



Words from the Well from Revd Canon Sally Theakston

The Morning Star

I am thoroughly enjoying watching 'Dynasties' presented by Sir David Attenborough. The episode about Emperor Penguins reminded me of one of the most extraordinary journeys I undertook whilst serving in the Royal Navy.

As we sailed down from the Falkland's to South Georgia I would go onto the bridge during the morning watch. Here I would join the watch keepers, as they practised navigating by the stars, in the quiet hours as darkness gave way to light.

My Antarctic journey was almost a pilgrimage for me as I was able to visit the grave of the great explorer Ernest Shackleton - one of my heroes. Just over a century ago in 1916 Shackleton, on foot and alone, reached the whaling station on South Georgia and set in motion the rescue plan that would bring back his men from the Antarctic where they had been stranded for 18 months. The conditions Shackleton and his crew faced are unimaginable - most particularly the unrelenting cold and for some months of the year complete darkness. One of them played the banjo to keep their spirits up and they handed round an old cook book so they could dream of food.

Once home, many of the men had to go off to war and were killed in the trenches, so tragic after all they had survived. Greenstreet, the First Officer, was a commander in both world wars and the last survivor of *Endurance*, dying at the age of 89 in 1979.

His Great Niece, the Revd. Jackie Taylor embarked on her own commemorative trip. She said of Antarctica: 'It really is an extraordinarily wild and beautiful place'. The crossing back was a difficult journey for Mrs Taylor, because it was so rough - but she said that without it 'our expedition would have been incomplete'.

For her it brought to mind a prayer written by Sir Francis Drake:

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly to venture on wilder seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land we shall find the stars.

The season of Advent begins in darkness. Bible readings which speak of the end-times are often really disturbing and the church is decked in purple the colour of penitence.

As we start the journey on Advent Sunday from darkness to light, lest we do not know which way to go, then let us look to Christ who said; 'I am the bright and morning star.'

Your Vision for the future of St. Nicholas Church as outlined by Lynn Hearn

Many of you may remember a cold, crisp January day this year when members of the congregation, the PCC and clergy met in Scarning Village Hall to spend a day discussing ideas for the future direction of our Church for the next five years.

What has happened to all those pieces of paper full of hopes, ideas, wishes and needs, you may ask? Over the intervening months the Strategy Group, tasked with looking through all this information, has been working hard, consulting widely and formulating a plan to develop many aspects of Church life, based on your comments.



Dereham & District
Team Ministry

This October, the PCC agreed to support the 5yr Strategic Plan. The plan covers seven areas: Worship and Prayer, Christian Fellowship, Buildings, Music, Working with Young People, Finance, Publicity and Communication.

This is not just a plan for members of the PCC, but for every member of the St. Nicholas Church family. A copy of the plan will soon be available for you to read on the church website or as a hard copy at the back of church. Please take time to have a look and see how you could contribute to one or more areas in the plan.

Obviously one of the burning issues that was discussed in January was the need for toilets and kitchen facilities in church. We want to provide up to date facilities to our congregation and our visitors as well as the wider community, for weddings, christenings, funerals, concerts, school visits and community use. A Buildings Project Group has met for the first time and will be meeting with an advisor from the diocese in the New Year, to plan how these changes can be achieved and funded. This will take time and energy, but hopefully by the end of 2020 we will have achieved our goal.

Following the Quinquennial Report at the end of 2017, there are also maintenance and repair issues to address in the building, as well as the improvements needed to the heating system. Many members of the congregation suggested ideas for re-ordering the seating. There will always be plenty to do in the years ahead.



The Music Vision Group has also been busy. A questionnaire was given to the congregation earlier this year and the 50 responses have been noted. Currently we are seeking a leader to develop the instrumental group for the Family Services. Any offers of help with this should be given to Richard Bower. Members of the congregation have been meeting with Gordon each month to practise hymns to support the singing during services. You may also have noticed changes in the Order of Service and of course, the change of time to the Sunday morning service.

Our website is regularly up-dated and we promote our activities on Facebook and on the 'About Dereham' website, in order to reach out to the community and

inform everyone of what is on offer at St. Nicholas Church.

So, in less than a year, there has been progress. The Strategic Plan is a working document, it will evolve and change, but it gives the PCC a roadmap to follow as the life and work of our church goes forward in an ever-changing world. If you have any comments or ideas or offers of help, please speak to PCC members.

