

THE VILLAGE HALL

Contact: Emma Fox (01480 215088)

Hire Rates: £8 ph Hail Weston Residents

£10ph Non-Village Residents

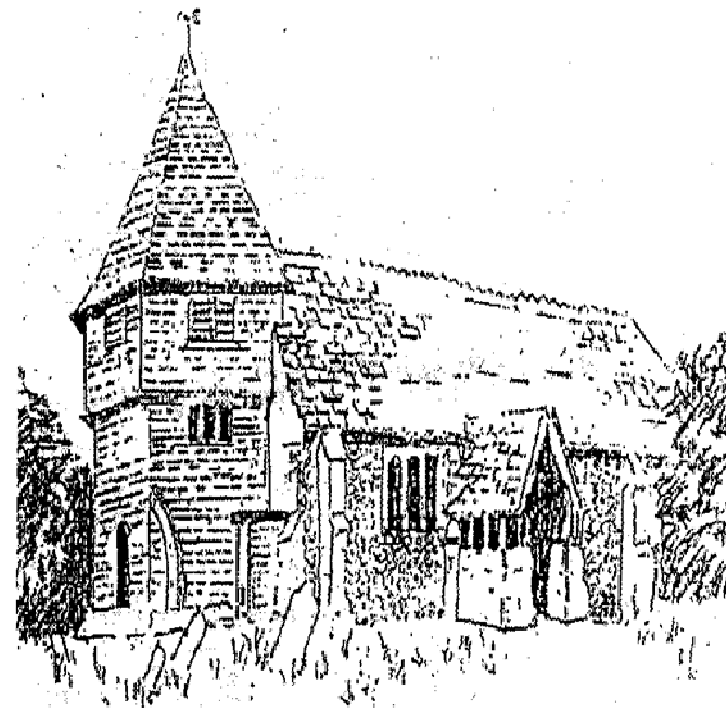
Deposit: £20

PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITY GROUP

Mon-Fri 09.30am-12noon

Contact: Mandy Clarke (01480 476277)

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**ST NICOLAS' CHURCH HAIL WESTON
JANUARY 2009—VILLAGE NEWSLETTER**

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

Telephone: 01480 861215

Village contact 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

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

Publication deadline = 15th of each month (6.00pm)

Editor : May (Parker) 53 Orchard Close (01480 403746)

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A message from Judi, our Rector

Dear Friends

I wonder how you celebrate the New Year, and whether you make any 'New Year Resolutions'?

It's probably the reality of passing years that allows me to admit openly that I am usually tucked up in bed by the time Big Ben heralds in the New Year – but in that warmth and comfort I do take time to look back over the past year, and yes, to wonder about the year ahead; and I do feel a tingle of excitement and expectation when I peep out of my window as the New Year begins.

There are always times in the past year that we had anticipated and prepared for – but also times we knew nothing about and were perhaps only partly prepared for, or even totally unprepared. The same applies to the year ahead. There will already be events in our diaries to anticipate and prepare for, and events, as yet, we know nothing about, for that is what life is like.

As my thoughts drifted while beginning this letter, I found myself drawn to a particular book in the Old Testament of the bible; the Book of Ecclesiastes a piece of 'wisdom literature' that first takes a look at life as it is without God, life which the writer describes as futile, meaningless and empty, for whatever we do in life it will end in the same way - in death. But after painting a very bleak picture the tone changes and the writer begins to see the part God plays within life. He helps us to see that although we can understand 'time' as a convenient way through which to order our lives, it is God who has made a 'proper time' for everything in life:

'a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time for war and a time for peace.'

As this year draws to a close we do not have to look very far to see there is still much sadness and despair in our world; people who have touched our own hearts in grief and sorrow, personally, nationally and internationally, and we continue to see and hear of horrific situations which could fill us with despair – but think for a moment of the wonder of the Christmas story – hold on to the reality of PEACE COME DOWN – (NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS) – and then we can all make a choice. We can look at the year ahead and consider whether it will be just another year in which we will read even more stories of distress, disaster and disease – and make the most of it for we think we can do little about it----- or we can make a 'New Year Resolution' to embrace the presence of God in our lives, accept his promise of PEACE for ourselves, and discover that when we really do find PEACE in our own hearts we will also discover that God has indeed made a 'proper time' for everything in life. We need to grow to know God personally and discover his time for us which will enable us to see the world

through his eyes – a world worth living for – and then we might all strive to build towards a better world as we offer that PEACE OF GOD to all those we meet throughout the year and share his promise of a future 'life eternal'.

May I wish you all a very peaceful, blessed and happy New Year.

With love and prayers .

Judi

CHURCH SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS IN HAIL WESTON

Weds Dec 24th 5.00pm Christingle Service

Weds Dec 24th 11.30pm Midnight Communion

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES IN OUR GROUP CHURCHES FOR CHRISTMAS:

Sun Dec 21st 4.00pm Christingle in St Leonard's Southoe

Sun Dec 21st 6.00pm Carol Service in St Andrew's Great Staughton

Weds Dec 24th 3.00pm Christingle in St Andrew's Great Staughton

Weds Dec 24th 11.30pm Midnight Communion

**Thurs Dec 25th
Family Communion in St Andrew's Great Staughton**

**Sun Dec 28th 10.30am GROUP COMMUNION AT
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH GREAT STAUGHTON**

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2008

Sun Jan 4th 4.00pm Family Worship

Sun Jan 11th 9.00am Parish Communion

Sun Jan 25th 9.00am Parish Communion