

# THE HERALD

*Telling you all you need to know in our  
Benefice*

*December 2017 & January 2018*

For general enquiries please Tel: **01572 812202** or e-mail [cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com](mailto:cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com), For pastoral needs or urgent matters contact Rev Marcus Purnell e-mail: [revmarcuspurnell@gmail.com](mailto:revmarcuspurnell@gmail.com) or telephone 01572 813031



Dear Friends,

Do you, like me, find it a little ironic that Christmas is so full of glittery tinsel but rather than illuminating the central purpose of the celebration the ‘bling’ of Christmas seems to somehow cover up the core message. What I mean is this; I so often hear people say that they believe there’s something “out there” God is described as a sort of cosmic peeper who just watches safely from a distance while life down here rolls on.

This is quite literally the exact opposite of what the Christian faith holds to! Jesus the one through whom everything was created actually jumped into the creation he made. As John Stott in his excellent book called *The Living Church* put it ***“Jesus could not have identified with us more closely than he did. It was total identification, though without any loss of identity, for he became one of us without ceasing to be himself. He became human without ceasing to be God”***

The whole point of our celebrations is to reflect in awe, as the wise men and the shepherds did. Awe is the prelude to worship but to enter into a state of awe we must stop and reflect on what it is that is truly awesome.

So, why not find an hour or maybe even a whole day over the Christmas period to spend time sitting quietly with the Christmas story. You won't be sorry if you do this because if you take the time to be awestruck you will notice joy comes with the sense of worship that is provoked in you. And joy opens up hope and trust in the God who has truly answered our deepest desire in Jesus. The desire to be children of the living God – the desire to be eternally connected.



**With love and blessings to you  
this Christmas  
from Jane, Rev Marcus,  
Rory, Isaac & Christopher**

## **Message from Madagascar: November 2017**

Dear praying friends,

Madagascar at last – or almost. We praise the Lord that Jane’s visa was issued today!

It’s been a long time coming but we are excited and deeply thankful to God for his faithfulness through the long months of waiting. We are not so keen on packing up our house and saying goodbye to our children will be hard, but we look forward to the fresh challenge ahead. We will fly to the capital Tana overnight on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. We will arrive on the same flight as Bishop Todd and his wife Patsy and we will fly on with them to Tulear on 15<sup>th</sup>. Our time until the end of the year will be for orientation into the Diocese and local community. We will be staying in an en-suite room on the diocesan compound.

The plan is then to go to language school in Antsirabe, which is in the central highlands, for three months starting in January to learn Malagasy. With the start of a new chapter we have changed the name of these brief updates. These “Messages from Madagascar” will complement our longer Link Letters which CMS send out three to four times a year. If you don’t receive those please sign up (<https://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/derek-and-jane-waller>) We hope to send a Link Letter with our first impressions soon after we arrive.

Thank you for sticking with us through this extended period in England. We so appreciate your support and prayers. Of the many things we have come to know at a deeper level this year is our need and desire for God’s grace. Please continue to pray for his grace to be in us and may the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you also,

**Derek and Jane**

## Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



Many thanks to all who contributed to the appeal either by filling a box, donating items to be included or donating cash to assist with transport costs. I have now delivered 70 filled boxes and these will soon be on their way in time for Christmas. They will go to Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East or Africa

and not necessarily all to the same place. Those of you who paid transport costs on line should receive an email at the end of January to advise where your box has gone.

**Patricia Hagger**



### *Sparklers Toddler Group –*

For parents, grandparents and carers of preschool children. We meet during term time on Tuesday Mornings between 9.30am – 11.30am in Cottesmore Church. A warm welcome awaits with crafts, refreshments, lots of varied play/toys and singing. £1 per family.

We extend a very warm welcome to families (usually about 25 adults + children!) from our group of Churches every week and new families are always very welcome too. We would like to expand our group of helpers and are looking for offers of help with the teas, washing up or craft activities. If you have a heart for reaching out to young families and children please contact **Bernadette Wallace 01572 812956/07858484918** or [bernie.wallace@btinternet.com](mailto:bernie.wallace@btinternet.com)

## TRAVELLING CRIB SET – ADVENT 2017



Our knitted Nativity set is all set to go on its travels around the village in the run up to Christmas. If you would like to give shelter to the Holy Family for one night (or more) during Advent please do get in touch. Equally if the idea is new to you and you would like more information

about this wonderful project please get in touch with me.