Our thanks and farewell to Alan Barrett (Reader) and his wife Jenny - 30th September 2018

Members of the congregations of St. Nicholas, Dereham and Scarning Church gathered to say farewell and give thanks to Jenny and Alan Barrett at the Parish Communion. Reader / Lay Minister Alan Barrett has faithfully served the Benefice, following his Licensing at Norwich Cathedral in 2000, and Jenny has served in a variety of roles during their time in Dereham.

This was the last chance to hear Alan preach, as the couple have moved to Cromer, but it was an opportunity to hear how they are settling in to their new home, and to celebrate the special time they have lived among us.

Church Warden, Paul Edwards, presented Alan with a decanter, engraved with a picture of St. Nicholas, copied from artwork created by their son. Jenny was presented with a pink orchid.



Alan spoke of his time in Dereham, and thanked the congregation for their gifts. He offered an invitation to visit him and Jenny in Cromer, assuring everybody that there was tea and cake available! Our 'resident cake maker', Beverley Burton had created a spectacular 'Cromer Crab Cake', which was shared by those present, washed down with 'Buck's Fizz' or other soft drinks.

This was a special occasion for a very special couple, and our love, prayers and best wishes go with them for their new life by the seaside in Cromer.

St. Nicholas and Me – a reflection from Barbara D'Arts



I was introduced to St Nicholas in 1947 on the occasion of my baptism. I was baptised by Canon Noel Boston, still in very early days of his 20 year ministry in Dereham. I have lasting memories of my childhood at St Nicholas where firstly I attended Sunday School with my sister when I was

about 4 and she was 6½. It took place in the church at 2.00 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon; I do not have many memories of what I learnt or did in Sunday School other than sitting in a row on small chairs in front of the pews and being talked at! The emphasis was very much on the School aspect and if I am honest, not a lot of fun.

When we were old enough, our father took my sister and myself to Morning Prayer each Sunday at 11.00am. We always wore our Sunday best including a hat- no jeans in those days. As is still the custom at St Nicholas, we always sat in the same pew. In front of us sat the Whitby family – brother Harold and his two sisters, Nora and Evie. Nora was a spinster and wore the most amusing hat that looked just like an old fashion mop head. My sister and I revelled in the fact that spiders just loved to settle in her hat, spinning down from the rafters on a regular basis.

The congregation was made up of a very similar age group of people as today. As I am writing this I am trying hard to recollect other children in the congregation and cannot bring them to mind. Similarly,

Christmas at St Nicholas when I was a child, is also a dim memory of very few festivities other than extra expected services over the Christmas Season – no Christingle services to look forward to! I attended the Church Infants school and have no memory of walking across to the church for services on special occasions such as Christmas and Easter.

At the age of thirteen I attended preparation for confirmation sessions at the old rectory in St Withburga Lane, together with many of my Grammar School mates plus the boys from Hammond's Grammar School. We sat on piles of books in Canon Boston's study which was like something out of a Dickens novel. At confirmation, the boys wore white shirts and dark trousers but the girls were all in white. I had a white dress and veil as did my sister. It was an extremely special occasion with all the family and Godparents there and a celebration afterwards.

At that time, St Nicholas had a thriving Young Communicants Guild. We met in Church House long before any of the current modifications had been carried out and where the staircase is now was a little room which was used for the 'older' teenagers to meet for coffee and listen to music. We did all sorts of activities but the ones I remember the most were the plays we put on with the help of a lady called Miss Groves. She was also my history teacher at Grammar School and several of us enjoyed helping her to catalogue old papers that were stored in the Muniments Room. I have no idea what happened to them but can only hope they finished up in the Norwich Records Office.



Communion was always at 8am on a Sunday morning, in the Chancel. In those days the large choir was seated in the chancel for the main services and the pews ran East to West down either side. This is where the congregation sat for the 8am service and where many of the Young Communicants met on a Sunday

morning. I have very fond memories of my time as a Young Communicant and of the teenagers who made up the group.

Many of us reached the age of 18 at around the same time and we all went our different ways on leaving school. Many went off to university but I went off to St George's Hospital in London to train as a radiographer thinking that I had the world at my feet and would be able to go anywhere to work once I qualified. Little did I know that 12 years later I would be back in Dereham and back in the world of St Nicholas, gathering many more memories – Watch this space!!

Adam Pyke shares a Pause for thought

Some years ago BBC Radio Norfolk used to include a religious talk in its early morning programmes from Monday to Friday.



Officially it was called "Pause for Thought" although it was often referred to as "the God slot".

