

Grafham Gossip

Issue 66 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 21st January

Grafham All Saints

20th December (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist
(No 11 am Service) 16.30 **Carol Service**
24th December (Christmas Eve) 16.00 **Crib Service**
25th December (Christmas Day) 11.00 Eucharist
27th December No service
3rd January (1st Sunday) 11.00 Sunday
worship celebrating **Epiphany**
10th January (2nd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist
17th January (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist
11.00 Sunday Worship
24th January (4th Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist
31st January (5th Sunday) **Candlemas Sunday**
16.00 **Christingle service**
7th February (1st Sunday) 11.00 Sunday Worship



Contacting the clergy:

Fr Jonathan Young (rector) The Rectory, Ellington.
PE 28 0AU 01480 891695

Fr Martin Kettle (curate) The Vicarage, Alconbury.
PE28 4DX 01480 890284 or 07770 273923

Churchwarden - Hazel Powell 810326

Editors' note...

As we had some space to spare this month, we've included a copy of the Village Diary for you to see. It can be found on the web site, so now there's no excuse to miss out on anything that goes on in Grafham. Let us know of any village activities that we can include in the diary. Also, please send us your news, views and gossip throughout 2010 for publishing in the *Grafham Gossip*.



Another year in Grafham's history is just drawing to a close and we should reflect on how lucky we are to live in such a special village.

We wish all our readers a very Happy New Year!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Safari Supper

This hugely enjoyable evening, organised by your Social Committee will take place on



Saturday February 6th starting at 7.30pm
£15.00 per couple

For more details or to sign up please call
Pat Watson 811166 or Philippa Patel 811656
Please sign up by Saturday January 30th



Carol Singing around Grafham Tuesday 22nd December

Come and join the SAS to
Sing and Celebrate the Christmas Season

- Meet at All Saints Church at **6.30 pm**
- Carol-singing tour of the village - Finish in the village hall **about 8pm** for mince pies/mulled wine
- Collection for the Save All Saints Fund as we go.

Listen for the bell ringing to announce our arrival near your door.
If you can bring musical instruments to accompany us please let Karen Stewart know (810961)

Save All Saints Association

sAs Burns Night Supper **sAs**

Saturday 23rd January 2010
Grafham Village Hall 7.45pm for 8pm start

Bring your own choice of drink
Tartan encouraged

The evening has always been a sell-out event, with everything you could hope for from the best of Burns:

- Music from the pipes to greet and entertain you
- Piping in and addressing the haggis (McSween's best)
- The traditional Scots 3 course meal
- Toasts and entertaining speeches

Ticket price of £12.50 unchanged from last year 70 tickets only are available on 810961.



For this to be as much as possible a community event, there's a limit of 4 tickets per household until 1st Jan. (if there's any left by then)

The Friends of Save All Saints **sAs**

are pleased to announce that Grafham will be having its first **Traditional Yuletide Afternoon Tea Party on Sunday December 20th in the village hall.**

Traditional Tea served from 2 – 4pm, £3 per 'Tea'
Mulled wine £1.50

Santa (in his grotto!) £2

Other attractions will include:

- Children's card making activity
- Guess the name of the reindeer
- Raffle
- Lucky Dip



We hope this event will attract all generations and we look forward to seeing you on the 20th December. Donations of cakes and prizes for raffle would be gratefully accepted. Contact **Karen Stewart 810961**

District Councillors Peter Downes and Patricia Jordan are available at the village hall from 11.15 to 11.45 on the first Saturday of the month.

At other times contact:

Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk tel 398082
and Patricia.Jordan@huntsdc.gov.uk tel 457802

A Shepherd's Tale -15

As Christmas approaches I am starting to make plans to bring the ewes in. I am hoping, with Jim's help, to convert one of our old sheds into suitable winter accommodation for the ewes. Unfortunately it has taken a lot longer to clear the sheds than we had hoped so we may have to compromise on achieving the five star standard before Christmas, though I know Jim can work miracles! Anyway, the plan is to have the ewes in soon, so that we can start feeding them better quality rations in the eight week run up to lambing. Of course the other essential pre-Christmas activity is to make sure we have enough hay and feed in stock before the agricultural merchants stop deliveries.

