

THE NAB

COMMUNITY



PARISH MAGAZINE OF NEATISHEAD, IRSTEAD & BARTON TURF

The Benefice of St Benedict

It is good to wait!

It has become increasingly challenging to keep the season of Advent. In our modern world the season of Christmas has now extended back to November and has somewhat swallowed up Advent. However, Advent is a wonderful and joyful season of preparation and one that we always keep in the Church. Advent is very similar to Lent and that is evidenced by the colour of purple which is used for both seasons.

In church we have our Advent wreaths and we light a candle each Sunday to help us to remember amongst other things, that before the birth of Jesus, the world was in darkness; however, that all changes when Christ, the light of the world, is born. Advent is a time for us to reflect and to prepare for the birth of Jesus; it is an important period of waiting and anticipation.

Waiting is something that our society is increasingly struggling to do. We have all become accustomed to getting things instantly and not having to wait for them. Our society has changed dramatically since the invention of email. In past times we would write letters to each other and not expect a reply for days. Today, and with email, we expect a reply to our correspondence within hours.

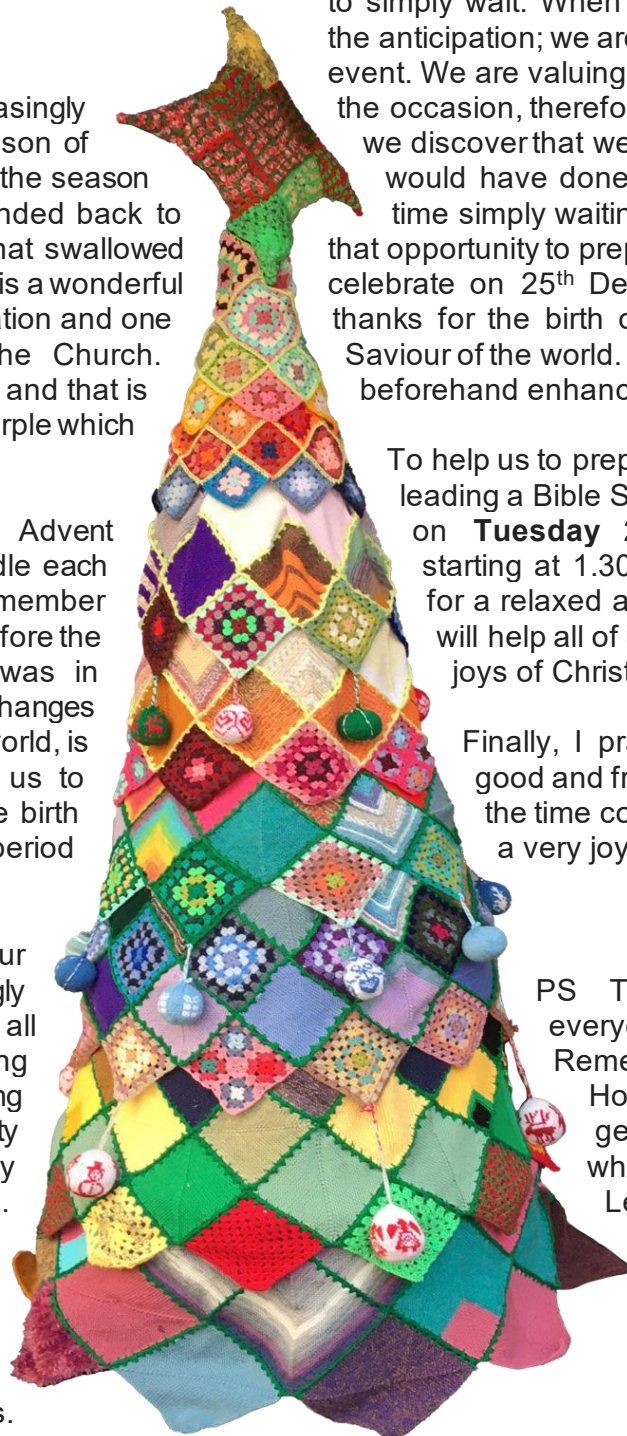
However, it is beneficial for all of us on occasions to simply wait. When we wait, we are increasing the anticipation; we are reflecting on the upcoming event. We are valuing and preparing ourselves for the occasion, therefore when the big day comes, we discover that we enjoy it even more than we would have done if we had not spent some time simply waiting. For Christians, Advent is that opportunity to prepare and to wait; and then to celebrate on 25th December when we will give thanks for the birth of the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. The waiting and preparation beforehand enhance this joyful experience.

To help us to prepare for Christmas, I shall be leading a Bible Study at the New Victory Hall on **Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 16th December**, starting at 1.30pm. Please do come along for a relaxed and informal opportunity that will help all of us prepare for the upcoming joys of Christmas.

Finally, I pray that you will all have a good and fruitful Advent; and that when the time comes and the waiting is over, a very joyful Christmas.

Praised be Christ
Revd Ben

PS Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Remembrance Service at Horning: your amazing generosity raised £229.50 which will be sent to the British Legion.



**Neatishead's Knitted
Christmas Tree, see P6**

Latest news from our Sunday Club

We spent our Sunday Club meetings in November learning about Joseph and his very snazzy coat! In addition, the schools and children also commemorated Remembrance Day with special services and times of silence to allow for prayers and reflection. Please see below all of our events coming up in December and January; the highlight of course being our Christmas Crib service at Irstead on **Wednesday 24th December**. This is always a great service and really starts the Christmas season off in style! Please do come along for a joyful occasion.

Upcoming Dates and Events

Sunday 7th December- 9.30am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church where we will be making Christmas crafts!

Christmas Eve: 4pm our annual Christmas Crib service at Irstead.

Sunday 18th January- 11am Sunday Club takeover at Neatishead Church

All children are most welcome to Sunday Club; please do come along: it's great fun!

For more information, please contact Revd Ben-brother_ben@btinternet.com

On Sunday **28th December** we will be having a Benefice Holy Communion. Once again, we will light candles during the prayers to remember all the churches and people who carry out so many duties for their churches throughout the year.

Finally, we have noticed that a number of flower heads on graves are being eaten. I am afraid that we have some deer visiting the churchyard and enjoying a meal when they visit. Please be aware. I am told that they don't like onions and garlic! May I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Barbara Pilcher Churchwarden



**St Michael's,
Irstead**



**St Peter's
Church
Neatishead**

For all Services and events for December and January, please see page 16



**St Michael and All Angels',
Barton Turf**



From the Registers: 30th October 2025 Interment of ashes for Rebecca Meeghan.

