

**THAXTED PARISH
MAGAZINE**



CHRISTMAS 2019

**ANGLICAN,
BAPTIST, CATHOLIC
& UNITED REFORMED**

ABC & U EDITORIAL INFORMATION
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EASTER 2020

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The ABC&U is published three times a year, shortly before Christmas, Easter and Harvest. The magazine conveys both a Christian message and secular information to the parish of Thaxted. The views expressed are those of the individual writers. They are not necessarily the views of the churches of the parish. The committee welcomes ideas, articles and views from anyone. Reproduction of material from this edition is welcome, but the source should be acknowledged. Please contact the editor for more information.

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Cover Photo: . Christmas Front door - anon.

We welcome offers of photos for our cover. They should be Thaxted and season themed. Without identifiable people or homes.

CHRISTMAS.

As I write this article we are approaching Advent - the time dedicated to the preparation for the celebration of the birth of Our Lord. It begins on the Sunday nearest to the end of November and comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning coming. Traditionally it was a season of penitence, but it no longer keeps to the strictness of Lent. Christians no longer are obliged to fast,

As there is no mention in the Gospels of the date of Jesus' birth except there was a census taken, and Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted. In the 4th century Pope Julius 1 set Christmas day on December 25th in an effort to Christianize a pagan festival, Saturnalia, which took place in the middle of winter when the days started to lengthen - a cult of the sun. There are many references in the Bible linking Jesus to the sun and it is thought that Malachi's prophesy "the son of righteousness risen with healing on his wings" refers to Jesus. St Augustine said in a sermon on Christmas Day that Jesus choose to be born on the shortest day. *"Hence it is that He was born on the day which is the*

shortest in our earthly reasoning and from which subsequent days begin to increase in light, He, therefore, bent low and lifted us up, chose the shortest day, yet the one when Day begins to increase." So, from the 4th century, most of the world has celebrated Christmas on the 25th. In the Eastern Church this date was adopted later as they regarded January 6th as Christmas Day.

The winter solstice was a time of festivity in every culture. It has always been a time of giving and receiving gifts and the Christian Christmas took its place in this cult. Children were given presents as the Christ child was given gifts from the Magi, but in reality, it is us, together with all our fellow men, who have received the gift of God through man's renewed participation in the divine life"

An important part of today's Christmas is the myth of Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, as he was christened by the Americans. He origins are Christian and European, but the visual image we have of Father Christmas is the one popularised by Victorian card makers in America.

St Nicholas came from Turkey, not the snows of the north, that many children believe. He was born in the Greek city of Patara in about 270 AD to a businessman named Theophanes and his wife Nonna. His childhood was spent in Myra, a seaport on the Anatolian coast, a destination for traders, sailors and fisherman. The Emperor Diocleatian imprisoned him for his faith during his purge on Christians but he was released by the emperor Constantine. He attended the council of Nicea in 325 as the bishop of Myra when the community of bishops met in the first effort to obtain consensus in the church. On his death he was buried in his church in Myra but in 1087 his body was stolen by some Italian sailors and taken to Bari where it now rests in the 11th century basilica,

Nicholas was known for his generosity and kindness and legend says he gave money to girls for their dowries to save their downfall and to stop them from falling into prostitution.

Some traditions surrounding Father Christmas pre-date Christianity. The sleigh being pulled by Reindeer is from Scandinavian

mythology and the leaving of mince pies and a glass of brandy for him, on Christmas Eve, may be left over from the pagan rites to mark the end of winter and the coming of spring.

There are many more traditions that relate to Christmas but let us be grateful that we do not live in the middle of 17th century to the early 18th when Christmas festivities were suppressed by the puritans both here and in America.



A LANTERN UNTO MY FEET.....

Susannah Lacon, Assistant Curate – Thaxted, The Sampfords, Radwinter and Hempstead

A 'vocation' is a strange thing. Everybody has one – we are all called to fulfil our potential, but the problem for most of us is finding out what it is. How often do we really listen to the promptings of our inner voice, let alone the whispers of the Holy Spirit? We go blindly on making the same mistakes, never finding what makes 'our hearts burn within us', and we wonder what is wrong with our lives and why we are not happy. This was me a few years ago. I was restless. I was sure there was something more I could be doing, something more I could offer. I couldn't quite pin it down, but I knew I hadn't found it.

From childhood, the verse from Psalm 119 *'Thy word is a lantern unto my feet: and a light unto my paths'* has stuck with me. I missed the wood for the trees many times and lost sight of the light shining on the path, but these words always came back to mind when I realised that I had completely lost my way. More recently, the Benedictine tradition taught me that God calls each of us through the people we meet and the events of our lives. Obedience to the rhythm of daily prayer, the psalms, the value of stability, and care for our impact on others and on the world around us, enables us to give fuller attention to this action of God. The Rule of Benedict opens with a sense of urgency 'Listen' and 'attend.... with the ear of your heart'. This somehow led me to a Diocesan Vocations Day in 2014.

I just knew I had to be there, and deep down I think I knew why, but at my age with no formal qualifications I kept telling myself it was all a daft idea! The Bible of course, is full of stories of those who hear God's call and then argue –Jonah ran away to Tarshish to avoid God's instruction to go to Nineveh. Jeremiah argued that he was too young, in the presence of God Isaiah declared that he was lost, and I had much sympathy with Simon Peter's plea, 'Go away from me Lord!' However, that day listening to the inspiring stories of those who had found and followed their personal call, I made an important discovery. God is not calling us to be someone we are not – he calls us as we are, to be who we are. I suddenly found myself saying 'yes' to four years of discernment and training which led to Chelmsford Cathedral in 2018 to be ordained Deacon, to Halstead earlier this year where I was

ordained to the Priesthood, and finally back home as Assistant Curate. At each milestone along the way was I was convinced that this would be the end of the journey, but the best advice I was given during that time was, 'Trust the Process!'. It's all about formation. One of the greatest joys for me at college was finding God in those around me – the fellowship and stimulation of different traditions and varied backgrounds, and the confidence and enthusiasm of the young people especially, was truly inspiring. It's out of love and a desire to play our part, that vocations spring. Not everyone will meet an angel like Mary or receive a blinding vision like Paul. We are who we are. We can only do what we can. However, by trusting the wisdom and experience of those who test our vocations, and allowing God the space to enter our lives, we realise that we are not searching for God - he is seeking us.



Ordination to the Priesthood, Pentecost 2019 – Susannah with Roger, Bishop of Colchester, and the clergy of the Benefice

Christmas is now racing towards us at alarming speed, but just before we start dusting off the decorations, we pass through my favourite season of the church year - Advent. God is calling us. He is coming towards us. In Advent we wait and listen – respond to his call and make room for him in our hearts and lives. We are challenged see the big picture, to look back as well as forward and remind ourselves of

where we are and where our journey started. The candles on our advent wreath each Sunday light our way, starting on the first Sunday with the Patriarchs – those who first answered the call of God in the desert. The Patriarchs of the Old Testament inspire us to trust. Then come the Prophets who spoke to their own generation, whose words were eventually fulfilled in Jesus and still resonate today. The Prophets teach us to have vision. On the third Sunday we remember John the Baptist, the ‘voice crying in the wilderness’ prophesied by Isaiah, who calls the people to repentance and points beyond himself to the Lamb of God. John gives us the confidence to put our heads above the parapet. We light the fourth candle in honour of Mary, who understood the call of God with all its implications and simply said ‘yes’. Mary’s response embodies trust, vision, confidence and above all, humility and obedience to her vocation. This is such an exciting time for each of us and for our churches. These great examples take us another step on the way to open our hearts and lives to the Word of God when he comes among us at Christmas, but if we attend to them with the ‘ear of our heart’, they may also shine a light on our path as we hesitantly make our own way along the journey of our personal vocation.

