

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE

Village news, notices and events....



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RECTOR'S LETTER – DECEMBER 2016

Job description for an angel. To be a messenger, care giver, guardian and onlooker. The angel Gabriel is best known for bearing the good news of Jesus' birth, but before he spoke with Mary, he went to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, (Luke: 1:19). Here he describes himself with the Greek word 'paristano' which means 'stands.' Gabriel stands in the presence of God waiting to serve. He is God's servant messenger.

But on the night of Jesus' birth, the angels have a night off from their usual duties. Why?

Because this night is different: it is a night of joy and celebration; a night when the angels look deeply into the beauty and good news of a promised salvation. The scripture tells us that the field shone with the glory of God when the first angel appeared. This angel of the Lord speaks of '*good news of great joy*' of a Saviour's birth and then: "*Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.'*" Luke 2: 13-14 (NLT)

This vast host of angels are not the source of the light; they reflect His light. This is their honour: to be a mirror for God's glory. Paul, in his first letter to Timothy (6:16), describes this light as '*unapproachable*'.

But on this night, the angels help make the unapproachable approachable and they share this shimmering, dazzling, blinding light with shepherds, and, by song and story, with us.

They can't help themselves. They could not stop if they wanted to. This joyful news is no longer private, once spoken to individuals: Mary and Joseph; Elizabeth and Zacharias, even from God to Gabriel. This message of '*great joy*' is now publicly sung in a field to a group of shepherds by a vast army of angels. All are bathed in the Lord's overflowing light and glory which overpowers the darkness. It is boundless; endless; without limits.

Drenched in the light and carried by the song, the shepherds leave their sheep to run and see this promised Saviour in swaddling clothes and they encounter the Light of the World: "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*" John 8:12

Overflowing with joy, they too can't help themselves — telling everyone they meet of Jesus' birth. Like the angels, the shepherds reflect His light to a world in darkness. The light is the message; the message is our gift.

In His season; reflect on Him; reflect His light and 'Shine like Stars'.

Rector's Thank You: I would like to thank everybody who has helped to support our churches in the past year in so many different ways, and to wish you all a joyous and Christ filled Christmas with family and friends; and extend a warm invitation to the many Christmas Services where we can celebrate together the gift of the Christ Child. I hope too that many families will enjoy inviting the Holy family into their homes with our travelling cribs in the run up to Christmas.

God Bless you all, Revd Simon Dommett

On 9th November 2016, a Northamptonshire County Farthinghoe Bypass was on the recommendations that the A422 Farthinghoe Bypass be priority list of major road schemes and secondly notes the preference of the public consultation for a northern route, agreeing that this should form the basis of further work to develop the scheme. The recommendations were agreed, meaning that the scheme has been added to the County Council's priority list of major road schemes and the bypass plans were given approval to move onto the next stage where further technical work, including environmental assessment, would progress on generating a preferred route for the scheme, with the pace of the work depending on the availability of finance and resources. It is the Parish Council's intention to invite Chris Wragg of Northamptonshire County Council to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2017 to present the latest update on the bypass to the village.



Cabinet Meeting was held at Council where the A422 agenda with the Cabinet firstly agrees that the added to the County Council's

Concern had recently been expressed about road safety when exiting Church Lane onto Queens Street, due to parked cars reducing the width of the road. Whilst this was a specific incident, it is an issue which is prevalent throughout the village. Our local rural police officer, Chris Bird, was requested to make a site visit to provide advice on how to handle this and other parking issues. From a legal point of view he referred to Rule 243 of the Highway Code which states, amongst a longer list, that you should not stop or park near a school entrance, anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services, opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space, in front of an entrance to a property or on a bend. Rule 242 states that you must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.

The recommendation was also made that property owners should be aware of vegetation from their properties which encroaches onto the roads, reducing visibility for drivers. The Parish Council would ask that everyone considers this point and ensures that vegetation is kept trimmed right back for the safety of all.

