

Whitton Times Easter 2026



Church in Community

“Welcome to Whitton Times, a blend of Church and Community, a magazine from us to you”. We hope you’ll find it helpful .



It is a very special thing to watch the sunrise any day but even more so on Easter morning, especially if it is a beautiful one such as here. It was a glorious sunrise as we gathered to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus early on Easter day 2019. Just as the sunrise brings a new day and a new start and a new hope each morning, so the resurrection brings an amazing hope. No, promise!



1000 years and still serving!

One of the unique aspects of the church of England is the parish system, which means that the Church of England has a person and a place in every parish. The parish system began between the 8th and 10th Century stemming from how the church was organised to serve different populations. Most parishes were well established by the time of the Domesday Book in 1086. In the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich there are 481 churches and 443 parishes.

Deep in the DNA of the church is not only the coming together to give thanks and praise to God and to listen and learn from His word, but put His word into action by following the example of Jesus and showing the love of God in the community which we serve.

Whitton Church has been there since before the Domesday book was written and stands on the site of a much earlier Saxon church. All that time it has been serving its community, and we still do so today. Under the leadership of our new Bishop Joanne our vision is to be growing in God with flourishing congregations making a difference.

As a church family at Whitton, we seek to serve our local community and make a difference. In this edition you will find a number of ways we do so. Look out for The Community Café, a place to come on a Wednesday morning for hot drink, a warm welcome, lovely cakes, conversation all in the stunning atmosphere of the church. You will also find services that may be helpful to you such as CAP Debt support, CAB, Disabled Advice Service, some of our NHS partners and more.

Our Mum and Tots group seeks to support children and families and enable young children to socialise, play with different toys, and give their carers, be they mums, dads or grandparents, a chance to meet others.

Alternate months we invite all who work to support the community in any way into church with coffee and cake to network with each other.

Our Top Up Shop supports with basic food needs helping those with stretched budgets. We can sometimes help in other ways too and always try to work alongside other agencies in the community.

Our halls are used at very reduced rates for the uniformed groups to meet and are hired by a number of organisations and individuals, we try to keep the costs as low as we can.

These are just a few things we do to support and show the love of God in our community, you will find other things in this edition too but do come along on Wednesday mornings or Sundays and find out more.

There is much difficult and worrying news on our screens and the world can feel an anxious place at the moment, we can't cure this, but we can support our small corner – our ancient parish of Whitton with Thurleston and Akenham and make it a better place. Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly and as we come to celebrate Easter with its joy and promise of eternal life after the resurrection of Jesus, we know that as Mother Teresa said ‘we can do no great things we can do small things with great love. Why not come and join us in bringing these small acts of love and hope to our community.

With Easter Blessings

Reverend Mary

Rector



**Look out for Mary
around the parish!**

Email:
marysokanovic@outlook.com

Telephone:
07824 323073



You Are Warmly Invited to all our Holy Week and Easter Services

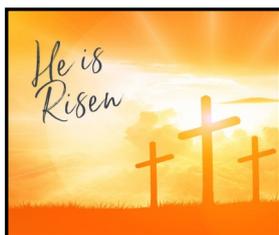
All at St Mary & St Botolphs Church, Whitton Church Lane.

Palm Sunday—29th March— 9.30am

**Monday—Wednesday—30th March—1st April —7pm—Service of
Eucharist and Reflection for Holy Week**

Maundy Thursday—2nd April —8pm - Eucharist with Washing of Feet & Vigil

Good Friday—3rd April —2pm—The Last Hour of the Cross— Tenebrae



Easter Sunday—5th April

8am Easter Eucharist (said)

10am— Easter Eucharist with Easter Ceremonies



Spring Fayre

Saturday 9th May 10am—12 noon

@ the Ascension Church, Larchcroft Rd

Tombola's Cakes Toys Games

Books Raffle Hot Dogs

Refreshments and much more

Come and join the fun !



**Are you interested
in Baptism for yourself
or your children?**

Give Eileen Ardern a

ring on 01473 252251

**for information and a friendly,
informal chat.**

FAMILY FIRST

Phone:- 0300 7727715

Email:- info@familyfirst-uk.org

Website:- www.familyfirst-uk.org

Facebook:- Family First Ipswich



Usual services at St Mary & St Botolph & the Ascension Churches

**Sundays—1st in month - 8am Said Eucharist &
10 am—All Together Church**

Not livestreamed

2nd - 4th in month—9.30am—Eucharist

All at St Mary & St Botolph,

Whitton Church Lane. These are livestreamed

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/>

**Wednesday 10am—Eucharist at the
Ascension, Larchcroft Road**



Ipswich Deaf Church now meet at the Ascension Church

on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2.30pm. The service uses **British Sign Language (BSL)** as it's source language with a voice over into English.

All the hymns are signed by members of Ipswich Deaf Signing Choir and the service is followed by refreshments.

All are welcome to come along and join us.

For more information contact Rev Penny Brinkley

Diocesan Chaplain with the Deaf Community

email rev.pennybrinkley@yahoo.com or text to 07901950768

(Please note occasionally the service date may change so please do check if you are planning on coming)



The Parish of
Whitton
with Thurleston & Akenham

Community Cafe Opens!

