

East Bergholt parish magazine

December 2023

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EAST BERGHOLT

The Street, East Bergholt, Suffolk CO7 6TA

RECTOR

The position of rector is currently vacant. During this period, please contact one of the churchwardens, as listed below.

WEBSITE

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR

constablecountrychurches@outlook.com

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

| Rev Peter Ball (retired) | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Rev Roy Seden (retired) | 07806 940407 |

READERS

| Nick Pavitt, Old Manor House, Stutton | 01473 328512 |
|---|--------------|
| Ruth Bull, Heathside, Heath Road, East Bergholt | 01206 298733 |

CHURCHWARDENS

| Sarah Southgate, Holly Cottage, White Horse Road, East Bergholt | 07742 620695 |
|---|--------------|
| Fiona Trott, St Mary's, Gandish Road, East Bergholt | 01206 298205 |

TREASURER

| Lesley Cherry, 43 Cedar Close, Brantham07 | 7543 644318 |
|---|-------------|
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Chris Jacob, Koshy Jacob and Sarah Southgate

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Churchwardens, synod representatives, treasurer, Barry Blomfield, Howard Holdsworth, Geoff Potter, Jackie Reeves, Victoria Rothwell, Glen Rowson and Ruben Rushen

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| Steve Newman 11 | l Chaplin Road | 1785 0 505713 |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Sieve Newman, 11 | 1 CHabiii ix oau | 11000 000110 |

ENVELOPE & GIFT AID RECORDERS

| Ian Cranston, Commandree, Gaston Street, East Bergholt | 01206 298434 |
|---|--------------|
| Koshy Jacob (assistant Gift Aid recorder), 81 Chaplin Road, East Bergholt | |

Visiting St Mary's church: St Mary's is usually open during daylight hours. The church is open every day and you are most welcome to come in and have a quiet moment in the Lady Chapel or leave a prayer request. If you need a listening ear, please contact any member of the Ministry Team. We are here to serve you. Please let us know how we can do this better.

Details of services can be found on the magazine's centrefold

FROM A DISTANCE

It was Nanci Griffith who first had a hit with Julie Gold's song *From a Distance*. At a distance, everything appears peaceful and harmonious. The lyrics talk about seeing the world from a place of love, and not hate. Commentators say that the song urges people to take a step back and see things from a different perspective. It is a call for empathy and understanding.

The refrain of the song is more challenging, however: "God is watching us, from a distance." Some commentators interpret this line as meaning either that there is no God really; or that if there is a God, he is indifferent; or, perhaps, that a heartbroken God looks with sadness on the world but has chosen to let mankind make its own choices and reap the consequences.

At Christmas, the church proclaims a different message about God. In his Gospel Matthew writes: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Matthew continues: "They shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." This is not a distant God, but one who walked among us and lives within us today by his Holy Spirit. One who has experienced human life in all its glory as well as experiencing rejection, betrayal, torture and death. A God who understands and is with us in our experience, even if we can't understand why horrible things happen. He walks with us.

The Christmas message is one of hope, and not of indifference or rejection by our Creator God. We hope that you might be able to attend one or more of the services at St Mary's - or at Bentley, Brantham or Tattingstone - over the festive period, some of which are family-friendly. May you experience the peace and comfort of the God who is with us this Christmas. Meanwhile, the work of the church continues while the position of rector is vacant. Do please be in touch if you need us.

Nick Pavitt, lay reader

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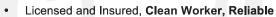


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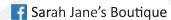


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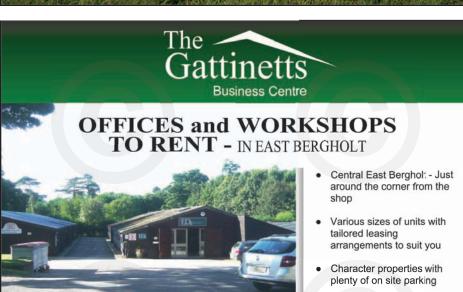
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The aim of the Society is to preserve this historic building for future generations by attracting support from anyone who cares about our Heritage. Your donations, large or small, will be gratefully received.

All funds raised will be used solely for the preservation of St. Mary's Church and Bell Cage.

New members and renewal subscriptions are very welcome.

For further information please contact: E-mail: ebchurchpres@gmail.com



ST MARY'S CHURCH. EAST BERGHOLT

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Benefice website: www.ConstableCountryChurches.co.uk
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Enquiries about weddings, baptisms and funerals and any church matters should be directed to the wardens in the first instance.

St Mary's, East Bergholt:

Fiona Trott - fiona.trott13@gmail.com - 01206 298205 Sarah Southgate - southgatesarah@yahoo.co.uk - 01206 299729

St Michael's, Brantham

Jane Pavitt - jane.pavitt@tiscali.co.uk - 01473 328512 Len Smith - len@campervansmiths.com - 07986 767123

NEW RECTOR



We are delighted to announce that the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich has approved the appointment of the Reverend Chris Willis to become our new rector. We are really looking forward to Chris, and his wife Rachel, joining us in spring 2024.

