



## the church of our lady st mary south creake

### **About this Newsletter**

This is our second newsletter. We had a good response to the first edition. Almost no one unsubscribed and we had some joiners. But we don't know what information is most useful so we rely on you to tell us by e-mailing the [Editor](#). If you don't wish to receive it again, please click here on [Unsubscribe](#).

Meanwhile, if we don't see you at the season - **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

### **Sunday Services**

Our general pattern of services is simple with a Parish Eucharist at 9.30 am every Sunday. There are occasional variations so for a complete schedule, click [here](#).

## **Newsletter Christmas and New Year 2009 - 2010**

### **Hello!**

We can't promise you a white Christmas, but we can promise you a warm welcome. Christmas comes, not by chance perhaps, at the time when our spirits are lowest and we need a promise of a new beginning. Our run-up to the festival will be, by tradition, the four Sundays of Advent, when we shall maintain a more serious face .

Those who wish to make their Confession in preparation for the Festival will find times on the [website](#). Anyone wishing to make special arrangements can contact [Fr Andrew](#).

On the last Sunday of Advent, 20 December, we shall break into a smile with the Christingle service at 3.00 pm in the afternoon.

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### **Don't miss the Midnight Mass**

Christmas in kept in South Creake with our Midnight Mass just half an hour before the day officially begins—though before the days of clocks, a day began at sunset so we are well into the season.

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### **[www.southcreake.org](http://www.southcreake.org)**

Don't forget to visit our website [www.southcreake.org](http://www.southcreake.org) which contains [The Epistle](#), a monthly letter from the vicar, [details of services](#) and a [Thought for the Week](#) as well as some less time-sensitive information such as a [history of the church](#). Because it changes weekly the site will keep you in touch with more recent events.

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### **Christmas at Waterden**

For many people the [Waterden](#) Carol Service at 4.00 pm on Christmas Eve is when the festival really begins.

Waterden goes back to Domesday but as a village it somehow never got going. It remains a most delightful corner of the county, a tiny church in an invisible village where by candlelight we can sing the carols with gusto and hear the story of salvation from the ills of humankind wrought by our Saviour.

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### **People and more people**

It is not always easy to remember names and put them to faces. So we thought we would give you some help if and when you come.



**Fr Andrew Thomson** will be here to take the Christmas services as usual (including Midnight Mass at South Creake this year) and will be enjoying the season after all the church services with his family of a daughter and three sons.





**Nigel Kenyon Jones** is fairly new - by Norfolk standards - to the village. Actually he lives in Syderstone with his wife and two grown up daughters. They also have a son and another daughter who have long left home. Nigel is what is known as active retired, keeping the money straight in church and a governor at Fakenham High School & College. He also looks after the website [www.southcreake.org](http://www.southcreake.org) and helps put this Newsletter together.



**Alison Wakeman** is the PCC secretary but she is also often found serving the coffee after the service. She is married with three grown up children and keeps an eye on folk in the village by a round of visiting.

## Keeping the light burning

In our scattered fast moving lives keeping in touch with the pulse of the spiritual life is very hard. Strangely, it requires more discipline in our world to keep up the life of prayer than it did for the monks and friars who were once a familiar feature of the local landscape. No one will make you stop what you are doing each day to contemplate your doings in the light of the purposes of God. It's not easy to find a place to be still.

However, no one minds if you are reading a book on the plane, the train or the bus . . . or even in the pub. And we have the book.

We have produced a modest personal prayer book which is so tiny it fits into your pocket or handbag, but which is readable without a magnifying glass. It offers two pages a day: a psalm, a reading, some DIY prayers –with a little help. It's an encouragement to keep the light burning. Send us an [e-mail](mailto:) and we'll send you one. If you desperately want to pay for it, do so when you next visit.



## Plans are afoot . . . .

The [PCC](#) met recently and, like all committees from time to time, has been talking about money. Money is both a good discipline and a source of worry. There is always too little of it and too many ways in which it can be spent. The council has therefore been looking at the problem from two ends: how to provide the church with a relatively predictable income and how to prioritise our responsibilities as a Christian church. All organisations have their jargon and we are no exception. The word is 'Stewardship'. It comes from the bible (of course), and is about the fact that Christians believe that everything comes from God and we are his 'stewards', if you like we are the managers of our resources - only the word manager usually describes individuals whereas the responsibility for our resources is that of everybody in the congregation. Anyway the council is looking at priorities.

The thinking runs like this: we have a lovely and costly building which no one would like to lose; this building is primarily a place of worship; its work as a concert hall, exhibition venue etc is secondary; also, we are more than the curators/worshippers in a building - we are supposed to be a caring community; we are supposed to teach people the truth about God revealed



### **Our Angels**

The word means messenger and we have them in hosts. It's hard to see them properly without binoculars and in any case this entails getting a crick in the neck. In this season of 'angels' choirs appearing to shepherds it may be useful for us to write something about them.

Angels appear in the roofs of many East Anglian churches. They probably have their origin in the story of the vision of Isaiah in the temple (Isaiah 6) where the seraphim (kinds of angel) above him call to each other 'Holy, holy holy . . .', the words sung in the eucharist after the priest has said, 'therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we praise your great and glorious name, every more praising you and singing . . .'. Our angels are all different. Each has a shield on which are painted various insignia. Some show the instruments of the Passion: a crown of thorns, a hammer and nails, pincers. Others have the chalice and host, musical instrument, the three crowns of St. Edmund and the arms of the Black Prince. They date from the fifteenth century but have been repaired and painted in recent years. We thought you might like a close up picture of one of them.

in Jesus; we are supposed to be helping people answering the big questions about how we should live. What should we be doing next? You get the drift. More later.

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### **The Village**

The local magazine has been full of articles about the projected wind farm with articles for and against, including a letter from the local MP and a detailed explanation by the Project Manager appointed by the developer. (If you have property in the village and don't get the magazine there is material about it on the website [www.southcreake.com](http://www.southcreake.com))

If you are coming to the village over Christmas you may arrive in time to want to come to the cinema at [North Creake Village Hall](#). The film is *Is anybody there?* starring Michael Caine and the date is 15 December.

Admission charge (including a drink) is a snip at £5.

January looks to be fairly quiet, but there is a pantomime in North Creake Hall on January 15th/16th and 22/23. It's '[Goldilocks and the Three Bears](#)' and promises to be good. Tickets are on sale on 14 December and tend to go fast - so get your order in quickly!

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### **Our worship**

Our worship is unashamedly Anglo Catholic with smells and bells (though we forgo the former once a month at the Family Eucharist). We hope that, whatever your church background, you will find us prayerful, thoughtful, biblical and cheerful.

Our Services all follow the order of Common Worship. A service according to the Book of Common Prayer happens each Sunday at North Creake at 8.00 am.

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### **Subscribing to our Newsletter**

If someone has forwarded this Newsletter to you and you would like to receive your own copy in future, please click [Subscribe to our mailing list](#).

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webmaster@southcreake.org  
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