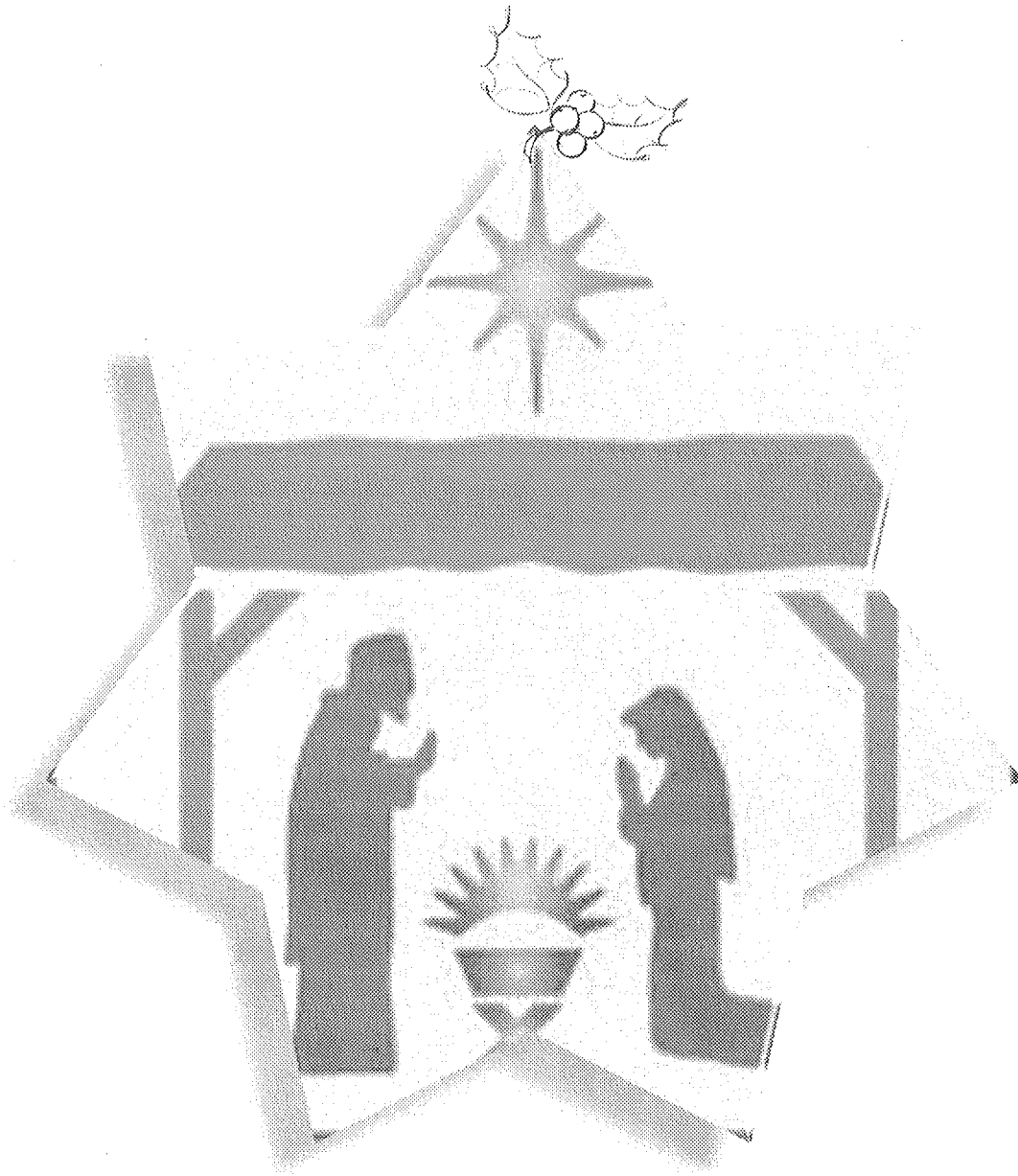


Fiskerton Parish News



December 2014

Vicar's Blog: December 2014

I am writing this blog at the end of the week in which we held Remembrance Sunday and then stopped for a time of silence on 11th November. I had the privilege of spending that time at Willow Court, holding two minutes of silence with staff and residents together – how moving that was. It made me think again about 'stopping', how little we do it, but how important it is that we pause to reflect. In the case of Remembrance we need to stop and remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives, and pray for our desperate need for peace. How often do you stop, and reflect?



