

I am about to do a new thing . . .

The pandemic has had an impact on many areas of our lives which, in the past, we have assumed will continue unabated, and our churches have not been immune to this impact. Nationally, and even internationally, attendances have fallen considerably and in the Thurton Benefice this was painfully evident at the services this Christmas with single figure congregations in some parishes at Carol Services and Christmas morning communions.

There are a number of reasons for this: increasing frailty that comes with the passing of the years, concern over the pandemic and the wariness of meeting others in a public space and for some it is simply being out of the habit of attending each week. Sadly, I am aware that there are also those who have become despondent with the Church of England and the unfortunate and inappropriate request from the leadership that the churches be closed at the beginning of the pandemic. If the Church is not there at a time of great need, then what is the point of it?

Smaller churches have suffered disproportionately; if you are a congregation of a dozen or less, losing just 3 or 4 people has enormous consequences. In the Thurton Benefice, Ashby St Mary finds itself in that position. In recent months, the congregation has been reduced considerably for a variety of reasons and it finds itself on the edge of the wilderness. The Church of England and the Diocese of Norwich have a vision for the future which has major consequences for small, rural parishes. The future focus will be on deploying stipendiary (i.e. full-time) clergy in places where there are large populations and/or are considered areas of deprivation. As a consequence, Norwich, Gt Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Thetford and Kings Lynn will see clergy numbers increase and rural areas will see significant decreases.

At a recent Deanery Synod meeting, it was made clear that the Loddon Deanery will see a reduction from six to three full time clergy and it is part of the plan that smaller, poorly supported church buildings will be closed. So how are we to respond? What do you want to see for the church in your parish?

At the last meeting of Ashby St Mary PCC we looked at what the future for St Mary's Church might be. I was delighted by the willingness of the PCC members to look for ways of 'doing a new thing'. The reality is that if small, rural churches continue to do the same thing they have done for many years, the future looks bleak.

For a small village like Ashby St Mary, to grow means to either attract more of the local parishioners to come to the current model of church and style of worship, or to offer something new in the hope of drawing worshippers from a wider area.

The PCC agreed unanimously to do the latter and, having an Anglo-Catholic priest in myself, decided to explore offering worship that is more in that style. This will involve the use of incense, the introduction of votive candles and statues/icons and I have already received a donation towards some of the cost of those items.



We are very aware that many have concerns about the Anglo-Catholic tradition, but in my experience much of that is rooted in a lack of understanding of the liturgical significance of its practice. In future issues of Eleven Says I will be writing some short articles to help explain the meaning of these practices in the hope that there will be a greater understanding and a willingness in people from across the parishes of the Bramerton Group and beyond to experience a style of worship that is not currently available outside of Norwich.

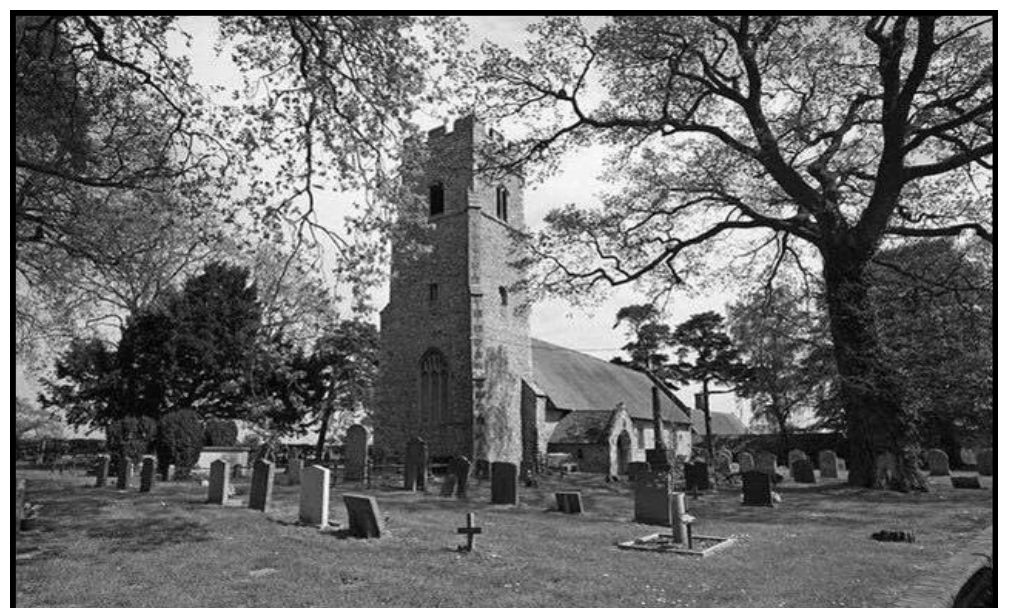
Please pray for the church community in Ashby St Mary as it takes this bold step which will be a great departure from its previous practice and is a wonderful sign of stepping out in faith:

'I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.' (Isaiah 43:19)

Yours in Christ,

Fr Chris.