Many thanks to all those who helped to make the Harvest Festival such a success. The church looked beautiful and the Phoenix Centre were delighted with all the fruit and veg that we delivered on the Monday morning. Our December coffee morning is on **Saturday 20th December**. Come and join us for a free mince pie as a thank you from the PCC to all those who support our coffee mornings. As well as books there will be an opportunity to buy those last-minute Christmas Cards. The January coffee morning will be on **Saturday 17th January**. Both coffee mornings will be from 10am until noon, as usual. Please note on **Sunday 21st December** instead of Evening Prayer we will be having Morning Prayer at 9.30am. I do hope that you will be able to come at that time. After Christmas we revert to our normal time.

Christmas Day this year falls on a Thursday when we will be having our annual Nine Lessons and Carols at 11.00am. It will be lovely to see many of you on that special morning.

Eastern Daily Press

5 reasons to visit Neatishead on the Norfolk Broads

NIB readers may have seen the EDP article on 14th October; it can still be found online.

In the article Harry Pegg summarises Neatishead as an underrated village, 'as sleepy as it's exciting, but with a lot to offer'.

The five reasons he gives for Neatishead to be added to a visitor's Broads bucket list are:

1. The Fudge Lady: a hidden gem
2. The White Horse Inn: 'a perfect pit-stop'.
3. Alderfen: 'a hidden beauty spot'
4. The Radar Museum: 'to be explored'
5. White House Stores: 'a pillar of village life'

If readers would like to write in with additional reasons to rate our group of villages, the NIB would be happy to publish them in 2026! See NIB contacts on page 14.



White House Stores

We have a Christmas raffle on the go! Do pop in and get your tickets for a chance to win our fabulous hamper containing many locally produced goodies for Christmas, in a Fortnum & Mason basket. The draw for the winner will be on **Monday 22nd December** and the money raised will go towards our fund for solar panels to be installed on the roof.

White House Stores Community Shop
info@whitehousestores.co.uk



Margaret Maxwell



Xmas Card Delivery

Once again, the Elves will be out and about delivering all your Christmas Cards to our three villages. As usual the two post boxes will be in place in the village hall and our local shop from **Monday 1st December** until early **Tuesday 16th December**, when the sorting will begin for delivery on **Wednesday 17th**. Please can you clearly write names and address on the envelopes. We kindly ask for a small donation which goes to local charities and our Father Christmas children's gifts. We look forward to offering this unique service again.

The Christmas Elves

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
 Fa la la la la la la la
 'Tis the season to be jolly,
 Fa la la la la la la la



Village Calendar

The NIB has been asked if we would please keep a Village Calendar which gives dates for planned events so that we all have a resource to help with planning and avoid diary clashes. As the NIB does not have an online presence, the Trustees of the New Victory Hall have kindly agreed to host this on their website, and it is now live. Please go to [Village Calendar – Victory Hall](#) (Events and Users/Village Diary) and take a look. In time, we hope to have a button on the NVH homepage which will take you straight there.

This calendar will only be as good as the info you give us. We want everyone to know what is up and coming in this fantastic trio of villages. We want to include outdoor events such as the Barton Turf Fete, fundraising events such as those at Irstead Church and the Community Breakfast at the NVH. In addition, any event which is open to all can be included such as the quizzes, the NIBCHG talks and the fantastic NABS shows. Please send all details to thenibmanager@gmail.com mailbox. The calendar eventually needs to cover a year ahead so it becomes useful for advance planning. It won't be an advertising space so the NIB will still be the place to publicise your event and will be updated towards the end of each month when the NIB is being produced.

Please do not use the calendar to check if the NVH is free – it is not a diary of their possible availability or their bookings. The regular meetings of clubs like Gardening Club, WI or Knit & Stitch will not be included: it is for the special events. Thanks again to the NVH trustees because we wouldn't be able to do it without them. It is now over to you to send us the events you want publicised, so that everyone can put them in their diaries. We are really hopeful that this will be a useful planning and information resource.

Sue Clayton, NIB Manager, 07850 436211



NVH Trustees

Season's Greetings to all from the Trustees of the New Victory Hall and our very best wishes for a peaceful and enjoyable 2026. Special thanks to all who use, support and help us run the NVH. Without that help many things would not be possible. We look forward to another successful year in 2026; please keep an eye out for new events and activities. We welcome new volunteers. Please get in touch for more information or speak to us at a NVH event: enquiries@victoryhall.info.

New Victory Hall – Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair is at the NVH on **Saturday 6th December** 9.30am – 12 noon. Many local groups will be there providing stalls with Christmas gifts, games, crafts and cakes as well as the Grand Christmas Draw with a great range of prizes. There will be a craft workshop provided by WISE ladies for children and entertainment from the Ukulele players. Refreshments including mince pies and bacon rolls also on sale. Please come along and join us – admission free.

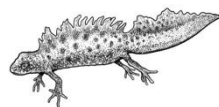


The Big Community Breakfast 2026 Saturday 24th January: NVH

The Big Community Breakfast has become a regular annual event in the NVH calendar. For anybody new, let's explain that it is a fun morning when a full English breakfast (special diets catered for) plus toast and tea/coffee is served in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead. All are welcome but you must book in advance. There are 3 sittings at 9.00am, 9.45am and 10.15am giving everybody at least an hour to eat and chat. Tickets are £10.00 and will be on sale on the NVH web site www.victoryhall.info from **Friday 2nd January** (click on red box office). Alternatively tickets available from the White House Stores, Neatishead (cash only at shop please). Tickets go fast so get yours early!

All proceeds are donated to a charity and this year it is the British Heart Foundation. Please come and join us as you will find a bright spot in what might be a cold January morning. This is a big event to run and if you would like to help or sponsor some of the food, please contact me.

Doreen Dean 07500 046158



NVH Wildlife Group

The grounds of the NVH have supported good sightings of wildlife this year. The lawns were left uncut during May which resulted in some beautiful displays of daisies and dandelions. When the dandelions seeded, they created a coat of lolly pop seed heads across the lawns which looked stunning. The meadow areas at the front near the hedge and the orchard have been cut once in early Autumn. This gave many flowering plants and grasses a chance to seed and they too looked beautiful, hosting many species of insect like grasshoppers, hoverflies, bugs and earwigs. The meadow behind NVH has similarly been cut just once and this has resulted in the first oxeye daisies to flower that I have seen. They should seed, spread and hopefully put on a fine display next year. We have extensively cut back the hedges near the back meadow to try and stimulate some growth at the base of the hedgerow. This is to encourage wildlife corridors and was suggested to us by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Thanks to everyone who has helped this year. If anyone else would to be involved please contact me via email.

