



# ELEVEN SAYS

FEBRUARY /  
MARCH 2025  
ISSUE 311

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP OF CHURCHES COVERING 11 PARISHES

## The Walk of Kindness

What do you do when you are the CEO of a charity based in an old convent and want to raise a lot of money to preserve a beautiful building falling into disrepair of which you are the custodian. Turn some of the disused Nun's cells into Bed and Breakfast accommodation? And isn't there a long-distance path that runs straight past. Could we encourage walkers and pilgrims travelling the Via Beata to come and stay? Cecile Roberts, who leads Emmaus Norfolk and Waveney at All Hallows, Ditchingham, was faced with these questions.

She was pondering a fresh way of increasing income and raising awareness of homelessness. One that would provide training to help Companions - residents who have all experienced homelessness - find work when they moved on. A sponsored walk? The obvious choice would be the Via Beata. Would it catch the imagination of the public?

The Via Beata is a new pilgrimage path of some 450 miles that runs from St David's Head in Pembrokeshire to the south pier in Lowestoft. It was created by Steve Eggleton who felt inspired by God to design and make waystations illustrating a sentence or story from the bible and plant them every ten miles. Steve is based in Banham and is an author, artist, teacher and sculptor. Together with his team and working since 2010, some thirty waystations are in place with another five under discussion.

One of these waystations is situated at EmmausNW and illustrates the story in Luke, chapter 24, when the resurrected Jesus walks alongside two disciples who are returning to Emmaus, a village near Jerusalem. The long-distance trail linking the waystations was completed in 2023. Walking from the far west of Wales to the far east of England was the perfect challenge! It was to be called 'The Walk of Kindness.'

Planning began in January 2024. I had been part of the team planning the route for 12 years so I volunteered to help plot it onto OS online maps and find accommodation. I had long wanted to walk the route west to east and so joined the team that was recruited, Cecile Roberts, Mick Jagger, Chloe Ward, Peter Rope, Carleton Clisby.

Practice walks were instigated to build up physical capacity. Promotional films were made by Mike Liggins (retired BBC Look East presenter and film maker). Then on 24th August, after a blessing and some words of wisdom from Revd James Shelton, "That however hard the day, always find something to be thankful for at the end", we set off for Wales.

On Sunday 25th August we were given a pilgrimage tour of St David's Cathedral followed by a blessing from Canon Sheridan and given scallop shells to wear as a sign of making a pilgrimage.

The next morning we climbed up to St David's Head and after some filming with Mike Liggins the Walk began with the ten mile stretch to Solva. Thereafter we walked between 10 and 14 miles a day with a day's rest every ten days.

The walk along the coastal path in Pembrokeshire had some of the most spectacular views - wild, rocky, lots of sea birds and seals, gorse and heather in flower. We all loved the Welsh section the best. It was the toughest physically but wide views over the landscape made the climbs worth it.

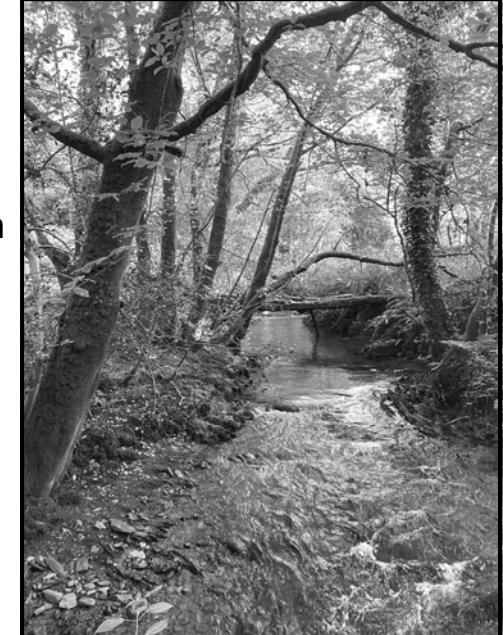
Thereafter a constant changing scene of walking along towpaths, bridle paths and long-distance trails meant seeing the whole country one county at a time with changing vistas and encountering different people as we walked. All were interested in the reason for our walk and many contributed.

The Walk of Kindness lived up to its name, and it is the many acts of kindness we received on the way that will live long in the memory. Sometimes we were meeting our hosts for the first time, others were Via Beata friends and supporters. Often, we enjoyed meals with our hosts. Some did our washing as well, and many waived the costs of our stay.

On the final day we were joined by the Bishop of Norwich, and, to the sounds of a Samba band, arrived back at Emmaus on 10th October where we were welcomed by all the Companions, lots of family and friends and greeted by Terry Waite (patron of Emmaus UK) and the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Pippa Dannatt.

The week before we received an invitation from Queen Camilla to the Carol Service at Westminster Abbey on 6th December. This was televised and shown on ITV on Christmas Eve. What a privilege to enter in via the great west door and to worship with 1,600 other community volunteers. A great way to end a great adventure.

Lorie Lain-Rogers





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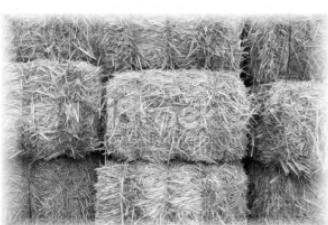
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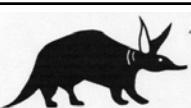
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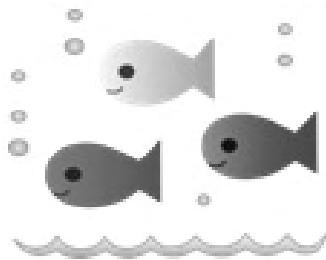
 

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Would you like to advertise your business in **Eleven Says**? It's delivered to approximately 2,500 properties in the Bramerton Group of villages. It's also posted on all the village websites so can be viewed online which helps to increase circulation even more. If interested, please send an email to [elevensays22@gmail.com](mailto:elevensays22@gmail.com) or call Liz on 01508 493958 or Angie on 01508 538131 for more information.