This week I have just put the finishing touches to our services for December. It's a great time, but it will be a very full month. It will be really important during that time that we take time to stop and think about what we are doing and why we are doing it. There are so many demands on us at this time of the year. The Christmas ads have begun, offering us a quick fix Christmas, perfect pictures of the perfect Christmas Day, actually it's often not like that is it? It wasn't like that in the beginning. As we celebrate Jesus birth, we remember that actually his coming into the world was very messy. Born away from home, in a stable, in a frightening place – it was there that the miracle happened, the world stopped and a child was born to be Son of God. It's that that we need to take time to pause and reflect on as we approach Christmas – its significance and meaning for us now, so many years later.

Every blessing for a peace filled Christmas

Penny

PS Here's something that might help a bitesize text. If you are a texter, and would like to stop and think about the true meaning of Christmas, Text FOOD F8 to 88802. For 7 days you will receive a short text giving you a bitesize thought for the day that will help you to stop. It's free. Give it a go!

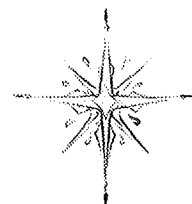


Fiskerton Village Carol Service will take place on Wednesday December 24th. - Christmas Eve - at 6pm in St. Clement's Church. Do come and join everyone at this joyful service of readings and carols.

*After the service there will be some seasonal refreshments
This is a lovely start to Christmas for everyone in the family.*

To arrange Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals please contact:-

Rev. Penny Green (Priest in Charge)	The Vicarage, Church Lane	
	Cherry Willingham	01522 595596
Churchwardens:	Mrs L. Forman	Applegarth, Ferry Road Fiskerton 01526 398316
	Mrs A Townsend	25 St. Clement's Drive Fiskerton 01522 595109
Church Key also available from:	Mrs M Gibson, 14 Ferryside Gardens	01522 752117
Benefice Website:	www.southlawresbenefice.org.uk	

SERVCS for the Lawres Group**DECEMBER 2014****7th. 2nd. Sunday in Advent**

8am Holy Communion at Cherry Willingham
9.15am Morning Praise at Fiskerton
 10.45am Holy Communion at Greetwell
 4pm Messy Church at Reepham

14th. 3rd. Sunday in Advent

9.15am Morning Praise at Reepham
9.15am Holy Communion at Fiskerton
 10.45am Holy Communion at Cherry Willingham
 4pm Christingle at Cherry Willingham

18th. Thursday

2.15pm Fiskerton School Christingle at Fiskerton Church

21st. 4th. Sunday in Advent

9.15am Holy Communion at Fiskerton
 4pm Family Worship at Reepham
 6.30pm Compline at Cherry Willingham

24th. Wednesday – Christmas Eve

9.30am Holy Communion at Cherry Willingham
 3pm Crib Service at Reepham
 3pm Crib Service at Cherry Willingham
6pm Carol Service at Fiskerton
 11.30pm Midnight Mass at Reepham
 11.30pm Midnight Mass at Cherry Willingham

25th. Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion at Greetwell

28th. 1st. Sunday of Christmas – Holy Innocents

9.15am Holy Communion at Reepham

Holy Communion will be held at Cherry Willingham Church at 9.30am on:-
 Wed. Dec. 3rd, 10th, & 24th.

