



ELEVEN SAYS

JUNE /
JULY 2025

ISSUE 313

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP OF CHURCHES COVERING 11 PARISHES

A Reflection on the Easter Season in the Thurton Benefice



“Alleluia, He is Risen He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia.”

The Thurton Benefice has had a very busy lead up to the Easter Season, as did the Rockland Benefice.

The Lent course was also a busy and interesting time, prepared by Canon Revd Nick and Revd Helen over a period of four weeks. The theme being **Out of Darkness, Light**. Using The Barn as an art gallery for local talent producing some extraordinary paintings and poems on the theme. The last week being an interesting talk from Lorie Lain-Rogers recalling the journey she took with others from Emmaus, walking from St David's Head in Pembrokeshire across the country to the South Pier in Lowestoft. Some 450 miles and taking several weeks. Stopping at the Emmaus Way Stations, hostels and churches on route. All proceeds raised from the Lent course went towards YANA.

The Thurton Benefice lead up to Easter Sunday began with the Palm Sunday Benefice service.....processing from Alington and Bergh Apton School to St Mary's Church, Yelverton with Alington. (In fine weather too and sadly no donkey).

Palm Sunday is a Christian celebration that marks the beginning of the Holy Week leading to Easter Sunday. It is also the day we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as Savior and King.

It is also a reminder of the selfless love Jesus showed by laying down his life for us, and it is a time to reflect on our own lives and how we can show that same love to those around us.

Palm Sunday is a movable holiday that changes yearly based on Lent and the spring equinox. It commemorates Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Large crowds had gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. The hundreds of people shouted:



“Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

But while this is a triumphal entry, only Jesus knew it was the first step toward His death.

Matthew 20:18-19

We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!

Moving on: Fr Chris prepared (with Melanie's administration assistance) all the services in Holy Week. A short Compline service with Homily beginning with:-

Fig Monday - at St Mary's Church, Yelverton. Traditionally Monday of Holy Week is known as 'Fig Monday' because the Gospel of the day used to be the account in St Mark's Gospel of Christ cursing the fig tree.

Temple Tuesday - at St. Peter and St Paul Church, Bergh Apton. Tuesday afternoon would be the last time Jesus would publicly teach in the temple as a free man. His words on that day would be His closing argument. His manifesto.

Spy Wednesday - at St Mary's Church, Ashby St Mary. The designation "Spy" is linked to Judas Iscariot's clandestine arrangement with the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. Leading up to the crucifixion

Maundy Thursday - at St Andrew's Church, Framingham Pigot. Mass of the Last Supper, washing of feet, Stripping the altar.

Good Friday - The Benefice Pilgrimage. This year starting at St Andrew's Church, Framingham Pigot - St Mary's Church, Yelverton - St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Bergh Apton - St. Ethelbert's Church, Thurton - St Mary's Church, Ashby St. Mary.

Unfortunately I was not able to walk this year due to a knee injury but I drove and this gave me more time to sit in each church along the way before the others arrived to pray and reflect on the Liturgy of Good Friday which included the readings from:

John 18: 1-11 Jesus is betrayed and arrested

John 18: 12-19:11 Jesus before the High Priest and Pilate

John 19:12-19:42 Jesus is sentenced to death and crucified

I did miss the reason for our walking and also the banter from my friends along the way.

Holy Saturday - at St. Ethelbert's Church, Thurton. Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter. Lighting of the fire.

Set out in the Meditation Mary, Peter, Judas and Pilate all questioned themselves to being at fault for the terrible thing that had happened. They felt guilty that they had all failed HIM.

What if.....

We, as the meditators, were given questions to think over how we would have reacted and dealt with the situation....would we have blamed ourselves..... **What if.....**

A Prayer

Lord, we all share responsibility for the brokenness of the world, the world for which you were broken.

As we followed your steps through this painful week help us to walk through guilt to active love, that we might live lives dedicated in service to your praise and glory. Amen

Liz Bloomfield



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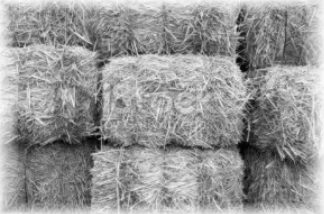
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Bishop's Garden Charity Open Days in 2025

The Bishop of Norwich and his wife open their garden for local charities on selected spring and summer Sundays as part of Bishop Graham's ministry. Last year more than 3,000 people visited the garden across 10 charity open days, raising £25,825 for local good causes.



This year's dates are:

Sunday 8th June - Norfolk Community Law Service

NCLS celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. It provides free legal advice to anyone in Norfolk, advising on debt management, family law, domestic abuse support, benefit decisions, immigration, and housing, employment and discrimination issues ncls.co.uk

Sunday 15th June - NANSA

Nansa provides services for those living with or caring for others with special educational needs and disabilities, and advocacy and participation projects for neurologically diverse people, who may feel excluded, marginalised or unsupported because of social, behavioural and/or developmental differences. nansa.org.uk

22nd June - The Norfolk Churches Trust

6th July - National Garden Scheme

13th July - Leeway

20th July - Vision Norfolk

27th July - RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre

RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre rescues, rehabilitates and releases British wildlife from the largest seal to the smallest shrew. They come to us often sick, orphaned or injured. Last year we admitted over 3000 animals in need of help. Please take a look on facebook.com/RSPCAEastWinch

GARDEN OPENING INFORMATION

Open 1 - 4.30 pm (last entry 4pm) with refreshments, plant sales and more. Admission is £5, FREE for children and wheelchair-users. Assistance dogs only.

Private garden tours for groups can be arranged via the Bishop's Finance and Facilities Assistant - email: louise.cumberland@dioceseofnorwich.org

Bishop's Garden, Norwich, NR3 1SB.

VE Day Celebrations at Norwich Cathedral

A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance on the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe took place on Sunday 11th May.

VE Day and all that was sacrificed throughout the Second World War was remembered at a special service at Norwich Cathedral.

War veterans, serving members of the Armed Forces and civic dignitaries were among those who gathered at the Cathedral for the occasion which began with a parade through the Cathedral Close.