## The Little Fish Toddler Group

Parents, Grandparents and Carers are invited to join the Little Fish Toddler Group at Ashby St. Mary & Thurton Village Hall from 10.30 am - 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 you to join us!

We are kindly sponsored by the Bramerton Group of Churches.

## Wednesday Fellowship

This is a meeting for all people in the Bramerton Group and beyond! Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month 2 - 4 pm at Alpington and Yelverton Village Hall. We have Christian and secular speakers followed by tea / coffee, cake and fellowship. All welcome.

**February 12th**

"The Gilbert and Sullivan Era" with Speaker Jim Stebbings.

**March 12th**

"How we enjoy active retirement" with Speaker Jan Motley

**April 9th**

EACH with Speaker Megan Kemp

For more information please contact Pat Barter on 01508 493570.



Gentlemen enjoying the Christmas Mid Day Mardle at the Ferry House, Surlingham

## Celtic Daily Prayer

This is the lovely view seen 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 10 am for approx half an hour on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings of the month.



Future dates:

**11th February, 25th February,  
11th March, 9th April**

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

**Revd. Mandy Ansell, 01508 538654**

*Email: [mandy.ansell44@gmail.com](mailto:mandy.ansell44@gmail.com)*

## Worship in Stillness

This is held at 9:30 am on Monday Mornings and has returned to Cherry House, Wheel Road, Alpington.

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

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

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**SUNDAY 9th FEBRUARY**

**Theme: "LOVE ACTUALLY"**

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

**Future date: tbc**

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

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

## 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 5th, March 5th, April 2nd**

(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](mailto:surlingham.midday.mardle@gmail.com)



## Rockland St Mary Benefice Update

### What's on in Rockland Benefice in February and March

By the end of February daylight stretches to teatime, and we can begin to look forward to Spring, or 'Lent' as our Anglo-Saxon forebears called it. Easter is late this year, falling on April 20th (we won't see a later one until 2030). As a consequence, the 40 days of Lent don't begin until March 5th, when we gather in The Barn for Ash

**Wednesday Holy Communion and Ashing.** You are warmly invited, if you wish, to receive the sign of the cross on your forehead in ash made from last year's Palm crosses, an ancient symbol of our human frailty and need for God's forgiveness.

### Mothering Sunday Fun Day March 30th, 10.30 - 12 noon.

An all-age family friendly event, including refreshments and crafts in The Barn following a short celebration in Rockland St. Mary Church. [Further details to follow.](#)

We're also joining with our friends across the Group for this year's **Lent course**, which will take the form of a simple soup, bread and cheese meal followed by a talk and discussion.

The Lent Course takes place at 6.30 pm on :

March 13th (The Barn),

March 27th (Bergh Apton Village Hall)

April 10th (The Barn).

**News from the Barn:** Still at The Barn returns with its mix of contemplation, worship, crafts and refreshments on **February 2nd** with **Still at The Temple**, celebrating Candlemas between 4 pm and 5 pm, and **Still before the Light**, drawing on the **Out of Darkness, Light**, showing from 4 pm - 5.30 pm.

**Warm Welcome at the Barn** will be open every Monday between now and March 24th, from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm. There will be the usual welcome in a warm Barn, good food and company and all free! May I thank our hardworking team of volunteers who make this possible. We're supporting this year's Diocesan Lent Appeal for YANA (please see article below for more details) through donations at Warm Welcome during Lent.

**Out of Darkness, Light:** a Showing at The Barn. **Between March 8th and 22nd**, a range of art works and texts are on display between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, admission free. They will also form a backdrop to our usual activities. Please look out for details about associated events, contemplative prayer, and workshops on the Barn Door

FaceBook page and our web page: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7440/>

**Art Cafe in the Barn** opens its doors on **Wednesday February 12th and March 12th, 10.30 am - 12.15 pm**, with fresh coffee, refreshments, friendly chat, and opportunities to enjoy and make some art!

**Art Cafe Online** brings together people across East Anglia and artworks from all over the world. We will meet on Zoom on **Wednesday February 28th and Wednesday March 19th at 10.30am**. Please contact Nick for your Zoom invitation.

Revd Nick Garrard



## Thurton Benefice Update

Melanie and I would like to say a very big thank you for all the cards, gifts and good wishes we received for Christmas and the New Year. We are also very grateful for all the hard work which went into decorating the churches and organising/preparing for services. It is much appreciated by us and, I am sure, by all who attended our range of services over the Christmas season.

**The Annual Meeting of Parishioners** (formerly known as the Vestry Meeting) will be held in each parish during February for the purpose of electing the churchwardens. I am constantly in awe of our churchwardens for the time and energy they give to serving the churches in our parishes and I would like to take this early opportunity to thank them for all that they do on behalf of the congregations of our churches.

The Annual Meetings will be held immediately prior to the Service of Holy Communion on the following dates:

**Ashby:** Sunday 2nd February at 4 pm

**Bergh Apton:** Sunday 23rd February at 9.30 am

**Framingham Pigot:** Sunday 2nd February at 9.30 am

**Thurton:** Sunday 16th February at 4 pm

**Yelverton:** Sunday 16th February at 9.30 am

**Safeguarding:** The churches of the Thurton Benefice are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our Church community. If you have a safeguarding concern please contact our Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Leo Smith, 01508 493695 or myself on 01508 484174. Where a child or adult is at imminent risk, call 999.

**Home visits and Home Communions:** I am 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 home. Please do contact me if you, or anyone you know, would like a visit. I am particularly keen to hear if a parishioner has been admitted to hospital; I would rather be told several times than not at all!