I contributed to this sometimes. As the talks were very short – about 90 seconds each - and went out at 6:30 AM, I often wondered whether anybody ever heard them. Then one day an elderly lady whom I did not know very well, said "I heard you on the radio the other day." I was just beginning to be rather pleased when, to my surprise, she added "I thought 'I am in bed with Adam!'"

Whilst I will not tell you my feelings after that remark, I wondered if you, dear reader, would be interested in reading one of my scripts. This was part of a series that I wrote just after the death of my father, giving my reflections about this as a Christian.

The phone had rung at 4:30 AM – "We're a little unhappy about your father's breathing" the voice had said. And now, here I was sitting by his hospital bed. To help pass the time, I picked up a book and started to

read. It was quite funny and I began to chuckle. Then a feeling of guilt hit me. My Pa was dying and here I was laughing. But then I reflected. My Pa had had a good life, but had greatly missed my Ma since she had died some years previously. He was a great age now and often said he was ready to go. Then I had another thought. Jesus had told his followers that he would go ahead of them beyond the grave into the realms of death to prepare a place in heaven for those who trusted him.

My Pa had had his doubts sometimes but don't all Christians? Jesus knows we all slip up in one way or another. But he is always there to pick us up again if we genuinely want this, and then ask and trust him.

"Thank you, Lord" I breathed and putting one of my hands into one of my Pa's, I picked up my book again with the other.

Have you looked at the Dereham and District website for news in our church of St Nicholas? There are reports of past events, and information about current and regular activities, such as

The Benefice Prayer Group

meets to pray for the churches and clergy of our Benefice, and their respective communities. As our churches prepare for the Christmas Services, the meeting in December will be on the 3rd, from 7.30 – 8.30pm at 81, Norwich Road, Dereham.

All are welcome to come to pray – call 01362 692883 if you would like further information, or to request a prayer.



Polish Christmas by Robert Lake

As the English husband of a Polish wife (Ewa) I thought I'd tell you about Polish Christmas traditions:



For Polish people Christmas Eve, when they await the birth of the Christ child is more important than Christmas Day. Christmas Eve is known as "Wigilia" and the day ends in a supper shared by the extended family usually at the home of the oldest female (babci or grandma). For us that isn't possible as Babci is so far away in Poland, so we usually gather at the home of Ewa's daughter. As you might imagine planning the supper and preparing it is part of the tradition and excitement leading up to Wigilia.

My wife and her family like to dress respectfully for such an important occasion, so us males are expected to wear shirt and tie and formal trousers or a suit. The ladies are also in their fine clothes.



Before starting the supper Polish people share Christmas wafers (opłatek), rather like Communion wafers but much larger. Each Christmas Ewa's mother sends wafers from Poland by post. We break the wafers into small parts and give with 3 wishes to each person at the supper, the wishes are sealed with a kiss or handshake. Typical wishes might be "success in your education next year" or "Good health and happiness". Polish people believe that the forthcoming year will be the same as Wigilia so if you are happy at Wigilia then you will be happy in the following year. So quarrels are avoided as they might predict troubles ahead.

The family sit down at the supper table as soon as they spot the first star in the winter sky, this is in memory of the Star of Bethlehem which guided the Magi. Ewa's grandson is sent to look for the star and announce the start of the celebration, sometimes a problem on a cloudy night and may require a little imagination, which isn't to be found lacking given the much anticipated later events.

There is always a spare space at the supper table which is reserved for any stranger who might knock at the door. Normally, a small bunch of hay is placed under the table cloth, as a reminder that the Lord was born in a stable. The supper consists of 12 dishes representing the 12 disciples of Jesus. We are supposed to try all of them as they believe that food might not be so abundant next year if you don't. Each dish is vegetable or fish based, meat is only eaten after the Christ has been born. Typical dishes are fried carp (a freshwater fish), barszcz - a delicious red beetroot soup eaten with uszka (like ravioli), eggs in a tartar sauce, makowiec - poppy seed cake, herring rollmop, pączki - doughnuts without jam, pierogi - Polish dumplings etc. I am given permission not to have every dish but generally I do love Polish food although I am not too keen on the carp or poppy seed cake. The former is full of bones and the latter is full of seeds which I normally associate with savoury Ritz biscuits (remember those?). I've discovered that as recently as the previous generation they would buy a live carp and keep it in the bath until the big day. Who would be a carp in Poland or a turkey in America at Christmas!

