

ELEVEN SAYS

FEBRUARY /
MARCH 2024
ISSUE 305

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP OF CHURCHES COVERING 11 PARISHES

A Reflection on Christmas Morning in 2018....

Although my brother and I lost our parents at a young age, through illness...why us?... we always thank God that we had a lovely Christian family upbringing in Rockland St Mary. I seemed to have had my faith for about 100 years! And I haven't felt a need to falter from that path as it has always seen me through especially at that time in our lives.

When I was younger it was a struggle sometimes to pray and not get what I wanted straight away - but I learned over the years that you have to have patience - God has masses of unconditional patience. I feel it's not about how hard you pray but the way in which you pray. Also, I have realised in later life that there is no need to struggle with faith - God is always there tapping you on the shoulder saying come on girl I'm here let's do it together - or, and I'm sure Sally won't mind my saying - I feel that Andrew Morris is occasionally wasping around St. Mary's still giving inspiration for the church and community. (Call me the bonkers Churchwarden of St Mary's, Yelverton!).

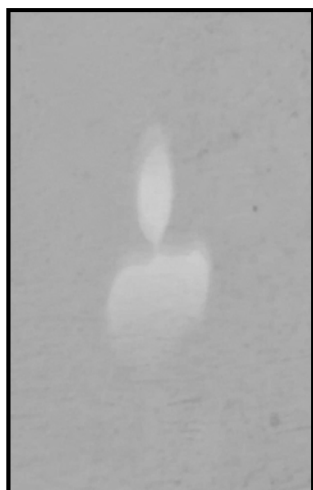
Well, listen to this.... It was Christmas day in 2018, St Mary's Yelverton had a Holy Communion service at 9.30 am with Revd. Chris Ellis leading. Nothing unusual there we say, and Diana Cockrell was the sides person assisting in setting up ready for the service. If you know Di you know she is a lovely lady, very unassuming, quiet and an excellent flower arranger and seamstress...amongst other things... ideal for our church and community... always willing to help. Sadly she has now retired.

It was about 9 am and Di, busying away, said in her quiet manner "Have you seen the candle?"

I said, "I haven't got any candles out yet" thinking what's she talking about?

"The candle on the wall" she said. "What candle on the wall?" was my comment.

"That candle" Di remarked, pointing to the wall behind and above the pulpit.



We both stood with our mouths open - in fact I had goose pimples, I couldn't account for how Di felt - but what was happening on this bright, crisp Christmas morning?

We tried to block it thinking it was a shadow of some kind from the sun beaming in but the image could not be blocked. I was hoping other parishioners would come soon to witness this unusually strange happening.

Sure enough Sally and Leo arrived to witness what we were seeing. They were also amazed - trying to blot it out from all angles but failing to do so.

After about half an hour the image of the lit candle began fading.

I quickly got my act together and managed to take a photo before it disappeared, as did others.

Revd. Chris arrived to just miss what we had witnessed.

We had never experienced anything like this before and not since.

What *had* we just experienced - I could only imagine and felt a sense of closeness of something unusual - on that Christmas morning in 2018?

You may like to make up your own minds.

In Holy Week last year I led a short compline service which included a passage from the bible of Jesus, knowing what was before him, testing his disciples on their own faith.

As I see it, my definition of Faith, is a belief in and devotion to God.

Liz Bloomfield

Group Lent Course: Lovingkindness

This year's Lent Course is three evenings focusing on God's lovingkindness, powerfully demonstrated in Christ's self-giving in Holy Week, and how it shapes our attitudes to the world around us.

We will share a simple meal at 7pm, followed by a speaker and discussion, ending with Night Prayer by 9pm.

The course runs on three evenings:

March 7th - in the Barn, Rockland St Mary

March 14th - in the Barn, Rockland St Mary

March 21st - in Bergh Apton Village Hall.

Please contact Helen or Nick on 01508 538014 for more details.

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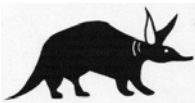
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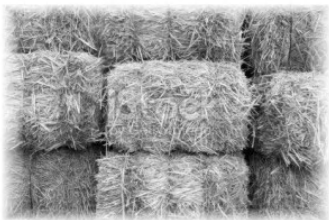
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Celtic Daily Prayer

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: **February 13th; February 27th, March 12th, March 26th, April 9th.**

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

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SUNDAY 18th February

Theme: "Who is My Neighbour?"

Drop in any time between 10.30 am-12 noon

Future date: 14th April "He is Risen "

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

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HALO

AGES 11 - 16 | 8.15 - 9.45PM

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Worship in Stillness

This is held at 9:30 am on Monday Mornings at Bloomfields, Nichols Corner, Alington.

Half an hour of praise, silence, meditation and prayer followed by tea and coffee for those wishing to stay.

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.

February 14th - Living History from Blickling (1937), speaker Liz Scott

March 13th - Wild Harvest, speaker Stephen Ferry

April 10th - Memorials and Florals in St Mary's Church, Yelverton, with speakers Mary Fewster and Liz Bloomfield

For more information please contact Pat Barter 493570.

