# Clenchwarton Your Village News

## March 2023



## **ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH**





#### New Parish Safeguarding Officer for three parishes – Clenchwarton, West Walton and Walpole St Peter

Until recently the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) for the three churches had been undertaken by the very overworked Rector for all three Parishes, the Revd. Barbara Burton, who also has responsibility for a further five churches for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Jan Taylor, who moved to Clenchwarton with her family in 2021 and started attending St Margaret's church, had been the Safeguarding Office in her previous parish of Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire. When she realised the situation in the three parishes here, she offered to undertake the triple roles, realising that this is a vital role in the ministry of the church. Jan's professional life had been in Health and Social care culminating in lecturing and assessing on the subject, with safeguarding being a mandatory and core part of the curriculum.

Jan said "As most people realise, the church in general does not have a good record in safeguarding, with many horrific cases of abuse only now coming to light, and therefore it is extremely important that we do all we can to ensure everyone is fully aware of their own responsibilities. The role of the PSO is to help everyone understand how they can achieve this, making sure that key people have the appropriate training and also a DBS check. This is part of being compliant with the Church of England and the House of Bishops statement of due diligence with regard to safeguarding. The PSO is also someone who can be approached, in confidence, if you have any concerns about someone, be it about a child or vulnerable adult."

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January, Jan was commissioned as Parish safeguarding Officer by Revd. Burton at the joint service for all three parishes held at Walpole St Peter. She will be working closely with all three church councils. However, this role is not just for the benefit of people who attend church but for anyone living within the parishes.

Jan can be contacted on 07725 940453.

#### Clenchwarton Church Rector; Reverend Barbara Burton

Church Wardens; Richard Brown – 01553 775200 Debra McGowan – 01553 773467 warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk Parish Safeguarding Office; Jan Taylor – 07725 940433

Please contact Debra McGowan for Baptisms, Marriages, etc **Our church address is :** 

St Margaret's Parish Church, Church Road, Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, PE34 4EA Website https: // clenchwarton-church.org.uk



#### Welcome to your Magazine

This is a monthly magazine and contains adverts from local businesses near you, village and church news and "what's on in the village" as well as articles from our parishioners and the church community. We hope it is a valuable resource for newcomers to the village as well as our long-standing residents.

#### St Margaret's Church Services

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am Communion Saturday 12th March 10.00am Morning Prayers Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am Communion Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March There will be no service at St Margaret's Church. Instead there will be a joint service at the Methodist Chapel starting at 10.30am.



Everyone is welcome to our services, no matter what their age. We look forward to seeing you.

## **Methodist Chapel Services**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am Joella Nash
 Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am Rev Jackie Goddard (Holy Communion)
 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am Barbara Foster
 Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am Worship Team



Everyone is welcome to our services, which are particularly stimulating as we approach Easter. Any queries please ring 07792 677891



## Village Diary

To all those organising events in the village, please let us know the date place and time so we may publish it in the Village Diary. Thank you.



**Parish Council** meetings 1st Thursday of every month beginning at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

**Coffee Mornings** Every Thursday at St Margaret's from 10-12 noon.

Clenchwarton Village School Bingo 7th March 6pm

Walking Group Saturday 11th March at 10.30am from the village school.

**Monthly Lecture WW1** Saturday 18 March 2.30pm in the Chapel. Is months speak is Paul Evans. Details back page.

Lecture Plants Saturday 15 April 2pm Methodist Chapel

#### **Parish Election**

There will be an election on 4 May for the Parish Council and West Norfolk Borough Council.

It is important for Democracy and for the smoother running of the council for elections to take place but for this to happen, there needs to be enough candidates. Please consider whether you have the ability to represent fellow villagers on the council and if so please contact the Borough officials in Chapel Street to get the necessary forms.

In order for candidates to introduce themselves to the electorate, the Parish Magazine will allow each candidate to provide about fifty words as to who they are and why they consider they should be elected.

This will be printed in the April and May editions and is open to existing councillors.



#### PILGRIMAGE

Not many of us have been on a pilgrimage or have thought about going on a pilgrimage although our whole life is a sort of journey, but we are not totally aware of where we are going and each turn of the road comes as a surprise. In the past everyone was expected to take a pilgrimage at some time in their lives, so our ancestors in the middle ages are more than likely to have partaken one.



