



# ELEVEN SAYS

JUNE /  
JULY 2026

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP OF CHURCHES COVERING 11 PARISHES

ISSUE 319

## The Church for Everyone

The church buildings in our parishes have stood as sentinels, keeping watch over our villages for centuries as places of worship, but also as a focus for gatherings of the communities to mark significant life events. Generations of families are buried in the churchyards, and the very walls of the buildings are soaked in the prayers of the ages. It is hard not to enter the quiet, cool stillness of an ancient church building and not be touched by a sense of calm; a reminder that life, although it was often hard, was not always as frantic as it seems to be now. The very history of the Church and its people over the years is tangible in the bricks and mortar and a reminder of those who laboured to build God a far more solid and grand house than they themselves lived in. There are few modern buildings that have this impact. When I was Vicar of an urban parish, the church building was very modern, built in 1981 (it had a commemorative brick set in one wall with the initials 'C' and 'D' as it opened the year Charles and Diana were married.) As a building it was very functional and comfortable both for worship and for community activities during the week, but it lacked any sense of history or permanence or connection with generations past, and it was the poorer for it.

I know from talking to the couples I prepare for marriage that the buildings are important to them, not simply as an attractive back drop for the photographs, but because they sense the significance of standing where others have stood before, making the same loving commitment to each other, entering not just into a legal contract, but receiving God's blessing for the whole of their life together. This is never more evident than when I have had the privilege to conduct a marriage where the parents or grandparents of the bride or groom were married in the same church decades before. I have also conducted funeral services in a church where the deceased was also married; it is quite moving to see a coffin standing on the same floor tiles where its occupant stood maybe fifty or sixty years earlier beside their beloved to say, 'I will'.

It is a shame, therefore, that the number of people in our communities seeking to be a part of the ongoing history of the Church and the church building is falling away quite rapidly. When I became Rector of our five parishes some eleven years ago, we averaged fifteen weddings each year. This year we have just four booked. Weddings have been in decline in general, not just in the church, with a fifty percent reduction in the number of weddings now compared to fifty years ago. There are many reasons for this, including the cost, changing social attitudes to co-habiting or raising children outside of marriage as well as the falling influence of religion.

But I also feel that part of the decline is due to a growing disconnect between the churches and the communities they serve. Some years ago, I was Chair of the Diocesan Weddings Team created to promote church weddings, and part of my remit was to attend wedding fairs and speak to couples about church weddings. The most common issue that arose was a belief that if they did not regularly attend church services, they could not be married in the church and there was always considerable surprise when I explained this was not the case. The church buildings are not clubhouses for members but belong to all who live in the parish. In the Bramerton Group, we are trying very hard to share this vital message and make the churches available to celebrate life and community events. This is not because we are desperate for business(!) but because we want all in our present-day communities to experience the joy, the wonder, the mystery and the love of God which our church buildings have contributed to and witnessed for generations.

As part of this promotion, we are planning a special service to celebrate marriage, and we do hope many couples and families from across the eleven parishes of the group will attend to give thanks for the deep expression of love rooted in the tradition of marriage. It is open to everyone including those who were married in a local church, another church or in another wedding venue as well as those who may be considering a church wedding now or in the future or simply want to join us to celebrate all loving relationships before God. The short service will be followed by fizz and refreshments, and we do hope you will consider joining us.

All the details are on the adjacent poster.

With every blessing,

Fr Chris.



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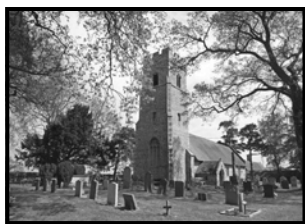
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## The Good Friday Pilgrimage



Ashby St Mary



THURTON



Bergh Apton



YELVERTON



FRAMINGHAM PIGOT

The Thurton Benefice' Good Friday Pilgrimage began at St. Mary's Church Ashby. Our gathering of pilgrims, after a short service, meditation and music, then walked to St. Ethelbert's, Thurton, and on to St. Peter & St. Paul's, Bergh Apton.

Then the journey took us to St Mary's Yelverton. Finally ending up at St. Andrew's Framingham Pigot, leaving the wooden cross ready for next year's Pilgrimage.

The weather was kind to us and most of the group completed the whole journey. (as our photographs recorded). It was good to have some children on our journey too, and Dawson, Chris and Melanie's best friend! Children and Dawson were so well behaved.

The pilgrims had a short service at each church including, quiet reflection, music and a hymn, with a welcome refreshment waiting at St. Mary's Yelverton of hot cross buns tea/coffee and toilet break,

We give thanks and appreciation to Chris and Melanie for their hard work in producing the varied readings for each church and with a good number of services leading us to the joy of Easter Day on the 5th April. All content for each service was given much thought, typed and printed, also the music and hymns were selected well for the occasion.

All were welcomed to join us as we journeyed towards and beyond the Cross once again.

There were five main characters - one character for each church service - Peter, Judas, Caiaphas, Pilate and centurion.

All with the same question:



### "Love is patient, love is kind"

The lines below appeared on the wall of Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta, India. They are based on an original composition by Kent Keith, but this version is credited to Mother Theresa herself.

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.  
*Forgive them anyway.*

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.  
*Be kind anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.  
*Succeed anyway.*

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.  
*Be honest and sincere anyway.*

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.  
*Create anyway.*

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.  
*Be happy anyway.*

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.  
*Do good anyway.*

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.  
*Give your best anyway.*

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.  
*It was never between you and them anyway.*

Vivien Humber

### Surlingham resident presented with British Empire Medal

On Wednesday 13th May Clive Evans was presented with his British Empire Medal.

