



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 frantonem1@mypostoffice.co.uk franticfran21@gmail.com	01359 221274

Our website: www.wattisfieldurc.co.uk

Diss URC: www.dissurc.org.uk

PRAYER FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and the Middle East. Our hearts break at the devastation, hunger and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you stretch out your mighty hand to bring lasting peace.

We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.

We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.

Amen

MAILING FROM JO



June 2025

Dear Friends,

We have been blessed with so many lovely days of sunshine over the last few months. It has started me thinking about the similarities between the Sun in the sky, giving us warmth and light, and the Son, Jesus, God's Son, whom we worship and celebrate as Christians.

Both are the life force of this earth. Both give life to every human, animal, bird and plant. Both bring happiness and health, strength and energy. Neither of them ever says 'goodbye'; they are a constant presence in our lives, forever giving us light.

In the Bible in Matthew 5:14-16 it says:

"You are the light that shines for the world to see. You are like a city built on a hill that cannot be hidden. People don't hide a lamp under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand. Then the light shines for everyone in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."

This reading says to me that we should live life as fully as possible and reflect joy and our 'light' to those around us. We hope we enable this to happen a little by opening up the Chapel for different events. We enjoy seeing people coming together over tea and cake or their shared interests and hobbies. Then on a Sunday we all enjoy chatting and being together, as well as the singing, praise and worship.



So, we are trying to appeal to as many different people as possible by putting on different events...



Coming up in August we are holding a 'Singing and Sandwiches' morning, when everyone who enjoys singing, can come and sing as a group, led by an experienced teacher. It is for us to get together for a shared love of music and singing, no experience necessary and no solos required! If you would like to come then please book your place as spaces are limited, and let us know if you would like to stay for lunch. See the advert on page 9.



We also have a church outing coming up, on the 6th July. We are going to join Wrentham Chapel near Beccles, for their afternoon service led by Rev'd Ian Fosten. All are welcome! Bring a picnic and we'll meet from 1pm, to enjoy their grounds and garden. There are facilities available and we can eat indoors if it rains! See page 8.

God loves it when we join together and have fun. He is God of laughter and joy, sunshine and brightness. He is with us in the rain and the cloudy, overcast days too. When we find ourselves in the midst of the storm, He brings calm and peace. When we are in the sunshine, He brings health and strength. God is with us in all weathers and He loves it when we shelter together and join as one, not just in celebration, but for fun and relaxation too.

So, as the Bible reading says, don't hide your light under a bowl. Be yourself, whether you are quiet and shy or chatty and outgoing. We celebrate the gifts and diversity that we all bring as individuals, to create a loving, caring community where each person's light shines, just as the light of the sun and the Son, shine on us.

Praying you have a happy, healthy and sunshine-filled summer!

Jo

WORSHIP AT WATTISFIELD

June	1st	11am	Rev'd Pam Robson
	8th	11am	Pentecost - Jo Patel (Communion)
	15th	11am	Ron Wade, Thetford
	22nd	10.45	United service at Diss URC (No service at Wattisfield)
	29th	11am	Steve Aspinall, Stanton
July	6th	3pm	Visit to Wrentham Chapel - see page 8
	13th	11am	Jo Patel (Communion)
	20th	11am	Rev'd Jenny Martin, Halstead
	27th	11am	Ian Jackson, Finningham
August	3rd	11am	Ron Wade, Thetford (Communion)
	10th	11am	Jo Patel
	17th	11am	Rev'd Charles Martin, Halstead
	24th	10.45	United service at Diss URC (No service at Wattisfield)
	31st	11am	Keir Hounscome, Norwich
September	7th	11am	Jo Patel (Communion)



ST MARGARET'S There will be a service of Holy Communion held on the 4th Sunday of the month, i.e.

June 22nd, July 27th, August 24th

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE			
Wednesday 11th	2-4pm	Craftea time	Connie's Room
Saturday 21st	10.30-12.30	Puddle-Duck Café	URC
Tuesday 24th	2pm	Discussion group	Finningham Church
Tuesday 24th	7.15pm	Church meeting	Connie's Room
Wednesday 25th	2-4pm	Scrabble time	Connie's Room
JULY			
Sunday 6th	1pm	Meet for picnic lunch/ service at 3pm	Wrentham Chapel- see p 8
Wednesday 9th	2-4pm	Craftea time	Connie's Room
Saturday 19th	10.30-12.30	Puddle-Duck Café	URC
Wednesday 23rd	2-4pm	Scrabble time	Connie's Room
Tuesday 29th	6pm	Discussion group	Finningham Church
AUGUST			
Saturday 9th	10-12.30	Singing & Sandwiches	URC - see p 9
Wednesday 13th	2-4pm	Craftea time	Connie's Room
Saturday 16th	10.30-12.30	Puddle-Duck Café	URC
Sunday 24th	Last date for contributions to Contact, please		
Wednesday 27th	2-4pm	Scrabble time	Connie's Room

RETIREMENT

On April 23rd I retired from work!

