



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

Regular meetings in Connie's Room

Craftea Time on the second Wednesday ~

11th March 1-3pm
8th April 2-4pm
13th May 2-4pm

Scrabble on the fourth Wednesday ~

25th March 1-3pm
22nd April 2-4pm
27th May 2-4pm

(Copy for the summer edition of Contact to Frances by May 21st please)



MAILING FROM JO

March 2026

Dear Friends,

As the cold and the dark begins to break away at last, we are thankfully noticing the quiet arrival of Spring: the snowdrops, the longer days and the promise of new life.

It is no coincidence that the Church places the season of Lent during this time of 'waking up' and new birth. Lent has been called the 'springtime

of our souls'. While winter invites us to be inward and quiet, Lent takes us into a deeper reflection and



a 'spring cleaning' of our spiritual lives. It is the time to get rid of the weeds that we hang onto; maybe

grudges or complacency, that have taken root. It's time to make way for new life, space for us to change and grow, as we

think about the dark months that have passed.

As you notice the daffodils appearing, let them remind you that we are being invited into a time of renewal and preparation as Easter approaches. We will be holding 'a floral celebration of renewal and resurrection' over the Easter weekend, when the Chapel will be decorated with beautiful flowers and the smell of hot cross buns will draw you in! (See page 7 for details)

Lent is often seen as a time when we give things up, but it would be better to think of Lent as a time of 'taking up', when we move our focus towards what God is doing. What new life is He birthing? What new thing is He doing and how do we focus on what matters most in our lives?

The Bible says:

*Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable,
always excelling in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord,
your labour is not in vain.*

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

As Christians, we know that even when we can't see any signs of growth or new life, we always have hope. The work of God is never in vain. Even when the world seems very dark and bleak, the message of Lent is that love is alive. The derivation of the word 'Lent' (lencten) means spring or springtime and became associated with the 40 day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter when we journey together to reach the cross on Good Friday, and we find an empty tomb on Easter Sunday. God turns winter death into spring life and an empty tomb into renewal, resurrection and the Joy of Easter!



If you would like to join with other people on the journey through Lent, then on Wednesday afternoons throughout March, the Chapel and the Benefice Churches are joining together for a Bible discussion group. Everyone is welcome, no church experience is necessary! **(See next page for dates, times and venues, or see Jo for more details)**



Do join us for Lent groups, social groups, our usual Sunday services or our special celebration services such as Easter! And at every group you will always receive a very warm welcome.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter!

Jo



WORSHIP AT WATTISFIELD

March	1st	11am	Jo Patel (Communion)
	8th	10.45	Visit to Whiting Street URC (No service at Wattisfield)
	15th	11am	Rev'd Pam Robson - Mothering Sunday
	22nd	11am	Steve Aspinall, Stanton
	29th	11am	Brian Langsden - Palm Sunday
April	5th	11am	EASTER SUNDAY Jo Patel - Communion
	12th	11am	Ron Wade, Thetford
	19th	11am	Andy Malcolm from the Fishermen's Mission
	26th	10.45	United service at Diss URC (No service at Wattisfield)
May	3rd	11am	Jo Patel (Communion)
	10th	10.45	Visit to Whiting St URC, Bury St Edmunds (No service at Wattisfield)
	17th	11am	Jo Patel - Songs of Praise
	24th	11am	Keir Hounsome, Norwich
	31st	11am	Rev'ds Charles & Jenny Martin, Halstead
June	7th	11am	Jo Patel (Communion)

MODERATOR'S VISIT

On Sunday 16th August our service at 11am is being led by the Moderator of Eastern Synod, Rev'd Lythan Nevard. Please put this date in your diary and pray for this special service. We hope that folk from St Margaret's Church, Diss and Whiting Street may be able to join us too.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

This will be held at 12md on Sunday 12th April. It was decided to move this to a Sunday so that more people can attend, hear the reports from the past year and vote for people to hold the Church Offices for the coming year. Ron will lead a short service at 11am followed by refreshments. We aim to begin the ACM at 12md and finish by 1pm. Please put this date in your diary and pray for the meeting.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid week runs from 10th - 16th May, and Adrian will be running his verge sale outside his home at Bethany, Nethergate St, Hopton for the 3 days **Saturday 9th to Monday 11th May, 8.30am-6.30pm** each day. Since 2020 (due to Covid restrictions stopping the Diss forecourt sale), Adrian has ably run this sale for the whole of Christian Aid week in all weathers, raising an enormous amount of money for Christian Aid and the Marfan Trust.