He will be looking after the churches in East Bergholt, Brantham, Bentley and Tattingstone. Chris is currently curate/priest at St Albright's, the parish church of Stanway, Colchester, in the Chelmsford diocese.

Rev Chris says: "Rachel and I are absolutely thrilled to know that we shall be joining you soon. We look forward to journeying together with you, and trust and believe that God has the parishes safely in his hands and 'knows the plans that He has for us all'!"

Fiona Trott

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

During the vacancy following Rev Steph's retirement, we have endeavoured to keep the usual schedule of church services running as much as possible. We are extremely grateful to our retired priests, lay elders and readers who have worked so hard to keep the service pattern largely unchanged.

However, at Christmas this is going to be particularly challenging. Please note that we are only able to accommodate one children's Christmas Eve candlelight service, which will take place at 4.00pm. We apologise for any inconvenience that this might cause and ask for your understanding.

Communion services are also particularly difficult as they require an ordained priest, and when this was written in early November we were still trying to find someone to officiate at the Christmas Eve evening Communion. It doesn't appear on the schedule of services for that reason, although we are trying to offer that important Christmas service. There is also a chance that there may be an early morning Communion on Christmas Eve. Notices posted on the church's noticeboards at the beginning of December, and on social media nearer the time, will be more up to date.

Fiona Trott



FAMILY@CHURCH

On Sunday 5th November our theme was light and being sensational! Our story was about Patch the Pumpkin, what happened when his hearing was affected by a stone, and how he learned to "listen" with his other senses. By helping others and noticing when they were sad, he made his heart shine. We sang *This Little Light of Mine, Shine Jesus Shine!* and our "sorry song". The children made pumpkin krispie

cakes which they then ate as part of their tea after



the service. It being 5th November, the children all had sparklers after tea in the churchyard, and they went home with an Advent calendar.

Next month we will be celebrating Christmas at Fields Kitchen & Farmshop. To help us with catering numbers please let Liz know if you are able to come on Sunday 3rd December at the slightly later time of 4.30pm. For any queries or comments about family@church, please contact Liz Digby (liz.digby@btopenworld.com) or Fiona Trott (fiona.trott13@gmail.com).

Fiona Trott

EAST BERGHOLT AND BRANTHAM MOTHERS' UNION



Our Mothers' Union members have once again been reaching out to support families in our benefice and beyond. Our most recent outreach has been to make a number of moving-in bags for the women's refuge in Ipswich, as part of our national RISE UP campaign to raise awareness of the issue of domestic abuse.

This year our branch members have reached out to touch the lives of more than 860 people through our many projects and programmes, and raised funds to support the Christmas outreach in Highpoint Prison and the Summer of Hope appeal. So, forgive us if this month we just sit down and enjoy a Christmas afternoon tea and some festive fun at our meeting on 14th December at 2.00pm in St Mary's, East Bergholt.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us, in particular to our church wardens Fiona and Sarah at East Bergholt and Jane and Len at Brantham; as well as to Rev Steph during her time as our rector.

Jeanette, Janet, Jenny, Chris and Grace

🛦 EAST BERGHOLT CHRISTMAS PARADE AND MARKET 2023 🛕



It's nearly time for the village's annual Christmas Parade and Market, being held this year on Saturday 9th December. It will follow the successful format from last year, with the parade starting at the High School at 4.00pm and ending up at Gandish Road playing fields.

At the same time the market stalls will open for business. There will be carol singing and a Santa's Grotto, together with food stalls and drinks available from the sports pavilion.

Please note that there will be limited parking, so you are encouraged to walk, or park away from Gandish Road.

If you would like to take part by entering a float into the parade or having a stall at the market, there is still just about time. Please linktr.ee/christmasmarketandparade to register your interest, or alternatively contact Hannah on 07875 585205/ hannahsarahbibby@gmail.com.