Ashby St Mary Church courtesy of Haydn Brown

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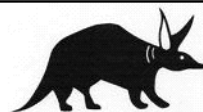
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Sanyu Babies Home, Kampala

Many of you are aware of the relationship that has been developed with Sanyu over the last twenty years or so. Others of you may not be, so this is a quick introduction in case you might be thinking of supporting a new cause during 2022.

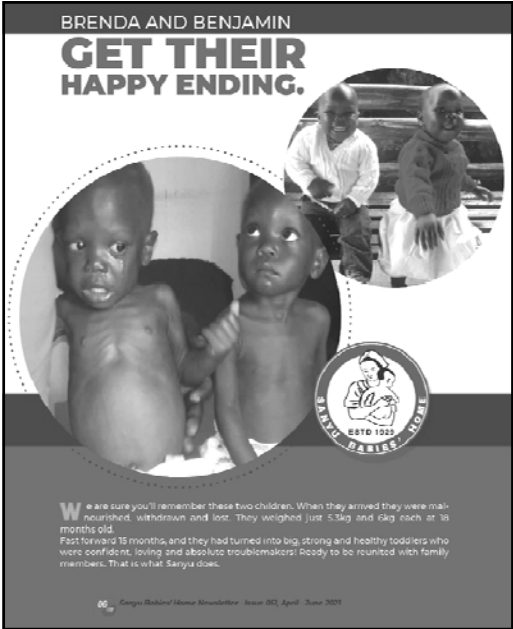
Sanyu was founded by an English missionary a hundred years ago. She realised, that of the large number of abandoned babies on the streets of Uganda's capital, Kampala, many did not survive. The home still receives babies on an almost daily basis, delivered by the police and others, babies abandoned by marketstalls, on street corners and even dumped in cess-pits, a day or two old. They are then given names, fed and watered and educated too for the next 4 or 5 years, after which the children are fostered, adopted or in some cases returned to their wider families. There was a lovely moment during one of the Bergh Apton Sculpture Trails, when a family arrived at the Church to find photographs of Sanyu, one of the Trail's beneficiaries. By extraordinary coincidence the two children had been adopted from Sanyu and were living in Harleston! How amazing is that?

The home survives with the help of donations from within Uganda, and abroad as well as the assistance of volunteers who stay to help by working and caring for the 40-50 resident babies. We in Bergh Apton and surrounding parishes have been keen supporters, funding a new vehicle, new water system and roofing and now the residencies of two nurses and regular weekly visits by their doctor. Having said that, the major donors by far are Ruth and John Everett of Applebee in Rockland. They have been selling plants in their 'honey' shop in aid of the home ever since they visited Sanyu. Somehow they raise as much as £2,000 a year - quite magnificent. So if you can't handle a direct payment, please buy some plants from the Everetts - it all goes to help with Sanyu's medical bills.

The home is determined to become self-sufficient but for the time being, they need us. Our monthly remittances, which go direct to the home, need private donations too and so we are appealing to your generosity. To give you some idea, the sort of costs they need are: Weekly nurses salary £50. A new mosquito net £5. Truck Servicing £35. So please, do help us to help the babies at Sanyu either by payment to Bergh Apton PCC (adding the bonus of Gift Aid). Or by cheque in favour of Sanyu Babies Home. Or if you prefer you could set up a standing order. Please contact Liz Meynell for more details/ information.

We receive a quarterly newsletter from the home and would be delighted to add your name to those to whom we forward it. Full of pictures, notes about the babies and their carers and events at the home, plus of course recently about how they have survived Covid by rigorous lockdown.

Liz and Christopher Meynell (Bergh Apton), 01508 55844
lizmeynell@gmail.com



World Day of Prayer

(Interdenominational and International)



Friday 4th March

"I know the plans I have for you"

Prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Local services at

Ashby & Thurton Village Hall at 2pm.
Children's corner. Refreshments served.

St John's Church, Loddon at 7pm

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 cake and fellowship. All welcome.

February 9th Due to ill health of our Speaker a local speaker is being researched.

March 9th Pip Wright, "Lucky is the Name"

April 13th Alexander Bass, Suffolk Heritage Coast

For more information please contact Pat Barter 493570 or Leo Smith 493695

Evensong anyone?

Evensong is a lovely tradition of sung prayers, psalms, hymns and responses as part of a short service that typically takes place in early evening. It is a very gentle way to end the day with beautiful music and an opportunity to reflect in peace, on the day that has been. Although it typically takes place in cathedrals there is nothing to stop smaller churches holding the service, in fact it once was a regular part of the service rota in many parishes.

It has been argued that the roots of Evensong reach back to the early church, perhaps even as an evolution of the Jewish habit of praying at certain times of day. The English language service goes back to the time of the Reformation with elements of the monastic offices of Vespers and Compline. The service we use today was laid out in The Book of Common Prayer, by Archbishop Cranmer in 1549. He wrote it with the general public in mind condensing what he could into one, short service.

