



Ladies' Guild.



Images from the Ladies' Guild Christmas meeting, see page 18.

Rector Rev'd Georgina Holding.

(01778) 342237.

f St Guthlac's, Market Deeping.



www.stguthlacs.org.uk

For a Baptism, Wedding, or any general enquiry, please telephone the Parish Administrator Charlotte Bates who is available **Monday and Wednesday evenings** on 07972 839963. Beyond that time please leave a message. Alternatively email administrator@stguthlacs.org.uk

Churchwardens	Peter Hilton Nick Evans	342185 07973681095
Readers	Canon Nigel Bacon Mrs Kate Brown	342737 343981
Director of Music	Peter Davies	347381
PCC Vice Chair Hon Treasur	James Ward er Mrs Julie Bacon	342737
Children & Youth	Worker Andrew Mitchell	07748 241391

Other Parish Representatives are listed near the back of this publication.

The Daily Office of Morning Prayer is said at 9.00am Monday to Saturday. The Evening Prayer is at 5.00pm Monday to Friday. All are welcome.

For details of our on-line services please refer to our website or facebook page.

If previously arranged any Baptisms will take place at 12noon on the first or third Sunday of the month.





Dear friends,

Some might think a Priest is full of wisdom, energy and ideas at all times. However, like everyone have periods of tiredness and illness where we lack of motivation. When I came to write this, I had a cold with sore throat for about a month alongside a busy week. I was not totally drained but was having a day you could do with a bit of support. I wondered what I could do to help myself get my long list of items achieved. I turned to something I had not considered before, Artificial Intelligence. Though I was just looking for inspiration and not intending to copy it, I asked AI to write a magazine article and was impressed with the results. Although I have not use it, it prompted me to write this instead.

There are varied opinions on AI, which I will not be raising here. I do wonder though, if it helps people in certain situation then isn't that positive? I meet lots of people who are struggling in different ways, and often they have not accepted the support offered, or even noticed it was offered, as it was not what they were expecting. For over a year people suggested I try AI (for all sorts from emails to advertising), to give more space to respond to pastoral issues. This was not the support I expected, so I dismissed it. I know people who have dismissed others asking how they are, as being not really that interested, or dismissed someone offering to take on a task as it was not the task they were struggling with, and so on. While others reject support due to worry of looking like they cannot cope.

We all need support at times though. The story of the Bible is one of support -God supporting us, making us a world to enjoy, sending Jesus to bring us into a right relationship with God and showing us how to care for one another, especially those most in need, and the Holy Spirit coming to support humanity. Jesus even needed support. He took support by quietly praying alone, by telling his friends when he was struggling, and allowing Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross. Perhaps this might encourage us to pray when we need support and accept the support from those around us when offered.

The Bible has long been a place of support, guidance and wisdom. It shapes our understanding of God and one another. It talks about forgiveness, service, love, hope, salvation, and so much more. If you would like to learn more about the Bible, including how the different parts fit together, come along to our 8 session journey through the Bible on Mondays at 7:30pm, at 23 High Street starting on 10th February. We hope the relaxed environment will also become a place of fellowship and support.

With all best wishes and prayers,

Rev'd George Holding

Prayer for the month

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
 help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn,
 and inwardly digest them that,
 through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
 we may embrace and for ever hold fast
 the hope of everlasting life,
 which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amery.

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All Age Services

This year our all age services will be taking place on the first Sunday of the month at 10am.

You are welcome to our next all age Holy Communion service on Sunday 2nd February. We will be thinking about Candlemas and Jesus being the light of the world, with interactive prayers and talk, and singing songs we all know and love.

Funerals

Some of you may be aware that for a while (several years in fact) I have been working towards expanding my ministry to include funerals. As a reader, rather than a priest, there are some services that I am not authorised to lead, Holy Communion for example. However, after undertaking the relevant training, readers are allowed to take funerals and for some of my colleagues this forms a significant part of their ministry.

Perhaps it is something to do with getting older myself, but funeral ministry is something I have increasingly felt drawn to. It is a great privilege to be with people as they navigate their way through grief and plan a funeral that pays tribute to the person they have lost. Over the last few years, I have observed funerals taken by others and have been involved in leading elements of the service, in church, at the crematorium and at the graveside. I have also visited families beforehand to help them plan the service. As well as undergoing this practical training I have read widely, reflected on what I have read, attended training and put together a portfolio of written work.

