

THE MESSENGER

SPREADING THE WORD BETWEEN THE GREEN FIELDS AND THE BLUE SEA

Christmas 2025



The Church of England Parishes of
St. Mary Mablethorpe and **St. Peter Trusthorpe** and
St. Clement Sutton on Sea, **St. Margaret Huttoft**
and **St. Andrew Anderby** on the East Lincolnshire coast



It's winter! Do you enjoy it or do you long for the Spring with lighter evenings and warmer, sunnier days?

A different thought for Advent? *by John O'Donohue*

This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.
Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.
If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet again
On fresh pasture of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

Dave Summers, Our Town Crier

We were all saddened in October to learn that our beloved Town Crier, had lost his fight against cancer.

He was renowned for his "cries".

This is one he wrote for the Caring Group on one of his many visits, to sing with us and for us:

*Good morrow to you one and all
I hope you all are well
I've come here to St Clement's hall
With hat and scroll and bell.*

*The tower leans, it's not quite
straight
In fact, it really bends
But we don't mind, we made a
date
To meet here with our friends.*

*We know we'll find a cheery
smile
For each, when we get there
And so we can relax a while
With friends who really care.*



***There will be a memorial service for Dave in the New Year
at St Mary's Church, Mablethorpe.***

The Rector writes:

Like many Christians, I find it helpful to be part of a small Bible Study group (we have Explorers, on Friday afternoons). One of my group's recent studies was on Mary, the mother of Jesus. We in the Church of England sometimes downplay the importance of Mary (perhaps as an overreaction to the Reformation in the 1500's!) But the burden of the study was clear: Mary's role in our redemption is critical. How many young teenage girls – even in first Century Jewish society – would have reacted positively to the angel's commission to be pregnant by the will of God whilst still unmarried (albeit betrothed)? And, in the interests of balance, I should also commend Joseph for taking Mary as his wife and being dad to Jesus in these unusual circumstances.

But this didn't all start in the first Century. At a traditional carol service we read several passages from the Old Testament before we get to the "Christmas Story" – and these serve to remind us that God's plan to save and redeem us goes as far back as humanity itself, to the Garden of Eden when the serpent is told, "you shall bruise his heel, but he shall crush your head" (Genesis 3 v 15). This prophesies the battle between good and evil which characterises human history, but also speaks of a Saviour (Mary's son, Jesus) who would win the ultimate victory over evil by his death on the cross and resurrection (both also witnessed by Mary).

Mary's calling was special, unique; and her humble, obedient response is a shining example; so among all the Saints (those whose names we know and those who we've never heard of) she is worthy of particular honour.

But this leaves a question hanging: to what is God calling each one of us?

He has a plan for everyone and in order to achieve his purpose we need to try to be as open to his call as Mary was, listening and looking for his messages and messengers, willing to give all we have and are to his service, obedient whether we understand God's logic or not (the latter is more common!)

This Christmas, may we each praise God and give him thanks for his redeeming plan of salvation which stretches from the beginning of time (Eden) to the end of time (Jesus' Second Coming), and humbly offer ourselves to play our part in that plan – always to God's greater glory!

On behalf of our lay ministers, churchwardens, congregations and clergy, may I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas 2025!

Celebrating Christmas in the Churches in our area

At Sutton: *The Christmas Tree Festival December 6th & 7th.*

Come and enjoy all the different Christmas trees decorated by various organisations who use our Hall and other local businesses. The church will be open:

10am – 4pm, Saturday; 12noon – 4pm, Sunday.

Trees can be brought to the church and set up on Friday 5th between 10am and 1pm

And an extra special event on the Saturday evening:



***Tickets £5
available from
Anne 01507
441560
or
Brenda 01507
442888***

Bacon Butties at Anderby:



10am – lunch time
pay on the day, cash or card

raising money for St Andrew's church

Carol Services: (all in December)

Sunday 7th, 3pm St Peter's Trusthorpe (building the crib)

3pm St Andrew's, Hannah

Sunday 14th, 2pm St Andrew's Anderby

3pm Huttoft Village Hall, W.I. area service

Thursday 18th, 2pm Caring Group St Clement's Sutton on Sea

7pm St Mary's Mablethorpe (in aid of the RNLI)

Sunday 21st, 3pm St Clement's Sutton on Sea

Christmas Eve, 4.30pm St Margaret's Huttoft

Other Christmas Services:

Tuesday 9th, 7.30pm Carols at Seacroft Bar & Restaurant

Trusthorpe Clangers and Skegness Silver Band

Friday 12th, 11.30am, Sandcastles pre-school St Clement's

Monday am, 15th, Sutton School Carol Service St Clement's

Sunday 21st, 9am St Peter's Trusthorpe Favourite Carols

Holy Communion:

Christmas Eve, 9pm St Clement's Sutton on Sea

11.30pm St Peter's Trusthorpe

Christmas Day, 9am St Andrew's Anderby

10.30am St Mary's Mablethorpe

Looking for Jesus

I found Jesus squeezed
between sentimental snowstorms and glowing fibre optic trees.
There he was in a token nativity scene
complete with Mary, Joseph, shepherds and kings.
Just one of many things competing for passing attention
with glittering coloured balls and tinsel twine,
carolled by Wham and Slade in which he gets no mention.
There he lies – the Light of the world
eclipsed by the lights of commerce.
The birthday boy overlooked
while Santa, overbooked, sets children's eyes alight.
Whose birthday is it anyway?
Even Christmas is being erased, euphemised and neutralised
into 'festive season' or 'winter festival'.