CLARANCE HOUSE CONSERVATION GARDEN

Alison Howells

Wassail

Once again, we will be wassailing our fruit trees in the Conservation Garden. Every year we do this to drive away any lurking spirits and to ensure a good crop. So please come along on Saturday 18th January at 5.45 for 6pm and wrap up very warm

You’ll need boots as it can get damp underfoot and bring a football rattle or a saucepan to bang to frighten off those spirits. We will provide mulled cider and apple juice and apple cakes. There will be music and song and stories. Keep an eye out for the posters going up after Christmas.

Apples, Quinces, Medlars and Cooking Pears

In the meantime we do have some fruit (apples, quinces, medlars and cooking pears) still available. The garden is now shut for the winter but we are in there working every other Sunday morning (the same week as the green skip) so please come down and pick your own.

Thanks

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FOODS

THAXTED YOUNG BELL RINGERS

Cathy Lowe, Thaxted tower secretary

We are delighted to report that our young bell ringers Rory McMillan, Rosie Moule, Tom Bassett and Charlie Smith were presented with their certificates at the Open Doors service by the vicar Philip Tarris. They also took part in a ringing competition where they were the youngest band participating and they did extremely well. We are very proud of their achievements, their dedication and commitment.



New members welcome

We are always ready to welcome new members and we are still waiting for our first bell ringing family! If you would like a family challenge please think of joining us on Tuesday night at 7.30pm and see what we do. Contact Cathy on 01371 830097 for information.

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THAXTED LADIES COMMUNITY CHOIR

Jill Jones

The Thaxted Ladies Community Choir have enjoyed a very successful year singing for fun and pleasure. As a group we have entertained at a variety of retirement homes locally in Thaxted, The Moat House, Great Easton Retirement Village and at Tabor Place, Braintree. Through music we encourage residents to participate in a 'sing along' with songs from shows, the American jazz standards and popular music. It is wonderful to hear the audience participating and gives the ladies in the choir great enjoyment sharing their joy of singing. Music is so beneficial for the soul and health!

We raised funds for a portable stage piano and were very fortunate to also receive a donation from the Yardley's Trust. This enabled us to take our music to retirement homes and into the local community.

If you have a society who would like us to visit please get in contact with us. Or if you like singing for pleasure come and join us! We meet fortnightly on Monday evenings 7.30pm - 9.00pm at Thaxted Baptist Church Hall, Park Street, Thaxted.

For more information contact Jill Jones 01371 830104

HARVEST SUPPER

Janet Walker

On Sunday 29th September our annual Harvest Supper took place in the Parish Church.

It was an ecumenical event(organised by Thaxted Churches Together)and followed a short service,where we sang traditional harvest hymns and listened to contributors from all the Thaxted churches.....

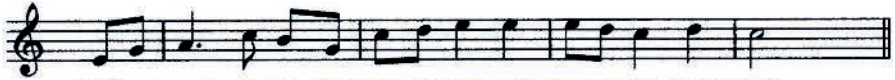
..and then we ate,and drank. Thanks to all who contributed in any way, to a very successful and sociable event. We fed around 90 people, and raised over £500.00 for Hope House (a homeless charity based in Braintree) It's an important cause, we are all vulnerable to becoming in need of help, and everyone who came to our supper helped someone else! Thanks!

A NEW SONG FOR THAXTED

Words by Quintus Benziger - Melody "Thaxted" by Gustav Holst



On the hill is Thax-ted's nob le church with me-di - e - val spire,



Walk a - round its spa-cious sym-me-try, and hear a chil-dren's choir.



Close at hand, the an-cient Bull ring where our Mor - ris dan-cers meet.



Come and stand by the Guild-hall, where Cut-lers had their seat.



Up, a - bove, we see a set of sails, our wind-mill, stand-ing strong,



And be - low, our street for Mar-ket stalls, where Gus-tav wrote this song.

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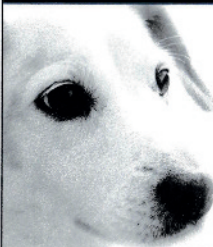
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THAXTED PARISH CHURCH**

with The Right Revd John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell

THAXTED SURGERY PATIENT NEWSLETTER

Sara Carruthers

Building Completion

At time of writing (31 October), Thaxted Surgery is repossessing the newly refurbished old part of the building, ready to open up to patients on Monday November 4th. By publication, we hope that we will have finally settled in after more than a year of building and disruption. It's been a long haul, but the new building is looking fantastic and will definitely be worth all the effort.

The new extended and refurbished surgery looks great, and will certainly be a much pleasanter place for staff to work and for patients to visit. Thank you for bearing with us over this difficult year.

Please give us your feedback and ideas as we settle in and adapt our ways of working.

Fund Raising

Our patient participation group (PPG) has been extremely active in fund raising and has managed to fund all the medical equipment for our new and refurbished premises. Their contribution to medical equipment has enabled us to refurbish the existing consulting rooms and the dispensary – neither of which were originally

part of the scope of work funded by NHS England. Thank you to our PPG, and to the many, many patients and local bodies who have contributed.

Christmas Raffle and Coffee & Crafts Morning

Our PPG are still going strong, and are now raising funds to refurbish the old nurses' rooms. Our desire is to do this very soon after 1 November, so that we don't lose momentum.

The PPG will be holding a Christmas Raffle, along with a Coffee & Crafts morning at Parrishes on December 6, at which raffle tickets will be on sale.

Flu Season

Flu vaccines are still available for all eligible patients – those who are aged 65 and over, or who have a long term condition, or who are pregnant or a carer. If you've not yet had your flu vaccination, please just drop into the surgery any time and we will fit you in.

In particular, the childhood immunisation, FLUENZ was delivered late this year, but we do now have it. Please call to book your child in.

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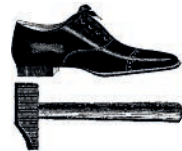
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CHRISTMAS THEMED WORDSEARCH

The words listed below are hidden somewhere in the grid.

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N O R O O M A T T H E I N N O R E N
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G R E A T C L E R K S G E E S E I F
N E L N T M W F S E J L H W A I V F
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CAKE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
CAROLS ROUND THE TREE
CRIB SERVICE
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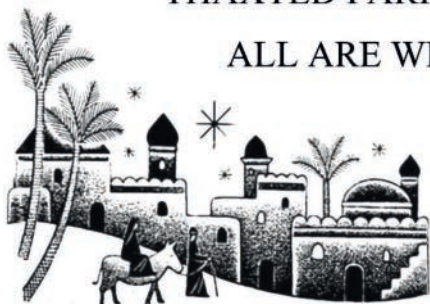
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THAXTED FESTIVAL

Our 2019 season was again blessed with (mainly) fine and sunny weather, providing a relaxed summer setting for our concerts over four weekends in June and July. With Friends of Thaxted Church serving welcome liquid refreshment, together with our world-renowned home made cakes and beverages, a convivial atmosphere was ensured for our audiences.