Should there be an accident due to illegal parking, it is possible that the parker may be held responsible for the accident. It is an offence to obstruct emergency vehicles from reaching their destination and therefore inconsiderate parking could potentially lead to prosecution. We live in a small village with narrow streets and it is incumbent on all of us to park considerately and safely. The Parish Council would urge all villagers to take the above points into consideration and work to ensure that there are no traffic accidents which could have been avoided.

There will be no Parish Council meeting in December. The next meeting will be Wednesday, 11th January 2017 at 7.00pm in the Beasley Room at the Village Hall. Public time will be from 7.00pm to 7.15pm.

Your Parish Councillors would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



As Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, my primary aim is a simple one: to make Northamptonshire safer.

In order to ensure that everyone is working towards the same shared goal, I've already undertaken a great deal of work to ensure that Northamptonshire Police will play a central role in both the development and delivery of the new Police and Crime Plan for the county, rather than this simply being a strategy set by my team and I.

This is why - for the first time - a joint workshop for members of staff from the Force and my Office was held to develop ideas for a joint strategy. I want the force and my team to deliver the Police and Crime Plan, but I also want everyone to want to deliver it.

Northamptonshire is a large place. It's home to nearly a quarter of a million people, there's over 300,000 domestic properties and 268 parishes, which are joined together by a network of over 2500 miles of highways. Our current budget for policing Northamptonshire is around £122million. Although this might sound a lot, given the size our county and ever increasing challenges we face, it means we'll have to make some difficult decisions on how our limited resources are allocated.

This is why the opinions and experiences of every single person in the county matters. Please do head to www.YourPCC.co.uk and let us know what you think.

Finally can I wish you all a Happy Christmas and should you need any help or assistance, please contact me at:
commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk.

Stephen

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE NEWS

Farthing-Hoe-Down – the Events Committee’s view: I must admit to having some reservations about whether I would enjoy the Farthing-hoedown on 19 November - sequence dancing to a caller is not my thing and I thought I would be without a partner because my husband, Dave Hancock, has damaged his Achilles tendon; however, Pip bought a fabulous leather cowboy hat when in Las Vegas last year, so needs must.

The evening was fantastic! The dancing does not require a partner, you just join groups, the band was excellent, the steps not complicated and the caller easy to follow. And Mr Hancock danced all night!! As did all the other men! (Thursday night ballroom dancing at the village hall, here we come). Dave Clayton won the prize as Best Male Dancer and Viv James from Middleton Cheney won Best Female Dancer, both voted for by the band.

During the interval when we finished our jacket potatoes and chilli, karaoke was on offer. We have learnt that we have some real talent in the village. Special thanks to Mark North - what a voice - especially when dressed as a horse! The prize for the most entertaining karaoke slot went to Frank Kovacs, a guest of the Claytons, for his “interesting” rendition of Delilah.

The village hall was transformed into a saloon bar, complete with a full-sized buffalo and cacti! The American flags suspended from the ceiling were most imposing - special thanks to the gentleman on Charlton Way who kindly loaned them. Thanks also go to Nicky Dorward and Limes Farm for the delicious, very reasonably-priced baked potatoes, the Events Committee for making the chilli to save on cost and all their hard work to make the evening such a success. And of course, thanks to Pip Clayton for the idea and the purchase of the cowboy hat.

The Events Committee have some exciting ideas for 2017, but we would love to hear your ideas too. These events are about a good value evening out when everyone can get together as a community. We don't wish to make profits - except when it's a charity evening - just enough money to hold the next event. There is no obligation to do anything other than come along with an open mind and enjoy yourselves - fancy dress is never obligatory!

Oh, and if you see Dave Hancock limping around the village, it's because he now claims that not only is his Achilles tendon severely damaged, he now needs a new knee. Jane Mills and I lost a 1lb in weight with all the dancing so we are very happy!

