

# Newton Matters

No. 53 December 2011

St Margaret's Church

## From the Minister

Dear Friends,

I am the new Vicar of Newton. I have been in the Church's Ministry for over 30 years. Most recently I served for eleven years in two parishes in Colchester.

My arrival here coincides with the preparations we make for Christmas. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is God in human form. In the Bible, Saint John's Gospel describes the birth of Jesus this way: God 'was made flesh and dwelt among us'. A more modern translation says that God 'became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood'.

The birth of Jesus reminds us that faith is lived out in a particular place and at a particular time. For us, that means Newton here and now.

I do hope to see you in Church or as I make my way among you in the community. I wear a 'clerical collar' so if you see me do please say 'hello' and introduce yourselves.

Whether or not you come to Church, I am here for anyone who wants or needs the help I hope to bring you.

Whatever your personal circumstances, I pray that you will find joy, peace and renewed hope in the Christmas message.

*Brigid*

(The Reverend Brigid Hadfield)

### **Arrangements for Christmas**

Actually, Christmas arrangements started with Advent Sunday on 27<sup>th</sup> November, and each of the 4 Sundays in Advent recognise the importance to the Christian Faith of The Patriarchs, The Prophets, John The Baptist and The Virgin Mary.

The traditional **Carol Service** with the Choir will be at 4.00 pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December and the doors of the Church will open at 3.40 pm. All are welcome. Please stay seated after the service when mulled wine and mince pies will be delivered to you in your pews. The Communion on Christmas Eve will be at 11.30 pm in Newton Church and there will be an All-age Communion on Christmas Day in Harston Church at 10.00 am.

### **100 Club.**

Winners in October and November were Chris Eggleton and Mary Cornell respectively, each winning £40. Congratulations. As a result of a plea in the last edition for an increase in members, the club is back to 50 but there is room for more! If you feel that you could contribute towards our Parish Church in this manner, with just £1 per week, please call Joe Oakes 870954

### **Coffee Morning hosts for December and January**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> Drama Club    17<sup>th</sup> Friends of St Margaret**  
**January 7<sup>th</sup> Harston Road    28<sup>th</sup> Town Street**

### **WI Meetings**

Enclosed is the WI programme for 2012 and it is hoped that this will attract more members.

To learn more about the WI phone Diane Oakley 871092

### **Newton Drama & Social Club.**

Rehearsals for Dick Whittington are well underway and Tickets are now available from Gill Pluck (870160) for the performances 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January. Tickets are £.7.00 with concessions at £5.00 for the Wednesday and Saturday Matinee performances..

### **Parish Council**

Kate Murdoch stood down as Councillor due to increased pressure at work and David Benson was co-opted to replace Kate.

Mike Finch, who has served as Parish Councillor for many years is standing down as he will be moving in the new year.

The Council thanks Kate and Mike for their contribution to village life on the Parish Council.

There is therefore a vacancy and if an election is not required then the Council can co-opt. Anyone interested in this position should contact the Clerk, Joe Oakes 870954

The Parish Council received a very generous donation of £600 from Mr. Stewart Douglas, who has asked that the money is eventually used for play equipment. Mr Douglas has grandchildren who live in Newton. Many thanks Stewart.

### **Christmas Fair**

There will be a Christmas Fair in Newton Village Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, at 2.00 pm, organised by **Philomel Pike** in aid of Newton Drama & Social Club.

Stalls with even more opportunities for Christmas include cards, wreaths, cakes, books, nearly new toys and a tombola. Any gifts you could give for the tombola, please contact Philomel, 874312 . There will be a Christmas spirit to the event, so do come along.

*Wishing you all a peaceful and merry  
Christmas and a happy new year*