



They All Ate and Had Enough

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand with five loaves and two fish, is the only one to appear in all four gospels, so it must clearly have resonated with the apostles and the early church. The four accounts are very similar, and all record that the large crowd, having spent all day in the open country listening to Jesus preaching, were miraculously fed, and not only did they have 'enough', but that twelve baskets of what was left over were gathered. Of course, there are different interpretations - some see it as an example of God's generosity, as in the miracle of the water turned to wine, while others see it as an example of people sharing what they had brought - the boy who gave his loaves and fishes led others to do the same, And they all had enough.

'Enough' is an interesting word, defined in the dictionary as 'as much as necessary', or 'to the necessary degree', or even, 'as much as we can stand'. When a friend of mine retired, she took up transcribing parish records into a digital format so that they could be searched by those looking up their family tree. One of her fellow transcribers sent her the baptism entry of the eighth daughter of Philemon and Clementina Turner, born in 1801, who was named 'Enough'. Whether, in that time of war and high bread prices, her bookbinder father felt he could not support more children, or her mother had decided she had born enough children is, of course, unknown. (In fact, they went on to have two more children). Enough Turner's young life saw a succession of bad and cold summers and poor harvests, although in 1826 there was extreme heat and drought.

We are in the season of Harvest Festivals, giving thanks to God for the harvest and the work of our farming community, suppliers and retailers. I am sure that when singing the much-loved hymns celebrating all being 'safely gathered in' we have been thinking about the difficult year our farming families have had, and the lower yields and failed crops. Our world-wide food distribution networks have also been affected by war in the Middle East, and climate difficulties in other countries. This may mean that for us some foods will be more expensive, or that some items may disappear from our shelves altogether.



But I can guarantee that there will be enough. Not, of course, for all families, who struggle to feed their families and are, for example, reliant on the goodness of others through benefits, charities and food banks. Undoubtedly the twelve baskets of the miracle were distributed to those in need in the same way as we who have enough can pass on that blessing to others.

We will soon be in the pre-Christmas era of endless adverts featuring groaning tables and luxury specialities. Obviously there will be family gatherings and Christmas parties, and we have to remember that Jesus often described the Kingdom of Heaven in terms of feasting.

But I think I may take a little pause and think of what might be enough, as this prayer I came across a little while ago encourages me to do:

'Enough', by the Reverend Andrew Highway

Oh, Lord,
have we lost the concept
of what it is to have enough?

Are we simply consumers,
manipulated into feeling dissatisfied?

How many clothes do we need to own
before we have enough?

When does the supermarket trolley
finally contain enough?

At what point do our possessions
ever become enough?

Holy Spirit, give us each the wisdom
to recognise that we have too much,
rather than not enough.

Amen.

Mary Fewster



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Wednesdays: Oct 7th, Nov 4th, December 2nd.

(every month, normally 1st Wednesday)

Any time between 12 noon and 2 pm

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

Wednesday Fellowship

This is a meeting for all people in the Bramerton Group and beyond! Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 2 - 4 pm at Alington and Yelverton Village Hall.

We have Christian and secular speakers followed by tea / coffee, cake and fellowship. All are welcome.

Oct 14th - The True Price of Fish. The Speaker is Andy Malcolm.

Nov 11th - Coffee Morning in St Mary's Church, Yelverton. (Charity to be announced).

Dec 9th - Christmas Crafting with Sandra Roberts.

For more information please contact Pat Barter on 01508 493570.

Worship in Stillness

A quiet time is held at 9:30 am on Monday Mornings at Cherry House, Wheel Road, Alington. Half an hour of praise, silence, meditation and prayer followed by tea and coffee for those wishing to stay.

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Trip Of A Lifetime To Uganda

Volunteers to **SANYU BABIES HOME** in Kampala, Uganda arrive from all over the world; many come in gap years and spend time at **Sanyu** as part of a wider African experience. Some simply stay at **Sanyu** where they make good friends, experience love, compassion and learn a great deal (perhaps without realising it).

Several from our villages have stayed at **Sanyu**, as guests or as volunteers. They always have been mightily impressed, have returned home full of stories and have even found themselves a new focus in life. As one volunteer wrote in the **Sanyu** newsletter, "When I volunteered at **Sanyu Babies' Home**, I thought I was going there to make a difference in the lives of the children. Instead, they changed mine".

Sanyu is always looking for those who would like to spend days, weeks or even months, helping out with the needs of the fifty or so rescued babies, rescued from abandonment on the city's streets, or in its drains or even its cesspits.

The home does wonders for the babies, who in due course, are adopted, fostered or returned to their wider families. At **Sanyu** they receive, often, for the first time, a name, a basic education, food, and great healthcare.

Amazingly, this year, with the generous support of 'Love Without Boundaries', three year old Gracious was flown to India for open heart surgery and is doing well back at **Sanyu**. Many of you, over the years, have donated to pay for a doctor and nurses at the Home. Wonderful.

So, if you know of anyone who would like to learn more about this hundred year old but still young at heart centre, contact either Liz & Christopher Meynell, Bergh Apton (lizmeynell@gmail.com) or Ruth & John Everett, Rockland (everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk).