Bernadette Wallace [18 Vicars Close, Exton](mailto:bernie.wallace@btinternet.com). 01572 812956 / 07858484918 or [bernie.wallace@btinternet.com](mailto:bernie.wallace@btinternet.com)

## FESTIVE 'T' FOR TUESDAY

To launch this new project in the village we will be hosting our first event on Tuesday 12 December between 2.30- 4pm in Exton Village Hall. Tea, coffee, cake and mince pies will be served. If you would like a lift please contact Bernadette Wallace 01572 812956/07858484918 [bernie.wallace@btinternet.com](mailto:bernie.wallace@btinternet.com) or Sally Miller 01572 811411. We hope this will be the beginning of a monthly meeting in Exton bringing together people of all ages in our community.



## Greetham travelling Nativity, Friday 22nd December

Please join us in bringing the story of Christ's birth to life in Greetham.



Thank you to Scott and Carol for letting us begin our journey in the W heatsheaf car park at 5:30 pm. We will walk through the village to the community centre field and then to the church meeting the characters from the nativity story as we

go ending up in the Plough car park at 6:30 pm. Thank you to Beany and Kaz for letting us end our journey there. Please dress for the weather and muddy ground and bring a torch. We will be singing carols as we go and who knows? We may pick up a few shepherds, angels and Wise Men as we go, not to mention Mary and Joseph and the oh so special baby Jesus.

If you fancy taking part, then ring Jackie Gauntley on 01572 868291 or just come along and join us on the night. Let's start the Christmas weekend remembering how it all began....

A note to all pet owners - if we get permission, we intend to let off a few firework rockets at the community centre field. This will be shortly before 6 pm. They are rated as 2 out of 5 for noise but you may want to keep your cats and dogs in just for a few minutes.

**Hi everyone**

Earlier this year you kindly baked a batch of cookies for the Kairos mission which went into Stocken Prison. Your cookies were hugely appreciated by the inmates who took part in Kairos, and they contributed significantly towards the transformation which took place in their lives as a result of the mission.

Thank you.

Kairos has been invited to go back into Stocken in March 2018 and I am emailing to ask if you would be prepared to bake again. The good news is there will only be one, much simpler, recipe to follow - a relief for all of us I'm sure!

Baking week will be February 27th - March 3rd and the cookies will be packed on Sunday March 4th. Could you let me know if you would be willing to take part, and thank you again for all your efforts this year.

Love Cathy Dyson

*What's on every week*

<b>Mon to Fri 08.00</b> <i>Every week</i>	<b><i>Morning Bible Study &amp; Prayer, Greetham Church With a cup of tea</i></b>
<b>Monday 10.30</b> <b>Weeks 2 &amp; 4</b>	<b><i>Prayer Meeting in Cottesmore Church</i></b> <b><i>For more info please contact Di Toy on 812355</i></b>
<b>Monday 14.30</b> <b><i>Weekly term time</i></b>	<b><i>Barrow Home Group</i></b> <b><i>Duncan Ball (812428)</i></b> <b><i>cduncanball@gmail.com</i></b>
<b>Monday 19.00,</b> <b><i>Weekly</i></b>	<b><i>Hand Bell ringing Cottesmore Church 7pm</i></b>
<b>Tuesday 08.30</b> <b><i>Weekly</i></b>	<b><i>Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church</i></b>
<b>Tuesday 09.30 - 11.30</b> <b><i>Term time only</i></b>	<b><i>Sparklers toddlers group</i></b> <b><i>ALL WELCOME</i></b>
<b>Tuesday 10.00</b> <b><i>Every week</i></b>	<b><i>Holy Communion at Gainsboro' Ct</i></b> <b><i>Refreshments served afterwards</i></b>
<b>Tuesday 19.30</b> <b><i>Weekly term time</i></b>	<b><i>The Rectory Cottesmore</i></b> <b><i>Rev Marcus Purnell (813031)</i></b> <b><i>revmarcuspurnell@gmail.com</i></b>
<b>Wednesday 09.15</b> <b><i>Every week</i></b>	<b><i>Morning Prayer in Exton church</i></b> <b><i>Contact Bernadette Wallace 812956 or 0785 848 4918</i></b>
<b>Thursday 09.00</b> <b><i>Weekly</i></b>	<b><i>Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church</i></b>
<b>Thursday 19.30</b> <b><i>Weekly term time</i></b>	<b><i>Bible Fellowship Contact Anne Adamson on 812816 for more info</i></b>

### **Services in our Benefice for December 2017**

<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	0800	Holy Communion	Greetham
	0930	Holy Communion	Cottesmore