It is customary to drink compote made from dried fruit such as prunes, pears, apples etc, it is delicious. My wife and her family will drink red wine but fortunately I'm

driving back to Dereham for midnight mass and don't have to drink it. It's also part of the tradition to attend Midnight Mass called Pasterka when the coming of the Shepherds is celebrated.

After supper, it is time to exchange presents. Ewa's grandson is distracted with a task to look for a star crossing the sky. He is sent upstairs and on his return he's given his presents. It's a bit unclear who these presents are from as they just appear. Santa Claus, in his American form is not part of the Polish tradition. St. Nicholas (św. Mikołaj) is traditionally a bishop in red robes and mitre hat. St. Nicholas will already have given her grandson a present on the 6th December which is left under his pillow. He's a lucky young man because having English heritage he also gets presents from Santa on Christmas day, so he gets 3 sets of presents!



Now you might think that a hearty supper the previous evening is going to spoil lunch on Christmas Day but it is in fact a light supper. Polish people do enjoy a traditional Christmas Day dinner; this is not normally a turkey although that is what we have. Traditionally it would be pork or perhaps beef or bigos. This is a stew made from several different meats, cooked several times over several days, it is a rich savoury and much-loved dish.

The Polish Christmas Eve is enjoyed by all the family, it is full of tradition and references to a very special event. Ewa and I hope you enjoy the traditions of your Christmas and would like to wish you all *Wesołych Świąt* (pronounced as *vess-OH-wikh shvyont*) or in English ... Merry Christmas.

Messy Church welcomes the Mayor of Dereham to their Harvest Session.

31 children and 61 adults came to the October half-term session of Messy Church. They were surprised and delighted to find a special visitor who joined in the fun and messiness of their family fun morning....the Mayor of Dereham!

Mayor Hilary Bushell participated in making 'catch-a-ball' fish, fishing story cards, harvest stencilling and laminated picnic mats. She joined in the games and seemed to particularly like Canon Sally's game of 'Beans', although it must have been difficult as she was wearing her heavy 'chain of office'.

Worship time, with the story of 'Feeding the 5,000', gave opportunity for the Mayor to tell the children about her role. She enjoyed the fish finger rolls and fresh fruit baskets at refreshment time. It was good to be able to show the Mayor what goes on at our Messy Church sessions as well as introduce her to the children and for them to learn about her role.



Messy Church is developing well, with older children now attending. Facebook Dereham Community Notice Board page is proving a good way of informing and attracting families to our sessions, with positive comments following our postings.

The next Messy Church event will be to stage craft tables at the 'Switching on of Dereham Lights' afternoon, on Sunday 2nd December.

The next 'normal' Messy Church session will be on Tuesday 19th February 2019, during the Spring half-term week.

The Editors are thankful for the two following articles about the visit of the Maasai Warriors to Dereham – What an occasion!

The Day the Warriors came to Town!

On the 7th October, a group of authentic tribal performers visited St. Nicholas Church for a superb evening's entertainment.



The Osiligi Maasai Warriors, from Oleopolos and the surrounding communities in Southern Kenya, were on a tour of England, which they have been doing regularly since 2002. The concerts are organised by John Curtin, and provide a major part of the income for these people and their families back home. The group works in close association with the UK Charity, 'Osiligi Charity Projects', to support infrastructure Projects in their local community. They have so far been able to construct a clean water system, a school and a church.

The performance commenced with the 'Warriors' entrance along the central aisle of St. Nicholas Church, which was full to capacity. The group's authentic tribal songs and dance livened up the evening, as music of a different genre rang round our beautiful church's building. The fantastic, colourful performance was full of tribal dance and singing, telling of their culture and history. It was a most fascinating, informative, enjoyable and memorable occasion.

The 'Warriors' captivated their audience, involving many of the congregation, who were encouraged to join in with the dancing, which involved a lot of high jumping. Even our own Canon Sally Theakston had a go, which was a splendid attempt, but this type of dance obviously needs a lot of practice!

There was opportunity at the end of the evening to have questions answered and to buy tribal jewellery and other items made by the families back in Kenya, which also helps to boost their income. The group includes farmers, who have to leave the day-to-day running of their farms in the hands of their families whilst they are absent. It was interesting to learn that these tribal 'warriors' are Christians, and refreshing to hear them sing their Christian, Gospel songs, prayers and anthems during their performance.