One other activity this month has been to prepare my advert for the Southdown Society handbook. Most of the adverts are very traditional with pictures of sheep in show regalia or showing fat bottomed lambs. As my flock is named after William Webb Ellis - founder of the only beautiful game - I decided with a help of a cartoonist to merge the two themes of sheep and rugby in the advert! With the editor's permission the cartoons are reproduced here.

Patrick Goldsworthy

Scrum down for Southdowns



View from the Pew!

As we enter 2010 let us look back briefly on some of the events at All Saints in the past year. The heavy snowfall last February prompted a photographic competition which resulted in the sale of Christmas cards in aid of SAS. "The Joy of Sax" recently was greatly enjoyed by all who attended and the community spirit engendered by this and similar events has been a blessing as well as the funds raised to help with the church "cracks". Thank you SAS to all those involved in their organisation and all who have supported them.

With regard to the cracks the PCC has appointed a new architect who has the results from all previous exploratory work and has recently been to examine the problem first hand. Attention to trees on the north side of the church has now taken place and the PCC is very grateful to Chris and Emma for this. We now hope to repair drainage to the north of the chancel. Following this there are three more costly jobs to be completed once tenders have gone out and grants are arranged. Meanwhile regular measuring and monitoring of the cracks is carried out to identify any unusual signs of movement.

Other events during the year include a series of children's services, including a well attended Easter Egg Hunt, Jonathan's 40th anniversary of his ordination as Deacon, the Well Dressing and Church Fête, the Flower Festival and three weddings - so the Flower Club has been extremely busy keeping our church looking beautiful and well -



cared for. We are still desperate for church cleaners and if you can spare some time to help us in that way we would be delighted. The plant and book stall have obviously been a great attraction so keep those books coming in. The plant stall has been temporarily "put to bed" over the winter but will re-appear next year with new stock.

Our "Lights to Remember" service on 29th November was a peaceful and moving experience. With candles lit around the church and the ones lit by those who were remembering their loved ones it was a special time. Our coffee and mince pie morning on 5th December was a great success, thank you to all those who supported us. At the time of going to press we still look forward to our Carol Service and Crib Service immediately before Christmas. Owing to the semi-retirement of a member of the clergy in the East Leightonstone group of parishes, Jonathan and Martin have taken on three extra parishes: Hamerton, Gidding and Winwick. To enable them to minister to those parishes, we at Grafham are going to have some help from Brampton and Ann Allsop who is a licensed lay minister will normally be taking the service here on the third Sunday of each month. We look forward to welcoming her for the first time on 17th January.

Looking forward to the new year we have two special services to put in your diary. **On 31 January, Candlemas Sunday, there will be a Christingle Service at 4 pm.** This service has a special appeal for children and the story of Christingle is illustrated in the orange, sweetmeats and candle. Come along with your children and hear the story and enjoy the magic of those lit candles and those happy faces! The second special service is on **14 February which is St Valentine's Day so we will be celebrating "Love and Marriage"**. Communion will be available for those who wish to receive it. No doubt the church will be decorated in some appropriate way and there is a strong possibility of some delicious refreshments, so do join us.

PARISH NEWS...



The annual inspection of the playground area and equipment has recommended that a number of repairs are required. The Parish Council has accepted the report and the remedial works will be carried out as soon as possible.

Another of the recommendations is that dogs should be excluded from the playground in order to prevent the health risks which occur from fouling by dogs. There is a sign at the site which states that no dogs are allowed, but it is not possible to physically prevent dogs from entering unless we are all vigilant in keeping the gates closed and by not taking dogs into the area in the first place. Dog-fouling is an offence, as has been said before, and the Council will impose on offenders the full penalties allowed by law.