Fiona Trott









St Mary's, East Bergholt

St Michael's, Brantham

St Mary's, Bentley

St Mary's, Tattingstone

CONSTABLE COUNTRY CHURCHES - DECEMBER 2023 SERVICES

| | St Mary's, East Bergholt | | St Michael's, Brantham | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|------------------|--|
| Sun 3 rd | | Communion Service Family@Church Christmas party | Sun 3 rd Sun 10 th | | Informal Service Communion Service |
| Wed 6 th | | BCP Communion Service Constable Country Churches Nativity | | | Constable Country Childcare Nativity |
| Thu 7 th | 10:00 | Constable Country Childcare Nativity | Tues 12 th | 10:00 | Constable Country Childcare Nativity |
| Sat 9 th Sun 10 th | 08.00 | Christmas Market and Parade BCP Communion Carol Service | Sun 17 th Thu 21 st | | Informal Service Carol Service |
| 1 | 18.30 18:30 | EBHS Carol Service EB Preservation Society Carols and mince pies EBPS Carol Service | Sun 24 th (| 10.30 15:00 | as Eve Communion Service Family Candlelight Service Carols, reading and reflection to welcome in Christmas |
| Mon 25 th | Christr 16:00 Christr 10:30 | Family Service at Brantham | Mon 25 th Sun 31 st | 10:30 | nas Day Short, relaxed and welcoming service Benefice Communion Service at Bentley |
| Sun 31st | | Benefice Communion Service at Bentley | | | |
| | St I | Mary's, Bentley | | St Ma | ry's, Tattingstone |
| Sun 10 th Sun 17 th Sun 24 th | 10:00 | Christingle Service Carol Service Crib Ser vic e | Sun 3rd Sun 10th | | Holy Communion Service Carol service with Da Capo Choir |
| Mon 25 th Sun 31 st | | Morning communion Benefice Communion Service | Sun 24th | Christr 16:00 | Communion service mas Eve Crib & Carol service Benefice Communion Service at Bentley |

The benefice of Constable Country Churches is currently in an interregnum following the retirement of Rev Steph, and it is hoped that the published schedule of services will all go ahead as planned.

We are trying to accommodate as many of the usual Christmas services as possible, but undoubtedly there will be some that we are unable to offer. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. Please check our website at www.constablecountrychurches.co.uk or local Facebook pages to confirm service times.

Note: family@church services at St Michael's, Brantham will be advertised on the church's Facebook page and the local Brantham Facebook page.

Parade 4pm | Market 4pm | Carols 5pm | Santa's Grotto 6pm

East Bergholt's Christmas Parade & Market

Saturday 9th December, Gandish Park



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Gravel Pit Lane, Brantham, CO11 1NY Minister Rev Ian Gardner 34 Medway Road, Ipswich IP3 0QH 01473 411507

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The services of Marriage, Baptism and Funerals can be arranged with the minister.

Services and preachers in December 2023

| Date | Time | Preacher |
|------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday 3 rd Dec. | 11.00am | Rev Ian Gardner (Holy Communion) |
| Sunday 10 th Dec. | 2.30pm | Songs of Praise |
| Sunday 17 th Dec. | 11.00am | Mrs Ruth Loggie |
| Sunday 24 th Dec. | 11.00am | Led by local members |
| Monday 25 th Dec. | 10.30am | Rev Ian Gardner (Christmas Praise) |
| Sunday 31 th Dec. | 11.00am | Miss Anna Howes |

Dear friends, first of all can I wish you all a very happy Christmas. Christmas is, for most people, a time of celebration with much eating and drinking. It won't only be the goose that is getting fat. But we mustn't forget what Christmas is really all about - the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ in that humble manger in Bethlehem. Now that is worth celebrating. As the angel said to the shepherds, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people" (Luke 2:10).

I invite you to join us for our Christmas Songs of Praise on Sunday 10th December at 2.30pm. It will be a fun service of relevant readings and carols. We are also holding a celebration on Christmas Day. This will be suitable for people of all ages; all I ask is that you bring one present you have received. Don't worry - you'll be taking it home too.

Also don't forget that you can come along to any of our coffee mornings between 10.30am and 12.00 noon on the last Saturday of every month.

God bless you all, from your friend and minister, lan.



ST MARK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

St Mark's, Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ
Holy Family Church, Ipswich Road, Brantham CO11 1TB
Parish Priest: Rev Fr Luke Goymour
The Presbytery, 180 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ
01473 684963 revgoymour@googlemail.com

The tradition of the Christmas crib - reflection by Pope Francis: "Setting up the Christmas creche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on that event. At the same time, its portrayal in the creche helps us to imagine the scene...as contemporaries of an event that is living and real...the Christmas creche is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith."

Christmas gifts supporting charities: At this time of year there are many gifts that we can give which support charities. We'd just like to mention two Christian charities: **Mary's Meals** feeds 2.4 million school children every day in poorer countries across the world. Gifts and cards to support this are available at *shop.marysmeals.org.uk*. **CAFOD** also supports poorer communities; visit *worldgifts.cafod.org.uk*.

Weekday and Sunday Masses and devotions: All are very welcome to attend services; it is not necessary to be a Catholic. The following are the usual Mass times but please check the parish website at www.stmarksparish.org.uk for updates in case of changes, or the noticeboards outside the churches. Christmas Day Masses will be at the same times as on Sundays.

| Saturday | St Mark's Vigil Mass with confessions from 5.00pm | | |
|-----------|---|--|--|
| Sunday | 9.00am Holy Family, Brantham 11.00am St Mark's | | |
| Tuesday | 10.00am Holy Family Mass with Adoration from 9.20am | | |
| Wednesday | 9.30am St Mark's | | |
| Friday | 12.15pm St Mark's Mass with Adoration from 11.40am | | |

Father Luke's Sunday sermons are available at anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour. The popular

Bring & Buy Coffee Morning at Viv Szitasi's home, Paddock Gate, Whitehorse Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TR will take place on Thursday 21st December 10.30am to 12.00 noon.

