

Village Voices December 2009



Village Voices is produced by the parish churches for the local community providing news and information for:
Guyhirn-Gorefield-Murrow-Parson Drove-Rings End-Tholomas Drove-Thorney Toll-Wisbech St Mary

A very happy Christmas to all our readers!

"O come all ye faithful"

Services at Christmas

Sunday December 13th:

United Carol Service, WSM church, 3pm.

Thurs December 17th: WSM and Guyhirn Schools' service. 9.30am.

Thurs December 17th: "Antedote to Christmas". Quiet reflection in WSM church, from 7pm.

Friday December 18th: Christmas Festival, WSM church, 7pm.

Sat December 19th: Bell Ringers' Carol Service. WSM church. 4pm.

Sunday December 20th: Annual Carol Service, St Paul's church, Gorefield. 6.30pm.

Christmas Eve: *Midnight Mass*, Emmanuel church, Parson Drove, 11.30pm.

Christmas Eve: *Midnight Mass*, WSM & Guyhirn church 11.30pm.

Christmas Day: Holy Communion St Paul's, Gorefield, 9.00am.

Christmas Day: Holy Communion. Emmanuel, Parson Drove 9.30am.

Christmas Day: Family Communion. WSM church, 11.00am.

"Glory to the New-born King!"

TEA SERVICES AT W S M

The next Tea Service at Wisbech St Mary Methodist Church will be on November 25th when a talk will be given by Mark Clingo. The services start at 4.30pm.

Please email news, etc. to paynews@btinternet.com or on paper to Anne Wallis in Guyhirn (450466) Elaine Harvey in Gorefield (870558) David Pearce in Parson Drove (700454) Brian Payne in WSM (410755)
For advertising, e-mail ads.villagevoices@btinternet.com
Or phone Terry Brigden on 450481.

JOIN THE BIG SING AT GOREFIELD

We are once again hoping to raise the roof of St Paul's church, Gorefield, when everyone meets for the extremely popular annual Carol Service on Sunday December 20th at 6.30pm.

Come early to get a seat!

Mince pies and a seasonal drink will follow whilst you chat with friends!

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES Jesus said "I am the Light of the World"

Christingle services will be held in each church on Sunday December 6th as follows:

Emmanuel, Parson Drove: 9.30am

St Paul's, Gorefield: 10.00am.

WSM & Guyhirn church: 11.00am.

These are special family occasions when children and adults alike are invited to bring their Christingles as we remind ourselves of why Jesus was born in Bethlehem. See November's Village Voices if you have forgotten what a Christingle is or how to make one.

CALLING ALL CAROL SINGERS!

The organisers of the annual carol singing around Wisbech St Mary village are looking for volunteers. They will be starting from the Church House at 5pm on Sunday December 20th. Please come and join them, its great fun!

Details from Wendy on 410451.

Vicar's Christmas Verbals

The first big storms have arrived and, as I write this, the trees at the back of the Vicarage are being buffeted by the autumn winds. Last night we were at Ely Cathedral for a confirmation service and the great stone interior was a shadowy and magnificent shelter from the driving rain and howling winds outside. As we gathered in its lofty chambers we felt cosy and protected in the womb of mother church. Churches are often places of refuge for people who are battered by life's storms and this is a time of year when painful memories sometimes come back to rattle against the windows. We do not pretend to have all the answers at church, but we aim to make church a safe place where joys and sorrows can be shared amongst friends who are on a common spiritual journey, where fellow travellers each have tales to tell of successes and failures, of hopes dashed and fears overcome. I hope you will find time to visit one of the Churches or Chapels at some time over the Christmas period, and that you will receive the generous welcome and blessings which I received when – uncertain and unbaptized - I crossed an unfamiliar threshold and sat in a chilly pew twenty-eight years ago.

Matthew.

Rev M L Bradbury, BA, The Vicarage, Church Road, Wisbech St Mary, Cambs. PE13 4RN.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Village Voices

Would contributors please note that copy for the January 2010 issue of *Village Voices* should be handed in **by the 11th December**. This will enable us to get the issue printed, and hopefully delivered, before Christmas.

The editorial and advertising teams of *Village Voices* would like to express their warmest thanks to advertisers and correspondents for their support during the year, and especially to the wonderful band of people who deliver the newsletter each month. To all of you we offer our best wishes for a very Happy Christmas.

