



The poor of the world . . .

Not long before his death Jesus reminded his friends that the poor will always be here - his point was to remind them that his life on earth was coming to an end, but it reminds us that poverty is as present in our world as it was in his.

It seems to be an impossible problem to crack. This winter has been particularly hard. The cost of living crisis has hit us all hard, but if you were already struggling it has been potentially disastrous. It is easy to think that Norfolk is a wealthy area but the Norwich Foodbank figures for December show an increase of 46% in the number of people who turned to them for help. This is a frightening number particularly when you consider that these are people in crisis. The Foodbank is there to tide people over and to direct them to find help, but recently it seems that help is increasingly hard to find. In February The Joseph Rowntree Foundation produced a report into the cost of living that found that in order to afford the essentials, a single person needs £120 a week but they are only eligible for £80 in benefits which leaves a weekly shortfall of £40.

Obtaining benefits is neither straightforward nor instant. There is a five-week waiting period for the first payment and although the government offer loans to cover this period, we know at least 49% of people are already in debt to the government when their first payment arrives. It feels like a desperate cycle of poverty, but I believe there is hope and it is something we can all support.

At the end of last year, I spent some time working with the team at Great Yarmouth Minster in their outreach project 'Pathways'. This is a social cafe in an old church hall, near the docks which offers a free hot meal, three times a week to those who need it. The customers are a mix of the lonely, the homeless and those living in hostels. They are grateful for the warmth and good food, especially in the winter months. A support worker is always in attendance to provide advice and help with applications for benefits and housing.



The project also operates as a Trussell Trust Foodbank distribution hub once a week and distributes food from the Fareshare project. Fareshare is a way in which food, mainly from supermarkets that has been over stocked or is approaching or past its sell by date, can be re-distributed to people who can make good use of it. Without Fareshare this food would be written off and sent to landfill, but instead it reaches those in need.

I wasn't sure what to expect in Yarmouth, but what I found was not despair. I found love and hope. The project is staffed almost entirely by volunteers who greet the customers with respect and affection. They serve the food, wash up or just chat to the guests making it clear that there is no judgement. Listening to their stories it is easy to see how any of us could be in their shoes, it doesn't take much - job loss, illness, addiction - but we can all help to make a difference to the lives of others. Pathways is just one project, there are many like it who are happy to welcome new volunteers and receive support in terms of gifts of food or money. The poor of the world may always be with us, but we can ease the burden with generosity and love.

Revd Cate Turner

Important reminder!!

Please remember that Eleven Says now has a new Editorial Board and a new Email Address to which all future emails should be directed. The new editor is Liz Bloomfield. The new Treasurer is Clive Evans, who is also the contact for advertising. Angie Yeomans is continuing to produce the paper and all articles, photos, donations / contributions etc., can be posted to her (address on back page) or emailed to elevensays22@gmail.com.

Also please remember *new deadline dates* are as follows:


5th January, 5th March, 5th May, 5th July, 5th September, 5th November.

In these days of social media do please try to remember to also send your village news, future events, etc., to Eleven Says. It is distributed to around 2,500 properties in the Bramerton Group of villages and not all the readers view online so your news, notices and any future fundraising events being held in your particular village may be missed.



Eleven Says welcomes all articles including school and village news, poems, photos / drawings, etc, to ensure it is kept interesting for all readers, both old and young. Please do continue to support our village newspaper by sending your articles, news, views and contributions to elevensays22@gmail.com.

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New Dean of Norwich



Revd Canon Dr Andrew Braddock, aged 51, is the 40th Dean of Norwich after Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II approved the appointment. Canon Andrew, the Interim Dean of Gloucester, officially began his new role at the helm of Norwich Cathedral following a special service at the Cathedral on Saturday 28 January.

He was ordained in Norwich Cathedral in 1998 and it is a welcome return to Norfolk for Canon Andrew who spent his first ten years of public ministry in the Diocese.

Canon Andrew's appointment follows the retirement of the Very Revd Jane Hedges, the 39th Dean of Norwich, in May 2022. He is married to Victoria and they have two teenage children.

Writing competition for children and young people aged between 4 and 18 years old launched for the 650th anniversary of Julian of Norwich

To celebrate the 650th anniversary of the first woman known to write a book in English, a special writing competition is being launched - and it needs YOU! It's free to enter and entrants are asked to submit beautifully composed prose or poetry up to a maximum of 500 words on the theme "Divine Love". The theme takes its name from the publication by Julian of Norwich, whose *Revelations of Divine Love* tells the story of her experiences in May 1373 and the wonderful conclusions she drew from them. Following the sixteen visions which Julian received, she took up residence at St Julian's Church in Norwich.

The winner will receive £100 worth of book vouchers, the runner-up £50 worth of book vouchers, and any honourable mentions £30 worth of book vouchers. There will also be a whole host of other goodies up for grabs - including prizes from Norwich's independent bookshop Bookbugs and Dragon Tales and the National Centre for Writing - which will be announced in the EDP.

How to enter - Interpreting the theme "Divine Love", 4 to 18 year olds can submit one piece of work - either fiction, non-fiction, or poetry - up to a maximum of 500 words. Google Docs will be used to check the word count, and titles will not be included.

Ideally, entrants will have taken inspiration from Julian of Norwich and reflect on teachings, learning, and advice. Collaborations will not be accepted, and the work must be the author's own.

Participants retain the rights to their submissions. Entries must be written in English. Participation is open to anyone who lives in Norfolk, or has links with the county, and fits within the age criteria.

The deadline for entries is 5 pm on Sunday 30th April.

Submissions must be emailed to:

donna-louise.bishop@newsquest.co.uk with 'Julian of Norwich Writing Competition Entry' in the subject header, and include in the email your full name, age, and address.