Neil Sanderson nesanderson@yahoo.com



NABS

Don't forget to get your tickets for our fun Christmas Variety Show: poster below ...



Oh, come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,

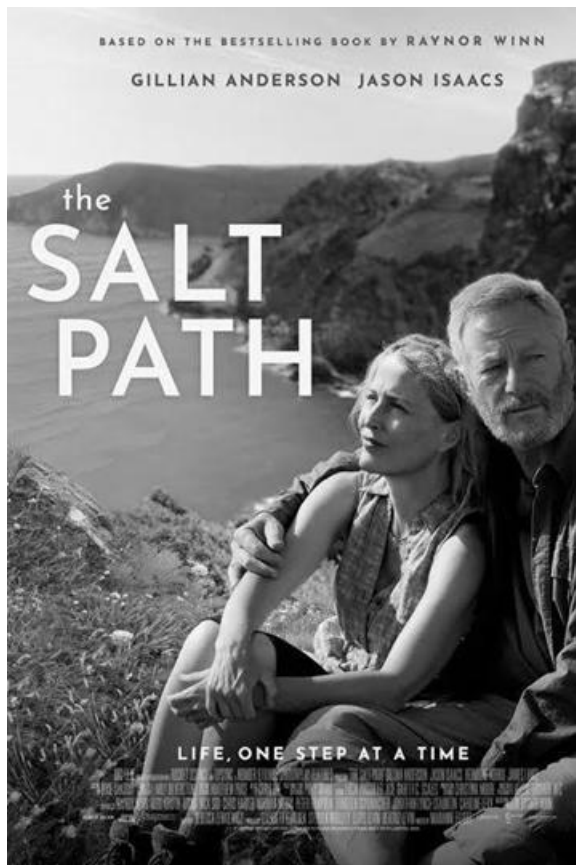


Village Screen

Monday 1st December 7.00 for 7.30pm

Come and join us at the New Victory Hall for our December film and enjoy a complimentary Christmas glass of prosecco.

We are delighted to be showing **The Salt Path** (Cert 12A: 115 mins), a poignant and visually stunning adaptation of Raynor Winn's memoir. The film follows the deeply moving journey of a British couple, Raynor and her husband Moth, who, after losing their home and livelihood, set out to walk the rugged South West Coast Path - the equivalent distance to climbing Everest three times. Facing relentless weather, financial hardship and Moth's worsening diagnosis of a degenerative illness, their journey becomes a testament to endurance, love and rediscovery. Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaac deliver hauntingly intimate performances, infusing the film with quiet intensity and emotional resonance.



Visit www.victoryhall.info to book tickets. You can also make a reservation by calling Christine on 01692 631347. Subject to availability, tickets (£6) can be purchased on the door, card or cash. Refreshments - tea/coffee will be available for a small charge.

Village Screen Team



Neatishead Parish Council

Firstly, Neatishead Parish Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! For those who do not celebrate, we hope you will find some time to relax and enjoy a well-earned break over the holiday period.

It's hard to believe how quickly this year has flown by! In 2025, we have been delighted to have installed a new picnic table and benches at the children's play area for all our lovely families to enjoy. We have also submitted an application for funding from Norfolk County Council to extend the permissive footpath through the Parish Council car park at the New Victory Hall. We are hopeful this will come to fruition and will be a welcome improvement in 2026, to make walking through our village safer for everyone.

Laura Bateman

Parish Clerk & RFO

clerk@neatisheadpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

The holly bears a blossom,
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet saviour.



Garden Club

Our final meeting of the year is on **Monday 15th December** at 7.30pm in the NVH. This is our social evening with Christmas quiz and nibbles; a glass of wine/non-alcoholic juice will also be provided. Please bring extra drinks if you want. Guests are welcome at a cost of £4. This is a lovely way to get into the festive spirit! Simon Partridge returns in the New Year on **Monday 19th January** at 7.30pm when he will be talking about the Gardens at How Hill. Simon is a highly entertaining and knowledgeable speaker – not to be missed. We will also be collecting subs for the year which remain at £20 and the new programme for 2026 will be available. Please contact me if you want to know more about the club.

Jane King 07423 820228

janeelizabethking@hotmail.com



Knit and Stitch

There is nothing like a bit of recycling and reusing these days to help do our bit for the planet and knitted Christmas decorations are no exception. Year after year they make an appearance indoors and outdoors as they withstand all weathers. Use up oddments of yarn and create something beautiful, as can be seen by our alternative Christmas tree outside the New Victory Hall now in its sixth year. This year you may see stars replacing the poignant poppies which adorned our signposts last month as a reminder of the fallen for Remembrance Members of the group also make items requested by local charities and organisations, most recently squares to be made into comfort blankets for Priscilla Bacon Lodge. Also, syringe driver bags for the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital - all of which have been most gratefully received. Thank you everyone for your contributions which include a few home knitters who have also made valuable contributions. Our group meets twice a month on a Wednesday at the New Victory Hall - see the diary on page 15 for dates. We only have one meeting in December, but two in January. If you would like any more information, do please contact me, or come along to meet us as the NVH Christmas Fair on **Saturday 6th December**.

Claire Penstone-Smith, 07760 643739
claireps@btinternet.com

Neatishead's Knitted Christmas Tree (front cover)

What can you make with left over wool, needles, hooks, time and a little bit of creativity? Ladies of the Neatishead Knit and Stitch group and members of the villages of Barton Turf, Irstead and Neatishead spent some of the 2020 lockdown year, making an alternative Christmas tree to brighten the festive season. Made up of over 450 knitted and crocheted squares. It started with a photo seen on social media. Where it originated from we do not know! The tree now has pride of place outside the New Victory Hall, to be enjoyed by all.



O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum
 Wie treu sind deine blätter



Neatishead, Barton Turf and District WI

November is the month of our AM and a time to reflect on another year of WI fellowship. What a wonderful year we have had. Our meetings remain the most important part of what we do, but we do so much more. We have had some excellent visits and we ensure that every member has the opportunity to take part. Our Harvest Supper was a great success with lovely food by Louise and her family (formally Food Fare) plus a great speaker in Wally Webb and a lot of hard work from the committee in making the NVH look autumnal. Grateful thanks to all who helped or came. In December we are off to How Hill for Christmas lunch with Dale Bullimore to entertain us; this is for members only. Our meetings will continue in the New Year however, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the NVH. Anyone who is interested should contact us on our email neatisheadwi@gmail.com. With best wishes to you all.