The Register

We say farewell to our friends, and send our love to their families

Peter Kellie, of Guyhirn, whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Friday October 16th.

Peggy Cooves, whose funeral service was at St Paul's, Gorefield, on Thursday October 22nd, followed by burial in the churchyard.

Ivy Payne whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Tuesday October 27th.

Nellie Drew whose funeral was at Mintlyn on Thursday November 5th.

In memoriam

Kathleen Cunningham, whose headstone was set in Parson Drove churchyard on Friday October 23rd.

Keith Bailey, whose ashes were laid in Gorefield Garden of Rest on Friday October 23rd.

Eileen Duffield, whose ashes were laid in Parson Drove churchyard on Friday October 30th.

Clarice Whitwell, whose ashes were laid in Parson Drove churchyard on Wednesday November 11th.

THANK YOU HILARY

Mrs Hilary Warby has resigned as honorary secretary of Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Parochial Church Council, after over ten years service. Tributes were paid to Hilary at a recent meeting of the PCC, and she was warmly thanked for her contribution to the church's work in the parish.

GUYHIRN CHAPEL OF EASE

The last of the occasional services for 2009 in Guyhirn's seventeenth century Chapel of Ease will be held on Sunday December 13th at 9.30am.

Residents of Guyhirn are invited to indicate whether these services should continue, and if so, do they need to be adapted or altered in any way. Please contact Brian on 410755 or by e-mail

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT GUYHIRN

The Guyhirn Village Hall committee are doing something a bit special this Christmas. They would like to invite everyone in Guyhirn and the surrounding villages to '**Carols by Candlelight**', a free Christmas concert in Guyhirn Village Hall on Sunday 20th December starting at 3pm. There will be solo performances from local music talent as well as classic carols for everyone to sing, followed by refreshments. The organisers hope that everyone will get together as a village, meet new people and have a wonderful festive afternoon!

Gemma Harvey says " We are lucky to have a great community space available for use in the village hall. Although the hall may not be perfect and does need some more work, it's a space that is adaptable for all kinds of village events, as well as private bookings. It's all change at the moment with a new recently formed village hall committee and we would love to have some input or contributions from the other people living in and around Guyhirn. So pop along to one of our monthly committee meeting and air your views!"

MOTHERS' UNION

On Tuesday November 3rd we discussed the Autumn Council that was held on October 17th. Our Christmas meeting is on December 1st with Marjorie Palmer at 2.15pm in the Church House, Wisbech St Mary. Everyone most welcome. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.
Lilian Brigden.

+ Regular Services +

St Mark's Methodist Church, Parson Drove

Dec 6th: 10.30. Mrs J Killingback.

Dec 13th: 9.30. United service, Parish Church

Dec 20th: 10.30. Mr Newton.

Dec 27th: 10.30. Mr M Brown.

Murrow Methodist Church

Dec 6th: 10.30. Miss D Bailey.

Dec 13th: 10.30. Revd N Hannah.

Dec 20th: 10.30. Carol Service. Revd Jacqueline Goddard

Special Services

Circuit Service, Dec 27th: 10.30. Circuit United Service at Upwell.

Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Parish Church:

Every Sunday exc 1st :- 11am. SUNG EUCHARIST.

1st Sunday:- 8am Communion, 11am Family Service

3rd Sunday:- Evening Prayer: 6.00pm

Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove:

1st Sunday in month:- 9.30am Family service.

2nd & 3rd Sundays:- 9.30am Communion.

5th Sunday:- 9.30am Communion or Morning Prayer

4th Sunday:- United Service at St Mark's 10.30am.