Clive is a long-standing Volunteer Ambassador for the Priscilla Bacon Hospice Charity.

He was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the King's New Year Honours in recognition of his services to the community and to end of life care.

He is pictured with the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Lady Phillipa Dannatt.





## Rockland St Mary Benefice

### What's on in Rockland Benefice

June marks the start of the 'green' time in church. Sundays after Trinity stretch from now until the end of October, and green is their colour. It's sometimes known as Ordinary Time as there are no seasons or major festivals, but in my experience, there is no ordinary time in Church life. There's always something happening . . .

. . . Midsummer Music and More in Claxton, **June 20th**, from 12 Noon - 5 pm. See Page 10 for more information.

. . . 'The Shepherd and the Sheep' Café Church in Rockland Parish Room, **June 28th** 10.30 am -12 Noon.

. . . Bramerton's Open Air Service on **July 19th**, 4 pm.

. . . joining with Fr. Chris at Framingham Pigot for the Wedding Celebration Service on **July 12th** at 4 pm.

. . . . A Phenomenal Building Workshop for Children and their Grown Ups in Rockland St. Mary's Church on **July 23rd** (see article on Page 5 for more information).

. . . our annual Summer Group service at Hellington. We're celebrating Communion at Hellington Church on **July 28th** at 11 am, followed by a picnic in the churchyard. Please bring something to sit on outside (pews provided inside if wet!).

. . . . Carleton St. Peter's Annual Flower Festival on **August 1st and 2nd** - always worth a visit!

**News from the Barn:** Warm Welcome Mondays' summer season continues on **June 29th** and **July 27th** at The Barn between 11 am and 2.30 pm. Due to The Barn's annual August shutdown the following Warm Welcome will be on **September 28th**.

**Still at the Barn** offers a quiet, informal space for reflection, conversation and opportunities to respond to words, music and images on Sunday afternoons. We're gathering at 4 pm on July 5th.

**Art Café in the Barn** opens its doors on **June 10th** and **July 8th**, 10.30 am -12.30 pm. Drop in for friendly company, fresh coffee and art-related enjoyment!

**Art Café Online** meets on **July 22nd** at 10.30 am. Please contact Nick for your Zoom link and details of our lively and varied programme.

### Some Big Thank Yous . . .

. . . To all who attended and helped at the Warm Welcome Mondays and Group Lent Course, raising £680.20 for the **Diocesan Lent Appeal** for school bursaries for clergy families in Papua New Guinea. Thank you for your generosity.

. . . To Rockland with Hellington PC, the Poores Trust and South Norfolk District Council for their invaluable support of **Warm Welcome**, and our cheerful and hardworking team of volunteers.

. . . To everyone who supported this year's **Joint Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, all who stood for election and all who offer their support in so many ways.

. . . To everyone who's supported this year's **Christian Aid Week**. If you still wish to make a donation online, please follow this link <https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/>

Thank you, Revd Nick Garrard

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

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**SUNDAY 28th JUNE**

Theme: "The Shepherd and The Sheep"  
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** \*\*\*\*\*





## Thurton Benefice

### Thurton Benefice Update

**A Service in Celebration of Marriage: Sunday 12th July** at St Andrew's Church, Framingham Pigot, at 4pm. A special service to which all are invited whether you have been married for six months or sixty years or are, indeed, considering a wedding in one of our churches in the Group. There will be a short service followed by refreshments and fizz. We will be writing to invite those who have been married in our churches in recent years, but the service is very much open to all who would like to come to celebrate the joy and love of marriage. **Please see the article on the front cover of this edition and the invitation poster.**

**Little Fish:** our Christian Toddler Group is held fortnightly on Wednesday mornings at Ashby & Thurton Village Hall during term time. Judy Jackson has been running this for the past 7 years and will be stepping down at the end of the summer term. Thank you Judy for all the time and energy you have committed to Little Fish - it is much appreciated. We now need to find a new 'Angel Fish' to lead this little group and if you feel that might be you, please speak to me and I will put you in touch with Judy who can explain what is involved.

**Confirmation Service:** I am delighted that Bishop Ian will be coming to the Benefice on Sunday 25th October 2026 for a Confirmation Service. In the Anglican tradition, Confirmation is the second sacrament of initiation which completes the process of membership starting with the candidate's baptism and allows them to make a personal, mature decision to affirm the promises made on their behalf through infant baptism. Through it the affirming believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands and anointing with the oil of Chrism and strengthens their relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Confirmation can happen at any age in our adult life, usually from the age of 12 or 13 onwards. I will be arranging preparation classes in late summer/early autumn which will probably be on Saturday mornings in Bergh Apton Church.

*The service and preparation classes will be open to anyone in the Bramerton Group and Loddon Deanery so please contact me if you would like an informal conversation about whether confirmation might be appropriate for you or a family member.*

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).** Thank you to those who attended the Annual Meeting at the end of April, especially those who gave reports and agreed to take on/continue in various roles of responsibility in our Church communities.

**Midweek Communions:** usually take place on Wednesday mornings at 10.30 am on a rotating basis in Ashby St Mary, Bergh Apton, Framingham Pigot and Thurton and on the first Thursday of each month at Yelverton. **Please see the separate table on Page 5 with details of locations and dates.**

The service is from the Book of Common Prayer and lasts for 30 minutes. I am usually available after the service to meet with anyone who would welcome the opportunity to speak with me in confidence in a church setting.