Bill Smith

The Eleven Says Contribution Appeal



A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed towards the funding of the Bramerton Group of Churches Eleven Says Newspaper. So far kind contributions have amounted to £1,034. This will help tremendously towards the rising costs of printing, paper, ink cartridges, postage, etc, and we are extremely grateful to you all.

It's not too late to contribute if you haven't already and any amount, large or small, will be very much appreciated..

Ways to pay:

- by cheque made payable to Eleven Says
- by BACS payment to: Eleven Says Sort Code: 20-92-08 Acc./No: 90137065
- cash is also very welcome

You can deliver to The Treasurer, Liz Bloomfield, Bloomfields, Nichols Corner, Church Meadow Lane, Alington, NR14 7NF or to Eleven Says, 15 Bramerton Lodge, Bramerton, NR14 7EQ.

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SUNDAY 6th JULY

Theme: "Fruits of the Spirit"

Drop in any time between 10.30 am-12 noon

Future date: tbc

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

***** Café Church - All Welcome *****

Gentlemen, you are cordially invited to a Mid-Day Mardle

An opportunity for men to quench their thirst for good company and conversation, share good food and, perhaps, to enjoy a glass of something.



New members are always given a warm welcome.

Ferry House, Surlingham

Wednesday: June 4th, July 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 is a meeting for all people in the Bramerton Group and beyond! Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month 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.

June 11th - Revd. Canon Pat Atkinson giving an update on the work of the Vidiyal Trust in India

July 9th Outing

Saturday August 16th - Friends Coffee meeting 10:30 -12 noon at the Wheel of Fortune

For more information contact Pat Barter on 01508 493570.

✠ Rockland St Mary Benefice Update

The Village Hall Goes Up: on June 1st we gather in Claxton Village Hall for an all-age morning of worship, refreshments and crafts from 10 am -11.30 am to celebrate Christ's ascension and getting ready for Pentecost. Please look for more details on posters.

We're looking forward to our annual pilgrimage to Hellington. This year's **Summer Group service** on the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul is at Hellington Church on **June 29th** at 11am, followed by picnic in the churchyard. Please bring something to sit on outside (pews provided inside!).

Another eagerly anticipated event is the **Summer BBQ** in the Rectory Garden on **Thursday July 24th**, beginning at 7pm. Relax and enjoy the end of term vibes with freshly cooked food and good company. All profits go to Priscilla Bacon Hospice. There will be a raffle table, donations welcome. Tickets are £9 for adults, accompanied children free! For more information please contact Nick and Helen.

News from the Barn

Warm Welcome Mondays' summer season continues on **June 30th** and **July 28th** at The Barn between 11 am and 2.30 pm.

Still at the Barn on Sunday afternoons provides a quiet, informal space for reflection, conversation and opportunities to respond to words, music and images. We begin at 4pm on **July 13th**.

Art Cafe in the Barn opens its doors on **June 26th** and **July 24th**, between 10.30 am and 12.15 pm. Drop in for friendly company, fresh coffee and have some fun with art!

Art Cafe Online meets on **July 9th** at 10.30 am. Please contact Nick for your Zoom link and details of our lively and varied programme.

Some Big Thank Yous . . .

To all who attended and helped at the Warm Welcome Mondays and Group Lent Course, raising £376 for the **Diocesan Lent Appeal** for the YANA rural helpline. This offers a listening ear and support to Norfolk's hard-pressed farming community. Thank you for your generosity.

To Rockland with Hellington PC for their invaluable support of **Warm Welcome**, and our cheerful and hardworking team of volunteers.

To everyone who supported this year's **Joint Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, got involved or just came to support.

To the organizers, collectors and supporters of this year's **Christian Aid Week**. If you still wish to make a donation online, please follow this link <https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/>

Thank you.

Revd Nick Garrard

SUMMER BARBECUE



Thursday July 24th at 7pm

in The Rectory Barn and Garden, Rockland St. Mary, NR14 7EY

Please bring something to sit on and a bottle!!

Adults £9 Accompanied Children Free

All profits for Priscilla Bacon Hospice

Contact Nick and Helen Garrard for tickets/info (01508) 538014

rocklandrev@aol.com

✠ Thurton Benefice Update

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Tuesday 29th April at Alington & Bergh Apton Primary School. Thank you to those who attended to hear about the life of the churches in our benefice and those who submitted reports.

Midweek Communions: take place on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am 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 below with details of locations and dates.*

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

VE/VJ Day commemorations and celebrations: I am very grateful to those who arranged, led and attended the various services and commemorations in the benefice. They were a cause for both prayerful reflection and thankful celebration as we remembered the end of the war in those two theatres.

Safeguarding: At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the churches of the Thurton Benefice affirmed their commitment to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our Church community. I am very grateful to Mrs Leo Smith for agreeing to continue as our Safeguarding Officer for the parishes in the benefice. If you have a safeguarding concern please contact Mrs Smith on 01508 493695 or myself on 01508 484174. Where a child or adult is at imminent risk, 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. 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