Emmanuel Flower Rota: Dec 25th: Mrs P Spriggs, Mrs P Judge, and other help, please

St Paul's Church, Gorefield:

except 3rd Sunday. 10.00am: Holy Communion

3rd Sunday. 8.00am: Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

*Some people think of Christmas
As sleigh rides in the cold
A tree that glistens of tinsel
And baubles of silver and gold.*

*Some people think of Christmas
As stockings dressed in red
A crackling glowing fireplace
And a warm and cosy bed.*

*Some people think of Christmas
As faces filled with glee
Sharing stories, fun and laughter
And gathering 'round the tree.*

*Some people think of Christmas
As gifts wrapped up in blue
Writing letters to their loved ones
And Christmas carolling too.*

*Some people think of Christmas
As snow falling on the ground
The hustle and bustle of shoppers
And the joy that's spread around.*

*Some people think of Christmas
As Christ on Christmas day
And families joined together
With heads bowed down to pray.*

*Some people think of Christmas
As the Lord who dwells above
Who sent His son to die for us
And gave the gift of love.*

**The Glory of the Lord shall be
revealed, and all mankind shall
see it.**

Isaiah 40:5

THE CHRISTMAS MART

The Christmas Mart in Wisbech St Mary Church House will be on Saturday December 12th from 9am to sell-out (usually 10am).

Seasonal Fayre will be available alongside home-made cakes, produce and jams together with a raffle. Shoppers are invited to stay to have a cup of tea or coffee and catch up with all the local news!

FATHER CHRISTMAS EXPECTED AT BOOK CAFÉ

Father Christmas has kindly agreed to visit the Murrow Book Café on December 12th, between 12 and 2pm. There will be a treasure hunt game and children can chat with Father Christmas, and he might have time to read a story. He might also have presents for children. There will be mince pies and tea/coffee for parents.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Emmanuel church, Parson Drove, is holding its annual Christmas Fair in the Village Hall on Saturday December 5th from 2pm to 4pm. Roll up, roll up, for the fun of the fair!

PARSON DROVE AMENITIES 95's FESTIVE EVENTS

A **Cabaret Night** is to be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday December 12th**, when a 4-course Dinner will be served, followed by entertainment. Doors open 6.30 for 7pm start. Tickets £20 per person. Details: Gordon Ford on 700519 or John Cook on 701324.

A **Family Party** is arranged for **New Year's Eve** in the Village Hall, starting at 8pm. There is to be a Disco and Ploughman's supper. Tickets £6 adults, £2 children under 12. Contact Gordon or John as above.

THORNEY TOLL FAYRE

Thorney Toll's Christmas Fayre will be held in the Village Hall on December 5th 2009, starting at 7pm. "You bring it, we'll sell it," All funds to Village Hall, Come along and have a great night, everyone welcome.

VIEWS OF WISBECH 50 YEARS AGO

The October meeting of the Gorefield Ladies group, was held in the Village Hall & was open to all. It was very well attended by members & guests, who enjoyed listening to Kevin Rodgers on life in Wisbech around 50 years ago. Slides, including some of the local businesses and buildings, were shown and many of the audience recognised them and the people who worked there. Kevin was thanked by Glenys Grimm and the proceeds of the raffle were donated to Wisbech Lions. Refreshments were served by Jean Mills & Jenny Blackwell, and names were taken for the Christmas meal, to be held in December.

Marion Fisher had celebrated her birthday in October.

The next meeting is November 25th, at 7.30pm. in the Village Hall with a demonstration of Sugar Craft, by Paula McCleod, from the Creative Cake Co.

Start the New Year by learning a new hands-on craft. "How to do Marbling Card or Print Decoration", by Ali's Crafts on January 27th 2010.

St MARK's CHRISTMAS FAIR

Parson Drove Methodist Church's Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday December 12th from 10am to 1pm. Various stalls including Cakes, fruit and veg, bring and buy, etc. Everyone welcome.

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Gorefield Playing Field Association are holding a Christmas Bingo in the Church hall on Friday December 11th. Doors open at 6.30pm and Eyes down at 7.30pm. There are excellent prizes, a raffle, and refreshments.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Wisbech St Mary School PTFA are holding a Craft Fayre in the school on Thursday December 10th from 2 to 4pm.

Everyone is welcome. Visit Santa in his grotto, look around the craft stalls and join in with the games. Refreshments, cake stall, chocolate fountain and much much more, including face painting, tombola and a Christmas raffle.

DON'T FORGET YOUR SCISSORS!

At the November meeting of Wisbech St Mary Women's Fellowship, Eileen Plater and her choir entertained us with songs and recitations.

December's meeting in the school is on Thursday 3rd and will be a Christmas activity session - don't forget your scissors - or your Christmas gift.

Tickets will be on sale for our visit to the Welney Wetland Centre on February 11th 2010 to see the floodlit feeding of the swans. Tickets are £10 - to include entrance fee, bus trip and refreshments.