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: Feb 7th, March 6th, April 10th
(every month, normally 1st Wednesday)

Any time between 12 noon and 2 pm

Any questions, please contact David Fairbourn on
01508 538437 or email
surlingham.midday.mardle@gmail.com

World Day of Prayer

(Interdenominational and International)



Friday 1st March

"I beg you, bear with one another in love"
Prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

World Day of Prayer is a world-wide movement led by Christian women of many traditions who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer each year. More than 120 countries participate in the annual day of celebration which brings together people of various races, cultures and traditions sharing together in God's word and worship.

Service at 7 pm St John's, George Lane, Loddon

Local service at Bergh Apton Village Hall at 2pm.

Children's corner. Refreshments served.

All welcome.

If you would like to advertise your business in Eleven Says, which is delivered to approximately 2,500 properties in the Bramerton Group of villages, the new advertising year begins with the next issue, April / May. Eleven Says is also posted on all the Bramerton Group village websites and can be viewed online which helps to increase circulation even more.

If interested, please send an email to elevensays22@gmail.com or call 01508 493958 for more information. Prices vary according to size.

Thank you! Thank you very much for all the kind donations received towards the cost of producing Eleven Says. So far we have received £1200.
It is not too late if you wish to help towards costs, details are outlined on the back page.
Any amount, large or small, will be very much appreciated.



Rockland St Mary Benefice Update

The word 'Lent' comes from an Anglo-Saxon word for Spring. Traditionally it's a time of prayer, reflection and serving God and our neighbour, as well as giving up chocolate for some! It's also important to reflect on how the season of Lent connects with the rebirth of nature in Spring, as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Jesus's resurrection at the end of March.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** (February 14th), when we gather in The Barn at 9.30am for **Holy Communion and Ashing**. In this service you are invited, if you wish, to receive the sign of the cross on your forehead in ash made from last year's Palm crosses. This is an ancient symbol of our human frailty and need for God's forgiveness.

We're also joining with our friends across the Group for this year's **Lent course**, which will take place in March (please see the article on Page 1 for more details). The course is entitled 'Lovingkindness'.

Looking ahead to Holy Week, on Easter Eve, the Group comes together again for the first Easter Service, the **Lighting of the New Fire and Communion** at 7.30pm in Rockland St. Mary Church.

We're supporting this year's Diocesan **Lent Appeal for Papua New Guinea** (please see article below for more details) through the Lent Course and donations at **Warm Welcome** during Lent.

The **Warm Welcome at the Barn** will be open every Monday between now and March 15th, from 11am to 4pm. There will be the usual warm welcome, good food and company and it's free! (donations welcome). May I thank our hardworking team of volunteers who make this possible, also SNDC and local trusts for their invaluable support.

What's on in Holy Week and Easter in Rockland Benefice, March 24th -31st.

❖ Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday (March 24th)**. The Group will begin its journey to the Cross together with 10am **Palm Sunday Communion** at Yelverton. For those who wish to, you can join the Palm Procession that walks from Alington School at 9.50am.

❖ For the following three evenings we will hold **Night Prayer online** at 8pm from the Barn. This short, simple but moving service will include a time of quiet reflection.

❖ On **Maundy Thursday (March 28th)** we recall the Last Supper at 10am Communion in Claxton Church.

❖ **Good Friday's Family Worship at Surlingham, (March 29th, 10am)** is an all-age opportunity to hear and respond to the story of Jesus' crucifixion. **Still with the Cross** in the Barn at 2pm recalls Jesus' last hour on the cross, through music, images, words and reflection.

❖ On **Holy Saturday (March 30th)** we mark the beginning of the Easter celebrations as a Group with the **Lighting of the New Fire and Communion** at Rockland St. Mary at 7.30pm. This candlelit service welcomes back the light of Christ, and in his light we have an opportunity to renew our baptism vows and make our Easter communion.

❖ On **Easter morning (March 31st)** don't forget to change your clocks! We welcome Easter dawn at the **Sunrise Service** on Rockland Staithe. **Time to be confirmed.**

❖ **Communion** will be celebrated at Claxton and Bramerton at 9.30am, 11am **Communion** at Kirby Bedon and 3.30pm **Easter Hymns and Readings** at Surlingham.

News from the Barn

In addition to Monday's **Warm Welcome**, **Art Cafe in the Barn** opens its doors on Wednesday February 21st and March 20th, 10.30am - 12.15pm, with fresh coffee, cake, good company, and opportunities to enjoy and make some art!

Art Cafe Online continues to bring together people across the region and artworks from all over the world and will meet on Zoom on **Thursday February 15th and Wednesday March 13th and 22nd**. Please contact Nick for your Zoom invitation.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal for Papua New Guinea

The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2024 will help to raise money to provide water tanks for Ordinand's Homes at Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea. There has been an active link between Norwich Diocese and the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea since military personnel from Norfolk served there during the Second World War.

Due to the mountainous nature of Papua New Guinea all but very local travel is made by air and the limitations and expense of travel mean that students must live on-campus with their families. Family life is centered around the wind-house which is the coolest way to spend the day but sleeping accommodation and toilet facilities are provided in small chalets.

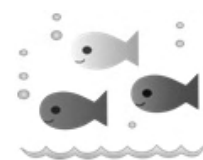
Most of the student houses at Newton College need refurbishment and nearly all need significant repair, but the primary need is to provide them with clean water from rainwater tanks and to reconnect toilets to septic tanks. The sinking of a new bore earlier this year will also supplement the surface water provision. It will cost around PGK 2,000 (around £400) to install a water tank between every two student houses and the 2024 Bishop's Lent Appeal aims to raise enough to provide twenty-five tanks between fifty student homes.

