

**THE PARISHES OF
BRANDESTON AND KETTLEBURGH**

Dear Friends

I hope that you enjoyed a really good Christmas and that you are looking forward to the New Year, whatever 2008 might hold for you.

For some of us, this year will be one to look forward to because of some special celebration or achievement, or because this is an exciting time of growth or there is a turning point in prospect. For others the New Year might look like “more of the same” with little to distinguish it from last year.

For many Christians, January is the month of the “Epiphany” season; this starts on the 12th day of Christmas – 6th January – the day we particularly celebrate the story of the visit of Wise Men from the East (often called Magi) to Bethlehem. Led by that extraordinary star, and after a difficult encounter with King Herod in Jerusalem, the Wise Men recognised the child Jesus as the one they had come to find, and for whom they had brought their treasures as gifts. Of course, following their visit to Bethlehem, indeed, as a consequence of it, King Herod ordered the slaughter of all the babies living in Bethlehem, as a result of which, Joseph, Mary and Jesus became asylum seekers in Egypt. Jesus’ birth didn’t suddenly make life better for everyone. Indeed, for many people, things became distinctly worse. But then it is the case that the brightest light casts the deepest shadows.

During the 28 days of the Epiphany Season, we celebrate some of the incidents in Jesus’ life when people recognised, sometimes quite suddenly or surprisingly, that God is at work in the world. His being there certainly didn’t bring to an end all the bad things, the pain and suffering of the world with a “from now on we’ll live happily ever after!” But the way Jesus lived made people realise that God is with us, not just at those highlight moments when we are happy and all is well, but that he is also with us at those moments of darkness when life is painful or sad or full of uncertainty.

As the world rolls into 2008, pain, sadness and uncertainty are certainly to be found. But the light of Christ is also to be seen scattering the darkness in the lives of all sorts of men and women.

Being around the three villages and meeting so many of you during the few weeks before Christmas, I have been given a real sense of being welcomed, and of the joy and fellowship shared and enjoyed in this beautiful part of Suffolk. As the story of 2008 unfolds, I look forward to seeing how the light of Christ has continued to shine in our world.

May the peace of Christ be with you each day throughout 2008.

Robin Alderson

Assistant Priest:	Reverend Robin Alderson	
<u>Brandeston</u>		
Elders:	Mrs Mary Baker	685807
	Dr Anthony Fletcher	685508
	Miss Eileen Leach MBE	685298
Churchwardens:	Miss Eileen Leach MBE	685298
	Mrs Alison Molyneux	685244
<u>Kettleburgh</u>		
Elders:	Mrs Jackie Clark	723623
	Mrs Valerie Upson	723078
Churchwardens:	Mr John Bater	723532
	Mrs Valerie Upson	723078

Cover:- This month's cover picture is a cyclamen, drawn by Dr Anthony Fletcher. Thank you very much, Anthony, for such a wonderful drawing. VB

DIARY FOR JANUARY 2008		
Thursday 3 rd	11am	<u>Brandeston 100+ Club Draw</u> at Coffee Morning, Brandeston Village Hall
Friday 4 th	10am-12 noon	<u>Kettleburgh Café</u> at Kettleburgh Village Hall – see below.
Wednesday 9 th	10.30am	<u>Discussion Group</u> at Easton House
Friday 11 th	7.30pm	<u>Brandeston Film Club</u> at Brandeston Village Hall – see below.
Sunday 20 th	10.30am	<u>Kettleburgh Breakfast</u> at Village Hall – see below.
Friday 25 th	7pm for 7.30 start	<u>New Year Whist Drive</u> at Brandeston Village Hall – see below.
Saturday 26 th	7.30pm	<u>New Year Quiz</u> at Brandeston Village Hall – see below.

BRANDESTON FILM CLUB

The next film on Friday, 11th January will be *The Last King of Scotland* about the life of Idi Amin. The show starts at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

New members are always welcome – membership is £10 for the whole season. Once you have become a member all films are free. Sue Thurlow

KETTLEBURGH BREAKFAST

Forget the New Years diet, the Kettleburgh Breakfast is back! Yes, on Sunday January 20th from 10.30 at Kettleburgh Village Hall, you'll have another chance to enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast, read the papers and chat with friends and neighbours.