So, I am delighted to tell you that I have now received Bishop Nicholas' authorisation to add funeral ministry to the other things that I do as a reader. I'd like to thank all those who have encouraged me along this path and especially Rev George and Rev Annie who have been very supportive and generous with their time and expertise.

Kate Brown.

As anticipated the December meeting of the Mothers' Union was enjoyed by those who were there. We sang some carols, listened to seasonal readings, from the Bible and other sources, had a few giggles at the caption quiz and had far too much to eat.



January's meeting started in church as Rev George led us in a Eucharist Service. This was followed by the AGM. Unfortunately, attendance was lower than usual as the evening was very cold and the church even colder. However, every cloud has a silver lining and as Dorothy had enough chairs to seat all that were there, she very kindly offered her hospitality. So, we trooped round the corner where a warm fire, hot drinks and cake awaited us. The business part of the meeting was swiftly concluded with the committee and officers unsurprisingly elected to continue for another year. The programme for the year was outlined although a few dates and activities are yet to be confirmed.

As usual in February we haven't arranged for a speaker just in case illness or inclement weather prevent either the speaker or sufficient members making it to the meeting. Instead, we intend to have a "members' memories and pictures" evening. I'm asking members to bring along a photograph or two of places that are important to them: childhood homes, favourite holiday destinations, venues where significant events have taken place...... and to talk about them. Better still, get the photographs to me a few days beforehand and I can scan them and then show them on the large TV screen (much easier for us all to see) Anyone who feels anxious about standing up and speaking can sit down and we can just ask questions about the picture.

As always, I remind people that you don't have to be a member to attend our meetings, just bring your £2 which covers the hire of the Green School. Of course, if you are interested in becoming a member then let me know. Subs for 2025 are £34 and are due now.

The Christian Men's Fellowship.

Further to the recent announcement in church, here is some more information about and an overview of the upcoming Christian Men's Fellowship in The Deepings.

The purpose of this group is to create a space to examine issues facing men today from a biblical perspective. The group is meant to build relationships and the sharing of wisdom between its fellows. There is no agenda, there is no teacher. The group is simply a place of respectful discussion, drawing from the Bible, personal experience and current events, trying to make sense of what it means to be a Christian man in the 21st century. The fellowship is open to men of any age or denomination.