During Lent, donations at the Warm Welcome at the Barn will go towards this appeal, as will any proceeds from the Group Lent Course. For more information and to donate online, please visit the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/lent2024/>

Little Fish Toddler Group

Parents, Grandparents and Carers are invited to our Little Fish Toddler Group at 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. £1.50 covers 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: February 14th and 28th. We look forward to seeing you.





From the Registers

BAPTISMS

26/11/23 Jak Brody FAIRWEATHER Rockland St Mary

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

04/12/23	Rachael JECKELLS	Asby St Mary
10/12/23	Phyllis Gertrude GLADWELL (Interment of ashes)	Surlingham
11/12/23	Brenda NOCKOLDS	Thurton
18/12/23	Margaret Rose WILBY (86)	Bramerton
20/12/23	Christina PULFORD (interment of ashes)	Surlingham
20/12/23	Christopher Ronald WAKEFIELD (Interment of ashes)	Surlingham
10/01/24	Alan FARMAN	Yelverton
02/02/24	Jean SUTTON George HARVEY	Bergh Apton Bergh Apton



DAVID MATTHEWS

Easter Word Search

K	T	U	B	D	M	L	S	D	P	X	Q	P	S	U	R	Y	C	V	I
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Resurrection
Disciples
Crown of Thorns
Gethsemane
Jesus

Pontius Pilate
Tomb
Last Supper
Barabbas
Caiaphas

Joseph of Arimathea
Three Days
Crucifix
Judas
Hallelujah
Sacrifice

Walking through Good Friday in the Thurton Benefice 29th March 2024



We plan to make our annual Good Friday pilgrimage around the benefice on foot, weather permitting! We will stop at each of the churches on the way for a short time to focus on the events of the first Good Friday.

You are all invited to join us for as much or as little of the journey as you feel able. You may prefer to cover the ground by car and join up with the walkers at one or more of the churches.

Don't forget to bring your own refreshments for the journey.

The schedule is planned as follows:

- 09:30 at Ashby St Mary Church
- 10:30 at Thurton Church
- 11:30 at Bergh Apton Church
- 13:00 at Yelverton Church
- 14:30 at Framingham Pigot Church

Alternative wet-weather schedule for a pilgrimage by car:

- 11:15 at Ashby St Mary Church
- 12:00 at Thurton Church
- 13:00 at Bergh Apton Church
- 13:45 at Yelverton Church
- 14:30 at Framingham Pigot Church

If in doubt on the morning about which schedule will be used, please phone Chris or Rosalind Limbach on 01508 480440.

Easter Rising

The cross is on a green hill, and though it's far away, the symbol is clear for all to see, while the body of belief, is creviced in the darkness of a cave.

And after the noise, the crowds and quarrels are over, Joseph of Arimathea winds the linen sheet, grunts and sweats, as he heaves the stone into place.

The dark falls, dust settles, a cooling down, and there's a solitary stillness in the cave, a calmness. An ant resumes its task, walks up the linen winds, without wonder.

But who says at what moment, a knife-edge, between not-yet and the now, between sleeping and waking, sap rises in a tree, a seed casing cracks and quickens to life, or the lungs expand, fill with breath and fulfill divine destiny?

The stone rolls back and on, incessantly on, revealing – a mystery, a creed offered by Christ, of life, compassion, and love.

Brenda Smith,
Bramerton





PORINGLAND SINGERS

Come and Sing with the Poringland Singers!

We are a friendly four-part choir, looking for new members. We warmly encourage you to come along to a rehearsal, to see if you would like to join. The choir is mixed ability and we will not ask you to audition.

An ability to read music is an advantage, but not essential, as we have access to audio recordings and voice parts for all our pieces. We are currently working on a selection of short classical songs and a longer piece - Vivaldi's Gloria - to perform at our next concert in July.

The choir sings a variety of classical and modern pieces, under the direction of our Musical Director, Terry Cunnane. We work hard during rehearsals, but also have a lot of fun - come along and find out more! If you have any questions, please contact our Chairman, Trevor Beckford, by phone 07834 141199 or email familypeckle@hotmail.co.uk.

Alternatively, just turn up to one of our rehearsals which take place on Tuesdays from 7.15 - 9 pm at Poringland Catholic Church, Upgate, Poringland, NR14 7SH.

Loddon Flower Club

The members of Loddon Flower Club would like to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year



Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 6th February** when Gail Harland will be giving us a talk on Creating a Cottage Garden. Gail will be donating one of her books to raffle during the evening.

On **Tuesday 6th March** we have a demonstration by Moira Neville, entitled 'Let's Twist'.

Refreshments are available during intervals with a raffle at the end of the evening.

We have a workshop on **Tuesday 2nd April** when Brenda Tubb will be helping us with Leaf Manipulation.

Doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start for all meetings. Do have a look at our website:

www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk. It will give you an insight into some of the things we do throughout the year. We usually arrange an outing during the year, open to members and friends, more information to follow.