The rich history of Evensong creates a powerful sense of connecting with the past of our churches and communities and tapping into something so much greater than ourselves.

"As we come together in a church building at the end of the day we join a vast community enduring both through time and in the same place, by acting in the same way as countless people have done before us for over a thousand years."

Many churches stopped holding Evensong when their choirs disbanded which is a shame as it is such a beautiful service. So - I am hoping to get together a group of people who would like to revive the tradition and sing at a one-off choral Evensong service in the early spring. We will hold the service in one of our parish churches and hopefully enjoy some refreshments too. No experience is necessary, and enthusiasm is far more important than singing ability! The congregation is invited to join in much of the music, but we need a 'choir' of people who know the tunes to lead the worship and to sing the 'anthem'. Even if you don't want to be part of the choir, I hope that you will join us for the service (once we have practiced a bit) and enjoy all that Evensong has to offer!

If you are interested in getting involved please email me with your contact details on cate.a.turner@btinternet.com or call me on 01508 498494.



Rockland Benefice Update

We'd like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas services and events. Despite the continuing uncertainties of our times, being able to celebrate together felt even more precious than in previous years.

Our worship changes gear twice during the next two months, as we leave behind the season of Epiphany at the start of February and begin to prepare ourselves for Lent, a time of prayer, reflection and going the extra mile for God and our neighbours, wherever they may be.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** (March 2nd), with **Communion and Ashing** in the Barn at 11am. Join us for this moving, ancient sharing in the symbols of mortality and hope.

We're also supporting this year's Diocesan Lent Appeal for Sag Sag Health Centre in Papua New Guinea (please see article below for more details) through our series of **Lent Lunches in the Barn**. You're welcome to drop in between 12 Noon and 3pm on the following Saturdays: March 12th, 19th, April 2nd and 9th for homemade soup and scones, bread and cheese, plus good company!

Lent is also a time for stillness, reflection and prayer, and the Barn will host **Contemplative Prayer** on the following Mondays at 7.30pm: March 7th, 14th, 21st. If you seek some quiet space in your life, this may be for you...

We hope you are keeping safe and well.

Best wishes

Revd Nick and Revd Helen

The Bishop's Lent Appeal

This year as a Diocese we will be raising money to support the purchase of beds for Sag Sag Health Centre in Papua New Guinea.

Near the western tip of New Britain Island in Papua New Guinea, on the edge of the South Pacific, lies the very remote community of Sag Sag.

Although small, it is central to the lives of many people living remotely in the rainforest which surrounds the town. Sag Sag Health Centre needs our help! It has a building, and it has people, but it has no beds and no equipment.

In our 2022 Lent Appeal we want to provide much needed beds, for young children and mothers-to be. The most vulnerable targeted groups will be children under one year old and mothers-to be attending ante natal clinics, although many other vulnerable groups will also be able to use the centre. All the help we can give is needed now as mothers and children lie on their own blankets on the bare floorboards when they arrive for treatment. Sometimes, they will have canoed along the coast for a day to arrive at Sag Sag.

Through our PNG Link Group, the Diocese of Norwich is in regular contact with all five Papua New Guinea dioceses and, with your support, can get help directly to the people in Sag Sag.

In recent years we have raised money to provide a 4x4 vehicle for the remote community of Alotau in Dogura Diocese; learning resources for ordinands in Popondetta Diocese; a new church building at Simbai in Aipo-Rongo Diocese; classrooms at a school in a settlement in Port Moresby Diocese and resources to empower women across the province.

Resources to support your involvement in the 2022 project will include printed prayer bookmarks and downloadable posters and Bible study materials, available in January on the Diocesan website. Each Bible study session, which will also have materials for schools, will comprise background notes, Bible readings, discussion topics and photographs of PNG life in a convenient format designed for two sides of A4.

Please support our 2022 Lent Appeal and help to bring much-needed hospital beds to our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea.

Revd Susan Martin, Volunteer Chaplain to Norfolk Hospice

How to give

Make a donation at one of our Lent Lunches or through the church. Lent Appeal Gift Aid envelopes are available from Nick and Helen. Alternatively, you can give: **Online** - visit the Diocesan Donate Page (dioceseofnorwich.org/donate) and select the Bishop's Lent Appeal from the dropdown menu. **By Cheque** - Cheques should be made payable to NDBF Ltd, marked clearly on the back of the cheque '*Lent Appeal 2022*'. Please send the cheque together with a completed Gift Aid declaration (if applicable), to: Lent Appeal 2022, Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton NR9 5ES

Thank you!