Midweek Communions in June and July

All Services at 10.30am

June

Wednesday 4th - Ashby St Mary

Thursday 5th - Yelverton

Wednesday 11th - Bergh Apton

Wednesday 18th - Framingham Pigot

Wednesday 25th - Thurton

July

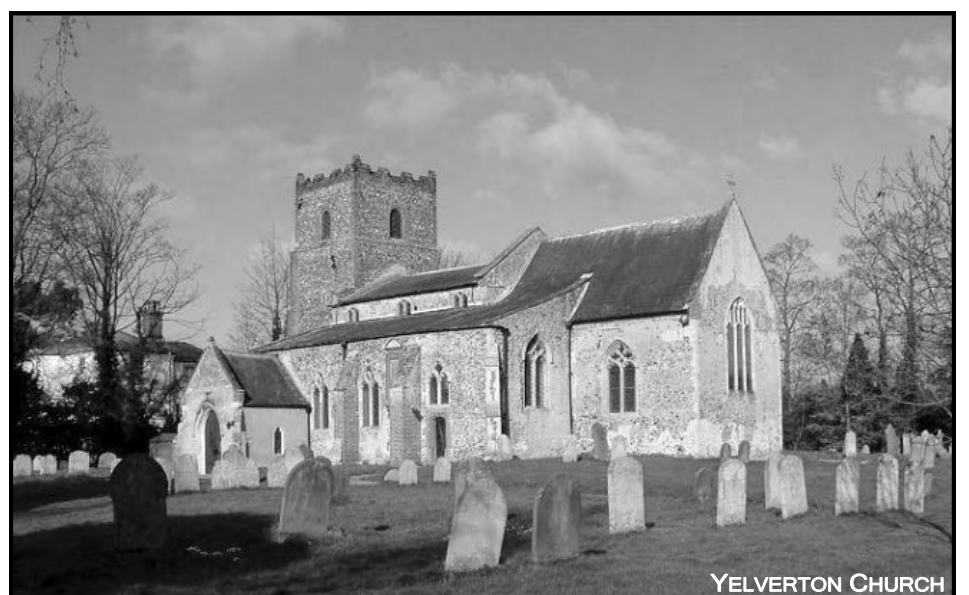
Wednesday 2nd - Ashby St Mary

Thursday 3rd - Yelverton

Wednesday 16th - Framingham Pigot

Wednesday 23rd - Thurton

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



YELVERTON CHURCH



From the Registers

BAPTISMS

09/03/25	Kaitlyn Anne LUCAS	Surlingham
06/04/25	Rory Arthur MERREN	Framingham Pigot
06/04/25	Florence Ann FARRELL	Yelverton

MARRIAGES

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

13/03/25	John Augustine ELLIS	Surlingham
04/04/25	Joan Doreen (Sally) COLLINS (Interment of Ashes)	Rockland St Mary
09/04/25	Maurice George NEWTON (85)	Framingham Pigot
11/04/25	Brenda Mary RICHARDSON	Rockland St Mary
15/04/25	Terence (Terry) Royal SOANES	Carleton St Peter

Baptism of Rory Merren at St Andrew's Church, Framingham Pigot

Having been married in St Andrew's Church in 2024 it was a pleasure to welcome Duncan and Phoebe Merren, and their family and friends to the church once again, this time for the Baptism of their son Rory.

Rory Arthur MERREN is pictured here with his Mum and Dad following his baptism on 6th April 2025.



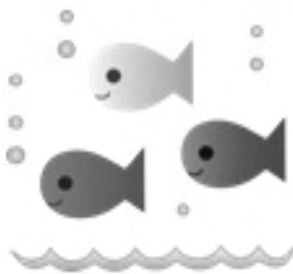
The Little Fish Toddler Group

Parents, Grandparents and Carers are invited to join the Little Fish Toddler Group at Ashby St. Mary & Thurton Village Hall from 10.30 am - 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, term time only.

Summer Dates: June 11th and 25th; July 9th. Each session has activities for your little ones including: Singing and Movement Time, Bible Story Time, Craft and Snack Time. £1.50 covers the cost of materials and snacks.

Please phone Judy on 07812734275 with any questions. We would love you to join us!

We are kindly sponsored by the Bramerton Group of Churches.



EXPLORERS

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7 - 8.15 pm on alternate Fridays
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Games, Activities, Crafts, Tuck and more

For information email: Gary Watson

Email: gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk



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 are: **10th and 24th of June; 8th and 22nd July.**

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

Rev. Mandy Ansell, 01508 538654

mandy.ansell44@gmail.com



Worship in Stillness

This 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.



The Moon, the Star and Me

It was dark when I opened the window
and I don't know why I did so.
Maybe I was disorientated,
too many thoughts rotating
like satellites around my mind.
My eyes accustomed themselves,
the sky became lighter, until
I could see a black outline of trees
against a pale background, an artist
had crafted a silhouette of their branches.
I looked up higher, westwards and saw
a silver sliver of moon,
And close by a luminescent evening star,
a rainbow sparkler in the sky.
I knew it was not really a star or a sparkler
But its transient beauty cleared my mind.
A universal blessing.

Brenda Smith, 13.1. 2025.
The Moon, the Star and Me.

(An evening star is the planet Venus and can be seen at certain times of the year for an hour or so after the sun sets.)



South Yare Wildlife Group

Wild Patch Open Gardens

This summer, South Yare Wildlife Group invites you to be inspired by the wonders of wild gardening at their **Wild Patch Open Gardens** event on Saturday, 28th June 2025. Ten varied and interesting gardens across Rockland St Mary, Claxton, Stoke Holy Cross and Brooke will open their gates, offering visitors a rich variety of approaches to natural gardening.

Whether you are thinking about adding a pond, planting a mini flower meadow, starting an orchard, or simply growing more native plants, there will be plenty to see and learn. These gardens demonstrate how even small changes can make a big difference – encouraging birds, amphibians, bees, butterflies, and a host of other vital insects back into our landscapes.

Rewilding your garden doesn't require vast space; it can start with allowing a patch of lawn to grow long, choosing plants that naturally thrive in your soil, or creating a pond to support amphibians and dragonflies. By working with nature, we can each help rebuild habitats that are crucial for wildlife — and bring even more beauty and life into our own gardens. All gardens are free to visit!



Come and discover ideas, meet like-minded gardeners, and find fresh inspiration to grow your own wild patch!

For full details and a map of all the gardens nearer the time visit southyarewildlifegroup.org

DATE FOR THE DIARY

A joint event with SYWG and the Hellington and Rockland Community Reserve is planned for July 13th. Meet at Rockland St. Mary Post Office at 2pm.

www.southyarewildlifegroup.org



Loddon Flower Club

Well, haven't we been spoilt of late with some lovely weather, which has been great for us gardeners, although it has meant an early start to watering, especially the pots!! Why not come and give us a look and get some ideas on ways to display your garden flowers or even a bunch from the supermarket.



Tuesday 3rd June - It's our 'President's Evening'. Come along and enjoy a social evening with friends and flowers in St John's Lecture Hall, Loddon, doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start.

Saturday 21st June - 10am - 12pm we are holding a Coffee Morning in the garden of Boundary Farm, Forge Road, Langley, NR14 6BD, with the kind permission of Tricia Loades. There will be Coffee, Tea, Cake, Plants, a Raffle and a Bric-a-Brac stall, come along and join us, all welcome.