He's decided to reduce the days this year as it is heavy work setting up and taking down all the stalls each morning and evening, and over the years the number of stalls has grown considerably! This year a rota will be drawn up to help, so willing and fit volunteers are needed at 8.30am each morning to set up the tables and from 6pm in the evening to clear them away. There will probably be a LOT of boxes! If you can help (and bring any willing family members!) please see Adrian to put your name on the rota. Last year the sale raised £750, and the Chapel will match the amount raised. We will also keep the collection going at Puddle-Duck Café on 16th and the 'Songs of Praise' service on Sunday 17th May.

Please volunteer and pray for this amazing fundraising event!

Jo

CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday 19th May at 7.15pm in Connie's Room. This is usually held with the ACM, but it was decided to split the dates to avoid a very long meeting!

Badwell & Walsham Benefice Lent Group

Wednesdays at 2pm

25th February - Priory Room - Walsham

4th March - URC Chapel, Wattisfield

11th March - *Lent Lunch* - 12pm until 2pm - Priory Room - Walsham

- Everyone is welcome, just come along!

18th March - St Bartholomew's Church - Finningham

25th March - St Margaret's Church - Badwell Ash

1st April - St Mary's Church - Westhorpe

Everyone is welcome to join us as we journey through Lent together. Join us for informal discussions based around the Bible, no need to book just come along to either our weekly meetings or the Lent Lunch.

We would love to see you!

For more information, please contact
Revd Catriona by email: revcatrionabrinkley@outlook.com

WELCOME, RON!

At the Communion service on February 1st, our good friend Ron Wade was inducted as a serving Elder at Wattisfield, joining Adrian, Andrew and Michael. As an Elder at Thetford for many years, Ron has a great deal of experience and we're *very* grateful to him for agreeing to take up the mantle again in his busy life.

*If your day is hemmed in with prayer it is less likely
to come unravelled.*

CHRISTINE HELPS THE BEAVERS

I recently enjoyed 4 Monday evenings with the local Beaver group. A friend from the aqua aerobics group (who also got her new knee on the same day as me) asked if I could come and help her pack with their Disability Awareness Badge.



The Beavers are girls and boys aged 6 and 7. I wasn't sure what to expect really! But they were fabulous. I had the girls for 2 weeks while the boys went bowling, and then the groups swapped round so I had the boys for 2 weeks.

We chatted about deafness and how to help with communication. Getting someone's attention, facing the deaf person etc. Types of hearing loss and hearing aids.

They all knew the alphabet well and were keen to fingerspell it. So, vowels first and then all of it. How quickly they learnt! They all spelt their names in turn. Next we did some signs - sister, brother, good morning, please and thank you. Then they learnt to sign the Beaver promise.

Finally, I took some of my alerting equipment so they could understand how a deaf person knew that someone was at the door, that the phone was ringing, how to know what time to get up in the morning and, most importantly, the smoke alarm. They experienced the vibrating pad under my pillow and flashing light for night time alerting.

This was the last section of the badge and they all passed with flying colours. I gave out 12 badges and we all signed the Beaver promise together. How amazing they were!

Christine

(I was even asked if I would like to be a helper at the group every week!)

shepherd still values it enough to go and look for it. The story tells us even when we feel lost in a crowd, God still sees us and reaches out to us. The homeless often say they feel invisible because people ignore them, look away from them and walk around them. This story tells us they are not invisible to God (or to all of the volunteers at Chapter 15).