This year saw many outstanding performances. Our first visit from Ronnie Scott's Blues Explosion almost raised the roof with their electric take on traditional and modern blues. This may have been the first Festival event which had people rocking in the aisles for the final numbers, and calling for the band to come back to Thaxted soon! Dodo Street Band gave us folk music from many cultures, performed with great virtuosity, while the Emma Johnson Trio took us through the early history of jazz. Classico Latino transported us to Latin America with their energy and rhythms, while trumpet virtuoso Ramon Leleu performed not only Baroque but popular and film music with his string quintet. Prime Brass took our families and younger audience on an exciting musical trip to the circus.



Classico Latino at the 2019 Festival. Photo: Michael Bailie

Together with more classical offerings from Brandenburg Sinfonia, Christ's College Cambridge Choir, young pianist Martin James Bartlett, and Tenebrae's Russian choral classics, the range of events meant that we appealed both to our regular diverse audiences as well as attracting those attending for the first time and getting a taste of what the Festival experience can be like. We hope to see you all again in future, including those who came to enjoy our October autumn event with BBC Radio's Zeb Soanes and Carole Boyd.

While the music is central, a lot of hard work goes into getting everything ready. This can only happen through the dedication of our volunteer teams – from staging, lighting, seating to stewards, ticketing and more, and of course our teas, coffees and home-made cakes. It's this community effort which is special, and I thank all those from Thaxted and the wider area who give their time and energy to make the Festival such a success. If you would like to join our teams and offer your help and skills in any capacity, please contact us at music@thaxtedfestival.co.uk, or leave a message on 01371 831421.

2020 marks forty years since local resident Michael Snow initiated the annual format of concerts by professional musicians in the Church in 1980, which has developed into today's modern Festival. Many people will remember those earlier days, and the impact they had on our town. Today we compete with other venues and events nearer at hand, as well as with all the distractions of modern life. We are fortunate to be able to hold our own through the unique combination of our special venue with its wonderful acoustics, the attractions of our town, and our informal atmosphere. The friendly welcome we give to everyone was particularly remarked on in responses to our end-of-season questionnaire this year.

Our 2020 season runs from 19 June to 12 July, and we will again be offering our wide range of performers, with the welcome return of opera in the form of *The Mikado*, from Charles Court Opera. Our season preview will be sent to all our Thaxted Music Lovers and other patrons from mid-November, and our 2020 brochure will be released in February, with priority booking beginning that month – not that far away now!

Peter Donovan, Chairman, Thaxted Festival Foundation
www.thaxtedfestival.co.uk

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For more information:

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CARING FOR OUR CHURCHYARD

Philip Tarris

Back in early 2018 I wrote a piece for the Easter 2018 edition of this magazine about caring for our churchyard. The key message was that the beauty and appearance of the churchyard, is controlled by standards and rules which are set by the church centrally – not here in Thaxted. So, while we, as the local church in Thaxted, are given the responsibility for maintenance, we need to do things in a certain way to ensure the churchyard looks its best.

I went on to say that this also applies to the way individual graves are kept, which of course, can be a very sensitive area. The ways in which families wish to commemorate their deceased relatives is often highly personal, and very important. But sometimes they can conflict with the standards with which we are required to conform – and I tried in the article to describe things which are allowed and not allowed.

18 months on from that article we still have plastic flowers, artificial grass, new wooden and stone kerbs and chippings, photographs, toys, lights and other ornaments – all of which are not permitted – and we have been thinking hard about how best to try to move forward on this, while still absolutely respecting the way people wish to grieve over a loss of a loved one.

So, we propose to:

- Provide a leaflet about caring for graves to every newly bereaved family who has a new grave in the churchyard from now on – so people are clear on what is allowed. These leaflets will be available through the funeral directors and the clergy and will be available in the church. We hope this will begin to set different standards in the churchyard for new graves.
- Contact families with existing graves, beginning in the ‘windmill’ extension to the churchyard, where burials have been taking place over the last five years or so. We will take great care to recognise that bereaved families show their grief in different ways, but will also gently remind people that the church has standards for the churchyard that it is required to implement. We will offer conversations where people would like more information or have difficulty with what is being suggested.

- Where graves are untended, we will offer to return them to turf.

My final paragraph 18 months ago still stands. "In the end this is about perpetuating a place of beauty and calm in the middle of our town for people to rest in peace and for people to visit. We are so fortunate to have this wonderful space, and we can all work together to preserve it." Thank you for your understanding and I hope that families and relatives, and indeed the town, will support us in this very sensitive area.

THAXTED GARDENING CLUB

Veronica Charter



Thaxted Gardening Club has enjoyed a wide variety of topics during 2019. This included a practical demonstration of a unique but simple method of taking cuttings. I personally have found this to be easy and successful. Another eye opener was the choice of 50 small but strikingly beautiful 'small trees for small spaces'. At this meeting we were reminded of the importance of trees for the good of the environment and certainly the choice we were shown would encourage everyone to add a tree to their garden whatever its size.

Do join us on the last Monday of most months. You can find the answer to 'What to do with this space' or choose 'A flowering shrub' to fill that gap. Other topics will help with growing healthy vegetables, perennial and individual plants. Each meeting will hopefully send us all home planning excitably on our next move in our own gardens whatever its size.

See page 35 for the 2020 Programme

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WONDERING ABOUT THE ANGELS

Philip Tarris, Rector

We hear quite a lot about angels at Christmas time – but have we ever wondered about angels and who, or what they are?

Perhaps we don't know what to make of the angels. They don't fit our usual categories and we don't know how to talk about them. We want to believe in angels and their work among us

but we don't know what to think. The angelic doesn't make sense and we try too hard to explain what can't be explained and to understand what can't be understood. We probably all hope that there is more to this world and our lives than what we can touch, see, hear, taste, or smell. We long to live in the deeper presence but too often we don't know how to enter into and trust the mystery.

I wonder if, in our confusion, misunderstanding, and not knowing, we have lost our angels.

Have we lost our angels to our sophistication, believing that if

something cannot be seen, touched, or objectively proved then it can't be real? Have we lost our angels to our superstitions, making them nothing more than a lucky charm to be worn, hung on a wall, or put in a garden? Have we lost our angels to our sentimentality, exchanging the messengers of God for chubby

babies with wings, and blond haired girls (or boys) dressed in white nightgowns playing harps?

Let's hope not. Let's hope that there is more to it than that. So let's wonder a bit more. Wonder is what opens us to the mystery and the mystery, in turn, fills us with wonder.



When we look across an open space our eyes tell us nothing is there. Physics, however, tells us that the space is full of stuff and activity, particles moving, spinning, and relating. So, if that's true for the physical world perhaps it is also true for the spiritual world. I wonder if there

is spiritual stuff and activity filling all that space.

We are told that angels serve God and that they help and defend us. That sounds a lot like what faithful Christians do. We serve God. We care for one another. So, I wonder if what we do in the visible and tangible world the angels are doing in the invisible and intangible world. I wonder if there might be an angelic being, an angelic counterpart, for each human being. I wonder if there is an angel out ahead of each one of us ascending, guiding us through life and leading us on. I wonder if when we sometimes get lost, get tired, or fall, then the angel descends to come back for us.

