

'Give Thanks, Remember and Celebrate'

The months of October and November are ones of thanksgiving and remembrance with the focus on Harvest services and the beginning of the Kingdom Season with All Saints' Day, when we celebrate all Christian saints known or unknown, followed by All Souls' Day. The latter is a more sombre day of prayer and reflection for the souls of those who have died; its observance was dropped by the Church of England after the Reformation, but it became popular once more after the First World War, in conjunction with Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, as a means of helping people to grieve the millions of lives lost.

Although Harvest can be celebrated from the beginning of September onwards, in the Thurton Benefice we usually wait until October when most crops have indeed been finally gathered in, which is especially appropriate given that we are a wine growing area and the grape harvest is usually in late September or early October.

In 2018, we combined the celebration of the grape harvest with the observance of the Feast Day of St Martin of Tours (11th November), the patron saint of various groups including viticulturalists. Martin was a soldier in the Roman army who rebelled against his superiors because of what he saw as the conflict between his Christian faith and being a soldier: 'I am the soldier of Christ: it is not lawful for me to fight'. He left the army and entered the religious life before becoming Bishop of Tours in AD 371. St Martin is best known for the legend of his cloak:



While Martin was still a soldier and stationed in Gaul, one day as he was approaching the gates of the city of Amiens he met a scantily clad beggar. He impulsively cut his military cloak in half to share with the man. That night, Martin dreamed of Jesus wearing the half-cloak he had given away. He heard Jesus say to the angels: "Martin, who is still but a catechumen clothed me with this robe."

In another version of the story, when Martin woke, he found his cloak restored to wholeness. The dream confirmed Martin in his piety, and he was baptised at the age of 18.

The part of the cloak kept by himself became a famous relic preserved in Marmoutier Abbey near Tours. During the Middle Ages, the supposed relic of St. Martin's miraculous cloak (*cappa Sancti Martini*) was carried by the king into battle and used as a holy relic upon which oaths were sworn.

The priest who cared for the cloak in its reliquary was called a *cappellanu*, and ultimately all priests who served the military were called *cappellani*. The French translation is *chapelains*, from which the English word *chaplain* is derived. The small, temporary churches built to house the relic as it was being moved around became known as "capella", the word for a little cloak. Eventually, these churches lost their association with the cloak, and all small churches began to be referred to as "chapels".

Until the 16th Century we had a church (rather than a chapel) dedicated to St Martin in 'Apton' and as part of this time of thanksgiving for the Harvest, for the saints of the Church and the souls of our loved ones who have gone before us, as well as an opportunity for our communities to come together following the times of separation and isolation in the past two years, we are planning to have a walk of witness and celebration of the Feast of St Martin once again this year on Sunday 7th November.

I am delighted that the Bishop of Norwich will be joining us and we will start at the site of the Church of St Martin adjacent to Church Farm on Dodgers Lane in Bergh Apton at 3pm and walk across the fields to the Chet Valley vineyard where we will have a short service followed by festivities, including a re-enactment of the tearing of the cloak! For more information and to book tickets email: info@chetvineyard.co.uk

I do hope you will join us as we 'Give Thanks, Remember and Celebrate' this year.

Fr Chris.



The mellow moon, the changing leaves,
The earlier setting sun,
Proclaim at last, my merry boys,
The harvest-time begun.

Charles G. Eastman (1816-60)

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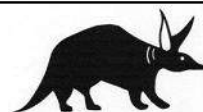
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Bishop of Norwich’s Refugee Fund has been re-launched

Message from Bishop Graham of Norwich:

The appalling plight of families fleeing Afghanistan has been deeply moving to watch. As we seek to welcome some families to Norfolk and Waveney, I am re-launching the Bishop of Norwich’s Refugee Fund.

This fund has given small grants to help with welcoming refugees from Syria and I am now extending it to support Afghans. It does not duplicate support that is provided by the State or other charities but looks for ways to help refugees settle. One example has been buying TV licences that help refugee families learn English and understand British culture and entertainment.

Your generous support, in loving our suffering neighbours as Jesus asks of us, would be hugely appreciated at this time. Thank you.

Bishop Graham

Norfolk County Council (NCC) has asked us for help to enable them to respond to requests to donate financially to refugees arriving in Norfolk. The Norwich Diocesan Board of Finance will administer the fund. **Some ways to give:**

Donate by cheque: please make it payable to ‘NDBF Ltd’ and make it clear which church, parish, benefice or appeal the money is to be put towards. Post to: 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich, NR9 5ES.

Make a bank transfer using these details:
Payment reference: Bishop’s Refugee Fund
Sort code: 20-62-61
Account number: 30674508
Account name: NORWCH DIO (please note no “i”)

Thank you.

A Gift For Children At The November Benefice Service at Bergh Apton Church



Beginning in 2007, Bergh Apton’s people have brought together hundreds of brightly-coloured shoeboxes filled with both useful and delightful things to the church at its Parish Team service on the third Sunday in November, before sending them off to be distributed to children worldwide at Christmastide.

The occasion is part of the Samaritan’s Purse organisation’s ‘Operation Christmas Child’ project which has delivered fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items via millions of these boxes all into a world where they may well be the first gift that their recipients have ever received.

This year the third Sunday - 21st November - is a Benefice Service at Bergh Apton and its congregation invites all of you, from all our parishes who plan to attend the service, to bring along your own pretty and packed shoebox to add to the pile that will be built in the chancel during the service to be blessed before being sent on their way.

You can read all about ‘Operation Christmas Child’ on the Samaritan’s Purse website (that’s all you need to enter into your browser) that has several elements telling you both the story of the project and how (and what) to pack in your shoebox.

You’ll need a Shoebox leaflet (which includes a label) that you can get from Hilary Ling at Bergh Apton, or at Green Pastures on Hellington Corner.

If you’d like specific advice about your shoebox you can always call Hilary. It was her original idea to join in this remarkable project so she either knows the answer, or can direct you to the place you can find it.

Hilary’s number is 01508 480439 or you may send an email to hilary.ling@btinternet.com

Parish Council Reminder - Overgrown Hedges and Roadside Obstructions

Overgrown hedges

Please would property and landowners check that overgrown hedges, trees, shrubs, etc are not endangering road users or pedestrians by blocking public pavements and pathways.



In order to avoid the overgrowth people might have to walk out into the road and also, the view of drivers, cyclists, etc could be impeded. It can also cause great difficulty for pedestrians with prams and pushchairs and also to those using wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Norfolk County Council will investigate if complaints are received.

Obstructions on Verges

There have been instances when road users have been endangered by obstructions on the verge of the highway. The placement of posts, stones, wooden blocks, etc impede road users when they need to take urgent action to avoid traffic.



Guidance from Norfolk County Council confirms that the verge forms part of the Highway and under the Highways Act, the Highway **must not be obstructed**, and must always remain available for Highway users.

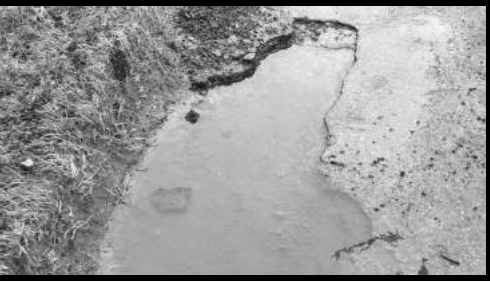
In the event of accident and injury, and if the obstructions are deemed to be the cause, there is the possibility that legal action could be taken against the property owner to recover damages. Norfolk County Council will investigate if complaints are received.

Any obstruction or damage to highways can easily be reported by telephone (see number below) or on the NCC Highways web site: www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem

How to Report a Pothole in Norfolk

A surprising number of people ask us how to report a dangerous pothole that they've seen. It's really easy once you know how.

It is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council to fix potholes, but only once they are told about them. If everyone thinks someone else will report it then perhaps no one will for a while, increasing the time that the pothole could get bigger and deeper, cause more damage or even cause an accident.



Potholes can easily be reported online. Make a mental note that you can get step-by-step instructions so next time you see a pothole be sure to report it, sooner rather than later. It's much quicker than you think.

When you click through to the Norfolk County Council reporting page, there are 5 screens to click through:

- One is clicking on a map,
- One is multiple choice,
- Two are just a single drop-down,
- And the other one is to write a quick sentence on how to find it at the map location.

You can also report a pothole by telephone by contacting Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020.

Rockland Benefice Update

Church services: The return to hymn singing and a more relaxed approach to worship has been a breath of fresh air. The Flower Festival at Carleton St. Peter was a successful and uplifting occasion and marked the return of face-to-face events. My thanks go to all who were involved. As we move further into the Autumn, we will continue to extend our range of activities, as long as circumstances allow us to do so. Café Church in Rockland Parish Rooms makes a welcome return on October 17th. Please look out for further news on the Rockland Churches Face Book page, village websites and our regular e-mails. Please let me know if you'd like to be added to our circulation list.

Harvest: We celebrate the Harvest season with Festivals in our churches, please see the rota for dates and times. Across our parishes we're collecting long-life goods for Norwich Food Bank and other local good causes. Please let us know if you'd like to donate.

Remembrance Sunday: On **November 14th** we will be holding Acts of Remembrance in several of our churches, as we once again honour the fallen from our parishes and re-commit ourselves to peace and justice today. Please see the service plan for details.

Tree of Light Service: **November 28th** is Advent Sunday. This is the time in the Christian year when we remember those we have loved and lost. We're holding a special Tree of Light service in Rockland Church at 3.30pm to remember our loved ones, light candles write their names on a star which we will place on the Christmas tree, which will remain in Church until the end of Christmas (January 5th). We would like to invite you to join us then, but you are also welcome to send us the names of those you remember; we will write them on a star, place them on the Tree and light an individual candle for each person. Please contact us for more information.

Sunday service videos: We're continuing to film video services which will be linked to the Rockland Churches Face Book page and posted on village websites. Please contact us if you wish to join the contact list, or if you know anyone who isn't online and would like to receive the service booklet.

News from the Barn

The last couple of months have seen face to face events return to the Barn, and we look forward to increasing activities and special events taking place here in the autumn. Our online offerings will continue to help the Barn ministry of arts and spirituality to reach further. Thank you for all your support throughout the challenging times we've all faced.

Art Café: A place to meet up on Wednesday mornings (10.30-11.45am): Art Café is meeting twice monthly online and will also be gathering face to face in the Barn on November 10th, 10.30 am - 12 Noon. You are welcome to drop in for refreshments, discussion, good company. Please phone me on 01508 538014 or e-mail NickGarr39@aol.com for more information and Zoom link.

Quiet Mornings: October 9th 10am to 12.30pm: Holy Cross Workshop and (optional) Quiet Afternoon. Activities will include immersive storytelling and creative response using Deep Talk. There will be plenty of time for stillness, reflection and refreshment. All materials will be provided. This is an exciting opportunity to experience the familiar from a new perspective. Please bring a packed lunch if you'd like to stay on. In the afternoon you're welcome to use the Barn as a quiet space or a base for walking until 3pm. Please phone me on 01508 538014 or e-mail NickGarr39@aol.com for information and bookings.

November 27th - 28th All-Age Activities on themes of Light, Stars, Angels and Creation. The Barn will be open for this two-day drop-in event, with refreshments, things to do and look at, reflections, friendship and fun. For more info please phone 01508 538014 or e-mail: broadsidecurate@aol.com

The Barn is available to groups for quiet days. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

With best wishes,

Rev Nick and Rev Helen

Thurton Benefice Update

Church Services: It is good that we are beginning to return to a more settled pattern of services, although it is still important to check the rota on the back page carefully to ensure you are at the right place at the right time.

Weekday Communion: Monthly Services of Holy Communion are offered on the first Thursday of each month at St Mary's Yelverton. In October it will be on Thursday 7th and in November it will be Thursday 4th. Both services will be at 10.30am. All most welcome.

Harvest Services: will be held in each of the churches in the benefice in October. Please see the rota for dates and times.

Gift Days: are being held in some of our parishes on the weekend of the Harvest Celebrations: Yelverton on Saturday 2nd October, Ashby St Mary and Bergh Apton on Saturday 9th October and Thurton on Saturday 23rd October. Gifts may be brought to the church between 10am - 12noon on those days or sent to: The Rectory, 29 Ashby Road, Thurton, NR14 6AX. Cheques should be made payable to 'Yelverton PCC', 'Ashby St Mary PCC', 'Bergh Apton PCC' or 'Thurton Church Fund' as appropriate. For BACS payments please contact me at: chris.ellis23@btinternet.com and I can provide appropriate bank details for each parish.

All Souls' Day: the service to remember our loved ones departed will this year be at the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Bergh Apton, on **Tuesday 2nd November at 7pm.** All welcome.

St Martin's Day: will be celebrated on the 7th November with a procession and festivities in Bergh Apton attended by the Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich. Please see the front-page article for more details and do join us!!

Remembrance Sunday 14th November: Services will take place in each of the parishes. It is hoped that the service at Bergh Apton will be able to return to its usual, well-attended format and a special afternoon Dedication Service will take place at Thurton as we mark the addition of Private Miles

Harvey's name to the War Memorial. Miles was a son of Thurton who died in 1919 and is buried in the churchyard with a Commonwealth War grave headstone, but his name was not added to the memorial at the time. The cost of the inscription by a local stonemason is being met jointly by The Friends of Thurton Church, The Parochial Church Council and The Parish Council. Our thanks to them all for their support.



Home visits and Home Communion: The clergy are very keen to visit anyone who is unwell or feeling isolated or lonely, either simply for a conversation or to share Holy Communion in their homes. Please do contact us if you, or anyone you know, would like a visit.

Rev Chris Ellis: 01508 484174

Rev Cate Turner: 01508 498494

Wednesday Fellowship

Wednesday Fellowship is a meeting for ladies and men held at Alington and Yelverton Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. It is open to anyone in the Bramerton Group (or beyond!)

A variety of interesting speakers, fellowship, tea and cake. Transport can be arranged within the Bramerton Group. For more information please contact Jo Threadgold on 492657 or Pat Barter on 493570.

13th October - ABC and all that. Speaker Barbara Miller

10th November - Norwich Foodbank. Speaker Hannah Worsley

8th December - Seasonal thoughts. Speaker Rev.. D. Atkins



From the Registers

BAPTISMS

18/07/21	Evie May Rose ELWIN	Framingham Pigot
08/08/21	Tobias Charles William GOODBODY	Yelverton
15/08/21	Penelope Joy RIX	Framingham Pigot
15/08/21	Marlowe Rose BACON	Framingham Pigot
28/08/21	Georgina Rose MILLER	Thurton
29/08/21	George Jason ALLMAN	Yelverton
05/09/21	Rory William BATES	Framingham Pigot

WEDDINGS

10/07/21	Michael BATES and Alice STOCKTON	Framingham Pigot
17/07/21	Christian HEMMANT and Katherine LOIZOU	Bergh Apton
24/07/21	Jack CROSS and Emma WHEELER	Thurton
11/08/21	Edmund WATTS and Devon SADD	Framingham Pigot
14/08/21	Adam TAYLOR and Lisa HODGSON	Framingham Pigot
21/08/21	Dean OXBOROUGH and Hannah PARSONS	Framingham Pigot
21/08/21	Matthew MORRISS and Marlene PIERRE	Bergh Apton
10/09/21	Alexander HALL and Nicole COOMBS	Framingham Pigot

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

19/06/21	Trevor Bruce RUDD (70) (Interment of Ashes)	Ashby St Mary
19/06/21	Sheila Mary RUDD (68) (Interment of Ashes)	Ashby St Mary
16/07/21	Anne Elizabeth WHITING (78)	Thurton
23/07/21	Peter Frederick KETT (87)	Yelverton
04/08/21	Gladys Marion DANIELS (87)	Claxton
09/08/21	Brian David VINCENT (74)	Claxton
13/08/21	Sheila Mary FLOREY (88)	Ashby St Mary
20/08/21	Trevor BROWN (66)	Thurton
01/09/21	Christopher (Chris) John PLAW (73)	Rockland St Mary

Rockland St Mary Wedding

John MAGEE and Helen BRETT were married on 12th July, 2021, at St Mary's Church, Rockland St Mary.

They would like to thank everyone who made their wedding service and celebrations such a special day.



Framingham Pigot Weddings and Baptisms

On Saturday 10th July 2021, after two postponed dates due to the pandemic, Michael and Alice finally became Mr and Mrs BATES at the Church of Saint Andrew, Framingham Pigot.

A fantastic service was carried out by Rev. Chris Ellis in front of 80 of their friends and family.

Following their marriage a reception held at Langley Abbey was enjoyed by all.

Two months later on Sunday 5th September their two year old son, Rory, was baptised.

The small, intimate family service was carried out by Rev. Nick Garrard at St Andrew's Church.



Dean OXBOROUGH and Hannah PARSONS were married at St Andrew's Church Framingham Pigot on Saturday 21st August, 2021.

They said, "We would like to thank Rev. Chris Ellis and the whole team at the church for our wonderful wedding and also for the Baptism of our son Ellis, which took place at the church in May.

We feel truly blessed to have been surrounded by such a wonderful team of people who filled both our special days with so much joy and love. Thank you to all our guests for attending and making both occasions so memorable".



St Luke

To St Luke, whose Feast Day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion of St Paul. While under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted 'only Luke is with me'.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other; look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth and the woman who was a sinner.

His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ.

In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Obituary

Sir Timothy Colman, 1929 - 2021

Sir Timothy Colman died on Thursday 9th September 2021 aged 91 at his home at Bixley Manor.

He was part of the Colman's Mustard dynasty and had a large farm in the Eleven Says area called Crown Point Estate. He leaves five children, 9 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Amongst his many roles were those of magistrate, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, President of the Royal Norfolk Show, and Chairman of the Eastern Counties Newspaper Group to name just a few.

He played a key role in the foundation of the University of East Anglia and Whitlingham Broad. He was a sailor of international repute holding the world sailing speed record for 14 years.



South Yare Wildlife Group

Wildlife and Well-Being

The Corona virus pandemic has taught us, that we humans cannot separate ourselves from the natural world. A tiny virus, which can only be seen through an electron microscope, has brought our technologically sophisticated civilization to a complete standstill, exposing our vulnerability to aspects of the natural world we normally pay little regard to.

The Covid 19 pandemic led to a complete disruption of normal life, to lockdowns that were highly stressful for most people. One of the ways we managed to keep our minds and bodies healthy was through a daily walk, and engaging in the outside world. The corona virus has taught us how valuable access to the Natural world is for our own well-being.



Access to the countryside is not a luxury but essential for good mental health. Rights of way and Community Nature Reserves are assets we must do all in our power to preserve and expand. One writer who has made no secret of his own mental health issues is well renowned Natural History author, **Richard Mabey**. He wrote the book "Nature Cure" narrating his own descent into the darkness of a complete breakdown and how he slowly cured himself by re-engaging with Nature and restoring his own well being.

The South Yare Wildlife Group has been fortunate enough to book Richard Mabey to come to **Poringland Community Centre** on **Thursday 4th November at 7.30 pm**. He will be in conversation with Henry Layte from the Book Hive.

Richard Mabey is the author of books such as Food for Free, The Flowering of Britain, Flora Britannica, Beechcombings, The Unofficial Countryside, etc. This will be a rare opportunity to listen in person to one of our most articulate and emotionally expressive nature writers. We are not charging for this event but his books will be on sale and the bar will be available. All welcome.

Twig Reopening

Abiding by the village hall current advisory rules TWIG held its first meeting since March 2020 on Wednesday 1st September 2021. It was really good to be back together again after the isolation and lockdowns of the pandemic.

It has been difficult for everyone in many different ways but has made us appreciate what we have and enjoy normally as well as things we have missed.

Our speaker at this first meeting was Lynton Johnson and the subject was Four Seasons Gardening. He had brought with him plants which filled a large table. His talk was full of useful information and tips, and was very entertaining.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday October 6th** and will be a general get together and catch up

The **November 3rd** meeting is a talk by Jenny Gibbs on Christmas Customs.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in Alington Village Hall.

Liz Ridley Thomas

Poringland Community Cinema

Poringland Community Centre

Tickets £5 on the door (includes tea or coffee)

Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts 7.30pm.

Please wear a mask when moving around the centre

23 Walks (12)
Friday 8th October
Light Drama

Dream Horse (PG)
Friday 12th November
True story/Comedy/Drama

The Last Bus
Friday 10th December
Drama

Buena Vista Social Club

Poringland Community Centre

FILM NIGHTS
Friday 1st October
Friday 5th November
Friday 3rd December

Members Free
One night membership £5
Doors open 7pm

Please wear a mask when moving around the centre

For more information please contact either

Maureen on 01508 494358

or

Carol on 01508492630

Loddon Flower club

5th October - Stephanie Laing *A Wood Affair*.

2nd November - Barbara Collins *Floral Moments*.

Our meetings are held at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon. Doors open at 6-45pm for a 7pm start. A raffle is held afterwards for the arrangements.

Contacts are: Tricia Godfrey (Chairman), 01508 480522 or email tricia646@aol.com

Alex Pinder (Secretary) 01508 493869 or email nnark@aol.com.

Our website is: www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.



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Rabbits in the grassy verges
Scurrying by, very nervous.
Once there were those lovely horses
Pulling carts, and ploughs, so cautious
Children riding on their backs
When day was done, through dust cracks
Times have changed, machines move in
Making the most awful din
Scattering the tiny mouse
From his tiny, wee little house
But no matter, we must have corn
For our breakfast, in the early morn
So the farmer must toil on
Regardless, of what goes on
When all is safely gathered in
We'll thank the Lord for everything.



Phyllis Christina Samuel

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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton

Window Repairs at St Mary's Church, Yelverton

If you've been past the church you may wonder why scaffolding is up on the north side of the church over the windows. This is for the restoration of the north clerestory windows, which was one of the projects suggested at last year's "Friends of St Mary's Church" AGM. *Amazingly, an extremely generous member of the Friends has donated the full amount for this work, which is expected to last for about ten weeks.*

The other suggested project was the restoration of the bell-frame so that the bells could be rung properly. You may have heard the bells rung briefly a few weeks ago when we had a preliminary visit by the restorers. We have put in progress a full assessment and estimate, which will become the next Friends' fund-raising project, so you may well hear more bell-ringing at some point in the next few weeks.



St Mary's Church, Yelverton

Alpington & Yelverton History Society Village Hall, Church Road, Alpington NR14 7NU

Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 7.30 pm

History Beneath Your Feet - Graeme Simmonds

Bringing the past to life with recovered ancient artefacts.

Do bring any items you may have found whilst out on walks or digging in your gardens for Graeme to inspect and suggest the provenance for.

Guests £3.

Bergh Apton

Bergh Apton & District Society

Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road, Bergh Apton, Norwich, NR15 1DF

Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7.30 pm

Waveney & Blyth Arts - Waveney Valley Sculpture Trail with Artist, Sarah Cannell

Hear how this successful event, which highlights the unique character of the two valleys situated in North Suffolk and South Norfolk, began. Following four successful years at the river Waveney Trust Site in Earsham, the sculpture trail now resides at Raveningham, 12 miles south of Norwich in the grounds of Castell Farm, a Tudor farmhouse.

=====

Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 7.30 pm

Terry Reeve is our speaker tonight, when we learn about
The Great Fire of Bungay.

Admission £3. Tea/coffee and biscuits. Raffle

Bramerton

Special Sunday Church services for the Autumn

24th October - Family Harvest Festival at 11am

14th November - Remembrance Sunday Service following an Act of Remembrance at our War Memorial at 10:50am.

Bats in Churches Project

Bramerton Church has recently been participating in the "Bats in Churches" project, of which the Church of England is one of the partners. The aim of the project is to better understand how bats use churches and the impact that they may have.

There are 1000 churches across the country participating in the Bats in Churches project making it a nationally important survey.



As part of this a local volunteer from the project has been to see us to inquire about our experiences of bats in and around the church. At first sight Bramerton Church doesn't appear to host many bats although some may be discreetly roosting in the Church tower.

However, during an hour one fine evening at dusk, standing in the churchyard with an electronic bat detector, our experience proved "busy" with bat traffic. Most were pipistrelles but also at least one natterer's bat and one noctule. So we are following events as the season progresses and we were offered further support if needed.

Bats are of course protected by law and need special consideration when using and maintaining churches. For more information go to the www.batsinchurches.org.uk website.

Roger Smith

The Churches' Sponsored Bike Ride 2021



The Churches' Sponsored Bike Ride took place on Saturday 11th September.

The photo above shows eight members of the Bramerton Cycling Club reporting in at 9am for the start of their leg of the Bike Ride.

It was a warm, sunny day, not too hot, just right for a bike ride.

More news next time

Village News

Carleton St Peter

The first event for over 18 months was a flower festival which was hosted on the 14/15th August and was described by many as a flame which produced light in a dark year.

The festival was a celebration of flowers and paid tribute to those who came before them from Carleton St Peter and surrounding villages. This theme proved an inspiring success as it passed on the knowledge and history of our ancestors and gave the younger generation an insight into their lives and their livelihoods. In total there were 20 displays which celebrated a variety of characters.

A wealth of activities and refreshments were provided during the flower festival which were described by many as the icing on the cake and gave people time to re-connect with friends and neighbours.

The weather reflected the success of the festival as the sun shone strongly throughout the weekend. A special thanks must go out to all those who helped during the weekend and came to bind together this fabulous event.

The finale of the festival concluded with a joyful service, where people came together and sang their hearts out during the service, the first time in 18 long months. The whole event was monumental and my grandmother, Enid, would have been so proud. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Written by Harry Meo (16)

Future services

Harvest Festival - 3rd October at 11 am

HC - 7th November at 11 am

Claxton

St Andrew's Church, Claxton

What a delight it has been to have regular services and to be able to sing once again in church. We are looking forward to organising events in the next months and are already planning an Advent (Christmas Tree) Window Trail and a Christmas Tree display in the church. We hope Claxton residents will once again be ready to display their artistic skills. At the same time we will be planning our usual Christmas Wassail.

A new bench and cycle rack should soon be appearing in the church yard so make sure you keep your eyes open for these.

We were recently visited by architect, David Leman, who carried out St. Andrew's 'Quinquennial Inspection'. This five-yearly inspection reports on the fabric of the church building and highlights tasks which need attention in the short and long term. Replacing the thatched ridge and carrying out repairs to the thatch roof were already on our list of essential repairs for 2022 but added to this will be further repairs to one or more windows in the Tudor tower. Maintaining an ancient building is certainly an endless task.



St Andrew's Church, Claxton

Claxton and Carleton Village Hall

The Village Hall has seen a number of social events take place in the last few weeks and it has been good to see the hall filled with people enjoying being together. With the hall redecoration complete, the committee has sorted the storage container and made more space in the hall for users.

This Autumn there will be some new activities in addition to some that have taken place in the past. There will be meditation classes, yoga, choir, Akaido, and the Community Cafe. We are looking forward to inviting more groups to use the hall and would like to hear from anyone interested in helping set up a 'Carers and Toddler Group'.

The popular Community Café has restarted with a mix of old and new volunteers. This will take place on the first Wednesday of each month. At our next café, on Wednesday 6th October, we will be supporting the Macmillan Cancer appeal.

The Social Club is open every Friday evening and once a month they are organising a food van. September was the first of these, with Peaky Pizzas and the October offering will be advertised in the village.

At the recent Village Hall AGM, Rob Ellis stood down as a trustee after many years serving the community. We are grateful for all he has done in supporting the village hall. As a result, we are looking for another trustee from either Carleton St Peter or Claxton.

Please contact the chairman, Adrian Gidlow 01508 480173 or secretary, Janice Dix 01508 480693 for more information.

In the next few months the village hall should have its own website making it easier for people to see forthcoming events and the facilities the hall can offer.



Claxton and Carleton St. Peter Village Hall

Community Café
Supporting Macmillan
Cancer Support



Wednesday 6th October

10:30 - 12:00

Home baked goods
Children's corner - story time
Everyone welcome

Rockland St Mary

Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council

New bus shelter

The planned new bus shelter sited near St Margaret's Way has now been installed. We hope it will keep parishioners dry in the future!

Fibre (superfast) broadband

This should be coming to the village in the next six months. There is information about how to sign up for this on our parish council website.

Keep informed!

If you go onto our parish council website you can sign up to receive news and alerts that are directly related to our two villages.

Parish Clerk needed

Would you like to be employed as our parish clerk? We need someone for 30 hours per month who could undertake this role. You would work mostly from home in hours to suit you. Training is provided.

We are a friendly, well organised parish council. There is more information on our website, or you can call the Chair on 01508 538 987 for an informal chat about the role if you are interested.

Village News

Rockland St Mary continued . . .

Rockland & District Gardening Club

26 members had an enjoyable evening being shown round Homestead Nurseries in Kirstead in August 2021.

Our October meeting is on 28th October at 7.30pm in the Parish Room, Rockland St Mary when the speaker will be talking about 'The Wonderful World of Nettles'.

New members are always welcome. Please contact Ruth Everett 01508 538 231 for more information.

RSM Garden Club visit to Kirstead Nurseries

26 members of the Rockland St Mary Garden Club enjoyed a 'back stage' tour of Homestead Nurseries, Kirstead. Our guide for the evening was David Waller, who began with a brief history of when the nursery first began. It was back in 1986 when his parents, Jean and Bryan, bought the land and had the first glasshouse constructed. Since then, this family-run business has expanded into one of the most popular nurseries in the local area and beyond, taking pride in supplying a large and varied range of high quality plants and shrubs, all at reasonable prices too.

A borehole supplies the water used throughout the nursery and we were shown where and how the hard water is softened. David went on to explain that following the water treatment, the outcome is the closest to rainwater as is possible.

Before all the home-grown plants are sprayed with the water, nematodes* are added, resulting in the healthy plants and shrubs that are seen and purchased by regular customers and visitors to the nursery.

The photos on the right show how numerous machines are used to sow seeds or to fill different sized pots quickly and efficiently with the appropriate compost for various plants.

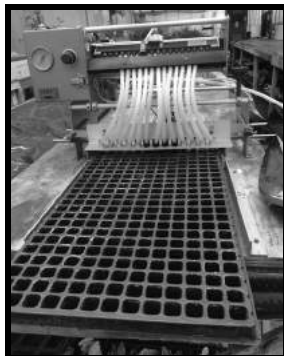
The nursery is always busy throughout the seasons but extra so leading up to Christmas when hundreds of holly wreaths are hand made (with some help from a machine) and sold every year. The wreaths prove so popular that customers are always advised to pre-order! Also on sale are hundreds of home grown, traditional plants that are purchased throughout the festive season. There are always various Christmas trees to choose from too.

Now we all know how much work is involved behind the scenes at the Kirstead Nursery and can appreciate the results seeing the many beautiful, healthy plants and shrubs on view to buy at our leisure.

Many thanks to Bryan, David and Ryan Waller for extending their working hours and for giving us a very interesting and informative evening. Thanks also to Ann for serving us with the welcoming refreshments.

***Nematodes** are microscopic creatures that act as parasites on slugs, snails, vine weevil, ants, and other pests that spoil garden plants, fruit and vegetables, and lawns too. Nematodes disintegrate the pests from the inside out, so you will not see any evidence as you would do with chemical use. For the organic grower, this is a biological - not chemical - pest control. Unlike a chemical spray, which may drift off target, nematodes are specific to the host pest so that other wildlife is not affected. **Please note:** There are specific Nematodes for different pests so ensure to buy the appropriate ones for best results.

Angie Yeomans



Seed sowing machine



Pots being filled ready for seedlings



Seedlings all set out



Pots being filled ready for planting



Potted plants ready to go on sale

Keith Saxton

For most village communities the village hall is a prime focal point of community life. It provides a venue for clubs, groups and social events such as quizzes. Rockland St Mary is no exception.

Rockland is fortunate in that it has an attractive and historic building, known as The Parish Reading Room. The Parish Room dates back to 1909. The site and the building was gifted to the village by a local businessman, J.T. Hotblack and the Roydon Trust.

Unfortunately, after many years of neglect and under investment the building was beginning to show its age. Indeed, by the turn of the century the building was bordering on the derelict. However, deliverance was at hand in the form of Keith Saxton.

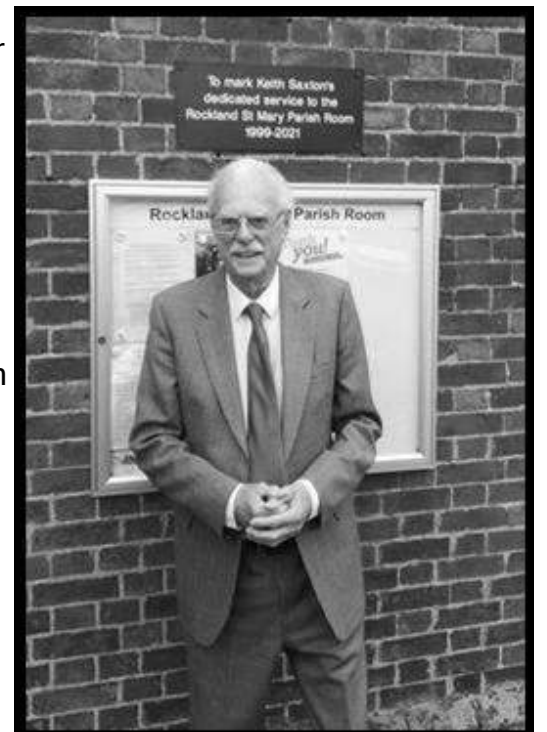
Keith, a Yorkshireman by birth, had moved to Rockland in 1999 to take up an engineering job in Norwich. Right from the outset Keith had the vision to see beneath the cobwebs and mildew. Supported by a small committee, he set about restoring the Parish Room.

Over a long period of time they undertook a wide range of fundraising activities, including jumble sales and quizzes. Keith also proved highly adept at tracking down what public grants and subsidies were available and, more importantly, to put together convincing business cases for the release of funds. A number of these grants emanated from South Norfolk Council.

Now in his 80s, Keith has stepped away from the day to day running of the Parish Room. Nevertheless, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the Parish Room a plaque has been mounted on the wall of the Parish Room.

The plaque was formally unveiled and a presentation made to Keith by District Councillor Vic Thomson on 2nd September 2021.

Jim Wretham



Rockland St Mary Community Cafe

Run by the Friends of Rockland St Mary School (FORMS)
Registered Charity 1109683

Held at the Parish Room (The Street, Rockland St Mary) on the Last Friday of Every Month:

- September 24th 2021
- October 29th 2021
- November 26th 2021
- December 31st 2021
- January 28th 2022
- February 25th 2022
- March 25th 2022
- April 29th 2022
- May 27th 2022
- June 24th 2022

Dates for your diary!



We will be open from 10am - 4pm with a selection of hot and cold drinks, cakes and soup with all proceeds helping to support the Friends of Rockland St Mary School

For more details please email: FriendsOfRSMs@gmail.com

Village News

Hellington and Rockland Community Reserve

In 2014 local people successfully joined together to form an association to rent 2.6 hectares of unspoilt land owned by the Church and in 2015, the Hellington and Rockland Community Reserve (HRCR) was recognised as a County Wildlife Site. The reserve lies between agricultural fields, nestled in a beautiful valley, bisected by the Hellington Beck. The rent helps the church and brings a sense of community to the 100 plus Stakeholders who pay £20 annually to support our special place for nature. We organise walks, run events, workshops and surveys, and encourage participation in volunteer working parties.

There is a dry, sandy meadow to the south and to the north the fen is low and marshy, edged with mature trees, dykes and ditches. A majestic oak stands on the highest part of the reserve. Our newly-seeded flower meadow has already provided great colour this year, sown with a mix of annual and perennials, it will add to the existing wealth of native flowers. Many different species of birds, butterflies, moths and bats are heard and seen, and it is a corridor for larger mammals such as fox and deer.



We have improved the ditches on the low fen and hope to create a pond for invertebrates, adding to the already considerable diversity. We have added two handmade oak benches to enjoy the views across the site. Paths wind around the perimeter encouraging walks through the various habitats, where there is always something new to discover. During the recent Covid 19 lockdown the value of the reserve became very apparent with an increase in the number of people using the open space for daily outdoor exercise.

HRCR enables us to promote an environment for the community and for the diverse species of flora and fauna to flourish. Our contributions from stakeholders help us to achieve our goals for the benefit of both the local and wider community, including the local school group who hold events on the reserve for the children.

We are delighted to announce that all our efforts have been recognised by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and we received a 'Countryside Champions' award at a ceremony held on 16th September, great news and a great community effort!

Rockland Scarecrow Trail 2021
HEROES AND VILLAINS
October Half Term 2021
£5 Entry
We are back!
£50 Voucher of choice for the Best Scarecrow

Join us for our 'Heroes and Villains' themed Rockland Scarecrow Trail this October Half Term from Sat 23rd October - Sun 31st October. Last year we saw some amazing Scarecrows and this year's theme allows you to get even more creative; be it Superheroes and villains, Sporting heroes, Literary heroes or dodgy politicians, the list is endless.....

'All proceeds go to the Friends of Rockland St Mary School'
Once we receive your application and entrance fee, we will send you confirmation and an entry number to display on your Scarecrow.

Scarecrows:
*Must be visible from the road *Must have their entry number on display at all times
*Do not have to be made of straw. *Must be visible for the entirety of the competition

Entries must be in by the 11th October 2021 in order to be put on the map.
The winning Scarecrow will be determined by the amount of 'likes' it receives on the FORMS Events page by Sunday 31st October 2021 at 8pm.

We are also looking for available plots for Scarecrows to be placed on for people who would like to enter the competition but do not live in the village. Please let us know by email friends@frsms@gmail.com

Kindly Sponsored By **Winkworth**
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Surlingham Lunch Club is back!

The monthly Surlingham Lunch Club resumed on Wednesday 15th September at Surlingham Parish Hall. This is a great opportunity to make new friends and catch up with old ones.

A two course roast lunch will be served at 12.30 pm and the cost will be £4.50.

To reserve a place please telephone Wendy Ferrey on 538430

Surlingham

We welcome the new Headteacher of our Primary Schools in Surlingham and Rockland.

He writes: 'My name is Ben Wilson, I am really excited to begin forming new links within the local community.'

We've had some really exciting news this term as the Sunbeams Nursery has officially become part of Rockland St. Mary Primary School. A big welcome to all new staff, children and families'.



Mandy continues to lead Celtic Prayer in St. Mary's porch every other Tuesday, a lovely time of quiet reflection. Nick organises the Art Café on Zoom some Wednesday mornings, (so bring your own coffee), and he and Helen lead Sunday services, both real and virtual. Recently we have thought of Afghanistan and the refugees.

Sadly St. Mary's bells cannot be rung as the tower needs major repair and funding. The lychgate which is also the village War Memorial needs some TLC too. Due to changes in banking services, accounts have been moved to another bank and the QR code is changing. But if you would like to support the church by mission or the buildings, the code will be on the board in the church porch.

In the last months we have seen numbers of visitors on 'staycations' who say how lovely it is here and we know that is true.

Surlingham Local History Group

Since January a small group of keen local historians has been undergoing training in cataloguing and digitising documents showing our village as it was in the past. The aim of the group is to create a 'community archive' for the benefit of all who are interested in what life in Surlingham was like in the past. Another aim is to record the memories of older residents who have experienced changes that have taken place in the village over their lifetimes. A start has been made on recording these memories, with more sessions planned.

The stories that are told by documents and photos, as well as the memories given orally, will be made available to all via existing platforms such as surlingham.org and through dedicated web pages linked to the county Archive Centre.

The role of St Mary's Church is central to the stories of Surlingham and it is expected that the group will base some of its activities in the Church in the form of exhibitions, training and interpretation panels. Further updates and progress will be reported here and on surlingham.org. Please contact Ann Wood on 538678 for further information.

'Gentle Exercise Club' in the Parish Hall

Since 2nd August, the 'Gentle Exercise' sessions, run by qualified and registered Extend Teacher, Jennifer Hall, have restarted. Classes cost £5 and are held every Tuesday afternoon in the Parish Hall. Registration is from 2pm and the class runs from 2.15 - 3.15pm. The current term will run through to 30th November.

For more information and to register your place, please contact Jennifer Hall on 01508 494443.

Surlingham Broadnotes

Surlingham Broadnotes are delighted to be singing together again! If you would like to join us we would be thrilled to welcome you!

Currently meeting at Claxton and Carleton St. Peter Village Hall, Wednesdays 6pm til 7pm.

Please contact Sarah Carter on 01508 480555, or email: carterclaxton@tisali.co.uk for further details and possible change of venue.

No experience needed just lots of enthusiasm!



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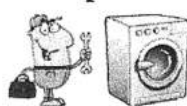
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Ashby		11.00 HARVEST HC			JOIN SURLINGHAM	11.00 MP	10.50am REMEMBRANCE SERVICE		09.30 HC	
Bergh Apton	09.30 HC	09.30 HARVEST PT		09.30 HC (BCP)	JOIN SURLINGHAM	09.30 HC	10.30 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	11.00 BENEFICE HC		09.30 HC
Bramerton				11.00 HARVEST SERVICE	JOIN SURLINGHAM		10.50 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE			
Carleton St Peter	11.00 HARVEST SERVICE	11.00 BENEFICE HC CONFIRMATION			JOIN SURLINGHAM	11.00 HC				11.00 MP
Claxton	09.30 HC		09.30 MP		JOIN SURLINGHAM	09.30 HC	10.50 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE			09.30 HC
Fram. Pigot		08.15 HC (BCP)	11.00 BENEFICE HC	11.00 HARVEST HC	JOIN SURLINGHAM	08.15 HC (BCP)	08.15 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE HC (BCP)		11.00 HC	08.15 HC (BCP)
Kirby Bedon			11.00 HARVEST SERVICE		JOIN SURLINGHAM		10.50 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	11.00 HC		
Rockland St Mary			10.30-12PM CAFÉ CHURCH IN PARISH ROOM	09.30 HC	JOIN SURLINGHAM		09.30 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE		10.00 BENEFICE HC 15.00 TREE OF LIGHT SERVICE	
Surlingham			09.30 MP		10.00 GROUP SERVICE HC		10.50 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	09.30 HC		
Thurton	11.00 HC			11.00 ALL AGE HARVEST	JOIN SURLINGHAM	11.00 HC	15.00 REMEMBRANCE & DEDICATION			11.00 HC
Yelverton	09.30 HARVEST PT	09.30 HC		16.00 ALL 4	JOIN SURLINGHAM	09.30 PT	09.30 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE HC		16.00 ALL 4	09.30 PT

CODE: HC = Holy Communion; E. Praise = Evening Praise; FC = Family Communion; FW = Family Worship; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer; .PT = Parish Team; VM = Vestry Meeting. Holy Communion at St Mary's, Yelverton on Thursdays: 7th OCT and 4th NOV at 10.30 am. All Souls' Day Service, Tues 2nd NOV at 7pm, Bergh Apton

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: October & November 2021

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
*****	Joel 2:21-27	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Matt. 6:25-33	All Harvest Services
03/10/21	Genesis 2.18-24	Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12	Mark 10.2-16	18th Sunday after Trinity
10/10/21	Amos 5.6-7,10-15	Hebrews 4.12-16	Mark 10.17-31	19th Sunday after Trinity
17/10/21	Isaiah 53.4-end	Hebrews 5.1-10	Mark 10.35-45	20 th Sunday after Trinity
24/10/21	Isaiah 55.1-11	2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.5	John 5.36b-47	Bible Sunday
31/10/21	Wisdom 3.1-9	Revelation 21.1-6a	John 11.32-44	All Saints' Sunday
07/11/21	Jonah 3.1-5,10	Hebrews 9.24-28	Mark 1.14-20	3rd Sundaybefore Advent
14/11/21	Daniel 12.1-3	Hebrews 10.11-14	Mark 13.1-8	Remembrance Sunday
		[15-18]19-25		
21/11/21	Daniel 7.9-10,13,14	Revelation 1.4b-8	John 18.33-37	Christ the King
28/11/21	Jeremiah 33.14-16	1 Thessalonians 3.9-13	Luke 21.25-36	Advent Sunday
05/12/21	Baruch 5.1-9	Philippians 1.3-11	Luke 3.1-6	2nd Sunday of Advent



Please note: At Holy Communion, where only two readings are used, the first reading will usually be the Epistle, and the second will always be the Gospel reading. At other services where two readings are used, the first will usually be the Old Testament reading, and the second can be either the Epistle or the Gospel readings.

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		Sunday	9 am Poringland		
		Tuesday-Fri	10 am Poringland		
		Saturday	9 am Poringland	Email: elevensays@hotmail.com Produced by: Angie Yeomans	
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NEXT ASSEMBLY: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27th, BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL, COOKE'S ROAD, NR15 1AA, 9am - 11am (approx)					