The Bramrocks presents:

Jack and the Beanstalk

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SATURDAY 28TH AT 2.30PM & 7.30PM

SUNDAY 29TH AT 2.30PM

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Rockland St Mary Benefice

What's on in Rockland Benefice in October and November

As October begins the Church's new season focusing on God as Creator draws to its conclusion on **October 4th**. There will be no service at Claxton that morning, but instead at 9.30 am there's **Online Morning Worship for St. Francis of Assisi**. This year his feast day falls on a Sunday, and we remember him as patron saint of ecology and a passionate follower of Christ. I realise that Sunday morning worship in church doesn't work for everyone, and hope that this will be a way of sharing worship and fellowship from wherever we are. Please contact me for your Zoom link or use the login details here:

Meeting ID: 841 5536 2622

Passcode: 016848

Harvest Festival Services. Our Harvest Festivals continue at Bramerton (**October 11th**) Claxton (**October 18th**), and Kirby Bedon (**October 18th**). While we thank God for the harvest and those who gathered it in this challenging year we're also supporting people facing hunger and homelessness.

We're collecting long-life foods at our services and The Rectory for Norwich Food Bank and St. Martin's. All in-date contributions will be gratefully received.



Warm Welcome Mondays at the Barn at Rockland Rectory
From Monday **October 26th** (11.30 am - 2.30 pm) we resume our weekly pattern with between **November 2nd and December 15th**. Warm Welcome is a drop in for people of all ages. You're welcome to come in for coffee, tea or a warming lunch of soup, bread and cheese and homemade cakes. It's all free (donations are welcome)!

Open Church meets in the Barn on **October 25th** and Claxton Village Hall on **November 25th** at 10 am. Join us for an open, relaxed, and accessible Sunday worship; a welcoming community for enquirers, seekers, and anyone looking for a place to reflect, belong and grow. All welcome.

Remembrance Sunday. On **November 8th** we will hold Acts of Remembrance in Rockland St. Mary (9.30 am) and Bramerton, Claxton, Kirby Bedon, and Surlingham (all at 10.50 am). We will honour the fallen from our parishes in two World Wars and re-commit ourselves to peace and justice today.



Anticipating Advent Quiet Day in the Barn.

Advent is a season of preparation, not just for Christmas, but also for our own meeting with Jesus. It's a season that's rich in meaning and before it begins we're holding a quiet day in The Barn on **November 14th**, 10 am - 3 pm. Booking is essential (£12 per person or what you can afford) and includes lunch and materials. Please contact me or Helen for more information.

Advent Group Service. The Church's year begins on Advent Sunday. On **November 29th** we're going to be joined by our friends from the Thurton Benefice at 10 am in St. Mary's Church, Surlingham for Holy Communion, followed by refreshments.

Tree of Light. As Christmas approaches, our thoughts and feelings naturally turn towards those we have loved and lost in recent times and those whose memories we treasure from longer ago. This year's **Tree of Light service** in Rockland Church is on **November 29th at 3.30 pm**. This is an opportunity to remember loved ones, light candles and write their names on a star to be placed on the Christmas tree. You are warmly invited to join us then and for refreshments in The Barn afterwards.

If you're unable to attend, please send us the names of those you remember; we will write them on a star, place them on the Tree and light an individual candle for each person. Please contact Helen or Nick for more information. The stars will remain in Church until the end of Christmas (**January 5th**). You're most welcome to visit on any day during that period.

Revd Nick Garrard



Thurton Benefice

Thurton Benefice Update

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 started 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.

The Confirmation Service will be the only service in the Thurton Benefice on the 25th October. Please make every effort to join us to support the candidates and their families and to take the opportunity to meet with Bishop Ian.

All Souls' Day Service. This year the service will be at St Andrew's Church in Framingham Pigot on Sunday **1st November** at 4 pm. I write to those who have been bereaved in the past year to invite them to this special service, but there is very much an open invitation to everyone to join us to remember our loved ones departed at this simple service where there will be the opportunity to light a candle in their memory. Refreshments will be served after the service.

New Rural Dean. I am delighted to announce that we have a new Rural Dean in the Loddon Deanery. The Revd Rachel Foster, who is a non-stipendiary priest in the Poringland Benefice, takes over from the Revd Rob Baker who has moved to a new post in the diocese.

The Rural Dean supports the parish clergy, arranges and leads Chapter meetings and chairs the Deanery Synod. In addition, they have legal oversight of any benefice that is in vacancy (where no parish priest is currently in post, as is the case in the Venta Group following Rob's departure). We pray for Rachel as she takes on this new responsibility.

Midweek Communions

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 with details of locations and dates on Page 5.

