

View from the Rectory 2021 November:

Dear Christian brothers and sisters of the Quidenham Group of Parishes,

Our Quidenham Group service in Old Buckenham last weekend on All Saint's Sunday was a beautiful occasion. The lilies decorating the church, each one in memory of someone, gave a special and



personal context, and as each parish came up during the intercessions to hold their candles (like the ones pictured here), we prayed for the concerns of each one. It was poignant for us that due to difficult circumstances one of our churches had no representative present at all and so holding up their candle for them was a physical expression of our desire to support and uphold one another that the light of Christ should not fail to shine in any of our villages. Once we were all assembled at the front then we prayed for bigger issues like the COP26 consultation going on at the moment.

I didn't manage to take a picture of the Arts and Crafts Fayre at Banham. If anyone has a good picture, please send me one. Here's the aftermath once we'd cleared away all the display boards and tables – the

marquee drying off overnight in the church before we pack it away – or perhaps it's just the new look for my new winter themed November services, Ski Sunday...! Thank you to all those involved in making that weekend, both the Fayre and the Sunday Service, such lovely occasions.



November is not such a full month as October and September have been but still there are things to pray for, and soonest up is the licensing of Simon Richardson in East Harling. We have enjoyed his involvement this last year in our parishes and wish him every blessing in his move to the new expanded benefice, whose name is yet to be decided.

Remembrance Sunday comes up in a few weeks. As we join these national commemorations, I pray that the presence of the church and the Christian words that form part of the ceremony will touch base in the hearts of those who attend.

Wishing you strength in the company of all the saints and of God,

Steve

Diary Dates

Nov 3 Weds East Harling 7pm Licensing of Simon Richardson as their new parish priest.

Nov 6 Sat Kenninghall/Banham/Quidenham Cafés
Banham Film Night - 7pm meal, 7.45pm movie – The Last Bus

Nov 14 Remembrance Sunday

9.30am Old Buckenham Remembrance in Church

10.50am OB, Banham on the Green, NB, Wilby and Kenninghall in church

Nov 20 Sat 7.30pm OB Heritage talk in the village hall

Nov 28 Advent Sunday

10am Joint Benefice service in New Buckenham with Archdeacon Steven Betts
4pm Advent (Messy) Christingle Service in New Buckenham

Dec 3 Fri Wilby 7.30pm Horatio Singers Carols Service

Dec 4 Sat Kenninghall 10am Christmas Bazaar
Banham 6pm Carols round the tree

Dec 5 Sun Wilby 4pm Carols on the Green

Dec 12 Sun Eccles 4pm Lessons and Carols Service
New Buckenham 6.30pm Carols Service with Gissing Singers

Dec 21 Tues New Buckenham 6pm Carols on the Green

Dec 19 Sun Quidenham 6pm Lessons and Carols
Kenninghall 6pm Lessons and Carols

Dec 24 Fri 4pm Kenninghall - Children's Christmas Service
7pm Old Buckenham and Eccles – Christmas Communion Service
9.30pm New Buckenham and Kenninghall – Christmas Communion Service
11.30pm Banham – Christmas Communion Service

Dec 25 Sat 9.30am Old Buckenham – Christmas Communion Service
11am Quidenham – Christmas Communion Service
11am New Buckenham – Christmas Family Service

Dec 26 Sun 10am Banham informal Carols/Songs of Praise Communion

A reminder – [our weekly pew leaflet](#) is available for all by email as well as in church on Sunday. If you can't make it to church and would like it on email, please tell Val on pewleaflet@gmail.com and she will add you to the mailing list.

On bigger issues: This month it has to be the Climate, with the COP26 going on at the moment. Here's our bishop's encouragement to do our bit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9CD7bD507s>



For those familiar with the addictive lure of memes – I found this one thought provoking at a number of levels. There's the one thought that while I'm scrolling, although the screen is not looking back, God is, and it also at my shoulder looking with me, not judging but knowing me and with me. In my mind it's rather like a parent watching their child while totally absorbed in some project. But I also wondered, we spend effort in making Remembrance and Christmas services more accessible to those who don't regularly attend church, but what if the thing they're looking at is not the service we present for them to look at, but us?

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.