**Safeguarding:** The churches of the Thurton Benefice are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our Church community. PCC members and all volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults have completed or are undertaking the appropriate safeguarding training and the PCCs are adopting formal safeguarding policies to ensure we comply with all current legislation.

If you have a safeguarding concern please contact our Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Leo Smith, 01508 493695 or me on 01508 484174. Where a child or adult is at imminent risk do not delay: 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. **If someone cannot make it to church, the church goes to them!** 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



## From the Registers

### BAPTISMS

28/03/26 Ralph Jamie LARTER Framingham Pigot

### MARRIAGES

### FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

10/03/26	Hilary FORDER	Claxton
17/03/26	Jenny Marie PURPLE (née Saunders) (96)	Yelverton
23/03/26	Simon MITCHELL	Kirby Bedon
24/03/26	Michael John BUXTON	Claxton
01/04/26	Brian Albert SAYER (90)	Framingham Pigot
10/04/26	Jane Caroline IVES	Carleton St Peter
18/04/26	Valentine Sidney 'Derek' SECKER (92) (Interment of Ashes)	Bergh Apton
23/04/26	David JONES	Rockland St Mary
24/04/26	Myrtle Jane WRIGHT (97)	Carleton St Peter
29/04/26	Dennis John STARLING (77)	Thurton
30/04/26	Stephanie Jane PERKINS	Surlingham
05/05/26	Jasmine Frances WOOD (90)	Thurton

## "A Phenomenal Building" Workshop for Children and their Grown Ups

### A new way to appreciate the stunning buildings found in every parish

Too often we live inside our own heads, rushing from one task to the next, barely noticing the world around us. Over time, the wonderful becomes mundane and the beautiful fades into the background. Even the remarkable buildings that surround us – places shaped by centuries of human skill, change and care – can become invisible through familiarity.

Phenomenal Buildings is a new series of workshops that invites us to slow down and reconnect with these spaces by engaging our senses more fully. Using church buildings as the focus, the sessions explore not only the traditional five senses of sight, sound, touch, taste and smell, but also less-considered ways of experiencing the world: our sense of time and its passage, of orientation and place, of warmth and cold, weight and presence.

Run by Norfolk Record Office, the workshops offer a relaxed, enjoyable and thought provoking way of encountering historic buildings anew, whether you know them well or are stepping inside for the first time. The first workshop, concentrating on light – how it moves, changes and shapes our experience of a space – takes place in Rockland St Mary's Church.

Suitable for adults and accompanied older children (6+), the free workshop runs from 10 am to 12 noon on 23rd July.

To book a place, visit <http://norfolkrecordoffice.eventbrite.co.uk> or email [norrec@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:norrec@norfolk.gov.uk)

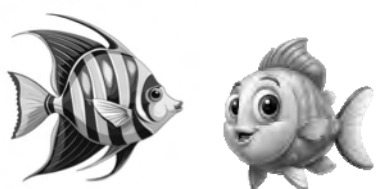
## Little Fish

### Christian Toddler Group meeting fortnightly on Wednesdays during term time

After nearly 7 years as 'Angel Fish', Judy Jackson is retiring from leading Little Fish. Thank you Judy for all your loving commitment to our little people and their parents over the years.

We are, therefore, looking for a new volunteer 'Angel Fish' to take on this very special role in the life of our communities. If you think this might be you, please speak to me in the first instance.

Fr Chris. 01508 484174



## Midweek Communions

June and July

All Services at 10.30am

### June

Wednesday 3rd - Ashby St Mary  
 Thursday 4th - Yelverton  
 Wednesday 10th - Bergh Apton  
 Wednesday 17th - Framingham Pigot  
 Wednesday 24th - Thurton



### July

Wednesday 1st - Ashby St Mary  
 Thursday 2nd - Yelverton  
 Wednesday 8th - Bergh Apton  
 Wednesday 15th - Framingham Pigot  
 Wednesday 22nd - Thurton  
 Wednesday 29th - No Service

All are very welcome to this said service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. Services last 30 minutes.

## Celtic Daily Prayer at St Mary's Church, Surlingham

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: June 9th and 23rd  
July 14th and 28th.

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 [mandy.ansell44@gmail.com](mailto:mandy.ansell44@gmail.com) and I will send you a copy for your own reflection time.

Revd. Mandy Ansell, 01508 538654

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: June 3rd, July 1st, August 12th  
(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)

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

**June 10th** - The Revd Canon Pat Atkinson on her 20th visit to India and updating on the work of the Vidiyal Trust

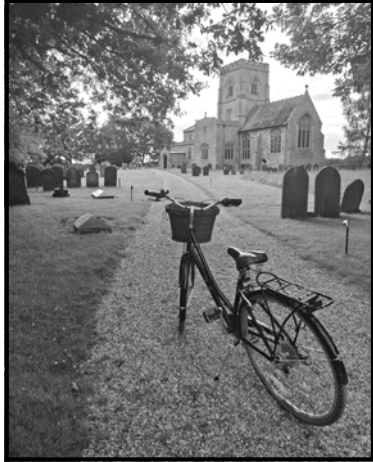
For more information please contact Pat Barter on 01508 493570.