Have there been times when our world and our life seems broken. We don't know how to put the pieces back together or whether we even have all the pieces. We didn't think we could get through another day but we did, and we don't really know how we did. I wonder if God sent the Archangel Michael to our aid. I wonder if Michael's presence, unbeknownst to us, brought the full strength of God's power to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Have there been times when we have said to ourselves, "I don't know what it is, I can't explain it,

but there is something holy, something sacred, about this place." I wonder if those are times when the Archangel Gabriel is with us. Gabriel, as we know, is the one who announces life and God's presence. Gabriel announced that Mary would give birth to God's son. I wonder if Gabriel appears in those sacred and holy moments, announcing that God is with us and revealing life and divine presence in those moments, places, and people.

Have we ever left church thinking that was the most beautiful liturgy ever? It seemed everything was just right. The music was beautiful and there was a flow and a peace we couldn't describe. We really prayed the prayers. It was the same liturgy we prayed the week before but something was different this time. I wonder if it was the angelic presence. I wonder if those are the liturgies in which we don't just join our voices "with the angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven" but we actually hear their voices.

So, there are some wonderings about the angels, and wonder is what opens us up to the mystery, and the mystery of Christmas.

[Based on a sermon by Revd Michael Marsh, West Texas USA]

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The Vicarage, Watling Lane, Thaxted, CM6 2QY

Administrator: Maggie Catterall 01371 832188 mcatterall49@gmail.com

Christmas Eve	11.15 pm	Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.00 am	Sung Mass
Sunday	8.00 am	Low Mass
	10.00 am	Sung Mass followed by coffee
Wednesday	10.00 am	Said Mass followed by coffee

THE BAPTIST CHURCH, PARK STREET

www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com

m.facebook.com/thaxtedbaptists

Contact : Fran Griffiths 7, St Clements CM6 2LL Tel 01371 831 161

Sunday 22nd Dec	6.00 pm	Candle Light Service
CHRISTMAS DAY	9.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Service
Wednesday	2.30 pm	Fellowship, every fortnight
Thursday	8 pm	Bible Study
Friday	10 - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning [Open to all]
	11.30 -12 noon	Bible Study
Saturday	8.45 for 9 am	Men's Breakfast [Usually 1st of Month]

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Richard N Rowe - Priest-in-Charge,

Weavers, 5 Newbiggen Street, Thaxted CM6 2QS 01371 830808

24th Dec	8 pm	First Mass of Christmas, Thaxted Parish Church
CHRISTMAS DAY	10 am	Mass, Great Bardfield Catholic Church
Saturdays	5 pm	Mass, Thaxted Parish Church
Sundays	9.30 am	Mass, Great Bardfield Catholic Church

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, BOLDFORD STREET

Contact - Julie Barnard, 01371 830261

Sundays	9.30 am	Morning Service, followed by coffee.
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On the third Sunday of the month Morning Service is Communion. From January 2020 this will change to the fourth Sunday of the month.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN THE PARISH CHURCH

28th November	time tbc.	A Christmas Carol, This is My Theatre Company
1st December	4.00 pm	Advent Carol Service .
5th December	7.00 pm	Civic Carol Service .
8th December	7.00 pm	Thaxted New Singers.
15th December	6.00 pm	Town Carol Service
22nd December	10.00 am	Open Doors our new style of worship for all
24th December	4.00 pm	Crib Service Event
	11.15 pm	Midnight Mass
25 th December	10.00 am	Christmas Day Sung Mass
12 th January	11.00 am	Plough Sunday.
20th February	All day	Children's Activity Event in the Church Hall.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH EVENTS

15th December	9.30 am	A Christmas service at the URC followed by coffee and mince pies
22nd December	10.00 am	We will join the Parish church for their 'Open Doors' Christmas service at 10am.
CHRISTMAS DAY		No service as we join with other Churches.
29th December	9.30 am	A service of 'Reflection' 9.30 am in the URC to remember loved ones we have lost and to reflect on the past year and pray the new one to come.
6th March	2.00 pm	The 'World Day of Prayer' will be held in the URC followed by tea.
Second Tuesdays	2.00 pm	We hold 'Tea and Chat', all are very welcome.
First Friday	12.30 pm	We also continue to meet at the Swan Hotel where we purchase lunch and enjoy the company of others, again all are very welcome.

ADVENT WINDOWS - A THAXTED TRADITION

Do not forget that the traditional Advent Window Festival will be happening again. every day from December 1st up to 24th December a new window will be lit at 5 pm. A map of where the windows are can be picked up from Gifted and the Library/Information Centre in Town Street.

BAPTISMS

8th September Harry, Jasper son of Anna & Robbie Ayers
6th October Albert, son of Matthew & Amy Thomas
both at Thaxted Parish Church

MARRIAGES

28th September Neacail McGill & Petra Sands
at Thaxted Parish Church
3rd August Nicholas Husband & Sorrel Parker
at St John The Evangelist Church, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

IN MEMORIAM

The Committee offers condolences to all those who have been bereaved since the last issue of this magazine.

We remember especially Peggy Bassett, Bridget Cast & Barbara Bassett
May they all rest in peace.

CHRISTMAS TREE PROGRAMME

Thursday 28th Nov Tree put up and decorated.
Sunday 1st Dec 5.30pm Carols from 5 pm – Lighting switched on
Sunday 22nd Dec 8pm Carols and mulled wine and mince pies.
Christmas Eve approx 4.15 Carols from followed by
..... the arrival of Father Christmas sometime
between 4.45 and 5pm depending on his other
commitments and weather over the arctic.

**Looking for a fun way to get fit in body and mind?
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mike.thaxted@live.co.uk

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Perry Staker will give a series of 5 lectures at 8 pm in the Day Centre on the theme Hatches, Matches and Despatches, looking at the superstitions, customs and traditions surrounding birth, christenings, courtship, weddings, death, funerals and mourning in Britain.:

Wednesday 15th January
Wednesday 22nd January
Wednesday 29th January
Wednesday 5th February
Wednesday 12th February

David Jones will give two talks on the theme of Jazz:

Wednesday 18th March
Wednesday 25th March

Jenny Antill, who has spoken widely on cross-cultural Russian topics, will give 5 talks on aspects of Russian culture, including examples from art, theatre, reminiscence and literature.

Wednesday 22nd April
Wednesday 29th April
Wednesday 6th May
Wednesday 13th May
Wednesday 20th May

All lectures cost £3.50 for each talk with discounts available for the series. For further details, or to join the mailing list, contact Peter Simmons on 01371 830318

THAXTED GARDENING CLUB - PROGRAMME

Monday 27th January "Flowering Shrubs"
Monday 24th February "What to do with this Space"
Monday 30th March "Organic Vegetable Growing"
Monday 27th April "The Day of the Daylily"

All 7.30 pm at the Day Centre

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THAXTED'S FIRST CLUBS AND SOCIETIES FAIR

The Friends of Thaxted Church

Thaxted's first ever Clubs and Societies Fair, held on Saturday 21st September, was a great success. The idea was to showcase the number and variety of activities going on in Thaxted and encourage residents old and new, young and not-so-young to 'shop around' and perhaps embark on a new hobby or interest. Thaxted responded magnificently.

52 different clubs were represented, and stallholders filled the Parish Church with their colourful and innovative displays. There was certainly plenty to choose from - Brownies and Beavers, badminton, bowls, book clubs and bell-ringing - even the conservation of bats and badgers, to name just a few.

Children were particularly interested in the Martial Arts Club, and there was a karate display from two of the star 'black belts' and a tiny beginner from the Thaxted Karate Club. Football, cricket, tennis, archery, yoga and Nordic Walking offered sport for all ages and levels of fitness. There was even a well-behaved cocker spaniel to illustrate the benefits of dog training classes. More cerebral activities were well-represented

by the famous Thaxted Festival, Thaxted Society, the Bridge Club and the Lecture Society, which added 20 names to its members' list.