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 to ensure everyone can worship and meet in a safe and loving environment. 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

02/08/26 Harry Alan HALL Framingham Pigot

MARRIAGES

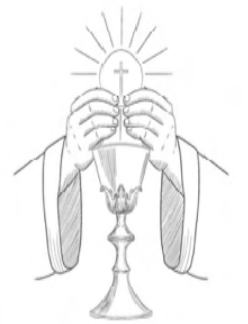
25/07/26 Wayne SUTTON & Tracy RICHES Bergh Apton
27/08/26 Thomas JACKSON & Megan PARLANE Framingham Pigot

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

10/06/26	Sylvia JIGGINS (92)	Bramerton
08/08/26	Myrtle Jane WRIGHT (Interment of Ashes)	Carleton St Peter
07/07/26	Paul David HOMAN (81)	Yelverton
14/07/26	Sonia Lesley KARLSON	Bramerton
15/07/26	Maisie Christina KITT (88)	Ashby St Mary
16/07/26	Rosemary Elisabeth ROPER (60)	Claxton
23/07/26	Peter Neville ROPE (87)	Bergh Apton
11/08/26	Janet Mary BYRNE (78)	Thurton
13/08/26	Sheila Jean KING (74)	Thurton
26/08/26	Christopher Frank DEW (61)	Yelverton
01/09/26	Helen HAYWARD (104)	Surlingham

Midweek Communions in October and November

All Services at 10.30 am



October

Thursday 1st - Yelverton
Wednesday 7th - Ashby St Mary
Wednesday 14th - No Service
Wednesday 21st - Framingham Pigot
Wednesday 28th - Thurton

November

Wednesday 4th - Ashby
Thursday 5th - Yelverton
Wednesday 11th - No Service
Wednesday 18th - Framingham Pigot
Wednesday 25th - Thurton

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

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: October and November 2026

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
04/10/26	Isaiah 5.1-7	Philippians 3.4b-14	Matthew 21.33-46	Trinity 18
11/10/26	Isaiah 25.1-9	Philippians 4.1-9	Matthew 22.1-14	Trinity 19
18/10/26	Isaiah 35.3-6	2 Timothy 4.5-17	Luke 10.1-9	Luke the Evangelist
25/10/26	Nehemiah 8.1-4a[5-6]8-12	Colossians 3.12-17	Matthew 24.30-35	Bible Sunday
01/11/26	Revelation 7.9-17	1 John 3.1-3	Matthew 5.1-12	All Saints Day
08/11/26	Amos 5.18-24	1 Thessalonians 4.13-18	Matthew 25.1-13	Remembrance Sunday
15/11/26	Zephaniah 1.7,12-18	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11	Matthew 25.14-30	2nd before Advent
22/11/26	Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24	Ephesians 1.15-23	Matthew 25.31-46	Christ the King
29/11/26	Isaiah 64.1-9	1 Corinthians 1.3-9	Mark 13.24-37	Advent Sunday
06/12/26	Isaiah 40.1-11	2 Peter 3.8-15a	Mark 1.1-8	Advent 2
Harvest Service Readings				
	Deuteronomy 8:7-18	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Luke 12:16-30	

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.

News from the Barn

Art Cafe in the Barn opens its doors on **October 14th and November 11th** between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm. All welcome for friendly company, coffee and cake, good humour and art!

Art Cafe Online meets on Zoom on **October 28th and November 26th**. Please contact Nick for your invitation and details of our lively and varied programme.

Still at the Barn provides a quiet, informal space for reflection, conversation, and response on Sunday afternoons, from 4 pm-5.30 pm. Still will be gathering on **October 4th and November 1st**. Please contact Nick and Helen for more details.

A big thank you . . .

. . . to everyone who supported Carleton St Peter's very successful Flower Festival in August.

. . . to everyone who supported us through prayer, good wishes or going the extra mile during my mother's final illness. This meant a great deal to our family.

Revd Nick Garrard

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:
6th and 20th October
10th and 24th November



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 and I will send you a copy for your own reflection time.

Revd. Mandy Ansell, 01508 538654

South Yare Wildlife Group

Butterflies in Schools Project 2026

We are always trying to think of ways to help young people engage with the world around them in practical ways and to witness the wonder of nature first hand. Therefore, we decided to offer free Caterpillar to Butterfly Rearing kits for all the local Primary Schools. These are supplied through a company called "Insectlore", who deliver newly hatched caterpillars in containers with all the food needed for them to mature into chrysalids, and then metamorphosize into beautiful adult "Painted Lady" butterflies. We bought kits for 8 local schools and they all reported that the scheme had been a great success, with their pupils being fascinated to watch the caterpillars grow, and then to turn into chrysalids and finally to emerge before their eyes as butterflies, that they can watch feed in their net canopies, before being released into the wild. The project was a great success and we hope to repeat it next year, although it is costly, and school budgets are tight, so we will be looking for sponsorship next year. Watch this space.



Future Events:

Wednesday 21st October - Poringland Community Centre 7.30pm
30 Years of Wildlife Watching at Whitlingham Country Park. A talk by **Justin Landsell** (County Recorder NNNS).

Wednesday 18th November - Bramerton Village Hall 7.30pm.
Folklore and Nature. A talk by **Sarah Wilde** (N.W.T.)

Peter Armitage

Quiz Night at The George & Dragon, Thurton in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance

Gather your friends and join us for a fun quiz night on **Wednesday 22nd October 8 pm** at the **George & Dragon Pub, Thurton.**

Teams of up to 6 people are welcome at £2 per person. There will also be a raffle on the night. Please bring cash as we can't guarantee the signal !!

Whether you're a quiz expert or just fancy a great evening out, we'd love to see you there to raise funds for our lifesaving service.