Tuesday 1st July - we have Sandra Price demonstrating for us and her title is 'A Passion for Flowers'. Doors open 6.30 for 7pm start in St John's Lecture Hall on George Lane, Loddon. Refreshments provided and her arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening.

If you need help with family flowers for any occasion do get in touch, we have an email address - loddonflowerclub@gmail.com, or call Trisha on 01508 480522 or Jenny on 01508 520254. We also have a Facebook page and a website - www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk

We still have a few seats available for our outing to Houghton Hall on 23rd July, coach to leave Loddon around 9.30 and returns from Houghton at 4pm. (other pick up points available) give us a ring if you would like further information

Poringland Community Cinema at Poringland Community Centre

Dates for your diary: Friday Film Nights:
12th September, 10th October, 14th November, 12th December.

Tickets are £5 on the door (includes tea or coffee).

Doors open at 6.45pm. Films start at 7.30pm

Buena Vista Social Club at Poringland Community Centre

Dates for your diary: Friday Film Nights: September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th

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

South Yare Art Trail

Artists & Makers open their studios to the public where you can see, experience & buy art



Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th June 2025
Open 10am to 4pm



Free Entry

There will also be:
Exhibition
Demonstrations
Art Workshop
Open Gardens
Refreshments

Please see our website to plan your visit

www.SouthYareArtTrail.co.uk

As part of the South Yare Art Trail Wendy Baxter, Charlie Hampton, Joy Heeler and Andy Jarrett are opening their studios on **Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June** from 10 am to 4 pm. All welcome. Free Entry.

Beyond Surlingham, you can also explore the diverse creativity of the area. In all 28 artists in 17 venues in 10 villages are taking part. As well as individuals and pairs, there is a group exhibition at **Hempnall Village Hall**.

Along the trail you will find a variety of media and subject matter in paintings, prints, sculptures, jewellery, textiles and furniture. It's a great opportunity to talk to artists about their work, to see them in action and even to have a go yourself.

Website: www.southyarearttrail.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/61575145956914

Instagram: www.instagram.com/southyarearttrail

AGM 2025 of the Hellington & Rockland St Mary Community Reserve

followed by a talk by
Helen Baczowska, Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Common land in the Claylands

their history and wildlife

Tuesday 3rd June, 7.30pm

Parish Rooms, Rockland St Mary
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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton

Alpington & Yelverton Village Hall Needs Your Help

We are in desperate need of new committee members. The hall is a registered charity and we are required to have a committee of a minimum of five, which is what we have at present - not exactly a healthy situation. Should any of those members leave we would be in a situation where the hall couldn't exist to function. The building and land would be taken by the Charity Commission and sold.

It would be a very sad reflection on today's residents if the 102 year old facility were to be lost. No venue for Pre School, Guides/ Brownies, bowls, painting group, history society, Wednesday fellowship, etc and no playing field and play area.

Please, I'm asking for help from community spirited residents, who are willing to give a couple of hours four or five times a year, to join the committee to help keep this, in my opinion, essential facility operating for future generations. Thank you.

Chris Hunter, Chair of Alpington & Yelverton Village Hall

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

There was a very good audience for our organ recital by Richard Bower, 'Inspired by Bells', on 8th March, and we were treated to a wonderful programme of music that showed off our little organ to its very best. Richard had set up a camera and screen which enabled us to see him playing, and his skill and dexterity amazed us all. In fact, an organist in the audience could not believe that he had chosen one piece in his programme, as he was convinced it could not be played on a single manual organ. Richard proved him wrong, and the sound was superb! In addition to having a really enjoyable evening, we raised £300 towards completing our payment for the window in the south aisle.



On **Friday, 18th July** we will hold our AGM and Social, where we will be discussing our next project. This will be at 7 p.m. in the church. Non-members are very welcome to attend. We want to keep the momentum of work going at the moment, as in 2026 it is likely that the government scheme which at present allows us to reclaim VAT on repairs will come to an end. This will have major implications for all churches in that it will effectively add 20% to the cost of repairs and renovations. We would love a record-breaking turnout, and, of course, an opportunity to share wine and nibbles. We will also be repeating our request for an additional Trustee or two and, we hope, for a Treasurer.

An advance notice that our annual Coffee Morning to raise funds will take place on **Saturday, 16th August** at the Wheel of Fortune, Alpington, from 10.30 am to 12 noon. As it is our 15th anniversary we aim to make it something special, and full details will appear in the next Eleven Says. Please put the date in your diary.



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Ashby St Mary

St Mary's Church, Ashby St Mary



Tea, coffee and delicious home-made cakes will be served at the church every Sunday afternoon in July.

There will be tables and chairs in the churchyard for walkers and cyclists to sit and enjoy refreshments in (hopefully) sunny weather.

There's ample car parking adjacent too. Do come and join us on:
Sunday 6th July, 2 pm to 5 pm; **Sunday 13th July**, 2 pm to 5 pm
Sunday 20th July, 2 pm to 5 pm; **Sunday 27th July**, 2 pm to 5 pm

All proceeds to Ashby Church.

Ashby & Thurton Community Café

Ashby & Thurton Village Hall, Ashby Road, Thurton NR14 6AX

Monday 9th June and Monday 14th July, 2 pm - 4 pm

Hot and cold drinks available plus cakes and savoury snacks.

Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you!!!

Contact Carol Powell for more information. 01508 480089

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Bergh Apton

**Bergh Apton Church, NR15 1BX
Saturday 19th July, 7pm**



It's 125 years since our wonderful Norman & Beard organ arrived in Bergh Apton church.

Join our celebration at an organ recital by renowned organist, Richard Bower.

Refreshments will be served - so advance booking really helps us to cater

Tickets £10

To enquire/book in -

Call: Shirley on 01508 480576

Email: bachurchwarden@outlook.com

The Bergh Apton & District Society

Summer days out with the Society are open to old and new visitors.

Tuesday 24th June - Gorleston Pavilion Theatre Summer Show. Evening performance 7.45 pm.

Wednesday 2nd July - Heacham Lavender Farm; Sandringham House and Gardens, Church and Museum.