Where would they have gone?

The ideal place of pilgrimage was Jerusalem and the Holy Land. A trip there was almost impossible, however, because of the sheer difficulty of getting there and the dangers of the journey let alone the dangers of Jerusalem and the Middle East as well. The next best alternative was Rome, the seat of the Holy See. Many wealthy individuals did head for Italy, not only to Rome but also to delight in the treasures to be seen in other Italian cities like Florence and Venice. It was not the easiest or safest journey, however, and most people could not afford it or have the time off that would be needed to get there and return home. Some would have chosen Santiago de Compostela which was slightly easier to get to than Rome but most could still not afford it or be allowed the time off work. It was necessary, therefore, to have places of pilgrimage in this country and two possibilities were found. After the murder of Thomas Becket in the Cathedral, Canterbury became one centre of pilgrimage but even before the extra importance of Canterbury, Walsingham in Norfolk was important as the primary place to go in England. My ancestors were largely in East Anglia so it would have been more than likely that they would have visited Walsingham.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was established in 1061. It was founded by Lady Richeldis who was reported to have had apparitions. A miracle soon was alleged to have occurred at the site because the chapel was found fully completed a short distance from its original site. It was therefore surmised that Our Lady had chosen this site for a holy place herself. The chapel was destroyed under orders from Henry v111 in 1538 only to be restored in 1922. Various routes to Walsingham were devised and crosses were erected when you reached parish boundaries. At Easter when most people would go on their pilgrimage, people would leave food and water at the crosses for the walkers. One of the Walsingham Ways went through Clenchwarton and a cross was present at the junction of Ferry Road and Jubilee Bank. The crosses would have been impressive but due to weathering those that remain are in a sorry state. The cross at Clenchwarton was removed to what was considered a safer spot and can be found in the churchyard where it has listed building status. Let us assume we are back in the Middle Ages. It was more than likely that most of my ancestors were farm labourers. The farmer or Landowner who they worked for would not want any one to disappear in the summer or autumn when there were plenty of jobs on the farm and the harvest was due. Winter and Easter were quiet times on the farm and the Landowner who would often have employed the vicar or rector would maybe have a word with the vicar to preach about the importance of taking a pilgrimage which was considered a duty to undertake during your lifetime. Up to 1538 the Church of England did not exist so everyone was a Roman Catholic.

Today, it would seem most daunting to walk long distances for days on end, but then they were used to manual work and walking a lot more as there were no cars and only the Landowners owned a horse. In the numerous wars that took place, the cavalry were the well to do. The workers would be the infantry and a few would be archers if they had practised since childhood and were accomplished at the art. My ancestor would have walked I would imagine and he is about to start his journey.

What would he see?

Next month we will attempt to walk in his



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#### **Events for your Parish Church**

May  $4^{th}$  – Coronation Celebration Coffee Morning – 10am-1pm in the Church.



May 27<sup>th</sup> – The Clenchwarton Quiz -7pm in the Church.

June 10/11 – Open Garden Weekend – Come and visit some of the lovely gardens in the village.

July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Church Barbeque at Hadleigh Lodge, Blackhorse Road.

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – Craft Fair in Church.

These events are designed to raise funds for the Church. More details nearer the date for each event. Watch this space.

#### **Methodist Church Events**

As many of you may be aware the Methodist Church has had a difficult time of late and it was felt by some that it would be impossible to continue. Following a special meeting, I am pleased to be able to confirm that Clenchwarton Chapel will continue to provide weekly services and has a programme of events which it is hoped will bring in much needed funds to allow our bills to continue to be paid.

Please support us in the following events:

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March "A Tourist on the Western Front" (WWI). This is the latest in our monthly lectures which is being provided this month by Paul Evans who many of you will know as Clenchwarton's representative for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. 2.30pm at the Chapel.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Easter Activity Morning. Family Activities including biscuit decorating and Easter bonnet decorating. A charge of £5 for this event to include hot cross buns and refreshments.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April. The latest of our lectures. Details in the next Parish Magazine.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Plant Sale with a light lunch available. At 2.00pm there will be the latest of our monthly lectures to be on plants and given by David Foster who has the most amazing garden from his property in Main Road.