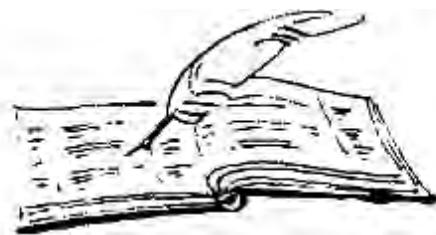
Revd Chris Ellis: 01508 484174

### Remembrance Day at Thurton Church

Remembrance Day was observed at St Ethelbert's Church, Thurton on 10th November as it was at all of our local churches. We may have lacked the scale of the Cenotaph in London, but there was a true sense of gratitude for what our forces had done on countless occasions in the past and continue to do today. "We will remember them". This ode comes from a poem called "For the Fallen" by the English poet Laurence Binyon and was published in 1914.

Chris Limbach





## From the Registers

### BAPTISMS

17/11/24 Albert BORGHINO

Framingham Pigot

### MARRIAGES

31/12/24 James EDMUNDS and Ria INGRAM

Bergh Apton

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

28/11/24 David (Roy) STACKWOOD (Interment of Ashes)

Surlingham

08/11/24 Joan (Sally) COLLINS (93)

Rockland St Mary

05/12/24 Sandra Barbara HUNT (Interment of Ashes)

Bramerton

05/12/24 Colin David Stanley HUNT (Interment of Ashes)

Bramerton

11/12/24 Celia Elizabeth COLES (82)

Yelverton

09/12/24 Freda BRADSHAW (95)

Surlingham

12/12/24 Terence KITT (87)

Ashby St Mary

18/12/24 David William Robert SAVORY (81)

Yelverton

27/12/24 Neil SMITH (89) (Interment of Ashes)

Bergh Apton

### A Happy Occasion at Framingham Pigot Church

On the 17th November I had the great joy and privilege of conducting the baptism of our first grandchild, Albert, at St Andrew's Church.

Melanie and I were delighted to welcome family and friends, many of whom were present when our daughter, Katrina, and her husband Julien, were married at the church in 2021.

Albert appeared to enjoy himself as much as the guests and our thanks to Frankie, Patricia and Stacy for preparing the church and to Lynton Johnson and his team for the buffet we enjoyed at Bergh Apton Village Hall afterwards.



Fr Chris. Ellis

**The Bishop's Lent Appeal for YANA** - The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2025 aims to raise money for YANA to help fund its telephone helpline. YANA means 'You Are Not Alone', and the charity provides mental health support for those involved in agriculture and other rural businesses affected by stress and depression. YANA's mission is to improve mental health in agriculture and rural businesses in East Anglia.

Working in agriculture and the countryside is usually a good way of life but it can be a demanding and stressful occupation. Therefore, it's not surprising that many people involved can feel isolated, depressed or unable to cope as well as normal. That's where YANA can help.

As well as a confidential helpline, YANA is also investing in mental health training and suicide prevention. In 2023 YANA had a 20% increase in the requests for help made to the helpline. The telephone helpline 0300 323 0400 is available for confidential support every Monday to Friday between 10 am to 1 pm. Outside of these hours, people can leave a message and receive a call back. Or can email [helpline@yanahelp.org](mailto:helpline@yanahelp.org)

Money raised from the Bishop's Lent Appeal 2025 will go towards funding YANA's telephone helpline, offering confidential support to those in need. Find out more [www.yanahelp.org](http://www.yanahelp.org)

During Lent, donations at Warm Welcome at the Barn will go towards this appeal. For information or to donate online, please visit the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/news-and-events/the-bishops-lent-appeal-2025/>

## World Day of Prayer

(Interdenominational and International)



### Friday 7th March

*'I made you wonderful'* an uplifting and positive theme prepared by the Christian women of Cook Islands.

Local service at Bergh Apton Village Hall at 2 pm. Children's corner. Refreshments served.

Or if you would prefer, an evening service will be held at St John's Chapel, George Lane, Loddon at 7 pm.

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.

All are welcome

## Norfolk Churches Celebrate Plough Sunday



Dozens of Tractors were cheered along their way as they travelled to Norfolk churches.

A growing number now celebrate

Plough Sunday and celebrations are held after the twelve days of Christmas, on the first Sunday after Epiphany (Sunday 12 January 2025). However, some churches opt for a later date.

Historically, Plough Sunday was a major event across East Anglia, with prayers said for all those who work in agriculture and blessings given to the tractors and tools which would provide the region's food in the year ahead.

A plough would be drawn through the streets while parishioners gathered for a day of singing, dancing and drinking on the first Sunday after the Christian festival of Epiphany.



Norwich Cathedral welcomed a procession of tractors for its annual Plough Sunday celebrations held before Evensong.

Despite the wintry weather, a large crowd turned out to watch as the Dean of Norwich led the procession of vintage tractors through the Cathedral Close.



Angie Yeomans

## Exciting New courses for Spring 2025

**Nature, Ecology and Permaculture: Does Nature Exist?**

Climate change is the direst and most pressing issue that human beings currently face. How we think about nature and our position in it is crucial to understanding both how we got here and how we might still prepare, mitigate, and adapt to the slowly unfolding catastrophe. Guest Speaker: Adam Maric-Cleaver. Three weeks starting 27<sup>th</sup> January. Course No. Q00020844

**Literature: Gossip and how it Shapes Identity in Fiction.**

During this three week course we will consider the social form of gossip as well as how gossip is used by writers to shape identity in fiction. Guest Speaker: Ms. T. Tandon. Three weeks starting 24<sup>th</sup> February. Course No. Q00020841

**History: Politics, Culture and Football in the Cold War.**

It is often said that sport and politics should be kept separate. In these three sessions, we will explore the deep, intertwined relationship between sports and politics, looking at the role it plays in building the nation and national identity, and the ways in which it propagates the ideas of the state. Guest Speaker: Arran Hicks. Three weeks starting 17<sup>th</sup> March. Course No. Q00020843.