A bid for funds from the District Council is being put together to enable a significant upgrading of the village hall facilities. This will include new curtains and blinds, an upgrading of the electrics, loft insulation, refitted showers and a new kitchen.

A lot of people use the hall for a whole variety of events and fund- and their health and safety is of paramount importance.

We are now coming up to Christmas and that gives us all a lot of recycling opportunities. Please don't forget to use the recycling banks at the Village Hall as much as possible. The money we get from these banks provides the Village Hall Management Committee with much needed funds.

Very best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk

01480 819477 margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

*You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly using the details below.
The next meeting will be Tuesday 8th December*

Philip Allingham Chairman 811516 philip_allingham@sky.com

Tracey Ibbett 812310 Traceyllbett@talktalk.net

Ian Gardener 812821 idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk

Mike Tyler Vice Chair 811244 mtyler@bedford.gov.uk

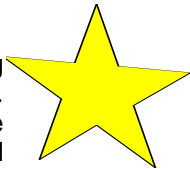
David King 812430 davidking@hawkeyesystems.com

Clint Thomas-Morgan 812590 j.c.thomasmorgan@btinternet.

Thinking of Christmas...

The Travelling Nativity Set is visiting homes in Grafham again this Advent. It is moving from house to house around the village just as Joseph and Mary made their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search for somewhere for Jesus to be born. The 'Holy Family' will be brought back to the church for our **Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm.**

The Crib Service is ideal for children of all ages, being short and 'user friendly' and we would love to see you! The Nativity Set contains knitted figures robust enough for children to handle as well as books and activities popular with children aged 1 to 10 years.



Five Parish Advent Fair 2009

Very many thanks to all who contributed in any way to the success of the Five Parish Advent Fair held on 28th November. At the time of writing £790.00 was raised to be divided between the five parishes. Next year? **Sue**



sAs Save All Saints Association **sAs**

Advance Warning Next Year's Photo Competition

The SAS are planning a photographic competition next summer. Entries will be invited of photographs of Grafham through the seasons. The winning photographs will be used to produce a 2011 Grafham calendar. More details to follow next year.

Spaldwick Community Primary School

were very pleased with the result of their Ofsted Inspection in November. The Inspectors have registered the school as 'outstanding', as you can see from these report quotes "Spaldwick is a warm, happy, busy school that provides an outstanding education for its pupils and makes an excellent contribution to its community.

All lessons seen were good and half were outstanding. Teachers successfully keep pupils on task and interested through varying activities and through ensuring that tasks set match the different abilities.

Pupils feel valued and appreciate the many opportunities made available to them to take on responsibilities. The school, working closely with parents, has high expectations of behaviour and pupils respond very well."

Ofsted, November 2009

Headteacher, Miss Rachel Prior said,

"We are all very proud of the Ofsted report. It recognises that at Spaldwick school everyone works together to enable all our pupils to succeed during the different stages of primary schooling and to continue with their education as confident young people.

The Ofsted inspection has highlighted the outstanding quality of care given to the pupils and how staff, parents and governors work closely to challenge all pupils to achieve their potential.

The Inspection also acknowledged the wide range of curriculum opportunities provided for all pupils and how the school staff and governors are continually aspiring to improve.

In the Spring term the school will be holding an open afternoon, and we hope you will be able to come along and meet us all."

www.spaldwickschool.org.uk

The 'Village Diary' can be found on the village web site. www.grafhamvillage.org.uk