Don't worry - the questions aren't all about helicopters and medical emergencies - everyone can join in.

For more information or to reserve a table, please contact Sarah at sarah.nunn@eaaa.org.uk or call 07961 391479.

The George and Dragon have kindly let us use their venue for free and have offered 5% off any food bought on the night.

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

Friday 9th October - The Christophers
Cert 15 Drama /DarkComedy. Stars Ian McKellen

Friday 13th November - The Devil Wears Prada 2
Cert 12A Drama /Comedy. Stars Meryl Streep

Friday 11th December - Tuner
Cert 15 Thriller. Stars Dustin Hoffman, Leo Woodall

Tickets £5 (includes tea or coffee) on the door.
Doors open at 6.45 pm. Films start at 7.30 pm

Buena Vista Social Club

Dates for your Diary: Friday Night Film Nights:
October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th

For more information phone John on 01508 494358
or Carol on 01508 492630

Wheatfen Nature Reserve

We recently enjoyed a Bat Walk led by local expert Jim Bradley and Lindsey Bilston from the Norfolk and Norwich Bat Group. We were able to detect six bat species: Common, Soprano and Nathusius', Pipistrelle, Serotine, Noctule and Leisler's. This was an excellent number and highlights that Wheatfen provides a range of habitats suitable for bats.



We hope everyone enjoyed it and wish a massive thanks to Jim and Lindsey for the amazing walk!

LODDON FLOWER CLUB



Hello from Loddon Flower Club, we are a friendly club, meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, everyone welcome, no experience needed, if you appreciate flowers, or would like an evening out with great company, come along, we'd love to see you.

We meet in St John's Lecture Hall, on George Lane in Loddon, doors opening 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start. We have an interval where tea, coffee and homemade cakes are served and the flower arrangements made by our demonstrators are raffled at the end of the evening.

On **Tuesday 6th October** Jennifer Thompson will be demonstrating for us with her ideas for 'Let there be Music and Flowers'.

On **Tuesday November 3rd** we will be joined by Angelikka Hill who will be demonstrating 'Autumn Harvest'.

A Date for your diary: At our Christmas meeting on **Tuesday 1st December**, we have Gill McGregor, an International Floral Art Designer, demonstrating for us. If you subscribe to our club this meeting will be free, otherwise the evening, to include Stalls, a Choir, Buffet, Raffle and a Flower related Competition will be £15.

Subs for the year are £45 or visitors £8 per visit. If you would like more information please email us on loddonflowerclub@gmail.com or call Tricia on 01508 480522.

We also have a website, www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk, and a Facebook page, Loddon Flower Club.

We look forward to saying 'Hello' very soon.

Loddon Lifelong Learners (formerly Loddon WEA)

Our first 4 week course starts on **Monday 28th September**, entitled 'Digging into our Past'. Tutors will discuss aspects of local archaeology, including the Caistor Roman Project and Life and Death in Norwich. This will be followed by a 4 week course in November 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 have two courses for **Spring 2027** - a course on **Life and Language in 18th and 19th Century Russia** with Dr. Jess Tipton will start on **25th January, 2027**. This will be followed by a course on **Early Hitchcock** with Nigel Herwin starting on **1st March, 2027**.

We meet in the Club Room of the Jubilee Hall in Loddon on Monday afternoons from 2 pm - 4 pm. Further details will be on the posters and sent to 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 or telephone Alison on 01508 521976.

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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton

Friends of St. Mary's

On 15th August the Friends of St. Mary's held a very successful Coffee Morning in aid of our latest project, the restoration of three memorial brasses in aid of Rev. Harrison, and two of his sons who were killed in the First World War.



We raised almost £620 for our funds. Thanks to all those who helped, donated items or money, provided refreshments, or came along to support us. Thanks, too, to Barry and Naomi at the Wheel of Fortune, who once again allowed us to use their facilities and garden.

Ian and Sheila's Swansong!

on Saturday, 10th October

in Alpington and Yelverton Village Hall, 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

£7.50 per person. Bring your own drink and nibbles. Coffee and tea available in the interval. Raffle

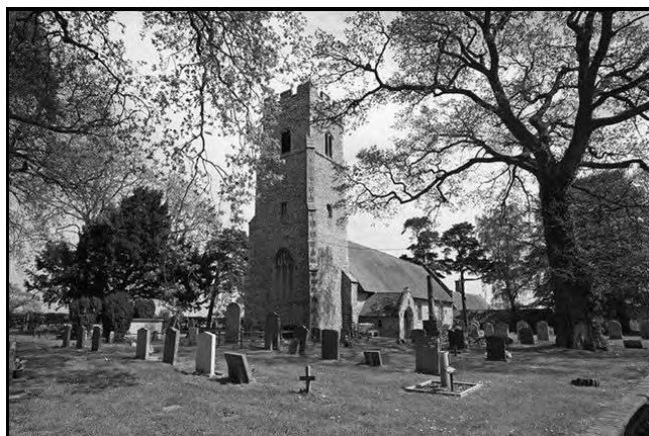
To book a table or for more information please contact Mary Fewster 01508 492059 or m.fewster59@btinternet.com



Ashby St Mary

Organ Recital and Auction of Art

On Saturday 1st August, some 32 people travelled from near and far to Ashby Church - from Norwich, Wymondham, Hellington and Bungay - to enjoy an evening of organ music and a small auction of art.