Any questions about the competition should also be directed to donna-louise.bishop@newsquest.co.uk with the subject header 'Julian of Norwich Writing Competition Question'.

Winners will be announced on Saturday 27th May 2023 and the winning entries will be published in the EDP.

You can read more about Julian of Norwich in Revd Nick Garrard's article on Page 5.

***** Café Church - All Welcome *****

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SUNDAY 16th April 2023

Theme: "Ways of Believing"

Drop in any time between 10.30am-12.00noon

Future date - Sunday 25th June

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

***** Café Church - All Welcome *****



Wednesday Fellowship

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

April 12th - Topsy Turvy World of Gilbert and Sullivan with J Stebbings

May 10th - Silly Songs and Stories with Pip Wright

June 14th - Update on the Vidiyal Trust by The Revd. Canon Pat Atkinson

July 12th - Picnic / Outing

For more information please contact Revd. Cate Turner 498494 or Pat Barter 493570

Worship in Stillness

has restarted on Monday Mornings at 9:30 am

Cherry House, Wheel Road, Alington

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

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

Wednesdays April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th
(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

✠ Rockland St Mary Benefice Update

April and May bring us Spring in its fullness, with longer days, hopefully warmer weather and signs of new life in our gardens and the fields and waterways around us. It's also a time when we turn again from darkness to light, from Christ's Passion to his Resurrection in Holy Week and Easter.

What's on in Holy Week and Easter in Rockland Benefice, April 2nd - 9th:

- ❖ Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (**April 2nd**). As we recall Jesus' entry to Jerusalem in triumph, before his arrest and trial, we carry our palm crosses and enter more deeply into his coming passion at our services in Claxton (9.30am) and Surlingham (11am)
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ At the **Paschal Meal** in the Barn on Maundy Thursday (**April 6th 6.30 pm**) we recall the Last Supper through food and words drawn from Jewish Passover traditions and Christian Communion. There is a small charge of £8.50 towards the cost of the meal. Please contact Nick or Helen if you wish to attend (01508) 538014.
- ❖ Good Friday's **Family Worship** at Surlingham, (**April 7th, 10am**) is an all-age opportunity to hear and respond to the story of Jesus' crucifixion. At 2pm **Still with the Cross** in the Barn, will be a time of music, words and reflection on the cross and all it means for us.
- ❖ Holy Saturday (**April 8th**) marks the beginning of the Easter celebrations with the **Lighting of the New Fire** 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.
- ❖ On Easter morning (**April 9th**) we welcome Easter dawn at the **Sunrise Service** on Rockland Staithe at 6 am. **Communion** will be celebrated at Claxton and Kirby Bedon at 9.30 am, 11am **Family Worship** at Carleton St. Peter and 3.30 pm **Easter Hymns and Readings** at Bramerton and Surlingham.

We hope that you will be able join in this spiritual journey that we make towards the pain of the cross and joy of the empty tomb that lies beyond it.

Joint Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Benefice AGM)

This year's Rockland Benefice Annual Meeting takes place on **Wednesday April 26th** at The Barn at Rockland Rectory, beginning at 7.30 pm. Please come along as we review the past year, elect members to our church councils and look forward to the future, plus cheese and wine!

Coronation Celebrations Sunday May 7th - On the first weekend in May we join with the rest of the country in celebrating King Charles's and Queen Camilla's coronation. As a benefice we're gathering in thanksgiving for a special Communion service on Sunday May 7th at 11am, which will include some coronation hymns and prayers. This will be followed by a bring and share **Coronation Celebration Lunch** in and around the Barn. Please look out for details of other events happening in your community.

News from the Barn. First, may I thank our cheerful and hardworking team who made **Warm Welcome Mondays** such happy occasions for all who came. We were also most grateful to Rockland St. Mary Parish Council and South Norfolk District Councils for generous grants that underwrote our costs. We're planning to re-open on a weekly basis next autumn and winter and are considering whether to hold Warm Welcomes occasionally between now and then to help the community that gathered there keep in touch.

✠ Thurton Benefice Update

Easter in the Thurton Benefice

As we approach the Easter season, things are getting very busy in the churches around the benefice. We are coming to the end of Lent, the time of reflection, where we seek forgiveness for all the things we have done wrong and look for ways to reorder our lives, to make us the best version of ourselves and now we approach The Cross.

You are welcome to join us for any or all of our services and if you have never been before, we will be very happy to see you and we will guide you through the service.

On **April 2nd** we will celebrate Palm Sunday. We will make this with a service in **Yelverton Church at 10am**. But we will begin with a short procession from the school up to the church as we remind ourselves of Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem when people scattered palm leaves in front of him. We will bless and share palm leaves woven into crosses to remind us of the events.

We will then hold a short service of Compline or night prayer in 3 of our churches, each evening from Monday to Wednesday. These are very peaceful, reflective services - a very calming way to end the day.

Monday 3rd April - Yelverton 7 pm

Tuesday 4th April - Bergh Apton 7 pm

Wednesday 5th April - Ashby St Mary 7 pm

On **Maundy Thursday, 6th April** we will hold a service at **Framingham Pigot Church** as we remember The Last Supper, the final meal Jesus shared with his friends before his arrest and death. The word 'Maundy' refers to the rite of foot washing as before the meal Jesus took on the role of a servant and washed his friends' feet. We strip the church of decoration and keep a vigil in the candle light.

On **Good Friday 7th April** we will hold our pilgrimage walk which begins at **9.30 am at Framingham Pigot** with a short service of Holy Communion. We will then walk to each of our churches in turn finishing at Ashby St Mary. You are welcome to join us for all or part of our walk. Feel free to bring your dog too!

Timings are as follows:

Framingham Pigot - 9.30 am

Yelverton - 11 am

Bergh Apton - 12.30 pm

Thurton - 1.30 pm

Ashby - 2.30 pm

On Saturday the churches are often a hive of activity as we prepare for Easter.