No previous knowledge of the subject is necessary! The lectures will last for 2 hours, starting at 2.00 pm in **The Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB**. The cost for each course will be £25.20. To enrol: Visit [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) and search course code, location or title and pay online, or phone: 0300 303 3464. Remissions are available for those receiving certain benefits. Further information from Alison on 01508 521976 or Sharon on 01508 520386.

### Loddon Flower Club

It's a New Year, why not start a new hobby with Loddon Flower Club?



Our first meeting of the year will be held as usual on the first Tuesday of the month in St John's Chapel Lecture Hall in George Lane, Loddon. Doors open at 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start. Cost for visitors is £7.50 or join for the rest of the year, pro rata, (£40 per year, which runs from September to August).

**Tuesday 4th February** there will be a talk on 'Hellebores', by Gail Harland entitled 'A cure for Madness or the start of one'.

**Tuesday 4th March** our demonstrator for the evening will be Doreen Robinson, her topic being 'Embracing Colour' and there will be a club competition of the same name.

**Tuesday 1st April** Naomi Wells will join us to demonstrate her interpretation of 'Stories'.

Refreshments are served during a short interval, which gives us a chance to catch up and if needed ask for advice from members, which can be invaluable!

All arrangements made on the night by our demonstrators are raffled at the end of the evening.

Our website can be found at [www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk](http://www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk), our email address is [loddonflowerclub@gmail.com](mailto:loddonflowerclub@gmail.com) and we also have a Facebook page, Loddon Flower Club.

We can help with family flowers for any occasion, please contact us by any of the above ways or call Tricia on 01508 480522 or Jenny on 01508 520254.

We hope you can join us soon.

**Poringland Community Cinema  
at Poringland Community Centre****Friday 14th February - THE CRITIC (15)**

Drama / Crime / Mystery.

Stars Ian McKellan, Mark Strong, Gemma Arterton, Lesley Manville

**Friday 14th March - PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)**

Family Comedy

Stars Hugh Bonneville, Ben Whishaw

**Friday 11th April - CONCLAVE (12A)**

Drama / Thriller. Stars Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci

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

Doors open at 6.45pm. Films start at 7.30pm

**Buena Vista Social Club  
at Poringland Community Centre****Dates for your diary****Friday 7th February - Film Night****Friday 7th March - Film Night****Friday 4th April - Film Night**

For more information please contact:

John on 01508 494358 or Carol on 01508 492630

**South Yare Wildlife Group**

Our talks are now on YouTube. If you missed any of our talks last year they have been recorded and are available to watch and listen to on YouTube or directly from the South Yare Wildlife Group website.

The talks that are available are Climate Emergency with Rupert Read, Walking in Water with Dr Charlie Gardener, Plants in the Broads with Dan Hoare, The Wendling Beck Project, Holkham Estate with Jake Fiennes, Bird Therapy with Joe Harkness and we will shortly be adding Wild East with Hugh Somerleyton. The videos are very useful for picking up details of the talk, that you may have missed, or not heard, on the night.

Our next events are:

**January 29th** Wheatfen Past, Present and Future by Will Fitch at Surlingham Village Hall

**February 26th** a talk by Anne Edwards of the John Innes Centre at Bergh Apton Village Hall.

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# Village News

## Alpington & Yelverton



Walkers Jim and Jan, who live in Attleborough, had taken a bus to Kirstead and then walked to Yelverton Church where they stopped for lunch. After enjoying some of Liz's famous sausage rolls they caught the bus back to Norwich to continue their journey home

Sally Morris

### Pond opening ceremony

The photo below was taken at a special event to mark the opening of the new accessible seating area at the village pond. It was well attended, with the Parish Council, Lord Fuller, Councillor Vic Thomson and David Whitely, amongst many others.



### Bergh Apton & District Society

Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road, Bergh Apton, NR15 1AA

On Wednesday 12th February **PETE GOODRUM** will be taking us through *A look at Saturday Night Telly in the '50s and '60s*.

On Wednesday 12th March join us to learn all about the British F1 driver no less than seven times over, who you probably haven't heard of, but boy, is this talk fun and full of intrigue.

Meetings are £4 pp beginning at 7.30 pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits served, plus Raffle.

*We look forward to seeing visitors, old and new.*

Bergh Apton Church  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 7pm

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True Story

## Bergh Apton

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2025 and something is already afoot! You ask what it is called and that's for me to know and you to find out. Sharpen your wits on this puzzle, each line is a clue to a letter and spells out the name of this year's event.

1. Start with 50.
2. I am the last in a family of five.
3. 4 o'clock and it is time for this letter!
4. This happens twice in every week but only once in a year.
5. Easily spotted in Scotland and Wales but never seen in England or Ireland.
6. Puddings and pies do not need it but no tart without it.
7. There is one in every room and one in every corner but none in the house.
8. I am third in the family of five.
9. As night begins there it is.
10. It is at the end of every beginning.

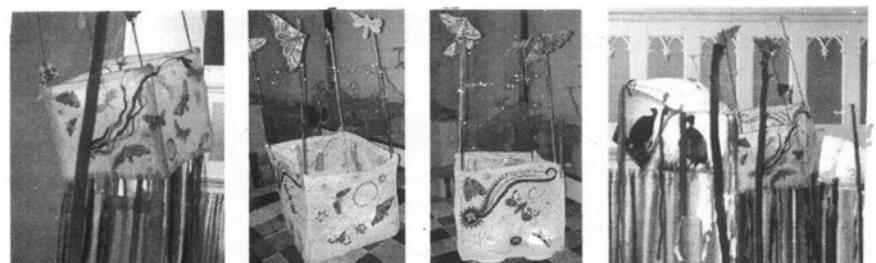
Now name it if you can. (Answers on Page 15)

\*\*\*\*\* will take place at the beginning of September and these workshops lead to it. To see if a place is available email [p.mlej@btinternet.com](mailto:p.mlej@btinternet.com). Anyone wanting to take part must be able to stay for the whole workshop. Elevenses, lunch and tea provided. The workshops are held at the Village Hall. The tutors are all professionals and some have worked with us for quite some years.