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

## Summer Cycling

Now, a warm feel on my face and lots of hot (h)air!  
The sun beating down shedding warmth everywhere.  
The trees, so majestic, powerful and high,  
Their rich dark green leaves reach up to the sky.  
The banks and the hedges have grown so tall,  
Flowers of the fruits spread between them all.  
The birds are more quiet, lots of fledglings to feed,  
Little mouths take their feed at breakneck speed.  
The crops are transformed, they dance in the breeze  
Like carpets of gold upon the high seas.  
The cows are at rest in the heat of the day,  
Keeping watch on their offspring preferring to play.  
The flow of the river, a little more calm,  
The ditches and ponds a little more balm.  
The dragonflies hover, waterlilies perchance,  
Perhaps a few butterflies join in the dance.  
And so I am thankful to God up above  
For reasons like this which show us His love.

Kath Ricketts



### Pussy Willows

According to an old Polish legend, a mother cat was crying at the bank of the river in which her kittens were drowning.

The willows at the river's edge longed to help her, so they swept their long graceful branches into the waters to rescue the tiny kittens who had fallen into the river while chasing butterflies.

The kittens gripped on tightly to their branches and were safely brought to shore. Each springtime since, goes the legend, the willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds at their tips where the tiny kittens once clung.

## St Mary's Church, Rockland St Mary

After birdsong, after rain  
The silence in the church remains.  
Calm and peace, tranquility.  
Is specially there for you and me.  
  
Jesus Christ is oh so near  
Your time with him is very dear  
So say some prayers or shed a tear  
For someone gone, for someone dear.  
  
St Mary's Church is there for you  
So walk right in and take a pew  
Ease your fears, you'll be renewed  
Remember. Jesus died for you.



## Loddon Lifelong Learners (formerly Loddon WEA)

Following on from our successful course during the Spring Term we have arranged two courses in the Autumn Term.

The first 4 week course will start on the 28th September, entitled 'Digging into our Past'. Tutors will discuss local archaeology, including the Caister Roman Project and Life and Death in Norwich.

Starting in November there will be a 4 week course on Iran entitled 'Dressed to Resist: Women and Change in Iran'. This course will explore Iranian women's contemporary social history through their own voices, highlighting how they have shaped social and political change despite enforced dress codes and other social limitations.

The maximum cost for each course will be £40 which may be reduced dependent on numbers attending.

We meet in the Club Room of the Jubilee Hall in Loddon on Monday afternoons from 2 - 4 pm. Further details will be on the posters and sent to those on our mailing list. If you have attended our courses in the past you will know that we are a lively group who enjoy a good discussion!

If you would like to be informed of developments and join our mailing list, or have any suggestions for a lecturer, please contact Sharon, email [swsmith949@gmail.com](mailto:swsmith949@gmail.com) or telephone Alison on 01508 521976.

## LODDON FLOWER CLUB



We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, doors open 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start, in St John's Lecture Hall on George Lane in Loddon. Parking is available on site or nearby on Church Plain car park.

On **Tuesday June 2nd**, we are having a Garden Visit to Muddy Boots in Bergh Apton. This will be a tour of the gardens, followed by homemade refreshments. If you would like to join us please get in touch for more information.

**Tuesday July 7th** we have a demonstration by Linda Kingcott, the title is 'From Sunset to Moonlight'. Linda's arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening. Refreshments will be served during a short interval, where we can catch up with the floral news and get tips and ideas for our own creations. Visitors £7.50.

We hold our AGM in August so there is no meeting.

If you would like more information please telephone Tricia 01508 480522, or email: [loddonflowerclub@gmail.com](mailto:loddonflowerclub@gmail.com). Please visit our website [www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk](http://www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk), and we also have a Facebook page: Loddon Flower Club.

Everyone is welcome to join us for an enjoyable evening centred around flowers.

We are supporting the Loddon and Chedgrave Arts Festival in July, so do come and give us a look. On Saturday the 4th, the club is holding a demonstration in the morning, 10 am - 12 noon and then in the afternoon we're holding a workshop from 2 pm - 4 pm. Both will be held in St John's Lecture Hall. Do come along and say hello.

Also, look out for our flower display in the Garden Shop window.

**Poringland Community Centre**  
Overtons Way, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7WB

**Poringland Community Cinema**

Future dates for your diary: Friday film nights:  
11th September, 9th October, 13th November, 11th December.

**Buena Vista Social Club**

Future dates for your diary: Friday Film Nights:  
4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December.

For further information please contact: John on 01508 494358 or Carol on 01508 492630

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# Village News

## Alpington & Yelverton

### Alpington Community Shop

Our community shop is becoming established, and we have recruited more volunteers, which means that we are able to extend our opening hours.



From the middle of May we will be opening on:

**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 8.30 to 10.30 am.**

**Thursday: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 3 to 5.30 pm.**

(This means we overlap with the Hippy Chippy, so you can pick up some shopping when you get your fish and chips)

**Friday: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2 to 4 pm.**

**Saturday: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm.**

We are very grateful to those who have volunteered to help us, and to those who are patronising this venture. As a Community Interest Company the profits we make will go into community projects, so please support us.

### Friends of St. Mary's Church, Yelverton

We are making progress on our latest project, which is to restore and re-site the Harrison memorials in the chancel, and we still have places for our fund-raiser in aid of the work: Afternoon Tea and 'Sunset' on **28th June** in the churchyard. This is an opportunity to help us raise the £8,000 needed for the restoration and to enjoy a summer afternoon with full afternoon tea (£15 per person) while listening to the steel band, now called 'Sunset', which entertained us at last year's coffee morning.