We are available to arrange family flowers in Churches or Venues, for more information contact Tricia (Chairman) on 01508 480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Jenny (Secretary) on 01508 520254 or jf53rf50@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Buena Vista Social Club at Poringland Community Centre

Friday February 2nd - Film Night

Friday March 1st - Film Night

Friday April 5th - Film Night

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
John on 01508 494358 or Carol on 01508 492630

Easter 2024



This year, Easter Sunday will be observed on **Sunday, March 31**. Easter is a "movable feast," so it doesn't happen on the same date from year to year. In the Gregorian calendar, it is always observed on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Over a 500-year period (from 1600 to 2099 AD), Easter will have most often been celebrated on either March 31 or April 16.

According to long-term averages, the most unusual Easter date is March 22. The second place goes to April 24, and the third place goes to March 23. However, Easter can be observed between April 4 and May 8 in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

How Is The Date of Easter Determined?

Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday after the **Paschal Full Moon**. What is the Paschal Full Moon? This is specifically the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or after the **March or spring equinox**.

While Christmas is fixed to a solar calendar (and near the winter solstice), Easter is based on the lunar cycles of the Jewish calendar. In the Christian religion, the Last Supper (the final meal Jesus shared with his apostles before his crucifixion) was a Passover feast. It's because Easter is based on a lunar month (which is 29.5 days) that the date of Easter can vary.

Note that the spring equinox date used by the Christian Church is always March 21 to simplify matters. In fact, the astronomical date of the equinox can shift by a day or so. In 2024, the astronomical date of the equinox is Tuesday, March 19. So, you'll often see this called the "ecclesiastical" equinox (i.e., the date used by the Church).

Easter is the holiest day in the Christian calendar. It observes the most central tenet of the Christian faith, that Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead. The resurrection represents the triumph of good over evil, sin, death, and the physical body.

Easter Sunday marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, and the last day of the Easter Triduum (starting from the evening of Maundy Thursday through Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday), as well as the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

Easter is a Christian holiday to celebrate Christ's resurrection and the reminder that death brings life.

Poringland Community Cinema at Poringland Community Centre

Friday 9th February - A HAUNTING IN VENICE (12A)
Drama / Whodunnit. Stars Kenneth Branagh, Michelle Yeoh

Friday 8th March - THE GREAT ESCAPER (12A)
Drama. Stars Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson

Friday 8th March - THE MIRACLE CLUB (12A)
Comedy / Drama. Stars Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates, Laura Linney

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

Alpington & Yelverton

St. Mary's Church, Yelverton
'Winter Wonderland' Flower Festival



From 28th to 31st December St. Mary's was transformed by flowers, candles, Christmas lights and a variety of figures and memory-jogging artefacts into the magical world of favourite films often shown over the Christmas period.

Visitors walked through the wardrobe door, designed by Liz Bloomfield and crafted by Charlie Farrow, into the world of Narnia, with the lamp-post, Aslan and the witch, and on through displays representing A Christmas Carol, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, The Snowman, Polar Express, Frozen, Beauty and the Beast, and a celebration of a hundred years of Disney favourites, with Mickey and Minnie, Bugs Bunny and Donald Duck, these favourites also designed by Liz and crafted by Charlie.

A winter wonderland scene with Father Christmas was over the door to the tower, and every window-sill and surface was decorated with flowers.



Of course, the Crib took a prominent place.

Visitors could then settle down to enjoy home-made refreshments, and watch the completion of a beautiful snowflake-themed quilt being made by Leo Smith, which was raffled at the end of the Festival.

The winner was Anne Robinson, and a second prize of a tin of biscuits was won by Lorie Lain-Rogers.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all our visitors, and an amazing £726 was raised, to be shared between EACH and St. Mary's Church.

We are most grateful to our team of flower-arrangers and bakers, Carolyn Munday, Carol Wooldridge, Jacquie Ratcliffe, Cynthia Whiting, Liz Bloomfield, Leo Smith and Mary Fewster, and especially to Liz Bloomfield who had the original vision and masterminded this successful event.



Commemoration of D-Day

The 6th June 2024 is the 80th anniversary of the D Day Normandy landings which led to the ending of the Second World War the following year.

Communities around the UK will be taking part in the commemoration of this event and Alpington with Yelverton Parish Council are planning to mark this momentous occasion on **Thursday 6th June 2024**. Look out for details of this in the next edition of Eleven Says."

Alpington & Yelverton History Society

alpingtonandyelvertonhistorysociety.wordpress.com

TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2024

7.30 pm in Alpington & Yelverton
Village Hall, Church Road,
Alpington, NR14 7NU

We have a brief AGM followed by a
QUIZ and Bring to Share Buffet.

More details are on the website

Members free. Guests £4

Bergh Apton

Bergh Apton & District Society wish everyone a Happy and Healthy 2024 and invite you to join us at any of our meetings held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. £5 per person. Raffle. All welcome

Bergh Apton Arts - 2024

**Unlock, Unearth with Hugh Lupton
in Bergh Apton Church
28th - 29th January and
3rd - 4th February at 7.30 pm**

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The land of the real can also be the land of the unreal, the world that is, the world that was, the world that might be, come and find out.

Tickets : £10

Please call 01508 558440 or visit
www.berghapton.org.uk/home/arts

Village News

Bramerton

The Bramrocks presents:

Mystic Myrtle

Written by Richard Adams



A Murder Mystery evening

7:30pm on 15th & 16th March at The Margaret Mack Room, Rockland St. Mary, NR14 7EU.