Friday 25th July - Fun Summer BBQ at Old Hall Farm Shop and Restaurant 6.30 pm.

Friday 8th August - Norwich Hidden Streets Tour. Journey underground to discover the history of Norwich.

Saturday 13th September - Guided Tour of Euston Hall and Gardens.

Thursday 20th November - The Thursford Christmas Spectacular Show.

For further information about events please contact Lynton Johnson on 01508 480629.

Village News

Bramerton

VE Celebrations held in Bramerton

The bunting was everywhere, strings of lights too, and wartime music was playing to create such an ambient atmosphere on a warm sunny afternoon in Bramerton.



Ladies were dressed in the finest 1940s fashions, airmen and soldiers looked smart in their uniforms and even an evacuee turned up to join the garden party.



ID cards were worn and ration books shown as they entered the garden to chat, enjoy drinks and listen to the music and popular war time songs.



Excellent food, cooked and prepared by hosts Fran and Dominic, was on offer. It was a fun afternoon and evening, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Carleton St Peter

Terry Soanes

Sadly, another funeral took place on 15th April at Carleton St Peter Church, of the late Terry Soanes. Terry will be greatly missed. He would often be seen driving about the villages always with a smile and on a mission to help someone. Tragically, Terry, who was born in Langley, never knew his father, as he was killed by a bomb while walking home from work at the end of the war.

Terry was always a great help to us at Carleton St Peter Church. At his funeral there were well over 150 people who came to celebrate his life, some standing outside in the rain as the church was full with many people standing. Our thoughts are with Judy and his family at this sad time.

We had a lovely Easter service with 27 people attending, and it was great to catch up with so many. Our next service is on 25th May, a week earlier than normal, and is Morning Prayer. We are grateful for those of you who join us at our monthly services and everyone is always welcome.

The **flower festival** is drawing closer and this year the theme is "Celebrations". The event will be held on the **2nd and 3rd August**. All are welcome to come along, it will be lovely to see you.



Singing! Yare Village Voices



Friendly local singing group run by a professional singer/teacher in Rockland St Mary on Thursday afternoons. No experience required and **all are welcome**. First session is free.

To find out more text: 07748186511 or email: Louise99@me.com.

Claxton

Claxton VE Day 80th Anniversary Community Cafe and Afternoon Tea

The Community Cafe team would like to thank everyone who came and helped with afternoon tea which was enjoyed by so many families from the community.

Thank you to everyone who baked, served, washed up and helped in any way. Your support was greatly appreciated. There will be a further report complete with photos in the next edition of Eleven Says so watch this space!!

Claxton Village Hall. The village hall has had a busy couple of months. In addition to the regular bookings, we have hosted a whole weekend cycling event, attended by cyclists from here and abroad as well as a large wake for a local resident.

We have two vacancies for trustees so if you would like to find out more about supporting this valuable community facility, please contact Adrian Gidlow 01508 480173.

Claxton Community Café. Our Easter themed café, although a little early, proved as popular as ever. It seems it is never too early to add an Easter egg to a cake. We are pleased to have regular customers from surrounding villages and that we are proving a popular stopping off point for cycling groups.

We have been busy planning the celebration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day, at our café on the 7th May of which there will be more updates in the next Eleven Says. Watch this space!!

The Community Café team enjoy baking and providing the café but we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to help out in any way, even occasionally. The Café is held on the first Wednesday of each month (4th June and 2nd July) but in August it will take place on the second Wednesday (13th).

The August Café will include a plant stall and a raffle with all profits going to St Andrew's Church.

St Andrew's Church, Claxton. It has been a quiet couple of months at St Andrew's Church but the entire congregation has been involved in preparing for the village VE Day events. We are now planning for our takeover of the August Community Café. Please note the date in your diaries, **Wednesday 13th August**.

The church was beautifully decorated for Easter Sunday and we continue to receive compliments from visitors to the building.

Framingham Pigot

Easter Egg Hunt at St Andrew's Church, Framingham Pigot

A great deal of fun was had by the participants in the Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard after the Easter Day service.



Village News

Framingham Pigot

Good Friday Pilgrimage in the Thurton Benefice

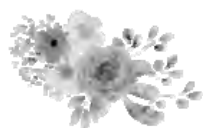
On a lovely sunny Good Friday morning, a happy group of pilgrims set off from St Andrew's Church in Framingham Pigot to walk to the other 4 churches in the Thurton Benefice, stopping at each church for a short time to reflect on the events of the first Good Friday.



They took turns in carrying the large wooden cross and finished at St Mary's Church in Ashby St Mary, where the cross will remain for the year.

GARDEN PARTY

Cottage on the Beck, Fox Road,
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Saturday 9th August at 2pm

*A variety of stalls including
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Light Refreshments including Bacon Butties

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Leeanne on 07775439055 to arrange delivery

The Hellington and Rockland St Mary Community Reserve

The reserve is our peaceful place for nature and we would encourage locals to visit and enjoy this super spot, we hope that if you are not already a stakeholder and you enjoy this community facility you will consider joining.

Events to look out for this summer!

22nd June - Moth Survey with Dr Iain Barr, a great way to introduce children to the wonder of different moth species on the reserve.

13th July - Maps and Boundaries South Yare Wildlife Group walk with Peter Armitage, finishing at the reserve with summer tea. Contact email: hellingtonandrocklandcr@gmail.com



Rockland St Mary

Rockland St Mary & District Gardening Club

The Garden Club normally meets in the Rockland Parish Room on the fourth Thursday of the month. Throughout the winter months we have interesting speakers whilst in the summer we enjoy garden visits which begin in May. New members are always welcome.

On Thursday 24th April a large number attended to hear all about Ted Ellis, the Naturalist who lived at Wheatfen with his wife Phyllis and their family. This most interesting and amusing talk, given by his daughter Professor Suzie Hanna, was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was followed by a popular Q&A session.

Our garden visits have now begun and will continue during the summer months before we move back inside from September onwards.

Remember this date - **Saturday 19th July** - when the very popular annual **Garden Show** will be held in the Parish Room! Everyone is invited to take part, it's great fun and you never know, you could be the winner of the 'Best in Show' certificate for 2025! Show schedules will be available from the Rockland shop very soon so keep an eye out for the posters for more details!