Everyone is most welcome. - Kathy Pollard

CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



Club members enjoyed a busy November which included presentations by Barbie Lindsay and Roger Hance, a PDI mono competition judged by Tony Bramley FRPS, and a field trip to Green Island Gardens.

We are now looking forward to the club's Christmas dinner in December and we would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

Please visit our website for details of our full programme together with competition results, photo albums and further club information.

We continue to have fun with our monthly Facebook Challenge, and our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page features club news and activities. This month's featured image is *Portstewart Strand* by Mark Rivers, which won a recent prints competition.



We are a small group of photography enthusiasts with a wide range of photographic experience and knowledge. The club aims to provide a friendly environment for members to enjoy the development of their photographic skills through a variety of activities in the company of like-minded individuals.

If you are interested in photography, at whatever level, you would be most welcome at M&DPS and we would like to invite you to come along to a free club meeting. We meet at Mistley Village Hall, on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays of the month between September and May at 7.30pm.

For further information please contact our secretary Pat Ainger on 01206 231242 or email *madps@post.com*.

Website: e-voice.org.uk/manningtreeanddistrictphotographicsociety

Ian Bancroft

EAST BERGHOLT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (founded 1895)

www.eastbergholthorticulturalsociety.onesuffolk.net • email: ebhs@btinternet.com

On 16th November the East Bergholt Horticultural Society held its AGM. It was an opportunity to look back on what has proved a most successful year, with old stalwarts such as the quiz and the plant sale proving as successful as ever, likewise our annual show; this summer provided much better growing conditions then the arid 2022 season, with our members producing an excellent display of exhibits in all classes. Entrants were up substantially from 2022, a trend I trust will continue.

New activities for last year included garden trips, with our members visiting the Old Hall vegetable and flower gardens in East Bergholt and the RHS Hyde Hall gardens during one of their show days. We look forward to a wreath-making masterclass on 25th November.

2023 has proved a good year for our society. Our finances are back on track after the inroads caused by the pandemic, membership remains very healthy and our activities continue to expand and succeed. We look forward to another successful year in 2024 supporting our existing members and welcoming new ones. It was with a sad heart that we said goodbye to our treasurer of many years, James Bolton, thanking him for the work and support he has provided over that time. James, you will be sorely missed. Stepping into the breach, we welcomed the new treasurer (and relatively new committee member), Roy Thornycroft.

The society is run by the committee; many of its members have specific tasks, others are members without portfolio. All the committee members are vital to the smooth running of our organisation, bringing their ideas to the meetings and helping the officers in performing their tasks. The society welcomes new committee members, happily taking on volunteers to fill our ranks. Would you be willing to help?

As a committee member you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your efforts are keeping a venerable, much-loved village institution running, together with the opportunity to meet, work with and support the gardeners in the village. It's also a lot of fun. The job is neither difficult nor too time-consuming. We meet for about an hour once a month, take turns to man the store (9.30am to 10.30am on Sunday mornings between mid-February and mid-September), assist in the collection of membership subscriptions, and help to set up the plant sale and annual show.

If you are interested in joining us please contact either Steve Feeney (chairman, feeneystephen63@gmail.com, 07801 090780) or Louise Kemp (vice chairman, show secretary and membership secretary, 07753 422474).

Stephen Feeney

Gardening tips for December

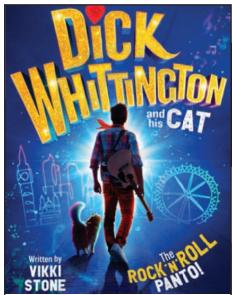
I am writing this on the day of Storm Ciaran. Fortunately this area is not badly affected by the winds, but the rain is relentless. Do keep checking on ties on all climbing plants and young trees.

Christmas is fast approaching and life is busy - but there are a few jobs to do in the garden. So wrap up warm and brave the weather! Of course, we all have different gardens and thus different jobs, but we all have leaves falling from either our trees or our neighbours'. I find that raking/sweeping little and often is best.

Heathers can be planted now; there are so many varieties to brighten up your gardens. Don't leave tender plants to chance - have some fleece handy to protect them from frosts. Deadhead winter pansies in pots and hanging baskets. If some of your garden tools are old and tatty, add new ones to your Christmas gift list. From the comfort of your armchair look through gardening catalogues and make plans for next year, perhaps ordering some seeds. Remember to water hyacinths in pots germinating in a dark place. Plant amaryllis; they make a lovely show indoors, or perhaps give one to a friend or relative for Christmas.

Some of you may be having some homegrown vegetables on the 25th - delish. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024. One last thing - birds!