Further Lectures will be on the third Saturday of each month usually starting at 2.30pm.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Quiz similar to Pointless but in teams -7.30pm

Further details to be in future magazines.



#### Coffee Mornings at St Margaret's Church These are on Thursdays between 10-12 noon

Do come along for a drink and a friendly chat.

The coffee mornings are going really well, with a wonderful group of Ladies and Gentlemen joining us every Thursday.

Please contact Debra if you require transport to get to any coffee morning. We look forward to seeing you.

(Debra McGowan)

#### **Bible Study Group**

Wednesdays meetings at 2pm have paused for a few weeks.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Penny Snape on 01553 773142.

### Walking Group

Everyone is invited to our next walk which will be on Saturday 11th March starting at 10.30am from the village school.

According to a report in a National



Newspaper, walking is better for you than

joining a health club. As there is no cost, it is far cheaper too. Furthermore, you get to join in our conversations.

Ours costs nothing. New walkers welcome.

It could be the best Saturday morning you have ever experienced!

#### Mobile Library Service Timetable for 2023

The Mobile Library normally visits every 4 weeks on a Friday. It will be on the following dates in 2023. Mar 10, May 05, June 02, 30, July 28, Aug 25, Sept 22, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15 It will not visit in April because of a Bank Holiday.

#### At the following places and times Clenchwarton:

Coronation Road 9.40 to 9.55 Margaretta Close 10.00 to 10.15 **Rookery Close** 10.20 to 10.35 Rectory Drive 10.40 to 10.50 St Annes Crescent 10.55 to 11.10 Linford Estate 11.15 to 11.30 Hall Road (Junction Robin Kerkham Way) 11.35 to 11.50 Blackhorse Road 1.00 to 1.20 Wildfields Close 1.25 to 1.35

36 Station Road



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This month's quiz is on letters of the Alphabet. 1 Which is the most commonly used letter in the English Alphabet? Is it a) A b) E c) I d) R or e) N? 2 Which Chemical Element has the symbol P? Is it a) Platinum b)Potassium c) Phosphorus d) Plutonium or e) Tungsten? 3 The author of "Three Men in a Boat" was known by his first name and surname which were both identical and what letter in between? a) J b) C c)S d) K or e) B 4 The football club now called West Brom were known for many years by 3 letters. The first two were WB. What was the third letter? a) A b)L c) S d) M or e) C 5 Which letter is given to the road junction where you are forced to go either right or left? a) S b) Y c) F d) L or e) T 6 Which vitamin deficiency is the cause of Rickets? a) A b)B c) C d) D e) E 7 The author of the Father Brown stories was always known as G K Chesterton. But what did the GK stand for? a) George Kenneth b) Geoffrey Keith c) Graham Kenneth d) Gilbert Keith e) Godfrey Kingston 8 Which Chemical Element has the symbol W? a) Water b) Wolfrithium c) Manganese d) Bromine e) Tungsten 9 What is the name of the musical note which is printed midway between the treble staff and the base staff? It is known as the Middle? a) E b G c C d B e D10 Which letter derives from the Semitic language and is thought to represent in its earliest form waves of water? a) W b)M c) S d) C e) N **Good Luck!** The answers follow on a different page of the magazine.

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#### **Clenchwarton School PTA**

are holding a BINGO Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March Doors Open 6.00pm Eyes Down 6.30pm at Clenchwarton Village School Refreshments available. Lots of Prizes. Everyone Welcome.

#### **Pastoral Letter**

#### Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....