We begin our celebrations on Easter Eve when the service starts with the lighting of the new fire. We start in darkness outside the church and the fire is lit, symbolising Jesus's eternal light.

From that fire we light our special paschal candle and the light is carried into church and shared with the congregation. The service is at **8pm at Thurton Church**.

On **Easter Sunday** we have services at **9.30 am in Bergh Apton and Yelverton, and 11am at Framingham Pigot** as we celebrate Christ's victory over death.





From the Registers

BAPTISMS

21/01/23 Sophie Jane BATES Framingham Pigot

MARRIAGES

17/09/22 Marcus EASTER and Poppy CLARKE Framingham Pigot

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

03/02/23 Paul Hadley THORNER (72) Bergh Apton

03/02/23 Geoffrey George JARY (86) Yelverton

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

15/04/23 Christopher David HAWES (81) Bramerton

Still at the Barn on Sunday afternoons provides a quiet, informal space for reflection, conversation and response to words, music and images. Each gathering begins at 4 pm.

April 16th: **Still in the Garden**

April 30th: **Still on the Road**

May 21st: **Still with Julian**

Art Cafe in the Barn is happening on **April 11th and May 10th, 10.30 am - 12 Noon**. Come along for good company, fresh coffee and opportunities to share some art!

Art Cafe Online April 9th and May 17th and 24th. Please contact Nick for your Zoom invitation and details of our lively and varied programme.

The Barn is being used increasingly for **Quiet Days and Team Awaydays**. Please contact Helen and Nick for information.

Christian Aid Week May 14th - 20th and Pea Feast at the Barn - This year's appeal focuses on supporting families in Malawi facing the devastating consequences of climate change and grain shortages due to the war in Ukraine. Hard-working farmers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather. In response, Christian Aid is helping farmers to grow pigeon peas, a nutritious, versatile and drought resistant crop. A 2kg sack of seeds costs only £10.

We're celebrating the end of Christian Aid Week with a **Pea Feast in the Barn, Saturday May 20th, 6.30pm**. Come and enjoy many delicious ways that peas can be enjoyed! There's no charge, but a suggested minimum donation of £5 would be appreciated. All donations after costs for Christian Aid. Please give generously to this year's appeal if you are able. Look out for collections and fundraising events in your area. There will be Christian Aid envelopes available in church porches, which you are welcome to put in the Rectory letterbox, or you can donate online by following this link:

<https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/> Thank you.

Celebrating two medieval Norfolk Women's faith in 2023

In 1413, a woman entered a church in Great Yarmouth, prayed in front of a statue of the Virgin Mary, then set off towards the quay. Her name was Margery Kempe. She was leaving England for a long and dangerous pilgrimage to Jerusalem that would take nearly three years. Margery was the wife of a prosperous King's Lynn merchant and mother of fourteen children. Following the birth of her first child, she had experienced intense mental distress and hallucinations. After recovering, she felt called to lead a holy life in the footsteps of Christ and his saints. She shared her faith with everyone who would listen and challenged powerful people over their way of life. This was a dangerous occupation for a medieval woman, and she was threatened with burning at the stake more than once. She frequently spent long periods weeping loudly.

Perhaps it's not surprising that on one of her pilgrimages her companions jumped ship, leaving her to sail away alone. She may have been a difficult person to live with, but it's hard to read her 'Book of Margery Kempe' without cheering her on.

She possessed the rare courage of someone who stands alone against an angry crowd, trusting only in God for safety.

Her book is remarkable for two reasons. It was the first autobiography in English, and secondly, it shines light on an ordinary medieval woman's life, her hopes, fears and struggles. Nothing like it has been found anywhere else, so we can be proud of this slightly wild, determined, caring, devout daughter of Norfolk. This year sees her 650th birthday, celebrated by public events in King's Lynn, her hometown, where she prayed in front of statues in the Minster. Soon, a statue in her honour will be unveiled there.

There's another 650th anniversary connected with Margery too. Before she reached Great Yarmouth, Margery visited a holy woman living in a cell at St. Julian's Church in Norwich.



St Julian's Church

The holy woman confirmed that Margery was living in accordance with God's will, encouraging her to persevere through all difficulties, trusting God to help her. That holy woman is now known as Julian of Norwich.

650 years ago, Julian saw a vision of Christ during a near-death experience that filled her with light and hope. We can read her 'Revelations of the Divine Love' as well. You may already know her most famous message: 'All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well'. The Friends of Julian of Norwich are marking this anniversary with a programme of events and writing and art competitions. More details can be found on their website: <https://julianofnorwich.org/>

Julian's writing has also helped to shape the Barn's life over several years, and the spiritual direction that Helen and I offer there, also reflects her legacy. On **Sunday May 21st Still with Julian** will bring together some of her words, with music, silence and images to reflect on her spiritual wisdom and experiences.

Still with Julian begins at 4 pm and all are welcome. Take a look at **page 3** in this newspaper to find details of how to enter the writing competition to mark the 650th anniversary of Julian's book, 'Revelations of the Divine Love'.

Green Fingers

A good many of us spend time in our sheds and gardens, using compost to provide food for the plants and bulbs. Apparently the lifespan of new compost in a pot is only a few weeks so during the summer season we are supposed to add some fertiliser such as liquid seaweed. Without these nutrients, our plants would not grow so well.

So what do we do with old or used compost? Does it have any life left in it? I keep mine in a big bin for the autumn, then put things like dahlia tubers in it to keep them warm and dry for the winter before potting them up again in the spring in new compost. I also use some to mulch and protect plants in flower beds over the winter.

What about us? Are we still sitting in old compost that has lost its ability to feed us? Do we need some liquid seaweed to keep us going? Do we need a little something to pep us up?