Janet Alcoe

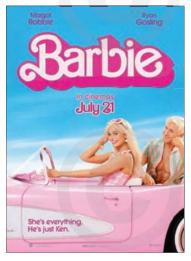


The Constable Hall is presenting The New Wolsey Theatre's rock panto on Friday 22 December at 2.30. Adults £12, children £8. Please call 298638 or 298292 for details.



EAST BERGHOLT CINEMA

At the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TP Films start at 8.00pm, doors and ticket desk open at 7.30pm



Friday 1st December Barbie (U)

Eccentric and individualistic, Barbie is exiled from Barbieland because of her imperfections. When her home world is in peril, Barbie returns with the knowledge that what makes her different also makes her stronger. Starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling.

"A riotous, candy-coloured, feminist fable" - The Guardian.

We advise buying or booking tickets in advance for this popular film as we have limited capacity.



Friday 5th January *Past Lives* (12A)

Two childhood friends are separated after one's family emigrates from South Korea. Two decades later, they are reunited in New York for a week as they confront notions of destiny, love and the choices that make a life.

"A transcendent debut for South Korean-Canadian filmmaker Celine Song, this romantic drama is a masterclass in slow, simmering storytelling" - Empire.

Tickets to all films are available for sale from Grier & Partners in East Bergholt or alternatively can be reserved by contacting Noelleen on 01206 299774. It is advisable to buy or reserve tickets in advance as seating is limited. The bar will be open and teas, coffee and ice creams will be available at the interval.

The EB Cinema Team

EAST BERGHOLT AND BARBIZON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

At the time of going to press, the committee were finalising details for the quiz on 11th November. We hope that all who attended had an enjoyable evening. The quiz is an invaluable fundraiser for the association and we are grateful for your support.

Next year we will begin making preparations for the weekend in May 2025 when we will host guests, new and old, from Barbizon. It sounds a long way away but there is plenty to do! Please make a note of this provisional date if you wish to host.



Oil on canvas sketch of Willy Lott's House by John Constable. Recently found on the wall of a house in Guernsey, having been lost for 40 years. Sold at auction for £200,000 in September 2023.

Margaret Macallan

BRANTHAM AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY

Heigh-Ho, Heigh-Ho, It's Off To The Village Hall We Go

Come visit the forest where Snow White hides
And join in the hunt for the runaway bride.
A Charming Prince, a Wicked Stepmother
A poisoned Apple and Seven Brothers.

Join in the fun with Queen Charming and servant Willy
And enjoy an hour or two of something quite silly
A renowned tale albeit rewritten with a twist.



Snow White will run from Tuesday 20th to Saturday 24th February at Brantham Village Hall, with shows at 7.30pm each night as well as a 2.30pm matinee on the Saturday. Tickets will be available from the beginning of December at www.batsonline.co.uk as well as Guys & Dolls hair salon, Acacia Way, Brantham. Adults £12, children £6.

Aided by Hansel & Gretel...YOU GET THE GIST???

Teresa Fraser



EAST BERGHOLT AEDs (DEFIBRILLATORS)

Adult AEDs, like those around the village, give a shock of 150 kilojoules but the latest ruling is that they can be used on a child if nothing else is available. This is even though a child under eight years old in cardiac arrest would only require 50 kilojoules. However, as most cardiac arrests in children are respiratory the AED will not advise giving a shock but to just continue CPR.

To release the AED from the cabinet you need a code. This must be obtained from the call handler answering your 999 call before anyone sets off to fetch the AED.

AED locations in East Bergholt and adjacent villages

telephone box outside the Red Lion, The Street, CO7 6TB

Constable Hall, Gandish Rd, CO7 6TP (on the outside wall by the emergency exit)

E Bergholt Lawn Bowls Club, CO7 6TP (at the rear of the Constable Hall playing field)

KMC garage, Heath Rd, CO7 6RL (on the rear wall of the MOT bay)

inside at Old Hall, Rectory Hill, CO7 6TG

Flatford Tourist Information Centre, CO7 6UL (on the rear wall near the toilets)

Flatford Mill Upper Car Park, CO7 6UL (on the rear of the kiosk)

Grange Country Park Swimming Pool (on the outside wall facing the park entrance)

East End Butchers, Broom Knoll, CO7 6XN (on the wall by the entrance doors)

The Royal Oak pub, East End Lane, CO7 6XA (on the wall at the vehicle entrance)

Brantham Leisure Centre, New Village, CO11 1RZ (on the wall in the car park)

Chloe's, 1 Acacia Court, Birch Drive, Brantham, CO11 1TR (to the left of the Co-op)

Holton St Mary Village Hall, Hadleigh Rd, Holton St Mary, CO7 6NW (on the right-hand side of the front wall)

Contact Carol Moss on 01206 298483 to become a responder or email eastbergholtheartwatch@gmail.com with any queries.