£12 per person, includes a light supper and a soft drink. Bring your own bottle, glasses and condiments.

Tickets from Rockland St. Mary shop or email bramrocks.tickets@gmail.com

Defibrillator in Bramerton



Bramerton has a new defibrillator. Situated on the wall of the Christadelphian Hall on The Street, it has been jointly funded by the Parish Council and the Bramerton Helping Hand charity. The cabinet needs an electrical supply to maintain a minimum operating temperature and this was kindly paid for by the Christadelphian community.

The defibrillator is registered with The Circuit, the East Anglian Ambulance Service network. So anyone needing to use it in an emergency has to ring 999 and will be given the cabinet location and the lock code. Once opened, the equipment is fully automated and audio instructions guide the user through the process.

It is also planned to give local residents the opportunity to join a training session at the Hall. This is being run by the East Anglian Air Ambulance without charge but donations will be welcome. It is hoped the training will take place in March with details to follow.

Carleton St Peter

Carleton St Peter enjoyed a wonderful Carol concert this year which was very well attended. Mince pies and sausage rolls were served afterwards.

The essence of Carleton St Peter as a community was present at the service and it was also captured by the marvellous decorations which made it feel magical. Thank you to all of you who decorated and baked.

We now look forward to the forthcoming year and thank you once again for your support in 2023.

A future date for the diary is the 2024 Flower Festival which will be on the 3rd and 4th of August.

Claxton

Claxton Village Hall - The hall was busy during the approach to Christmas. A well-attended wreath making session raised vital funds for the Village Playground Committee as did the Ceilidh, which was a fun family event.

The December Community Café was particularly busy (see below). The ever popular Village Quiz had villagers searching their brains for answers to unexpected questions with various degrees of success. It would be interesting to calculate how many meals have been produced from the Village Hall kitchen and how many hundreds of plates have been washed and dried during December alone. We are fortunate to have such a well-resourced venue in our community.

Thank you to John Heathcote who provided the magnificent tree for outside the hall. Impressively it survived most of the ferocious winds thanks to the skill of Adrian and Rosie who put it up.

The hall continues to be a popular venue for village events and family parties. We have two vacancies for trustees so if you would like to find out more about supporting this valuable community facility please contact Adrian Gidlow 01508 480173.

Claxton Community Café - Our extended Christmas Community Café was very well attended. The homemade soups proved very popular and we sold a record number of bacon rolls. It was good to see almost all of our baked goods sold out. Craft stalls once again proved very popular and a raffle made £70 for St. Andrew's Church.

The Café is a 'not for profit organisation', usually making a small amount above costs each month which is used to cover replacing/maintaining equipment etc. With extra customers expected we offered to donate any profits to the Playground Committee and were delighted to be able to give them £100.

Please join us for fresh tea, coffee, bacon rolls and so much more on the **first Wednesday** of the month from **10:00 am..**

St Andrew's Church Claxton - With Covid and other bugs affecting many in the village we were delighted to see our **Christmas Wassail** so well attended by people of all ages. There was a warm and happy atmosphere as we all heard the familiar Christmas story retold, both in traditional readings and in less formal formats. Who knew the Christmas Story could be so closely related to chocolate bars? The Christmas readings were interspersed with songs, led by Paul on his saxophone, and accompanied by mulled wine and festive treats. Thank you to John Heathcote for providing the beautiful Christmas tree for the church.

As usual we were able to donate this Christmas giving £100 to St Martin's Housing Trust.

We are planning an **Open Garden Event for Saturday 22nd June** - Visitors will have the opportunity to see and explore local gardens while enjoying a range of refreshments. Look out for details closer to the event.

Village News

Rockland St Mary

Rockland Christmas Tree Festival

Our Christmas Tree Festival was very successful and enjoyed by many with around 20 trees on display. These photos show just two of the wonderful trees on display.



We raised £502.93 for the Church and £147.40 from the sale of our crafts for EACH. Many thanks to all the creative people who decorated a tree. Lots of thought and a great deal of effort went into the theme of the trees.



Finally thank you to all who supported our festival by helping, baking cakes, making crafts or by attending. Best wishes to you all in 2024.

Jayne Regan

RSM Christmas Thank you

Mrs Claus and her little helpers would like to thank you all for helping to raise £1,819.23 throughout 2023 from coffee mornings and the Christmas tree festival. Funds have been distributed to MacMillan Support, Blood Cancer UK, EACH, St Mary's Church Rockland, and Priscilla Bacon Hospice.

We wish you all a Happy New Year.

Rockland St Mary & District Garden Club

The Garden Club normally meets in the Rockland Parish Room on the fourth Thursday of the month. In the winter we have speakers whilst in the summer we have garden visits which begin in May. New members are always welcome.



Thursday 22nd February - *Companion Planting For A Balanced Garden*, speaker Dr Ian Bedford

Thursday March 28th - *The Story of John Innes*, speaker Claire Domoney

Thursday April 25th - *Allotment and Vegetable Growing*, speaker Martin Davey

Thursday 23rd May our garden visits begin! We have a guided tour of *Ashwellthorpe Wood* with Dr Anne Edwards. This follows the excellent talk she gave us during 2023.