Sally Church President



Friends and Neighbours

There are no December meetings in the NVH this month as on **Thursday 4th December** the club are having Christmas lunch at Crostwick Old Rectory (12.30 for 1pm). The annual carol service will be at the Baptist Chapel on **Thursday 11th December** (9.45 for 10am) when children from the school will be singing. Regular meetings return in January starting with coffee and New Year get-together on **Thursday 8th January** from 10am until noon. There will be the usual cuppa and biscuit, raffle, bring and buy, plus good company. On **Thursday 22nd January** 10am-noon Sarah from the Nancy Oldfield Trust is coming to give a talk on the work of this local charity. Please join us, member or not, as visitors are always welcome! To find out more contact the Chair Jean Barber on 01263 721698.

Young poppy sellers

Big thanks to young poppy sellers Pippa and Poppy Grocott and Lois Smith, who tirelessly stood outside Neatishead school selling poppies for a week for the British Legion.



Shirley Hogan



Neatishead Community Gym (NCG)

*Take a deep breath ...
and have a sing!*



In the 12th month of '25, in NCG you'll see ...
An elliptical cross-trainer!



In the 12th month of '25, in NCG you'll see ...
2 weight benches
And an elliptical cross-trainer



In the 12th month of '25, in NCG you'll see ...
3 treadmills, 2 weight benches
And an elliptical cross-trainer



In the 12th month of '25, in NCG you'll see ...
4 exercise bikes, 3 tread-mills,
2 weight benches and an elliptical cross-trainer



In the 12th month of '25, in NCG you'll see ...
5 kilo weights
4 exercise bikes, 3 tread-mills,
2 weight benches and an elliptical cross-trainer

In the 12th month of '25, in NCG you'll see ...



6 rowers rowing
7 squatters squatting
8 lifters lifting
9 steppers stepping
10 stretchers stretching
11 balancers balancing
12 walkers walking



... and lots of chat and laughter too!

Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year
from your Community Gym!

Why not come and join us in 2026?
www.neatisheadcommunitygym.com

Joan Dickie



I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day...



The Norfolk Punt Club

Another sailing season has come to an end. The Punt Club pontoons, that sit in the middle of Barton Broad from April to October, have been towed in for their winter maintenance and most boats are out of the water for the season.



A pontoon is towed back to Barton Staithe

The AGM and laying up supper were held in the Victory Hall with a wonderful Mexican themed supper cooked by members. The 2025 Commodore, Simon Clayton, stepped down and handed over to the incoming commodore Alastair Drew. It is lovely to continue to have all the flag officers living in the villages.



Poster for the Punt Club 2026 Centenary

2026 will be the centenary of the club and there is a very full social and racing programme planned. These include a special dinner at the Assembly House, a Treasure Hunt, a film night, a quiz and much more. The new season will be starting in the spring with racing at weekends together with Tuesday evenings plus special women's events and lots of opportunities to learn and improve both sailing and motor boat handling. Why not come and join us? For more info: www.puntclub.co.uk.

Liz Ollier



Wildlife Notes

I have lived in Neatishead since 1987 and have been keeping records of the birds in my garden since around 1995. I thought it would be interesting to look at the species we have lost and those we have gained not just in my garden but in our locality. When we first moved here, we had House Sparrows in our lane. My records show that I recorded 24 one day in the summer of 1996. Now I rarely see one in our garden although there is a small colony not that far away. We had nesting Spotted Flycatchers, the occasional sighting of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and even a record of Turtle Doves feeding on the ground under the bird table, all species which have almost disappeared from our villages.



Collared Dove: Jon Kelf

I counted 23 Collared Doves in my garden in autumn 1996 but now seldom see more than 2 or 3 and on some weeks none at all, a downward trend which the BTO has noted. I recall seeing large numbers of Reed Bunting and Yellowhammer in winter flocks in the hedgerows near Alderfen every winter. Whilst I regularly recorded Reed Buntings in my garden at the end of winter (6 in spring 2015) I now only see the odd 1 or 2 perhaps a sign of warmer winters meaning that they no longer need to visit gardens, or perhaps a general decline in numbers.



On the first day of Christmas
My true love gave to me
A partridge in a pear tree...



Goldfinches: Jon Kelf

On a more positive note, whilst I only recorded a maximum of 3 Goldfinches in winter 1996, I now regularly get double figures and numbers peaked at 20 in 1999. The BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) attributes this to increased garden feeding of seeds which Goldfinches enjoy like niger and sunflower hearts.



Great White Egret: Jon Kelf

I now record more members of the corvid family visiting the garden with Magpies, Jackdaws, Carrion Crows and even occasional visits from Rooks and the number of Gulls visiting has included Black Headed, Common Gull, Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull. The Corvids and Gulls are usually attracted by food scraps left on top of my large, flat bird table but shows how these species have adapted. In the case of Gulls, they moved inland from the coast as fish stocks dwindled. Who would have thought that we can now record 3 species of Egret, Great White, Cattle and Little Egret in our locality and I have even seen the latter species in my garden on one occasion. Bitterns and Common Cranes are both now recorded regularly as are Buzzards and Red Kites.



Red Kite: Jon Kelf

Of course, with migration occurring twice a year the odd rarity may drop in. Even I was surprised by a Dark-eyed Junco in June 2017, an American vagrant which is recorded in the UK most years and a Great Grey Shrike in the winter of 2008. Firecrests have appeared twice and a Pied Flycatcher on one occasion in late summer 2007. Keep watching; you never know what may pop in.

Jerry Simpson 01692 630674
simpsonj24@btinternet.com



Horning Flower Club

Naomi Wells gave us a very enjoyable November afternoon with lovely arrangements. Our next meeting is on **8th December** at 2pm in Horning Village Hall with festive afternoon tea; we welcome Jacqui Aldous with her demonstrations on a 'Christmas Sparkle'. All welcome, so do think about joining us for some new ideas for Christmas arrangements. To book, please contact Carole Swan 01692 536270

Doreen Dean



Musical Stars!

NABS members Jo Culling and Poppy Grocott will be appearing in Norfolk and Norwich Operatic Society's production of *Carousel* from February 24th to 28th at Norwich Theatre Royal.