Service Rota for December

Dec.	Sidesman	Reader	Intercessions	Cleaning
7 th .	Carol Proctor	Gill Walkinton Isaiah 40: 1 - 11	Lynda Forman Ferry Road	
14 th .	John Fletcher	Paul Forman Isaiah 61 1 – 4 & 8 - end	CLERGY Village Post Office	Carol Proctor & Sandy Massey
21 st	Sandy Massey	Lynda Forman 2 Samuel 7: 1–11 & 16	CLERGY Orchard Road	Annette Townsend & Jean Lunn
23 rd .	Lynda Forman & Annette Townsend			
Jan 4 th .	<i>Gill Walkinton</i>	<i>Carol Proctor</i>	<i>Lynda Forman.</i>	

Church Commissioners.

At the Neighbourhood Plan Cheese and Wine consultation evening on the 21st of October, the Church Commissioners came across as insensitive and intransigent to the wishes of the village. They intend to apply for outline planning permission to erect 38 houses on the Manor Farm Paddock, in the centre of the village. This is in spite of the fact that they know that the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and 80% of the villagers surveyed don't want any development of the paddock.

I want to make it clear, as was said at the meeting, that the Church Commissioners are totally separate from the Church of Saint Clement of Rome in Fiskerton. We get no support from them.

The money to maintain the building and support the activities is mainly raised by the Parochial Church Council and parishioners, together with some generous grants from our patrons, the Mercer's Company in London.

The Church Commissioners own a great deal of property in the country. Some of this is in and around Fiskerton. As well as this land they control a £6 billion investment fund. With this they raise over £200 million a year. They use this money for the benefit of the Church of England.

£120 million on clergy pensions.

£40 million on maintaining Bishops, their houses, staff and cathedrals.

£40 million on Mission and Ministry

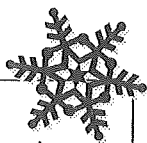
One of the ways in which they raise money is by developing some of their land.

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) of St. Clement's Church met on 10th November. The Paddock was on the agenda.

The P.C.C. agrees with the Parish Council that there should be no development on the paddock. We will communicate our opposition to their plan both directly and through the presentation/consultation that they intend to hold in the Village Hall on Monday 24th November.

Paul Forman

Lay Chair St. Clement's P.C.C.



Winter Church Opening

The church will **not** open on Tuesday mornings during most of December and all of January, anticipating the cold weather.

The last opening will be 9th December 2014 and we will re-open Tuesday 3rd February 2015

Thank you to all our volunteers who make the open Tuesdays possible

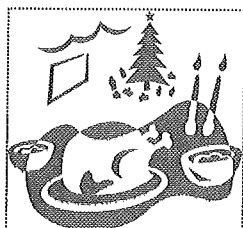
'Friend's of St. Clement's Lottery:

November Draw Winners:

£25	No 4:	Mr A Gibson
£10	No 21:	Mr R Smith
£5	No 12:	Wendy Watson
£5	No 20:	Lois Woodthorpe

What's On in DECEMBER:

In The Village.....



THE LUNCH POT

Join us for Christmas Lunch. It will only cost you £3. 00 pp
The date for **December** is **Tuesday 2nd**. To Book a place, please call Mary on 595291
Happy Christmas from all at Lunch Pot

FISKERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thursday 4th. December 6pm

Hot turkey or pork rolls

Raffle

Tombola

Cake Stall

Mulled wine, tea & coffee

Fun & Games

Visit from Father Christmas

Entry £1 to include drink and mince pie



December 11th. 7.30pm in Fiskerton Village Hall

PARTY NIGHT with 'TWO SMOOTH'

We hope as many of our WI members as possible will be with us for our December entertainment. Members are asked to contribute items of food for the supper. Please contact the Secretary if you are not already on the list. Thank you

MOBILE LIBRARY:

Please note the date and time for the Mobile Library van.

It will be at the Village Hall on **Wednesday December 10th. from 3.45pm – 4.15pm.**

Charity New Year's Eve Family Party

Fiskerton Village Hall December 31st.

