



WHO'S WHO AT WATTISFIELD

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

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**.



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 Wattisfield) |



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 |

Jo



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

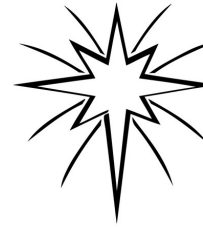
SUNDAY 1ST MARCH '26 at 3pm

Everyone Welcome
(See Jo for more details)

WAYSIDE 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



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



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



**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



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.



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

John Henry Newman