### LANTERN MAKING with KATE MUNRO

Saturday 12 April 1000 - 1600. Cost: £15

The framework will be made from willow and then covered with waterproof tissue paper and painted when dry. The pics show one made some years ago.



### WRITING with HUGH LUPTON

Saturday 14 June 1000 - 1200. Cost: £10

The writing is on the theme of the event.

### MUSIC MAKING with NIC ZUPPARDI and ADAM CLARK

Saturday 21 June 1000 - 1200. Cost: £10

A workshop for all musicians of any instrument to make music with Nature as the inspiration.

### LINO CUTS with ANNETTE ROLSTON

Saturday 19 July 1000 - 1600. Cost: £15

Making lino cuts and prints of moths (this will give you a clue as to the event's name and theme). All materials provided.



### WRITING with HUGH LUPTON

Tuesdays 6, 13 & 20 May and 3 June 1000 - 1200 Cost: £80

The same rules apply, to see if a place is available email [p.mlej@btinternet.com](mailto:p.mlej@btinternet.com) and anyone interested must come to all four. These writing workshops are held at 'The Vineyard'. These four writing workshops are not connected with the event.

All workshop numbers are deliberately kept small so the tutor has time for each of those taking part and with such as Lantern Making plenty of room to work.

# Village News

## Bramerton

### St. Peter's Church Bramerton gives thanks to All.

With the discovery of a leak through the Chancel roof in late 2023 followed by an investigation, the PCC realised that essential repairs were required. It was decided that it would be sensible to include any other works that required scaffolding and so the replacement of the north side gutters and downpipes, along with associated drainage, were also included.



Church Architect, Iain Walker, prepared a Specification and Schedule of Works which was tendered in early 2024 and the resulting project total cost amounted to £63,000, which of course the PCC did not have. So, at the annual Gift & Open Day on the 29th June, which also happened to be St. Peter's Day, the Roof Appeal was launched and was well attended.

Donations were received that day and have continued to come in. The result is that the appeal has been very successful with many donations and especially a very generous donation from *The Higham Family Trust* which Richard Higham made in memory of his late wife Jacqueline, who had loved living in the village.

Also, of the five grant applications made four have so far been successful, which has meant the work can go ahead. The contract has been awarded to Phoenix Build of Reepham who will be starting work in early March and taking about three months. All being well it looks like the long-standing problem of a section of the churchyard wall can also be addressed.

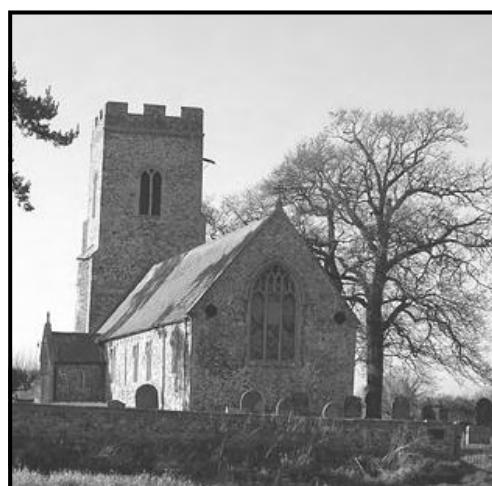
This is a great outcome in helping to preserve this important village landmark and St. Peter's PCC is very grateful to all who contributed.

Tony Evans, PCC Fabric Officer.

## Carleton St Peter

### Church News

The church was full of community spirit and joy for the Christmas carol concert which was enjoyed by all. After the service, mince pies, sausage rolls and sherry was served. Thank you to Linda Goffin and Maureen Vale for all of their hard work in decorating the church and cooking the food.



The new year has brought sad news with the sudden passing of Pat Howes. We wish his family our sincerest condolences.

We look forward to the spring and I would like to give a special mention to Dick Fisher who has helped tremendously with the upkeep of the weeds around the church.

A date for your 2025 diary: the flower festival weekend is Saturday August 2nd and Sunday August 3rd.

## Claxton

### St Andrew's Church, Claxton

The church was decorated for Christmas with some stunning floral decorations. Thank you to John Heathcote for providing the beautiful Christmas tree for the church. Our Carol Service was a quiet but enjoyable service and the congregation was pleased to enjoy tea, coffee and mince pies afterwards.

Our Christmas Day service was well attended with a lovely atmosphere. Most local people had walked so we had three dogs amongst the congregation.

We were fortunate to have our carols accompanied by saxophone and violin so it was a lively occasion.



As usual we donated our Christmas giving (£100) to St Martin's Housing Trust.

### News from Claxton Village Hall

As the weather has turned much colder we have been pleased that the new heating system has ensured that all areas of the hall have been warm. We have yet to find out whether it is economical but hopefully it is kinder to the environment.

After the success of last year's wreath making session, the Village Playground Committee organised another one this year and it proved a sell-out. Along with the Ceilidh, which was a fun family event, it raised valuable funds for the playground.

Thank you to John Heathcote who once again provided the magnificent tree for outside the hall. Impressively it survived most of the ferocious winds we suffered during December.

The village hall continues to be a popular venue for village events and family parties. This year two local families held their Christmas celebrations in the hall.

We have two vacancies for trustees so if you would like to find out more about supporting this valuable community

### Claxton Community Café.

Our extended Christmas Community Café, with accompanying craft stalls is now a well-established event and attracts a bumper number of customers. The homemade soups proved as popular as ever and we sold out of almost all of our baked goods. We held a raffle which made £95 for St. Andrew's Church.

