

**THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Contact:** Dawn Isaacs (01480 477003)

Hire Rates: £8 ph Hail Weston Residents  
£10ph Non-Village Residents

Deposit: £20

**PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITY GROUP**

Mon-Fri 09.30am-12noon

**Contact:** Val Parsons (01480 471925)

**HAIL WESTON VILLAGE QUIZ**  
**SATURDAY 6th FEBRUARY : 7.30pm**  
**VILLAGE HALL**

Tickets : £7 to include 'Chilli'

6 players per team maximum

**TICKETS : Tony & Veronica Bolton**

Telephone: 217061

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

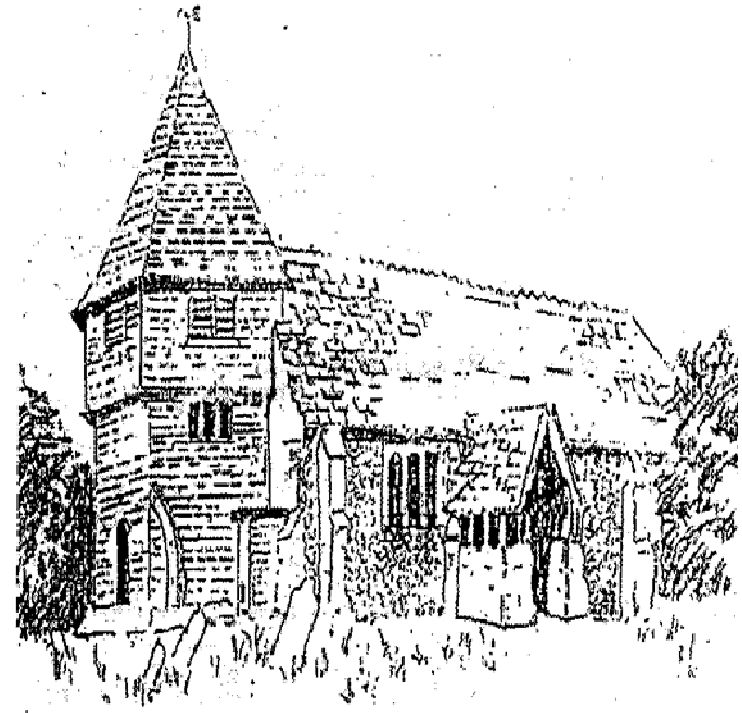
Meeting 18th February @ 7.30pm  
Where? At 17 High Street Hail Weston

If you have news, articles or events for inclusion in the next issue, please contact May

Publication deadline = 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (6.00pm)

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**ST NICOLAS' CHURCH HAIL WESTON**  
**FEBRUARY 2010**  
**VILLAGE NEWSLETTER**

**Rector:** Reverend Judi Clarke  
St Andrews Vicarage The Causeway Gt Staughton PE19 5BF

**Telephone: 01480 861215**

**Churchwarden**

Mrs Mary Deacon

**Telephone: 01480 812363**

**Village contacts for St Nicolas' Church:**

Mrs Jenny Holland (01480 475827)

Mrs Elaine McCarthy (01480 474542)

Arrangements for baptisms, weddings and other pastoral matters should be made direct with Reverend Judi Clarke

## A message from Judi, our Rector ....

### *Dear Friends*

First, may I thank all who sent me cards and messages and everyone who helped to make Christmas in St Andrew's Church so very special again this year. As in any family, there was plenty of preparation to do in the churches, but many people found time to clean, arrange flowers, rehearse music, decorate, provide refreshment and so much more that we might be ready to celebrate and worship the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, and it was a great joy to be able to celebrate with many of you over the festive period.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> the Church calendar celebrates Candlemas – The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple forty days after his birth, where Simeon, a holy man and the prophetess Anna, both recognised him as the Messiah, and greeted him with joy.

The very word 'Candlemas' speaks of light, and the old man, Simeon, speaks of Jesus as the 'light of the nations'. However the joy of this occasion is also tinged with sorrow as the prophetic words of Simeon, speak of the falling and rising of many, and the sword that will pierce the heart of Mary, Jesus' mother too, and Candlemas is the turning point for the Church as our thoughts turn from Christmas towards Lent and the Passion of Good Friday, then on into the joy of Easter Day.

Here in the northern hemisphere the celebration of Candlemas falls within perhaps the darkest month of the year, and is a month that many people find difficult and depressing, so it is good to have an opportunity in the church to celebrate again the reality that the Light of the World, our Lord and Saviour, is with us always, not just at Christmas but through the darkness of sorrow and in the light of joy – for his light never dies.

As Christians we believe that we are made in the very image of God, and so we too are bearers of that life-giving Light of Christ, and yet once again as we are faced with the devastating effects of yet another massive disaster in our world, many people will ask: Where is that light? Where is God?

I have just been watching and listening to the news from Haiti where the worst earthquake in 200years has destroyed countless lives, homes and livelihoods. This, in a place constantly suffering from unrest, poverty and continuing so called 'natural' disasters. In 2008 some 1,000 lives were lost there following 4 hurricanes in the space of 3 weeks; in 2004 a tropical storm killed around 3,000 people there; and constant deforestation has added to problems with flooding over the years too – it could be seen as a place of real darkness and despair but we can be assured that God *is* present in all things for he knows exactly what it is like to be human, for he sent his only Son – Jesus Christ – God made man – down to earth to share our very humanity and pain, disease, death and destruction were all part of his own experience as a human being,

So when we ask 'where is God today?' – we can be certain that he is in the midst of all who are suffering from the earthquake in Haiti; he is with the people suffering from HIV/Aids around the world; he is with each child who dies every 30 seconds of Malaria; he is with every one who is sick, lonely, bereaved or suffering in any way. He is with the victims and with the Aid Workers - he is with you and with me – he celebrates with us in our joy and suffers with us in our sorrows, for he is present and within each one of us today and always –and we ourselves are given the opportunity to bring that Light of Christ into the lives of others. I pray that in our lives we may all, in some small way, help to dispel the darkness of despair in our world today and to reflect the light of Hope and Love seen in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

With love and prayers to you all Judi

### **CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2010**

Sun Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Family Worship
Sun Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Parish Communion
Sun Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Parish Communion

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Weds Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Holy Communion at St Andrew's Church Great Staughton
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### **LITTLE FISHES**

**TUESDAY Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 3pm at  
St Andrew's Church, Great Staughton**

**Come and join us and have fun listening to stories,  
making music, singing songs and much more**

We welcome all ages from birth to Primary School with a grown-up

### **ANDREW'S CREW**

**Welcomes all 10 – 13 year olds**

**Next meeting**

**TUESDAY Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm at  
St Andrew's Vicarage Great Staughton**