If you have not yet booked, don't miss this opportunity. contact Mary Fewster on 01508 492059, or email [m.fewster59@btinternet.com](mailto:m.fewster59@btinternet.com)



St Mary's Church, Yelverton

## Ashby St Mary

### St Mary's Church - A Summer Celebration of Church Organ Music

We are pleased to announce this special event taking place at St Mary's Church on **Saturday 1st August 2026 at 7 pm** and would like to invite village and wider benefice friends and supporters to join us for a captivating evening as our historic village church is filled with glorious music. Norfolk organist **Anthony Joule** will be performing a programme of uplifting classics, familiar melodies and hidden gems. The programme will include masterpieces by George Frideric Handel and Sergei Rachmaninoff, alongside familiar melodies from Edward Elgar and Johann Pachelbel.

Anthony, a professional classical musician, received his musical education at Chetham's School of Music Manchester and then at Lancaster University. After several years as a cathedral lay clerk with a number of choirs, including St George's Chapel Windsor, Litchfield Cathedral and York Minster -Anthony and family moved to Norfolk in 1991, where he took up the post of Director of Music at Hethersett Old School. Anthony now pursues a busy career as a freelance musician and teacher; he also enjoys working as a church organist. Anthony is also a composer - primarily of vocal and choral music and an A level examiner.

The recital will be followed by a finger buffet and opportunity to catch up with friends. Please see our poster for ticket details. All proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church.

**Whether you are a lifelong organ enthusiast or simply enjoy music, all are welcome. We look forward to seeing you Saturday 1st August!**

~~~~~

**"A Summer Celebration of Church Organ Music"**

Join us for a captivating evening as our historic village church is filled with glorious music. Experience the power, beauty, and intimacy of the organ in the hands of Norfolk organist **Anthony Joule** performing a programme of uplifting classics, familiar melodies and hidden gems.

Our programme includes masterpieces by Handel and Rachmaninoff and familiar melodies from Pachelbel and Elgar. Whether you are a lifelong organ enthusiast or simply enjoy music, all are welcome!

**7 pm Saturday 1st August**  
**in St Mary's Church, Ashby St Mary**

Tickets £12 to include finger buffet  
 All proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church

For tickets and enquiries please ring 01508 528480 or 01508 480748 or email [anita\\_kemp611@hotmail.com](mailto:anita_kemp611@hotmail.com)

~~~~~

## Bergh Apton

### Bergh Apton & District Society

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

SUMMER 2026

Whilst our Speaker evenings have closed, we are now operating the remaining visits and guided tours as follows -

**Wednesday 8th July** - Guided tour of CARROW HOUSE, Bracondale, Norwich. £17.50

**Saturday 18th July** - Summer Cromer Pier Show Ticket £30, Coach extra

**Friday 27th November** - THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SHOW  
 £62.50 ticket and coach. £10 deposit required now to hold place.

Please contact Lynton Johnson to book places for any of the above, 01508 480629, 24 The Street, Thurton, NR14 6AL [raywyllynj@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:raywyllynj@hotmail.co.uk)

Enjoy the Summer and we look forward to opening our Autumn programme on 9th September at Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road at 7.30 pm with a talk on WEATHER. As usual there will be tea / coffee with biscuits, social business and our raffle. £4 pp at the door. 7.30 pm start. We hope to see new friends and familiar faces.



# Village News

## Bramerton

### Changes to the Church Council in Bramerton

As already indicated in an insert to the last edition of "Eleven Says" circulated in Bramerton the current membership of Bramerton Parochial Church Council is due to change soon.

It is a small Committee that runs the affairs of Bramerton Church. After many significant achievements most of the existing membership feel that it is time to step down. This is where others might come in!

Over a period of the last three years over £100,000 has been raised to fund structural repairs to the Chancel roof and refurbishment of our magnificent Church Clock. These and other projects have been concluded leaving the Church well placed and in good condition to serve the local community.



Reflecting on how the Church might now move forward all in the Village are invited to explore the possibility of becoming more involved. It would be a great shame if the current momentum is lost.

This is not a lifetime commitment but they might like to "give it a try" for 1, 2 or 3 years. They might find it exciting to be involved in the community in which they live and the possibilities and heritage which our Church can offer to local people living here.

Any inquiries please contact Rev Nick Garrard (01508 538014) or Roger Smith (01508 538225).

### Bramerton Village Hall Community News

#### Saturday 11th July - Village picnic from 5 pm onwards.

Pack a picnic for a summer evening out! Perfect for families so please bring the children. You can play games or just sit and relax, chat with friends and neighbours, and enjoy your food!

#### Would you like to get involved and maybe help the community?

We need more people to help out with planning community events and the upkeep of the hall. We would be very grateful if new people with new ideas and skills would join our happy team to help keep the Village Hall and our community spirit alive. The hall is a valuable asset and vital part of village life.

Your input does not have to take up lots of time; many hands make light work! We meet four times a year for about an hour. We would love anyone with ideas for social events, legs to help deliver leaflets, time to help with shopping for events, energy to clean out the gutters twice a year - whatever it is you can offer - we would be so grateful for more hands on deck!

Please email [bramertonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:bramertonvillagehall@gmail.com)

#### Why not book the hall?

We have fitness and wellbeing classes, singing and dancing groups and craft workshops throughout the year. Check Facebook and village noticeboards for updates. You can book the hall for parties, get togethers and business meetings. We offer WIFI, lots of parking, a pool table, table tennis and a well equipped kitchen.

For updates follow Bramerton Village Hall on Facebook.