The café also made a profit and as a result we were able to send £40 to the Salvation Army and £40 to the Emmaus Project, two organisations that work to support local homeless people.

After a lunch time café in mid-January, we will return to our usual **first Wednesday** of the month in February (5th). This will be our last lunchtime session (11 am - 1:30 pm). From March (5th) we will return to our normal times of 10 am - 12 noon. Please join us for fresh tea and coffee. Bacon rolls and so much more.

# Village News

## Rockland St Mary

### Sally Collins

As soon as Sally moved into St. Margaret's Way, Rockland St. Mary, she threw herself into village life and societies including the W.I., of which she eventually became president, and the Bramrocks Drama Group which is where I first met her.

Sally became a valued member of the group and performed with enthusiasm, dedication and considerable talent. She tackled many varied roles in the group, acting, from serious roles, excelling as Queen Elizabeth 1 in the 'Queen's Ring to the Dame' in Panto. She sang, she danced, she used her excellent skills as a seamstress, embroiderer, bead worker and artist to assist with costumes and sets. All of this experience enabled her to direct a Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk.

The Bramrocks welcomed families. There were many husbands, wives, children and grandchildren in performances. Sally was the first to have three generations of a family in the same performance. Herself as the Dame and her daughter Sandra and grandson David in the chorus.

She valued other members of whatever group she was part of and was extremely generous and hospitable. Her home was always open and welcoming filled with music, warmth, laughter and the occasional tipple.

She will always be remembered as the generous, talented, fun-loving person she was.

**Sandra Barker**

### Rockland St Mary & District W.I.

At the start of the New Year we look forward to a full programme of meetings, walks and outings, all to be finalised by early Spring.

Tuesday February 11th our meeting will be a demonstration and a hands on opportunity to experiment with "Paper-Craft".

Tuesday March 11th we have a talk on the 17th century history of "Tulipmania" when tulips were exchanged for incredible sums of money.

ALSO, on Friday February 14th in the Parish Room we are organising a lunch from 12 - 2.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for warming soup and tasty cake! Look out for posters nearer the time.

All our regular meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the Margaret Mack Hall. For more details, please contact Sandra 538100 or Ruth 538231.



### Rockland St Mary Christmas Tree Festival

Our Tree Festival was very successful and enjoyed by many visitors. We raised £518.29 for Rockland Church and £154.90 for Break. Thank you for coming to the Festival and into the Barn for our refreshments and craft stalls.

This year we had 28 trees on display ranging from mice to toilet rolls!

A massive 'thank you' to all who decorated a tree. I know how much time and effort goes into the planning and creation of the tree. I must also thank all the volunteers who helped over the weekend and the bakers for such delicious cakes.



### Community Carol Singing

There was a really good turnout, despite the drizzle, for our carol singing in Rockland on Friday December 20th.



We began outside Rockland shop, then went inside to dry off. After some refreshments we sang some more!

We then continued on to the Parish Room where we all enjoyed more refreshments.

Thanks to Jayne and Jenny for organising such an enjoyable event.

### Children in Need Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning was well attended and enjoyed by all. We raised £528.85 which was a great amount.



Many thanks to everyone who came and supported us and also to the bakers for the delicious cakes.

**Jayne Regan**

### Well done everyone!

The total raised in 2024 at our Coffee Mornings, the Flower Festival and the recent Christmas Tree Festival is a massive £2,988.43! The charities we supported were: Big C, Break, Children in Need, Guide Dogs, MacMillan Support and Rockland Church. Also, the Table Tennis Group kindly donated £370 to the Parish Room. Thank you from the Committee.

I really appreciate all your hard work and really enjoy being part of our team.

**Janet Rogers**

# Village News

## Rockland St Mary continued . . .

### 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 27th February** - *Lichens* - Ecologist Robert Yallop from Wild Frontier Ecology is our Speaker. There will be an opportunity to have your own lichens identified.

**Thursday 27th March** - A short AGM will be followed with a talk by Janice Pittis, *Working with seeds in Brazil*.

**Thursday 24th April** - A talk about *Ted Ellis the Naturalist* by his daughter Professor Suzie Hanna

Our popular garden visits, enjoyed during the spring and summer months, are yet to be confirmed. Watch this space!!

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](mailto:everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk)

#### PANCAKE DAY!

**Tuesday 4th March**

**12.30 pm - 2 pm**

in The Parish Room, The Street, Rockland.



Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a pancake!

#### Singing!

Friendly local singing group run by professional singer/teacher in Rockland St Mary on Thursday afternoons. No experience required and all welcome.

To find out more text: 07748186511 or email: [Louise99@me.com](mailto:Louise99@me.com)

## Surlingham



Our Remembrance Day Service was well attended.

It was held at the Memorial in the Lychgate of St Mary's Church.



Pete Harvie, ex Piper of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards played the bagpipes during the service.

Petty Officer David Evans read the Lesson.

Clive Evans



## Surlingham continued . . .

### Christmas at St Mary's Church

Mary and Joseph were on the road seeking shelter. Our family members were on the road to bring such joy to Christmas time gatherings. But it is always good to know when loved ones are safe home again. So many people about the World are without 'a safe home' and we would wish for more in this new year.

Thank you to all those who contributed and made joyful all our Christmastide services and events, and to Nick who knelt holding up the candle beacon, the light of Christ taking us forward into 2025.

Pippa

### Carol Service

The Church was absolutely packed for our Carol service and there was barely standing room left. We had a record attendance of 120 people! This photo on the right was taken before the service as people were still arriving.



The second photo shows the St Mary's Handbell Ringers (the Clangers ?) who played a small medley of tunes using the newly restored 125 year old handbells.



The third photo shows Revd Nick Garrard presenting Pippa Thurlow with a gift from the Surlingham community upon her retirement as Church Warden. Pippa has been our warden for more years than anyone can work out!



It was a lovely community event with contributions from all generations.