Wednesdays, 9am-12pm

At The Parish of Whitton
Whitton Church Lane, IP1 6LT

Free Refreshments

Donations
are Welcome

Everyone is Welcome
Pop In

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Our Community Café

The primary goal is to involve the community and neighbourhood in fostering relationships among residents, thereby helping to alleviate the isolation experienced by those living alone. Additionally, we would like to inform individuals that advice and support will be available right on their doorstep. We invite you to come and find inspiration.

The Community Café initiative provides a platform for individuals from the surrounding areas to connect with one another within the community. We prepare excellent cups of tea and coffee, and you can also enjoy a delightful treat, whether sweet or savoury, and each week these are different. There will be various agencies present to offer guidance and support to anyone facing challenges, ensuring confidentiality is in the forefront of these discussions.

Everyone is welcome, and there will always be someone present to greet and meet attendees upon their arrival. The Community Café provides a chance to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Share your interests and bring any ideas that contribute to strengthening our community for everyone.



The Top Up Shop is **open to everyone**. There are **no questions asked** (apart from contact number and post code in case of product recall). There are no criteria to fulfil. If you need food or just need to top up your food supplies, please come and see us. The cost is £2 for a recyclable bag. Each week we have a good choice of goods and always fresh fruit and vegetables. **We are open from 11am to 12.15pm every Wednesday in the Church Hall, Whitton Church Lane. Coffee and cake are available in the church from 9.00-12 noon.** You can be assured of a warm welcome.



Help us keep the church grounds tidy



Fancy spending Thursday evenings in the fresh air? Then why not join us this summer, as we prune, weed, hoe, cut back, and do anything else needed to keep our grounds tidy.

We start on **21st May**, working from 6.30 until dusk. Just turn up and someone will be happy to show you what needs doing. It helps if you can bring your own tools—but not essential!



I Can't Remember—A Funny Poem for those of us of a certain age!

Just a line to say I'm living—that I'm not among the dead!
Though I'm getting more forgetful and mixed up in the head.
I've got used to my arthritis—to my dentures I'm resigned,
I can manage my bifocals—but gosh, I miss my mind!
For sometimes I can't remember when I stand at the foot of the stair
If I must go up for something or have I just come down from there?
And before the fridge, so often my poor mind is filled with doubt
Have I just put food away or have I come to take some out?
And sometimes when it's dark and I've my night cap on my head
I don't know if I'm retiring or just getting out of bed.
So if it's my turn to write to you please don't be feeling sore
I think I may have written and don't want to be a bore.
Just remember that I love you and wish that you were near
And now it's nearly post time so must say "goodbye" my dear.
Here I stand beside the post box with a face so very red.
Instead of mailing you this letter I've opened it instead!



We have had a very exciting and busy few months! Our **Open the Book** team delivered an assembly recently. This time, we performed the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den at both Castle Hill and The Beeches. It was a great story to do as there were lots of different characters. The children at both schools seemed to really enjoy watching and joining in! The loveliest part for us was getting the children involved at the front. A group of children from each school did some amazing acting as our lions and were particularly great at roaring! The team are very much looking forward to delivering our next assembly.



Our next big project is Experience Easter which runs for the second year running. It will take place on three days in church during the week beginning 23rd March. Like last year, we look forward to welcoming three schools who are all bringing a different year group. Excitingly, we are having some Key Stage one as well as Key Stage two pupils in to learn about and explore the Easter story.

Calling Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Childminders



Mums & Tots @ Whitton Parish Church

Come and join us with your little ones for fun, chat and play
Each Wednesday (during term time) from 1.15pm to 3pm
At Whitton Parish Church Hall, Whitton Church Lane.



We look forward to welcoming you and your little ones up to school age.

Come and meet other parents and carers while you watch your little ones play, have fun and learn to socialise.

We have a wide variety of toys for your children to enjoy, and a book library where you can borrow a book to read at home.

We ask for £1 per session per family to help cover our costs, which includes snack time and activities.



So come along any Wednesday during term time and see for yourself.

For more details please contact Bridget on 01473 286663, or 07890311525
Or just come along, we look forward to meeting you



10th Ipswich Scout Group.

Our Beavers and Cubs have been away already this year, with a Winter sleepover at Hallowtree Scout Activity Centre. The weather was kind and we had outdoor games Friday evening after which we moved into the hall for supper of pizza. We had craft, and then the children all made indoor dens to sleep in. They did well with some getting almost 7 hours sleep, whilst other managed only 4 hours, after all the chatting, jokes and camp wind.

Saturday morning we hiked to the river Orwell and had a big lunch of Chicken and stirfry, in preparation for Chinese New Year later in the week. We finished with abseiling which was a first time for many of the children.... Home time for sleep was welcomed by the adult volunteers. A great start to the years nights away program.

Our Scouts are looking forward to sleeping underwater at Gr Yarmouth Sealife Centre and Cubs will be enjoying kayaking at a site near Colchester.

We have a few spare places in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts so if your son or daughter would like a taster week or two then let me know. See Scouts.org.uk to see the full program of Scouting activities we like to get up to.