Poppy will be playing one of the Snow Children, and Jo will be one of the dancers and also Dance Captain. *Carousel* is a classic old American musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein, with beautiful songs such as *You'll Never Walk Alone* and *If I Loved You*.

WHB Twinning Association



Thursday 20th November saw our AGM at The Hub in Wroxham, with a little business but also a social occasion to chat, drink wine and view a photo montage of our French adventures this year. As usual, we are organising a post-Christmas Dinner, provisionally on 24th January at Hotel Wroxham; another social occasion for members to get together. We have just confirmed that our French friends from La Pommeraye and Montjean-sur-Loire will visit next year in mid-August and we will begin organising their visit. For more information, please contact our current chairperson, Liz, at 07484 897754 or at powellea@btinternet.com.



Il est né le divin enfant
 Jouez hautbois résonnez musettes



Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf

Community Heritage Group

As 2025 comes to an end and the 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ Days have been commemorated across the villages, the displays will be filed away into our archive at The Stable (adjacent to the Neatishead Baptist Chapel) but not forgotten. All our displays are accessible to the community at our Open Mornings or by arrangement; whether it be WW1 or WW2 projects, old maps, census information, local books, house histories, the list goes on - there is so much to see. As we look forward to next year, we have a new logo (which comes in colour and b/w) and new areas of research will be discussed; NIBCHG Friends renewals will be due, and events will be organised. As soon as our first presentation is booked - hopefully for the end of February, Friends will be informed by email, and details will appear in the February NIB. 2026 is going to be another busy year for the villages as we look forward to contributing to the 100th Anniversary of the Norfolk Punt Club, the 45th Anniversary of the Gardening Club and the NIB's 50th Anniversary. As the months and years fly by, technology moves on even quicker and we need someone with up-to-date IT knowledge to help with various tasks. If you think this might be you or you know someone who might be interested, please get in touch with me to find out more. Meanwhile may I thank everyone for their support at our events during 2025 and we look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Claire Penstone-Smith
claireps@btinternet.com



Ashmanhaugh and Barton Wanderers Cricket Club

Our 2025 season is over and a great one it was once again! It was a tough start for our 1st XI, finishing the season in a very secure 9th spot of the East Anglian Premier League. Our 2nd XI finished in 2nd place of the Norfolk Cricket Alliance division 3, a place which would normally see them promoted but due to the relegation of a Norfolk team from the EAPL they compete another year at this level. The 3rd XI had a great year, featuring many young players and securing 5th position in the Norfolk Cricket League division 2 East. And our 4th XI, again featuring many young players making their debuts in senior cricket, finished in 4th place of the NCL division 4 North East. And finally, our Sunday XI had an overall successful season with a side full of youth interspersed with older more experienced players. This team is primarily a development side and if this theme continues the future of our club is very bright! The junior section continues to thrive under the guidance of Harry Buxton and the team of ECB qualified coaches.

2025 saw us introduce dedicated girls' cricket which we hope to grow with taster sessions offered free as well as winter indoor nets. We finished the year with our annual Lewis Pegg match and then President's Day; lots of fun was had on both days. The Barton Turf and Ashmanhaugh grounds have had their end of season renovations and are already looking good, ahead of season 2026.

We have offered free taster sessions to local schools, Brownie and Guide groups. If this is something we could offer to a group you know of, please let us know. Women and girls' cricket is very important to us so if you are a local group who would like to take advantage of our facilities or coaching please get in touch. Winter nets will be advertised shortly, please get in touch to join our club mailing list – lots of exciting things ahead!

If you are interested in playing, volunteering or sponsoring the club we'd love to have you on board! Thank you to everyone who supports the club already, from cheering the team on, helping in the clubhouse to sponsoring a team, a match or a player. It has all helped to get us where we are today, one of the top clubs in Norfolk! Follow us on social media or email abwcc.events@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list. Finally, from all at Ashmanhaugh and Barton Wanderers CC, may we wish you a happy Christmas and a safe and peaceful 2026 – see you on the boundary!

Jayne Everett



News from Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club

At our recent business meeting we approved a series of donations, mainly to local charities, including: the Norwich Foodbank £500, Vision Norfolk £500, Nicky's Foundation £500, Medical Dogs £250, New Beginnings £500, Nancy Oldfield Trust £500, End Polio Now £600 and Rotary Foundation £1,000: a total of £4,350.

December means we will be starting our Christmas collection, taking Santa around on his sleigh. Our regular Monday evening meetings continue with outside visits, business meetings and a varied and interesting programme of speaker meetings, all at Wroxham Barns. Please let us know if you fancy coming along.

You can also support us and the many local and international charities we donate to, through the Broadland Council Lottery Scheme – simply go on line at www.communityatheartlottery.com and sign up, selecting Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club as your chosen cause – or you can support us directly by visiting our page on the www.totalgiving.co.uk website. If you fancy joining us for a vibrant, sociable, active, and fun club experience, please contact our president, Chris Billing, on 07555 171574.

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay





Wet weather in October continues in November

The total rainfall recorded for October was 76.8mms/3.02in which is 109% of average. The highest daily total was on the 23rd when 18.4mms/0.72in fell, on a cold and very windy day, courtesy of Storm Benjamin. The rainfall recorded for November to date (up to the 14th) is 61.2mms/2.4in which is already 87% of average, with a notable 40mms/1.57in falling on the 14th (up to 5pm). This was due to Storm Claudia and associated fronts stalling over the UK for 24 hours bringing widespread and persistent rain.

Peter Mills

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone



Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club

The change from Summer to Autumn has not stopped our Lions Club and its activities. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the Club's founding and some of the founders are occupying important positions in the Club. Lion Dennis Moxon is our President, with Lions Mike Barker and Jim Lenaham as Honorary Vice Presidents. There have been many changes to our Club during this time. Our numbers have declined for various reasons, from about forty members in 1975 to fifteen today. Let me ask you, dear reader, if you have some spare time during the month, enjoy meeting people, care about your community and would like to do something positive to help ... please consider becoming a member of one of the largest service organisations in the world. We will not make our centenary without volunteers, and although none of the present members will be around to see the one hundredth year anniversary (sorry folks!), we do enjoy our fellowship and seeing the results of our fundraising go to good causes, both locally and internationally.

Our Santa's Sleigh will appear during December at locations, including North Walsham's Lidl, Tesco in Stalham, and Roys of Wroxham. Keep your eyes peeled for the Sleigh, it is all lit up with music playing so you cannot miss us. Thank you for reading this article, I hope you enjoyed it.