Thanks to all those who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it happen.

Clive Evans

Surlingham W.I would like to thank all those who supported our Christmas Bingo. Also a big 'thank you' to those who kindly helped to get the hall ready and clear away afterwards. It was a very successful evening and we do hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Best wishes for 2025.

Gillian Stiff, on behalf of the WI members

# Village News

## SIAMS Success for Thurton Church Of England Primary School

We are extremely proud of the outcome of our recent SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection.

Paul Carter, a Foundation Governor, believes that "as a Church of England School, SIAMS is important, along with the inspections made by Ofsted. Follow-up visits from the Diocese identified the school's strengths and highlighted our good results. They were especially impressed with how the school's vision is part of everyday life for the children and adults."

This vision is: "To serve our community and provide a friendly place where everyone works together. We want all members to care for each other, love to learn, and believe in themselves. We hope that all our children reach their full potential and move on to their next school as confident, knowledgeable, and well-rounded individuals.

Our school's ethos is summed up in three words: Enjoy. Achieve. Believe.

These words describe our hopes for everyone who joins our school community and becomes part of Team Thurton."



Mr Carter added "The school's values help create a respectful, responsible, and inclusive place for learning, understanding and growth.

This is something

everyone in the school can celebrate. It shows the great leadership and professionalism of all the staff in making our school a caring community".

Paul Carter,  
Foundation Governor



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## Thurton WI

At the beginning of December 28 members of Thurton, Ashby & District WI sat down at a beautifully decorated table in the Barn at The George & Dragon to celebrate our 63rd Birthday. However, as we were about to enjoy the festive menu the lights suddenly went out and we were plunged into darkness. After a short while, Polo appeared with a spotlight to illuminate what we were consuming. Luckily the sockets around the room were not affected and a little more light was soon forthcoming. The evening continued with a wonderful raffle and then the distribution of Secret Santa gifts.

Following our meal the Entertainment Group did their best to entertain their audience and were thanked for their efforts by Nicky Corbett who was standing in for our President who was away on holiday. The Birthday cake was cut and distributed and members went home with memories of an interesting evening.

We have a varied programme arranged for this year including a talk from a VSO volunteer, a demonstration of Danish Pastries, the secret life of a milliner as well as a reprise of our very successful Summer Extravaganza in June.

We have a membership of 34 at the moment and would welcome anyone who would like to join. Ladies are welcome to come to a meeting as a guest to see what we are about with the possibility of joining a lively and friendly group. As well as our meetings we have a monthly lunch and a coffee morning at a local hostelry. We meet at the Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Please come and join us!

Julie Powell

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**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. For bookings email: [alpingtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:alpingtonvillagehall@gmail.com) or call mobile 07747 443567, Website address: [www.alpingtonvillagehall.wordpress.com](http://www.alpingtonvillagehall.wordpress.com).

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

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

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

**Claxton & Carleton St Peter** - Spacious refurbished well-equipped hall. Fitted kitchen. Ideal for one-off functions and regular users. Disabled facilities. Large car park. Free high speed broadband. £10 per hour or by session. Bar available. Contact Judy Jackson, 01508 480128 or Sarah Carter, 01508 480555, or email: [contact@claxtonvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:contact@claxtonvillagehall.co.uk). Website: [www.claxtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.claxtonvillagehall.co.uk)

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

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

## Bergh Apton Arts - Answers to quiz on P8

Did you sharpen your wits and work out the name of the next event? If not here it is:

1. L - the Roman numeral for 50 was written as L.
2. U - the family of five is the vowels, a, e, i, o and u.
3. T - 4 o'clock is tea time!
4. E - 'e' appears twice in 'week' and only once in 'year'
5. S - 's' is in 'Scotland' and 'Wales' but not in 'England' or 'Ireland'
6. T - 't' is not in 'puddings' or 'pies' but no 'tart' without this letter.
7. R - one 'r' in 'room' and 'corner' but no 'r' in 'house'.
8. I - the family of vowels again.
9. N - the word 'night' begins with 'n'.
10. G - 'beginning' always ends with 'g'.

Lutestings are moths. Here is one:



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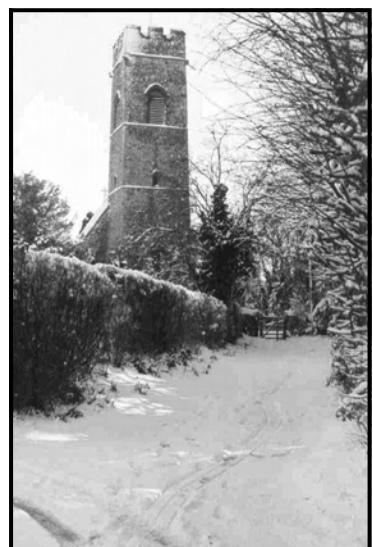
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	2nd Feb Candlemas White/Gold	9th Feb 4th before Lent Green	16th Feb 3rd before Lent Green	23rd Feb 2nd before Lent Green	2nd March Sunday next before Lent Green	5th March Ash Wednesday Green	9th March Lent 1 Purple	16th March Lent 2 Purple	23rd March Lent 3 Purple	30th March Mothering Sunday Rose	6th April Passion Sunday Purple	
Ashby St Mary	16.00 HC and Vestry Meeting		11.00 PT		11.00 MP			11.00 HC			11.00 PT	Ashby St Mary
Bergh Apton	09.30 PT	10.00 Benefice HC	09.30 PT	09.30 HC and Vestry Meeting	09.30 PT			09.30 PT	09.30 HC BCP	09.30 Mothering Sunday PT	09.30 PT	Bergh Apton
Bramerton		09.30 HC						09.30 HC				Bramerton
Carleton St Peter	11.00 MP				11.00 MP						11.00 HC	Carleton St Peter
Claxton	09.30 HC		09.30 FW		09.30 HC			09.30 FW			09.30 MW	Claxton
Framingham Pigot	09.30 HC and Vestry Meeting			16.00 HC			10.00 Benefice HC		16.00 HC		09.30 HC	Framingham Pigot
Kirby Bedon			11.00 HC				09.30 HC 16.00 Still at the Barn					Kirby Bedon
Rockland St Mary	16.00 Still at the Barn	10.30am-12 Café Church in Parish Room		09.30 HC		09.30 HC and Ashing in the Barn	09.30 HC 16.00 Still at the Barn		09.30 HC	10.30 Mothering Sunday Fun Day		Rockland St Mary
Surlingham		11.00 HC		11.00 HC			11.00 HC		11.00 HC			Surlingham
Thurton	Join Ashby		16.00 HC and Vestry Meeting		11.00 HC	19.00 HC with Ashing		11.00 PT		11.00 Mothering Sunday PT	16.00 HC	Thurton
Yelverton	09.30 PT		09.30 HC and Vestry Meeting	16.00 All 4	09.30 PT			16.00 HC	16.00 All 4	09.30 Mothering Sunday HC	09.30 PT	Yelverton