The arrival of March traditionally heralds the start of Spring and its promise of better weather, although we can also be visited by 'the Beast from the East'. The saying is that "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb" but, however unpredictable the weather, March always provides a wealth of important dates in the Christian calendar.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March we celebrate St David's Day, the National day for Wales, with images of daffodils and leeks, and just over a fortnight later on 17<sup>th</sup> March comes St Patrick's Day, the National day for Ireland, with St Patrick's Day parades taking place all over the world. On 19<sup>th</sup> March this year we celebrate Mothering Sunday. Originally this had nothing to do with mothers but instead related to the "mother" church - the parish church that had jurisdiction over nearby chapels or village churches, and which it became traditional to visit in Mid-Lent. When village congregations visited the nearby mother church, older children who were living away would meet up with their families and so mothers of children were embraced into the mothering theme from the 1600's. Also, young people in domestic service were allowed a home visit at this time, being six months since they were hired at autumn fairs. This became known as going 'a mothering', or 'mid-Lenting'. Walking home they would pick wild flowers for their mothers. The lesser-known St Joseph's Day also falls on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Little is known about Joseph, the carpenter who married the Virgin Mary. He may have been a builder and an architect as well as a carpenter and being much older than Mary he is thought to have died before Jesus began his public ministry. One week later, on 26<sup>th</sup> March, British Summer Time begins, and we put the clocks forward one hour. Summertime beckons, and it is only two weeks to Easter Day.

#### From the Little Yellow Smart Car



How do you feel about reading? Do you find it easy or hard? Do you read for fun or only when it is necessary?

Families with children at school will be aware of World Books Day – this year celebrated on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. It can be a colourful occasion in schools, where children and teachers often dress up as a character from their favourite book. In Catalonia, in the early twentieth century, it was already a tradition to give books away to family and friends, in honour of the Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes, (who wrote Don Quixote) and in 1995, UNESCO created a day to promote reading and celebrate publishing. Countries from all round the world join in. It was originally set to be April 23<sup>rd</sup> because it was the date of death given for several prominent writers – including Cervantes and William Shakespeare. That's not a good day for UK schools – it usually falls in a holiday and it is St George's Day – so it is usually the first Thursday in March.

99% of the people in the UK are literate, but that still means that one person in every hundred struggles to read and write. Government data suggests that the average reading age of adults in the UK is between 9 and 11 years; and that 8 million adults in the UK find reading hard, and many more don't have confidence to tackle unfamiliar texts – forms and official documents. It can be embarrassing to admit that you are struggling and people find lots of different ways to manage, but help is available so that everyone can find a way to enjoy words. If you, or someone you know finds reading hard, please reach out and ask for help.

In the Christian calendar, we are now in the season of Lent and we are following the story of Jesus to Easter. There is joy in reading, hearing and studying the Bible – the words about Jesus and the words of Jesus. The words that come into focus at this time of year are like flowers unfolding in the sunshine to reveal their beauty and scent: salvation, temptation, sacrifice, repentance, forgiveness, service, passion, redemption, life, death, resurrection. Each word is an invitation to investigate, journey with, pray to, or receive from God. We can consider the characters in the Bible stories and how they are like us. We can celebrate the storytellers, who have passed on and written down the Bible. We can recognise the universality of these words – that God's loving action is for all people everywhere. We can find and deepen our relationship with Jesus, who is called the Word. The love, joy, peace, truth, justice and hope which the Christian faith points to is God's gift to us all.

Choosing to explore theological words can open up the world and bring new insights. It allows us to engage with one another and deepen our understanding. We are all learning and I hope that you will enjoy Lent, not as a time for giving things up, but for deepening your faith.

**Every blessing.** Rev'd Jackie Goddard Tel 07881 952098. Email: j.goddard@methodist.org.uk



#### **Clenchwarton Parish Council**

#### Clenchwarton Parish Council Meeting, 2nd February 2023

I was unable to attend this session so have transcribed events from the video footage instead.

**Public Forum** – a resident brought up the ongoing risk around the Wash Lane junction, another made an allegation of bullying and a third raised concerns about the latest planning application surrounding the proposed grain store off Station Road. The fourth person to speak was a representative from the same development and talked through the various issues that had been raised locally.

Councillor Kemp's report for NCC was next - County have decided to raise Council Tax by 4.99% although this will still result in an overspend of some £20m and as part of this the mobile library service remains under threat. The first piece of funding to move Lynn library has been received and Cllr Kemp expressed her support for various local public transport initiatives in order to keep people moving, especially while the Southgate revamp takes place. Lastly, the controversial Wisbech incinerator plan remains firmly in her sights too. Councillor Whitby then gave his report on behalf of the Borough – details of a new battery recycling service (where you put your used batteries in a bag and put it on top of your black bin.), voters will need to show ID when the elections happen in May and the Southgate area revamp has been given the green light for funding.