7.30pm – 'till late

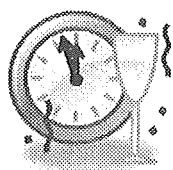
DISCO & BAR

All proceeds in aid of St. Barnabas Hospice (Charity No. 1053814)

Adults: £7 Children under 12yrs. £3.50

PARTY TICKETS available from Liz: 07748432427 or Debbie: 07931294710

Over £250 worth of raffle prizes to be won on the night



**Church for Life in today's world:
lively, engaging, informal**

Sunday Services – December

All services are family and youth-friendly, usually with a vibrant children's programme (Kidzone). Coffee and cake served from 10.45am

7th 11am at Fiskerton Village Hall – with KidZone

14th 11am at Reepham & Cherry Willingham Village Hall – with KidZone

21st 11am at Fiskerton Village Hall – Christmas Special

25th (Christmas Day) 11am at Fiskerton Village Hall – short Christmas Day service

28th NO SERVICE

Connect groups for all ages, providing a social setting for you to connect with people, understand the Bible and grow in faith

Adults : Tues 8pm, Cherry Willingham, Wed 8pm, Fiskerton

Souled Out – after school on Mondays 3.30-4.30pm - hot dogs, games, life and faith for 11-14year-olds

The Third Thursday Book Club

For women who love to read a good book and talk about it with friends. We read a wide variety of good books. A different one each month. Copies available for you.

December 18th. sat 7.30pm

For further details contact Veronica:

01522 872011

The Mix for 11-17 year-olds

Friday Nights 7pm

Lots of different activities

Tel 876996 for details

For other church activities,

www.thevinecommunitychurch.org.uk

(01522) 872011 (Church Office) The

Vine Community Church Reg. Charity

1142056 is part of the Ground Level

Network of Churches

The Vine Church is linked to a children's home and home for abandoned babies in Kenya, through regular support and short-term work as volunteers in the homes; there is a range of opportunities to get involved in this important work.

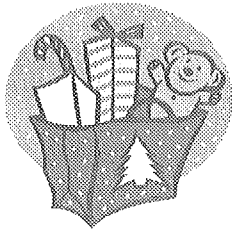
FISKERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



**WE ARE HAVING A WINE AND CHEESE EVENT ON MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**SEE THE SECOND DRAFT OF OUR PLANS AND SUGGESTIONS AND CONTINUE THE
DISCUSSION ON YOUR PREFERRED OPTIONS FOR OUR VILLAGE WITH THE PLANNING
COMMITTEE AND PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

ARE YOU CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ON LINE?



YES.....

Then you can help raise funds for
St. Clement's Church
Without it costing you a penny!



With: easyfundraising.org.uk

How it works

easyfundraising.org.uk helps **charities** and other **good causes** to raise money when their supporters **shop online**. It works in a **similar way to many other loyalty shopping sites**, but instead of earning points when you shop, **you raise a donation for your cause instead**. It's as simple as that!

You can shop with over 2,000 well known stores and each will donate up to 15% of what you spend.

It doesn't cost you a penny more.....

plus they've got lots of **voucher codes** and **special discounts** so you can actually **save money** while you help your good cause. There is no cost for the good cause either – **the service is totally free**. Once you've registered, when you **shop with one of the retailers**, the system makes a note of your purchase, **collects the donation** from the retailer and **passes it to your chosen good cause**.

What to do.....

- Visit easyfundraising.org.uk
- Search for Fiskerton PCC (This is the name we are registered as with the Charity Commission)
- Follow the simple steps to sign up.

Thank You

NETTLEHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE

FRIENDS & FAMILY TEST

From 1st December 2014, the practice will be participating in the NHS Family and Friends patient feedback scheme which asks patients one simple question about the practice. Patients will be able to leave their feedback either via completing a postcard and placing in the boxes which are available in both waiting rooms at Nettleham and Cherry Willingham surgery or by completing the question online via the practice website. We want to encourage patients to complete this survey as the practice values all patient feedback. The results will be collated monthly and displayed in the waiting rooms and on our website.