The Friends of Thaxted Church, who organised the event, were delighted with the response from residents and the enthusiasm from the stallholders. Their feedback afterwards was greatly appreciated - and, yes, the event will be repeated in September 2021. If that is a success, it could become a regular Thaxted bi-annual event.

Many people have asked if there is a list of clubs and societies available; this has been created and is available from the Library and the Information Centre.



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The advertisement features a dark background on the left with a diamond logo above the stylized letters 'MW'. Below the logo, the text 'Valuations' is written in a serif font, followed by 'Independent Jewellery & Watch Appraisals' in a smaller sans-serif font. Further down, the text 'For the purposes of Insurance, Probate, Private Sale & Division of Assets.' is centered. At the bottom left, the contact information 'Call us 07811 399 247' and 'www.mwvaluations.com' is displayed. On the right side of the advertisement, there is a black and white photograph of a man and a woman. The man, on the right, is wearing a pinstriped suit and glasses, and is pointing towards the woman. The woman, on the left, is smiling and wearing a dark top with a bird design.

MW Valuations is based in Thaxted and specialises in jewellery and watch valuations for the purpose of insurance, probate, division of assets and private sale.

Mary is a National Association of Jewellers Registered Valuer. She has over eighteen years experience in the jewellery trade, working in a variety of sectors. Alongside her work with MW Valuations she is a consultant valuer for The Guild of Valuers and Jewellers and an off screen valuer on the television show Dickinsons Real Deal.

Please contact Mary with any enquiries or to book an appointment. Tel: 07811 399 247
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BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

Peter Archibald

This year we are holding our Candle Light Service on Sunday 22nd December at 6 pm and extend a warm welcome to all

We enjoy regular visits from Thaxted Primary School to the church, and recently a years 5 class came a few days after our Harvest celebration. We talked with the children about all the good things that so many of them enjoy. But we also shared with them the project we supported this year, which was to help South Sudan refugees, who have been forced by civil war to flee from their homes and who are now living in a refugee camp.

The children designed posters showing the contrast between the plenty that most of us have, and the very little that so many have to endure. It was quite a challenging task for them, but they came up with some really creative and imaginative designs. The designs made the point, very clearly, that we have so much to be grateful for and we should all try to help those who are not so fortunate.

Fran Griffiths

Our Building

Fabric. The dreaded word ! Not just for our Church. All Churches in Thaxted. The time it takes. The money it takes. Meanwhile all the time we know our chief calling is not bricks and mortar, but the care of souls. What do we do? The Baptist Church has got off lightly this year. Apart from an on-going issue over two windows at the back of the building. (The authorities are insisting on 'like for like' at considerable cost.) Aside from that, the roof is now good, the walls are good, the paint work is good; the toilets work, and the kitchen is fine. Thank you, God that an 1834 Grade 11 listed building is still serving a purpose.

Michael Berrisford

The Bereavement Group

This group is for those who may need support and friendship and the opportunity to talk over some light refreshments, meets on the fourth Saturday of the month in the Church hall. For further information please contact Debbie Sandom on 01371 831548 or email debbie.sandom@gmail.com

KATE BUTTERS' SCRAPBOOK LAUNCHED

Mike Collins

Thaxted Library was the venue for the launch of a new book focussing on one of Thaxted's fondly remembered residents.



Sybil King and Mike Collins with the original scrapbook

Ideal Christmas Present

The book has wide appeal not only as a very readable record of a life lived all through the 20th century but also to the many Thaxted folk who were taught by her or knew her as a musician, artist and keen gardener. A fascinating piece of social history

In this charming little book are reproduced the contents of her scrapbook as well as photographs from her collection. Interspersed with her work are reminiscences and tributes from those who were lucky enough to know her.

Kate Butters lived in Thaxted where she taught in the Primary School from 1921 to 1959. She put some of her writings, letters and photographs in a scrapbook. Kate wrote about her childhood, her teaching life, in particular during the wartime, dealing with evacuees and American troops; her time as a musician for the Morris side and her love of her garden and the church. As a craftswoman she enjoyed weaving, spinning and pottery.

The book is on sale in Thaxted at Gifted and the Library and Information Centre price £7.90. Or by email: kb.book@mail.com.



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TRIPOLI CHRISTMAS

Yvonne Baccush

It wasn't always like this – the fear, suspicion, intolerance and segregation of people on account of their different religious beliefs. True, history definitely portrays this throughout generations throughout the world with wars and persecutions, massacres and betrayals. Jesus himself suffered from the very same, being put to death on the Cross for proclaiming himself as the Christ. Yet there have been periods in history when diverse faiths have lived side by side in harmony and tolerance.

Such was the case when I went to Tripoli, Libya in 1962 and a year later married a Libyan. Libya had been an Italian colony from 1911 to 1947 but at the end of the war it came under British rule until independence in 1951. The



centre of Tripoli was laid out by the Italians with wide streets, some tree-lined. The main street had a colonnade running down it each side so even in the hot sun one could walk along them to shop in the shade. The shops were mainly Italian, some Jewish, and the remainder owned by Libyans – all catering for Libyans and expats who could afford to buy a huge variety of fashion items, household goods and toys, etc. There was no shortage of choice: small Italian shops sold groceries. There were butchers and bakers, restaurants and coffee shops, besides several Italian hairdressers and barbers.

My first Christmas in Tripoli was marked by parties and general Christmas festivities within an oil company community comprising mainly English and Americans. I shared a villa with two other English secretaries and we did the usual thing of having a Christmas tree and decorating the villa.

The following year I married a Libyan with whom I worked in Esso oil company and our first Christmas together was spent with his mother and sister in an apartment in town. A day or two

before Christmas two of my husband, Ramadan's, uncles arrived at our flat with my Christmas presents. One gave me a large, frozen, Danish turkey; I was aghast and whilst I thanked him for his kindness I told him that we could not possibly have that for Christmas lunch as my mother-in-law (their sister) would not eat meat which had not been killed in the Moslem tradition (hilar). The uncles both laughed and said, "Just cook it and our sister will not have a clue otherwise". (She did not speak or understand English). My husband persuaded me to go along with this but when it came to sitting at the table for Christmas lunch (on Boxing Day) I felt I would choke on every piece of turkey which I ate because I was cheating on my mother-in-law with her faith.

At the same time as I received the turkey, the second uncle gave me a box of Italian liqueur chocolates. These I gratefully received but he asked me to open them and let us all have one and he gave one to his sister. She, of course, was a strict Moslem and would not partake of alcohol. Nevertheless, she took a chocolate and when she bit into it the liqueur trickled down he throat and she gasped and spat it out; she was not

amused – but they just laughed, as usual.

That first Christmas of married life, we were invited by a couple of my husband's Italian friends for Christmas Day lunch. Still being in English mode, I suggested to Ramadan that we go to their home at 1.0 pm as they had not stipulated a time. Upon opening the front door, our hostess was horrified to see us there so early as she was still preparing the food. She said not to return before 3.0 pm when lunch would be ready. It was truly a feast that she laid on – four courses and loads of extra delicacies. However, no turkey or Christmas pudding so fortunately we had those the next day when I cooked for the family lunch.