**Finance** – payments were approved although there was a discussion about some of the charges surrounding the PC's use of the Memorial Hall. The budget for the coming year was then discussed including the precept amount of £53,722. A decision was then taken to buy an accounting package, given the dire state of the finances currently. VAT hasn't been collected for the last 3 years and so urgent attention is now required. Staff wages are also now being outsourced too.

**Village matters –** the Pavilion roof still needs fixing. The dykes around the field have been flailed and cut back but need clearing as the precise locations of the pipes that help drain the rear field are still unknown. The overgrown dyke down Clapper Lane will be addressed by Cllr Pell and Craig the Groundsman.

Matters then moved to the Groundsman's tractor and it's roadworthiness. Cllr R Moore has been progressing this with the insurers and needed a V5 going forwards. Cllr Collison then stated that the tractor was unsuitable to be on the road for a number of reasons. Councillors then decided to buy a trailer too which Cllr Collison also disagreed with so he announced that he was resigning and promptly walked out. Finally, everyone agreed to buy the Groundsman some tools. **Planning –** Councillors discussed the previously mentioned agricultural store on Station Road. Cllr R Moore said they were between the Devil and the deep blue sea but he supported it. Cllr Bell said it was a hugely complicated, technical and controversial subject. Cllr Thornalley had every sympathy for the residents and Cllr R Moore said that during his training he was told that they didn't really have a voice anyway which drew a sharp disagreement from the Clerk. Cllr Pell wanted more information before he could form a proper opinion. The Clerk #suggested 'No comment' to which Cllr Bell countered with 'No competence'. Things got confusing at this point but, from the footage, it appears that It was agreed to defer to the Borough Council instead.

**Parish Poll** – the Electoral Registrations Officer has asked if the new questions need to go back for consultation to the wider village and also stated that it is also extremely unlikely that a Poll would take place before the May elections anyway.

After some minor pieces of chuntering the public were ejected at 9:05pm so Council could move into closed session.

Parish Council meetings are usually the first Thursday of every month. The Agenda's are published on the Parish Council website go to https://clenchwartonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/

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#### Pepper Fen. Episode 25

(The village of Pepper Fen is fictitious and is not based on any particular village. None of the characters are based on real people living or dead.).

The mist swirled around the river and the moisture lay on the window panes making it difficult to see outside but it all seemed deserted. To Matis it seemed eerie, as if the outside accurately reflected what he was feeling inside. What was he going to do? He was cornered and just when he was beginning to feel optimistic for the future. "Shall I make us a cup of tea?" came the call from the kitchen and Matis nodded, and then realising she could not see his nod, answered to the affirmative. "I'm sorry" he said, "but you do understand don't you?". She entered the room and put a tray on the table. "What are you going to do?". "I don't know" he admitted, "When will you be missed?".

She shrugged, I kind of hoped, expected, that I would have been missed already. I've never been late for work before".

"They won't miss me" Matis reported, "but I have nowhere to go". Gabrielle reflected that she might now lose her job. May even go to prison, but surely not, she was not protecting a real criminal, not protecting a murderer. She knew she was now committed to Matis, she had chosen him over her job. They needed a joint plan but what would work?

The Rector could not help feeling worried. Was he getting forgetful? Should he be concerned about dementia? Usually he could remember people and remember names but he just could not recall where he had seen that girl before. Something about her was familiar but her excessive make-up and attire and possibly hairstyle were all wrong. Who was hiding behind the disguise? Then it occurred to him. Of course, different colour hair, and completely different style, and face largely covered, but the eyes were always the give away. He knew who it was. Should he tell her parents. It would remove a lot of their worry, but what if they were the cause of her problems. He found the phone book and looked up the number. He moved to the phone and picked up the receiver. He knew who he should call. He was sure he was doing the right thing but he wondered what she was escaping from. He hoped help, professional help, was on its way.