Thurton Benefice Update

Church Services: It was with sadness that we took the decision to cancel the Crib Service at Bergh Apton and the Christingle at Thurton on Christmas Eve due to the rapid rise in cases and the transmissibility of the Omicron variant. The attendance at nearly all the Christmas services was much lower than usual which was a shame, but understandable. We are attempting to keep as close to our 'normal' monthly pattern of services until Easter at which point we will be reviewing the attendance figures across the benefice and making a decision as to whether fewer, combined Benefice services would be more appropriate for a time. It is now a requirement once more to wear face coverings during services and please continue to use hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the church building. If you use the Lateral Flow Tests at home, it would be sensible to take a test on a Sunday morning before attending services, but this is not a formal requirement. The Common Cup will not be offered for the foreseeable future and the wine will continue to be received by intinction by the priest not the communicant.

Melanie and I would like to say a very big thank you for all the cards, gifts and good wishes we received again this Christmas. We are always deeply humbled by the kindness and generosity we receive each year.

Ash Wednesday: is on the 2nd March and we will begin the solemn observance of Lent with a short service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes at 10am at St Ethelbert's, Thurton.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners: These are the meetings where our Churchwardens are elected. This year they will be held in Church before the Sunday Services as follows: Ashby St Mary: 20th February at 11am; Bergh Apton: 27th February at 9.30am; Framingham Pigot: 27th February at 11am; Thurton: 6th March at 11am; Yelverton: 20th February at 9.30am.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: This is the meeting where we reflect on the life of our churches over the past year and approve reports and various legal requirements. This year it will be on Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm. Provisionally at Alington and Bergh Apton Primary School, but this will be confirmed nearer the time by the publication of the Formal Notice on the church doors.

Daily Prayer: Morning Prayer is said in the benefice at 9am from Tuesday to Saturday on 'zoom'. If you would like to join us, as several do, please ask one of the clergy for the meeting ID.

Weekday Communions: Monthly Services of Holy Communion are offered on the first Thursday of each month at St Mary's Yelverton. In February it will be on Thursday 3rd and in March on Thursday 3rd. Both services will be at 10.30am. All most welcome.

Home visits and Home Communions: 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.
Revd Chris Ellis: 01508 484174 or Revd Cate Turner: 01508 498494



From the Registers

BAPTISMS

21/11/21 Beau Thomas David WHITING Yelverton

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

18/11/21	Ernest Edward ELEMENT (Interment of Ashes)	Carleton St Peter
25/11/21	Sharon SEAMAN (52)	Yelverton
26/11/21	Audrey CHAPMAN (86)	Thurton
03/12/21	Dorothy HOWES (72)	Thurton
08/12/21	Phyllis Daisy HAMMATT (91)	Rockland St Mary
20/12/21	Hubert Raymond HEDGE (84)	Kirby Bedon
29/12/21	Heather FISHER (73)	Ashby St Mary
30/12/21	Joan Rosemary BANGER (94)	Bramerton
05/01/22	Jean STIBBON (79)	Framingham Pigot
05/01/22	Frank HILL (87)	Thurton
07/01/22	Ronald BLAND (94)	Framingham Pigot
07/01/22	Sylvia BLAND (91)	Framingham Pigot

Tribute For The Life Of Hubert Hedge

It is with sadness that we report that Hubert Hedge, long term Lay-Reader and Church-Warden died recently on 17th November. This Tribute is taken from the longer one which was read out at his funeral at Kirby Bedon Church on 20th December.

Hubert was born in Bessingham near Cromer, on 4th November 1937. The family later moved to Kirby Bedon. In the mid 70's he met Evelyn at the St. Augustine swimming pool. Hubert was doing lengths and she was doing widths! Somehow they met up in the middle! and the rest is history! They married and had a Blessing in 1976 at Carleton St. Peter Church. The service was taken by Revd. Kit Chalcraft. They had been married for 45 years when Hubert died.

Hubert was church-warden for 20 years at Carleton St. Peter Church. A huge part of Hubert's life, was serving as a Lay Reader. He was licensed in June 1987 in Norwich Cathedral by the late Bishop Peter Nott. Hubert took his ministry very seriously, taking services throughout this Group of churches, and later in the Rockland Benefice, serving for nearly 30 years! He was a valued member of the Rockland Benefice Ministry Team, when the team included John Shaw, Geoff Saunders, Shelagh Sweeney, his wife Evelyn and Mandy Ansell. He was the quiet and prayerful member of the team. He will be sadly missed by family, friends and all those who received his ministry over the years.

Evelyn would like to thank all those who sent kind words of comfort and support following the loss of Hubert.

Revd. Mandy Ansell

Lent Word Search

Lent lasts for 40 days. Sundays in Lent are 'oases'; as Sunday is never a day of fasting, but a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Christians have used Lent as their '40 days in the wilderness', when they set aside the indulgences of life and instead look inward, seeking spiritual renewal and growth.

Lent looks towards the Cross and the Empty Tomb, with the assurance of redemption and new life in Christ.

The daffodils in our gardens are golden trumpets to proclaim the wonderful message of Easter!