I started work in December 1977 as a student nurse at University College Hospital. After qualifying I worked as a Staff Nurse at West Suffolk hospital.

3 children later and working lots of night shifts, I started work for Suffolk County Council and worked for 22 years in their Sensory team. I've been so fortunate to have had a wonderful working life helping people.

When I started work, I thought I would retire at 60. In the end I had to work another 6 years !!

I have lots of friends and things to do so I'm sure I will be busy. I had a lovely send off from work. We had lunch at The Crown in Stowupland.

Christine

(Our very best wishes to Christine for a well-deserved, long-awaited and happy retirement.)



COMFORTABLE?

"To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because he moves us, he makes us walk, he pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!' ... But don't bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off ... we want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that's no good. Because he is God, he is that wind which comes and goes and you don't know where. He is the power of God, he is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. But - to move forward! And this bothers us. It's so much nicer to be comfortable."

Pope Francis

OUT FOR SIX!

An account of the sixth annual Christian Aid Week Verge Sale

Mid May is the time for the annual Christian Aid Week, and Wattisfield Chapel takes part in the fundraising that goes on across the country. This year the focus of Christian Aid Week is on Guatemala, a country of 18.7 million people in Central America, which is facing a climate emergency. Increasing uncertainty in both dry and wet seasons, with increasingly extreme weather conditions, is causing vital crops to fail; pushing farming families into hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Indigenous communities, who've done the least to cause the climate crisis, endure its deadly droughts, savage storms and gruelling heatwaves the most. Christian Aid raises money to provide vital agricultural training and tools to promote climate resilient farming and tackle hunger and poverty. Of course, Christian Aid also continues its humanitarian aid work globally, including in areas such as Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan to fight poverty and oppression.



Wattisfield Chapel supports Christian Aid Week by holding a verge sale in Hopton for nine days (10 – 18 May this year). Space is also provided to raise money for The Marfan Trust, another of the charities we support. Sixty five feet of the verge running beside our house is enough to accommodate the five trestle tables, two card tables, two groundsheets and floor space (for plants and assorted larger items) which comprise the stall. During last October we had to have the ever-encroaching hedge trimmed back by a couple of feet (see last year's Contact article) to allow enough room for the tables to stand back from the pavement!

So, early on Saturday morning of 10th May we were 'out for six'; the five previous verge sales having been most successful. At that stage I was hoping we could raise £300 for the good causes. Dry weather, which lasted for the whole nine days, was most welcome (for me, if not for gardeners!). Four hours later the



Join us at Wattisfield Chapel on
SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST

for a morning of...

SINGING & SANDWICHES!!!

Arrive from 10am

for tea and coffee



The singing will be led by a teacher at
**10.30am-12.30pm followed by sandwiches or
bring your own packed lunch**

COST: £5 for singing

£10 for singing & lunch



Contact Mary 01379 898233
or Jo 07808 487844
to book your place

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

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

3pm – 4pm

for a reflective Taizé
service of music & prayer
& refreshments afterwards



THE BENEFICE OF BADWELL AND WALSHAM

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP



St Bartholomew's Church Finningham

24th June - 2pm

29th July - 6pm

Everyone is welcome to join us as we explore the Bible and faith together in an informal group.

No need to book.

CHURCH OUTING TO WRENTHAM CHAPEL

(No morning service at Wattisfield)

SUNDAY 6TH JULY '25

Bring a picnic & meet there at 1pm

Worship Service starts at 3pm

ALL WELCOME

(Facilities available)



The address: Chapel Road, Wrentham,
Suffolk, NR34 7LT
(40 miles from Wattisfield)

website: wrenthamchapel.co.uk

Please let Jo know if you would like a lift

tables were loaded, items price-tagged, and neighbours were popping by to donate their pre-loved items to add to the mass of bric-a-brac from the church cupboard. Throughout the week Frances and Mary provided a constant stream of marmalade, chutney, cakes and scones – always favourites for Hopton folk and those who come in specially from nearby villages – along with jars of honey produced from our next-door neighbours' bee hives.