If you wish for further details or would like to join the Garden Club please contact Ruth Everett, 01508 538231 or email everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk

Rockland St. Mary & District W.I.

Our photo shows members and friends involved in the production of a Medieval Mummings Play, put on for our entertainment at the W.I. Christmas Party.

Special thanks to Sandra (who produced the play) and enthusiastic cast members Jackie, Angela, Lorraine, Ruth and Elizabeth.



Our Annual Meeting will be held in February, when we look back on 2023 and elect our new Committee.

In March we have an "Open Meeting" when friends are invited to a talk entitled "Cheesy Chat" which will include tasting a variety of cheeses. This is a special evening so do come along if you can.

Meetings are always held 7.30pm at the Margaret Mack Hall on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Sandra 538100 or Ruth 538231 for more details, if you would like a lift, or you would like someone to bring you along for the first time to meet new friends.

PANCAKE DAY!

Tuesday 13th February 2024.



12.30pm- 2pm

at The Parish Room, The Street, Rockland.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a pancake!
Donations to RSM Church and the Big C Appeal.



Village News

Surlingham

Surlingham Church News

The melody of hand bells played by expert hands rang out in the church on 9th December. This to raise funds to restore our set of 15 bells purchased in 1899. I believe there are more hand bells held within the Group so maybe in time we can raise teams of players, the sound is magical. (Clive made a short video).

Christmas services were held with joyful singing of carols and reflective thought on the troubles in the World. The Church was decorated with the 'Wonder of Stars' many made by the school children and some stars by adults, all put together by Alexandra Evans, a galaxy of stars. The School held their Christmas Celebration with Christingles. It was lovely having so many taking part in the Christmas services

Maybe you have heard or seen the 'Last Word' about Nancy Pearce OBE who, with her husband Derek, lived for some years in the village and who founded a help line for those with anorexia and their families at a time when there was very little insight into eating disorders. The charity formed is now a part of Beat. I only knew her as a very warm and gifted person.

The village has been battered by high winds, heavy rain and flooding, even into our riverside pubs, let us hope that the worst is now past.

We look forward to a creative 2024!

Pippa



Sue and Mark Welland performing at the open day and workshop held on 9th December to make stars for the Christmas display and to raise funds for the renovation of the hand bells.



Hannah Bury and Harry Stiff lighting the candles in the Advent Wreath on Christmas Day with Clive Evans looking on. Clive lead the service.



The Stars of Wonder display at St Mary's Church.



It was a packed church for the Carol Service and it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there. This photo shows the congregation waving their stars during the service.

Thurton

Speed Awareness Petition - A146

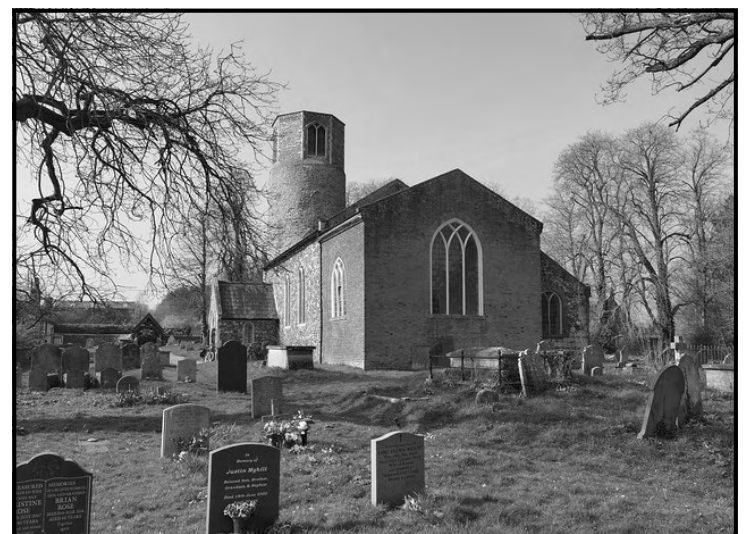
Thurton Parish Council is joining forces with Ashby St. Mary, Bergh Apton and Alington with Yelverton Parish Councils to lobby Norfolk County Council to make the A146 between Thurton village and Hellington Corner safer for both motorists and pedestrians.

Our main areas of concern are:

- (1) Pedestrians crossing the A146 at Hellington Corner and Prospect Place Bus Stops
- (2) The inadequate safety for pedestrians crossing at the Thurton pedestrian refuge
- (3) The high 60 and 50 mph speed limits along this stretch of the A146
- (4) The high number of motorists caught speeding through Thurton Village. Between 1st January 2019 and 31st July 2023 the speed camera caught over 2400 motorists, the highest speed being 98 mph in the 40 mph limit!
- (5) Unsafe road diversions through the 5 villages when the A146 is closed because of an accident or burst water main

The four Parish Councils have to prove they have local support to have any success in lobbying for change. We will be creating a petition that will be online for villagers to sign in January/February on the Norfolk County Council website: (NCC Home>ePetitions)

Please look out for more information on the village websites and notice boards - your support could help prevent a serious accident!



St Mary's Church, Surlingham

Village News

Thurton continued . . .

St. Ethelbert's Church, Thurton - Floor Repairs

Although previous minor repairs had been done over recent years in the summer several 'spongy' parts were noticed adjacent to the south wall of the chancel. When the carpet was rolled back the extent of the rot was revealed.