One year, Christmas coincided with the Moslem feast (Eid el Fitr) after the fasting month when people celebrate with buying new clothes and toys for the children, visit each other's homes and eat copious amounts of food! The Tripoli streets were adorned festively and the shops crammed with both Arabs and expats buying for the celebrations.

When we eventually had our own villa in the suburbs, Ramadan and the children took great delight in buying a fresh

Christmas tree, decorating it and all the lounge and hall with decorations bought locally from shops in Tripoli. There was never any shortage of things to buy.

Prior to the Revolution, I attended regularly the British Garrison Church in a suburb of Tripoli. After the Revolution, this church was demolished, along with business premises next door which belonged to my husband. After that, Church of England services were held in a private villa belonging to the English chaplain which was situated near to where we lived in Giorgimpopoli suburb. Ramadan's uncle, who was a Minister in the Government pre Ghadaffi, told me he really missed attending Midnight Mass in the main Catholic cathedral. This cathedral was closed and turned into a museum immediately upon the Revolution.

Then on 1st September 1969 we had the Revolution when Ghadaffi took control of the Country. At first, the change was not really noticeable until firstly, the Jews were all deported and then the Italians. With the closure of their shops, restaurants and coffee bars the place looked very drab until, about two years later, Libyans reopened the shops. However, we had many



years after that when it was difficult to buy even basic things.

Still, in the home we continued with our traditional Christmases, having friends for Christmas Day lunch and my husband's family coming for Boxing Day lunch. The villa was decorated as usual but Ramadan made a point of making business trips to London prior to Christmas in order to buy Christmas puddings, cakes and mincepies in Selfridge's food hall as these were no longer available in the Tripoli shops. He always had excess luggage on the return flight to Tripoli!

The last Christmas (1979) we spent in Tripoli, was very gloomy indeed. Ramadan had had his entire business confiscated and life generally was very hard for

political reasons. There was no lead-up to Christmas and Ramadan was banned from going abroad as the government said he had no cause to as they had taken his business. A week before December 25th, I was driving home in our suburb having collected our two daughters from school, when a friend of Ramadan flagged me down with his car. He jumped out and wished me a happy Christmas. Rather sulkily I replied that I had not thought about Christmas as it did not feel so. Whereupon he told me he was about to deliver my Christmas present. He opened the boot of his car and put a whole case of wine into the boot of my car. I was terrified. I told him that I dare not carry that as I may be stopped by the police or military. Having alcohol would mean imprisonment for Ramadan and his friend, without any trial whatsoever. He told me to drive normally and as we always put our car in our driveway, which

was behind high gates, I would be safe. However, I drove the short journey home trembling all over and wondered at the kindness of a friend who risked so much in order to give me something with which to celebrate our Christmas.

Ramadan had his usual butcher to buy our meat supplies and, for many years, the turkeys for Christmas. However, that year the butcher woefully informed my husband that he did not have a turkey for the English lady this year: the Libyan army had requisitioned all of them. The butcher was genuinely sad not to be able to help us.

Never, amongst the Arab, Moslem population did I ever encounter animosity or intolerance for my Christian beliefs. Likewise, I enjoyed their festive occasions and we always managed to live amongst one another in peace, respect and harmony.

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CHOCOLATE

Perry Staker

Chocolate in the mid-seventeenth century was viewed as a medicine. The reason for this was that Antonio Colmenero de Ledesma, a Spanish priest and physician, had written about the properties of cacao in his book '*Curioso Tratado de la naturaleza y calidad del chocolate*' published in 1631. Because of his background the work was taken as medical knowledge. The book was translated across Europe and in 1640 in England by James Wadsworth, a captain in the army, who had travelled to Spain. The book being so popular, it was re-published in 1652. In the later edition Wadsworth pitched chocolate as a cure-all in his foreword:

"The Vertues thereof are no lesse various, then Admirable for, besides that it preserves Health and makes such as drink it often, Fat, and corpulent, Faire and Amiable, it vehemently Incites to Venus, and causeth Conception in women, hastens and facilitates their Delivery: It is an excellent help to Digestions, it cures Consumptions, and the Cough of the Lungs, the New Disease, or Plague of the Guts, and other fluxes, the Green Sicknesse, Jaundise, and all manner of Inflammations, Opilations, and Obstructiuons. It quite takes away the Morphew, Cleanseth the Teeth, and sweetneth the Breath, Provokes Urine, Cures the Stone, and strangury, Expels Poison, and preserves from all infectious Diseases. But I shall not assume to enumerate all the vertues of this Confection: for that were impossible, every day producing New and Admirable effects in such as drinke it."

However, by 1600s the perception that chocolate was a medicine began to change. Whilst Samuel Pepys considered chocolate a perfect cure for a hangover, the commonest claim was that it was a powerful aphrodisiac.

In 1657 various newspapers reported that the public could sample, buy or learn how to make an "*excellent West India drink*" called chocolate from a Frenchman at a Chocolate House in Queen's Head Alley in Bishopsgate Street in East London's business district. By the 1670s the French began to market chocolate as exotic and fashionable. A high-status luxury with blocks of chocolate, that had to be grated to make into a drink. It was sold in Britain for 10 -15 shillings a pound. A cluster of super elite self-styled chocolate houses flourished around St James's Square, the principal of which were,

Ozinda's and Whites in St James' Street and the Cocoa Tree in Pall Mall.

As this is the Christmas edition of the ABC&U here is a Georgian drinking chocolate for your delight and delectation. However, be warned – it is recommended that you sip the finished product rather than necking it down in one go as it can shoot your socks across the room. Enjoy.

Georgian Drinking Chocolate taken from John Nott's Cook's Dictionary 1726

"Take a pint of sherry, or a pint and a half of red port, four ounces and a half of chocolate, six ounces of fine sugar, and half an ounce of white starch, or fine flour; mix, dissolve, and boil all these as before. But, if your chocolate be with sugar, take double the quantity of chocolate, and half the quantity of sugar; and so in all."



*The Chocolate Maiden;
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- 128g (4 ½ oz) dark chocolate, at least 80% cocoa solids
- 600ml (1pt) ruby port or 500ml of sherry
- 30/40g (2/3 tbsp) caster sugar
- ½ oz rice or plain flour

Pour all the port into a saucepan. Break up the chocolate into small chunks and add to the saucepan. Add the sugar to the saucepan (alcohol goes bitter when you heat it so you may need more to taste).

Whisk in the flour. Cook over a low heat for 10 minutes, until small bubbles form around the edge. Do not let it boil. Whisk the chocolatey mix together.

Pour into 4 small cups or a chocolate pot of choice and enjoy warm.

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Update from the Thaxted Fayre Trust

Bringing the community together through fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported our Annual Quiz Night and the Thaxted Fayre & Fun Dog Show this year. Your continued support and generosity allowed our Community Grant Scheme to fund some great local projects. We awarded grants totalling just over £2000 this year to deserving activities for;

Thaxted Youth Club, Thaxted Lecture Society, Thaxted Gardening Club, Wild Thaxted, Windmill Pre-School, The Thaxted Twinning Association and Thaxted Scouts.



Do you need funding for a local project?