The meeting will meet once a month on the last Friday of every month except December in 2025. The first session will be on the 31st of January at Godsey Lane Coffee at 7pm. There will be eleven sessions, each with a different theme. Here is a provisional list of the themes and their dates:

```
31st January – Work
28th February – Marriage
28th March – Family
25th April – Conflict and war
30th May – Men's role in the church
27th June – Money
25th July – Leadership
29th August – Health, Fitness and Sport
26th September - Education
31st October – Mental Health and Addiction
28th November – God
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Each meeting will have a different chairman, who will guide the discussion and make sure it finishes on time.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Regards, Matthew Anderson, Open Door Baptist Church.

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Churchwardens' Notes.



We hope that you and your families are all well.

As we explained in last month's Notes we had been asked for, and provided, some additional information in support of the Faculty Application submitted for the new Heating and Lighting system. The information is now being reviewed. There is a great deal of information for the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to consider. We are hopeful that the Application will now proceed smoothly and We will provide further updates as our application proceeds.

The DAC have now reviewed the Faculty for the repairs to the window in the Baptistry that has been damaged. They have requested some more information from the glass specialist which we will forward once it has been put together.

Work has now started on the refurbishment of the Green School. This includes the replacement of the kitchen which will also be increased in size. The toilets will also be reconfigured to make access easier. Work is progressing and we will provide updates as things progress.

Please can we ask that when visiting church people do not park by the wall near to the old Rectory gates to avoid inconveniencing our neighbours.

As ever, if you have any questions, please speak with one of us.

Pete Hilton Nick Evans.

From Our Children & Youth Worker.

Dear friends,

As I write this article and reflect on it, I am amazed at how the weather at this time of year can change throughout the day; yes, it is still very cold, which you could say is to be expected in January (when I am writing this), but it's lovely and sunny now. When I walked to William Hildyard Primary School this morning to lead their Morning Worship, it was cold, with a lingering sense of darkness and very foggy. However, as I sit here now, the sun is beaming through the window onto me. All of this makes me feel awestruck by the Creator, by God, who created the seasons and the very season we are in now, winter.

The other thing this time of year can do to me, well, I would suspect a lot of us, is to become reflective on the year that has just passed. Currently, much of my reflection is on the work Rev George and I did to reimagine, change, and reshape how our monthly, allage services look. What form do they take, what sense of feeling do they have, what liturgy is used, and what types of hymns and worship songs do we have? This change happened around this time last year, and we were praying, seeking God's directions, and asking the families we had in the worshipping community what they felt they wanted the monthly all-age services to look like. When it came to this thinking, we had to consider our vision for the services. Of course, central to this vision had to mirror the church's overall vision here at St Guthlac's: reaching out in love, growing in faith, and welcoming all. One of the books that helped me reflect on the vision of the all-age services was a book I read for the first time last year. This book, Worship For Everyone: Unlocking the Transforming Power of All-Age Worship, was written by Nick and Becky Drake. Nick and Becky are two of the leading thinkers in intergenerational worship at the moment, especially in the UK; they are based in Birmingham, and their book has a chapter on 'forming a vision for all-age worship'. One of the guotes that I kept in mind, and still do now when it comes to all-age worship, was, 'Children are not second-class citizens, nor are they spiritually "adults-inwaiting". They are simply people Jesus wants to encounter, just like the adults in the room. There is no junior Holy Spirit, and there is

no "junior Jesus"! Jesus is for everyone.' They suggest that this is why we must ensure children are "heard and seen" in church worship. So, out of this vision, the idea was formed that we would provide children and adults alike a role to play within our all-age services here, thereby endeavouring to create a culture and service that genuinely allows everyone to worship God.