Any offers of help in the kitchen would be much appreciated – tel: 723900 Helen Kay

In aid of Kettleburgh Green Trust.

Helen Kay

NEW YEAR WHIST DRIVE

You are cordially invited to come along to Brandeston Village Hall on Friday 25th January 2008 for the first whist drive of the New Year. Doors will be open at 7.00pm with cards being dealt at 7.30pm. The cost of entry is just £2.50 and this includes drinks and refreshments. Please phone 685920 to book your place at the tables. We look forward to seeing you.

Rick and Pam Reade

QUIZ NIGHT

New Year quiz night in Brandeston village hall on Saturday, 26th January. Come and test your skills against the quiz master – entries of teams of 6 members to Sue Thurlow (685673) by Friday, 18th January please. A sausage supper will be served during the evening. £5 per person.

Sue Thurlow



Kettleburgh Café

2008

4 JANUARY

1 FEBRUARY

7 MARCH

4 APRIL

2 MAY

6 JUNE

4 JULY

1 AUGUST

5 SEPTEMBER

3 OCTOBER

7 NOVEMBER

5 DECEMBER

ADVANCED NOTICES

Saturday 9 th February		Valentine's Dance at Brandeston Village Hall – see below.
Saturday 7 th June		Kettleburgh Fete
Saturday 21 st June		Brandeston Fete

VALENTINES DANCE

Don't forget the dance to a live band – Tyler Kent – on Saturday, 9th February. Good music and a romantic evening with friends and loved ones - £10 / ticket from Fred Muglestone – 685661, the Queen's Head or the Brandeston Coffee Morning.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BRANDESTON BAPTISM

It is good to report the Baptism of **Rose Carol Randell**, aged 13 months, at All Saints' Church, Brandeston on Sunday 2nd December 2007. Rose is the only child of Paul and Harriet Randell who live at Martlesham Heath; they were married in Brandeston Church on 9th June 2007. Paul is the only son of Tim and Marianne Randell of Riggle Street, Brandeston. Harriet's family home is Bruisyard.

The Church was very full for the service because the Baptism was combined with our annual Christingle Service and with Brandeston Hall too – a truly happy time of celebration as we used the Christingles to remind us of God's love, which reaches out to people world wide, and our own responsibility to pass it on. May He help us to do this in the year ahead.

As we welcome Rose into the church, we pray that God will care for her as she grows up in all aspects of her life. May God bless Rose and her family, both now and in the days to come.

GV

KETTLEBURGH BABY

Congratulations! to **Angus and Caroline Wheeler-Rowe** of , on the arrival of their son **Findlay Craig** on Monday 3rd December, weighing 8lb 8oz.

PAST EVENTS

THE DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH

The Licensing and Installation of the Reverend Canon Harry Edwards as Priest in Charge, and The Reverend Robin Alderson as Assistant Priest of the Benefice of Brandeston and Kettleburgh with Easton on November 21st, 2007, at All Saints' Church, Brandeston.

This very special service took place with a full congregation representing all three parishes. The Procession was led by the Crucifer, followed by the Elders and Readers and visiting clergy, including the Bishop of Kagera, who was especially welcome. The Revd. Graham Owen (Rural Dean) and the Lay Chairman entered next, followed by Archdeacon Jeffrey Arrand, Churchwardens, Bishop Clive and the Bishop's Chaplain.

The Rural Dean opened the service, the next part of which (including the licensing) was conducted by Bishop Clive and the Archdeacon. The Rural Dean then introduced representatives from the local churches, organisations and communities, and notices were read by the new Assistant Priest.

Mention must be made of our organist, Colin Matthews, whose impeccable playing led the strong hymn singing throughout the service.

After the service everyone was invited to Brandeston Village Hall for refreshments and a chance to meet Harry and Robin. So ended a happy and uplifting occasion - an important landmark for our three parishes, as we begin a new chapter in our community and spiritual life.