For over 30 years, a key part of what we achieve through our fundraising events is providing financial support to numerous local community projects. Each year, in November, we open applications for any non-profit making local community-based project to apply for a community grant. Applications are reviewed by the committee and funds awarded are based on how the project benefits residents of Thaxted. Our 2019 Community Grant application applications are already coming in! To apply visit our website to download our Community Grant Application Form. To be eligible, your organisation or project must be: Not-for profit, Not personally owned or for personal financial gain, Serving the community of Thaxted and Located within in the parish of Thaxted. Completed applications must be received by 31st December 2019, by e-mail to thaxtedfayretrust@outlook.com or by post to the Trust's Secretary at 45 Wedow Road, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 2JY. 2019 applications will be assessed by the Trustees - Committee of the Trust during January 2020 and successful awards will be granted/distributed early in February 2020.

The Fayre Trust is run by volunteers and is always happy to have help at our events. Can you spare a few hours on Saturday 30th May 2020 and help us make this year's event another that Thaxted can be proud of? This could be helping us with; setting things up, putting up bunting, serving behind the bar, handing out show guides, manning an attraction stall, car-park supervision, clearing things away. If you can offer any help, please do get in touch.

Fayre Trust Upcoming Events

Evening of Clairvoyance
with Loraine Rees
on
Saturday 31st January

After a full house back in April 2018, we are thrilled to announce we are hosting another evening of medium ship with Loraine Rees. A highly respected and established Clairvoyant

and Medium, who has given private readings to many high-profile celebrities. She has written 3 books and has practiced for many years in her field. Tickets will be £15 each and go be on sale from 1st January 2020. To reserve your place, email thaxtedfayretrust@outlook.com.

A great fun filled family day out is being planned for the Fayre & Fun Dog Show on Morris Weekend next year. Loads of stalls including crafts, pet products, well-being,

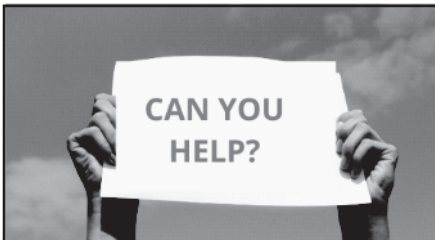
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gifts, savoury food and sweet treats, a licensed bar and more. Lots to do including bell ringing, go-Karts, bouncy castles, face painting and more. Show Ring performers from Dunmow Majorettes, Miss Alex Jones Jazz Band, Steel Band, Jenny Jones Dancers and Hell Bells to name just a few. Not forgetting our Fun Dog Show with lots of classes and rosettes to be won. Put the date in your diary and don't miss this fun family event.

Are you interested in a stall, performing or helping at this event? If so please get in touch.



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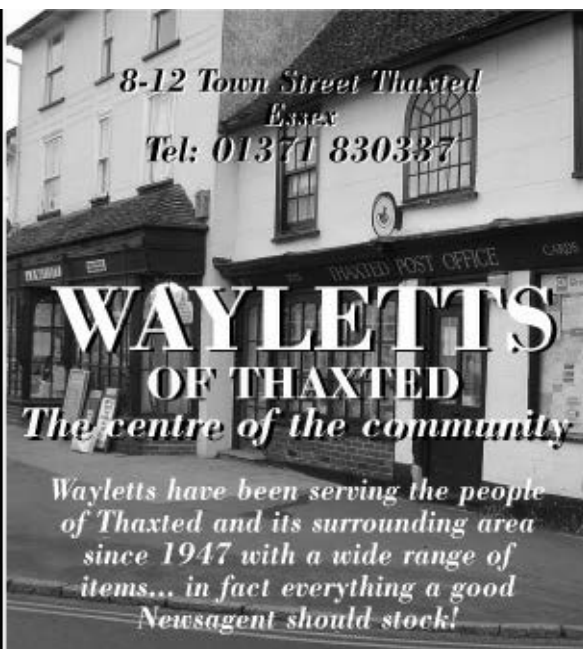
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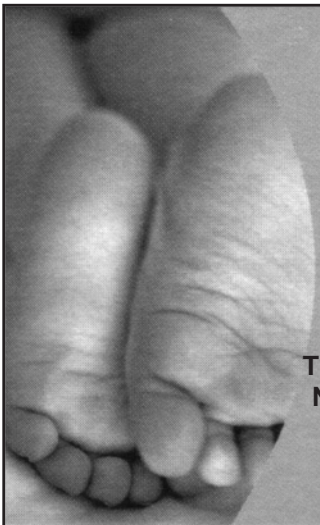
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CHANGE IN ALL AROUND I SEE (PART 2)

Bruce Munro

Following the inclusion in the Harvest edition of the ABC and U, of a note of some Thaxted worthies of yesteryear, here by request are some more personalities who played a role in the life of this small town.

WILLY BARKER, longtime Thaxted Church organist; pupil of Gustav Holst. He played the Lincoln organ and the smaller organ at the west end. His wife, Kate, sang in the choir. Regular attenders at all the services, familiar figures walking purposely from their home in Wainsfield Villas to the Church. Known to all as Willy, he was employed at Lee's sweet factory. Bill Barker, their elder son, after War service was in the Youth Education Service and for a time led the Church Youth Club, producing plays, a puppet theatre and so on.

SIR GEORGE BINNEY, Commander RNVR, DSO, noted Arctic Explorer. In WW II led Operation Rubble to procure supplies of Swedish steel and ball bearings for the U.K. Home was Horham Hall 1947-1960. Lord of the Manor. Drove a Lincoln Ford, whilst Lady Binney drove a splendid Frazer Nash.

LESLIE WRIGHT, Chairman and M.D. of Geo. Lee & Co., Thaxted's Sweet makers. He lived at Brooklyns, following his father, Ernest, who followed Mrs. Lee,

widow of George Lee, who built the house in 1901. Leslie served in the Observer Corp. in WW II. Was Radio Ham (call sign G3S1), and "worked", i.e. contacted, my brother, John, also a Radio Ham (G3GBB) who was in the RAF in Bahrain. He heard the Lee's factory hooter in the far off Gulf! Leslie's wife, Irene, a gracious lady, and their son, Alan, a good friend of mine. He established Saracen's Filling Station in 1965. Later expanded into today's indispensable store by Kim Cowell, of Cowell & Cooper. The sweet factory closed in 1969.

ERIC BENNETT lived at Whitings, Watling Street. Journalist with Sunday Express, 2nd in command to Major J. O. Barbrook in WWII Home Guard.

MRS. MARY PEARSON, née Mary Bright, the daughter of Tom Bright Landlord of The Cock from c.1890, succeeded by his widow Eleanor (who is still remembered in the fanlight), and then Mary who left 1950 ish. A charming lady, she married Bill Pearson who served with distinction in WWII, leaving in the rank of

Major. Professionally he was a civil engineer with Southern Railway. They lived in the house then called Crossways, No. 32 Town Street. Mary, standing at her door, "Come and have a drink" was her oft greeting.

SAM CARTER was the Landlord of The Swan. A traditional landlord of a traditional, small, hotel. He, with his lovely wife Alma, were the jovial and welcoming hosts for some twenty years from 1961. He was of the old school, understandably, since his father had kept the well known East End pub, The Bow Bells.

Sam was a constant in the bar, there to chat and entertain his many customers. He supported either Spurs or Arsenal! Alma was cook. The Swan, a Free House, had seven bedrooms, one bath and one W.C. The men's facility was in the yard, its walls adorned with less than genteel drawings to which a Thaxted wit no doubt, had added the legend: "Don't let these art treasures go abroad - save them for the Nation".

FREDERICK JOHNSON, Manager of Thaxted Gas Works in Park Street, which belonged to Karl Church who lived in Watling Street. Fred kept this place alight - maintained the gas lit street lights, unlike today, he ensured the lanterns were straight, re-lit a

defective light the next day or the day after, mended the leaks, collected the money from the meters, fitted the gas cookers and fires - a remarkable man.