I recently sat next to an older couple at the football who brought a flask of hot chocolate. I was intrigued to see a miniature bottle of Glenfiddich whiskey come out of the bag to pep up their half time refreshment.

A different sort of spirit comes to mind, the Holy Spirit, who has the ability to pep us up and keep us going. Not just for half time, but for all time. We all have different seasons in our lives. Sometimes we need some old compost to comfort us and keep us warm. Sometimes we need some liquid seaweed to wake us up or keep us going. So whether times for you are good right now or perhaps sad and difficult, just remember we have a Friend, the Holy Spirit, who will help us and gives us just what we need.

Chris Limbach

Researching the history of Surlingham Ferry

Paul Staniforth from Bramerton is currently updating the research on the history of the 'Ferry' and the adjacent Inn.

The history of the ferry itself goes way back to 1586 and almost certainly existed a century or more before that. Extensive research was undertaken in 19xx before the days when www was easily accessible. Paul is using this to source photographs, similar to the two you see here, held by private collectors as well as supplementary information concerning trade on the river at that time.



He is particularly keen to get his hands on a photograph of the MTB 653 probably owned by the Norwich Sea Cadets which moored up in his memory about 30 years ago.

Any significant historical events press cuttings or B/W or sepia prints would be welcome. Please contact Paul on 01508 538195

South Yare Wildlife Group

Thursday 20th April 7.30 pm at Claxton Village Hall
South Yare Wildlife Group AGM followed by a talk on Large Marsh Grasshopper re introduction by Stuart Green

Sunday 14th May 5.30 am at Ferryhouse Surlingham.
Breakfast with the Birds. Guided Dawn Chorus walk followed by a full breakfast. Booking is essential: please contact 07834 810181

Loddon Flower Club

Tuesday 4th April - Easter workshop held at the Lecture Hall, George Lane Loddon. 6-30pm for 7pm. A list of items needed for the workshop is available from our Secretary which is an arrangement without floral foam.

Tuesday 2nd May - Clair Thompson flower arranging demonstration entitled 'A Trip to the Library'

Tuesday 6th June - Pat Barton flower arranging demonstration entitled 'Where in the World'. Both these meetings are held in St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon, 6-30pm for 7pm, visitors £7-50.

Friday 5th May is National Flower Arranging Day where our members leave flower arrangements in the local area for people to pick up and take home. Watch out in the area.

Contact Tricia Godfrey (Chairman) on 01508-480522 or tricia646@aol.com or Alex Pinder (Secretary) on 01508-493869 or nark@aol.com. We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions and our website is at www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.

Become a Volunteer at Strumpshaw Steam Museum

The success of Strumpshaw Steam Museum has been due to the hard work of its volunteers.

We are now in need of new volunteers to "meet and greet" our visitors on our normal Sunday opening and at our special events during the season. You would also have the opportunity to help run a number of the exhibits and assist in the gift shop and the cafe.

The museum houses traction engines, steam rollers and tractors; A huge 100 ton working beam pumping engine; An art deco 1930s cinema organ and mechanical organs; The Ark fairground ride; An outdoor narrow gauge railway.

Please take a look at our website and view the new drone fly-through that will give you a unique view of the museum, strumpshawsteammuseum.co.uk. If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer, then contact either Michael on 01508 538496 or Des on 01603 714494. Alternatively come and visit us at the museum when we are open; we would be delighted to see you. The museum is open every Sunday and Bank Holiday from Easter Sunday until the first Sunday in October.

Poringland Community Cinema, Poringland Community Centre

Tickets £5 on the door (includes tea or coffee).
Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm.
Please wear a mask when moving around the centre
Friday 21st April - Living (12A)
Drama. Stars Bill Nighy and Aimee Lou Wood



ST. JOHN AMBULANCE - WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

St. John Ambulance is a leading provider of first aid training and the single largest provider of public first aid in the country, with fully trained volunteer first aiders attending all types of events such as. • The Royal Norfolk Show • The Cromer Carnival • The Sandringham Flower Show • Thursford Spectacular • Norwich City and King's Lynn football Clubs • The University of East Anglia LCR. For more information on St. John Ambulance please visit sja.org.uk or email norfolksja@sja.org.uk. There are plenty of volunteering roles available such as becoming a youth leader and helping with the Hospital Library Service as well as being a first aider. Organised by St. John Ambulance Norfolk County Priory Group Registered charity no. 1077265/1. For information on the garden openings contact 07767 327257 or look for latest news on: stjohnpengardensgmail.weebly.com

So many of you have supported our Open Garden programme in the past, for which we are extremely grateful as we are now in a position to purchase a new electric vehicle for use by our volunteers and our next project is to buy defibrillators which can be used for training. Raveningham Hall Gardens have already made a very generous donation enabling us to start this programme. The gardens are private property and open through the generosity of the owners to whom we are extremely grateful. There may be plant sales at some of them together with other stalls and refreshments are available in every garden. However please be aware that toilet facilities and wheelchair access may be limited so do not hesitate to contact me on 07767 327257 or email georginaholloway@hotmail.co.uk The latest information will be on the website stjohnpengardensgmail.weebly.com Thank you again for your support.



OPEN GARDENS 2023

Sunday 2nd April - GAYTON HALL (HMR)
Gayton, King's Lynn, PE32 1PL
Adults £5, children free. Dogs on leads welcome. Open 12 noon - 5 pm.

Sunday 7th May - BECK FARM, (HMR)
The Green, Brisley, NR20 5LN
Adults £5, children free. Guide Dogs only.
Open 12 noon - 5 pm.

Sunday 11th June - BESTHORPE HALL (HMR). Attleborough, NR17 2LJ.
Adults £5, children free. Guide dogs only.
Open 11 am - 4 pm.