Liz Hunt & Mary McClagish

MURROW METHODIST CHURCH

The beauty within.

The Chapel in Murrow has been a spiritual presence in the village for over 120 years. From the outside it is rather dull and nondescript but when you enter it the space is big and when the sun shines the stained glass windows are magnificent. They were added to the Chapel in the 1930s paid for by people of the village and are lovely examples of decorative windows with an Art deco feel. Seventy years on the windows need refurbishing, the frames need specialist work and the cross bars need replacing with stainless steel. Each window costs £1,500 to refurbish and so far we have managed to save four complete windows and have started some work on the next four windows leaving the

front windows until last.

For a number of years now members of the Church and helpers have held a monthly stall to raise funds to maintain the building and keep a spiritual place in the village, now that it is the only church remaining in the village that is still open every Sunday morning. The stall is stocked by the people of the village who donate goods, cakes, books, bric-a-brac, plants, puzzles and all sorts of stuff. Members of the passing public drop in to buy and so it goes on month after month, rain or shine. Everyone is grateful to the many that have supported our efforts and we hope to keep the Chapel open for many years to come.

Donations of goods are most welcome and the stall is open on the second Saturday of every month from 11.30- 2.30pm. It will be open on 12th December and 9th January. Morning service takes place every Sunday morning at 10.30am and is open for all.

We hope to see you there.

Eileen Sattin.

GUYHIRN CHURCHYARD

A recent house-to-house collection towards the maintenance of the churchyard realised £444.59. Collectors were Anne and Will Wallis, Ann Preston, June Clenshaw, Marjorie Cotterell, Steve Moore, Barry Britain and Alan Bliss.

The organisers wish to thank the collectors, and also to John and David Wilson, who this year retired after many years of helping with the annual collection. Steve Moore was welcomed as a new member of the team.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR PARSON DROVE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our AGM in November was celebrated as usual with a Sausage Supper, prepared by members. This was followed by the business of the evening. The President, Mrs S Burks, announced her resignation, and Mrs Dorothy Hopkins was appointed as our President. Members then discussed the programme for 2010. At the end of the evening Mrs Sylvia Burks was thanked for all her hard work, and was presented with an orchid by Mrs Hopkins. **Ann Payne**

A NEW LOOK AT THORNEY TOLL

Thorney Toll Village Hall has recently had a makeover which included a complete new kitchen, toilet refurbishment, a new coat of paint and some electrical work which included a new bar refit. The committee would like to thank Roddons and Apollo for helping with the funds and work.

The chairs are now over 20 years old and are worn out, and the Hall committee are now in the process of raising funds to buy new chairs. To help with this there is another Auction Night with a Christmas theme on December 19th at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. All donations gratefully received. Please contact Councillor John Fish on 07887754869 or any committee member.

There is a Christmas Party for children on Christmas Eve from 7pm to 10pm, and a New Year's Eve party in Village Hall from 8pm to 1am with John and his disco.

Everyone is welcome to see 2010 in at Thorney Toll!

VISIT BY HILGAY BAND

Hilgay Silver Band will give a concert in Parson Drove Village Hall on Saturday December 5th at 7.30pm. Proceeds are for St Mark's church

BOOK BARGAINS IN THE NEW YEAR

After Christmas there will be a second-hand Book sale on the second Saturday of each month starting on January 9th, at the Murrow Book Café. Tea/coffee and cake available too.

WSM SHORT MAT BOWLS

WSM Short Mat Bowls Club meets in the Village Hall each Monday evening 7pm to 9-30pm. New members are very welcome. Contact 01945 410452 for details."

PRIZE BINGO AT MURROW

Murrow Primary School are holding a Prize Bingo evening, with excellent prizes, in the school on Thursday December 3rd. Doors will open at 6.30 and "eyes down" at 7.30pm. There will be a raffle and refreshments Everyone welcome

WSM LUNCHEON CLUB

December's Luncheon Club date at the Bridge Inn, Wisbech St Mary, is Tuesday December 9th at midday. Please would members contact Marjorie on 410511, or the Bridge on 410555 if you can not attend.

Christmas Greetings to you All!

