



**Parish Council**--The Parish Council meets again on Monday 3 March, 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. All residents are entitled to attend, and an agenda will soon be posted on the notice board, as well as on the village website, at [www.troston-village.co.uk](http://www.troston-village.co.uk).

**Village Hall Garden Revamp**--The Village Hall Management Committee is delighted to report that, following the recent appeal for volunteers to help revamp the village hall garden, a working party has now been set up, and will soon start work on levelling the site, prior to re-turfing and generally smartening up the area for all its users. A gate is also to be fitted to the driveway, to improve safety and security.

**Village Garage Sale**--A number of people have said that they would like to hold another village garage sale, such as the one held a couple of years ago. The Village Hall Management Committee has therefore agreed to organise this, and has earmarked Sunday 4 May (Bank Holiday weekend). Pitches will be £10.00 if booked in advance, and £12.00 on the day, and the event will be extensively advertised to obtain maximum publicity. Application forms will be circulated with the April Newsletter.

**Troston Website**--Go to [www.troston-village.co.uk](http://www.troston-village.co.uk) to read about what's on in Troston and neighbouring villages. You can take part in an online discussion on any matter of concern, you can advertise your business or any item you want to sell, and you can send in your comments on anything you would like to see included on the site. This is a new facility, and takes Troston into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which isn't something about which all local villages can boast. But it needs YOUR input to make it more relevant. Log on today: [www.troston-village.co.uk](http://www.troston-village.co.uk)

**Dr Harpur Leaves Ixworth Surgery**--Doctor Nick Harpur has left Ixworth Surgery, and the following statement has been issued by the Surgery:

"Doctor Harpur and his family deeply regret that he is no longer a GP at Ixworth Surgery. He has thoroughly enjoyed the last twenty years and has seen it as a privilege to serve the community in and around Ixworth. The family will continue to live in Ixworth Thorpe for the foreseeable future. They wish you all the best and hope that Ixworth Surgery will continue to look after all your medical needs."

**Troston Parish Plan**--The steering group drawing up the Parish Plan for Troston met for the first time on January 24. Those attending were Roger Anderson, Jack Barnard, John Benton, Brenda Burridge, David Corrie, Lynne Fugle, Ted Haines, Rev. Doug Neupert, Martyn Smith, Anne Walker and Pauline Whitaker-Bethel, who was elected chairman. A grant application is being submitted to Suffolk Acre to fund survey costs and the production of the plan. Of paramount importance will be a questionnaire to assess the needs and wishes of the local community – which of course is what the plan is all about. A full report of the meeting is on the Troston website ([www.trostonvillage.co.uk](http://www.trostonvillage.co.uk)).

**Church News**—March begins with Mothering Sunday, which will be marked with a special family service at 11.00 on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The day now has taken on the trappings of the American Mothers' Day, but its origins and history are not the same.

Christmas seems a very recent memory, yet Easter is already upon us. The shops have been full of hot cross buns and Cadbury eggs since January, yet they offer very little to remind us of what Easter is all about. Easter is not fluffy chicks, furry bunnies, and chocolate eggs; it is about the Lamb of God who gave His life to save us from the darkness of death. I hope that you will join us on Easter Sunday in the celebration of His resurrection and the promise of life eternal.

There is also the traditional Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, 7.00 p.m. at Sapiston church, as well as a quiet time for reflection on Good Friday, beginning at 2.00 p.m. here in Troston.

The Sunday following Easter, Low Sunday (March 30<sup>th</sup>), marks the retirement of our team rector, Revd. Canon Philip Oliver, after nearly 30 years in Ixworth and the Blackbourne Team. You are invited to a special service at St. Mary's Church, Ixworth, at 11.00, followed by a **Hog Roast Lunch** at Dover Farm, Ixworth.

Tickets for the lunch are **£3.50** (children under 5 free). **All tickets must be ordered and paid for in advance.** Please order tickets (including under 5's) by **March 9<sup>th</sup>** from Audrey Ringrose, The Shambles, Ixworth Road, Troston, IP31 1EU. *Please indicate if you are a vegetarian.* There will be a bar for the purchase of drinks.

If you would like to contribute to Philip's retirement gift, please place your contribution in an envelope marked 'For Philip's retirement gift' and post through either my letter slot at Hall Farm or that of Audrey Ringrose at The Shambles by March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Doug Neupert, OLM (269614)

#### Services for March

Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 11.00 a.m. Family Service for Mothering Sunday  
9<sup>th</sup> 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
16<sup>th</sup> 11.00 a.m. Palm Sunday Holy Communion  
Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 2.00 p.m. Reflection/Meditation for Good Friday  
Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.00 a.m. Family Communion for Easter Sunday  
30<sup>th</sup> 11.00 a.m. Team Service, Ixworth

**Hen Party Events**--A really enjoyable Hen Party at Church Cottage linked with tempting refreshments at the church is planned for Easter Saturday, March 22nd. This year's format at the church and churchyard will be even more child-friendly, offering an Easter Bonnet (headgear for the boys) competition. *BBC Look East* weather girl Julie Reinger will be at the event and will judge the Easter bonnets.

Items for the Tombola are needed and should be delivered to Audrey Ringrose at The Shambles, Ixworth Road, and Vera Gaught at 13, Church Lane. Warmest thanks to all contributors.

The Hen Party at Francine Raymond's Kitchen Garden offers rare breed poultry and an interesting range of plants.

Proceeds from the refreshments, run by volunteers, go to the Troston Heritage Appeal for wall painting conservation.

**Flower Festival**--This will be a very special event on May 25th and 26th with the theme "Suffolk Saints". There will be a Songs of Praise on the Sunday evening and refreshments will be available in the afternoons. Once again, the organisers are fortunate that our event ties in with Francine's events--her gardens will be open both afternoons under the National Gardens Scheme. Many visitors are expected. Please contact Susan Solloway on 01359 269574 in the first instance for information.

Proceeds from the refreshments, run by volunteers, go to the Troston Heritage Appeal for wall painting conservation.

**Troston Women's Institute**--On Wednesday, March 12, our president, Carol Littlewood, will demonstrate making simple but beautiful cards. This is a chance to join in and learn about various techniques and ideas, just in time for Easter inspiration! Carol talks and demonstrates craft skills for the Suffolk West Federation of W.Is.

Another diary date must be a return visit by Geoff Evans to give an illustrated talk on Alaska on Wednesday, April 9th.