Valerie Ayton, chair, Heartwatch

AIR AMBULANCE COMES TO EAST BERGHOLT

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) and Constable Country Medical Practice ran a free emergency first aid course helping us understand how to deal with heart attack and cardiac arrest. This is part of the East Anglian Air Ambulance campaign to train 20,000 this year. A presentation from Tony Brown was followed by all attendees having a go at CPR themselves. All participants enjoyed the session, learned much and raised £40 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance charity.





"It has given me the confidence to have a go," said one participant. The PPG are keen to support patients in similar ways so please forward any suggestions to the email below. We would also appreciate more volunteers to support us - we meet every two months.

Please contact the PPG via email at ppgconstablecmp@gmail.com.

Lyn Matthews

COMMUNITY CAFÉ FRIDAYS AT THE CONSTABLE HALL

Everyone welcome!

11.00... tea/coffee and a chat

12.30... a two course lunch for £6

Booking for lunch is <u>essential</u>

For more details call 01206 298638 or 01206 298692

Val James



EAST BERGHOLT UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



The last month: Mixed results, with both the First Team and A Team progressing in Cup competitions. The weather is now posing problems, however, with many grounds unfit.

Upcoming fixtures and events: December

First Team: 2nd Westerfield Utd, H; 9th Debenham LC, A; 16th Old Newton Utd, H;

23rd Halesworth Town, H; 30th Ransomes Sports, H.

Reserves: 2nd Occold, A; 16th AFC Kesgrave Reserves, A; 23rd Trimley Red Devils Reserves, A.

A Team: 23rd AFC Kesgrave A, H.

Fixtures subject to change. Please refer to the fixtures website at *fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?league=4358069* and then choose the appropriate competition to confirm.

Sponsorship: We would like to thank our sponsors for this season: Smy IT Specialists, JAK Services Ground Care, Riverside Taxis Manningtree, Marquis, Bergholt Travel, G & C Timber & Joinery Ltd, Primus, Kitchen Worktops Online, C&W Fencing, and Armour Engineering. We would also like to thank all the player sponsors. If you would like to sponsor the club in some capacity we would also be delighted to hear from you. Club strips, dugouts, banners or boards on matchdays all offer potential for exposure for your business while supporting a local organisation.

Juniors: The Juniors are well underway now.

We are looking for new teams, boys or girls, of any age group to come and join us as we look for the club to grow. Ladies who would like to join are also welcome. If you are interested please contact Lee Partridge (bunter.partridge@googlemail.com). We are also always on the lookout for people who can help the club as a committee member, whether it be on the playing side or just in the background. In particular, we are looking for a manager for the A Team.

EBUFC is a community club with strong village traditions. The majority of the players either live in, or have links to, the village. For anyone over 16 interested in playing, we train on Wednesday evenings at the High School, 8.00pm to 10.00pm. The teams cover a range of abilities so if you want to play again, please come along and give us a look.

Facebook East Bergholt United Football Club

Instagram east_bergholt_united_fc

X (Twitter) @EBUFC1

Steve Butcher, secretary, stevebutcher55@btinternet.com

EAST BERGHOLT TENNIS CLUB



It's been a fantastic month at EBTC with coaching, cardio tennis, league matches and our social sessions in full swing. Since we re-formed, the club has gone from strength to strength.

If you'd like to join, we're offering a special winter membership rate from now until April, with up to a third off our standard pricing - great value for floodlit tennis. Our winter season has kicked off and our teams are off to a strong start. For the first time, we've entered both A and B teams across our men's, women's and mixed divisions as more players have felt ready to get involved in competitive tennis.

Our Disability Tennis Programme continues as we welcome SEN schools to EBTC. This term we also restarted our ever-popular girls-only sessions, on Mondays for 7-11 years (5.00pm-6.00pm) and Wednesdays for 5-7 years (4.00pm-5.00pm). Contact Matt Watson on acetennis84@gmail.com to sign up.

Since being awarded LTA club of the year 2023, we've launched a limited-edition range of EBTC merchandise, including T-shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops and bags. Club member Caroline has produced our fantastic merchandise and it's great seeing so many members wearing their kit on court.

We're proud to have been nominated for Club of the Year in the Active Suffolk awards, which celebrate the achievements of sports people and clubs across the county.

Our October quiz night was a huge success. Eight teams battled it out for the top spot, and we raised more funding for our clubhouse project. Thanks to our social committee, Joe, Ross, Claire and Mark for hosting a brilliant night, and to chairperson Paul for manning the bar.

James E organised a brilliant October Fest tournament last month, with Teams Racket, Net and Base competing. Congrats to Team Racket, captained by Mary, who took home the trophy. On Halloween, our members came out in force in their most terrifying costumes for our club night. A lot of fun was had by all as members donned their witch's hats, wigs and cloaks and enjoyed chairman Paul's homemade sausage rolls.