MURROW BOOK CAFÉ SEEKS UFOs

The Book Cafe now opens on Tuesday mornings from 10-12pm. As well as the usual books, computers and jigsaws the group is interested in visitors bringing in any craft projects they are working on, such as a piece of knitting, cross- stitch, tapestry, papercrafts etc.

The idea is to give yourself a little 'me' time in a group of like minded people. Sit and gossip, eat cake and relax without feeling guilty at the housework around you. Un Finished Objects (UFO's) are a thing of the past!

Our usual times are Tues.10-12, Thurs 2 - 4 and 2nd Sat of the month 12-2pm. Our Saturday sessions also have the popular book sale. No book costs more than 50p

Santa visits on December 12th with gifts for the children and mince pies for anyone too big for his knee.

**Come and join us. The Book Cafe needs your support.
Diana Thrower.**

ALL PLANETARIUM STARRING AT PARSON DROVE

All the pupils of the Payne Primary School, Parson Drove, were treated to a fascinating show and talk about the Solar System in an inflatable Planetarium recently. This was given by the owner of the Planetarium, astronomer Mr Andrew Green BSc. who is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and a Fellow of the Interplanetary Society. Only a few months ago, he led a party to China where they were chasing the shadow of a total eclipse of the Sun. He also goes to the U.S.A. to Cape Kennedy for launches of space rockets.

To accommodate all the pupils, Mr Green had to give three shows, as the Planetarium could only hold 30 children sitting on the floor. Mr Green projected the night sky with the Solar System onto the inside of the dome. Although not huge, the dome was too big for the School Hall or the Village Hall, and thanks to Mr Graham Fowler, the dome was erected in one of his barns near the School.

It was particularly appropriate for the children to have this wonderful opportunity in this, the "International Year of Astronomy". It was arranged and paid for by the John Peck Society, whose Chairman, Mr Stuart Smith, is a keen amateur astronomer with a variety of telescopes. The President of the John Peck Society, Dr Francis Pryor, who is the archaeologist who discovered Flag Fen at Peterborough and often appears in the T.V. "Time Team" programme, was introduced to many of the children during the morning. The Headmaster of the Payne School, Mr Michael Hill was most enthusiastic and helpful in the arranging of this inspiring morning. Certainly a morning the children will remember.

NOVEMBER WINNERS AT MURROW

The latest Murrow 200 Club winners are:

Mr Dolman - Wisbech
Mrs B Haw - Parson Drove
Mr B Coates - Parson Drove
Mrs J Roche - Murrow
Mr D Lister - Wisbech
Mrs James - Wisbech
Miss S Chapman - Wisbech
G Searle - Murrow

SECRETARIAL HELP NEEDED

Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Parochial Church Council is seeking an experienced Secretary. This voluntary position is not onerous, and is mainly minute taking with some correspondence. The PCC usually meets bi-monthly in the Church House at Wisbech St Mary. Details in the first instance from the Vicar on 410814.

SWAN BRIDGE SAFETY MEASURES

Parson Drove Parish Council is collecting signatures for a petition asking for road safety improvements to be made to The Swan Bridge, Parson Drove. The Council is concerned about the number of accidents that occur at Swan Bridge and want to see improvements made. The Parish Council would like as many people as possible to support the petition by signing a copy at either The Post Office or Vialls' Shop in Parson Drove by mid- December.

JOHN BEND'S UNITED CHARITIES PARSON DROVE

Parishioners of Parson Drove, who are over 65 and have lived in the parish for 5 years or more, are invited to apply for the annual grant. Grants are available for anyone not working and who are experiencing problems with living costs, etc.

Because of the fall in interest rates, money is limited this year, and the above criteria will be adhered to. Proof of income may be required. Everyone must apply for an application form, which must be returned by December 31st 2009, from the Clerk, Mrs T Jarvis, Swan Bridge Farm, Fen Road, Parson Drove, PE13 4JP. Telephone 01945 700697.

CALLING ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS!

The Wisbech and District Flower Club meet every 3rd Monday in St Peter's Church Hall, Wisbech, at 7.30pm. Flower arranging demonstrations by NAFAS members are enjoyed, together with practical workshops. Anyone who likes flower arranging is invited to join the Club. Details from Betty on 582668.