## Carleton St Peter

### Church News

Carleton st Peter has seen the funeral of two committee members in April. A big congregation said a very sad goodbye to Jane Ives who passed away due to cancer. Jane was always smiling and had so many strengths and she brought a new life to our committee. Jane worked for Norwich City Council for a number of years and was a great organiser and excellent baker and will be missed by us all. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her children Alex and Becky and her family.

The funeral of Myrtle Wright also took place at the end of April and saw people standing outside. Myrtle held the position of church secretary for over 15 years and was always at the many church events she helped organise. She was part of the committee that saw the raising of funds towards getting the church painted and the rebuilding of the porch. Her quiet gentle nature always meant she kept a level head. Her son-in-law, Dick Fisher, has worked tirelessly in the churchyard for both funerals to ensure it was perfect on both occasions, thank you from us all. Myrtle leaves behind three daughters, Lydia, Sally and Joanne, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Joanne has been on the Church Committee for the last two years. Myrtle lived in Carleton st Peter all of her married life to Paul and helped him run the famous Buckingham sailing club as well as being secretary to the late Peter Grey and then the Loddon Youth Association. She is now reunited with her beloved husband Paul and her young brother who was killed in the war. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Our Easter service was very well supported so much so we ran out of service sheets. It was lovely to see so many people and the church was full of daffodils.

Finally, a reminder that the church **flower festival** is on the **1st and 2nd August** which I hope will bring us all together as a community.

## Claxton

### St Andrew's Church News

On **Saturday 20th June**, from midday, Claxton PCC are trying something a bit different. Join us for an Open Garden with music and refreshments as well as a guided tour of Ducan's Marsh (SSI) and children's activities in the village hall. There will also be a floral exhibition in St. Andrew's Church. (See poster on Page 10).

We are hoping to raise monies to make much needed repairs to the church porch. For further details please contact Sarah Carter [carterclaxton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:carterclaxton@tiscali.co.uk) 01508 480555

### Community Café

Our well attended April Café, had an Easter theme. The children enjoyed Easter-based craft activities and many of our bakes had an Easter flavour. As it was in the school holidays it was lovely to have so many families there. We also had some enthusiastic and much appreciated help from visiting grandchildren. A raffle in aid of the church porch raised £90.

Our last two community cafés before the summer will be held on Wednesday **3rd June** and Wednesday **1st July** from 10 am until 12 midday. If you haven't visited us yet do come along and enjoy freshly brewed tea or coffee, bacon rolls or choose from a variety of home-baked cakes.

We continue to be grateful to the small group from Thurton who have been helping to clear up after the café. Their efforts have made a real difference.

### Claxton Social Club

Where can you enjoy a pint of ale or a glass of wine for £3? Claxton Village Hall on a Friday evening from 8 pm until 11 pm. Everyone is welcome.

# Village News

## Claxton continued . . .

St. Andrew's Church, Claxton

Join us on Saturday 20th June, 12 - 5 pm  
for Mid summer music and much more!

Music and refreshments\* in the garden

Guided tour of Ducan's Marsh. Children's crafts and activities

Church floral exhibition. Raffle

Parking and toilets available in the village hall

For additional information contact [carterclaxton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:carterclaxton@tiscali.co.uk)

\*in the event of bad weather this will be in the village hall

## Framingham Pigot

GARDEN PARTY

Cottage on the Beck, Fox Road, Framingham Pigot, NR14 7PZ

Sunday 16th August at 2 pm

A variety of stalls including: Plant Stall - Tombola - Cake Stall

Children's Games and Crafts. Light Refreshments

Proceeds in aid of EACH 'the nook', Hallswood Animal Sanctuary and St Andrew's Church, Framingham Pigot

Donations for all the stalls are welcome, please leave in front porch or contact Leeanne on 07775439055 to arrange delivery

## Rockland St Mary

Rockland Open Gardens Festival

Saturday 13th June, 10 am - 4 pm.

£5 per adult, children free. Maps and tickets from the Parish Room, The Street, Rockland. All proceeds to Friends of Rockland St Mary School (FORMS)

## Rockland St Mary & District Gardening Club

Our next garden visit will be on 26th June with a guided tour of the Vicarage Garden, Shropham. Then on 23rd July we visit the cottage garden of Lynton and Ray who live in Thurton. Monies raised from these visits go to the host's named charity.

Please see our poster on the right highlighting our Summer Show which is open to all.

Anyone wishing to join the Gardening Club please contact Ruth Everett, 01508 538231. Email [everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk)

The Rockland St Mary & District Gardening Club



invites you to take part in their

**2026 SUMMER SHOW**

to be held in the Parish Room, The Street, Rockland St Mary, NR14 7ER

**SATURDAY 18th JULY**

Certificates will be awarded to winners of each class:

**flowers, fruit or vegetables; bread, cakes or scones; jams, marmalades or chutney; photography.**

All classes are open to the public. Only 25p per entry

ENTRIES will be accepted from 9.30 am - 11 am.

JUDGING begins at 11.15 am.

SHOW OPENS FOR PUBLIC VIEWING from 2 pm - 3.30 pm.

Refreshments. Raffle. Plants for sale.

Show schedules and details are available from Rockland St Mary Post Office and Store

For further information, please contact Ruth Everett, 01508 538231



## Surlingham

### St. Mary's Church News

Easter was celebrated not only with flowers and sunshine but with the Butterfly Trail through the village. In the Church on Easter Monday there was a butterfly decorating workshop and teas. There are still beautiful butterfly drawings to be seen in the Church.