ONLINE SERVICES

At present the practice offers online repeat prescription ordering and appointment booking. The number of patients signing up to use these services is increasing and this year for the first time the practice has offered online booking of flu vaccination appointments. This has been very well received with in the region of 200 appointments being made in flu vaccination clinics. If you wish to start and use this service, please call into one of the practices with a form of photographic ID and the receptionist will be able to provide you with your unique login details.

From April 2015, the practice will be expand its online services to include patients having access to elements of their clinical records. Our full statement of intent can be found on our website.

SPECTACLES

On behalf of Vision Aid Overseas and Rotary Club of Lincoln, the practice would like to thank all patients who have donated their old spectacles for developing countries. The practice was recently presented with a certificate for this which is displayed in the foyer at Nettleham.

MONTHLY EARLY CLOSURES FOR TRAINING 2014/2015

In order to enable our doctors and staff to be kept up to date Nettleham surgery will be closed for training at 1pm on the following afternoons. Emergency help is still available by calling 111. Tuesday 16th December 2014; Tuesday 20th January 2015; Tuesday 10th February 2015

Finally we would like to wish all of our patients a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone - 01522 751717 (When the surgery is closed please ring Freephone 111)

WEBSITE – www.nettlehammedical.co.uk

PRACTICE MANAGER – HELEN LUNN

CHERRY WILLINGHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

Do you enjoy singing?..Yes
so men and ladies

Come along to
The Church Hall, High Street
Cherry Willingham LN3 4AQ
7.30-9.30pm

when

Monday 1st & 8th December 2014
5th & 19th January 2015

Tea & Coffee

We will be singing a variety of songs including:-

Emmanuel by Chris Tomlin, In the Bleak
Mid Winter, Jingle Bell Rock + more

For more info please contact

Jane Mob. 07720050214

E-mail jane.george1@ntlworld.com

Supported by The Vine Community Church



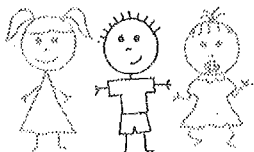
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- Before and after school care
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Flexible and reliable References available on request

For more information call

01522 753828 / 07825 741723



www.loobylooschildcare.co.uk

Rascals Baby & Toddler Group



Thursday's* 9.30am – 11.00am

At Cherry Willingham & Reepham Village Hall

Our aim is to provide children aged 0-4 years with an opportunity to socialise and learn through play.

£1.50 for an adult & child then 50p for any extra person.

There are lots of activities provided including messy play, art and singing, plus a healthy snack and drink.

Please call Louise on 01522 753828 for more information

* There is NO session on the 3rd. Thursday of every month

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Email: enquiries@clearviewopticians.co.uk

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For a service you can rely on call 01522 753646

Showroom: 01522 548366

John Nottingham mobile: 07939 558786

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What's On in DECEMBER:

In The Area.....



**Ladies come to the
ROSIE LEA CAFÉ, Cherry Willingham**
for a good breakfast, friendship and chat
on Saturday 6th. December at 8.45 for 9.00am.



This month our speaker is Dorothy Jackson. Revd. Margaret Harrison

Cost: £5.20 - Lifts can be provided.

So come and join us by ringing Jan 753432 or Ann 800209



Charity Coffee Morning at Cherry Willingham Church Hall
from 10am – 11.30am on Saturday December 13th.

This monthly coffee morning is always well supported and all profits go to charity.
So come along and enjoy coffee, cake and the opportunity to purchase Fairly Traded
items from groceries to socks!

Charity Coffee Morning at Reepham Methodist Chapel Hall
from 10am – 11.30am on Saturday December 20th.

Come along for delicious coffee and cake, meet up with friends
and give your support.

There will be a Traidcraft Stall for groceries and last minute gifts.