Regular sessions continue with social tennis Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings - email <code>paulvcansdale@gmail.com</code> or just turn up. We run cardio Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings and group coaching throughout the week - visit <code>www.eastbergholttennis.club</code> to find out more. To keep up with our news, follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

East Bergholt Tennis Club

EAST BERGHOLT WI

Our November meeting was our annual meeting, where we were presented with our 2023 financial accounts and a summary of our activities over the year. We were also delighted to present Dorothy Brundell with a certificate celebrating her 50 years as a member of the WI. During that time she has taken on many roles including those of president and treasurer.

Our evening concluded with the harmonious voices of Chorus Iceni as they entertained us with songs from Sinatra, Adele and Abba among others.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on 6th December at the Constable Hall, when Dorothy O'Grady will take us through gift



wrapping just in time for our Christmas preparations. For further information please contact our president Tina Hurley on 01206 298223 or Gill Rattray on 01206 298380, visit our website at *eastbergholtwi.wordpress.com* or check out our Facebook page.

Gill Rattray

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT TO PUBLICISE, A LOCAL ISSUE YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON, OR A CLUB YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT?

If so, the East Bergholt parish magazine would love to hear from you! We welcome articles up to about 400 words long and can include photos and logos. The magazine is delivered free of charge to all homes in the village (well over a thousand) and attracts a broad readership, including those who social media does not reach.

Please email items to *eb.parish.magazine@gmail.com* or leave them in the box on the back pew in St Mary's church. The deadline for copy is the 5th of the month prior to publication (earlier at Christmas).

LOCAL ISSUES & OPINIONS

TOWARDS THE BLUE ZONE

As the year comes to a gradual close and Christmas beckons, my daily walking (a large part of it first thing in the morning) describes a wonderful local journey - a journey from one point in time to another, the beginning of the year to the end of the year. At around 100 miles per week, I am steadily heading towards my 5,000-mile target which I had achieved in mid-December last year.

But it is what the walking, carried out with daily frequency, has done for me that fills me with elation. Meeting and getting to know people has been one of the greatest pleasures. Partaking in people's unique stories and life journeys, most enriching. Finding things in common has made me appreciate, time and again, that we are all human beings first, then everything else.

All equal, irrespective of gender, appearance and age, no hierarchies separating us unless we have created them ourselves. Differences simply in biologically- and socially-induced survival strategies.

Apart from downshifting - a slowing-down - the walking has also given me a sense of purpose with the time to actually think, ask challenging questions and find interesting solutions, a voyage of discovery, a fulfilment. It has also made me think about the diet for a healthy life, how to connect with nature, how to embrace change and be happy.-And as far as the weather is concerned, I just work round it, making sure I am well-prepared.

Having continued with my quest, just by chance I have unwittingly fallen into what the Okinawans call ikigai - that which gives life worth, meaning.

So what has this to do with the Blue Zones? The Blue Zones of the world are distinguished by a greater proportion of people living longer (including a higher than average number of centenarians) and with lower rates of chronic disease.

Specific areas in these zones have now been identified: Okinawa, Japan; Nuoro province, Sardinia; the Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica; and Loma Linda, California.

What are the qualities that these populations have in common? Moving naturally (constant moderate activity), having the right outlook, eating wisely (less food and mainly plant-based), connecting with people around them and living life with vim and vigour: these are keeping them happier and healthier.

And every person I talk to tells me how important health and happiness are to them. So I am left to wonder: can East Bergholt be the next Blue Zone? Happy Christmas!

Rasik Bhadresa

THE BOX IRON, QUINTON'S ROAD

The East Bergholt Society is back in action. Here is the first of an occasional series looking at aspects of our village. A fuller article can be found on the society website.

In the Middle Ages the village of East Bergholt sat around an extensive heath which was common land. The land belonged to everyone, and anyone could graze their animals there. The heath stretched over a vast Y-shaped area of high land between the River Stour to the south and Stutton Brook to the north.

Over the centuries, however, the heath was "enclosed" as existing landowners were permitted to take common land into private ownership. The most recent enclosure took place in 1817.

Before enclosure, Gaston End was a small group of houses and cottages clustered around a triangular village green, which was part of the heath. By 1817 the green was divided up into



separate private ownerships. The largest part was owned by the Gurneys (East Anglian bankers whose business eventually became Barclays). Houses were built on both sides, but there is still a triangle of open space called the Box Iron, bounded by Woodgates Road and Quintons Road. The Box Iron still has mature trees and the old village pond.

The Box Iron remains in its natural state to this day. In living memory local children played games on the land, gathered frogspawn from the pond and visited on school nature-study trips. This was mostly during the tenure of the Moore family, who ran High Trees Farm opposite for many decades and allowed public access to the area.

Babergh District Council awarded the Box Iron the status of a Conservation Area in 1995, and it has also been designated an Area of Visual and Recreational Amenity (AVRA). It is a valuable part of village history and a glimpse into life before the enclosures, despite no longer being available for public access. Today there is no common land left on the heath. Of all the villages in Babergh district, East Bergholt is around the bottom of the table in terms of publicly accessible open space.