The English word for Lent is not at all religious; it is an abbreviation of the Old English word 'lencten', or 'lengthen'. At last winter is over, and the days are getting longer ...

Lent	Forty	Days	Sundays
Fasting	Weekly	Celebration	
Resurrection	Jesus	Wilderness	
Indulgences	Inward	Spiritual	
Renewal	Growth	Cross	
Empty	Tomb	Redemption	
Daffodils	Lencten		



February 24th is the day for Matthias the Apostle - the chosen one



Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed - and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make PERFECT sense. And you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task

If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas.

The early church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role.

The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his Baptism to his Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. How to choose?

Again, Matthias' experience may mirror yours: the decision was out of his hands, and up to others.

In this case, the apostles drew straws - and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas' betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias - and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you?

Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things - because you never know what the future might hold!



Photo courtesy of Mark Clayton, Rockland St Mary

Twig - The Women's International Group

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Alington Village Hall, Church Road, Alington, NR14 7NU.

New members are always welcome.

Wednesday 2nd February - Dr Mary Fewster: Transport through the ages

Wednesday 2nd March - Juyna Jewis: Korean Weddings

St George's Dementia Support Group

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 10am until noon.

The Group is open to all sufferers and their carers in our area.

Suitable entertainment and activities are available for suffers whilst for part of the meeting the carers are able to meet and talk freely.

Volunteers are present to talk with and to help attendees.

For more information please ring Ann on 01508 493661.

The address is St Georges Church Hall, Long Lane, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8ND

Loddon Flower club

1st February - Lois Gill - The Queen. The Queen is knitted.



1st March - Vicky Hease - A Vintage Affair

5th April - Terri Potter - This Way and That

Our meetings are held at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB. Doors open at 6-30pm for a 7pm start. A raffle will be held afterwards for the arrangements

Contact Tricia Godfrey (Chairman) on 01508-480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Alex Pinder (Secretary), 01508-493869 or nnark@aol.com.

Our website is www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk. We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions.

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Drawing by A E Farrell

Poringland Community Cinema

Poringland Community Centre

Tickets £5 on the door (includes tea or coffee) Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm.

Please wear a mask when moving around the centre

Friday 11th February - Nowhere Special

Drama. Stars: James Norton

Friday 11th March - King Richard (12A)

Biography/Drama/Sport. Stars: Will Smith, Aunjanue Ellis, Jon Bernthal

Friday 8th March - Spencer (12A)

Biography/drama. Stars: Kristen Stewart, Timothy Spall, Jack Nielen

.....

Buena Vista Social Club

Poringland Community Centre

FILM NIGHTS

Friday 4th February, Friday 4th March, Friday 1st April

Members Free. One night membership £5. Doors open 7pm

Please wear a mask when moving around the centre

For more information please phone Maureen on 01508 494358 or Carol on 01508 492630

Spring Word Search

A	W	E	R	W	O	L	B	T	O	L	A	S	O	V	A
O	A	D	R	Z	I	Y	D	F	O	P	E	H	A	I	Z
B	I	F	O	R	S	Y	T	H	I	A	S	S	R	I	A
T	I	A	D	E	M	U	M	L	D	A	A	N	M	L	L
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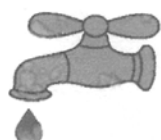
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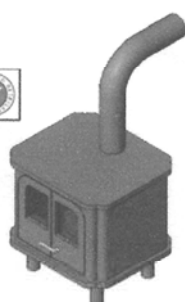
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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton

Commemorative Plaque Presented to the Village

You may have noticed that there is now a specially commissioned memorial plaque displayed on the village hall, which commemorates the resilience of our community during the pandemic. It was presented to the Parish Council but it should be noted that it is for all residents in the whole village. This is a norfolk-wide initiative by the Lord Lieutenant's Office to recognise the sacrifices and community spirit which have been shown in the first year of the pandemic, and onwards. So there will be similar plaques in other villages around the county.



Sue Stacey of the Parish Council, accepted the plaque on behalf of the Parish residents, from Bryony Falkus, a Deputy Lieutenant for Lady Dannatt, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk. While the plaque itself isn't unique to Alpington and Yelverton, we can look back at our own initiatives within the parish with pride.

Alongside all the ad-hoc acts of kindness and resilience, the village had a defined plan for a crisis event such as this, and it was actioned quickly and with a lot of impact.

Community volunteers Tez Roberts (left) and Rhona Shuttleworth are pictured here with Sue Stacey of the Parish Council, who was an organiser of the community volunteer response.

The design of the plaque incorporates the skills of a recent graduate from Norwich University of the Arts, Ruby Douglass, and the wording from a team at Norwich's National Centre for Writing.



The cost of the project has been covered by generous sponsorship from Adnams, the Red Socks Charitable Trust, the Geoffrey Watling Charity, the Pennycress Trust, the Kip and Alison Bertram Trust and the Sybil Cholmondeley Trust.