Men2gether

A lot more than just a Men's Breakfast

Interested in Friendship, good food, good conversation and a warm welcome?
Come and join us for our next breakfast, which is on **Saturday December 13th**.

Where? **Rosie Lea Café, The Parade, Cherry Willingham.**

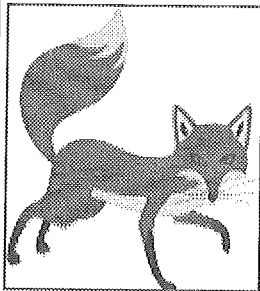
Time? **8.30am for 8.45 start; Finish approx. 9.45am**

After breakfast, usually a Christian speaker will share a lifetime experience.

Cost- normally £5.20 payable when you arrive.

To book a place, or places, please email David Burrows,
david@theburrows.net, or telephone 01522824836
by the preceding Wednesday

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION: If you wish to place items in **Fiskerton Newsletter for January 2015**, they **MUST** be with the editor before **DECEMBER 11th**. This is due to Christmas Closing at the printers. Items can be handed in at Wishing Well Stores, or they can be posted to Mrs L. Forman, 'Applegarth', Ferry Rd. Fiskerton, Lincoln LN3 4HU TEL: 01526 398316. You can also e-mail items to fiskertonnews@btinternet.com



FOX & HOUNDS, REEPHAM

What's on in December

Wed 3rd & Sat 10th - Xmas Pie Night. Just £9.95 with a free drink
(Booking essential) See our website for menu

Sat 6th - Lincs Fryer Fish & Chips from 5pm. Eat in or takeaway.

Wed 17th - Acoustic Unplugged - Play or listen. Mince pies for all

27th - Live music with the Fyreflies. Folk/Rock

New years Eve: - Party - Disco & free buffet for all

Chigaco Town 12" stuffed crust pizzas to eat in or take out - just £6.95

Go to www.foxandhoundsreepham.co.uk for more info

Quiz every Thursday and the last Sunday of the month from 8.30pm

Tel 01522 595191 or 07900465352 to book or email hello@foxandhoundsreepham.co.uk

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Childcare

Childcare in a safe and homely environment

Individual care, putting Children's needs first

Reliable & flexible, to suit your family's needs

PART or FULL TIME / BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL

15 hours free for 2, 3 & 4 Year Olds (T&C apply)

For enquires please ring Fiona

07748 997290 or 01522 750877

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2005

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• FULL SIZE SHOWER TABLE

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• COMPREHENSIVE MENU, FRESHLY COOKED USING LOCAL SUPPLIERS

• FRESH FISH & CHIP NIGHT EVERY FRIDAY

• GLUTEN FREE MEALS AVAILABLE

• LUNCHTIME MENU WITH MAIN COURSES FOR £3.99

AVAILABLE MON-FRI 12pm-5.15pm

• FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE BOOKINGS



**FREE Ice Cream Sundae
with a purchase of a main meal***

*A FULL PEBBLY SIZE PORTION OFFER OF PURCHASE

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SHORTFERRY ANGLING

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(01522) 399998

www.shortferryangling.com

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY: 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

TUESDAY: 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

WEDNESDAY: 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

THURSDAY: 9am-1pm & 4pm-9pm

FRIDAY: 9am-1pm & 2pm-6pm

SATURDAY: 9am-5pm

SUNDAY: 9am-5pm

FRESH BAIT ALWAYS AVAILABLE

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EARN POINTS & RECEIVE SPECIAL OFFERS

TUESDAY: OVER 60s CLUB - 10% DISCOUNT

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Nail trimming, Corn
removal, Callus
reduction, Diabetic foot
care, Ingrown toenails,
Cracked heels, Home
visits & more.



Liam Hotchin DipCFHP, MPSPract

01526 398257 / 07539 610895

www.hotchinfoothealth.co.uk

POLICE Christmas Information: Christmas is nearly upon us, we all want to have a merry time but we need to be aware of certain things so that this Christmas is a happy time for everyone.