Date	Event	Location	Time	Contact
20/12/2009	Eucharist Service	Church	8.00	Hazel Powell 810326
20/12/2009	Traditional Yuletide Afternoon Tea	Village Hall	14.00 -16.00	SAS Karen Stewart 810961
20/12/2009	Carol Service	Church	16.30	Hazel Powell 810326
22/12/2009	Village Carol Singing	Church start	18.30	SAS Karen Stewart 810961
24/12/2009	Crib Service	Church	16.00	Hazel Powell 810326
25/12/2009	Eucharist Service	Church	11.00	Hazel Powell 810326
29/12/2009	Grafham Bookworms, Film and Debate Club		20.00	Tina 811366
3/1/2010	All Age Worship	Church	11.00	Hazel Powell 810326
5/1/2010	Ellington and Grafham WI			Sue Rice 896139
5/1/2010	Mobile Library	Breach Road	10.45 - 11.05	0845 0455225
10/1/2010	Eucharist Service	Church	11.00	Hazel Powell 810326
23/1/2010	Burns Night Supper	Village Hall	19.45	810961
2/2/2010	Ellington and Grafham WI			Sue Rice 896139
2/2/2010	Grafham Bookworms, Film and Debate Club	The Snooty Tavern Little Staughton	19.30 for 20.00	Tina 811366
6/2/2010	Safari Supper	"The Village"	Evening	Social Committee

If you would like an event added to the diary on the website, email the details to diary@grafhamgossip.co.uk (or alternatively gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)

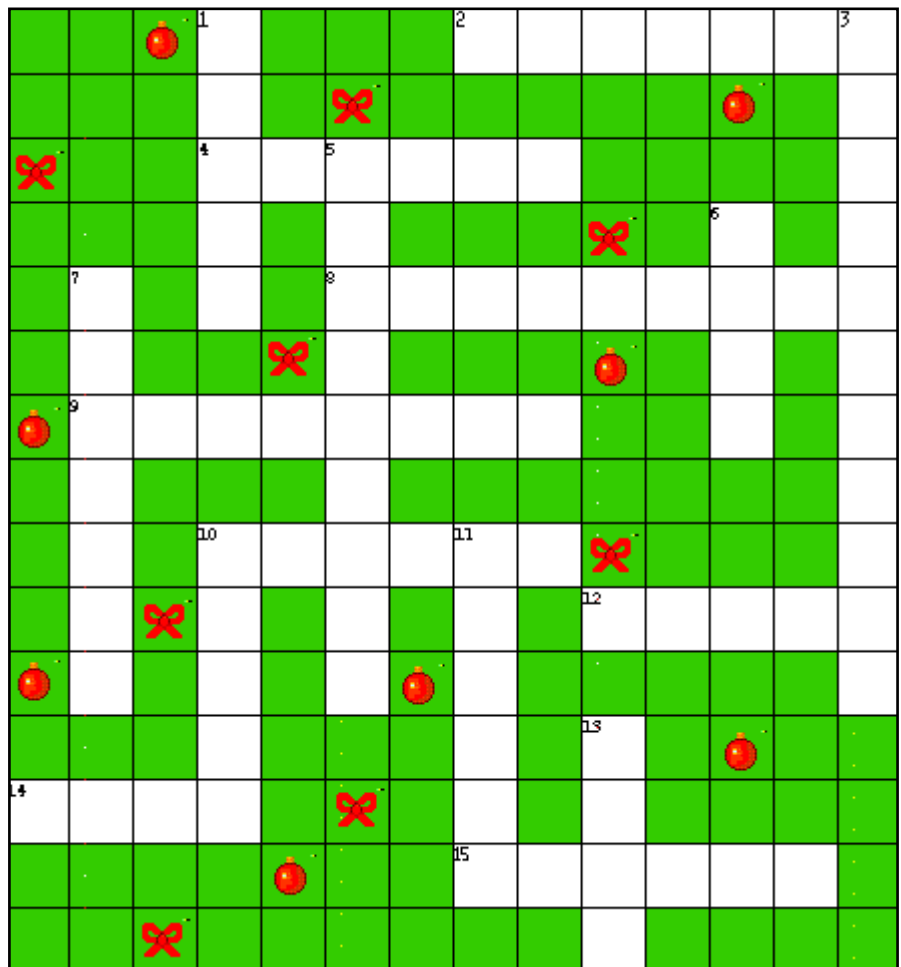
Christmas Crossword

ACROSS

- 2. What you put on your gifts so you know who the gift is for.
- 4. ____ the Snowman (name of a song)
- 8. Where does Santa live?
- 9. In what month do we celebrate Christmas?
- 10. ____ Bells (name of a song)
- 12. Who has a long beard and wears a red suit?
- 14. What children like to get for Christmas.
- 15. What Santa rides in.