In August the Diocesan Architect, Matthew Thomas, was invited to inspect and advise. He suggested a damp treatment specialist for the work. Rentokil was contacted and a full exposure of the damage by rot and wood worm was subsequently given in a detailed report together with a quotation for the remedial work. This report was presented to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) who have the remit to approve church works. It was also presented to The Friends of Thurton Church who agreed to fund the work.

However The Friends were scheduled to hold a Flower Festival in September so temporary flooring cover was laid over the damaged areas and the carpet replaced. This was important as the Flower Festival is part of The Friends fund raising which meets the cost of maintaining the church.

In November the repairs were completed, after DAC approval, which involved replacement of a large part of the flooring and supporting joists, insertion of a damp-proof membrane, and the cutting of ventilation apertures in the new floorboards, as recommended by the Architect. The whole church floor was sprayed with fungicide and woodworm treatment which prevents future decay for up to 30 years.

On completion of this work Beccles Carpets refitted the carpet and a volunteer cleaning party restored the church to its former glory.

I am very grateful to all those who helped me in this endeavour, especially Rosalind and Chris Limbach and most importantly The Friends of Thurton Church who funded the £12,000 cost.

Please therefore support The Friends events as without them St. Ethelbert's church, which has stood for some 900 years, would be lost.

Neville Whiting, Church Warden

We have just been awarded grants of £2,000 from the Paul Bassham Charitable Trust and a further £2,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation towards the costs and we are extremely grateful to these charitable bodies for their generosity.



New floor timbers in St Ethelbert's Church, Thurton



Church wardens Neville Whiting and Rosalind Limbach putting the final touches to the floor before the furniture was put back.

Thurton Primary School

We know that our children being active and happy whilst outdoors plays a vital role in sustaining their physical health and mental wellbeing. We are very lucky to already have an all-weather multi-sports pitch, however its current size does restrict the number of pupils allowed to use it at playtimes / lunchtimes and for after-school clubs. With your kind generosity, we are hoping to raise much needed funds to increase our current S.M.U.G.A (Sports Multi-Use Games Area) enabling more children to have access and to further support the teaching of PE all year round.

In addition to this project, we wish to develop our small wildlife / forest school area. This mini-project is important to our school community as we have discussed the environmental impact that enlarging our artificial grass area would have and how we could offset this. Our plan is to enlarge our wildlife area in order to make it more wildlife friendly and increase habitats which will enable nature to thrive.

Sadly, budgetary constraints mean that an ambitious project of this nature cannot be completed with the funds available to the school, so we are coming together as a community to raise the money required to enhance our S.M.U.G.A ! If you are able to help, our fundraising page is: <https://gofund.me/f4b6702c>

Thank you from everyone at Thurton Primary School!

✠ What would you say? ✠
 ✠ If you were asked what Jesus meant to you, what ✠
 ✠ would you say? I was recently asked this question ✠
 ✠ and here's my answer ... ✠
 ✠ He brings me hope when all seems hopeless ✠
 ✠ in the world; ✠
 ✠ He brings me peace in the midst of a crisis; ✠
 ✠ He helps me love those who appear ✠
 ✠ unlovable; ✠
 ✠ He brings me joy in times of testing; ✠
 ✠ He brings me comfort at times of sadness ✠
 ✠ and loss; ✠
 ✠ He gives me faith in times of uncertainty; ✠
 ✠ He brings me stillness in the storms of life; ✠
 ✠ He shines His light into the dark times of ✠
 ✠ my life; ✠
 ✠ He gives me strength when I am tired ✠
 ✠ and weary. ✠
 ✠ Anne Molyneux ✠



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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.

For bookings, email 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.

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.

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. Website: 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.

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.

The Fieldfare

This large and colourful thrush is a winter visitor to the UK from its breeding grounds in northern Europe, with up to one million birds migrating here each year.

Fieldfares are relatively easy to identify with their grey head, dark chestnut back and a speckled breast. Their bill is similar to that of the Blackbird apart from the tip which is black. They can usually be seen in gardens and orchards when there's snow on the ground. They feed on berries and any remaining fallen apples, or any new ones put out especially which they'll readily eat.