Your Events Committee:

Pip Clayton, Lois Ashburton, Lucie Pearson, Jane Mills, Wendy Hancock

Christmas at The Fox

Great Food & Drinks

A choice of menus with our Feast Menu, see over, suited for parties & groups of all sizes from 2 to 40+

Our Main Menu for smaller groups with all our traditional favourites & some seasonal touches

Lunchtime lighter meals including our sandwich menu

What do you fancy ... A reserved area to drink & a buffet to Suit? Ask for suggested menus & more ideas

Mulled Wine Winter Warmer Ales
Plenty of Bubbly The Fox Cocktail List

Bedrooms

Don't forget we have 4 lovely en-suite bedrooms & can offer some great rates for staying over after a meal, or for your visitors over the festive period

Events

- Sunday 4th Big Karaoke Night
Sunday 18th The Fox Village Quiz Night
Sunday 25th Christmas Day open for drinks 11.30am to 1.30pm
Saturday 31st Dine, if you wish from our big menu, or just come along for a few drinks, then stay & see the New Year in with a great playlist and bubbly through to 1am

Details

For more details of all our December menus & events please go to the Christmas pages on our website, call us or pop in and pick up the information you need & make your booking

The Fox at Farthinghoe

Baker Street, Farthinghoe, NN13 5PH
www.foxfarthinghoe.co.uk 01295 713965



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Buy your tickets for our annual Christmas Raffle from one of our shops or pick them up from the Hospice. Prizes include a state of the art Xbox games console (perfect for that young member of the family this Christmas), a giant 4.5l bottle of Bell's Whisky (perfect for the older members of the family this Christmas!), a beautiful handcrafted applique quilt, and many more fantastic prizes! £1 per ticket. Draw takes place 19 December.

CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES: CAN YOU DONATE SOME FERRERO ROCHER?

Are you a local business looking to help a local charity this Christmas? Every year our supporters knit Christmas novelties which contain a Ferrero Rocher chocolate and are sold all over the community. It's a great way of raising funds for us; every novelty sold could pay for a cup of tea and some biscuits for a day hospice patient at Katharine House. If you can help us by donating some Ferrero Rocher to fill our Christmas novelties this year, please call our Fundraising Team on 01295 816 484. Thank you!

DO YOU KNOW SEO?

Do you have experience optimising website content for search engines? Can you help us fine tune our content to make it easier for people in our community to find what they're looking for? If you can spare a few hours to help us provide a better online service to people facing life-limiting illnesses, please get in touch with Chris on 01295 816 484, or email chris.higgins@khh.org.uk

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Can you spare a morning each week to collect and deliver our collecting tins and posters in the local area? Terry, our current volunteer has been helping us for a number of years and has retired at the end of November. We'd love to hear from you if you can help us, please call Wendy in the Fundraising Office on 01295 816 484.

VILLAGE NOTICES

- Coffee and mincepies – Friday 2 December from 10am-12noon in the Church Vestry. Bring & Buy and also a raffle.
- We are very pleased to welcome the children from the School, who are coming to sing for us at 10.45am.
- Church Cleaning - This will take place on Tuesday 6 December from 8.30am onwards.
- Mothers' Union - Will be holding an Advent service at Brackley Church at 10am on Tuesday 6 December 6th. All are welcome!
- Travelling Nativity - If you haven't put your name down to look after this please let Rosemary Jarvis know as soon as possible! 01295 711130.
- Christmas decorating - We will be decorating the Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Saturday 17 December. We would love to have more helpers!



Thanks to our friends at Brackley Round Table, Santa will be touring Farthinghoe in his sleigh on Wednesday 14 December between 6pm and 7.30pm. So, make sure you're up to give him a wave. His helpers will be knocking on doors taking a collection for our school so please give as generously as you can.