. . . . . ./ . .. .

Fiona drove into Pepper Fen. She parked in the square and was about to get out of the car and go to Gabrielle to see why she was missing from work, when the rector rushed out of the rectory. "Gosh you were quick" he exclaimed, "I have only just rang".

Fiona was amazed. What was it about Pepper Fen? Whatever had happened now? She did not let on the true reason for her visit but listened intently. Were the mysteries of Pepper Fen about to be solved?

#### To be continued.....



## Poem by Audrey Winter Insomnia

Oh what can I do to get some sleep I am worn and restless I just want to weep I decluttered the bedroom to make the room calm bought cosy bedding that wasn't too warm A clock that's beside me to tick through the night with rhythmic beating to help with my plight My blackout curtains keep the room dark But the ship of dreams won't let me embark I've tried all night to count some sheep but they keep me awake as they constantly bleat So instead I'll just try to lie here awake But I somehow nod off then I'm up at daybreak.



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# Clenchwarton Village Official Group

Private group · 1.2K members

This group is run for Clenchwarton residents - it's not run by the Parish Council and takes a neutral standpoint in all local issues and matters. Residents are encouraged to contribute but it's under the conditions that we all talk to each other with respect and regard.







## Magpie Centre.



There is a **Quiz Night** with Hog Roast Supper (plus veggie alternative) scheduled for **Saturday, 22nd April,** at Stowbridge Village Hall, Downham Road, Stowbridge, PE34 3PE.

Teams of 4-8 people are welcome or come along and make up a team on the night. Bring your own drinks (and glasses).

Tickets are £12.50p each. To book: call: 07715 467866 or email magpieccfcraft@outlook.com.

There is a **Craft Fair** on **Saturday 3rd June at** the Magpie Centre, 10am-4pm at Wallington Hall, South Runcton, PE34 0EP. Stalls, 3m wide, are available at  $\pm 10$  per pitch in the indoor school, to book call the telephone number or email as above.

The Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.

For information just call the centre. Telephone: 01553 810202

Email: magpiecentrewnrda@hotmail.co.uk

Wallington Hall, Lynn Road, South Runcton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE33 0EP



Puzzle Page Answers. How did you do?



1 b (E) 2 c (Phosphorus) 3 d (K) 4 a (A) 5 e(T) 6 d (D) 7 d (Gilbert Keith) 8 e (Tungsten) Water and Wolfrithium are not even elements! 9 c (C) 10 b (M)

### HCPC REGISTERED PODIATRISTS

Mr. Stephen Horsburgh DPodM MR CPod Mrs. Elizabeth Horsburgh DPodM MRCPod

#### **The Podiatry Clinic**

75a Station Road, Terrington St Clement Kings' Lynn, PE34 4PL

#### Tel: 01553 829788

Free car parking, ground floor clinic and open Saturday morning www.kingslynnpodiatry.co.uk

Registered with the Health Professions Council www.hcpc-uk.org

#### G & A PLANTS & FLOWERS

We are sorry but unable to offer our Plants and Flowers Services at

present.



Gemma & Alison Norman

Tel: 01553 828227

98 Lynn Road Terrington St Clement PE34 4JX alisonnorman@sky.com



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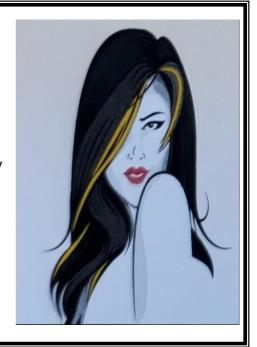
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Head Office; Garolla Ltd Unit A, Confederation Business Park, Lowfields Way, Leeds, LS12 6HQ How to Order A Copy of your Parish Magazine

If you would like to receive a copy of the magazine, there is a small charge.

Please contact Grahame 01553 769819 or Debra 01553 773467

# THURSDAYS

## The Pavilion, Churchgate Way **Terrington St Clement**

**PE34 4PG** 

9am & 10.30am, 5:30pm & 7pm

## Call Tina: 07798 894 639



slimmingworld.co.uk Slimming 0344 897 8000



### Nature Watch

This report is made up of a number of different sightings from many places in the village. Thank you for being so observant and telling me what you have seen.



