



## Troston Parish Newsletter December 2007 – Early January 2008

**Church News** – As I write, the temperature has dropped below 0°C, and no doubt there are many who are already dreaming of a white Christmas. Our annual Gift Day and Coffee Morning, in the village hall on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 10.00 a.m. 'til 12 noon, offers an opportunity to meet up with friends for a chat and a coffee, as well as to do a little Christmas shopping. There will be cakes and other baked goods (contributions would be most welcome), a raffle and a Tombola, as well as other stalls.

But, of course, there is much more to this season than shopping and gift giving. Advent is the time in the church calendar when we reflect not only on the coming of Christmas and Christ's birth, but also on the second coming of our Lord. I encourage you to stop and think about the true meaning of this season.

With our farmers again under siege—and this time very close to home—it is wonderful that we were able to send £54.05 from our Harvest service collection to the Addington Trust, which aids farmers who find themselves in desperate straits. Please remember the agricultural community in your prayers, especially farmers in Norfolk and Suffolk who have been affected by Blue Tongue and avian flu.

We are offering a variety of Christmas services: Christingle family service, Sunday, 16 December; Nine Lessons and Carols, Sunday, 23 December; Christmas Eve Communion, 8.00 p.m.; and Christmas Day Family service, 10.00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you. On behalf of St. Mary's PCC and the rest of the ministry team, I wish you a blessed and Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year!

Rev. Doug Neupert, OLM (269614)

### Services for December-Early January

Sunday, December	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	BCP Matins
	16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Christingle Family Service
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Carol Service
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Family Service
Sunday, December	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Team Communion at Ixworth Thorpe
January	6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Epiphany)
	13 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	BCP Matins

**Troston Women's Institute**—The branch held its annual general meeting in November, when Carol Littlewood was elected president and Jenny Simmonds, secretary.

After the business part of the meeting, there was a silent auction and a performance of the Pam Ayres poems first recited at the group meeting.

December events include the annual dinner at The Bull, Troston, and carol singing around the village on December 18<sup>th</sup> in aid of the Stroke Unit at the West Suffolk Hospital.

Members will meet on the second Wednesday of each month instead of Tuesday in 2008, as this appears to be more convenient.

Do come along to the village hall to hear the excellent speakers lined up for next year. The programme starts on Wednesday, January 9, with a talk about ghostly happenings in Great Livermere by Beryl Dyson, who is steeped in the subject! This meeting will be open to non-members as well, so you are invited to what promises to be a spine-tingling evening.

For further information, please contact Carol Littlewood on 01359 269769 or Jenny Simmonds 01359 269219.

**Collection of Prescriptions**—This year, Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Tuesday, so the rota for the collection of prescriptions will be suspended for two weeks. The last collection will be Tuesday 18 December, and the rota will re-start on Tuesday 8 January 2008.

**Parish Plan Meeting**—About 40 people, including residents, parish councillors and guest speakers, gathered together in Troston Village Hall on Monday 12 November to discuss the usefulness of drawing up a Parish Plan. Approximately one third of parishes across Suffolk are now either considering -- or engaged in -- the process, which aims to enhance village life through the means of a comprehensive consultation exercise designed to ascertain what residents want from their parish. A majority vote in favour of such a plan was given, and the Parish Council will now try to ascertain

whether there is the necessary practical support available to enable the plan to be drawn up. To read the full report of the meeting, log on to [www.troston-village.co.uk](http://www.troston-village.co.uk) and check out the Parish Council Notices page.

**Troston Website**--Visit the Troston Website to read about up-and-coming events in the village. Check out the links to neighbouring villages, local amenities, and get the lo-down about what's being planned for Troston's future. If you have a business, you can be listed free of charge on the register of local businesses. You can send in your entry for the Troston Newsletter, or air your views with your local Council representatives, by means of the contact forms. And you can share your views on just about anything via the Online Forum. This is a new facility in the village, and it's up to YOU to decide how best to use it. Log on to [www.troston-village.co.uk](http://www.troston-village.co.uk) and take it from there.

**Newsletter Updates**—A note of thanks is due to Keith Ringrose, who has “retired” after many years of delivering newsletters to Ixworth Road and Garden Fields. Sue Bishop has been kind enough to begin deliveries to this area.

Please, if your newsletter is late, don't shoot the messenger! This is usually due to a technical hitch, a late-breaking item (yes, even in Troston), or printing issues. As I write this (in my workplace during lunch), our phone line is full of static, and our computer has run out of steam. But I hope you have received it in a timely fashion. Remember, it can now be accessed on-line (technology permitting).

The next newsletter will be published in mid-January, so please have all items for late January and February in by 5 January.

Many thanks to Margaret Smith and our entire delivery team for getting the news to you, and a very happy holiday season to you all.

Jeanne Neupert, Editor