HMR = Home-made Refreshments
PS = Plant Sales

Details of more OPEN GARDENS in next issue of Eleven Says

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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton

Coronation Events

Saturday, 29th April - Coronation Concert in St. Mary's Church, Yelverton at 7 pm.
See poster below..

Sunday, 7th May - Service at 9.30 am in St. Mary's Church, Yelverton to celebrate the Coronation.

Sunday, 7th May - 'Street Party' at the Wheel of Fortune from 12 noon. An opportunity to join in a village celebration. Food available, or bring your own picnic. See posters for full details

Saturday, 13th May - Live music at the Wheel of Fortune. From 8 pm. An evening of Country and Rock & Roll music with Johnny Flinton.



FRIENDS of St. MARY'S CHURCH



Coronation Concert



On Saturday, 29th April at 7 pm, we welcome the return of **Susie Turner and Annette Jude** for an evening of light-hearted and patriotic music in St. Mary's Church, Yelverton, in aid of the bells appeal. Tickets are £10 including refreshments.

To book tickets or for further information, please contact Mary Fewster, 01508 492059.

ALPINGTON & YELVERTON HISTORY SOCIETY

alpingtonandyelvertonhistorysociety.wordpress.com

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

Fourth Tuesday of alternative months starting at 7.30pm.

May 23rd - Excavating an Enigmatic Roman Structure at Caistor St Edmund.

Putting the record straight about *Venta Icenorum* (modern day Caistor St Edmund) and its many myths and stories. Although founded in AD60 or 61, after the Boudican insurrection, the town's history is far more complicated than the popular narrative suggests.

Light refreshments will be available. Members free. Guests £4.

QUIZ AND CHILLI EVENING

To help meet the running costs of Bergh Apton's Parish Church we are holding a QUIZ and CHILLI evening on

April 22nd at Bergh Apton Village Hall at 7 pm for a 7-30 start.

If interested please contact MILTON HARRIS
Town Farm, Bergh Apton, NORWICH, NR15 1BS.
Tel: 01508/550473, or email town_farm@btinternet.com

Bergh Apton

Bergh Apton & District Society Bergh Apton village hall, Cooke's Road, Bergh Apton, Norwich, NR15 1AA

Wednesday April 12th - Speaker *Sally B Dearman*

As a private pilot, Sally flew herself into Royal Air Force Cranwell for her Initial Officer Training. After six years' service as a fighter controller she re-rolled to the pilot branch. In this talk, *Women Can Fly (At Seven Miles A Minute)*, Sally shares what led her to become the first woman through the RAF's fast-jet flying training system, some animal facts relating to military flying, and how to attract or repel noisy jets depending on your proclivity.

Wednesday May 10th - We have local speaker *John Ford*, coming to talk to us about the **Adrian Bell Society**.

Viewed as The voice of the Countryside, Bell moved to Suffolk from London in 1920. He was first a farm pupil and then a farmer, living in various parts of the County for the next 60 years, until his death in September 1980. He wrote 25 books, most of which were based on his life and work in Suffolk.

Both meetings begin at 7.30 pm. Tea, Coffee and biscuits served. Raffle. Admission £4 pp and open to all.

The New Happening in Bergh Apton is starting soon!!

We saw a lot of familiar faces at the various Bergh Apton Jubilee Festival events last year, so we think you'll be pleased to know that we're currently putting together another diverse programme for the **Bergh Apton Festival 2023**

This first event will be an absolute cracker! **The Pot of Gold Shanty Crew** hit the news in the EDP last November when they were invited to appear at the Cutty Sark Festival in London. They have a great sound - check them out on YouTube - and have already appeared at a number of Shanty Festivals including, by the time they join us, the famous Port Isaac Shanty Festival.

Mark the date you see below in your diaries:

Saturday 20th May at 7 pm
Bergh Apton Church, NR15 1BX.

Tickets are £12 via Eventbrite (see Bergh Apton Website) or contact 01508 558440.



Book early to avoid disappointment as this is likely to be a very popular event.

Bergh Apton Horse and Fun Dog Show 2023

To raise funds for BERGH APTON CHURCH

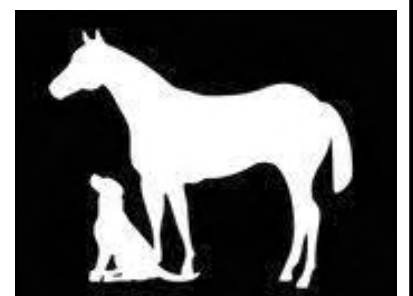
The show will be held on the late Spring Bank Holiday

Monday, 29th May at Bergh Apton Manor,
Bergh Apton, NR15 1BL by kind permission of
Mr and Mrs Bertram

The event starts at 9.30 am,
Fun Dog Show starts at 12.30 pm
All Welcome.

Please bring your dogs!

Full details can be found on the
Bergh Apton Website.



Village News

Bramerton

BOWLS PLAYERS URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

Bramerton & District Bowls Club, East Hill Lane, Bramerton, NR14 7EQ. Next to the village hall.



The Bramerton & District Bowls Club could have to close down after over 50 years at its present site because of a shortage of players.

Pre Covid, Bramerton was the envy of the other clubs in leagues they played in. We had 12 young players, six of them under 18, however they have moved on to a higher level with two of them playing for England under 18s and under 25s.

Poringland lost its last bowls club just prior to covid. If Bramerton closes, the only local club will be Shotesham.

We will be holding open days for any one experienced or novices who may be interested in joining us. Please come along and try lawn bowling on the following days:

Saturdays, 22nd and 29th April. 2pm (followed by every Saturday beginning in May weather permitting.)

