

## Dittisham Village Voice 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012

1000 years is a very long time, but that's the length of time during which there has been a Church in Dittisham in one form or another. Originally the Saxons built a church in the village, but no trace remains. Then the Normans arrived and built a Church. The poor church then went through a period of neglect and became a ruin. Luckily restoration started in 1328 and in October 1333 it was reopened and dedicated to St George. So started the life of our village Church as we know it. Over many years additions were made to enlarge and enhance the Church. St George's has seen a fair share of drama including an unwelcome visit by Cromwell's men who burnt part of it down. Bad men. Today our Church, with its comforting open door policy, plays a very big part in village life. For worship, celebration, weddings, funerals, and of course a venue to rival the O2 for village drama and concerts. St George's relies on village volunteers for so many aspects of its daily life but still the cost to the Parish to fund this beautiful facility is a staggering £600 a week. Throughout the year fundraising events are held in the village to help with this huge bill. This coming Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November the annual Christmas Market will be held in the Village Hall from 2pm with proceeds going to St George's. Please do try and support this event in whatever way you can. You could try a bit of cupboard rummaging and donate items; then attend the event to buy your items back if you can't bear to be parted with them. I read recently in a Village history book that Dittisham men used to sell their wives. The last recorded sale was in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This could however be taking 'donation' to an extreme. Tickets are now on sale for The Ditsum Players not to be missed production of the year 'Black Comedy'. This hilarious 1960's farce will be performed in Dittisham Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December. Adult tickets £12.50 and £6 for children over 8. Price includes a simple supper. Call Gail on 722633 or email her at [deedas1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deedas1@hotmail.co.uk). So roll up, roll up, buy your tickets now to avoid disappointment. And finally, a date for your diary. On 15<sup>th</sup> December Jonathan Dimpleby will be at the village hall presenting his talk 'Writing Books, Making Films and Doing Interviews'. His new book will be on sale at a discounted price. Proceeds from this event will go to our Village Hall and our dear and old St George's Church.