ROBERT BARNARD, Bob to everyone. Farmer, farmed Totmans, Claypits and The Parsonage. Descended from a long line of Thaxted and district Barnards from the eighteenth century, who farmed amongst other holdings both The Parsonage (Priors Hall) and Yardleys. Father of David and Ian and the late Janet. Thaxted benefactor - gave the land for Thaxted Centre for the Disabled, the Bowls Club and the Tennis Courts. A true son of Thaxted and of the soil.

TOM LATHAM came to Park Farm in 1941, his father a Lancashire farmer had migrated to Essex at the end of the nineteenth century. An active Roman Catholic, he erected a former army hut on his land off Park Street to provide a Catholic Church; the return of the Catholics after some four hundred years. Brought the first combine harvesters to this place in 1942. Drove a Standard Vanguard. His sons, John and Simon, succeeded him, farming at Park Farm, at Takeley, and in Cambridgeshire. Three lovely daughters completed the family.

PETER HINGSTON came to Thaxted in his late teens when the family bought the semi-derelict Cutlers Green Farm in 1929. Soon the barns and stables were restored and the old farmhouse became Maynards Croft. Peter received some tuition from neighbouring farmer Doggett at Water Hall and then was thrown in at the deep end as it were. Later the holding included Lower Farm and Rails Farm.

In the 1930s he established a Guernsey herd, with a dairy at Rails, delivering milk throughout the town, as well as serving those who called with jugs and cans. In changing times the farm became all arable; no more cows.

Peter's two sons, Chris and Richard, succeeded him in the farming enterprise which Richard continues.

Peter's wife Christine, a lovely talented lady, will be remembered by many and Janie, their daughter, is, of course, well known. All very good friends to me. Peter was a talented photographer who was able to develop his own colour films - quite a feat for an amateur.

Note: Google "Ripe Earth". Film of Thaxted, to see harvesting at Rails and Harvest Festival in Church with Father Conrad Noel. An enchanting short film.

JOHN CLUNAS, M.P.S. Thaxted's long time Chemist. A Scot and a gentleman who came here in the early 1900s. He is listed in Kelly's 1910, so he practised here for nearly 50 years in the shop which is now Home Store. He bought the Old Bank House in 1937, where he lived in retirement until his death c1950. He drove a green Ford Prefect.

MRS. FLORENCE BRADBURY, the daughter of Thaxted's principal builder, Percy Ratcliff, and sister of author Ethelind Fearon, was living at Becket House. Had small tearoom in Newbiggen Street. Active Conservative. Played, was it, double bass in the Church Orchestra. Left the Church, with others, when Father Jack prayed for the soul of "Marshall Stalin".

CLEMMIE and **HANSI DENHARDT** were refugees who contrived to leave Vienna, together with their small daughter, Marietta, in 1938. Arriving in Britain they were accommodated in a cottage on the estate of Lord Noel-Buxton at Upshire near Epping. He was a kinsman of Thaxted's Vicar, Rev. Conrad Noel, through whose good offices the Denhardts came to Thaxted, living for a time in the Vicarage, before moving to a cottage in Watling Street. Comfortably installed, one evening they responded to a

knock on the front door. There stood Thaxted's own Police Sergeant Easton who courteously explained that he was to take Clemmie off to be interned, there and then. With a brief farewell to Hansi and Marrietta, off they went. Interned at the camp were other escapees from the Nazi tyranny, among whom were Rawicz and Landauer, the famous concert pianists. Clemmie was subsequently conscripted into the Pioneer Corps, returning home for occasional leaves.

After the War and after a leg amputation, Clemmie became a watchmaker and, with Hansi, very much part of this parish. All was well. I have a wristwatch

which I bought from him in 1953. I have to thank Marietta for much of this information.

GEORGE ROLPH. An elegant gentleman who lived with his mother in Newbiggen Street. Assistant in J. W. Tanner, Grocers shop (now Guildhall Stores).

CLIFF YELDHAM. Singer, musician, Morris dancer, Morris Fool, and entertainer. A much loved Thaxted personality.

REV. S. ROYLE KENNY. Minister of Congregationnal Chapel (now U.R.C.). Ran the Thaxted Adventurers Youth Club. Lived in The Manse in Town Street (The Steps). Charming man.

Happy days!

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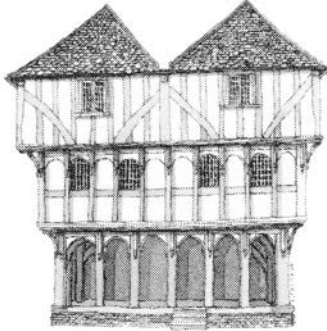
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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

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Christmas Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Boxing Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Fri 27th Dec	9.00am - 2.00pm	NORMAL	9am - 4pm
Sat 28th Dec	9.00am - 2.30pm	CLOSED	9.30am - 12.30
Sun 29th Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Mon 30th Dec	8.30am - 1.00pm	NORMAL	9am - 12.30pm
New Year's Eve	CLOSED	NORMAL	CLOSED
New Year's Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Thurs 2nd Jan	8.30am-17.30pm	NORMAL	NORMAL
	Guildhall Stores	Gifted	Wayletts
Tues 24th Dec	NORMAL	10am - 3pm	NORMAL
Christmas Day	CLOSED	Closed	CLOSED
Boxing Day	CLOSED	right	6am - 1 pm
Fri 27th Dec	NORMAL	through	NORMAL
Sat 28th Dec	NORMAL	to	NORMAL
Sun 29th Dec	NORMAL	Monday	NORMAL
Mon 30th Dec	NORMAL	Jan 6th	NORMAL
New Year's Eve	NORMAL	Open	NORMAL
New Year's Day	CLOSED	Tues 7th	NORMAL
Thurs 2nd Jan	NORMAL	Jan	NORMAL
	Laundry Room	Pharmacy	Lowes
Tues 24th Dec	9 am - 3.30 pm	9 am - 6 pm	8.30 - 2.pm
Christmas Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Boxing Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Fri 27th Dec	CLOSED	9 am - 6 pm	CLOSED
Sat 28th Dec	CLOSED	9 am - 1 pm	8.30 - 4 pm
Sun 29th Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Mon 30th Dec	CLOSED	9 am - 6 pm	8.30 - 5.30 pm
New Year's Eve	CLOSED	9 am - 6 pm	8.30 - 4 pm
New Year's Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Thurs 2nd Jan	CLOSED	9 am - 6 pm	8.30 - 5.30 pm

Surgery reminders - For out-of-hours urgent medical attention, call 111 or 999 if life threatening. Medication for the holiday period needs to be ordered before Thursday 19th December.



Flexible and responsive Visiting Care

Our individually-tailored care packages are designed for adults of any age who require regular help or support in their own home in and around Saffron Walden. We cater for a wide range of needs, including:

- **Assistance with personal care**
- **Administration of medication**
- **Companionship and sitting service**
- **Shopping and meal preparation**
- **Transport to medical and other appointments**



Live-in care

Throughout Essex ~ and beyond ~ we offer each of our clients a unique blend of companionship, cooking, house-keeping and personal care designed to help them maintain their independence and continue living happily and safely in their own home.



Call us in confidence 7 days a week

0800 411 8636

Chesterford
HOME CARE

Caring with head and heart

www.chesterfordhomecare.co.uk