Lion Derick Bowler

PR Officer www.wroxhamandhovetonlions.org

Wroxham & Hoveton United Reform Church

Minister: Rev Tina Wilson. email address: revtinawilson@outlook.com. Tel :07763 354 740. Secretary: Lynne Howard, 01603 738835. lmhoward100@btinternet.com Please see our website for the most up to date information. (wroxhamurc.org.uk) Do join us for any or all of the following services:

Sunday 7th December: 10.30am. Rev Tina Wilson, including Holy Communion.

Sunday 14th December. 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Carole Pearl

Sunday 21st December. 10.30am. Carol Service conducted by Rev Zephny Kennedy

Sunday 21st December, 4pm in the Church Hall: our Nativity Play

Thursday 25th December.10.30am. Christmas Day Service conducted by Rev Carole Pearl.

Sunday 28th December 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Tina Wilson

Sunday 4th January. 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Tina Wilson followed by a church meeting

Sunday 11th January. 10.30am: Rev Carole Pearl including Holy Communion

Sunday 18th January. 10.30am: Rev Zephny Kennedy

Sunday 25th January. 10.30am: service led by Mr Mike Gibbs

4th Sunday of the month at 4pm: Beyond Sundays for those exploring faith beyond traditional services.

JAM (our Sunday School) For information on dates, future sessions and other events <https://wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam> or jam@wroxhamurc.org.uk or 01603 783992

Roman Catholic Churches

- St Helen, Hoveton, NR12 8QJ. Saturday Mass at 5.30pm, Wednesday Mass at 9.30am.
- Sacred Heart, Norwich Road, North Walsham, NR28 9JP, Sunday Mass at 11am

For more information, call 01692 403258.

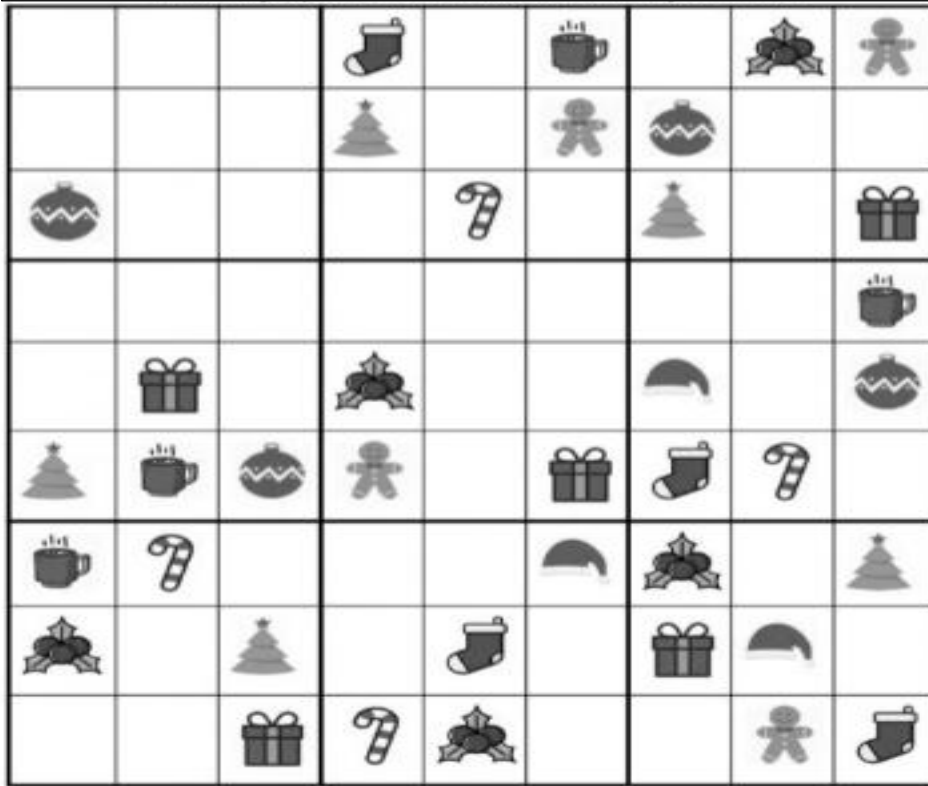
Father Peter Raj, parishpriestfrpeter@gmail.com



The first Nowell
The angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay

CHRISTMAS SUDOKU

Fill in the boxes with the missing drawing

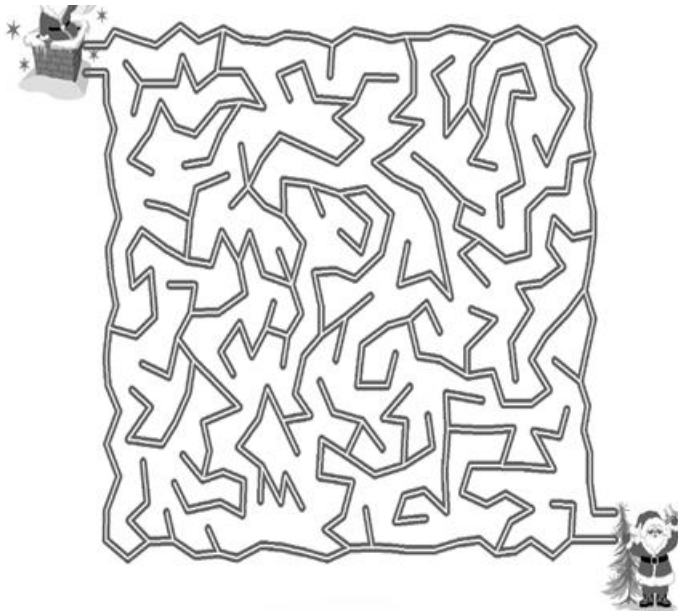


Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus,
Lays down his sweet head.



