



connect with st helen's

In touch with North Thoresby Parish Church



The Old Lady of Church Lane

“Open (nearly) all hours!” Always waiting for customers but not exactly in your face. Tucked half way down the winding messy lane where she’s been in business for 1,000 years, ready to jump into action with the goods for special moments: the start of a millennium, burying Joe Bloggs, John Smith marrying Mary Brown, prayers for a new King, or when a Princess dies. Or just when someone wants to be quiet, perhaps say a prayer. Or when a bunch of folk want to praise, worship, sing hymns, share faith.

of repair. It’s frequently been the site of unseemly squabbles. To be truthful, she’s not much good at selling anything.

And yet she seems perfectly happy to have folk mooch about looking at this and that and then going out again - in her 1,000 years she has had the odd scratchy moment when she would check your credentials before letting you in - but she soon found that made her no friends at all! Strange that she’s still here, really. But then, she can never become obsolete, because someone will always be wanting to find meaning, be more serious, grow wise.* And for that, her place is better than any other.

*Apologies to Philip Larkin

There’s lots of information - not all up to date I’m afraid, at our web site:
www.ncparishes.org.uk

She has always complained that she’s unappreciated until people really need her. She’s always been hard up. For most of the 1,000 years her place has been rather battered and in need

Contacts

Rector	Bob Emm	840029
Wardens	Joe Gibson	840698
	Peter Pettifer	840582
Secretary	Maureen Monfrinoli	840674

Sadnesses

Quite a lot of sadnesses in the village at the end of last year and the beginning of this. Doris Green, Mave Drury, Brenda Allon, Annie Bushell, Byron Woods and Charles Bogg all died, some after long illnesses, some quite unexpectedly. They were all important to the village in their different ways and we shall miss them all.

Pre-Used Clobber

If you are about to get rid of any saleable item, don’t bother with the hassle of e-Bay. Just give Maureen Monfrinoli 840674 or Joe Gibson 840698 a call and see whether we can take it off your hands for you. Hope to have a sale at the end of February to help keep St Helen’s going.



Churchyard Memorials

There are quite a lot of graves where the memorial stones, particularly kerbs, are in very bad repair. This looks untidy and can be a hazard. We will be putting some notices on the worst of them and if you have an interest in the grave please get in touch. Most of them date from the mid-sixties or earlier.

Today is the Tomorrow that you worried about Yesterday !!

Services

Sundays at 10 a.m.

January 28th	Parish Communion	Bob Emm
February 4	Simple Worship	Andy Ecob
February 11	Parish Communion	Bob Emm
February 18	Matins	Joe Gibson
February 25	Parish Communion	Bob Emm
March 4	Simple Worship	Bob Emm
March 11	Parish Communion	Bob Emm

Sundays at 6 p.m. At North Thoresby:

February 11th at The Methodist Church	(United)
March 11th at St Helen’s	(United)

Sundays at 3p.m. at Grainsby:

January 21st	(Evensong)
February 18th	(Evensong)
March 18th	(Evensong)



Thursdays at 9.30 a.m. at North Thoresby
Holy Communion every week unless cancelled

Patrick Munyembwe

is just ten years old. He was born on 4th January 1997 and lives in Lufwanyama in Zambia's Copperbelt. He is an orphan. Although we don't know details, considering the part of the world he lives in HIV would be a fair bet as the cause. He has three brothers, Misheck, Ken and George and two sisters Mary and Anna. He's fairly lucky that he is in good health and has the benefit of primary education. We support him through World Vision very simply by having a collection box at Coffee Time after the morning service on a Sunday. If you would like to help just let Bob have your contribution.



Reserved Graves

When Fred Gill died last year we had a heck of a job working out where to bury him. The churchyard plan was ambiguous and didn't really match the ground. In the end the gravedigger struck lucky and found an unused plot next to Fred's father.

In the past I have resisted asking people to reserve spaces by a legal process because of the fees involved. We've preferred to save spaces informally and trust to local memory.

But, sadly, I don't think this will do any more. Several years ago we lost Ray Parker at Marshchapel, who was an encyclopaedia of who had been buried where. Neither Fred Drury nor I at North Thoresby imagine we are immortal, and the plan isn't infallible. I'm starting to approach people who have close relatives buried in the churchyards asking them to safeguard their interests.