Nationally, 25% of all road death involves the driver being under the influence of alcohol.

That means 1 in 7 of road deaths involved drink drivers over the alcohol limit.

In recent years young drivers, 17 to 29 year olds, have been over represented in drink drive casualty figures, and more drivers prove positive between the hours midnight to midday, we want to remind drivers that they maybe over the limit the morning after a night out.

Drinking even very small amounts of alcohol along with many prescribed medicines and some medicines you can buy over the counter can be dangerous. Alcohol will multiply the adverse effects that some medicines have on your ability to drive safely. Look at the label on your medicine and the leaflet in the package. If you see a phrase such as "Warning: this medicine may make you sleepy", it is not safe to drink even a small amount of alcohol whilst you are taking it before you drive."

So stay safe, think before you drink and drive, where ever possible have a nominated driver, you can all pitch in and buy their soft drinks for the night, meaning that everyone will arrive home safely and have a great night out.

British families spend an average of £530 on Christmas presents, according to BBC figures.

That's partly because the gift of choice for many children (and adults too!) is a shiny new mobile phone or games console. With all that hard-earned money being spent, it's important that you keep the presents safe before and after the 25th of December. It can be hard to keep track of all the gifts, especially if you have a large family to buy for! Our guide is here to help you keep your goodies out of harm's way and make this Christmas another memorable get-together (even if Uncle David accidentally breaks the gravy boat, or Gran burns the pigs in blankets to a crisp!)

PUT PRESENTS IN SAFE STORAGE: If you have bucket loads of presents which will take up lots of space in your home, it might be worth putting them in safe storage before Christmas Day. You might think that this will set you back even further after everything you've bought, but prices start from as little as £15 a week. Make sure that you shop around for the best deal, and also make sure that the storage provider is reputable before you hand your goods over to them. Alternatively, you can store some goodies at home in secure lockers. That way, you can have peace of mind and get on with decorating the house and ordering that juicy turkey!

DON'T PUT YOUR PRESENTS ON DISPLAY

Thieves who are looking for some quick cash target easily accessible presents. It's nice to have the Christmas tree on display by a window – that way passers-by can enjoy it as well as your family – but don't display your gifts there as well! One useful trick is to wait until Christmas Eve before you put the gifts under the tree. That makes the presents safer, but also cranks up the anticipation for the kids (and maybe some of the adults too!) because they only get to see them the night before.

TELL NEIGHBOURS YOU'RE GOING AWAY

If you're going to a relative's house for Boxing Day, make sure that your neighbours know about it. You'll probably be leaving behind most of the presents you received the day before – apart from the kids' toys which they can't put down – when you head off to Auntie Susan's.

That means someone will be keeping an eye on your house even when the mulled wine is flowing all around! It's probably worth testing your burglar alarm to make sure that everything is working properly.

DON'T FLASH YOUR NEW GADGETS: New phones and jewellery are a great gift which you can be rightly proud of. Just make sure that when you're on the obligatory Boxing Day jaunt you don't make them too conspicuous. Muggings are rare, but just make sure that you don't become too complacent. Keep jewellery under your clothes and put your phone on silent.

GROW SOME HOLLY

This might seem a bit daft, but a few strategically-placed holly bushes in your garden and near the front door will deter any burglars or loiterers from trying to get at the presents inside your house. They also give you extra privacy so that people won't be able to peer through your windows easily.

KEEP THINGS ICY: It might also be worth keeping a few areas icy underfoot so that any potential burglars can't get away easily. Be careful though: any areas where children are playing or elderly people need to walk should be kept well gritted.

HANG CHRISTMAS BELLS

Hanging Christmas bells or chimes near bushes outside your house will alert you to anyone who brushes past. This will be most effective on quiet winter nights. It also makes quite a pretty sound! We hope you have found this guide to Christmas safety useful. The overall chances of you getting burgled are slim (a lot narrower than a lot of waistlines in January). That means you should focus on making the festivities as jolly as they can be!

