th January at 11am

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Crafter Time on the second Wednesday ~  
14th January & 11th February  
1-3pm in Connie's Room

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Scrabble on the fourth Wednesday ~
28th January & 25th February
1-3pm in Connie's Room

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**PUDDLE DUCK CAFÉ** on the third Saturday:  
Saturday 17th January  
Saturday 21st February  
10.30am - 12.30pm

Saturday 31st January 10am-1pm

The RETURN of **SINGING & SANDWICHES**  
with a professional teacher



No experience necessary!!!  
Book with Mary(01379898233)  
or Jo (07808 487844)

£7 to sing + £5 for lunch

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BENEFICE BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUPS

Open to all at St Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, on the fourth Tuesday of the month.



27th January at 2pm
24th February at 6pm

Ask Jo for more details.

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"I read my Bible to know what people ought to do, and my newspaper to know what they are doing."

John Henry Newman

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