The Lost Coin: In this story a woman loses one of ten coins in her home. This is a much bigger loss (a rise from 1% to 10%) so she turns on the light and hunts high and low until she finds it. Then she calls her neighbours together to celebrate that she has found her lost coin. This story tells us it is important and rewarding to search for the lost and restore to them value and respect. This is why Chapter 15 is here, to help people who have fallen into homelessness to recover and find a dignified pathway out of it.

The Lost Son: Perhaps the most famous story ever told and believed by many to be the best short story ever written. It tells the story of a son who has lost his way through many bad decisions. He ends up homeless, alienated from his family, destitute and filled with regret. When he finally decides he has no choice but to go home he expects to be rejected as a son, but as he nears his home he finds his father running towards him with arms open wide. His welcome home is beyond anything he could ever have imagined. All the volunteers at Chapter 15 hope we can make those who turn to us in the worst times welcome, valued and supported as we work with them on their pathway out of homelessness.

"When I needed a neighbour, were you there,
were you there?"

(Sidney Carter)

**PUDDLE DUCK CAFÉ - third Saturday:
Saturday 21st March
Saturday 18th April
10.30am -12.30pm**

Puddleduck received a generous donation towards the cost of the Christmas Brunch and when this was added to what the members paid for their lunch, there was a small surplus left over.

Puddleduck have therefore been able to give £100 to “Chapter 15” a homeless charity working in Thetford.

Both Ron and Mary can give you further information on “Chapter 15”, plus they have a very informative website, detailing items that they are happy to receive.

Why are they called Chapter 15?

Nadine, the founder of Chapter 15 chose this name to reflect some significant '15's' in her life. This included founding Chapter 15 (in its original format) in 2015.

She also wanted the charity to reflect her Christian faith and God's heart to reach out to those most in need. This is demonstrated very powerfully in Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel in the New Testament. Here, Jesus tells some earthly stories we could all understand to reflect deeper heavenly truths. Luke chapter 15 contains three wonderful stories of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Lost Son.

The Lost Sheep: In this story one sheep out of a hundred goes astray and even though it may not be missed amidst such a large flock, the

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday, 6th March at 2pm at Diss Methodist Church

The service has been prepared by Christian women of NIGERIA and is entitled '*I Will Give You Rest, Come*'

The service is based on Matthew 11:28-30 and focuses on finding solace, peace, and spiritual renewal amidst life's struggles, burdens, and anxieties.

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POWER SOURCE

I've got this little piece of tech,
No doubt you've got one too.
It breathes new life into my phone
When it is tired and blue.

I plug it in - and magically
The power begins to flow!
I take it all for granted,
The 'how' I do not know.

And then I started thinking,
How our Lord's power might flow
Into our tired and stressful lives
That He in us could grow.

***His Spirit is the power source,
Available and free,
And prayer the heavenly cable
That channels it to me!***





A Prayer for March



Lord, awaken in me the joy of your presence!

Spring! Season of renewal,
re-awakening,

Out of winter's darkness colour breaks,
a sudden joy after lifeless days!

The miracle of new life.

Lord, you gave up your life
to give us life,

life in all its fullness

springing out of your death.

As you renew the face of the earth.

Lord, renew me!

Like spring daffodils bringing joy,
awaken in me

the joy of your presence.

Amen

WALK OF WITNESS



The Good Friday Walk of Witness on April 3rd from Mere Mouth in Diss to St Mary's Church will be led by the new Rector, Rev'd Elizabeth Burren. Meet for the walk at 10am at the Mere Mouth or at St Mary's Church for the service at 10.30am.

"Spring is in the Air"

A floral celebration of renewal and
resurrection

Saturday 4th April 2026

1pm - 4pm

at Wattisfield Chapel

with Tea and Hot Cross Buns



All money raised over this
weekend will be donated to
CHAPTER 15
Thetford Homeless Centre
(see next page)



Then...

Join us on Sunday 5th April at 11am
for an ...

**EASTER CELEBRATION
SERVICE**

& Easter refreshments