DOWN

- 1. What do you give each other at Christmas?
- 3. What a Christmas house is made of.
- 5. Something you put on your Christmas tree.
- 6. If you are bad, what does Santa put in your stocking?
- 7. What is the name of the reindeer with a nose that glows?
- 10. Whose birthday is celebrated on Christmas Day?
- 11. You put these on your Christmas tree to make it glow.
- 13. What do you decorate with ornaments for Christmas?



Clint Thomas Morgan Grafham Plumbing and Heating Services



Oftec trained and registered technician
New high efficiency condensing boilers fitted
New bunded oil tanks fitted, including concrete bases, old tanks disposed of.

Improve your central heating system now - save money in the future Boiler Servicing from £55 + parts

All plumbing work undertaken from a dripping tap to a full bathroom or kitchen installations Free quotations

No call out charges 9.00am - 4.30pm Mon-Fri

All Work professional, friendly and reliable
Guaranteed 01480 812590 - 07799 640476
24hr call out j.c.thomasmorgan@btinternet.com

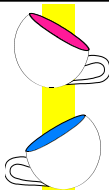
Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday,

January 13th at Frances Knight's 18

Church Road. This is an informal social occasion for retired residents of the village.

Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS YOU

Regional winners of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Green Award 2006 & 2007



Join Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group
Call Sam Malt on
01480 810844 daytime
01480 811654 evenings

<http://www.grafhamconservationgroup.btik.com>

GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

has a Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing, performing arts and can accommodate 92 guests seated in rows or 150 at a dance/disco - an ideal venue for children's and family parties. There is a playing field for sports activities and the hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities. For more details **contact Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166**



Ellington and Grafham W.I.

Join the growing team! We meet on the **first** Tuesday in the month. For details ring: Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



Wanted - Baby Sitters

Please contact gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Babysitters

Danielle 20yrs **811279**

Caroline 14 yrs **812179**

Kirsty 18yrs - babysitting course **810550**

Kate 17yrs - babysitting course **812179**

Georgie 14yrs- babysitting course **432688**

Felicity 20yrs -Grade B GCSE Child Development **812328**

Marie-Claire 17yrs -GCSE child development **811279**

Olivia 20yrs - Grade B GCSE Child Development **811831**

Lindsey 9th December to 14th January **07735 455701**



Theatre Trips

I have group booked tickets for the following theatre shows:

Calendar Girls at Milton Keynes, Tuesday 16th March

Stall seats rows S and T £21.50 Circle seats

£28.50 / £25.50 / £21.50

Jersey Boys at Prince Edward Theatre, London, Friday

26th February 7.30pm performance Stall rows M/O/S seats

Group Rate £35.00 (normal £62.50)

Sister Act, London, Saturday 27th March Matinee per-

formance £32.00 per ticket "Group pay early accelerator rate" **must be paid by 18/12/09 (Normal is £42.75).**

If interested in reserving tickets please **contact Tina after**

6pm on 01480 811366 or send a cheque payable to

T. Theodorou for the number of tickets requested to

"Kalostone" 5 Home Close, Grafham, Cambs PE28 0UW.

Please ensure your full contact/address details are

enclosed to enable me to send you the tickets. **Tina**



Grafham Bookworms Film and Debate Club



The next meeting of the Grafham Bookworms is on Tuesday 2nd February, 7.30 for 8pm at The Snooty Tavern Little Staughton to discuss the book "Piece of Cake. We'd be delighted for you to join us at our informal, entertaining evenings. For details, **please contact Tina Theodorou 01480 811366** or **Karen Stewart 01480 810961**. New members always welcome.

The Mobile Library route L108/120 visits **Breach Road,**



Grafham on alternate Tuesdays from 10.45

to 11.05. Visits are: **January 12th and 26th.**

There may be some disruption over the Christmas and New Year period.