Another important aspect of all-age worship is the fact that it allows families to come together, to be together, to do fellowship together in a worshipping community. This is vital in family ministry, which Marjorie Thompson writes about in her book Family the Forming Center: A Vision of the Role of Family in Spiritual Formation 'the congregation also provides a natural opportunity for families to network with other persons and families. No single family unit can bear the burden of living faithfully out of its own resources alone.' Therefore, especially on Sundays of our all-age services, we are creating a chance for families to connect and form and develop relationships that are beneficial to family life and their connection with God.

Now, as I draw this to a close, can I ask you to join me (which I am sure many of you already are) in praying for us as a church family as we have our monthly all-age services, both the services themselves and the leaders planning them and leading them but also, the people that attend these services, that everyone will feel welcomed, loved by God, have a role to play, and be able to connect to form strong and lasting friendships.

Blessings, Andrew.

South Kesteven District Councillor for Market & West Deeping

ASHLEY BAXTER

If you have a problem, a question or a great idea regarding council services please get in touch, I will try to help.

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a.baxter@southkesteven.gov.uk

Promoted by Ashley Baxter, 11 Kesteven Close, DSJ, PE6 8JW.

Lent 2025

Easter is late this year, towards the end of April so consequently Ash Wednesday which signals the beginning of Lent is not until March 5th. However, we wanted to give you a taster of things to come.

There will be two services on Ash Wednesday, the usual 10:30 morning service of said Holy Communion but also a sung service of Holy Communion at 7:30 in the evening for the benefit of those who are not free during the day. Both services will include the rite of ashing for those who wish to experience this.

On Sunday evenings we will meet each week for a time of discussion followed by the office of Compline, a short, said service that comes at the end of the day. This year our tentative plan is to start on the first week with an opportunity to experience prayer stations that will be set up in church for people to engage with individually at their own pace. This will be followed in subsequent weeks with discussions and reflections about some of the characters encountered in the Passion narratives, rounding this off on Palm Sunday evening with a session which will draw all of this together.

There will be more details in next month's magazine but in the meantime do consider joining us for some or all of these sessions and put the dates in your diary March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th April 6th and 13th.

The Ministry Team.

Talk at Teatime

Some months it is impossible to find a Sunday afternoon where we can fit a Talk at Teatime into calendar. This was the case in January and will also be the case in March and probably April as well with the way Lent and Easter fall this year. All the more reason then, to meet this month to listen to and then discuss a talk recorded at the 2024 Greenbelt Festival and enjoy refreshments and fellowship while we do so.

John Bell is a Greenbelt regular, and we usually try to listen to at least one of his talks. This month we will hear him on the subject of "A world fit for our children" Analysis can breed paralysis, says John Bell. But the people of God are expected to prophesy and make for a better world. What should be the shape of the future for our planet and our children and how do we get there?



Join us to hear what John has to say about this important topic. We meet at 4 pm on Sunday February 16th The venue is as yet undecided but look out for details on the posters and in the weekly newsletter.



Green School refurbishment.

The work that has been taking place in the Green School is scheduled to be completed on February 4th. There is a booking on Sunday 9th so we need to make sure the rooms are clean and that equipment and furniture has been put back in place by then.

There will be a working party on Thursday 6th meeting there from 9:30 am to clean and possibly move some items back in, with a further group meeting there from 9:30 am on Saturday 8th to finish making the Green School ready.

If you can help on either day please contact Kate Brown.



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Peterborough Soup Kitchen

From Kevin Dawson.