Let us begin with the snowdrops which are so beautiful at this time of year (I am compiling this report in mid-February). I am so proud of my clump but others have much more impressive clumps and they bring a welcome reminder of the approach of Spring. There has been much discussion in the National paper as to where the snowdrop originated. It is not a flower native to this country but it does appear to have been present for some time. The likelihood appears to indicate that it

originally flowered in central and eastern Europe and was brought over here in the late middle ages. They were often planted by ecclesiastical buildings where they often provided luscious carpets leading up to the monastery or cathedral and due to their time of flowering were known as Candlemas bells. I remember many years ago visiting York in early March and walking along the wall. From one place on the wall there was a good view of the minster and I remember it looked particularly impressive with the area between the wall and the cathedral being carpeted with snowdrops, crocus and daffodils.

No 'Nature Watch' can be complete without reference to birds and there have been a couple of unexpected seasonal sightings. We turn first to the Blackcap. This is not a rare bird but I have only recently seen one in the village. It was up a tree and singing merrily. Blackcaps are noted for their melodic singing which generally takes place in early Spring as they try to attract a mate. One has been seen in Robin Kerkham Way and this was unusual because it was seen at the garden bird feeder. Blackcaps are not supposed to be garden birds. Perhaps it was the same Blackcap seen in Ferry Road but it would be nice to think there are at least two of different sexes in the vicinity.

The Starling is a bird that many people turn their nose up at, but it is of considerable benefit to the gardener. In Blackhorse Road and Church Road a large number have been seen dancing in the sky. It is called a murmuration and may have been caused by something upsetting them at their normal roost site. It is reported that they were a pleasure to watch and the murmuration continued for some time before they flew off in the direction of Margaretta House.

#### Parish Magazine

The annual subscription for the magazine is due in April. We have held it at  $\pounds$ 4 but many people pay  $\pounds$ 5 or more for which we are very grateful. You can pay the monies to whoever delivers your magazine or you can drop the money into one of the following addresses:

16 Blackhorse Road 10 Rookery Road 18 Margaretta Close

If you are putting the money through the letterbox please remember to put your address on the envelope so we know who has paid and where to deliver to.

For those of you who also advertise with us, the renewal will also be due in April.

We thank you all for your continued support

## Contact your magazine

Editor; **Grahame Sampson** on **01553 769819**. Email articles to <u>grahamesampson@btinternet.com</u> or drop off at 18 Margaretta Close, Clenchwarton.

We need your articles in by **14 Mar for the April Edition.** Just send to Grahame thanks.

All other enquiries and advertising enquires; **Debra McGowan** on 01553 773467 or email at <u>warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk</u>

The advertising and magazine subscriptions help keep the magazine in print and provides some funds towards the church projects. If you can help with the magazine let us know.

https://clenchwarton-church.org.uk

#### WARM HUB ST MARGARET'S, CLENCHWARTON.



# St Margaret's Church is open every day and heated between the hours of 10am—4pm

This is for all in the village Please do come along and take advantage of this great opportunity. Tea/coffee and biscuits is also available.

Bring a friend, a baby / toddler, a book, your knitting, a sandwich. You may be by yourself, or there may be other people there. You may make new friends.

Supported by Clenchwarton Parish Council and Norfolk Community Foundation through the Surviving Winter Community Hot-Spot Fund.

#### **The Clenchwarton Lectures**

The next lecture is on **Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 2.30pm** at the Methodist Chapel. It is entitled "**A Tourist on the Western Front" (ww1)** and the speaker is Paul Evans who lives in the village and is in charge of the Royal British Legion Poppy Collection in the village. I am sure it will be well worth listening to, so come along. You will be most welcome.

The April lecture will be on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April** at the slightly earlier time of 2.00pm. The speaker will be David Foster who has the most amazing garden so it is no surprise that he will be talking to us **about plants**. On the same days you will be able to purchase seeds at the chapel. More about that later on.

If you have a subject you can speak for more information, please contact me. I will be pleased to hear from you.

Contact 01553 769819 or email: grahamesampson@btinternet.com