You might not have seen the gallery of photos at www.ncparishes.org.uk/OldPhotos.htm If not, have a look.

Christingle.

Just to mention, though it seems a long time ago, that we had a good Christingle service which was helped along by gifts of sweets from Marion and Chris Dixon at the Post Office and oranges from Alf and Karen Abel at the Spar Shop. We are very grateful.

You know you are looking old when, on the same bus journey, a seventeen year old girl offers you her seat and the driver makes the bus "kneel down" when you get off!

Churchyard surveys



The churchyard is one of the few pieces of land in the village where, as far as we know, pesticides, fertilizers etc have never been used. As such it's a very valuable natural resource. It would be good to be more certain about the wildlife present. Marshchapel has benefited greatly from doing a comprehensive survey of wild flowers and birds at St Mary's, ending up with an informative written record and an enjoyable churchyard trail. Anyone interested enough and knowledgeable enough to do the same for any aspect of St Helen's flora and fauna? Let us know.

North Thoresby Pop-In Lunch Club

Thursdays

From 4th January
To 5th April

From 26th April
To 24th May
(excluding 3rd May)

From 7th June
To 26th July

From 12 noon



Renewal of Marriage Vows

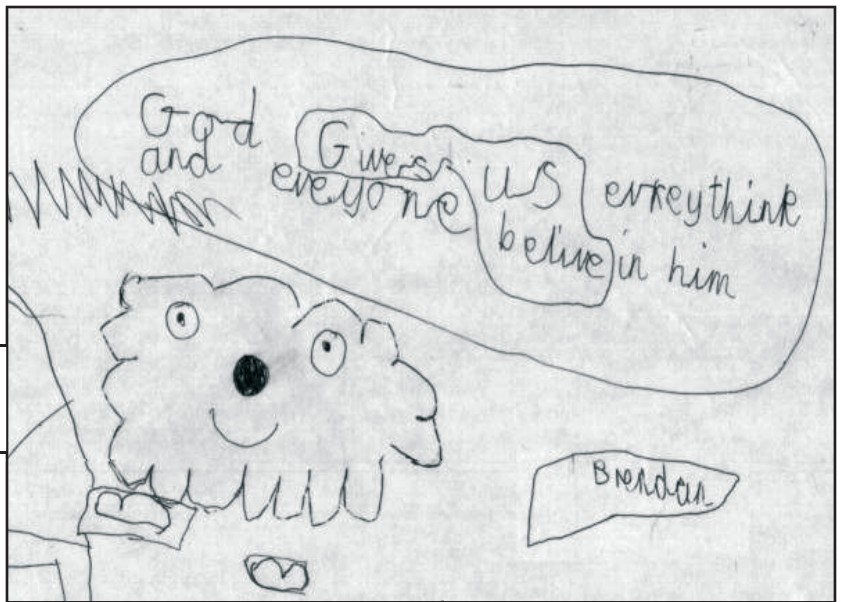
Church is for Christenings, weddings and funerals and for the odd few who go every Sunday to sing hymns etc. An occasional addition to this list is the Renewal of Wedding vows. Often done on an important anniversary (fortieth is popular), the couple come along and make their wedding vows again. They often, but by no means always, do this when their original ceremony was in a register office or at a difficult time. Sometimes they are on their own, sometimes with lots of others. Sometimes quietly, sometimes with a lots of excitement. Bob is always delighted to help with this ministry. Just ask.

Millennium Yew

Our Millennium yew –which has been propagated from a 2000 year old yew tree, is nearly ready for planting out. We are going to remove one of the shapeless hawthorns to make space for it. We need some sort of fence or guard to protect it. Anyone with metal-working skills prepared to help, please get in touch, 840029.

Thursday Mornings

Lots of people find Sundays difficult what with family commitments, Tesco and all! For some, Thursday morning at 9.30 might be an option. A quiet, meditative communion service with a sort of address-cum-prayers. Always over in half an hour, but beloved by those who come.



About ten years ago Brendan, then 9 yrs old, was asked to draw a picture of God at Harvest time - Good, isn't it

**From all eternity
God lies on a
maternity bed
giving birth.**

**The essence of
God
is
birthing.**