If you wish for further details or would like to join the Gardening Club please contact Ruth Everett, 01508 538231 or email everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk

Rockland St Mary & District W.I.

At the Federation Annual Meeting held in March at the Theatre Royal, Arit Anderson gave us a brilliant and funny talk about her life as a garden designer and TV presenter on Gardeners World,

On **June 10th** we welcome Mary Fewster to tell us all about the Great Yarmouth Fishing Fleet. Then on **July 8th** our speaker is Georgette Vale, telling us about the life of one of Norfolk's most famous women Nurse Edith Cavell. Our meetings are always held on the second Tuesday of the month, at 7.30 pm in the Margaret Mack Hall. If you would like to join our WI please do come along or contact Ruth 538231 or Sandra 538100 for more details.

Rockland and Surlingham Schools Celebrate Spring Success

We were delighted with our recent open mornings at both Rockland St Mary Primary School and Nursery, and Surlingham Primary School. Both events were exceptionally well-attended, with staff and pupils delighted to receive numerous positive comments from visitors who explored the schools, met our lovely staff, and witnessed the engaging learning environments.

Pupils at Rockland St Mary are making excellent progress with their Eco-Schools accreditation application under the guidance of dedicated caretaker Steve Gildersleeve. The Eco-Schools program encourages young people to engage with environmental and sustainability issues, empowering them to make positive changes in their school and wider community through a structured framework that rewards environmental awareness and action. The school's eco-committee has been particularly focused on developing their wildlife area to encourage biodiversity. When the children returned after the Easter break they discovered a blackbird and a pigeon had chosen the area to build their nests and were thrilled to see that much of the frogspawn had successfully hatched. Prior to Easter, Rockland pupils enjoyed a memorable whole-school trip to Wheatfen Nature Reserve. The school extends sincere thanks to Rose and the entire team for providing the children with such a wonderful educational experience in one of Norfolk's most precious natural environments.

Meanwhile, Surlingham Primary School is working toward Schools of Sanctuary accreditation, which recognizes educational institutions that foster a culture of welcome and inclusion, particularly for refugees and asylum seekers. This program celebrates schools that promote understanding, compassion and awareness of the challenges faced by those seeking sanctuary, while creating safe and supportive learning environments for all children regardless of background or circumstance.

With the arrival of warmer weather, pupils from both schools have enthusiastically embraced outdoor activities this term. Students have already participated in cricket sessions at Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club, enjoyed swimming lessons, and experienced the excitement of skiing at Trowse dry slope.

Both schools continue to provide rich, diverse educational experiences that combine academic excellence with environmental awareness and inclusive community values.

Mrs H Boag, Headmistress

Village News

Rockland St Mary continued . . .

Brenda Mary Richardson July 1947 to March 2025

The funeral service for Brenda Richardson was held at St Mary's Church, Rockland St Mary on 15th April, following her death in hospital on 11th March, aged just 75..

Brenda moved to the village with her family in July 1992, and lived at The Old Hall, until a few years ago, before moving into a new house built in the grounds.

Brenda loved village life and arranged Church fetes in the Old Hall gardens, flower festivals in the church and for a time was a church warden. With others she organised pancake days, safari suppers and many fundraisers, until the deterioration in her health accelerated about a year ago.

The church was full with many outside listening on loudspeakers, the lovely spring flowers were a special tribute from her team of flower arrangers and the music was gentle and uplifting. The service was conducted by Revds Mandy Ansell (a friend of almost 33 years) and Helen Garrard and was followed by a private committal at Earlham Road Crematorium and a reception at The Strangers Club.

David, and sons James and Peter, would like to thank the many friends who sent wonderful messages and for the generous donations to Blood Cancer UK, which raised almost £800 on the day and exceeded £1000 with online contributions.

David Richardson



Surlingham

Surlingham WI, although small, is active and outgoing. Members have recently enjoyed taking part in the Norfolk Federation WI Centenary Salver competition, having gratefully accepted an invitation from Thurton & Ashby WI to join them for a Danish Pastry Demonstration (delicious!) and talk. We are now looking forward to their June outing to Wymondham Abbey and Beales Rose Gardens.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, 7.30pm at Surlingham Village Hall. If you would like to "try out" this friendly WI, please contact Gillian Stiff, 01508 538245.

Sadly, in the last months two members of village families have died. John Ellis grew up at Wheatfen and was a well-respected maths teacher and will be missed for his good cheer, knowledge and friendship.

Lucy Reeve was dedicated to her work at the Hospital, mainly in Occupational Health and Pain management and was loved by her colleagues. She was also the gifted creator of many character crochet creatures, many made for festivals and events at St. Mary's Church, with those sold at the Craft Fair becoming cherished companions for all ages.

Our sympathy goes to anyone in the community who has lost a loved one recently.

We look forward to the Choral Concert to be given by Serendipity on July 26th in Surlingham Church.

Pippa

Thurton

Church News

The Friends of St Ethelbert's Church, of which I am Chairman, has been in existence for over 40 years. It is open to anyone who would like to help preserve this 900 year old building and heritage of St Ethelbert's.

One of the projects we have been supporting has been the installation of a pipe organ, as well as the repainting of the church gate and porch light and restoration of the tower flagpole.

If you would like to join, or know more about the Friends of Thurton Church or donate towards costs of this work, please contact Lynton Johnson on 01508 480629.

Kind donations, however small, will be gratefully received.

Lynton Johnson

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Concert in aid of the Surlingham Church Tower Restoration Project

Where: Surlingham Church.
When: **Saturday July 26th at 7pm**
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Bramerton Village Hall

Friday Social Evenings

We invite you to join us at our regular social evenings held on the last Friday of each month.


Bring something to drink, bring some nibbles and come along for a chat, or maybe have a game of pool or darts . . .