Wednesdays, 19th and 26th April 7pm

If any one who has retired from playing has any size 0, 1s or 2s bowls that they do not need we will be very grateful to have them. They would be a great help for first time players / learners. Playing bowls can be good fun and it also helps to keep you fit so do please come along and give it a try. For further information and to let us know when you would like to come please telephone :

Michael Cooper 07479473471 (Poringland)

Jane / Terry Henry. 01508 538139 (Rockland St Mary)

Richard Speare 01508 538465 (Bramerton)

Frank Richardson 07874075266 (Alpington)

Easter Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th April
10am - 12pm
Bramerton Village Hall

Easter Egg Hunt for Children!

Bramerton Craft and Collectors' Get-Together

3rd April - 2 - 4 pm
17th April - 2 - 4 pm
15th May - 2 - 4 pm

Bramerton Village Hall, Easthill Lane,

Come and join a friendly group of fellow crafters and collectors. We meet fortnightly to enjoy a cup of tea, a chat and some crafting!! All are welcome, even if you don't have a craft!

Voluntary contributions to the hall hire and refreshment selection welcomed!

For information please email: jmiddletonfamily@btinternet.com

Rockland St Mary Pancake Day Success!!

The event was a huge success and many pancakes were happily tossed, eaten and enjoyed!!! Big thanks to those who came and supported us and to everyone who helped. £178.30 was raised which has been split between Priscilla Bacon Hospice and the churches of Rockland and Hellington.



Bramerton continued

Celebration Service for the Life of Chris Hawes

You may remember reading in the last issue that Chris, who had moved from the village to be closer to his family in Surrey, passed away peacefully on November 24th 2022 and a private burial was held in December at Bramerton Church.

A church service has now been arranged and the family welcomes everyone to join them to Celebrate the Life of Chris.

The service will be held at **2 pm on Saturday 15th April at St Peter's Church**, where Chris had been the Church Warden for 30 years.



Carleton St Peter

Thank you to those of you who came and supported our February and March services.

We have our first event arranged, a 'Spring Fundraiser', which will be held from **2 pm to 4 pm** on the afternoon of **23rd April** at Carleton St Peter Church. We hope as many of you can make it as possible. More details will follow, please look out for the posters.

Claxton

Claxton Village Hall The Village Hall continues to be well used and we have been pleased to welcome a variety of hirers. Our new Nest system has made it easier to programme the hall's heating and we are constantly looking for ways to ensure the hall is well maintained and remains an asset to the village.

Claxton Community Café In January we moved our Community Café to a slightly later time, in the middle of the month, and served a lunch of home-made soup alongside our usual offering of bacon baps and baked goods. This was so well received we decided to repeat this in March. Our **April Café on Wednesday 5th** returns to its usual time of 10am - 12noon.

Claxton Community Café and St Andrew's In May the Community Café will celebrate the Coronation with **Afternoon Tea on Monday 8th May between 2 and 4 pm**. We feel this will be in keeping with the Community focus of the Bank Holiday and hope as many people as possible will join us for the afternoon. There will be coronation craft activities for the children as well as delicious food.

On the Bank Holiday weekend (**6th - 8th May**) there will be a flower display in the church and a 'treasure hunt' in the churchyard during the whole weekend. Look out for the children's activities, which will be delivered to homes in Claxton in advance of the celebrations. We hope children will decorate these and bring them to the hall before the weekend so they can be used in St Andrew's and the Village Hall as part of the displays.

Claxton Social Club Open every Friday from 8 pm. Look out for our food van nights - food is usually available from 5:30 pm:
May 5th - Durban Grill; **June 16th** - Phat Khao
September 8th - Peaky Pizzas

Village News

Rockland St Mary

Rockland St Mary and District Gardening Club

The Gardening Club meets on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room, The Street, Rockland St Mary. Parking is free in the Black Horse Dyke car park adjacent to the Room. New members are always welcome. During the winter months we have speakers who give very interesting talks. Some speak about their own specialised horticultural topic, others tell us about their own gardens - sometimes with a slide show - and others pass on their gardening successes and tips.

During the summer months we have garden visits which always prove popular. Most are evening visits although sometimes there is an afternoon visit.

Anyone is welcome to come along, it's just £3 for guests which includes refreshments that are served following the talk and sometimes a Q&A session. It's free for members and subs - £15 - are due if you haven't already paid for the year.

The next talk on the agenda is as follows:

April 27th - Sally Bate will be talking about the landscape designer, Humphrey Repton

Garden visits booked throughout the Summer months - May to August

Thursday May 25th - Afternoon visit 2.30 pm - Richard Hobbs will be giving a tour and a talk about the history of the Walled Garden, Old Hall Road, Little Plumstead, NR13 5FA

Thursday June 22nd - Evening visit to the garden of Pat Adcock, 26 Ipswich Road, Norwich. NR2 2LZ

Thursday July 27th - Evening visit to Southgate House, Southgate Lane, Norwich, NR1 2AQ

Thursday August 24th - Evening visit to Acre Meadow, New Road, Bradwell, NR31 9DU

Grand Summer Show for 2023

We are now arranging the schedule for our ever popular Summer Show for 2023. Please note this date in your diaries:

Saturday July 15th!!

So come on all you happy gardeners, get your gardening gloves on, get your gardening tools out and start planting!!!

There are certificates and rosettes waiting for all winners of each class - even for children - be it flowers, or fruit, or vegetables, or maybe bread, cakes, scones, etc.

So no excuses now. **Go, go, go get planting!!**



For further details, please contact Ruth Everett, 01508 538231.

Rockland St Mary and District WI

Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Margaret Mack Room. New members are always welcome.

April 11th - Jean Whitlam is giving a talk on life as a nurse and matron at the Doughty's Hospital Norwich.

May 9th - Angela Bishop is giving a talk entitled 'Memories of Toys and Games'

You will be very welcome to come along and join us for an enjoyable evening..