The only downside to the evening was when we were thrown into darkness in the first half, due to a power cut. Unperturbed, the 'Warriors' continued with their performance, lit by mobile phone torch-light. The cut was short-lived, thankfully, so after the refreshment break, the performance was able to resume. This was a marvellous privilege to witness such a wonderful spectacle.

Remembering a holiday – from Ruth Hodson

In 2002 we made our first 'budget' visit to Kenya with our children (then 10 and 16) and fell in love with the people, the culture and obviously the wildlife! Since then we have been back twice and thought I would no longer be able to make the trip due to being unable to have a Yellow Fever booster inoculation; this has been revised recently to great joy in the 'Hodson' household!

You have all probably seen the BBC Maasai warriors but sadly you don't get to hear their music. Consequently, we were thrilled when we heard they were coming to visit Dereham!

Nothing can compare to the sound they make when both worshipping and singing traditional songs. In St Nicholas we heard 6 members of the troop, in Kenya we were privileged to hear the whole village singing in unison and to hear the village elder explain much of what we heard in October, here in Dereham.

Back in 2002 very few could speak English, but schools were being set up and education was so incredibly valued as a way out of poverty with families making great sacrifices to send a child to school. Our driver on safari, Nicodemus, explained he would never marry because he was the child who had been educated, and his role in life was to 'provide' for his sibling's children to be educated. We just don't realise how fortunate we are!

I could write a great deal more, but will finish by saying how exciting it was to see the Osiligi Warriors having the confidence to speak in English in front of such a large audience and the fact that a young mum was one of that number!



Richard Bower our Organist tells us of the Fine Music at St Nicholas enjoyed by many

The Summer Organ Recital Series took place again during four June lunchtimes; the tasty sandwiches and other delicacies before the music were greatly enjoyed and deservedly so! All our soloists provided interesting music and the 'Big Screen' brought extra pleasure, enabling us to see something of the mysteries of the instrument and its manipulation.

Our own Dougal Smith opened proceedings, performing 'Music from Royal Weddings', a fascinating tour from 1725 to the present day. Beside the well-known favourites like Mendelssohn's Wedding March we were able to enjoy several rarities from Saint-Saens, Brahms, Parry and Faure. All in all a fun recital revealing Dougal's extensive repertoire and enjoyment of the Dereham organ.

It was good to have Jo Richards back with us again for the second concert, and her music revealed her quirky humour. Rather than using conventional printed music Jo uses a tablet (computer) loaded with her pieces. She merely touches the screen for a page turn. It was an exhilarating programme which included some fine Bach playing as well as two very lively contrasting toccatas by Dubois and Mushell. Jo also revealed her rather morbid fascination with 16thC 'My young life hath an end'. Despite this she produced some vivid and brilliant entertainment.

Dr Relf Clark journeyed from Maidenhead to give us a fine, assured performance which included his own 'Homage to Frank Sinatra' a beautiful arrangement of 'I did it My Way'. Dr Clark had been a pupil of David Sanger, a renowned teacher, and his influence showed through clearly.



A faultless Toccata & Fugue in D minor, paved the way for a very satisfying concert which showed off the qualities of the organ and left us wanting more.

Finally it was my turn, with Bach to 'Land of Hope and Glory'. Another toccata to open, this time the lesser known 'Dorian' which contrasts the two cases of the organ so well. A venture into spoof Mozart followed, where a gentle tinkling musical clock piece became transformed into a raucous over-blown brassy caricature of the original.



Some quiet, calming Boellmann was contrasted with local composer Ron Watson's cheeky, lilting 'Badinage' before I closed the series with Elgar's 'Pomp & Circumstance March No 1 with the supportive audience

joining in with the popular 'Land of Hope & Glory' section at the end.



In July we received a real treat with the singing of 'The Taylor Choir' who were on tour in England from their home in Colorado Springs USA. Whilst in Norfolk they sang several services in Norwich Cathedral. The choir were directed by their new English conductor Simon Jacobs, a former chorister at Truro Cathedral. I found Simon a great inspiration with his enthusiasm and skill. The large audience, which included good numbers from our benefice, thoroughly enjoyed the evening, especially the American choral pieces. The concert was a truly memorable occasion with the singers relishing the St Nicholas acoustic.

In recent times we have been able to enjoy an annual celebration of our very fine Dereham organ. This year, our cathedral Master of the Music Ashley Grote agreed to make a return visit and on the 15th September he performed a true 'Organ Spectacular' for us. A tremendous programme superbly performed, opened with Karg-Elert's 'Nun Danket'; our Rector's wedding march. Ashley then led the audience through classic Mendelssohn, some stupendous Bach and yet more Elgar, with 'Pomp & Circumstance March No.4', before reaching a thrilling and popular climax with Widor's famous Toccata; before ending a most memorable evening with a dose of promenader's lollipop fizz.