The Group Quiz, hosted by Surlingham but with the help of Claxton and in their Village Hall, was held on 25th April with quiz masters Clive and Charlie. There was a good spread of tricky questions which gave us all a smile. There was a Chilli Feast rounded off with cooling magnums and the quiz winners by a small margin were: The Claxton Clueless Team!

Clive Evans has been awarded the British Empire Medal for his years of fund raising work for the Priscilla Bacon Hospice. He and Alexandra are a great support for the Church too.

Pippa

### Friends Of Surlingham School (FOSS)

The local children and the community made use of the lovely weather over the Easter break to enjoy the butterfly trail coordinated by Friends Of Surlingham School.

Before the end of term, maps were created by Sarah Wollerton showing the locations of the beautifully decorated butterflies.

Spelling skills were used to create the word "community" from the letter displayed on each butterfly. At the end of the trail FOSS gave people the opportunity to buy a butterfly board to keep.

From kind donations and the sale of the butterflies FOSS are very happy to say the event raised £345.33 for the children at Surlingham school.

FOSS would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved including the local business who helped by selling maps and hosting butterfly boards.

Craig, Charlotte and Sally

Friends of Surlingham School (FOSS)

Fete sponsored by Starkings & Watson

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Saturday 6th June 2026  
Friends of Surlingham School

**SUMMER FETE**

12.00 - 4.00pm  
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FUN DOG SHOW  
Sponsored by Salut saviours meadow therapies

LIVE MUSIC: Nick Stephenson

STALLS: Various Crafts, Bric-a-brac, Plants, Food & Drink

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER: Go Awesome Children's Entertainment

FOOD & DRINK: BBQ, sponsored by Bateman Groundworks Bar, Sponsored by Dragonfly Flooring Tea & cake, Ice cream

GAMES: Raffle, Sponsored by The Stella Edit Tombola, Sponsored by Charlie's Hair Boutique ping pong Wine or Water, Sponsored by Naked Wines & many more

OTHER ENTERTAINMENT: Dance displays from Norwich school of dance and June Glennie school of dance

Most stalls are cash only

BATEMAN GROUNDSWORKS DRAGONFLY FLOORING naked! TESCO Parentkind



# Village News

## Thurton

**THURTON CHURCH  
ORGAN RECITAL**  
*BY DAVID BALLARD*

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**SUNDAY  
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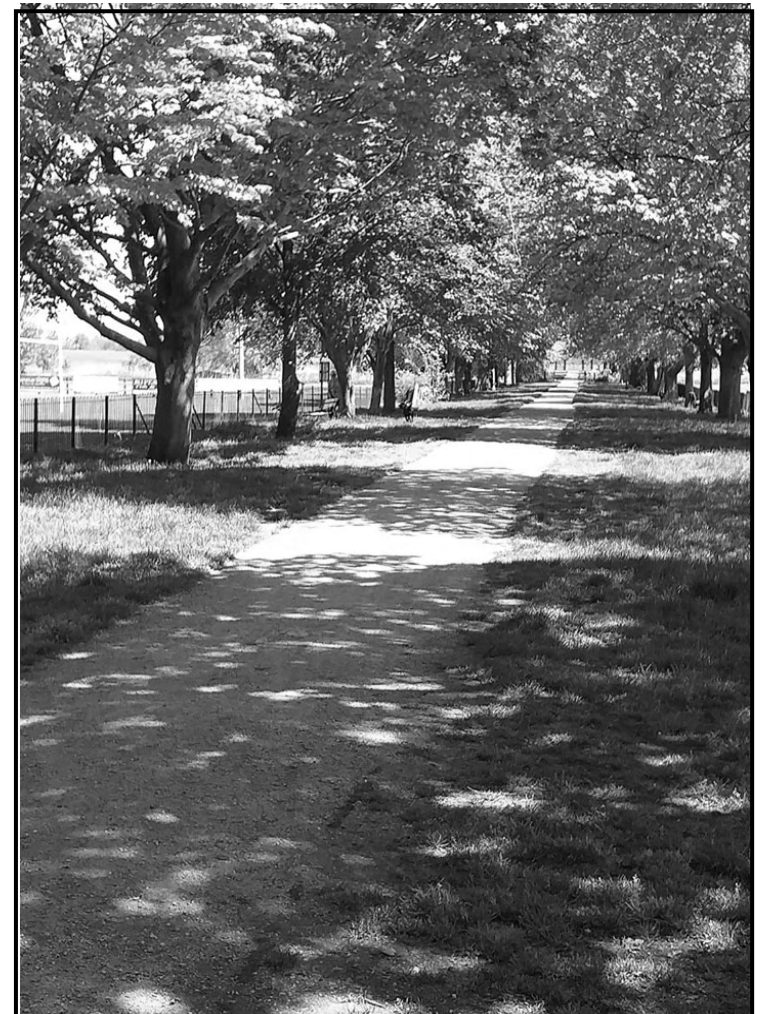
"When you dance, you can enjoy the luxury of being you." Paulo Coelho

## Trees Word Search

We are lucky to have so many trees, of all shapes and sizes, creating woodland areas and forests, and shaping beautiful landscapes everywhere. With so many varieties spanning our countryside, they really are a sight to behold. See how many you can find in this puzzle.