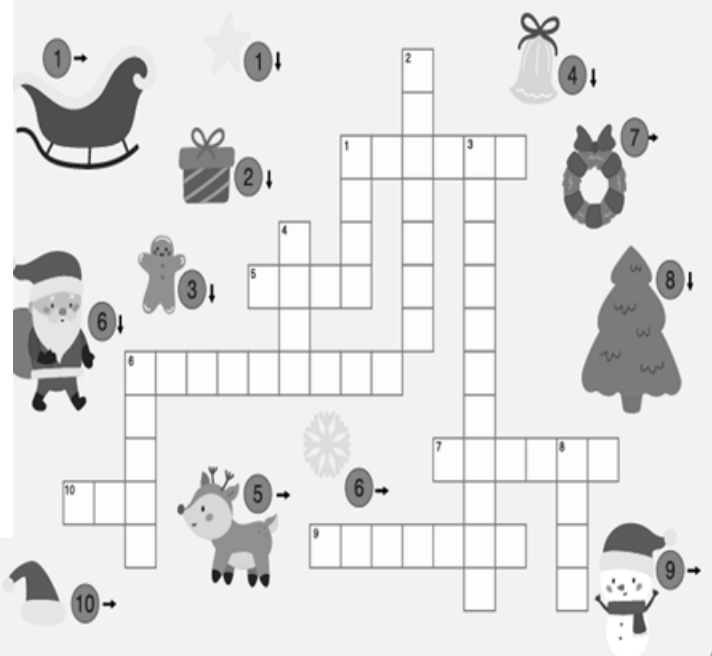
Christmas Santa Visit Maze

Help Santa find his way down the chimney to the Christmas tree by tracing through the path.



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Identify the images and fill the crossword



Silent night,
Holy night,
All is calm,
All is bright.

December 2025 Adverts

THE MOWER DOCTOR for garden machinery, service and repairs. On site repairs and servicing meaning reduced machinery downtime. Stalham based. Please call Rob 07799 530015 or 01603 291927.

A R PAYNE - for all your local painting and decorating needs. Over 35 years' experience within the building trade. Please contact Andy on 07706 991443 or andyrpayne.ap@gmail.com.

BROADS BOAT GUARDIANAGE - a bespoke caretaking service for boats & their owners. Need help cleaning, maintaining or rigging your boat? Please contact Ez on 07772 039057 or broadsboatguardianage.com.

CHIMNEY SWEEP Mike Wicks & Son. Fully insured. Certificate issued. Please call either 01692 536592 or 01603 387400

GARDEN BIRD FEED Free delivery of seed mixes, peanuts, sunflower, fat balls, mealworms and more! Please contact us on 01493 740288 or visit our website at gardenbirddirect.co.uk.

ML RENOVATIONS LTD specialising in Oak Framed Buildings, Small Extensions, Patios, Groundworks, Garden Maintenance and Fencing. Call Andrew to discuss your project on 07880 700636 or email info@mlrenovations.co.uk.

GLEAMING GUTTERS Gutter cleaning and washing, plus washing of fascias, soffits, barge boards etc. Conservatory cleaning & pressure washing to patios, paths etc. Free friend quote. Lance 07771 363702 or 01603 782112.

COLIN the PLUMBER oil, gas, and electric boilers and oil tanks. All types of plumbing services. Please call Colin on 01692 670657 or 07990 650331.

GARDENER lawn cutting service and general garden maintenance. Please contact Lenny on 07771 363702. Locally based.

SAM THE LADY SWEEP Wood burners, agas etc. Guild of Master Sweeps trained. NVQ qualified. Please call Sam on 07835 476106, www.samtheladysweep.co.uk.

YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL ELECTRICIAN Glen Rogers Electrical. From an electric shower to a garden light. Give us a ring on 07774 103426.

SIMON'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS We design, supply & fit kitchens, bathrooms, tiling, carpentry, flooring, plumbing and much more. Please contact Simon on 07368 982830 or at simons.kitchens1990@gmail.com.

INTERIOR ACCENTS SOFT FURNISHINGS - Made to measure curtains, blinds, loose covers, cushions etc. Selection of fabrics, poles & tracks. Please contact Debbie 07799 031933 or email enquiries@interioraccents.co.uk.

GRASS CUTTING also pruning, shed and fence painting and garage/shed sorting. Light garden tasks. Please call Carol on 01692 630478 or mobile 07879 442860.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE Wills & Power of Attorneys, Probate and Executor Service, very competitive rates to local residents. Home Visits available or at Hoveton office. Call Martin Smith on 01603 273590 or 07584 030071.

INEXPENSIVE MOORINGS available at Barton Turf Staithe, please ring Martin 07501 622068.

SIMPSONS MOTOR GROUP for servicing or MOTs on all makes of cars, motorhomes or vans. Free collection/return for the NIB villages. Please call 01493 601696 and ask for Howard.

MARINE ELECTRICIAN 35 years' experience. Installation, fault finding, repairs & spares. Fully insured. Please phone Steve on 07958 679118.

NORFOLK FOOT MOBILE HEALTH CARE Routine care, diabetic foot care, corns and callus, verrucae and fungal nails. Please call Richard Parnell Dip FH BSc Econ Hons 07766 167562.

C&B GARDEN SERVICES for Garden Maintenance and Pest Control, specialising in wasps and moles, rabbits & squirrels etc. For FREE quote please call Clive 01692 538356 or 07867 632572.

JON THE BOOKKEEPER offering local book keeping and general accounting services: Year end, Self Assessment, CIS subcontractors, VAT etc. Contact Jon on 07545 545358 to discuss any requirements. Jonathan.g.dawson@gmail.com.

LANCE BUCKINGHAM CARPENTRY all building work undertaken, incl kitchen fitting, extensions, refurbishment, roofing, fencing, decking & maintenance. Phone: 07795 210522 or 01603 720229, lance@lb-carpentry.co.uk.

ROOF REPAIRS scaffolding, flat roofs, pitched roofs & chimney repairs. Also fascias & gutters. All high-level maintenance work undertaken. Ring Leighton for a quote or advice 07766 563513.

COMPUTERS: friendly IT Tuition and Support. Please contact Jamie on 07747 450776 or jamienickerson@live.co.uk.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE SERVICES: Mowing, hedges trimmed, raised beds, fences, patios, outdoor covered spaces & more: all projects considered. Please call Craig on 07535 044198.

KC WASTEWATER Service and repairs to all make of domestic sewage treatment plants. Over 30 years' experience, Felmingham based. Please call 01692 402747 or 07975 620630. Website www.kcwastewater.co.uk.

LOGS FOR SALE barn stored, seasoned firewood, delivered locally. £185 a full load, £95 a half load. Please contact Jamie on 07747 450776 or jamienickerson@live.co.uk.

NB NORFOLK BUILDS – local experienced builder. Call Steve for repairs & small works, home improvements, specialist brickwork, extensions and roofing. Please contact Steve on 07568 384934 or at norfolkbuilds@hotmail.com.

MICHELLE STEPHENS DECORATING - Quality efficient interior and exterior decorating 07866 726178 www.mdec.me.