Our next social evening is
**Friday 27th June,
7 pm - 9 pm**

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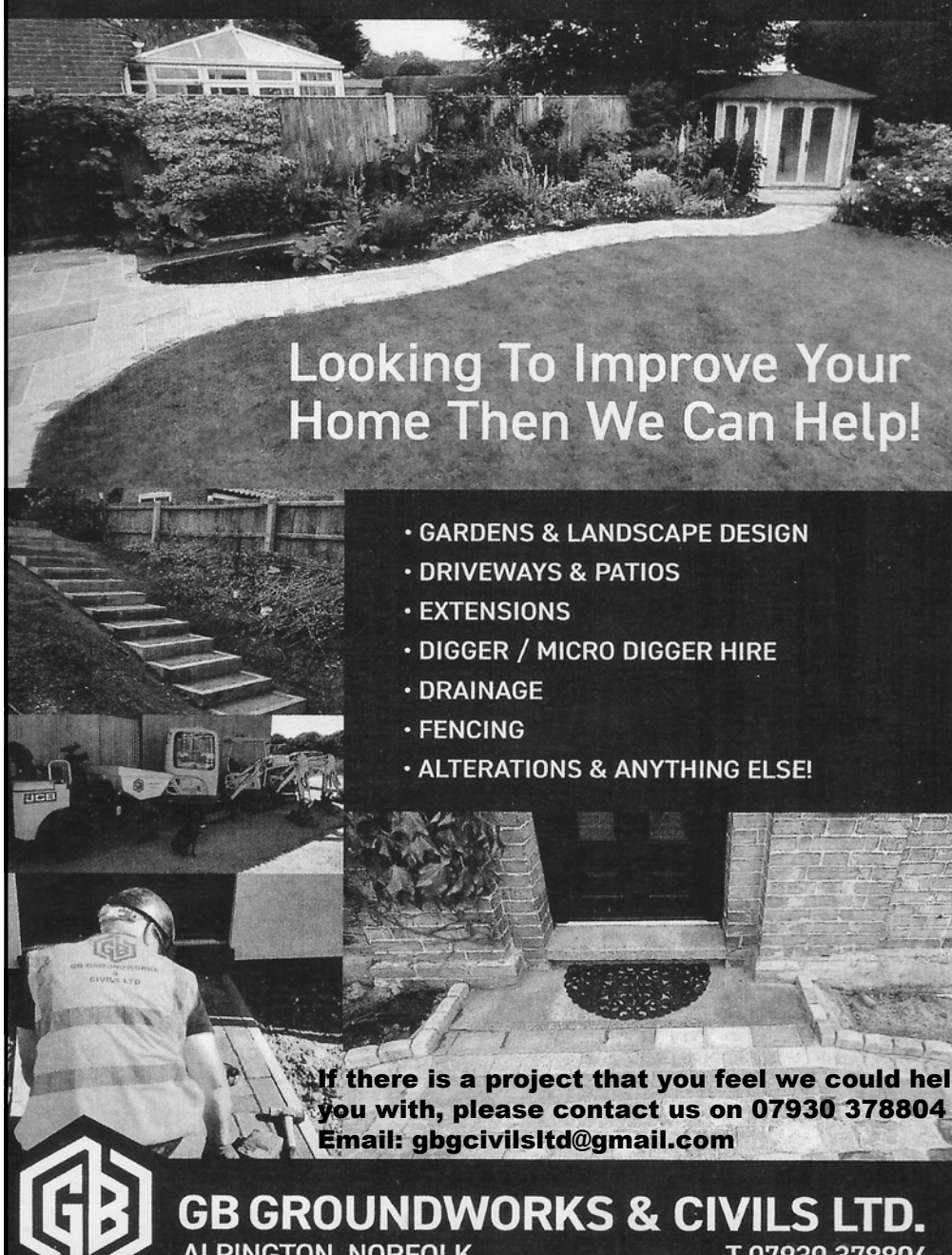

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We hope you enjoy reading Eleven Says. Your feedback, any comments or ideas for improvement will be greatly appreciated. Please remember to send us your village news, future events, etc., as not all our readers look on social media, therefore, local fundraising events could be missed.

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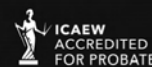
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Ashby and Thurton - Main hall with kitchen facilities and/or committee room available for private hire per hour, day or half day. Discounted rates for regular contract bookings. Ideal for meeting groups and social activities. Please contact Laura Vaissiere, telephone: 01508 480773 or email: ashbythurtonvillagehall@gmail.com.

Bergh Apton - Large main hall with stage plus smaller room, fully-fitted kitchen, heating throughout. Disabled toilet with baby-changing area. Large car park, gardens and play park. Contact Hilary Ling on 01508 480439 or email hilary.ling@btinternet.com.

Bramerton - Spacious, refurbished hall with separate fully equipped kitchen. Free Wi-Fi. Beautiful enclosed garden and large car park. Disabled facilities. £9 per hour, minimum hire 2 hours. Daily rate available and discounted rates for regular bookings. Please contact Alison, 07976264469 or Duncan, 01508 538444.

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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.

Rockland St Mary - The Parish Room is available for hire. With excellent kitchen facilities it is ideal for social functions, parties, clubs and meetings. Hire rates are extremely reasonable. Contact Jayne Regan, 01508 538087.

Bergh Apton Arts

This is Bergh Apton Art's Year of the Moth! Not those tiny ones that eat your best jumpers and carpets but the larger ones that come into your garden on summer nights.



Our next event is named for a moth, the Lutestring and, as ever, is quite different to any previous events. It will take place at the beginning of September and tickets at £15 each will be on sale from Eventbrite only from 1st August.

So what is this event? - Follow a path marked by lanterns and flags through the woodland and, as you go, unknot the puzzles waiting to fox your wits. Then in the Temple, two musicians will weave music and words to tell of those who, on painted wings and no invitation, come into your garden at shut of day. A handful of delights to beguile on a late summer evening and, who knows, you might even see Lutestring and friends!

Workshops to do with moths.