CODE: HC = Holy Communion; E Praise = Evening Praise; FC = Family Communion; FW = Family Worship; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer; .PT = Parish Team; VM = Vestry Meeting. Holy Communion at Yelverton on Thursday 6th February and Thursday 3rd April at 10.30 am. (NOT 6th March)

### Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: February & March 2025

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
02/02/25	Malachi 3.1-5	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40	Candlemas
09/02/25	Isaiah 6.1-8[9-13]	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	Luke 5.1-11	4th Sunday before Lent
16/02/25	Jeremiah 17.5-10	1 Corinthians 15.12-20	Luke 6.17-26	3rd Sunday before Lent
23/02/25	Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25	Revelation 4	Luke 8.22-25	2nd Sunday before Lent
02/03/25	Exodus 34.29-35	2 Corinthians 3.12 - 4.2	Luke 9.28-36[37-43a]	Sunday next before Lent
05/03/25	Joel 2.1-2,12-17	2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10	Matthew 6.1-6,16-21	Ash Wednesday
09/03/25	Deuteronomy 26.1-11	Romans 10.8b-13	Luke 4.1-13	1st Sunday of Lent
16/03/25	Genesis 15.1-12,17-18	Philippians 3.17 - 4.1	Luke 13.31-35	2nd Sunday of Lent
23/03/25	Isaiah 55.1-9	1 Corinthians 10.1-13	Luke 13.1-9	3rd Sunday of Lent
30/03/25	Exodus 2.1-10	2 Corinthians 1.3-7	Luke 2.33-35	Mothering Sunday
06/04/25	Isaiah 43.16-21	Philippians 3.4b-14	John 12.1-8	Passiontide begins



**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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<b>Thurton Benefice</b> Revd Chris Ellis The Rectory 29 Ashby Road THURTON NR14 6AX Tel: 01508 484174 (Answerphone) Email: <a href="mailto:rector.thurtonbenefice@btinternet.com">rector.thurtonbenefice@btinternet.com</a>	<b>Rockland Benefice</b> Revd Canon Nick Garrard The Rectory Rockland St Mary NORWICH NR14 7EY Tel: 01508 538014 Email: <a href="mailto:nickgarr39@aol.com">nickgarr39@aol.com</a>	<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Andrew Eburne, The Presbytery, 17 Upgate, Poringland. NR14 7SH. Tel: 01508 494770. Email: <a href="mailto:frandreweburne@gmail.com">frandreweburne@gmail.com</a>	<b>Times of Masses</b> Saturday 6 pm Sunday 9 am Tues 6 pm Wed -Saturday 10 am	<b>Staff days off:</b> Monday Revd Chris Ellis Thursday Revd Mandy Ansell Friday Revd Nick Garrard Revd Helen Garrard	<b>Liz Bloomfield:</b> Editor, Treasurer, Adverts The Bloomfields, Nichols Corner, Church Meadow Lane, Alpington, NR14 7NF Tel: 01508 493958 <b>Angie Yeomans:</b> Adverts, Contributions, Page Layout and Design 15 Bramerton Lodge, Bramerton, Norwich. NR14 7EQ. Tel: 01508 538131 (Answerphone) <b>Kind donations may be sent to one of the addresses above either by cash or cheque payable to Eleven Says. Or BACS payment to Eleven Says 20-92-08 a/c 90137065.</b> Contributions are very welcome subject to the Board's discretion and available space. <b>Deadline for all material ("copy") for the next issue is 5th MARCH 2025</b> Email: <a href="mailto:elevensays22@gmail.com">elevensays22@gmail.com</a> <b>Produced by:</b> Angie Yeomans <b>Printed by:</b> Roberts & Son Printers, 2-6 Bridge Street, Loddon, NORWICH. NR14 6EZ Tel: 01508 520221
Explorers and HALOS are held at Thurton Village Hall every other Friday evening. For more information please contact Gary WATSON Youth Worker Norwich Youth for Christ City Gates Centre, 30 Cowgate NORWICH. NR3 1SZ Tel: 01603 620678. 07747 471218 Email: <a href="mailto:gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk">gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk</a>	Revd. Helen Garrard The Rectory Rockland St Mary NORWICH NR14 7EY Tel: 01508 538014 Email: <a href="mailto:broadsidecurate@aol.com">broadsidecurate@aol.com</a>	Revd Mandy Ansell 44 The Street,, Rockland St Mary NR14 7AH. Tel: 01508 538654 Email: <a href="mailto:mandy.ansell44@gmail.com">mandy.ansell44@gmail.com</a>			

NEXT ASSEMBLY: SATURDAY MARCH 29th, BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL, COOKE'S ROAD, NR15 1AA, 9am - 11am (approx)