	0930	Morning Worship	Greetham
	1115	Holy Communion	Stretton
	<b>1600</b>	<b>Christingle</b>	<b>Greetham</b>
Tues 5th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
<b>Wed 6th</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>St Nicholas Patronal Festival</b>	<b>Thistleton</b>
Sunday 10th	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning Worship with 0900 breakfast	Greetham
	1115	BCP Holy Communion	Clipsham
	1115	Morning service	Exton
Tues 12th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
<b>Saturday 16th</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Clipsham</b>
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	<b>1500</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Exton</b>
	<b>1600</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Stretton</b>
	<b>1700</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Thistleton</b>
	<b>1800</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Greetham</b>
<b>Mon 18th</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Cottesmore</b>
Tues 19th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
<b>Thurs 21st</b>	<b>1200 -1400</b>	<b>Café Church Christmas Party Lunch</b>	<b>Cottesmore</b>
<b>Sunday 24th Christmas Eve</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>Benefice Service of Holy Communion</b>	<b>Stretton</b>
	<b>1630</b>	<b>Crib Service</b>	<b>Cottesmore</b>
	<b>1700</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Burley on the Hill</b>
	<b>2330</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>	<b>Cottesmore</b>



	<b>2330</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>	<b>Greetham</b>
<b>Monday 25th Christmas Day</b>	<b>0930</b>	<b>Morning service</b>	<b>Cottesmore</b>
	<b>0930</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Thistleton</b>
	<b>1115</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Clipsham</b>
	<b>1015</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Exton</b>
	<b>1115</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Stretton</b>
Tues 26th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>Benefice Service of Holy Communion</b>	<b>Clipsham</b>

### Services in our Benefice for January 2018

Tues 2nd	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
Sunday 7th	0800	Holy Communion	Greetham
	0930	Holy Communion	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning Service	Greetham
	1115	Holy Communion	Stretton
Tues 9th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
Sunday 14th	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning worship with 0900 breakfast	Greetham
	1115	BCP Holy Communion	Clipsham
	1115	Morning Service	Exton
Tues 16th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
Thurs 18th	1200 -1400	Church Café	Cottesmore

Sunday 21st	0930	Informal Holy Communion	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning Praise	Greetham
	1115	Morning Service	Stretton
Tues 23rd	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
Sunday 28th	1030	Benefice Celebration Service with Holy Communion	Cottesmore
Tues 30th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court

### Websites

Benefice: [www.northrutlandchurches.org.uk](http://www.northrutlandchurches.org.uk)  
 Greetham: [www.greethamchurch.org.u](http://www.greethamchurch.org.u)  
 Stretton: [www.strettonchurch.wix.com/rutland](http://www.strettonchurch.wix.com/rutland)

### Important - Please Note

**For all information re the Herald and to send any items for inclusion by e-mail, please use the benefice office address - [cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com](mailto:cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com). Please leave anything in writing in the Cottesmore tray at the back of St Nicholas Church. **For the February edition of the Herald, please may I have items by 22nd January 2018.** Thanks. Val.**

As you are probably aware, Rev Marcus will be leaving the Benefice at the end of January, and there will be a Benefice service of Celebration at St Nicholas Church, Cottesmore on Sunday 28th January 2018

This will be followed by a "bring and share " lunch in the Community Centre at Cottesmore.

Just in case you are unsure, "bring and share "means a plate of either sweet or savoury finger food.

This will be your opportunity to say farewell to Marcus and his family and to thank him for all his hard work in this



# *Christmas Services December 2017*

## **Sunday 3rd**

1600 Christingle Greetham

## **Wednesday 6th**

1830 Patronal Service Thistleton

## **Saturday 16th**

18.00 Carol Service Clipsham

## **Sunday 17th**

16.00 Carol Service Stretton

18.00 Carol Service Greetham

15.00 Carol Service Exton

17.00 Carol Service Thistleton

## **Monday 18th**

19.30 Carol Service Cottesmore

## **Sunday 24th**

1030 Benefice Holy Communion Stretton

16.30 Crib Service Cottesmore

17.00 Carol Service Burley on the Hill

23.30 Midnight Mass Cottesmore

23.30 Midnight Mass Greetham

## **Monday 25th**

0930 Morning Service Cottesmore

0930 Holy Communion Thistleton

1115 Holy Communion Clipsham

1015 Holy Communion Exton

1115 Holy Communion Stretton

## **Sunday 31st**

1030 Benefice Holy Communion Clipsham

*With best wishes from Rev Marcus and the ministry team. We hope to welcome you to one of our services this Christmas.*