- |       |      |          |         |         |          |            |         |
|-------|------|----------|---------|---------|----------|------------|---------|
| Alder | Ash  | Aspen    | Beech   | Birch   | Chestnut | Cottonwood | Dogwood |
| Elm   | Fir  | Hawthorn | Hickory | Locust  | Madrone  | Maple      | Oak     |
| Palm  | Pine | Poplar   | Redwood | Sequoia | Walnut   | Willow     | Yew     |

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



Beautiful Summer sunshine shining through the trees lining a leafy country lane





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	7th June Trinity 1 Green	14th June Trinity 2 Green	21st June Trinity 3 Green	28th June Trinity 4 Green	5th July Trinity 5 Green	12th July Trinity 6 Green	19th July Trinity 7 Green	26th July Trinity 8 Green	2nd Aug Trinity 9 Green
Ashby St Mary	11.00 PT			11.00 HC	11.00 MP				11.00 PT
Bergh Apton	09.30 PT		09.30 PT	09.30 HC	09.30 PT	10.00 BENEFIGE HC	09.30 PT		09.30 PT
Bramerton				09.30 HC			16.00 Open Air service		11.00 FW
Carleton St Peter	11.00 MP				11.00 MP				
Claxton	09.30 HC		09.30 MW		09.30 HC		09.30 MW		09.30 HC
Framingham Pigot	09.30 HC BCP		11.00 HC		09.30 HC BCP	16.00 Marriage Celebration Service	11.00 HC		09.30 HC BCP
Kirby Bedon			11.00 HC				11.00 Mattins		
Rockland St Mary		10.00 BENEFIGE HC		10.30 -12 Café Church in Parish Room	16.00 Still at The Barn	09.30 HC		11.00 GROUP HC at Hellington	
Surlingham				11.00 HC		11.00 HC			
Thurton	11.00 HC				11.00 HC				11.00 HC
Yelverton	09.30 PT	10.00 BENEFIGE HC	09.30 HC		09.30 PT		09.30 HC		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

Midweek Communion held in June and July can be found on Page 5.

**Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: June and July 2026**

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
07/06/26	Hosea 5.15-6:6	Romans 4.13-25	Matthew 9.9-13,18-26	Trinity 1
14/06/26	Exodus 19.2-8a	Romans 5.1-8	Matthew 9.35-10.8 [9-23]	Trinity 2
21/06/26	Jeremiah 20.7-13	Romans 6.1b-11	Matthew 10.24-39	Trinity 3
28/06/26	Jeremiah 28.5-9	Romans 6.12-23	Matthew 10.40-42	Trinity 4
05/07/26	Zechariah 9.9-12	Romans 7.15-25a	Matthew 11.16-19,25-30	Trinity 5
12/07/26	Isaiah 55.10-13	Romans 8.1-11	Matthew 13.1-9,18-23	Trinity 6
19/07/26	Isaiah 44.6-8	Romans 8.12-25	Matthew 13.24-30,36-43	Trinity 7
26/07/26	1 Kings 3.5-12	Romans 8.26-39	Matthew 13.31-33,44-52	Trinity 8
02/08/26	Isaiah 55.1-5	Romans 9.1-5	Matthew 14.13-21	Trinity 9

**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.



I'm just sitting on the fence reading my 11 Says

CLERGY OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP		ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF PORINGLAND and LODDON	ELEVEN SAYS EDITORIAL BOARD												
<p><b>Thurton Benefice</b></p> <p>Revd Chris Ellis The Rectory 29 Ashby Road THURTON NR14 6AX Tel: 01508 484174 Email: <a href="mailto:rector.thurtonbenefice@btinternet.com">rector.thurtonbenefice@btinternet.com</a></p> <p>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 Floor 2, Carrow House, King Street, NORWICH. NR1 2TG Tel: 01603 620678. 07747 471218 Email: <a href="mailto:gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk">gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.norwichyfc.co.uk">www.norwichyfc.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Rockland Benefice</b></p> <p>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></p> <p>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></p> <p>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></p>	<p>Parish Priest: Fr Karol Porczak, St George's Catholic Church, .223 Sprowston Road, Norwich, NR3 4HZ. Website: <a href="http://ourladyporingland.wordpress.com">ourladyporingland.wordpress.com</a> Tel: 01603 426971</p> <p><b>Times of Masses</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>8.45 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>10 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>5 pm Confession and Adoration 6 pm Mass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please check our website for weekday Mass times which may vary.</p> <p><b>Clergy rest days:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>Revd Chris Ellis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>Revd Mandy Ansell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>Revd Nick Garrard Revd Helen Garrard</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Safeguarding Officer</b> Leo Smith 01508 493695</p>	Sunday	8.45 am	Wednesday	10 am	Friday	5 pm Confession and Adoration 6 pm Mass	Monday	Revd Chris Ellis	Thursday	Revd Mandy Ansell	Friday	Revd Nick Garrard Revd Helen Garrard	<p>Liz Bloomfield: Editor, Treasurer, Adverts The Bloomfields, Nichols Corner, Church Meadow Lane, Alington, NR14 7NF Tel: 01508 493958</p> <p>Angie Yeomans: Adverts, Contributions, Page Layout and Design 15 Bramerton Lodge, Bramerton, NR14 7EQ Tel: 01508 538131 (Answerphone)</p> <p>Kind donations may be sent to one of the addresses above either by cash, or cheque made payable to Eleven Says, or by BACS payment to Eleven Says 20-92-08 a/c 90137065.</p> <p>Contributions are welcome subject to the Board's discretion and available space.</p> <p>Deadline for all material ("copy") for the next issue is 5th JULY 2026 Email: <a href="mailto:elevensays22@gmail.com">elevensays22@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Produced by: Angie Yeomans</p> <p>Printed by: Roberts &amp; Son Printers, 2-6 Bridge Street, Loddon, NORWICH. NR14 6EZ Tel: 01508 520221</p>
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