Yelverton Church

Alpington and Yelverton plans for Jubilee celebrations

This year marks Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The 6th February 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II accession to the throne and there will be an extended bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June marking this momentous occasion.

In Alpington and Yelverton plans are afoot for community celebrations on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the first weekend of June. Events planned include a flower festival, Village Fete and a Village Picnic. Other activities are also being planned and more details will be publicised over the coming months.

Please keep an eye out for further information on the community website alpingtonwithyelverton.com, including details of how you can contact organisers if you would like to be involved in helping with the events.

Alpington & Yelverton History Society

The History Society meets on a bi-monthly basis at the Village Hall, Church Road, Alpington, NR14 7NU.

At our last meeting we had an extremely interesting talk by **Graeme Simmonds**, on his detectorist activities. We were able to handle items 4,000 - 5,000 years old and there was even a Ward key dated 1250.

Our next meeting will be a shared event with the **Bergh Apton History Group** and will be held in Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road, Bergh Apton, Norwich NR15 1DF on **Wednesday, 30th March** starting at 7.30 p.m.

Our speaker will be Matt Champion who will be speaking to us about **Medieval Graffiti in Norwich Cathedral**

All are welcome. Guests £3.00.

Bergh Apton

Bergh Apton & District Society

Looking for a new group to join? Why not come along to the **Bergh Apton & District Society**, Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road, Bergh Apton, Norwich, NR15 1DF

We meet monthly throughout the Winter and Autumn months on the second Wednesday, hearing talks from a wide range of interesting and entertaining speakers. In the Summer, we take day and short breaks. Our next two meetings are as follows -

9th February - Dr Anne Edwards will be telling us about her work for the John Innes Institute in Tanzania. We last heard from Anne about Ash tree disease and dieback.

9th March - Jill Mann - The topic is Odd and Interesting. What, we wonder, will this be about.?

Admission £3.00 Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be served. There will also be a Raffle.

Village News

Bramerton

Award of Commemorative Plaque

At the Parish Council meeting on the 29th November 2021, the Parish Council was awarded a commemorative plaque, this acknowledges the work of community who pulled together over the past two years and continues to do so.



Chairman, Keith Wheeldon, thanked Mrs Back and the Lord Lieutenant for the plaque which the Parish Council expects to mount at the village hall.

If nothing else, the Covid pandemic proved that there is a strong sense of community in this village. Many neighbours took care to check on the well-being of one another (and continue to do so), our local farm shops made sure they catered for those isolated at home, local church services were available on line and, of course, we had our local support network which was set up by members of the village hall committee. This, and events they organised such as the Winter Wander, meant that people felt less isolated and that there was still some sense of normality to life.

The Tree Warden is still hoping that we can also mark this period by planting spindle trees which will bring colour to the village.

To all who have helped build this community spirit during these difficult times I should like to extend a very sincere thank you, and this plaque will serve as a reminder to those who, in years to come may have forgotten or were unaware of the challenges we faced.

Keith Wheeldon, Chair, Bramerton Parish Council

Walkabout with local Beat Manager and members of Bramerton Parish Council

On Saturday 4th December a walkabout took place with PC Sherry Locke, the local Beat Manager for Bramerton, and members of the Parish Council. The purpose of this walkabout was to discuss any issues arising in the village and to allow local residents to approach the party with any feedback/issues.

The walkabout proved to be very informative and PC Sherry Locke is always pleased to hear from parishioners if they have any concerns. PC Sherry Locke's contact details are as follows; Tel: 101 or 01953 424164.



Email: Sherry.Locke@norfolk.police.uk

Bramerton Winter Wander

We had a very successful and thoroughly enjoyable Winter Wander around our village on Sunday 5th December.

Once again, villagers did themselves proud with the effort and creativity that went into producing the many wonderful seasonal displays in driveways, gardens and windows.

Below are just a few of the displays enjoyed by the many walkers. Apologies if yours isn't shown here but space is limited. Colour copies of all displays are available if you contact Angie using the 11 Says email.

Photos courtesy of Ian Barker.



Village News

Carleton St Peter

Carleton St Peter Church news

The Christmas carol service was very well attended. Thank you to all of those who attended, read and helped decorate the church, which looked very festive. It was great to come together as a community at a time of uncertainty. We will be holding a flower festival in August 2022, further details will follow.

Claxton

Claxton and Carleton Village Hall news

The December Community Café was well attended and we look forward to holding the café on the first Wednesday of each month throughout 2022.

The Social Club's food van nights continue to be successful. Look out for these which are planned to take place once a month.

11th February - Peaky Pizzas

11th March - PhatKhao (Thai)

Don't forget the Social Club is open on Friday nights from 8pm offering reasonably priced drinks.

The Village Hall Trustees are always working to maintain and improve the facilities. We currently have two vacancies and would welcome any resident interested in joining our committed and enthusiastic team. To find out more contact Adrian Gidlow 07971 006505 or any of the other trustees.