Organist Anthony Joule, played a personally curated programme of music that fitted the unique range of St Mary's chamber organ, including pieces by Elgar, Handel, Pachelbel and Vierne. A particular highlight was a personal arrangement by Anthony of the 'Londonderry Air'. Two songs and two arias were sung by Catherine Joule, soprano soloist; her rendition of 'Where'ere you walk' by George Fredric Handel was magical.

Following the recital everyone enjoyed a finger buffet in the church grounds, the cool evening air very welcome after the excessively hot days. To conclude the evening, two pieces of art by local artist Gerry Nelson were then auctioned. One an ink drawing of St Mary's Church, donated by a church member, and the other a water colour of the Yare Valley in winter looking across to Hardley Mill, donated personally by Gerry.

An amazing total of £638 was raised for St Mary's Fabric Fund. A huge thank you to everyone who provided food, helped beforehand with publicity and setting up on the day, and to those who bought tickets and joined in the fun of the auction! With special thanks going to Anthony Joule, Catherine Joule and Gerry Nelson for their very much appreciated individual donations of time, talent and skills which enabled us to raise this money.

Photo courtesy of Haydn Brown

Bergh Apton

Harvest Festival

Bergh Apton Church, Sunday 4th October at 10 am

Donated dry goods will be taken to the Norwich Food Bank and fresh produce to St Martin's Housing.

Bring your donations to the service, or to decorate the church for Harvest, on Saturday 3rd October



Hardship just doesn't seem to let up and at Christmas families can feel the greatest pressure. But with our help, the Salvation army can be there to help.

As in previous years, they'll be running a Christmas Present Appeal, collecting donated (new) presents until mid-December. Each gift bag given out contains five gifts. One larger present, two smaller presents, a book and colouring or quiz books and stocking fillers.

There will be a special child-centred Family Service at Bergh Apton Church on Sunday 15th November at 11 am to support this year's Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal.

You can 'Be a Star' by donating and helping to spread the joy of Christmas to families whose children would otherwise not receive a gift. Bring along, either to school beforehand, or to the church on the day, your donations of new, unwrapped toys or gifts, for children and young people aged 0 - 16 years old.

Afterwards, the Bergh Apton team will arrange for them to be taken to the Salvation Army Norwich depot where the gifts will be wrapped before distribution to those in need.

Here are a few gift ideas:

- 0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles
- 3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- 5-9: educational games and toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, word search, crosswords
- 9-12: games and toys, stationery, books, t-shirts, gloves, scarves, hats, hair accessories,
- 13-16: books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

There will also be an opportunity at the service to make monetary donations to the Appeal.

Nearly-new toys in good condition can also be donated for sale in Salvation Army shops to raise funds for their valuable work.

QUIZ 'N' CHILLI

Bergh Apton's Brain of Britain! Saturday 31st October, 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start in Bergh Apton village hall

£10 per person. Cash, or cheques payable to Bergh Apton PCC. There will be a raffle too

To join this friendly, good-humoured event, compile your team and book in with Shirley - 01508 480576 .

Let her know your team's meal preferences.

Chilli options range from mild (Bolognese) to moderately fearsome! Veggie/gluten-free can be catered for.

Ideal Team size is how ever many can comfortably sit and eat at one table; maybe 7 to 8 but exceptions can be made.

Village News

Bergh Apton continued . . .

A Concert, featuring the Serendipity Choir, will be held in Bergh Apton Church on Saturday 17th October at 7 pm.

This wonderful choir of upper female voices comprises a group of highly experienced and expert singers. Many are conservatoire trained, some are soloists in their own right,

and some run their own choirs. Their repertoire is wide - ranging from 16th century works through musical theatre, Schubert, Elgar, to pop classics by Elton John, Abba, Lennon & McCartney and Eric Clapton! Something there to please everyone!

Their director, Andrew Mildinhall, has worked with the Northern Sinfonia and the Manchester Camerata, and many well-known singers. For 12 years, he was Director of Music at the Collegiate Church of St Mary in Nantwich.

Advance booking via phone or email will really help us to plan our catering. **Tickets are £12** including refreshments. If you can book ahead it really helps our catering. **Telephone: 01508 480576** (leave a message) or **Email: bachurchwarden@outlook.com**.

More details: <https://berghapton.org.uk/7093-2/>

**Concert with Lardal Kantori, Bergh Apton Church, 7pm
Friday 20th November**

A musical and visually colourful treat.



We're delighted again to welcome our Norwegian friends to Bergh Apton, who will bring a selection of songs and carols in Norwegian and English to herald the Advent season. They were first with us in 2012 and we're really looking forward to this, their 10th visit.