John Lyall, on behalf of The East Bergholt Society

UPDATE FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Locality Fund: As a district councillor, I have £2,000 to distribute to East Bergholt community organisations. If your group needs funds to buy equipment, make improvements or contribute to a larger project, please talk to me. I have not given any money to anyone yet! All applications must benefit the communities in which the funded activity is taking place, and full eligibility criteria as well as a breakdown of eligible projects can be found on the Babergh District Council website in the Locality Awards Guidance.

Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP): Do you have a prepayment meter? Did you know that households on prepayment meters typically pay more for their fuel? On average prepayment meters are £100 more expensive per year than paying by direct debit. There are fewer tariff options, and an unused meter will still use credit for standing charges.

WHHP can support prepay meter households with free energy advice and support. The goal is to make your home warmer and healthier with decreased energy bills. WHHP can also help with free home surveys to identify the following:

- Households needing emergency fuel payments.
- Support to switch away from prepayment, and in switching suppliers for suitable customers.
- Free draught-proofing to reduce energy costs.
- Referrals for debt advice and support to avoid disconnections.
- Energy tips and tricks to reduce bills.
- Advice and signposting on a range of other housing support.

Please contact Warm Homes Healthy People on 07769 365796 or email *prepay@eastsuffolk.gov.uk* if you would like to book a survey or find out more.

Council house repairs: Babergh District Council has 3,000 residential properties. The poor state of repair of this housing stock has come as a shock to new councillors. My colleagues have seen homes in a bad state because the residents tried to complain and gave up, or did not like to complain in the first place. The council itself currently has no system to check regularly on properties, so these homes have deteriorated without the council's knowledge. We are working to sort out this situation in both the short and long term.

If you live in council property and it needs repairs, please report them - if you do not get a satisfactory response or you don't feel comfortable contacting the council, please tell me and I will follow it up.

Sallie Davies, district councillor and cabinet member for planning sallie.davies@babergh.gov.uk

FARMING MATTERS

The following are extracts from a monthly newsletter focusing on issues of rural life and farming of relevance to the work of the Church of England in the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. If more details are needed on any of the topics mentioned, please contact Brian Chester at bc@bcnewslink.com or call 01379 669157.

Flooded land damaging newly planted crops and restricting autumn cultivation was among the challenges to Suffolk farmers brought by the October storm. The NFU reported that, across the country, hundreds of acres of productive farmland were under water, making the land inaccessible. Despite this, farmers (and their tractors) were among volunteers helping those caught in the floods. More rain predicted for November can only add to problems on farms - both arable and livestock, especially those with outdoor pigs.

East Anglia's "burgeoning" vineyards are at the forefront of a rapid expansion in the nation's wine industry, which has now made grapes one of our fastest-growing crop sectors. Figures show that grapes now represent 36% of England's soft fruit crop, with strawberries and blackcurrants in second place at 21% each. And that trajectory is reflected in East Anglia, which is building a rising reputation for producing some of the country's best wines. Trade body WineGB's regional membership in the east has grown from 50-60 members five years ago to 81 in 2023, including 12 new plantations this year, reports the East Anglian Daily Times.

Suffolk County Council is to source homegrown foods where possible for all catering at council-organised events, including meat and dairy options alongside plant-based produce. Councillors also plan to enhance partnerships with farmers and encourage Suffolk residents to shop locally.

Retail price inflation for food products was generally higher than price rises for the corresponding farm products in September, with cheddar cheese inflation remaining at almost 20% when milk prices have fallen by 32%. Of 11 categories tracked, the only products where farmgate rises exceeded retail inflation were beefsteak, lamb and eggs. Farm egg prices were 42.2% higher than the year before, Farmers Guardian reports.

When contacting an advertiser please mention that you found them in the East Bergholt Parish Magazine!

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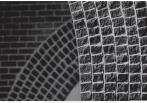
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COVER PHOTO

We are always looking for photos of seasonal events, interesting scenes, or flora and fauna of East Bergholt for the cover of our magazine. We are keen on receiving pictures of the village's architecture and heritage, as well as nature scenes. If you have taken a suitable photo, please send it to <code>barnaby.page@gmail.com</code> for consideration. It should be in .jpg format, at the highest resolution possible, accompanied by a brief description and the photographer's name.

This month's cover features a photograph by Tricia Nolan showing flooding at Flatford

MAGAZINE EDITOR - Barnaby Page - email: barnaby.page@gmail.com

EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS - email: eb.parish.magazine@gmail.com, or items can be placed in the Magazine Box in St Mary's Church. Deadline for copy is the 5th of the month previous to each issue, earlier at Christmas.

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Are you planning an event in East Bergholt? Please put details of your event in the village diary which is kept at the Post Office. This will benefit village life by helping to avoid unnecessary clashes so that we can all support one another.