Above all have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

[twitter.com/@npt-nettleham](https://twitter.com/npt-nettleham) facebook.com/nptnettleham email: nettleham.npt@lincs.pnn.police.uk

ALL ASPECTS OF PROPERTY REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS



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► EXTERIOR SERVICES

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Paving & Patios.
Decking.
Gutter Cleaned Out & Repaired.
Replacement Glazing.



PREMIER

- PROPERTY SERVICES -

"If in doubt, ask. We have someone that can."

✓ 07897 480 404 - Lester Tyler

✓ 07743 315 756 - Stuart Beckett

2015 Day Trips

Tues 20th Jan, Strictly Come Dancing Tour, £57
Tues 10th Feb, Springfield @ Spalding, £10
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Hawthorn Rd.

Friday 14th November, 7pm Cherry Willingham Community School.

What a great turnout! But I was a little disappointed that Fiskerton's contributions to a proper bridge over Hawthorn Rd, on going since January, were not mentioned- but I suppose that is politics. Lincolnshire County Council decided on a single lane bypass with no bridge rather than the dual carriage-way in October 2010. Apparently the road planners failed to get their bid in to the Government in time to secure the £112M promised for the whole package. They had been working on the project for years. How can they have missed the deadline? It just does not seem believable. But they did. Even more disappointing is that since the LCC meeting, 4th October 2010, a number of people close to the villages knew of the closure but kept quiet. County and District Councillors and officers chose not to let Fiskerton, Reepham or Cherry Willingham Parish Councils or Cllr Irmgard Parrot, Cllr Anne Welburn or myself know. We have been let down.

The same is true on the Paddock. I have lost track of the number of times I have warned senior executives at WLDC of the risks to the open space being built on. Of course the District Council and others could have taken measures to reduce that risk but Fiskerton is a low priority village and nobody has been bothered. Fortunately, we completed our parish plan eighteen months ago and using the information gained The Neighbourhood Plan Group have some solid proposals to offer to the Church Commissioners as an alternative. We have been very lucky to have Bill Roberts, a planning and heritage expert, working hard on our behalf. which has helped immensely. But we have a serious fight on our hands and need all the help we can get.

The Bronze Age Causeway. If like me you had trained in Agricultural Engineering, you would have been horrified by the sight of the excavator dredging the ditch along the path from Nelson Rd to the North Delph, just 50 yards parallel to the bronze age causeway. Drainage has caused soil levels in that field to drop 50+cm since the field was first excavated in 1981. Goodness knows what the new dyke will do. Our 2500 year old causeway will just vanish into fresh air, and together with the famous Fiskerton sword it will be gone forever. We will just be left with half a canoe and a shield.

I am not sure what the outcome will be, but Natural England have asked the new tenant to refill the ditch and have spelt out the rules by which farmers have to manage such "wetlands". It will be up to the farmer to decide if he is better off with the wetlands subsidy or intensely farmed fields. I hope he chooses the former.

Talking of ditches, the ditch on the northern boundary of the Holmfield Estate has not been maintained this year. The environmental expert at WLDC is not too worried. When the ditch and the swales north of the village hall were dug, they were, apparently, planned to receive maintenance every two years! What does worry me is if the ditch is "fly tipped with over the fence rubbish" from our estate the ditch will fail. Already one resident on Water Hill has problems and in spite of contact with the Church Commissioners nothing has been done.

Please remember: Friday 19th December, The Village Hall. "WACK" are Soldering up a circuit for a mini "light up" Christmas tree. Aimed at young people between 8 and 12. For details ask Kirsty Thompson, Tel 07743677505 or email kirsty@joinwack.co.uk. Sounds great fun.

Merry Christmas: I am looking forward to all the usual Christmas events and wish all a happy and an undoubtedly exciting New Year.



*To All Readers of
The Parish News
And
A Very Happy and
Peaceful New Year*

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