Sue Pryce, December 2024

***How can we answer that? What can we do?
How about this:***

When the carols have been stilled,

When the star-topped tree is taken down,

When family and friends are gone home,

When we are back to our schedules,

The work of Christmas begins:

To welcome the refugee, *(any stranger, anyone new to the area)*

To heal a broken planet, *(be careful with what we throw away
and how we do it)*

To feed the hungry, *(support our food larder and Furnichurch)*

To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear, *(don't spread gossip
or rumours)*

To share our gifts, *(not just possessions or money, but our
time, our talents and abilities, great and small)*

To seek justice and peace for all people, *(support local &
national campaigns to uphold justice and peace)*

To bring Christ's light to the world. *Michael Dougherty*

(N.B. The comments in the brackets are mine – editor.)

News from around the area

Furnichurch

from Chris Collins, Chair of Trustees

I appreciate that you may not get your magazine until after the 28th November but that is the date of our AGM, 11am in the Furnichurch building in Victoria Road, opposite Lord's.

If you can, do come, find out what has been going on recently and our hopes and plans for the future.

Although we now have one full time member of staff and two part timers, we rely heavily on volunteers.

You may be able to help us – we need someone to pick up food from Lidl's donations basket on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and deliver it to Furnichurch (alternate weeks possibly). We would also love to find someone who could apply for grant funding for us – there are five of us who are Trustees, but we lead very busy lives with lots of other commitments, in churches, in the community and one of us still working part time. We struggle to find time to make these applications, but the charity cannot continue to exist without funding from grants.

You probably know some of us – Canon Chris Lilley, Martin Collins and Christine Collins – speak to any of us if you want to know more. (Sandra, our treasurer still works part time; Ann, our secretary is a member of Trusthorpe Methodists) Come and spend some time at Furnichurch, see what goes on.

Sandcastles Pre-school Harvest Celebrations

On Tuesday October 21st, at 11.30am, 10 children and 11 adults

gathered in St Clement's Church to celebrate Harvest.

The parents had been invited to "stay and play" at the pre-school when they took their children in, then they all came over to the

church for some “craft work” – colouring Harvest themed pictures which we displayed in the chancel.

We moved to sit in the pews and the children brought their harvest gifts, placing them by the communion rail where they did the actions to a special Scarecrow song they had learnt. After a short talk about Harvest time and being thankful we learnt a “thank you” song:

**Thank you for the food we eat:
bread and cheese and apples sweet.**

**Thank you for my family,
Thank you God for loving me.**

We finished with a thank you prayer.

(Not long now to our Christmas service in church when the children dress up to act out the journey to Bethlehem, and the visits of the shepherds and the wise men to see the baby Jesus!)

The Shoe Boxes (aka Samaritan's Purse)

On Wednesday November 12th Brenda kindly drove to Burgh le Marsh and delivered 36 Shoe Boxes to the collection point.

Thank you Brenda! And thank you to all made this possible!

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day

A special service of Remembrance in St Andrew's Church, Anderby at 9am was attended by the chairman and other representatives of the parish council, representatives of the Village Hall and others villagers wishing to remember family members as well as the usual members of the congregation. At 11am a service was held at both Mablethorpe and Sutton War Memorials with good numbers at both.

Then at 12.30 a service was held at the Lifeboat Station in Mablethorpe.

Armistice Day service at St Peter's was in church. (*rain!!*)

It was followed by a blessing of new roses in the rose garden.

This spectacular poppy display at Sutton on Sea War Memorial was spearheaded by the local W.I.



Many contributed anonymously, some were not from this area.

Everyone is to be congratulated on the wonderful result.

WELCOME TO 2026!

Look back with thankfulness! *Heather C King*

Lord, whether I leave behind a year of joy
or of trials and difficulties.....I pause to give thanks.

Thank you for being with me every day of every year.

Thank you for making all things new,
for giving me the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings.

Remind me of your presence in the days to come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by busyness.

Be glorified in my life this year. Amen.

A prayer for the year ahead *Author unknown*

May God make our year a happy one!

Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
but by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes.

Not by making our path easy,
but by making us sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from us,
but by taking fear from our heart;

Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
but by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making our life always pleasant,
but by showing us when people need us most,
and by making us ready to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.

Upcoming events

Trusthorpe Plough Week Sunday January 11th, 3pm
Service in St Peter's Church,
followed by Ploughman's Tea at 4pm in the Seacroft.

Caring Group restarts:

2pm Wednesday 14th January in St Clement's Church Hall

*The Spring programme will be available
at our Carol Service on December 18th*

The World Day of Prayer

10.30am Friday 6th March

**at the Evangelical Free
Church, Trusthorpe Road**



Prepared by Christian
women from Nigeria
entitled:

“I will give you rest, come”
do come

and pray with Christians all over
the world

*But come and pray regularly
with others from our churches:*

Prayer Lunches

We try and meet once or twice a month often in Chris and Liz's home or Peter's (but not exclusively!) at 12.15pm for an hour. It is an informal time together, beginning with a simple lunch of soup and roll or bread, fruit juice and tea or coffee.

We then pray together about anything and everything - pray out loud, or silently in your heart. Use your own words or bring some written prayers to say. We finish by blessing each other with the words of the Grace. Next year's dates so far:

Thursday January 15th at Chris and Liz's, 12 Hillside

Tuesday February 3rd at Peter's (next to St Clement's Church)