The village hall website is up and running and we hope it will make it easier for people to find out what is happening and to make bookings.

St Andrew's Church news

We are delighted to have achieved the Bronze Echo Church Award. With all the limitations of a Grade One Listed building this is a significant achievement.

In 2022 we are going to have to replace the thatched ridge and make repairs to the rest of the thatch. As the roof is already leaking this work is a matter of urgency. We are hopeful that 2022 will allow us to undertake some fundraising.

The church belongs to the whole village and everyone's support will be needed if we are to ensure the fabric of this ancient building is to be kept in a good state of repair. Please look out for events when your help and support will be needed.



Claxton continued . . .



St Andrew's Church, Claxton

It was good to see a number of households taking part in the Christmas Tree Trail. Alongside traditional lit trees were some innovative creations, including the environmentally friendly 'Rejoice and Recycle Tree'.

St. Andrew's was decorated with trees and The Nativity Scene. With lights and candles, the church looked especially attractive for our traditional Wassail.

We were so pleased that we could hold our Wassail this year and it was good to see so many people in church, including many of 'The Little Fish' Families. There was a lovely atmosphere and the celebration was a great start to Christmas week.

Thank you to everyone who helped clean and decorate the church, and organise the service.

Rockland St Mary

Successful Christmas Tree Festival

Many thanks to all who supported the Christmas Tree Festival in Rockland Church in any way which made it so successful.

The Church was decorated with at least 17 thoughtfully themed trees.

Over the weekend we raised £579.41 for Church funds. Just as importantly, people enjoyed a chance to catch up over refreshments in the Barn.



Jayne Regan

Village News

Rockland St Mary continued . . .

Rockland and District Gardening Club



The club normally meets in Rockland Parish room on the street in Rockland on the fourth Thursday of the month in the winter.

In the winter we have speakers whilst in the summer we have garden visits.

February 24th - Mark Everett will talk about Avocados and there will be appropriate nibbles afterwards. Mark sources avocados from various countries and his company markets the fruit through major supermarkets in the UK. He has visited farms in South America, Spain, Morocco, Israel and New Zealand.

March 24th - A speaker from Anglian Water will talk on 'Your Garden and how to conserve water'

For more information please ring Ruth Everett 538231

Surlingham

St Mary's Church news

At Christmas one reflects on times past. The newly published book (profits in aid of the Church Tower) by John and Christine Glynn, takes us back to mediaeval times in Surlingham. Alex and Clive's Christmas Day play 'Fawltly Towers in Bethlehem' poses the question 'Would the birth in the stable really be talked about in 2000 years time?'

What has been unique about this Christmas? Well Covid of course but we have had wonderful help in the Church. Phil Reeves made beautiful new candle holders for the walls and pillars, the first for more than 50 years and used for the Carol Service. Our 'Repair Shop' team have mended and touched up our Victorian crib figures which suffered from damp and flaking. The flowers and wreath in the church were lovely as were the services including the symbolic Christingle Service and the School celebration on 13th December.



A tawny owl spent Christmas in the Church. It must have flown in through an open window and stayed on high perches, principally the organ pipes. We feared for its ability to get out but on Boxing Day night it must have flown low and out of the door.

Our Christmas Day service was held in the porch and outside, rather chilly, but memorable and Martin who kindly came to play the organ sang with us instead. Christmas collections went to the Salvation Army and the Children's Society.

Surlingham continued . . .

Now with the help of the Parish Council and charity funds the lychgate which is also the Village War Memorial is to be reroofed, the batons have rotted and the tiles are falling off. With everyone's help, hopefully we can qualify for grant money to repair the Church Tower and we will be able to ring the bells again.

Soon hedging plants will be arriving for us to plant at St. Saviour's, a loved place to visit which needs a bit of cherishing. I have lived here for 40 years, it seems a long time but is really very short. Batons need to be passed on so if there is any way you can help big or small, please do join us.

Pippa

PS. St Saviours is an old ruined church overlooking Surlingham Marsh

100th birthday celebration for Surlingham resident

Helen Hayward celebrated her 100th birthday on Monday 20th December 2021. She was born in the Hoveton area of Norfolk, and served in the NAAFI based at Weeting Hall Norfolk where she met her husband Lionel (Jack) who was in the army and billeted there. They were married December 1940.

Helen lived with her parent's at Church Farm, Surlingham from 1939 (apart from her time at Weeting Hall) until moving to Greens Croft, Surlingham in 1948 with husband Jack. They were among the first residents to move into the newly built airy houses constructed post war (replaced on the same site with new prefabricated properties due to advanced corrosion). Helen lived there until 2016 then moved into a bungalow at Oak Close, Surlingham.



She celebrated her birthday at Claxton village hall on the Sunday with family and friends, and current and ex neighbours of Greens Croft which was a wonderful place to live, more of a large family than just housing.

Everyone helped each other, all the children living there played happily together (before TV, iPads, etc) a number of which are still in touch with each other today.