Rockland St Mary Primary School and Nursery

A traditional village school with a forward-thinking approach to education.

A 'small school' with 'big opportunities' (Ofsted GOOD 2022)

There have been some exciting changes at Rockland St Mary Primary School and Nursery. Please feel welcome to come and have a cup of tea and a scone at our **Open Day and Community Event on Thursday 20th April, from 2pm**. This will be an opportunity to come and see the school in action, experience our guided learning areas (this will be fantastic for younger children of any age) and have a chat and a bite to eat. All are **welcome**, even if your child is not yet school age they will enjoy the activities on offer, or if you'd just like a scone please also feel welcome! Our amazing FORMS (Friends of Rockland St Mary School) will be providing refreshments.

I'm Hannah Boag, the new Head Teacher, and it has been my pleasure to get to know this wonderful school, and I'm incredibly proud to be part of it.

The recent 'good' Ofsted report recognises the hard work of children and staff, and praises the wide range of opportunities that children are given. This school is like a family, with older children playing with and looking after the younger ones, and everyone working as a team.

We are part of the Sapientia Education Trust, based at Wymondham College, and benefit from all the expertise and collaboration this brings. The school combines all the character, history and community of a village school with a cutting-edge curriculum and excellent teaching.

The children at Rockland make great progress in their learning. They benefit from small teacher to pupil ratios, meaning every child is known and given the very best opportunity to succeed. Our outcomes are excellent and the quality of children's work is impressive. Children love learning and they love their school. Children at Rockland St Mary have a guaranteed place at Framingham Earl, one of the best secondary schools in Norfolk.

Sunbeams Nursery. Rockland's Sunbeams Nursery sits in a purpose-built cabin located on the school site. It is now fully part of the school, enabling Sunbeams children to enjoy our 'Curiosity' Approach.



Village News

Rockland St Mary continued



Children are given a range of guided learning experiences, both inside and outside, with a beautiful early years area which is shared by reception and year one children.

Many of the children from Sunbeams will move to our Reception class, making the transition from nursery to reception as seamless as possible. However, Sunbeams is open to **ALL** children from the local community and further afield, regardless of the primary school they wish to attend following their nursery phase.

Sunbeams is currently open for 15 hours a week, therefore, if you are interested in your child attending or would like to visit to have a look around our fantastic facilities, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01508 538345.

Reading at Rockland. Reading is our number one priority, we love reading at Rockland! We are currently in the process of refitting our library with a range of up-to-date fiction and non-fiction books within the central area of our school. It is through the commitment and support of FORMS that this has been possible. The space will be redesigned to include beautiful display shelving, new murals celebrating reading and book characters, an area for individual and paired reading, alongside a bespoke intervention space for children to work in small groups with teaching staff.

A number of volunteers have signed up to read with our children in the afternoon, which will really support our drive to ensure every child is above age-related expectations in reading when they move on to Framingham Earl and has developed a lifelong love of reading.



Personal Development at Rockland: 'Big Opportunities' Within our ambitious curriculum we incorporate a range of activities that are designed to promote children's wider personal development and cultural capital, giving our children all the opportunities they would have at a bigger city school, while retaining the special family feel of our village school.

This year our trips include the Norfolk County Music Festival for the whole school. All the children sang in the **School Choirs competition held on Thursday 23rd March at St Andrews Hall.**



The school is also performing a range of songs at the **Royal Norfolk Show** in the Sapientia Tent as well as entering the Royal Norfolk Show Schools' Garden Competition, organized in partnership with the Food and Farming Trust. It will be great to see you there on **29th June at the Norfolk Showground.**

Surlingham

March seems to have come arrived so fast, the cillas are in flower by the church porch and there are primroses among the daffodils. The 'Warm Rooms' and Café gatherings have given cheer and companionship through the last months and now we can look forward to spring and summer events.

On **22nd April** we will have a Book and Craft sale with 'CAKE and TEAS' in the Church.

At the moment we have Lent meetings on Zoom and in the Barn in Rockland, following the book, *How to Eat Bread*, nourishing ways to read the Bible. A review mentions that the Bible can be confusing and indigestible without a guide! Reading and talking about it with a guide is helpful.



March 3rd was the World Day of Prayer. Each year a different country is responsible for putting together a short service which is then used across the world in Christian communities. This year the service was put together in Taiwan. The service sheets also contain background information about the presenting country and there is a further magazine called 'Together in Prayer' which has been printed annually for the past 40 years in England, that provides more country information and about all the projects around the world that are supported by the service donations. It can be seen in the church. It is good to know that around the world people are gathered together to pray when so many are suffering from war, civic and economic hardship.



In Surlingham we have been saddened by the sudden death of Mary Shaw, always a cheerful and helpful friend, who was involved in many village activities.

Her funeral was held at Breckland Crematorium on Thursday 9th March.

Egyptian Geese chicks

The Egyptian geese in the field between Ferry Road and the Gun Club now have chicks. Could all walkers and dog owners please be mindful.



Information and photograph received from Mary Pipes

Village News

Thurton

Thurton Church, Afternoon Services.

We are hosting another in our series of "Songs of Praise" services in Thurton Church at 4 pm on **Sunday 16th April** with plenty of hymns and some readings and poems. It will be an informal occasion and we welcome anyone from across the Bramerton Group of Churches. We shall be using the Bluetooth speakers to give us some nice music and vocal leadership. If you have a favourite hymn please let Revd Cate know.

We are also planning an Iona style worship service at 4pm on **Sunday 21st May**. Revd Cate will be leading this for us and we welcome anyone who would like to experience a different style of worship.

We shall be serving tea and buns afterwards on both occasions.