Writing with Hugh Lupton, **Saturday 14th June** at Bergh Apton Village Hall 10 am - 12 noon. Cost: £10

Music Making with Adam Clark and Nic Zuppari, **Saturday 21st June** at Bergh Apton Village Hall 10 am - 12 noon. Cost: £10

One or two places are still available. To book please email p.mlej@btinternet.com

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	1st June Easter 7 White	8th June Pentecost Red	15th June Trinity Sunday Gold or White	22nd June Trinity 1 Green	29th June 'Peter & Paul' White	6th July Trinity 3 Green	13th July Trinity 4 Green	20th July Trinity 5 Green	27th July Trinity 6 Green	3rd Aug Trinity 7 Green
Ashby St Mary	11.00 HC		11.00 PT		11am Group HC at Hellington	11.00 MP			16.00 HC	
Bergh Apton	09.30 PT		09.30 PT	09.30 HC	11am Group HC at Hellington	09.30 PT		09.30 PT	09.30 HC BCP	09.30 PT
Bramerton				10am Benefice HC	11am Group HC at Hellington			4pm Open Air Service		11am HC
Carleton St Peter					11am Group HC at Hellington	11am MP				
Claxton	10am All-Age @ VH		9.30am MW		11am Group HC at Hellington	9.30am HC		9.30am MW		9.30am HC
Framingham Pigot		10.00 Benefice HC		16.00 HC	11am Group HC at Hellington	09.30 HC		09.30 HC		16.00 HC
Kirby Bedon		11am FS & Baptism			11am Group HC at Hellington			11am HC		
Rockland St Mary	4pm Evening Prayer	9.30am HC			11am Group HC at Hellington Church	10.30-12 Café Church in the Parish Room	9.30am MP 4pm Still at The Barn		9.30am HC	
Surlingham		11am FS & Baptism			11am Group HC at Hellington		11am HC		11am HC	
Thurton	Join Ashby		11.00 HC		11am Group HC at Hellington		10.00 Benefice HC			11.00 HC
Yelverton	09.30 PT		16.00 HC	16.00 All 4	11am Group HC at Hellington	09.30 PT		09.30 HC	16.00 All 4	09.30 PT

Midweek Communions in June and July are outlined on Page 4.

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

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: June and July 2025

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
01/06/25	Acts 16.16-34	Revelation 22.12-14, 16,17,20,21	John 17.20-26	7th Sunday of Easter
08/06/25	Acts 2.1-21	Romans 8.14-17	John 14.8-17[25-27]	Pentecost
15/06/25	Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31	Romans 5.1-5	John 16.12-15	Trinity Sunday
22/06/25	Isaiah 65.1-9	Galatians 3.23-29	Luke 8.26-39	Trinity 1
29/06/25	Acts 12.1-11	2 Timothy 4.6-8,17-18	Matthew 16.13-19	Peter & Paul
06/07/25	Isaiah 66.10-14	Galatians 6.[1-6]7-16	Luke 10.1-11,16-20	Trinity 3
13/07/25	Deuteronomy 30.9-14	Colossians 1.1-14	Luke 10.25-37	Trinity 4 - Sea Sunday
20/07/25	Genesis 18.1-10a	Colossians 1.15-28	Luke 10.38-42	Trinity 5
27/07/25	Genesis 18.20-32	Colossians 2.6-15[16-19]	Luke 11.1-13	Trinity 6
03/08/25	Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14; 2.18-23	Colossians 3.1-11	Luke 12.13-21	Trinity 7



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.

CLERGY OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP		ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF PORINGLAND AND LODDON		ELEVEN SAYS EDITORIAL BOARD										
Thurton Benefice Revd Chris Ellis The Rectory 29 Ashby Road THURTON NR14 6AX <i>Tel.</i> 01508 484174 <i>Email:</i> <u>rector.thurtonbenefice@btinternet.com</u> Explorers and HALOS are held at Thurton Village Hall every other Friday evening. For more information please contact Gary WATSON Youth Worker Norwich Youth for Christ City Gates Centre, 30 Cowgate NORWICH. NR3 1SZ Tel: 01603 620678. 07747 471218 Email: gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk	Rockland Benefice Revd Canon Nick Garrard The Rectory Rockland St Mary NORWICH NR14 7EY <i>Tel.</i> 01508 538014 <i>Email:</i> <u>nickgarr39@aol.com</u> Revd. Helen Garrard The Rectory Rockland St Mary NORWICH NR14 7EY <i>Tel.</i> 01508 538014 <i>Email:</i> <u>broadsidecurate@aol.com</u> Revd Mandy Ansell 44 The Street,, Rockland St Mary NR14 7AH. <i>Tel.</i> 01508 538654 <i>Email:</i> <u>mandy.ansell44@gmail.com</u>	Parish Priest Fr Andrew Eburne, The Presbytery, 17 Upgate, Poringland. NR14 7SH. <i>Tel.</i> 01508 494770. <i>Email:</i> <u>frandreweburne@gmail.com</u>		Liz Bloomfield: Editor, Treasurer, Adverts The Bloomfields, Nichols Corner, Church Meadow Lane, Alington, NR14 7NF Tel: 01508 493958 Angie Yeomans: Adverts, Contributions, Page Layout and Design 15 Bramerton Lodge, Bramerton, Norwich. NR14 7EQ. <i>Tel:</i> 01508 538131 (<i>Answerphone</i>) Kind donations may be sent to one of the addresses above either by cash or cheque payable to Eleven Says. Or BACS payment to Eleven Says 20-92-08 a/c 90137065. Contributions are very welcome subject to the Board's discretion and available space. Deadline for all material ("copy") for the next issue is 5th JULY 2025 Email: <u>elevensays22@gmail.com</u> Produced by: Angie Yeomans Printed by: Roberts & Son Printers, 2-6 Bridge Street, Loddon, NORWICH. NR14 6EZ <i>Tel:</i> 01508 520221										
		<table><tr><th>Times of Masses</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>6 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>9 am</td></tr><tr><td>Tues</td><td>6 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Wed -Saturday</td><td>10 am</td></tr></table>			Times of Masses		Saturday	6 pm	Sunday	9 am	Tues	6 pm	Wed -Saturday	10 am
		Times of Masses												
		Saturday	6 pm											
		Sunday	9 am											
Tues	6 pm													
Wed -Saturday	10 am													
Staff days off.														
Monday	Revd Chris Ellis													
Thursday	Revd Mandy Ansell													
Friday	Revd Nick Garrard Revd Helen Garrard													
NEXT ASSEMBLY: SATURDAY 26th JULY, BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL, COOKE'S ROAD, NR15 1AA, 9 am - 11 am (approx)														