Helen raised 3 children, who produced 7 grandchildren and they gave her 7 great-grandchildren, a testament to her unceasing love and care. A well loved head of the family. She did not want gifts but suggested donations (if desired) to the British Heart Foundation, this raised £220 for the charity.

Helen received a 100th birthday card from the Queen on her actual birthday.



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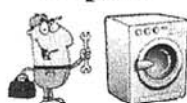
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Rockland St Mary - Margaret Mack Hall available evenings and weekends for private parties, meetings and social activities. Rates per hour or per day. Contact Debs Sayles, 01508 537077, after 4pm please, or email: deborah.sayles8@gmail.com.

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.

Thurton lights the way

Over the Christmas period a bright light was seen in the sky above and beyond the George & Dragon. It was not a shining star in the East, nor were there probably any shepherds nearby. It was in fact a simple cross using energy-efficient LED light bulbs. Far from directing wise men to Bethlehem, it was a symbol of reassurance that Thurton folks were not far from home.



The church mice who undertook the journey up the steep steps in the church tower wanted to show the comforting presence of our God to those undertaking hazardous journeys on the A146. After all Jesus is the Light of the World. Those leaving the bright city lights heading into a land of darkness only have a few street lights to show them the way. Sometimes we all need a helping hand and some direction in our lives. A little light can be useful too.

Chris Limbach

Thank you to everyone for your lovely cards, gifts and good wishes this Christmas. We were overwhelmed by your kindness. I hope you all enjoyed a peaceful Christmas and I wish you every blessing for 2022.

Revd Cate Turner



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	6th Feb 4th before Lent Green	13th Feb 3rd before Lent Green	20th Feb 2nd before Lent Green	27th Feb Sunday before Lent Green	2nd March Ash Wednesday Purple	6th March Lent 1 Purple	13th March Lent 2 Purple	20th March Lent 3 Purple	27th March Mothering Sunday Rose	3rd April Lent 5 Purple
Ashby			11.00 HC VM			11.00 MP		11.00 HC	09.30 HC	
Bergh Apton	09.30		09.30 PT	09.30 HC (BCP) VM		09.30 HC	10.00 Benefice HC	09.30 PT	09.30 MP	09.30 HC
Bramerton		11.00 FW							11.00 FW	
Carleton St Peter	11.00 MP					11.00 HC				
Claxton	09.30 HC		09.30 FW			09.30 MP		09.30 FW		
Framingham Pigot	08.15 HC/ (BCP)	10.00 Benefice HC	08.15 HC (BCP)	11.00 HC VM				08.15 HC (BCP)	11.00 HC	08.15 HC (BCP)
Kirby Bedon			11.00 HC					11.00 HC		
Rockland St Mary		09.30 HC		16.00 EP	11.00 HC with Ashing in the Barn		09.30 HC	10.30 - 12 Café Church in Parish Room	09.30 FW	
Surlingham		10.00 FW		10.00 HC			11.00 HC		10.00 FW	
Thurton		11.00 HC			10.00 HC with Ashing	11.00 HC VM			11.00 Mothering Sunday Service	11.00 HC
Yelverton	09.30 PT		09.30 HC VM	16.00 All 4		09.30 PT		09.30 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. A Short service of Holy Communion at St Mary’s Church, Yelverton on Thursday 3rd February (Chris) and Thursday 3rd March (Cate) at 10.30 am.

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: February and March 2022

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
06/02/22	Isaiah 6.1-8[9-13]	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	Luke 5.1-11	4th Sunday before Lent
13/02/22	Jeremiah 17.5-10	1 Corinthians 15.12-20	Luke 6.17-26	3rd Sunday before Lent
20/02/22	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25	Revelation 4	Luke 8:22-25	2nd Sunday before Lent
27/02/22	Exodus 34.29-35	2 Corinthians 3.12 - 4.2	Luke 9.28-36	Sunday next before Lent
			[37-43a]	
02/03/22	Joel 2.1-2,12-17	2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10	Matthew 6.1-6,16-21	Ash Wednesday
06/03/22	Deuteronomy 26.1-11	Romans 10.8b-13	Luke 4.1-13	1st Sunday of Lent
13/03/22	Genesis 15.1-12,17-18	Philippians 3.17 - 4.1	Luke 13.31-35	2nd Sunday of Lent
20/03/22	Isaiah 55.1-9	1 Corinthians 10.1-13	Luke 13.1-9	3rd Sunday of Lent
27/03/22	Exodus 2.1-10	2 Corinthians 1.3-7	Luke 2.33-35	Mothering Sunday
03/04/22	Isaiah 43.16-21	Philippians 3.4b-14	John 12.1-8	Passiontide begins



Surlingham Church

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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NEXT ASSEMBLY: SATURDAY MARCH 26th, BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL, COOKE'S ROAD, NR15 1AA, 9am - 11am (approx)				