Tickets are £12 including refreshments. This will be a popular event so we do ask for advance booking if you can please - by phone (an answer machine will greet you, but start to speak and a human might interrupt - if not, please leave a message) or email: bachurchwarden@outlook.com

Charity Coffee and Stall Morning

Thursday 1st October, 2026 10 am to 1 pm
Washingford House, Cookes Road, Bergh Apton, NR15 1AA

In aid of **St Elizabeth Hospice** and **The Brooke**
with a donation to our church

This event is kindly sponsored by Barrier Animal Health

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Entry £2.50 to include coffee and biscuits

Offers of cakes/tombola/raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated

Paris Back and Liz Lester: 07900 683 61 parisback14@gmail.com



Bergh Apton Local History Group

The Bergh Apton Local History Group welcomes everyone to our autumn programme. These talks are open to everyone. However, if you would like to become a member we are offering membership for the rest of this year and next for £15. The group meets throughout the year for a mix of talks about local history, social get togethers and visits. If you would like more details or wish to join please email our membership secretary on bewickcssm@aol.com

Wednesday 21st October - The History of the Norwich Shawl.

A talk by Joy Evitt from the Costume and Textiles Association. A colourful journey through their history, illustrated not only by beautiful photographs, but also by Joy's personal collection of original garments. Free for members, Guests £4

Wednesday 18th November - Norwich at work: Trades and industries in 19th - 20th century - A talk by Adrian O'Dell who has devoted himself to the study of Norfolk and Norwich's history and heritage following an international career in the oil industry. Free for members. Guests £4

All talks begin 7.30 pm in Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road, Bergh Apton, NR15 1AA. Free for members. Guests £4.

Bergh Apton & District Society

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

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER

Remember Magnus Pike, English Scientist and Broadcaster?
Laurie Poulson will be returning to the Society to enlighten us about **"The Amazing Pykes"**.

A story of two cousins, one who was "Churchill's favourite scientist" and the other, TV's archetypal "mad scientist" and "best TV newcomer of the year".

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Speaker Jim Stebbings will be detailing the Sentiments of Christmas

BOTH MEETINGS Tea/coffee with biscuits, social business and Raffle. £4 pp at the door. 7.30 pm start

Bramerton

Village Hall Community events

Sunday 11th October - Coffee Morning, 10 am - 12 pm
Tasty cakes, friendly faces, fresh coffee. Come and say hello!!

Saturday 5th December - Christmas Quiz and Food, 6.30 pm. Kick off the festive season with our jolly Christmas quiz and tasty food. **Book your team (6 max.) from 1st October.** Email for booking tickets: bramertonvillagehall@gmail.com.

For event updates please follow Bramerton Village Hall on Facebook.

Village News

Carleton St Peter

Church News

The whole community turned out in full force and made this years flower festival the best yet. Even the weather behaved! The theme, Past Sitcoms, made people smile and brought back memories for all to talk about. It was great to see families chatting, relaxing and children joining in the fun of the outside games.

There are so many people to thank. Firstly, thank you if you attended. Secondly, all of the flower arrangers, and thirdly, the helpers whether it was manning stalls, making teas and cakes, donating raffle and tombola prizes, preparing the churchyard or cleaning the church, it all played an important part.

As this flower festival is our main and only fundraiser for the church I want to also thank those who could not attend but kindly gave donations, it really all helps. Thank you everyone, it could not happen without you all.

On a very sad note our sincerest sympathies goes to Linda Goffin who tragically and suddenly lost her husband John. John was a kind, private man who would often be seen walking his dog around the village and was a supporter of the Claxton & Carleton St Peter social club. This was a great shock for Linda who has been such a strong helper at numerous church events over the years and was a committee member until a few years ago. We all send her our support and best wishes at this sad time.

As we now move into the Autumn and the tough winter months, when the weather is not always so kind, we look forward to next year when we will have a wedding in the church and yes, the flower festival will be back again!

Annie



Claxton



Last month saw the installation of the long-awaited playground in Claxton, made possible by the incredible fundraising efforts of the Claxton Play Area Working Group alongside grants from the National Lottery and Claxton Pits Trust.



Within the first few hours of its completion and safety inspection 15 people had enjoyed using it and it has been well used every day so far by families from Claxton and the neighbouring villages. We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in this project which was first dreamt about many years ago and we hope that the playground will continue to be enjoyed for many years to come!

Claxton and Carleton St Peter Community Café

September saw the first of our Tuesday Cafés. At all of our cafés we will be offering our usual fare of home baked goods, bacon (and eggs) rolls, freshly brewed tea and coffee. Our Autumn cafés will be as follows:

Tuesday 6th October 10 am - 12 midday This café will be in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research. We hope the sale of local produce and a raffle, along with donations, will enable us to raise a significant amount of money.

Tuesday 3rd November 10 am - 12 midday

Tuesday 1st December - Christmas Café 10 am - 1 pm with Local craft stalls and a Christmas raffle. We will be offering simple lunches of home-made soup as well as festive bakes. All profits will go to St Andrew's Church.

The Inter Parish Group Quiz 2026

This will be held on Saturday 21st November at Claxton Village Hall, 7 pm for 7:30 pm

Teams of up to six. Tickets £12 to include a hot supper

We hope there will be at least one team from every parish

To book please contact Sarah 07749 516679 or email Janice janicedixuk@yahoo.co.uk

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 which is open between 8 pm and 11 pm. See you there.