COMPOST CORNER DECEMBER 2016



You can enjoy the festive season with a clear conscience if you get a few jobs done beforehand. Yes, it's time to sharpen and lubricate your tools; get the linseed oil out and rub it well into those shafts until they glisten. This is also a good time of year to service your lawn mower; it will bring a smile to his face.

Have you thought about what Santa Claus might bring you later this month? What gardening gadget have you been missing all your life?

One memorable year, my own personal Father Christmas was experimenting with his welding equipment and made me a rotating compost bin out of an old oil drum— oh, joy! Just think of all that aeration and mixing of contents and speedy decomposition that would take place, to produce the sweetest smelling and most friable compost which would be the envy of fellow gardeners!

Unfortunately, there were a couple of significant design faults in Father Christmas' handiwork which meant that never happened. First of all, when even half full, the bin was so heavy that it was a Herculean task even to tip it around its horizontal axis. The second fatal flaw was a poorly fitting lid. Having finally achieved, with superhuman effort, a tilt beyond 90 degrees from the vertical, the black, steaming, sloppy contents started sliding towards the erstwhile top end of the bin, forcing the bin to complete its inversion and emptying out onto the floor. The mistletoe went unnoticed that year.

Did you know that Quality Street wrappers are compostable? They are made from cellulose which is derived from wood pulp, so you will be doing your bit to improve your garden soil structure by scoffing toffees.

On that indulgent note, I'll wish you a Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Trellis

BENEFICE WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Sunday 4th December

- 9:30am** **Said Communion at Farthinghoe**
 11am Morning Worship at Hinton-in-the-Hedges
 11am Communion at Evenley
 6pm Taize Worship at Aynho

Sunday 11th December

- 11am Communion at Aynho
 11am Communion at Evenley
 4pm Family Christingle Service at Croughton

Sunday 18th December

- 3pm Lessons and Carols at Evenley
 5pm Lessons and Carols at Aynho
6pm **Lessons and Carols at Farthinghoe**
 6pm Lessons and Carols at Croughton
 6pm Lessons and Carols at Hinton-in-the-Hedges

Christmas Eve 24th December

- 3:30pm Family Nativity Service at Croughton
 5pm Carols on the Green at Aynho
5pm **Family Crib Service at Farthinghoe**
 11pm Midnight Mass at Aynho

Christmas Day 25th December

- 9:30am Family Christmas Communion at Croughton
 10:00am Family Christmas Service at Evenley
 10:30am Family Christmas Communion at Aynho
 10:30am Family Christmas Communion at Hinton-in-the-Hedges
11:00am **Family Christmas Communion at Farthinghoe**

Sunday 1st January

- 11am Communion at Hinton-in-the-Hedges
(please note later time than usual)



LIMES FARM

EVENT CATERING SERVICE

WHY NOT LET
LIMES FARM TAKE
THE STRESS OUT
OF CATERING FOR
YOUR NEXT EVENT?

“EVERYONE COMMENTED
ON THE DELICIOUS BREAD
AND TASTY FILLINGS FOR
THE SANDWICHES AND
HOW FRESH THEY WERE -
IT WAS SO NICE TO HAVE
HOMEMADE. THE LOVELY
SPREAD REALLY MADE OUR
CELEBRATION SPECIAL!”
Debbie & Family

We provide event catering for local businesses and for your special occasion. So whether it's a birthday party, christening, office party or even a wedding, we can help.

We have a wealth of experience in catering for many different events and the Limes Farm Catering Team can tailor our menus to your exacting requirements. We also provide help, advice and creative ideas to make your event just that little bit extra special.

We only use the finest ingredients, sourced locally wherever possible, including from our own farm. All the food is freshly prepared and brought to your venue on the day to set everything up ready for you. And we can even stay on to serve your guests if you would like this additional service.



Call the Limes Farm Catering Team on 01295 711 229 to discuss
your requirements or email intouch@limesfarm.com

Limes Farm, Main Road, Farthinghoe, Northants NN13 5PB www.limesfarm.com