FUNDS FOR FURTHER EDUCATION

There are still funds available from the Wisbech St Mary Pools Allotment Charity to help anyone in the parish engaged in further education, whatever your age. Please contact the clerk in writing, sending proof of payment for university fees or purchase of books etc. This will save time and allow us to reimburse you more quickly. The Charity only meets two or three times a year and therefore it may a few months before you receive a reply.

Mrs C Jobson
Clerk to the Charity
30 Les Baux Place, Wisbech, Cambs
PE13 2SU Tel. 01945 474364.

A small boy ponders the school's forthcoming Nativity Play

"This year...

This year can I be Herod?
This year, can I be him?
A Wise Man? or Joseph?
The Inn man, or a King?

This year....

Can I be famous?
This year, can I be best?
Bear a crown of silver,
and wear a golden vest?

This year....

Can I be starlight?
This year, can I stand out?
Feel the swish of the curtains,
and hear the front row shout?

"Hurrah!" for good old Sonnie, he
brings a gift of gold!
Head afire with tinsel,
"The Greatest Story told!"
"Hurrah for good old Herod" and
shepherds from afar!

So, please don't make me a palm
tree,
Please can I be a **STAR** ?"

Peter Dixon.

Julie's Patch
Pc Julie Coales, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

JOIN THE SPEED WATCH SCHEME

Residents who know motorists are speeding in their area and want to take action are being urged to join a Speed Watch scheme. Cambridgeshire Police are looking for help to assist and educate the public regarding their speed and road safety and are trying to recruit volunteers to help out with a Speed Watch Scheme.

A community support officer said: "The idea is that members of the community receive appropriate training with a speed recording device which is then taken out into the community and used.

Any speeding motorists have their registration number logged and receive a letter from us advising them they have been caught speeding."

Anyone wanting to take part in the scheme should call Pc Julie Coales on 0345 456 4564 ex 3799, or e-mail julie.coales@cambs.pnn.police.uk Once enough people have signed up, an officer will be in touch with a date for a meeting.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

CAB personnel will be in attendance at the Pavilion, Parson Drove Sports Field, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm on Tuesday **December 22nd**.

**ACTIVITIES AT
PARSON DROVE**

Short Mat Bowls Club meets in the Village Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays, 2pm to 4.30pm. Each session £2.

Luncheon Club meets at the *Butcher's Arms* alternate Thursdays at midday, Details from M Shelley 700729

Whist Drives are held on the third Tuesday of each month at St Mark's.

The Fitness League meets Thursdays 9.15am to 10.15am at St Mark's.

Contact Helen 01406 330565.

Line Dancing at the Village Hall on Tuesdays 1.30pm to 4pm, and Wednesdays 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Michelle 701239.

COMING IN THE SPRING

**THE GREAT WISBECH ST MARY VILLAGE
AUCTION**

Watch this space!

THANK YOU 1

Andy & Dawn would like to thank all the villagers and customers for making us so very welcome since we became the new licensees of the **Bell Inn, Murrow**, in August. Our first Harvest Festival was a great success, we raised £310 for the Macmillan Nurse's, so a big "thank you" to all who donated items and a big thank you to all for your generosity in raising the money.

We would also like to announce that we have started to provide pub food to order.

Our opening times are Tues to Thurs: 5 to 10.30pm, Fri & Sat 12 to 11pm and Sunday 12 to 10.30pm. Closed on Mondays. Telephone 700422.

Saturday night is Play your Cards right, with a jack-pot of £100, and Quiz Nights will start soon on Sunday nights.

Andy Kedziora.

THANK YOU 2

On behalf of the PTFA and the children at Wisbech St Mary Church of England Primary School we would like to thank everyone who participated in the Fireworks Spectacular night on Saturday November 7th. The event raised an enormous amount for the children and will go towards the wish list from the children. **Jackie Ford.**

THANK YOU 3

The Sausage Supper and Auction on November 7th in aid of Parson Drove Sports Facilities was a great success. The annual event raised £1000. The organisers wish to thank those who helped, Trevor for his auctioneering skills, and everyone who went along and supported the evening.

THANK YOU 4

Mrs Wendy Foster, of Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn church, would like to express her warmest thanks to all who contributed to the annual collection for the Church of England Children's Society.

This year the magnificent sum of £300 was raised, an increase of £70 on last year's total. Well done, everyone!