Framingham Pigot

Framingham Pigot Garden Party

The Sun Had Got His Hat On!!!

The sun certainly shone down and we all needed our hats on when, in August, a great many of us gathered at the Garden Party at Leeanne's cottage in Framingham Pigot.

It was a wonderful afternoon meeting up with friends and people from far and near at the various stalls, or leisurely sitting under the trees in the shade enjoying tea and a delicious variety of cakes.

A Norwich City football shirt, signed by all the current players, was auctioned and raised a princely sum to add to the final proceeds total of just over £1,500. This is to be divided between The Nook (EACH), the Hallswood Animal Sanctuary and St Andrew's Church.

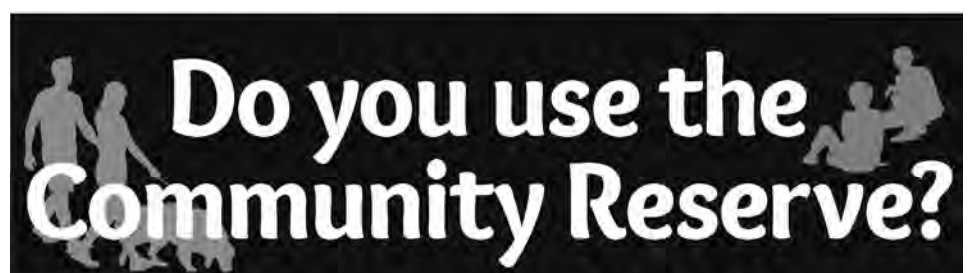
A very big 'Thank You' to Leeanne, her family and the army of helpers for all their hard work in making the afternoon so enjoyable for us all, and thanks to all who came and raised so much for the various organisations . . .

. . . and hats off to the sun which shone beautifully.

Frankie Tranter



Hellington with Rockland St Mary



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Village News

Rockland St Mary

RSM McMillan Coffee Morning

We had our Coffee morning on Friday 4th September.



Thank you very much to everyone who came to our Macmillan Coffee Morning and braved the rain at the start. While enjoying tea/coffee and cake there was a buzz of conversation catching up with each other's news. You all helped to raise £460 for this very worthy cause which was great.

Thank you very much for all the donations of prizes, cakes and help during the morning

Jayne

FORMS - Friends of Rockland St Mary School

After a Year off, our Fantastic Rockland St Mary Scarecrow Trail is back!! This year the theme is 'Danger Themed' so absolutely anything goes as long as it can be deemed as 'Dangerous'. So who will you spot around the village? Will it be Danger Mouse, a dinosaur, a skydiver or a *movie* villain? The Trail runs through Half Term from **Saturday 24th October to Sunday 1st November** so that the whole family can get *involved* in a relatively cheap and fun activity. It is *very* kindly sponsored by Winkworth Estate Agents and all proceeds go towards the Friends of Rockland St Mary School (FORMS - Registered Charity: 1109683). Don't forget to 'Like' our Events page so that you can *vote* for your favourite Scarecrow! Suggested donation is £2 per map available from Rockland Village Shop (NR14 7AH). See the posters for more details.

On Friday the 30th and Saturday 31st November, FORMS are also hosting our Community Café at the Margaret Mack Rooms, School Lane (NR14 7EU next to the school) from 1 pm - 4 pm. Why not pop in and treat yourself to a cup of tea and cake to break up your Scarecrow Hunting journey. Takeaways also available. Cash and Cards Accepted inc Apple Pay

Please Park Sensibly. Parking is available at Black Horse Dyke (NR14 7ER), The Staithe opposite the New Inn Pub (NR14 7HP), or sensibly along the Street, Rockland St Mary, allowing for passing places.

RSM & District Gardening Club

The Gardening Club meets in the Rockland Parish Room on the fourth Thursday of each month.

October 22nd - Helen Hillier will talk about the Design and Construction of a Herbaceous Border.

November 26th - Cool conifers. A fun introduction to the taxonomy and basic ecology of conifers.

New members are always welcome to join our friendly group, with gardening interests at heart. We often learn new ideas, pass on our tips and sometimes there are various plants for sale. If you would like to join us please contact Ruth Everett, 01508 538231, or email everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Surlingham

The busy hot summer has come to an abrupt end. Fruit needs picking and processing, the grass has become green again, the calendar fills with events and a new school year begins.

On 3rd September the WI had an Open Evening where everyone was entertained by Alexandra Evans' monologue, a family tale featuring her friend Barbara and a 'Moravian Green'. I hope Alexandra can be persuaded to do a repeat performance, it sounds wonderfully funny.

At the next WI meeting on **1st October**, the speaker will be Mr Sadler, whose talk is entitled 'Is Walking a Pain more than it used to be?'

We had an unusual visitor to the Church last week. He was homeless, hungry and maybe a bit confused. So, after food, coffee, much with lots of sugar, a sit down, talking and a rest, we wondered how to help? What to believe?

I rang local Councils for advice, but with both there was the challenge of filtering numbers to press. With one I hung on but was answered with 'Sorry, too busy'. At South Norfolk a very nice lady answered but her response was more phone numbers for him and she wanted more information which he could not trust to give. One can understand both positions. Also, he had no functioning phone. Though I felt impotent I was glad we could give him a short respite in our church. It was an uncomfortable feeling seeing him depart with stick and umbrella for an undefined destination.