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	4th Feb 2nd Before Lent Green	11th Feb Sunday before Lent Green	14th Feb Ash Wednesday Purple	18th Feb Lent 1 Purple	25th Feb Lent 2 Purple	3rd Mar Lent 3 Purple	10th Mar Mothering Sunday Rose	17th Mar Lent 5 Purple	24th Mar Palm Sunday Red	28th March Maundy Thursday White	29th March GOOD FRIDAY	30th March Easter Eve	31st Mar Easter Day White or Gold	7th April Easter 2 White
Ashby St Mary	11.00 HC S H-H			11.00 PT		11.00 MP B B		10.00 BENEFIGE HC BISHOP OF THETFORD	GROUP at Yelverton			GROUP at RSM		11.00 HC R C
Bergh Apton	09.30 PT			09.30 PT	09.30 HC BCP R C		09.30 PT		GROUP at Yelverton			GROUP at RSM	10.00 HC S HH	09.30 PT
Bramerton		09.30 HC					15.00 FW		GROUP at Yelverton			GROUP at RSM	09.30 HC	
Carleton St Peter	11.00 MP					11.00 MP			GROUP at Yelverton			GROUP at t RSM		11.00 HC
Claxton	09.30 HC			09.30 FW		09.30 HC		09.30 FW	GROUP at Yelverton	10.00 HC		GROUP at RSM	09.30 HC	09.30 MW
Framingham Pigot		10.00 BENEFIGE HC R C					09.30 PT		GROUP at Yelverton	19.00 Mass of the Last Supper K B		GROUP at RSM	10.00 HC K B	
Kirby Bedon				11.00 HC				11.00 HC	GROUP at Yelverton			GROUP at RSM	11.00 HC	
Rockland St Mary		09.30 HC 16.00 Still at the Barn	09.30 HC & Ashing in the Barn	10.30-12 Café Church in Parish Room			09.30 HC		GROUP at Yelverton		14.00 Barn Still with the Cross	7.30pm GROUP Lighting of the New Fire & HC	Sunrise Service at Rockland Staithe? TBC	
Surlingham		11.00 HC				11.00 MW		11.00 FW	9.30am HC	GROUP at Yelverton	10am FW	GROUP at RSM	3.30pm Easter Hymns & Readings	
Thurton			19.00 HC with Ashing S HH	11.00 PT		11.00 HC S HH	11.00 PT		GROUP at Yelverton			GROUP at RSM	11.00 PT	
Yelverton	09.30 PT			09.30 HC S HH	16.00 All 4		09.30 PT		10.00 GROUP HC N / H G			GROUP at RSM		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 WEEK: Monday 25th - 27th March - 8pm PRAYER on ZOOM (Details from Rev Nick or Rev Helen Garrard, 538014)

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: February and March 2024

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
04/02/24	Proverbs 8.1,22-31	Colossians 1.15-20	John 1.1-14	2nd Sunday before Lent
11/02/24	2 Kings 2.1-12	2 Corinthians 4.3-6	Mark 9.2-9	Sunday next before Lent
14/02/24	Joel 2.1-2,12-17	2 Corinthians 5.20- 6.10	Matthew 6.1-6,16-21	Ash Wednesday
18/02/24	Genesis 9.8-17	1 Peter 3.18-22	Mark 1.9-15	1st Sunday of Lent
25/02/24	Genesis 17.1-7,15,16	Romans 4.13-25	Mark 8.31-38	2nd Sunday of Lent
03/03/24	Exodus 20.1-17	1 Corinthians 1.18-25	John 2.13-22	3rd Sunday of Lent
10/03/24	Exodus 2.1-10	2 Corinthians 1.3-7	Luke 2.33-35	Mothering Sunday
17/03/24	Jeremiah 31.31-34	Hebrews 5.5-10	John 12.20-33	Passiontide begins
24/03/24	Psalms 118.1-2,19-24 OR Mark 11.1-11		Mark 11.1-11 OR Mark 14.1-15.39	Palm Sunday
31/03/24	Acts 10.34-43	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	John 20.1-18	Easter Day
07/04/24	Acts 4.32-35	1 John 1.1 - 2.2	John 20.19-31	2nd Sunday of Easter

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			
Thurton Benefice Revd Chris Ellis The Rectory 29 Ashby Road THURTON NR14 6AX Tel: 01508 484174 (Answerphone) Email: rector.thurtonbenefice@btinternet.com Explorers and HALOS is held at Thurton Village Hall every other Friday evening. For more information please contact Gary WATSON Youth Worker Norwich Youth for Christ Tel: 01603 620678 or Email: gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk		Rockland Benefice Revd Canon Nick Garrard The Rectory Rockland St Mary NORWICH NR14 7EY Tel: 01508 538014 Email: nickgarr39@aol.com Revd. Helen Garrard The Rectory Rockland St Mary NORWICH NR14 7EY Tel: 01508 538014 Email: broadsidecurate@aol.com Revd Mandy Ansell 44 The Street,, Rockland St Mary NR14 7AH. Tel: 01508 538654 Email: mandy.ansell44@gmail.com		Parish Priest Fr Andrew Eburne, The Presbytery, 17 Ugate, Poringland. NR14 7SH. Tel: 01508 494770. Email: frandreweburne@gmail.com Times of Masses Saturday 6 pm Sunday 9 am Tues 6 pm Wed -Saturday 10 am Staff days off. Monday Chris Ellis Thursday Mandy Ansell Friday Nick and Helen Garrard		Liz Bloomfield: Editor, Treasurer, Adverts The Bloomfields, Nichols Corner, Church Meadow Lane, Alington, NR14 7NF Tel: 01508 493958 Angie Yeomans: Adverts, Contributions, Page Layout and Design 15 Bramerton Lodge, Bramerton, Norwich. NR14 7EQ. Tel: 01508 538131 (Answerphone) Kind donations may be sent to one of the above addresses by cheques payable to Eleven Says, or by BACS payment to Eleven Says 20-92-08 a/c 90137065. Contributions are very welcome subject to the Board's discretion and available space. Deadline for all material ("copy") for the next issue is 5th MARCH 2024. Email: elevensays22@gmail.com Produced by: Angie Yeomans Printed by: Roberts & Son Printers. 2-6 Bridge Street, Loddon, NORWICH. NR14 6EZ Tel: 01508 520221	

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