CHRISTMAS FAIR, BRANDESTON

The wet, icy cold and dismal afternoon did not dampen the Christmas spirit for our Christmas Fair. The Village Hall, tastefully decorated for previous Christmas events, welcomed all of us.

It was a great occasion to have the fair opened by Robin, our new Assistant Priest. He set the tone by telling a joke of a little girl travelling with her father. She suddenly remarked, "Look, is that snow?" Her father replied, "No, it's not snow, it's RAINDEAR".

The stalls were stacked with goodies of all kinds. Brandeston Hall youngsters had a fantastic display of stocking fillers. We are most grateful to them for their support.

Of course, we must not forget Father Christmas and his little fairy followers. He made a wonderful effort to entertain the children in his amazing Grotto.

In spite of the weather, a good time was had by all.

The PCC thanks everyone who contributed and supported us, not forgetting those who manned the stalls. The grand total was £1,050 for our much-needed Fabric Fund.

Thank you all.

Eileen Leach

DISCUSSION GROUP – DECEMBER

St Nicholas

Appropriately for December, the saint we discussed was St Nicholas (also known as St Klaus, also known as Sinter Klaus, alias Santa Claus). His festival is 6th December, the

anniversary of his death in AD 342. There are few known facts about him, but he was bishop of Myra (Lycia) in SW Turkey. When Myra was over-run by Moslem armies in 1087 his relics were taken to Bari in SE Italy where there were many Greek immigrants (Myra was Greek in those days). It is possible that he was one of the attendees at the Council of Nicea in 325, but there is no proof.

He has always been a very popular saint and is patron of unmarried girls, sailors, pawnbrokers and bankers, brewers, children and perfumiers. His cult was well established by the 6th century and in the west by the 10th century. This was partly due to his "life story" which comes to us from a fictional account written by Methodius in the 9th century. However, the legends may indicate something of his real character.

The best known of the stories about St Nicholas is the one about three sisters who had no dowry and therefore could not marry. They were destined for prostitution until St Nicholas threw three bags of money through their window (or, in some versions, down the chimney) where they landed in a stocking hanging to dry by the fire. This is supposed to be the reason why pawnbrokers have the sign of three balls hanging outside. The giving of presents on his feast day became popular, though later the donor became the Christ Child or Christkindl. St Nicholas was always seen as a protector of the poor, his character being closely linked to love and charity.

Other stories about him concern saving three innocent men condemned to death in Constantinople and saving the life of a sailor (sometimes given as three sailors) who fell into the sea from a ship in which Nicholas was travelling (possibly on his way to study in Alexandria).

While he was bishop there was a famine and he obtained a supply of bread and visited all parts of his diocese distributing food. There is also an unpleasant story about how, during the famine, an unscrupulous butcher murdered three boys and pickled them in a barrel, intending to sell them as ham. Nicholas rescued them and restored them to life.

We discussed why he was so popular and whether it was important that we had few facts and most "information" was legend, deciding that all the stories indicated a man who loved others and tried to help them, so he is a good example whether the facts are correct or not. We wondered why the Middle Ages felt a need to invent stories (teaching and example?) and how we now regard the powerful superstitions and legends of that period. This led us on to talk about attitudes to superstitions and veneration of relics still practiced in some parts of the world. None of us felt we wanted to give up the story of St Nicholas or Santa Claus because even if he was too good to be wholly true, we were drawn to the warmth and humanity shown in his legends.

Jane Woodbury-Eggins

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Around 70 people - young and old - gathered outside Kettleburgh Village Hall on a mercifully dry evening on Dec 15th to witness the lighting of the tree. The vicar, Robin Alderson, was there to take our thoughts in the right direction, then we really did count down to the wonderful sight of the tree revealed in all its technicolour glory. Carols were sung, then we all trooped back into the warmth of the gaily decorated hall to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. There was a Christmas Quiz to do and puzzle pictures of famous

people to decipher, good conversation to enjoy with old friends and new villagers and visitors to make welcome.