THANK YOU 5

Pauline and Mary would like to say a big "thank you" to all who gave prizes, helped and supported them at their Bingo night. They raised a magnificent £530 for MAGPAS funds.

CASEY & BARBARA's BINGO

The next sessions will be on December 10th in Parson Drove Village Hall. Proceeds for the annual Christmas Party.

Disclaimers. 1. *The editors of Village Voices rely on news from parishioners or organisations being factually correct, and therefore can accept no liability for any late changes in the details of any event*
2. *Persons conducting business with those who advertise in this magazine do so at their own risk and the editors and management committee of Village Voices can accept no liability for any losses that customers may sustain by responding to adverts published in these pages.*

Stir Up Sunday

Stir Up Sunday is the popular and splendid name for the Sunday before Advent. By tradition it was the last occasion on which Christmas puddings and cakes could be begun if they were to be ready by December 25th. Surprisingly, the name has nothing to do with stirring the pudding mixture. It was called Stir Up Sunday after the Collect in the service for that day: *"Stir up we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people, that they plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded"*. Stir Up Sunday does not fall on the same day each year; nevertheless it always falls within the last half of November.

Plum porridge was the earliest form of plum pudding, and like mince pies, it was originally not sweet at all, but made of meat. An early recipe states that beef and veal should be boiled together with sack (a once popular wine from the Canary Isles), old hock, sherry, lemon and orange juice. To this was added sugar, raisins, currants, prunes (the dried plums which gave their name to the mixture), cochineal, cinnamon and cloves. The whole thing was thickened with brown bread. This was the ancestor of our Christmas pudding, meat being omitted early in the nineteenth century.

Christmas cake is a much later tradition, only appearing in the middle of the nineteenth century. It was really only plum pudding further solidified, without the alcohol, so as to make it suitable for family tea, which, as a meal itself, dates back no further than Victoria's reign. From the 1870s the decoration of the Christmas cake was treated with great seriousness, and specially made decorations were sold.

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

The locations, stops and arrival times are:

Alternate Tuesdays:- Dec 1st, 15th and 29th Murrow Station Ave 10.30 Murrow Front Rd Paddocks 10.55 Parson Drove The Bank 11.15 Parson Drove Newlands Corner 11.40 Parson Drove Henlow Farm 12.10	Alternate Wednesdays:- Dec 2nd 16th and 30th Gorefield School 15.15 Post Office 15.40 Mill Height 15.55	Alternate Fridays:- Nov 27th, Dec 11th, Jan 8th Rings End March Road, 10.00 Guyhirn Selwyn Corner 10.25 Bunkers Hill Lay-bye 10.45 WSM Cannon Close 11.05 WSM Church Road 11.30 WSM Blundell Terr 11.55 Lev Common Pear Tree Cres 12.15 Guyhirn Chapelfield Av 15.20
Enquiries: at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library or 0345 045 5225		

Useful contacts

Churches	Schools	Health & Security
Revd Matthew Bradbury 410814	Gorefield School 870321	Parson Drove Surgery 700223
Lilian Brigden (Reader) 450481	Gorefield Pre-school 870439	North Cambs Hospital 585781
Revd Nigel Hannah [Methodist] 466426	Guyhirn School 450247	Queen Elizabeth Hospital 01553 613613
Village Halls (bookings)	Murrow School 700357	Social Services 481100
Gorefield 870829	Murrow Pre School 07754758332	P. Drove Surgery Car Service 07766534280
Guyhirn 450835	Payne School Parson Drove 700275	WSM Community Car Scheme 07592407283
Murrow 700212	Parson Drove Pre-School 07880 606450	Gorefield Social Car Scheme 01945 870539
Parson Drove 700729	WSM School 410312	Childline 0800 1111
Thorney Toll 07887754869 or 07961957878	WSM Play Group 07944 719586	Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
WSM Village Hall 410539	Websites: www.guyhirn-online.org.uk	Dog control/Animal welfare 01354 622442
Parish Council Clerks	www.gorefield.com	Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Gorefield 870454	www.wisbechstmmary.org.uk	Fenland District Council 111101354654321
Parson Drove 700501		Samaritans 08457909090
Wisbech St Mary 474191		Victim supportline 08453030900
		Police (non-emergency) 0345 456 4564

WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

November 2009 NEWSLETTER

Wisbech St Mary is one of the largest parishes in Fenland District.
It includes Murrow, Guyhirn, Thorney Toll, Tholomas Drove and Wisbech St Mary.