We also have to recruit an adult volunteer for Beavers (aged 6 to 7) most urgently. This is the most rewarding hobby you can imagine and a taster few weeks can be arranged. Its from 60 or so hours a year, plus you can volunteer for extra activities to suit your time.

Contact Kevin Bean 07776065799 or kevin.bean@wolveyscouts.org.uk



WHITTON YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Covering Whitton, Whitehouse and Castle Hill we currently provide Junior, Inters and Senior Youth Clubs, Single gender groups, detached youth work, one to one support, school holiday Craft and play and Youth drop in sessions. All our activities are provided free of charge and free food is available at all activities based within Whitton Parish Hall where we are based.

Junior Youth Club – After school on a Monday

Inters Youth Club – After School on a Tuesday

Senior Youth Club – from 5.30p.m.on a Tuesday

Watch out for our Easter holiday activities which will be advertised on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/whittonyouthpartnership/>

Booking essential for holiday Craft and Play Days as spaces go within hours of appearing on our Facebook page.

Visit our Website to see volunteering and fundraising opportunities to help us maintain our services to our young people

<https://www.whittonyouthpartnership.co.uk/>



The Parable of the Lily is the sweet story of a little girl named Maggie who one day opens a package to find a bulb buried in a crate of dirt. This was not what Maggie expected. She had hoped for a doll or a game, not a bulb that would one day become a plant. She tosses the lifeless thing into the garden, never to think of it again . . . until she walks outside on Easter morning and finds the most beautiful lily she has ever seen. Through the unique gift of a bulb, Maggie discovers the true meaning of Easter.

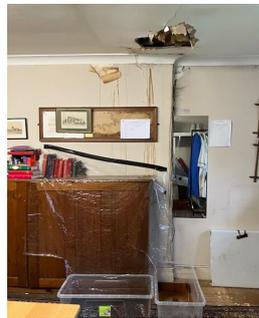
Why not make your own Easter Garden:
Find a little space in your garden or assemble a small pot with soil. Put twigs in for crosses, and build small a stone tomb covering the entrance with a large stone, moving it to one side on Easter morning to reveal the empty tomb. He is Risen!



Have you ever had that sinking feeling?



Well, if stones could talk our church vestry would reply, **YES!** In the '60's the vestry was extended to make more space, & for many years stood firm. However, a few years ago a crack appeared both externally & internally between the old & new structures. Initially movement was only slight & was dealt with by pointing, but recently movement became more serious widening to a 6mm crack. To make matters worse, the roof began to leak along the joint between old & new. Further investigation was required as to the root cause (thereby hangs a tale)! A structural engineer was engaged & identified two issues. The roots of a sizable tree about 5 metres away from the vestry were adversely affecting the nature of the sub-soil around the vestry & had invaded the drainage system. This has since been cut down. Excavation also revealed dimensioning issues with the foundations for the extension, allowing it to move with the soil. Our architect carried out further investigation & produced drawings & a costed plan to underpin the foundations, completely re-roof the entire vestry & renew the drainage system on the vestry side of the church. The quotation for this work by a well-known church contractor in November 2024 was £103,672 including associated service costs & VAT. Since then, despite strenuous efforts during the last year to obtain a grant to cover the cost of the work, success has evaded us. Even worse, inflation will have increased the cost & the government has ended its VAT relief scheme for Listed Buildings. So in short, we are facing a real cost of around £120,000 & a rapid deterioration of the condition inside our vestry due to ingress of water. We urgently need to begin a fund-raising campaign as many funders will only provide match-funding. We have opened a vestry repair fund & donations will be very well received. Also, look out for our funding initiatives over the coming months.



Facebook Whitton Parish Ipswich Page. Many had found us on 'Facebook Live' for Sunday Services. Since being hacked we are not yet able to stream to the new Facebook page – 'Whitton Parish Ipswich'. Other things are posted regularly. If you would like to watch our service live stream, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/@whittonparishstmaryandstbo8772>
Or simply follow the link on our website www.whittonparish.co.uk where you will find lots of other information.



Are you planning a wedding? -

Did you know:

- ◆ There are lots of ways you may qualify to be married in a Church.
- ◆ That you don't have to be a regular church goer to do so.
- ◆ That it usually costs less to do so than at other venues.
- ◆ You can have a range of music - not necessarily religious,
- ◆ Each wedding is unique to the couple & can have many special moments and elements.
- ◆ We have a stunningly beautiful church to be married in so why not have a chat and look round?



Contact Mrs Angela Marjoram 07950 086135 for a visit and friendly chat.

Ladies Breakfast

We meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month, in Whitton church at 9.00am for around an hour, to enjoy a Continental breakfast. We have pastries, toast, teacakes, and, so we can kid ourselves we're being healthy, fresh fruit! We make a donation towards the cost, and that has meant we have helped several charities over the past months from the profits. These include "Lighthouse" and "Talitha Koum", womens refuges. We also put together "Little Bags of Love" to give to anyone we hear about who may just need a little hug.



Please do pop in and join us — you will receive a warm welcome. (April's Breakfast will be on the 25th)