Chris and Rosalind Limbach, 01508 480440
candrlimbach@gmail.com

Thurton PCC News

To facilitate unimpeded grass cutting it was necessary to trim back the trees and bushes in St. Ethelberts Churchyard: this was achieved with the help of the following:

Elliot and Christine Drake for the loan of the chainsaw and cutter, and Denis McKendry for the trimming and helping with the clearing of the brush.

The following also helped to clear the brush:
Jim Black, David Miller, Len Swiffen, Michael Cooke (Loddon), Neville Whiting, and Keith Todd (organiser/supervisor).

Our thanks are also extended to Richard and Tim Loads for kind permission to add the brush to a bonfire in their field.

Our continued thanks also go to Derek Harvey (Bergh Apton) for the grass cutting and strimming.

For and on behalf of Thurton PCC

Neville Whiting

South Norfolk Pub of the Year Finalists

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Barry and Naomi Gelder, landlords of The Wheel of Fortune, Alington, for their amazing achievement in being one of the three finalists in South Norfolk Pub of the Year competition.



After only a year as landlords, they have entered fully into the life of the village and are very supportive of village groups and activities, happy to host events and provide a warm welcome at our little historic village pub.

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Friends of Thurton Church

Thurton Fun Quiz

Fun quiz and supper evening

Friday 26th May at Thurton village hall 7.30pm

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To book phone Lynton Johnson on 01508 480629.

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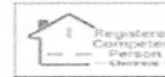
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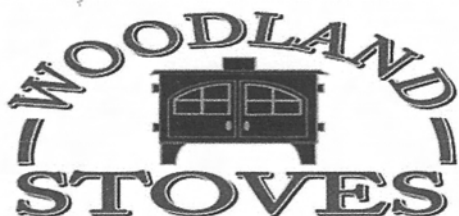
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	April 2 nd Palm Sunday Red	Apr 6 th Maundy Thursday White	Apr 7 th Good Friday	Apr 8 th Easter Eve Gold	April 9 th Easter Day White/Gold	April 16 th Easter 2 White	April 23 rd Easter 3 White	April 30 th Easter 4 White	May 7 th Easter 5 White	May 14 th Easter 6 White	May 21 st Easter 7 White	May 28 th Pentecost Red	June 4 th Trinity Sunday Gold/White
Ashby St Mary						11.00 Mass with Incense		10.00 GROUP SERVICE	11.00 MP PT		11.00 Mass with Incense		11.00 MP PT
Bergh Apton					09.30 HC	09.30 PT	09.30 HC BCP		09.30 HC		09.30 PT	09.30 HC BCP	09.30 HC
Bramerton					15.30 Easter Hymns and Readings							09.30 HC	
Carleton St Peter	11.00 MP				11.00 FW					11.00 MP			11.00 HC
Claxton	09.30 HC				09.30 HC	09.30 MW				09.30 HC	09.30 MW		09.30 HC
Framingham Pigot		19.00 HC With Foot Washing			11.00 HC		11.00 HC			10.00 BENEFICE		11.00 HC	11.00 HC
Kirby Bedon					09.30 HC	11.00 HC					11.00 HC		
Rockland St Mary		18.30 Pascal Meal at the Barn	14.00 Still with the Cross in the Barn	19.30 Lighting of the New Fire and Renewal of Baptism vows	06.00 Sunrise Service Rockland Staithe	10.30 - 12 Café Church in Parish Room	11.00 HC		11.00 HC Coronation Celebration Lunch at the Barn			16.00 Evensong	
Surlingham			10.00 FW		15.30 Easter Hymns and Readings		09.30 HC				11.00 FW and Baptism	11.00 HC	
Thurton				20.00 Easter Vigil HC		16.00 Songs of Praise			11.00 HC		16.00 Iona Praise		
Yelverton	10.00 BENEFICE				09.30 HC		16.00 ALL 4		09.30 PT		09.30 HC	16.00 ALL 4	09.30 PT

CODE: HC = Holy Communion; E. Praise = Evening Praise; FC = Family Communion; FW = Family Worship; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer; .PT = Parish Team; VM = Vestry Meeting.

Compline will be held at 7 pm in Holy Week as follows: Yelverton Monday 3rd; Bergh Apton Tuesday 4th; Ashby Wednesday 5th
No mid-week communion in April but a short Communion Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Yelverton on Thursday 4th May 2023 at 10.30 am .

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: April and May 2023

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
02/04/23	Psalms 118.1-2,19-29		Matthew 21.1-11	Palm Sunday
09/04/23	Acts 10.34-43	Colossians 3.1-4	Matthew 28.1-10	Easter Day
16/04/23	Acts 2.14a,22-32	1 Peter 1.3-9	John 20.19-31	2nd Sunday of Easter
23/04/23	Acts 2.14a,36-41	1 Peter 1.17-23	Luke 24.13-35	3rd Sunday of Easter
30/04/23	Acts 2.42-47	1 Peter 2.19-25	John 10.1-10	4th Sunday of Easter
07/05/23	Acts 7.55-60	1 Peter 2.2-10	John 14.1-14	5th Sunday of Easter
14/05/23	Acts 17.22-31	1 Peter 3.13-22	John 14.15-21	6th Sunday of Easter
18/05/23	Acts 1.1-11	Ephesians 1.15-23	Luke 24.44-53	Ascension Day
21/05/23	Acts 1.6-14	1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11	John 17.1-11	7th Sunday of Easter
28/05/23	Acts 2.1-21	1 Corinthians 12.3b-13	John 7.37-39	Pentecost/Whit Sunday
04/06/23	Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31	2 Corinthians 13.11-13	Matthew 28.16-20	Trinity Sunday

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



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NEXT ASSEMBLY: SATURDAY MAY 27th, BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL, COOKE'S ROAD, NR15 1AA, 9am - 11am (approx)