Heather & I have been long standing volunteers at Peterborough Soup Kitchen. We have seen over the last couple of years numbers of clients needing the support of food and sometimes just a friendly face, hot drink and chat, increase dramatically. We have the most amazing team of volunteers behind the scenes who bake and supply sandwiches for us for our monthly duty. However, we are always looking for more folk to join our team either to come and serve on the van or to donate a loaf of sandwiches, packet of chocolate wafers etc. Many of our sandwich donors and bakers are on a rota and so they perhaps only provide us with food three or four times our year. We do have one or two who every month deliver us amazing sandwiches and cakes, one of whom also goes into the kitchen in Peterborough each week and prepares fillings for teams who make the sandwiches at the Soup Kitchen.

There is a box in the back of church for donations and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our helpers and donors, you are all truly amazing and the clients know that on our Friday night duty they will have the most amazing home baked treats.

These are our duty dates for 2025:

14th February; 14th March; 11th April; 9th May; 6th June; 4th July; 1st August 29th August; 26th September; 24th October; 21st November; 19th December.

If you feel that you can help in any small way, please contact us.

Kind regards Kevin & Heather.

Church Flowers

Candlemass means the end of Epiphany and the taking down of the Christmas crib. We try to have a vase of snowdrops in church from our churchyard and this year they are already spreading a glimpse of spring outside. Many of you will have seen the daffodils and tulips that Liz Miller brought in for the funeral of her m other - Gill was one of our team of flower arrangers and would love the bright yellow sunshine colours. Her casket was decorated with an amazing display prepared by Ann Marie who has led several flower arranging sessions and wreath making in the Green School . If anyone wishes to remember a loved one they can always place a vase or arrangement on the Memorial window sill.

The new rota for 2025 is being sorted and will be on the notice boards at the back of church , new participants are always welcome to join us. There are just a few weeks of flowers before the season of Lent and then no flowers leading to Easter. Hopefully many of our community and congregation will be planting or nurturing bulbs that we can display over Easter weekend.

Thank you to Pam and Kate who have taken us from Christmas to Candlemass with the pedestal displays and some of the Christmas Greenery has also lasted well. There will be flowers throughout February until Lent begins in the first week of March.

Any questions, queries or sponsorship and helping offers please get in touch. Thank you.

Anne Guthrie 07979106822 guthrie-nan@hotmail.com

Ladies' Guild.

Our Christmas meeting was a lively one with Andrew McCormack and Jules with their ever growing band. They now number five with a drummer joining a violinist and guitarist. We were kept on our toes answering questions to win a Christmas tree decoration. A spread of delicious food provided by the members was accompanied by mulled wine. A great way to end our meetings of 2024.

We look forward to a varied programme in 2025 starting the year off with our celebratory meal in a local pub.

We said goodbye to Kay Roberts from our committee after almost forty years of service. We presented her with a pen and some flowers. Kay has been a valuable member and will be missed. She says she will continue to come and enjoy our meetings.

Our monthly meetings are open to anyone so call one of the committee members below.

Julie Bacon 01778 342737, Ann Lymburn 01778 703269, Liz Parkinson 01778 347020. Jean Jones 07976810654, Carol Moore 01778 342979,







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Friday Crafting group

We are looking forward to being able to use the Green School once again and appreciating the new facilities. Our first group session will be on Friday 28^{th} February, usual time of 9.30 to 11.30 , cost of £5- to cover hire of hall and refreshments. Please bring your own projects and we will also have some card making materials available . It will be lovely to meet, chat and craft again. If anyone has ideas for a session please let Kate or myself know.

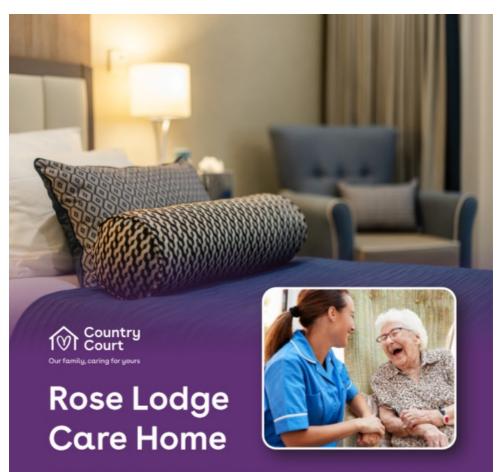
Anne Guthrie 07979106822 guthrie-nan@hotmail.com

The Magazine

Thank you to all who contributed this month. Articles for the March issue are required please not later than Wednesday 19 February.

In addition to the regular articles of monthly activities I could do with a few general ones which can be held in abeyance as fillers. Often when setting out the magazine I have one or two blank pages staring at me demanding content! (The way the publication is produced with folded A4 sheets the number of pages has to be a multiple of four). Any articles such as personal, travel, interests are welcome, especially if accompanied with pictures.