Saturday is always the busiest day, as cars pass on their way to Knettishall Heath and spot the stalls. On this first day we raised over £150 – a magnificent start! All kinds of items sold: jigsaws, books, glassware, china, tools, handbags, pictures, board games, jewellery and foodstuffs among them. One customer, a middle-aged man with his wife, bought a philatelic item, an album crammed with well over a thousand stamps. I asked if he was a stamp collector – “No, er, but I am now!” he replied, adding that this would make an interesting point of conversation for their coffee table.



A sizeable number of cyclists stop to browse during the course of the sale. One was looking for anything ‘egg-related’ to feed his collecting passion. Oh yes, I have everything you might want (and a great deal more!) on the stall, so I was able to provide him with a resin egg-timer and a boxed set of Apostle egg spoons! I do like it when cyclists stop by; it always seems symbolic of the sustainable nature of the operation; re-cycling human and natural resources, whereby everyone wins in an environmentally friendly way – with cyclists further embodying this spirit.

During the week the stall steadily ticked over. One day a coach pulled up. ‘Have we got on the tourist circuit? Am I about to experience a coachload of people searching for souvenirs?’ I dreamed. Sadly the coach was empty, save the driver, who browsed the tables before purchasing a packet of gingerbread slices before going on his way to do the afternoon school run.



As always, the stall provides a social focal point for local people, and we all catch up on things, and talk weather, football, gardens and gossip whilst browsing. We get to meet new friends who have recently moved into the village; and to wonder, with old friends, where the time has gone since we last had a good old natter this time last year! One 'new friend' I met had lived locally for a number of years; but now hails from southern Asia, and was over on a visit. He spotted some things on the stall, and took out his phone. Seconds later, a photo of a clutch bag had been dispatched half-way round the world, an affirmative answer received from his partner, and said clutch-bag was on its way to Asia!



The second Saturday was a wonderful day for me. Having now easily surpassed the original target of £300, an afternoon of pure joy awaited. I let the stall run itself for a couple of hours while I went indoors to watch the FA Cup Final as my team, Crystal Palace, took on the favourites Manchester City at Wembley Stadium. It was a nail-biting affair, full of incident and some controversy, exciting to the end, as The Eagles triumphed 1-0 against the (once!) mighty Manchester team to lift the FA Cup for the first time in the club's history. I returned to the stall ebullient, still sporting my Crystal Palace shirt. Almost immediately a car drew up, and while the driver was busy procuring treasures, his wife asked the final score - which I was happy to provide! - as her mother is also an avid Eagles fan. Small world.



The final Sunday was much quieter, but trade slowly ticked over. The comestibles sold out, some more stock went. I was gently pleased, but another twist was in store! As I began the final packing up, two more customers pulled up, and in the next fifteen minutes I sold more than in the 10 preceding hours! A buoyant end to nine days!

There were a few plants left, which I left on the verge, and over the next few days I distributed the left-over stock. Appropriate items went back into the Church cupboard and will be appearing on our next Puddle-duck Cafe stall.

The rest was distributed to raise money for Anglian Air Ambulance, Break and Tools with a Mission. Nothing gets wasted!

Back home the plants were gradually sold; and later in the week a caller told me his son had visited the stall, espying a useful rucksack, but he had had no money on him. The Bank of Dad was willing to oblige, so back I went to the Chapel to retrieve said rucksack, which will now be going out on fishing trips!



The final total raised was an amazing £645, composed of £605 for Christian Aid and £40 for The Marfan Trust. This was a record for our stall, which over the past six iterations has now raised £2,648 for Christian Aid, and £323 for The Marfan Trust.

*This sum will be further increased by the addition of monies raised by Puddle Duck Cafe and donations via the Chapel.

It was a real team effort, from the Church and from neighbours. Many thanks to Mary and Frances for their delicious produce, to all those who donated goods for sale, and to all who visited the stall, including friends from Church and from our Puddle Duck Cafe. **You are making a real difference to the lives of people in poverty and need.**

Same time, same place, next year? Maybe!

Adrian Black

(Our very grateful thanks to Adrian for all his hard work which resulted in an amazing result, and also for writing such an entertaining account at what must have breakneck speed to submit it before the deadline!)



***At the time of going to press the final total (including the money raised at Puddle Duck plus other donations) is a staggering £750!! Well done to everyone.**