All the performances were given freely apart from a well-deserved contribution for Ashley Grote.

Our church funds have benefitted significantly as a result. Many thanks to all those who have helped to make music-making happen.

(Edited)

St Nicholas Dereham 2019 Electoral roll is explained by Geoff Hearn, our Electoral Roll Officer

In the Church of England, membership is measured by the names of parishioners registered on individual church electoral rolls. There is a church electoral roll referred to as 'the roll' in every parish, on which the names of lay persons are entered. This can be likened to being the member of a club.

Every six years, every parish is required to prepare a new electoral roll: 2019 is the next year in which a completely new roll will have to be prepared by every parish. A notice will be displayed on or near the main door of every C of E church in the parish. This needs to be done at least two months before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and remains there for at least 14 days. Once the notice is up, the preparation of the new electoral roll begins. In 2019 our APCM will be held on

Sunday 7th April 2019

Every reasonable efforts will be made to let everyone on the old electoral roll know that a new one is being prepared, except for anyone who is no longer qualified to be on the roll, e.g., anyone who has become a clerk in Holy Orders or anyone who has moved away and is now living outside the parish and no longer worships regularly in the parish.

During the period of preparation of the roll, members on the previous roll need to apply to be included. Inclusion is not automatic! New people can also apply during this period. A person applies by filling out an application for enrolment form. The preparation of the roll needs to be completed by a fixed date between 15 and 28 days before the APCM.

As with the annual revision, once the roll is complete it will be put up on or near the main door of the parish church, for at least 14 days before the APCM. During this time corrections may be made to the entries on the roll, for example how a name is spelt or amending the

details of an address. No names can be added or removed during this period, this can only happen after the APCM.

Historically the only form of written communication was by letter and only postal addresses were recorded on Electoral Roll registers, but nowadays this is not the norm for many organisations and it is now an ideal opportunity to bring our communication with the church membership into the 21st century, by asking for some additional contact information, such as telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and social media details. Having an up-to-date church membership data-base with this additional information will provide opportunities to improve communication with members of the congregation for legitimate Church matters.

It is generally accepted that by applying to have one's name on the church electoral roll, consent to publish names and address details as required by Church Representation Rules (CRR) as a legitimate activity has been given. Obviously to comply with new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), any additional information would also only be used for Church matters and not passed to third parties, but by giving it, individuals agree to being contacted by these means.

In addition to the standard Diocesan electoral roll form, you will have the opportunity to supply additional information on a separate Consent Form. Some church members have already given this additional information. Anyone who objects will just not provide this other optional data, and can opt out of the consent form.

On taking the position of Electoral Roll Officer, earlier this year, I was very surprised to learn that only 126 persons were registered on the current roll. For a parish of this size, it appeared to be a very small number and I wonder whether all of our regular worshippers are on the roll?



The church electoral roll is the foundation of the whole structure of synodical government in the church. It

contains the names and addresses of everyone who can vote at the APCM, in other words, qualify to have a say in how the organisation is run.

Please think about this and if you consider yourself to be a member of the congregation and worship regularly at St Nicholas, please add your details to the new electoral roll of 2019.

More news from our website ...

17th November 2018 Annual Train Trip to Thuxton: Songs of Praise, marking the Armistice Of 2018

The trip was a little earlier in the year than usual, and this year celebrated the Centenary of the ending of World War 1.

Michael Fillenham looked very official in his hat, booking in those who had signed up to this popular event. Once again it was a 'sell-out'.

The lights of the church were welcoming to the service, which was led by Canon Sally Theakston. David Ovenden was at the organ to accompany the singing of hymns, and the readings reflected the theme of Thanksgiving and Peace. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies were served and enjoyed on the return train ride, back to Dereham.



Nicholas Newsround Editorial

It's proving to be a hectic year at St Nicholas. 'Vision' Day provoked considerable interest and discussion and has resulted in several new activities, changes in services routine as well as some changes within the services themselves. New roles are taking shape as well, and for those of us involved the interest and support from the congregation is greatly appreciated. It has been good to receive articles from new correspondents this time, though we still wait for more editorial support, especially in stimulating and collecting new material. The team send their good wishes for the coming hectic seasons.