List of Councillors

Name	Address	Telephone No
Mr C Allen	Halls Farm, Wisbech Road, Guyhirn, Wisbech, Cambs	01733 849300
Mr P Barnes	Westview, 38 Murrow Bank, Murrow, PE13 4HB	01945 700200
Mr B Britain	Fort Farm, Gull Drove, Guyhirn, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 4BH	01733 849262
Mr J Carney	52 Murrow Bank, Murrow PE13 4HD	01945 700569
Mr P Davies	Riverside, Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4ED	01945 450234
Mr J Fish	17 Lindens Close, Thorney Toll, Wisbech PE13 4AR	07887754869
Mr C Fryett	Llanberis, Gull Road, Guyhirn PE13 4ER	01945 450340
Mr T Fowler	Bramble corner, Plash Drove, Tholomas Drove, PE13 4SP	01945 410425
Mr J Parrin	Paradene, Church Road, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4RN	01945 410539
Mr B Payne	7 Churchfield Way, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SY	01945 410755
Mrs D Thrower	Acquest, Front Road, Murrow PE13 4JQ	01945 700213

List of Parish Council Meetings for 2009/2010

Mon, 7th December 2009 at The Chequers Tholomas Dr
Mon 4th January 2010 at Guyhirn Village Hall
Mon, 1st February 2010 – Thorney Toll Village Hall
Mon, 1st March 2010 – Wisbech St Mary Sports Pavillion
Mon, 29th March 2010 – Murrow Village Hall
Mon 26th April 2010 – The Chequers, Tholomas Drove
Mon, 24th May 2010 – Guyhirn Village Hall - Annual
Assembly 7pm followed by the Annual General Meeting

Mon, 21st June 2010 – Thorney Toll Village Hall
Mon, 19th July 2010 – Wisbech St Mary Sports Pavillion
Mon 16th August 2010 – Murrow Village Hall
Mon, 13th September 2010 – The Chequers, Tholomas Dr.
Mon, 11th October 2010 venue to be arranged
Mon 8th November 2010 venue to be arranged
Mon, 6th December 2010 venue to be arranged.
Mon, 10th January 2011 venue to be arranged

Parishioners are invited to attend any of the above meetings. Please do attend and voice your opinion on any subject relevant to the Parish during the Open Forum at the beginning of every meeting. The Parish Council is very pleased that at least four parishioners are attending the Parish Council meetings on a regular basis, together with a representative from the Police, District Cllrs R Scrimshaw and C Bellamy, County Cllr Mrs Jill Tuck, and Fenland District Council's Neighbourhood Community Development Officer. who is working with Parish Councils to update Village Plans and try to gain grants to enable as much as possible from each of the Village Actions Plans to be brought to fruition.

Precept

The Parish Council on the 12th October 2009 built a budget for the financial year 2010/2011 and has set the precept at £43,732.00 which is no increase on last year's precept. The Council felt that in these difficult times they were unable to justify any increase. It intends to continue with the grants to local clubs and associations as far as possible within financial constraints.

Highways Matters

The Parish Council was unsuccessful in their two bids for jointly funded minor highway improvements. These bids were for a footpath at Bunkers Hill from Rat Row to Bridge Inn and a footpath in Station Road, Wisbech St Mary. The Council will, of course, re-apply in the next bidding round in 2010/2011.

The Parish Council continues to identify areas that are in need of streetlights, and if there is an area where a streetlight is needed, please contact either one of the councillors or the clerk. The Parish Council continues to identify roads and footpaths that are in need of repair and continue to lobby the Highways Department to ensure that this work is carried out as soon as possible.

We continue to carry out maintenance work on all bus shelters owned by the Parish Council.

Guyhirn Pond

An Action Group has been set up in Guyhirn to try to regenerate the Village Pond which is owned by the Parish Council. Grants have been received and it is expected that this work will commence as soon as work has been carried out on the trees on the site.

Notices and Agendas of meetings together with Council minutes are displayed on all the parish notice boards and the minutes are on the Wisbech St Mary website on www.wisbechstmary.org.uk.

Mrs C Jobson

Clerk to the Council

30 Les Baux Place, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2SU Tel. 01945 474364.