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date	when	sidespeople	readers	servers	offertory
2	8.00am	Keith Warren	Keith Warren		
Feb	10.00 am	Joy Elliman Roger Clarke Di Wheatley	Child Reader	J Ward C Gaughan G Bacon	Dorothy Harriss, Iris Newson
9	8.00am	Peter Hilton	Kevin Dawson		
Feb	10.30 am	Henry Roberts Kay Roberts Chris Warren	Di Wheatley	N Bacon J Johnson J Bowell	Janice Hewitt, Kay Bunn
16	8.00am	Kevin Dawson	Kevin Dawson		
Feb	10.00 am	Janis Hewitt Lyall Seale Keith Warren	Kay Roberts	A Grey C Fowler D Fowler	Nettie Mitchell Linda Bates
23	8.00am	Jean Jones	Jean Jones		
Feb	10.00 am	Carol Cooper Lorna Mellowes Geoff Chambers Nick Evans	Dorothy Harriss	G Bacon J Bowell E Denton	Lyall Seale Geoff Chambers
	5.00pm	David Betts	Donald Monk		

The Deepings Flower Club

We meet on the Third Tuesday of each month in Priory Church Hall, Deeping St James; 7.00 for 7.30pm.

Membership £40pa, Visitors £8 Tea and Coffee. Demonstrations followed by a Raffle of the Arrangements. We welcome new members,

enquiries to Sue Lee, 01778 560362.

Calendar of Services and Activities February Year C

Saturday 1st	10:00 – 12:00 Jazz Breakfast at the Priory Church Hall				
Sunday 2nd	8:00 am 10:00 am	Candlemas Said Holy Communion All Age Holy Communion Malachi 3: 1 - 4, Luke 2: 22 - 33			
Monday 3rd Wednesday 5th Thursday 6th Friday 7th	7:30 pm 6:3 <mark>0 pm</mark>	Prayer Meeting in Church Said Holy Communion Bell Ringing Practice Choir Practice			
Saturday 8th Coffee morning cancelled					
Sunday 9th Fourth Sunday before Lent					
		ustice Sunday			
	8:00 am	Said Holy Communion			
	10:00 am	Parish Holy Communion			
	2.45	Revelation 7: 9 – 17, Luke 4: 16 – 21			
	3:45 pm	Choral Evening Prayer at			
Monday 10th	Lincoln Cathedral				
	onday 10th 7:00 for 7:30 pm The Bible Course at 23 High Stree ednesday 12th 10:30 am Said Holy Communion				
Thursday 13th		Bell Ringing Practice			
Friday 14th	6:30 pm	Choir Practice			
Saturday 15th 2		Messy Church in the Green School			
Sunday 16th		ay before Lent			
	8:00 am	Said Holy Communion			
	10:00 am	•			
1 Corinthians 15: 12 – 20, Luke 6: 17 – 26					
Manday 17th	4:00 pm	Talk at Teatime venue tbc			
Monday 17th		0 pm The Bible Course at 23 High St.			
Wednesday 19th	2:30 pm	Said Holy Communion Rose Lodge			
Thursday 20th	6:30 pm	Mothers' Union in the Green School			
Thursday 20th	0.30 pm	Figure 3 Officer in the Orecti School			

Bell Ringing Practice

Soup & Social in the Green School

Choir Practice

7:30 pm

6:30 pm

Friday 21st

Saturday 22nd 12 noon

Sunday 23rd Second Sunday before Lent

8:00 am Said Holy Communion 10:00 am Parish Holy Communion

Revelation 4, Luke 8: 22- 25

5:00 pm Evensong

Genesis 1: 1 to 2:3, Matthew 6: 25 – end 7:00 for 7:30 pm The Bible Course at 23 High St. 1:50 – 2:50 pm William Hildyard Year 5 visit

7:30 pm Ladies Guild in the Green School

Wednesday 26th 10:30 am Said Holy Communion Thursday 27th 7:30 pm Bell Ringing Practice

Friday 28th 9:30 – 11:30 am Craft Group in the Green School

6:30 pm Choir Practice

7.00pm Christian Men's Group, Godsey Lane

Coffee

Diary Dates for March

March 5th Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with Ashing 7:30pm March 7th World Day of Prayer at the Priory Church time tbc

March 25th Mothers' Union Lady Service 10:30 am

March 30th Mothering Sunday.

Monday 24th Tuesday 25th

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Parish Directory

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Secretary of Bell Ringers		Dawn Richie	07837 187908			
Eco Church Coordinator		Liz Gray				
	Guthlac's Young Explorers	Andrew Mitchell	07748 241391			
Safeguarding Officer		Anne Guthrie	346134			
	Wellbeing Group Co-ord	Keith Warren	701717			
Friends of St Guthlac		Rev'd George Holding				
	Stewardship Coordinator	Carol Cooper	346140			
	Convener of Sidespeople	Keith Warren	701717			
	Coordinator of Servers	Graeme Bacon	342737			
	Lesson Reading Rota	Kate Brown	343981			
	Flower Arranging Rota	Anne Guthrie	346134			
	Church Cleaning Rota	Kay Roberts	349021			
	Newsletter	Dorothy Harriss	218743			
		Kay Roberts	349021			
	Mothers' Union	Kate Brown	343981			
Ladies Guild		Jean Jones	07976810654			
Floodlight Booking		Kay Roberts	349021			
Green School Cleaning		Chris Gaughan				
	Magazine Distribution	Dorothy Harriss	218743			
	Advertising	Roger Clarke	07902 928782			
	Production	Gordon Tyler	349338			
		email gordonftyler@btinternet.com				
Green School Booking		email greenschool@stguthlacs.org.uk				

Thuckse With Tharsie

Someone stole my antidepressants. Whoever they are, I hope they're happy.

After learning six hours of basic semaphore, I was flagging.



BREAKFAST.

Saturday 1st February - 10 till 12noon at the Priory Church Hall Deeping St James

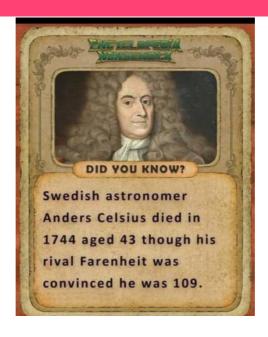
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more information on website biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course