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>



Open from 7.30am

Breakfast club 2 ½ -11yrs

Playgroup 2½ - 5 yrs

Mucky Pups (parent /toddlers)

For details tel: 01480 890077

www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk

URGENTLY NEEDED CLEANERS FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCH



Please come and join our existing friendly team!

Two hours six times a year. Clean with a friend and chat at the same time!

All equipment is provided.

Many visitors comment on our well-cared for church, so please help us to keep it so. If interested please contact Jane Stewart - **01480 810841**



Wanted!

Do you have any unwanted books at home?

Grafham All Saints Church is looking to re-stock the book-stall in the church porch and would be pleased to accept donations of books; preferably those in good condition. Please leave any books in the church porch.



organic vegetables from our farm to your door



Cook at home with a River Nene organic vegbox. Our award winning vegboxes start from only **£8.35** delivered free.

We now do meat boxes too!

for more details visit www.rivernene.co.uk or call **0845 078 6868**



J D Mortgage Services

Purchases, re-mortgages, buy to let, life cover, critical illness cover, health insurance, unemployment cover, buildings and contents insurance

FREE Independent Mortgage Advice in the privacy of your own home

Tel: **01480 819 478** Mob: **07739 814714**
Email: mark@jdms.co.uk

Paul's Private Hire and Chauffeur Service

Van Diemens Way, Grafham, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 0GB

Tel. **01480 811594** Mobile **07795 296281**
Email paul.blanchard2@ukonline.co.uk

Travel in style via Mercedes cars to your destinations



Aromatherapy Massage

**Tight, aching shoulders or back
Tired and lethargic
Poor sleep
Stress**

Massage is a great way to have some me-time and to feel that you are taking care of yourself. Have a one-off treat or a regular maintenance. You can also buy a gift for a friend. Choose from shoulder, neck, back and arms or a whole body massage.

· Gift Vouchers · Mobile Service now available

Contact Carole Baber (M.I.F.P.A) 01480 810043 or 0776662197
email: carole@carolebaber.com web: www.carolebaber.com

JEZ ASHCROFT

*Coving & Artexing Any Pattern
Plastering & Decorating*

FREE ESTIMATES

Tel: home **01480 812461**
mob **07708031493**

CATWORTH FINE FOODS

Purveyors of Quality Fine Foods

open 6 days a week

41a High Street, Catworth

01832 710237

Buckden Private Hire

PROMPT, RELIABLE & COURTEOUS SERVICE,
LOCAL & LONG DISTANCES,
HOSPITALS, AIRPORTS & STATION
CONTRACT WORK



8 PEOPLE MINIBUS ALSO AVAILABLE

CALL NOW ON

01480 812929

07740 440969

Grafham Gossip

The deadline dates are midnight on the following Thursdays:

21st January

February 18th

(March issue to be delivered during the first week in March)

March 18th

To advertise e-mail us: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk
Advert size depends on available space. Community notices are free; business adverts start at £3.00 per advert, 50p of which goes to the Restoration Fund of All Saints, Grafham

BSM Driving Instructor

DSA Approved

Living locally in Grafham

Call John Sisseman for details



Tel. 07806 941675

Days of Buckden

Traditional Family Butcher

Open 6 days a week

Tel. 01480 810272

S.M. Motors

Malt Acre Church Road Grafham
Huntingdon PE28 0BB

- repairs
- servicing
- MOT preparation
- quality work
- realistic pricing
- no VAT!

*bespoke blacksmithing - gates, weathervanes, welding etc
handmade bird boxes, seasoned firewood by bag or load*

Traditional Motor Repairs by a Traditional Motor Engineer

01480 - 810844(day) - 811654(evening)

Cambridgeshire Gardeners Best Kept Secret

ELLINGTON THORPE NURSERIES

are closed during January but please phone for enquiries **01480 811330**.

They will re-open on February 6th 2010.

Send us your news and gossip.

Email: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Website: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk **E-mail:** gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk