



## **The First Christmas Broadcast on the BBC . . .**

The BBC has been much in the news this year, for both joyful and sad reasons. 2023 saw a drastically cut back local service on Radio Norfolk, replaced with regional programmes from mid afternoon on weekdays and the whole weekend, except for sports.

On a happier note, the BBC celebrated the centenary of its Charter this year. It has provided a wealth of information and entertainment and reaches far across the globe. Almost no one alive in our country today will have any recollection of life before the Beeb, although it did take a few years to cover the whole nation.

The BBC began life in November 1922, and at Christmas that year it produced Britain's first religious broadcast, a message by Revd John Mayo, Rector of Whitechapel in East London, and the first radio play, 'The Truth of Father Christmas'.

In 1928 it added the Carols and Nine Lessons from King's College, Cambridge and four years later, the first Royal Christmas message, delivered by King George V. The foundations for Christmas broadcasting were laid. Decades later, Morecambe and Wise would slot in as Christmas fixtures.

The Christmas Eve Carols from King's was dropped by the BBC in 1930, but by overwhelming popular demand was brought back the following Christmas and has been broadcast over an ever-greater area in the years that followed (it finally reached USA in 1979).

As Christmas approaches this year, I am drawn to reflect on its enduring appeal. It wasn't the first Carol Service - this had been created by the Bishop of Truro in 1880, to provide an alternative to the pub on Christmas Eve - the Service from King's was a shorter and more structured version created by its Dean, the Very Revd Eric Milner-White in 1919.

Milner-White had served as an Army padre in the First World War and had returned to King's College afterwards. When he arrived, the College was haunted by the conflict. Its Provost, Monty James, had resigned a year earlier, heartbroken at the deaths of so many promising young students. How could the joy of Christmas be presented after so much suffering?

In creating the Nine Lessons and Carols, Milner-White made something new seem ancient, traditional, almost timeless in its language and soothing in the sound of its familiar carols.

Its opening prayer, the Bidding, called listeners back to the Gospel's beginning:

Let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing that is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

The prayer doesn't gloss over the tragic loss of life in previous years, but instead gathers up the Christmas celebration into something both earthly and heavenly:

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude that no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord we are one for evermore.

Just over a century later, the world still suffers the pain of war. As I write this, the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which neither side can win or afford to lose, grinds on. Israeli forces and Hamas continue to wage a war in which civilians on both sides are the main casualties. And yet ... the coming of the Christ child speaks of hope for unseen things, the transformation of the human heart that is the only path to lasting and just peace.

You are warmly invited to join the Churches of the Bramerton Group to share in this light and hope at Christmas and the New Year beyond.

Wishing you a holy Advent and a happy and blessed Christmas,

Revd. Nick Garrard



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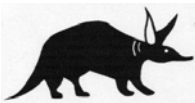
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Celtic Daily Prayer

This is the lovely view that we see from inside Surlingham Church porch as we sit together to pray and meditate on a Bible reading and a reflection for the day.



We meet at 10am for approximately half an hour on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings of the month. Our Next Dates are: **December 10th; January 9th, 2024 and 23rd.**

Everyone from the Group is very welcome to join us. If you are unable to come, but would like to receive the chosen material for the day, please email me and I will send you a copy for your own reflection time.

Revd. Mandy Ansell, 01508 538654  
Email: [mandy.ansell44@gmail.com](mailto:mandy.ansell44@gmail.com)

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**SUNDAY 3rd December**  
**Theme: "Advent"**

**Drop in any time between 10.30 am-12 noon**

**Future date: 18th February 2024 "Who is my Neighbour"**

For details, or possible help with transport, please contact Nick Garrard 01508 538014 or Mandy Ansell 01508 538654

\*\*\*\*\* Café Church - All Welcome \*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday Fellowship

A Meeting for all people in the Bramerton Group and beyond! A Meeting on the second Wednesday of the month 2-4pm at Alington and Yelverton Village Hall with Christian and secular speakers followed by tea/ coffee, cake and fellowship. All welcome.

**December 13th - 'Spoon with me' with Fay Jones**

**January 10th - More stories of my Dad with Bob Kerry**

**February 13th - Living History from Blickling (1937) with Liz Scott**

For more information please contact Pat Barter 493570.

Worship in Stillness

Is held on Monday Mornings at 9:30 am at Cherry House, Wheel Road, Alington. Half an hour of praise, silence, meditation and prayer followed by tea and coffee for those wishing to stay.



THURTON CHURCH

Gentlemen, you are cordially invited to a  
**Mid-Day Mardle**



An opportunity for men to quench their thirst for good company and conversation, share good food and, perhaps, to enjoy a glass of something.

New members are always given a warm welcome.

**Ferry House, Surlingham**

**Wednesday: Dec 6th, Jan 10th, Feb 7th**  
(every month, normally 1st Wednesday but please note: 2nd Wednesday in January )  
**Any time between 12 noon and 2 pm**

Our Christmas Gathering  
**Wednesday 6th December**

Sonia has prepared a special menu for us to say thank you for all our support throughout the year.

- Christmas Baguette with chips: vegetarian option or turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce £5.95
- Game Pie or Vegetarian Nut Roast with new potatoes and vegetables £11.95
- Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce £4.95

Any questions, please contact David Fairbourn on 01508 538437 or email [surlingham.midday.mardle@gmail.com](mailto:surlingham.midday.mardle@gmail.com)







## Rockland St Mary Benefice Update

### What's on in Rockland Benefice in December and January

#### Tree of Light Service.

**December 3rd** is Advent Sunday, the beginning of the Church's year that leads up to Christmas, a time when we especially remember those we have loved and lost. There will be a special Tree of Light service in Rockland Church at 3.30 pm to remember our loved ones, light candles and write their names on a star to be placed on the Christmas tree. We would like to invite you to join us, but if you're unable to attend you're 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.

The stars will remain on the tree in Church until the end of Christmas (January 5th) and you're welcome to visit on any day during that period.

#### Mary and Joseph are coming back!

Last year the small wooden figures of Mary and Joseph, their donkey (and of course Jesus in the manger) began their annual travels in our area. Their travel journal shows that they had a lovely time in homes in and around Surlingham and Rockland, as well as attending carol services and events. They're happy to go even further afield, as they look for someone to host them for a night or two, before continuing on their journey to Bethlehem. They are looking forward to fresh adventures!

Can you host them? They are delightful guests; quiet, with no dietary requirements and just needing a table, shelf or mantelpiece to stand on. You're welcome to add messages or pictures about their time with you in their journal. If you would like them to visit for a night or two, please contact Helen or Nick (01508 538014) and we will add your name to the list.

These little figures remind us that we too are invited to become part of this year's Christmas story. You are warmly welcomed to join us in activities in our churches and the Barn. As we welcome Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child to our homes, may we be open to all he wishes to give us too.



#### Warm Welcome Mondays at the Barn, 10 am - 4 pm.

Last month Warm Welcome at the Barn resumed its weekly opening pattern, and we hope you may experience its warm atmosphere, drinks, snacks and lunches. All free, all welcome!

The last Warm Welcome of 2023 will be our Christmas lunch on December 18th, with carols and more! Please see the notice in this *Eleven Says* for more details.

In the New Year Warm Welcome Mondays will resume on January 8th and continue until late March.

#### Advent and Christmas Video Services.

These will be published on Helen Garrard's You Tube Channel after December 3rd. Please contact us if you need assistance in finding the links.



ST MARY'S CHURCH, ROCKLAND ST MARY

**Still at the Barn** is a time of quiet reflection, stillness, relaxation and exploring seasonal themes led by Helen (please see article for further details).

After Christmas, Still at the Barn moves from Wednesday evenings to Sunday afternoons.

#### Carols, Christingles, Cribs and Christmas services.

Please look out for details on the back page of this issue, village websites, Rockland Church FB page, posters and church noticeboards.

#### Christmas Communion at home.

If you or someone you know is unable to come to church through illness or mobility issues and would like to receive communion during the Christmas period, Helen and I would be happy to bring you communion at home. Please contact us on 01603 270769 for further information.

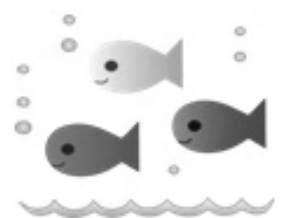
With seasons' greetings,

Revd Nick and Revd Helen

### Little Fish Toddler Group

#### Parents, Grandparents and Carers:

You are invited to our Little Fish Toddler Group at the Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Village Hall from 10:30 - 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month



Each session has activities for your little ones including: Singing and Movement Time, Bible Story Time, Craft and Snack Time. Just bring £1.50 to cover the cost of materials and snacks.

Please phone Judy on 07812734275 with any questions. We would love to have you join us! We are sponsored by the Bramerton Group of Churches.

Our next sessions are: December 13th; January 10th and 24th; February 14th and 28th. We look forward to seeing you.



## From the Registers

### BAPTISMS

16/07/23	Micah Tobias CHART	Claxton
01/10/23	Imogen Charlotte RICKMAN	Framingham Pigot

### FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

21/09/23	Antonia Macpherson (Interment of Ashes)	Bramerton
26/09/23	Isobella Alice MOTT (Interment of Ashes)	Kirby Bedon
28/09/23	Veronica Ann HOWES	Carleton St Peter
07/10/23	John Brandon PANKS	Kirby Bedon
09/10/23	Michael Wilfred John HORNE (86)	Rockland St Mary
16/10/23	Ann HARRIS (Interment of Ashes)	Hellington
18/10/23	Matthew WORTHY	Thurton
30/10/23	Sylvia Geraldine GILBERT (85)	Yelverton

### Sanyu Babies Home, Kampala, Uganda

Believe it or not, individuals and members of The Rockland Group have been providing financial support for Sanyu for over twenty-five years. Currently we fund the two nurses, resident at the home and the twice weekly visits by the house doctor, reducing the number of costly hospital visits; no NHS in Uganda!

Sanyu is the home of last resort for babies abandoned on the streets of the capital, Kampala. As soon as the baby is brought in by police or others, it is given a name, health checked, fed and watered and thus beginning life in the Sanyu community. There is basic education until the baby is ready to be adopted, fostered or even returned to its family if found, perhaps four or five years later.



One of the aspects that shines out of the home's quarterly newsletters (let us know if you'd like to receive them) is the important role played by visiting volunteers who arrive at the home from all over Europe and America. Without exception the volunteers return after months helping look after the children, feeling fulfilled and in love with the home and its brilliant community, and many return for a second time.

We would especially like to thank Ruth and John Everett of Applebee, Rockland. They have been selling plants in aid of Sanyu for many years and were so taken with their endeavours that they visited the home to see at first hand what they were so valiantly supporting. There are also many of you that regularly send in donations for Sanyu. So thank you Ruth and John, and thank you to all you marvellous SANYU supporters. Please keep it up and encourage others to help as well. Especially this Christmas.

For further information about the Home, volunteering or donating please contact Liz or Christopher Meynell in Bergh Apton. Email: [c.m.meynell@gmail.com](mailto:c.m.meynell@gmail.com) or [lizmeynell@gmail.com](mailto:lizmeynell@gmail.com)

### The right end of the telescope

As the Christmas season approaches we are faced with any number of things that need to be done or we think need to be done. We don't want to be caught out by not being prepared. We don't want to let people down and spoil this special time of year for them.

I am reminded of the story of Mary and Martha. One sister rushes around to feed everyone and get everything done. The other sits at the feet of Jesus soaking up every word and basking in the light of the Son of God. Mary and Martha didn't need a telescope because Jesus was there with them, but only one of them was really focused on Jesus.

There are lots of reasons to be busy, especially at Christmas time, but it is good also to be able to make the time to reflect on the bigger picture. It is a truly wonderful sight at this time of year to look out of the window on a dark night and see a myriad of stars spread across the sky.

One of the well-known Christmas stories is about the three wise men who gazed upon a new star and realised that it meant something special and extraordinary.



They might not have had telescopes in those days, but they didn't need one because the star shone so brightly. They knew they had to follow that star and if they hadn't made the journey they wouldn't have found the baby Jesus.

A paraphrase of a verse in John's gospel says that God so loves the men, women and children he created that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in Him should not be lost, but find peace and life everlasting.

The writer CS Lewis says that Christianity is the only religion that teaches we do not need to do anything to be put right with God and find that peace. Indeed we can never do enough to earn it because our best efforts fall so far short of God's standards. The beauty of the Christmas gift is that we only need to believe in baby Jesus, the man Jesus, the Son of God Jesus.

If we look through the wrong end of the telescope then everything seems so far away. If we turn the 'scope round things become much nearer. It is then that we can see the reality of God's love. We can reach out and touch it, we can bask in its warmth.

May you find the time this Christmas to pick up the telescope, make sure it is the right way round, and experience the true love of the living God.

Chris Limbach



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Places are limited and you can enrol by phoning **0300 303 3464**

For more information, please phone **01508 500993**.

**Do come along and join us!**

The WEA is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1112775) and in Scotland (no. SC039239)

**Cyclamen persicum (Mini cyclamen)  
*Persian cyclamen***

Cyclamen persicum, which flowers from winter into spring, is the most popular variety of cyclamen. Perhaps most commonly known for the larger-flowering indoor variety, often referred to as the 'florists flower', there is also a small version, commonly sold as mini cyclamen, that can be grown outdoors.



When planting cyclamen outdoors, they need to be placed in a spot where they are protected from hot sun and severe weather. Ideal locations in the garden are under trees or high-branched shrubs. As they are short in height, they are better towards the edge of borders or are ideal in rock gardens. They are also often frequently grown in baskets.

Growing to around 20cm in height, the delightful white or pink flowers sit boldly upright above its heart-shaped leaves. This popular plant is not frost tolerant, so be careful to avoid planting in frost susceptible places.

The cyclamen was one of the favourite plants of Leonardo da Vinci, he decorated the margins of his manuscripts with them.

**Buena Vista Social Club at Poringland Community Centre**  
**December 1st - Christmas Film**  
**January 5th - Film Night**  
**February 2nd - Film Night**  
**March 1st - Film Night**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT**  
**John on 01508 494358 or Carol on 01508 492630**

**WEA Spring Course - Loddon**

We look forward to seeing many old and new friends at our Spring Course starting on 22nd January in the Small Club room at the Jubilee Hall in Loddon.

In order to get you back into the swing of things, we have a bargain session on **Monday 11th December at 2:00** when Nigel Herwin will entertain us with his talk 'Christmas Cracker Movies'. A chance to find out what makes a successful Christmas movie while enjoying appropriate Christmas refreshments!

Again this will be held in the Small Club room at the Jubilee Hall in Loddon.

For more information on the December lecture or the Spring Course, please telephone Sharon, 01508520386 or Alison, 01508 521976.

**Loddon Flower Club**



We would like to give a huge thank you to all who supported us in September at our Flower Festival in Holy Trinity Church, Loddon, to our Sponsors, to those who donated raffle prizes, cash or flowers for us to use and of course to all the visitors who came and made it such a wonderful success. Also a big thank you to the ladies from the church who manned the refreshment stall. We had some lovely comments which makes all the hard work so worthwhile. Proceeds will be split between ourselves and the Church.

Our next meeting is our Christmas Open Evening, on 5th December in St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon, in the Lecture Hall, all are welcome, members £6, visitors £12. There will be stalls to browse, refreshments including a glass of fruit punch, and a festive buffet. Doors open at 6.15pm, demonstration to start at 7pm. Our demonstrator for the evening will be Julie Woods, and her presentation is entitled 'Let the Festivities Begin'.

We also have a Christmas workshop on Saturday 9th December, 1pm - 4pm, at St John's Chapel. Tea, Coffee and Cake included in the price, £10. Make a Christmas Cracker with an arrangement in the middle and / or a table arrangement.

There is no meeting in January as it's our club lunch, so the following meeting will be Tuesday February 6th. Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start. Gail Harland will be giving us a talk on 'Creating a Cottage Garden'.

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

For more information please contact our Chairman, Patricia Godfrey, 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or our Secretary, Jenny Frosdick, 01508 520254 or jf53rf50@gmail.com.

We also have a website [www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk](http://www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk) where you can see pictures of past events and get an idea of what we do.

**Poringland Community Cinema  
at Poringland Community Centre**  
**BARBIE (12A)**  
**Friday 8th December**  
Comedy/Fantasy, Stars Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling  
**Tickets are £5 on the door (includes tea or coffee).**  
**Doors open at 6.45pm. Films start at 7.30pm**



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# Village News

## Bramerton

### Bramerton Speed Watch

As the year draws to a close it will mark almost four years of operations for the Bramerton Speed Watch team. During that time around 1000 vehicles have been reported to the police for speeding in The Street and along Surlingham Road, sometimes at speeds of up to 50mph in a 30mph zone.

Bramerton is one of almost 100 volunteer Speed Watch groups in Norfolk. In the 11 Says area there are also teams at Bergh Apton and Claxton. Speeding drivers are sent a warning letter by Norfolk Police and a much sterner one if they're caught for a second time. Across the county up to 2000 letters go out every month to drivers. Persistent speeders get a visit from the police.

Surprisingly perhaps, many of our hour-long sessions include at least one repeat speeder. 'White van' drivers are also disproportionately represented. On occasions police officers join us armed with their own speed gun and that can mean prosecution for offenders.

Norfolk Police tell us that speeding in rural areas is a constant issue. Unlike, for example, drink-driving or the use of hand-held mobile phones, the dangers of speeding has not registered with many drivers. The police and Norfolk County Council Highways' view is that a combination of measures, in our case Speed Watch and our portable SAM2 (Speed Awareness Messaging) camera which alerts drivers to their speed, at least help to mitigate the problem. The stored data goes to the police.

For the nine-strong Bramerton team, it is clear that the majority of speeding drivers - with the exception perhaps of those van drivers - are travelling to and from their homes in the adjoining villages, principally and most obviously Surlingham as well as Rockland, Claxton and beyond. That is partly evidenced by the number of repeat offenders. It seems that too many of us observe the speed limits in our own community but not elsewhere.

The Speed Watch team, which has the full support of the Parish Council, is always looking for more volunteers which would allow us to mount more sessions. Newcomers are given training and can do as many or as few sessions as they wish. Most do one a month. We're sometimes also asked why we operate from the same locations. That is because they are all chosen by the police who require us to put out warning signs to highlight our presence.

The aim is simple enough, to make our village roads safer for everyone using them, including cyclists, walkers and runners as well as our growing younger population.

**Dick Meadows**  
Speed Watch Co-Ordinator



## Bramerton continued . . .

### Bramerton Helping Hand

With winter almost upon us, the Bramerton Helping Hand charity is redoubling its efforts to help residents who may be struggling to keep warm and pay energy or food bills as temperatures drop. In the past the charity trustees have made grants to help residents buy heating oil or logs, have boilers and other essential domestic appliances repaired and deal with a host of other domestic emergencies.

Within the last few months the Helping Hand team have paid for a new washing machine, arranged to help with an overgrown garden and contributed towards new books at Rockland Primary School where a number of Bramerton children are pupils. Most recently it was agreed to make a contribution to help pay for a new defibrillator to be installed outside the Christadelphian Hall in The Street.

A wheelchair is also available at no cost for use by those without means of mobility in Bramerton.

Formed in 1989 and funded by the rental of two fields in the village, the charity is an amalgamation of three smaller charities, the oldest of which was established in 1672 to provide 'coals for poor people.'

If you know of anyone who may need help please contact Dick Meadows tel 01508 538771 email [dick.meadows@virgin.net](mailto:dick.meadows@virgin.net). All approaches are dealt with in strictest confidence. They can be made personally or on behalf of someone else.

### Bramerton Harvest Festival

We held our Harvest Festival Service this October with a collection for the Trussell Trust Foodbank.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed so generously and to Katherine Toomey who volunteers at the Foodbank and took our collection into Norwich for us.

**Brenda Smith**



### Letter to the Editor

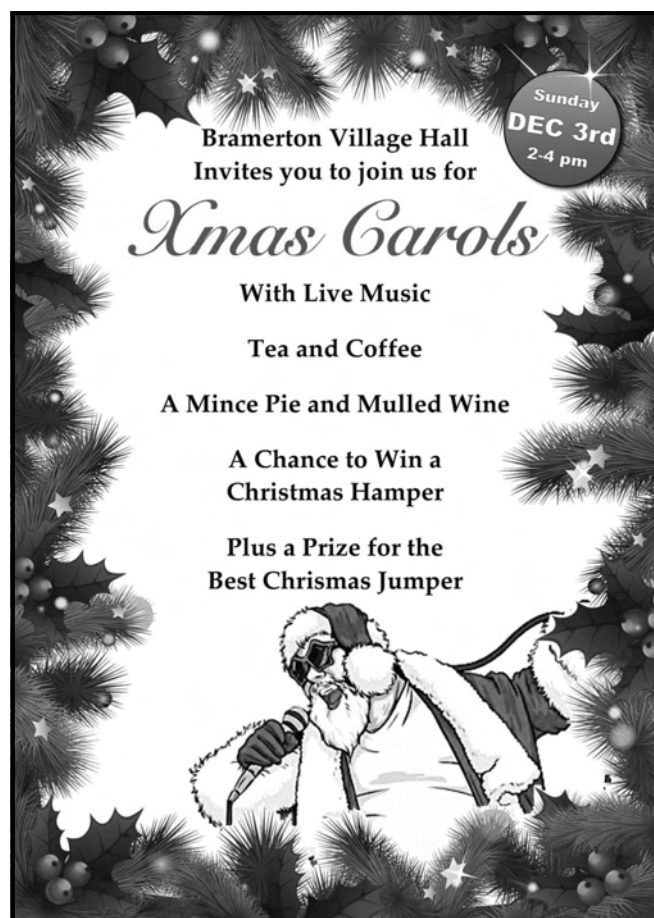
I would like to thank you on behalf of the bowls club for publishing the article we sent you in the spring to get new members. Before the article it looked like the club would fold. After the publication we had 15 people come and try bowling. Four joined but by word of mouth from them a further 5 joined. We are hoping a further 3 people, who have shown an interest at the end of the season, will join us.

So as a result of "Eleven Says" we are now in a viable situation looking forward to the future. Thank you.

**Michael Cooper, Treasurer of the Bowls Club**

# Village News

## Bramerton continued



## Carleton St Peter

**Carleton St Peter Church News** - A lovely Harvest Service at Carleton at Peter was well attended.

The maize growing either side of the church path this summer has now been cut. It was commented on for giving the church a different outlook for a little while.

We look forward to our Christmas Service on 17th December at 11am and we look forward to welcoming you.

Thank you to the numerous people who have helped and supported the church in so many ways throughout 2023. We look forward to catching up with you all in 2024.

## Claxton

**St. Andrew's Church** - Following a successful bid for a charitable grant from the Benefact Trust, and the provision of a faculty from Archdeacon Steven Betts, we were able to proceed with a project to repair a crack in the masonry above the north belfry arch of the church tower as directed by our architect. Although there is no service for Christmas Day everyone is welcome to attend our festive Wassail on **Sunday 17th December at 2 pm**.

**Claxton Community Café** - Thanks to all for your support the **October Community Café** raised £200 for the Macmillan appeal. During the winter months we have decided to run the café from 11 am - 1:30 pm and offer homemade soup and desserts in addition to our usual fare of bacon (and egg) rolls. Freshly brewed tea and coffee is always available. This certainly proved popular in November when people enjoyed a wholesome lunch for a very low price. Our **Christmas Café on Wednesday 6th December (11 am - 1:30 pm)** will have a festive flavour with craft stalls, an opportunity to buy some of your Christmas gifts, while enjoying a sociable lunch.

In the New Year the **January Café** will be held on **Wednesday 17th**, from 11 am - 1:30 pm. From February we will return to the first Wednesday of the month. Thank you to everyone who helps to make the café a success.

**Claxton and Carleton St Peter Village Hall** - The Village Hall has been increasingly busy. The Bramerton Group Quiz saw the hall filled, as did a recent wedding. The Playground fundraising Committee used the hall for a fund raising Ceilidh and a wreath making workshop. The hall is available for hire for regular and occasional use.

**Claxton Social Club** - Open every Friday from 8 pm. Drop in for a very reasonably priced drink and friendly chat.

## Framingham Pigot

**St Andrew's Church,  
Framingham Pigot**

**Our Carol Service will be held on  
Sunday 10th December at 4pm**

Come and join us and The Framingham Earl Singers for a service of lessons and carols in our beautiful Victorian Church. **Festive refreshments after the service**



## Rockland St Mary

### Winter Hardship Fund

Grants will be available in January 2024 from a Winter Hardship Fund to parishioners of Rockland St Mary and Hellington who currently receive Universal Credit or Pension Credit.

To receive more information and an application form, access the link on the Rockland Facebook page or send contact details to [rocklandtrustclerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rocklandtrustclerk@yahoo.co.uk) or leave a message or text on 07949 427386.

The closing date for applications to the fund is 31st December 2023.



# Village News

## Rockland St Mary

Rockland St. Mary and District W.I.

Our photo shows a group of members enjoying a lovely local walk around Alington village. Recently we've enjoyed a Shoe Fashion Show at "Hotters" in Norwich and also some interesting monthly talks.



We look forward to our Christmas Social Evening in December and a talk about the history of Jarrolds by Pete Goodrum in the New Year.

New members are always very welcome, we meet in the Margaret Mack Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. If you would like details of meetings or you would like a lift, please contact Sandra 538100 or Ruth 538231

### Rockland St Mary Scarecrow Trail 2023

Thank You To Everyone who visited our Rockland St Mary Scarecrow Trail 2023 during the school half term holiday.

Special Thanks to our AMAZING Scarecrow Makers! This Trail literally wouldn't exist without you!!

We still have a few donations trickling in but so far we have raised well over £2000!!! This really does make such a difference to the children at Rockland St Mary Primary School. We have some lovely school trips lined up and some exciting conversations to be at the School!



The winner was Sheila Barnard's Scarecrow, Number 6, M&Ms Display.

### Christmas Trees

Christmas trees for sale at Applebee, Rockland St Mary, NR14 7HE. Choose your own from our wood. There are lots of different sizes. Bring the family. Wear wellies!!!

Payment can be cash or by card. Prices are from £15.

If you want to dig one up please bring your own spade or we can cut trees. Contact Ruth or John on 01508 538231. We are closed on Sundays



### Tribute in memory of Michael Wilfred Horne

Michael was born in Poringland in 1937. When still a young child, the family moved to New Inn Hill, Rockland, where his father had a market garden business. There, after serving his



National Service, he met Monica (his future wife) they married in Rockland Church in 1960. They moved to School Lane, and raised their family of two sons, Adrian and Matthew.

Michael did a variety of work in Norwich, but he was best known for his long service to Rockland Church. For many years, and for many vicars and congregations, he could be relied on to set up the altar, and make sure everything was prepared for the service. Of course, he is best remembered for the fact that he played the organ for 60 years in St. Mary's. This was celebrated a few years ago when a special Thanks-giving service was held, where he was presented with a cake and a special engraved plate commemorating his long service to the church. Michael was for so many years, such a strong presence in the church, always there on a Saturday practising for the following Sunday service.

Sadly, in his later years, and having to cope with the loss of his son Adrian and later Monica, he suffered ill health, but supported by his family, he remained at home for some time. However, in the last few months of his life, he was admitted to a Care Home, where he settled in well, but sadly died in September this year.

Appropriately, the strong theme of his funeral service was organ music, it was a fitting tribute to his many years of service.

Revd. Mandy Ansell

## Thurton

### Thurton Carol Service

Instead of the Christingle service we are having a special time of Christmas carols and readings on



Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December at 11 am. This is your chance to celebrate the joys of Christmas with us and also to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. We hope you will join us.

Chris Limbach



# Village News

## Thurton

### Reflections at the Musical Evening

As I sat there listening to the Fine City Chorus Musical Evening on Friday 15th September, the opening of The Friends of Thurton Church 'Flowers in Splendour' Flower Festival weekend, I soaked up the atmosphere and rested in the familiarity of our lovely old church, dedicated to Saint Ethelbert, King and Martyr.

Built over 900 years ago it has witnessed history that I have only seen in text books.

Constructed from local materials using simple techniques by today's standards of technology, it has stood the test of time and weather, solid, dependable, always there to provide a peaceful haven.

It has stood witness to a Christian way of life in the village all that time, and the restoration and repairs of recent years have been done to enable it to continue that witness for many more years to come.

The singing was an expression of celebration and I glanced around the building and thought of all that has been achieved over the years.

It is an amazing amount at some considerable cost but it's thanks to the goodwill of parishioners from our village, the never tiring efforts of the Friends of Thurton Church, support from neighbours in surrounding villages and the existence of grant aid from such bodies as English Heritage, the Pilgrim Trust and the Norfolk Churches Trust that we have a church building in such a good state of repair today.

Thanks to all who came to the Flower Festival, a profit of £1,443.72 was raised.

The building work to the church is also ongoing. We have found woodworm and rot in the floorboards and Rentokil is due to start work mid November. New flooring will replace existing old boards and the work should be completed by mid December at a cost of £10,000.

### Have you thought of becoming a Friend of Thurton Church?

This is a good time to renew, join, support and care for this historic Grade 1 listed building with its fine hand-printed glass windows and wall paintings.

Membership is: Students and senior citizens £6.00 - single persons £10 - families £15.

If you care to give more than this, your donation would be gratefully received.

Cheques to be made payable to: The Friends of Thurton Church and sent to Mrs Gillian Ducker, Crossways Bungalow, Church Meadow Lane, Bergh Apton OR Mr. Lynton Johnson, Cherry Tree Cottage, 24 The Street, Thurton NR14 6AL

Our next event is a Christmas Bingo evening on Friday 1st December at 7.30 pm at the George and Dragon Barn, Thurton, with festive prizes, seasonal refreshments and a raffle.

Lynton Johnson

### Thurton Harvest Donations 2023

We would like to thank the pupils of Thurton Primary School, their families and also members of Thurton church for their generous donations of bottles, tins and packet foods. All the donations were taken to The Minster Mission, part of the Pathway food bank project in Great Yarmouth. Jen King, in the photo, is Strategic Manager of the community projects helping people in the Great Yarmouth area. The Pathway food bank provides food parcels for many local families as well as free hot lunches for hundreds of people every week.

Should you wish to support the food bank or the free lunch scheme for people in need, either as a one off gift or as a regular ongoing donation please visit the website: [yarmouthmagdalen.foodbank.org.uk](http://yarmouthmagdalen.foodbank.org.uk)

Revd Cate Turner spent some time helping with and supporting the food bank as part of her training during her time in the Thurton Benefice.

Chris and Rosalind Limbach

### Thurton Church observes Remembrance Day, Sunday 12th November 2023

Due respect was given at the service held in Thurton churchyard. This was led by Neville Whiting and a wreath provided by the Royal British Legion was laid by Ian Capps, Chair of Thurton Parish Council. We were glad to welcome several former members of the services including one gentleman who had flown in from Dubai for the occasion!



'The Poppy' is a poem borrowed for the occasion

#### The Poppy

Nature created a flower, with petals of brilliant red.  
Who'd have thought such a beautiful flower  
Would be used to remember the dead.

For when all the guns have stopped firing, and there's only mud and rain  
God sent down his little red flowers  
To cover the lads who remain.

So remember every November, when we hold our Remembrance Day  
Of the lads who lie 'neath the poppies  
And the price they had to pay

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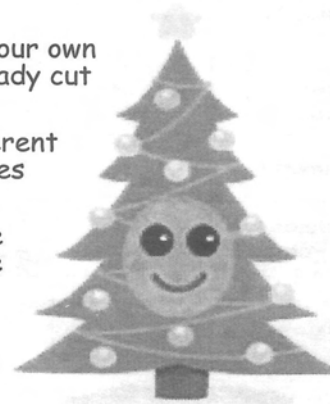
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**VILLAGE HALLS**  
**Alpington and Yelverton** - Main hall, large committee / club room, kitchen and dining area. Excellent heating. Car park. Children's play area. £10.50 an hour for regular user groups and private functions. Business and trade £21 an hour. Website address [www.alpingtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:www.alpingtonvillagehall@gmail.com). For bookings, email [alpingtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:alpingtonvillagehall@gmail.com) or call mobile 07747 443567.

**Ashby and Thurton** - Main hall with kitchen facilities and/or committee room available for private hire per hour, day or half day. Discounted rates for regular contract bookings. Ideal for meeting groups and social activities. Please contact Laura Vaissiere, telephone: 01508 480773 or email: [ashbythurtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:ashbythurtonvillagehall@gmail.com).

**Bergh Apton** - Large main hall with stage plus smaller room, fully-fitted kitchen, heating throughout. Disabled toilet with baby-changing area. Large car park, gardens and play park. Contact Hilary Ling on 01508 480439 or email [hilary.ling@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.ling@btinternet.com).

**Bramerton** - Spacious, refurbished hall with separate fully equipped kitchen. Beautiful enclosed garden and large car park. Disabled facilities. £9 per hour, minimum hire 2 hours. Daily rate available and discounted rates for regular bookings. Please contact Alison, 07976264469 or Duncan, 01508 538444.

**Claxton & Carleton St Peter** - Spacious refurbished well-equipped hall. fitted kitchen. Ideal for one-off functions and regular users. Disabled facilities. Large car park. Free high speed broadband. £8 per hour or by session. Bar available. Contact Judy Jackson, 01508 480128 or Sarah Carter, 01508 480555, or email: [contact@claxtonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:contact@claxtonvillagehall.co.uk). Website: [www.claxtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.claxtonvillagehall.co.uk)

**Rockland St Mary - Margaret Mack Hall** available evenings and weekends for private parties, meetings and social activities. Rates per hour or per day. Contact after 4 pm please, Deb Sayles, 01508 537077, email: [deborah.sayles8@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.sayles8@gmail.com).

**Rockland St Mary - The Parish Room** is available for hire. With kitchen facilities it is ideal for social functions, parties, clubs and meetings. Hire rates are extremely reasonable. Please contact Jayne Regan, 01508 538087.

### CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

A	N	C	I	G	R	F	K	K	T	U	B	D	M	L	S	D	P	X	Q
P	S	U	R	Y	C	V	I	C	V	E	D	I	G	L	P	Y	R	Z	I
K	T	K	O	G	V	J	O	S	E	P	H	G	J	L	E	A	A	W	U
R	V	W	N	D	Z	I	D	H	C	R	O	O	G	M	F	F	V	P	Z
G	D	F	C	K	P	R	L	N	P	P	A	N	L	J	E	H	G	R	K
F	A	R	C	H	E	R	O	G	V	N	X	T	B	D	P	Q	D	V	U
J	X	F	Z	H	L	U	G	O	G	Y	G	R	Y	D	N	E	V	X	K
V	P	R	P	N	R	W	W	E	S	N	L	E	P	F	O	O	F	F	S
A	A	E	B	Y	F	I	L	U	Y	A	J	G	A	R	P	I	G	O	L
U	H	S	G	S	D	S	S	B	I	R	N	N	V	A	P	E	I	A	U
S	X	P	Z	D	H	E	A	T	D	I	A	A	Y	N	J	J	I	J	Z
Q	Q	N	B	K	J	M	G	I	I	D	J	M	T	K	K	L	E	Z	P
N	H	R	R	Y	M	E	Z	J	K	S	O	J	N	I	W	J	R	F	I
A	O	Q	B	K	N	N	G	A	B	I	B	L	H	N	V	Q	O	Q	B
Z	U	A	A	P	H	A	Z	S	O	I	G	O	K	C	R	I	X	Q	A
Y	B	E	Q	I	S	X	J	T	F	U	B	W	R	E	I	R	T	X	I
M	Y	Y	U	Y	X	N	N	F	T	Y	X	R	O	N	X	P	T	Y	O
Y	L	L	H	F	R	B	H	N	K	Y	L	T	L	S	J	R	F	I	O
S	V	U	M	T	S	D	H	Q	T	A	F	R	M	E	Q	Y	S	H	A
Z	V	L	Y	H	E	J	R	W	O	Z	L	H	U	G	T	N	Y	X	V

Baby Jesus  
Mary  
Joseph  
Wise Men

Angels  
Manger  
Nativity  
Christ Is Born

Shepherds  
Gold  
Frankincense  
Myrrh

	3rd Dec Advent 1 Purple	10th Dec Advent 2 Purple	17th Dec Advent 3 Purple	24th Dec Christmas Eve White or Gold	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Day White or Gold	31st Dec Christmas 1 White	7th Jan Baptism of Christ White or Gold	14th Jan Epiphany 2 White	21st Jan Epiphany 3 White	28th Jan Epiphany 4 Candlemass White	4th Feb 2nd Before Lent Green
Ashby St Mary	11.00 PT		18.00 Carol Service PT			Join Bramerton	11.00 MP BB		11.00 PT		11.00 HC Sue H-H
Bergh Apton		09.30 HC (BCP) Richard C	18.00 Carol Service PT	16.00 Crib Service PT		Join Bamerton	09.30 HC Richard C		09.30 PT		09.30 PT
Bramerton			3.30pm Carol Service		9.30am HC	10am GROUP HC				10am Benefice HC	
Carleton St Peter			11am Carol Service			Join Bramerton	11am HC				11am MP
Claxton	9.30am HC		2pm Wassail			Join Bramerton	9.30am HC		10am All Age @ Village Hall		9.30am HC
Framingham Pigot	09.30 HC Sue H-H	16.00 Carol Service PT			10.00 HC Kate B	Join Bamerton	11.00 PT			09.30 HC Kate B	
Kirby Bedon			5pm Carol Service		11am HC	Join Bramerton			11am HC		
Rockland St Mary	10.30am- 12pm Café Church in Parish Room 3.30pm Tree of Light	4pm Carol Service	9.30am HC	6pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass		Join Bamerton		9.30am HC			
Surlingham		11am HC	3.30pm Carol Service		10am Family Service	Join Bramerton		11am HC			
Thurton			11.00 HC Sue H-H	11.00 Christmas Carols PT		Join Bamerton		10.00 Benefice HC Phil M		11.00 PT	
Yelverton	09.30 PT		18.00 Carol Service PT	20.00 First Mass of Christmas Sue H-H	09.30 PT	Join Bramerton	09.30 PT		09.30 HC Sue H-H	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.

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: December 2023 and January 2024

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
03/12/23	Isaiah 64.1-9	1 Corinthians 1.3-9	Mark 13.24-37	Advent Sunday
10/12/23	Isaiah 40.1-11	2 Peter 3.8-15	Mark 1.1-8	Advent 2
17/12/23	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11	1 Thessalonians 5.16-24	John 1.6-8,19-28	Advent 3
24/12/23	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16	Romans 16.25-27	Luke 1.26-38	Christmas Eve
25/12/23	Isaiah 52.7-10	Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]	John 1.1-14	Christmas Day
31/12/23	Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3	Galatians 4.4-7	Luke 2.15-21	Christmas 1
07/01/24	Genesis 1.1-5	Acts 19.1-7	Mark 1.4-11	Baptism of Christ
14/01/24	1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20]	Revelation 5.1-10	John 1.43-51	Epiphany 2
21/01/24	Genesis 14.17-20	Revelation 19.6-10	John 2.1-11	Epiphany 3
28/01/24	Deuteronomy 18.15-20	Revelation 12.1-5a	Mark 1.21-28	Epiphany 4
04/02/24	Proverbs 8.1,22-31	Colossians 1.15-20	John 1.1-14	2nd before Lent



WE WISH ALL  
OUR READERS  
A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND BEST  
WISHES FOR



2024



Angie and Liz

**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.

CLERGY OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP		ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF PORINGLAND AND LODDON		ELEVEN SAYS EDITORIAL BOARD
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		Saturday	6 pm	<b>Kind donations may be sent by cheque, payable to Eleven Says, to one of the above addresses or by BACS payment to Eleven Says 20-92-08 a/c 90137065.</b>  Contributions are very welcome subject to the Board's discretion and available space. <b>Deadline for all material ("copy") for the next issue is 5th JANUARY 2024.</b> <b>Email:</b> <u><a href="mailto:elevensays22@gmail.com">elevensays22@gmail.com</a></u>  <b>Produced by:</b> Angie Yeomans  <b>Printed by:</b> Roberts & Son Printers, 2-6 Bridge Street, Loddon, NORWICH. NR14 6EZ <i>Tel.</i> 01508 520221
		Sunday	9 am	
		Tues	6 pm	
Wed -Saturday	10 am			
		<b>Staff days off.</b>		
		Monday	Chris Ellis	
		Thursday	Mandy Ansell	
		Friday	Nick and Helen Garrard	
NEXT ASSEMBLY: SATURDAY JANUARY 27th, BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL, COOKE'S ROAD, NR15 1AA, 9am - 11am (approx)				