A total of £40.40 was raised from donations and will be sent to the Children's Society.

Thank you to the Village Hall Committee for their hard work in organising such an enjoyable event and to Tony for solving the mystery of the disappearing lights!

Liz Provan

CANDLE LIGHT EVENING

A lovely evening in the old chapel in support of the upkeep of this charming building was held on Sat. 15th Dec. It's the start of Christmas for Brandeston and lots of fiends met to have a jolly time and to support this event which raised £300 for the restoration fund. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this event, in decorating the Chapel, in support on the night, providing excellent food/wine etc.

Sue Thurlow

BRANDESTON 100+ CLUB

The Grand December Draw took place at the Christmas Fayre at the village hall on 8th December. The winners were:-

First	£100	Sam Tassera
Second	£40	Jackie Buckle
Third	£25	Jane Mitchell
Fourth	£10	David Risk

NOTICES

RECYCLING IN BRANDESTON

A reminder of the recycling facilities at The Queen's Head (courtesy of landlord, Alan Randall). Glass and newspapers/magazines can be recycled with cash credits for the glass paid to the Parish Council, and for the paper to the Village Hall. Whilst the credits are not substantial, they do provide funds which are spent on the village, and we can feel a sense of satisfaction at our efforts to save the planet!!

Mark Hounsell

VILLAGE WEB SITES

For up-to-date information about your village, visit these web sites:

www.brandeston.net

www.onesuffolk.co.uk/KettleburghPC/

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Please send, deliver or e-mail any contributions for the magazine by 15th of each month to: Mrs Val Butcher, Woodlands, Church Road, Kettleburgh,
or e-mail valerie.butcher@talk21.com, tel: 724777.

Also, if you, or your children enjoy drawing and would like to do a magazine cover, they are always very welcome.
Thank you.

TIMES PAST

As we now welcome another priest to the benefice perhaps it is a good time to think about one of the previous clerics who looked after Brandeston. Francis Harcourt Gooch (1842-1931) was with the parish from 1875 until 1886. He was certainly a man of many parts.

Educated at Durham and Merton College, in 1864 he won both the high and long jumps for Oxford, and was a founder member of the Oxford and Cambridge athletic sports; he also rowed in the Merton eight for four years.

After curacies at Hambledon; Ford, Northumberland; and Compton Martin, Somerset; he became vicar of Brandeston where he lived at the Old Vicarage with his wife Catherine and her family. The census of 1881 showed that they had a son, Richard and four daughters. The youngest two, Ethel and Dulcibella were born and baptised in the parish.

Francis seems to have been a kindly and generous man. In 1882 he had plate glass erected in the tower arch of All Saints' which must have diminished the draughts. He was a Justice of the Peace and also an unpaid inspector of schools for the Norwich Diocese of which Brandeston was a part.

The Brandeston Hall National School Log reported that he was the Acting Manager; in that capacity he worked hard to have the school enlarged and improved. Francis often took scripture lessons, gave the children treats and presented the yearly prizes. When the Gooch's left to live at Thursley in Surrey, the school presented him with an ornamental clock, whilst Catherine was given a pair of knife rests and a lady's travelling companion (a large leather case including toiletries).

Francis must have been well liked by his servants as his Suffolk born groom, John Mouser and cook Sophia Poucher both accompanied him to Surrey where the paper reported that he later married them. When he died many years later in 1931, among those present at his funeral was Mr Mouser, his former coachman.

Perhaps the sport he most enjoyed was hunting. Here he and his teenage son regularly rode with the Hamilton Harriers. Just before he left the village he was inspired to write 'A Lay of The Last Day with The Hamiltons', a nine verse poem which included these lines:-

To finish the season! Oh, mournful to read!
We may hang up the hunting crop, turn off the steed;
But we'll have one more gallop, so come to the meet
Of the Hamilton Harriers at Brandeston Street.

.....and ended:-

But as we jog homeward at a gentler pace,
Every thankful tongue echoes, 'All thanks to his Grace'.

WMW