Pippa

Singing workshop at Surlingham Church

Musical director of The Yare Village Voices, Ben Lake, led a singing workshop at Surlingham Church on August 20th.



Participants came from many of the local villages including Rockland, Chedgrave, Bramerton, Claxton and Bergh Apton, as well as Surlingham, and everyone had a good sing. All profit from the session went to the Surlingham Church Tower Fund.

Yare Village Voices' normal practices resume on Thursday afternoons from September 10th and new members are always welcome. No musical experience is necessary.

Email louise99@me.com to find out more.





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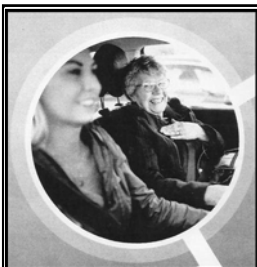
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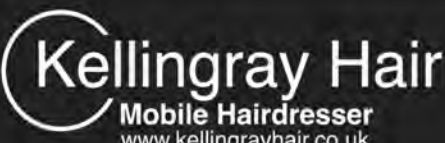
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Rockland St Mary - Margaret Mack Hall available evenings and weekends for private parties, meetings and social activities. Rates per hour or per day. Contact after 4 pm please, Deb Sayles, 01508 537077, or email: deborah.sayles8@gmail.com.

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Rockland Benefice

Revd Canon Nick Garrard,
Email: nickgarr39@aol.com

Revd Helen Garrard
Email: broadsidecurate@aol.com

The Rectory, Rockland St Mary,
NORWICH, NR14 7EY
Telephone: 01508 538014



Thurton Benefice

Revd Chris Ellis
Email: rector.thurtonbenefice@btinternet.com

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Rockland Benefice

CHURCH SERVICES

Thurton Benefice

	Bramerton	Carleton St Peter	Claxton	Kirby Bedon	Rockland St Mary	Surlingham		Ashby St Mary	Bergh Apton	Framingham Pigot	Thurton	Yelverton
4th Oct Trinity 18 Green		11am MP			4pm Still @ The Barn		4th Oct Trinity 18 Green		10.00 Harvest Praise	09.30 HC BCP	11.00 Harvest with HC	09.30 MW
11th Oct Trinity 19 Green	4pm Harvest Festival				9.30am HC	11am HC	11th Oct Trinity 19 Green					10.00 Benefice Service with HC
18th Oct Luke Red			9.30am Harvest Festival	11am Harvest Festival			18th Oct Luke Red	11.00 MW	09.30 MW	11.00 HC		09.30 HC
25th Oct Bible Sunday Green					10am Open Church @ The Barn	11am HC	25th Oct Bible Sunday Green		10.00 Confirmation with HC Bishop of Thetford			16.00 EW
1st Nov All Saints White/Gold		11am HC	9.30am HC		4pm Still @ The Barn		1st Nov All Saints White/Gold	11.00 MP	09.30 MW	16.00 All Souls Service	11.00 HC	09.30 MW
8th Nov Remembranc e Sunday Red or Green	10.50am Remembrance Service		10.50am Remembrance Service	10.50am Remembrance Service	9.30am Remembrance Service	10.50am Remembrance Service	8th Nov Remembrance Sunday Red or Green	10.50 Remembrance Service	10.30 Remembrance Service	10.50 Remembrance Service with HC	14.00 Remembrance Service	09.20 Remembrance Service with HC
15th Nov 2nd before Advent Red			10am Open Church at Claxton VH				15th Nov 2nd before Advent Red	10.00 Benefice Service with HC	11.00 Salvation Army Christmas appeal			
22nd Nov Christ the King White					9.30am HC	11am HC	22nd Nov Christ the King White		09.30 HC BCP	11.00 HC		16.00 EW
29th Nov Advent Sunday Purple					3.30pm Tree of Light Service	10am GROUP SERVICE	29th Nov Advent Sunday Purple					
6th Dec Advent 2 Purple			9.30am HC				6th Dec Advent 2 Purple		09.30 MW	09.30 HC BCP	11.00 HC	09.30 MW

Bible Readings and Midweek Communions held in October and November can be found on Page 5.

Rockland Benefice: Revd Mandy Ansell
 44 The Street,, Rockland St Mary,
 Norwich, NR14 7AH.
 Tel: 01508 538654
 Email: mandy.ansell44@gmail.com

A Safer Church: If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

The Bramerton Group Safeguarding Officer:
 Mrs Leonie Smith
 Tel: 01508 493695 or 07709 597530
 Email: leosmith60@gmail.com

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer:
 Sue Brice
 Tel: 07958 377079.
 Email: sue.brice@dioceseofnorwich.org

Clergy rest days:
Monday: Revd Chris Ellis.
Thursday: Revd Mandy Ansell.
Friday: Revd Nick Garrard.
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Youth Worker
 Gary WATSON,
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Local youth work: Explorers for children in school years 5 to 9 meet at Thurton Village Hall on alternate Friday evenings at 7pm - 8.30pm. For more information contact Gary Watson

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