PAINTING & DECORATING by Chris Ryan. Prompt and professional. Free quotation. 01692 631194 or 07758 127983.

OLD MILL GARAGE 01692 536926

CHIMNEY SWEEP Member of guild of master sweeps. Fully insured. Clean and efficient. All work certificated. All solid fuel appliances. Call Harry on 07799 484012 or 01263 833362.

BARTON REED PANEL FENCING - handmade reed panels and screens. All types of fencing work undertaken. Please contact Jon on 07881 717692, email at jon.moore61@btinternet.com or see bartonreedpanelfencing.co.uk.

LOCAL SEASONED FIREWOOD free delivery various load sizes available, starting at £90. Will stack on request. To book a delivery or for more information, please call Brent 07551 753127.

PLATTEN PEST CONTROL specialising in the management of wasps, rats, mice, moles, and rabbits. Free survey. Please contact us on 01692 631173 or 07711 391839.

REGENCY GUEST HOUSE, GIFT SHOP & PICTURE FRAMING - The Street, Neatishead, NR12 8AD. Contact us at 07790 011098, 01692 630233 or regencyhouse1786@gmail.com.

M STUDIO HAIRDRESSING at Ikens, Smallburgh Road, Barton NR12 8AP. Please call Maz 01692 630744.

EAST ANGLIAN TANKERING SERVICES a local cesspool and septic tank disposal service, also blocked drains cleared. Smallburgh based. Tel 07988 020984 / 07988 406305 www.eatankering.co.uk.

YOGA CLASSES with Clare Badham at New Victory Hall, Wednesdays 18.15-19.45, more details at www.yogabreeze.co.uk or call/text 07557 353723.

ANTHONY HOWARD & SON – wet rooms, kitchens and bathrooms. All plumbing, plastering, tiling, carpentry etc. Please call 07954 224216.

PROFESSIONAL PAINTER & DECORATOR Call Steven Luxford on 07786 510558 and see also: <https://www.facebook.com/SLneatpaint/>.

All contributions welcome to The NIB: please note the Team reserves the right to amend or omit items. We start the magazine from the first of the month, therefore events in the previous month will not be advertised. Views expressed are those of the named author. No responsibility can be accepted for any content or errors. Everybody who sends in articles, including advertisers, automatically consent to having their details published on the Internet, unless specifically requested otherwise, in which case we will endeavour to omit details before uploading onto the churches' websites.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

- £1.50 a line, maximum five lines.
- Please contact us at nibadverts@gmail.com or phone Sue Clayton on 07850 436211.



Defibrillator Locations

Neatishead -

New Victory Hall, NR12 8AD

The Granary Business Park, School Rd NR12 8BU

Cangate - Cangate House, NR12 8YH

Barton Turf -

Point Farm (barn wall) NR12 8BB

Cox's Boatyard toilet block NR12 8AZ

Irstead - Staithe Car Park, NR12 8XS

Pennygate

Berry Hall Lodge (left of gate) NR12 8BE

Magazine Team for February 2025 – December 2025

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NIB Treasurer: Mandy Parks - 07547 697010 - nibfinancials@gmail.com

Social Media: Margaret Maxwell - 07460 740700 - margaretemmamaxwell@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION – 14th January 2026

Diary dates for December 2025 and January 2026

Mon	1 st	7-7.30	Village Screen: The Salt Path 2024 (12A) 115 mins NVH
Wed	3 rd	10.10am 11.15am	Mobile Library: Pitt Corner, Neatishead NR12 8BT Mobile Library: Council Houses, Ashmanhaugh NR12 8YL
Thurs	4 th		Friends & Neighbours: Christmas Lunch
Sat	6 th	9.30-Noon	Village Christmas Fair: NVH
Sun	7 th	9.30am	Sunday Club at St Peter's Church Neatishead
Mon	8 th	2pm	Horning Flower Club: Christmas Meeting, Horning Village Hall
Wed	10 th	10.15am 10.35am 10.55am	Mobile Library: Pennygate, Barton Turf NR12 8BE Mobile Library: Ex-Post Office, Barton Turf NR12 8BB Mobile Library: Staithe Road, Barton Turf NR12 8AZ
Wed	10 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Dolly Newcombe Community Room: NVH
Thurs	11 th	9.45 for 10.00am	Annual Friends and Neighbours Carol Service at Baptist Church with children from the school singing
Fri/Sat	12 th	Sat 13 th	NABS Christmas Shows
Sat	13 th	9am-Noon	Community Market and Café: NVH
Wed		NOTE	Deadline for the February NIB Edition: Wednesday 14th January
Mon	15 th	7.30pm	Garden Club: End of Year Quiz and Nibbles: NVH
Sat	20 th	10am-noon	Coffee Morning at St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf
Wed	24 th	4pm	Christmas Crib Service St Michael's' Irstead
Sat	27 th	10-11.30am	Hope Café: Neatishead Baptist Church Chapel Road NR12 8YF
Wed	31 st	10.10am 11.15am	Mobile Library: Pitt Corner, Neatishead NR12 8BT Mobile Library: Council Houses, Ashmanhaugh NR12 8YL
January 2026			
Mon	5 th		There is no Village Screen this month
Wed	7 th	10.15am 10.35am 10.55am	Mobile Library: Pennygate, Barton Turf NR12 8BE Mobile Library: Ex-Post Office, Barton Turf NR12 8BB Mobile Library: Staithe Road, Barton Turf NR12 8AZ
Thurs	8 th	10am-noon	Friends and Neighbours New Year Get together
Mon	12 th	2pm	Horning Flower Club: Horning Village Hall
Wed	14 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Dolly Newcombe Community Room: NVH
Sat	17 th	10am-noon	Coffee Morning at St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf
Mon	19 th	7.30- 9.30pm	Garden Club The very entertaining Simon Partridge will talk on the Gardens at How Hill: NVH
Wed	21 st	2pm	WI: NVH
Thurs	22 nd	10am-noon	Friends and Neighbours. Sarah from Nancy Oldfield will give a talk about this very local charity and its work: NVH
Sat	24 th		The Big Breakfast 3 sessions 9am, 9.45am and 10.15am NVH
Wed	28 th	10.10am 11.15am	Mobile Library: Pitt Corner, Neatishead NR12 8BT Mobile Library: Council Houses, Ashmanhaugh NR12 8YL
Wed	28 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Dolly Newcombe Community Room: NVH
Sat	31 st	10-11.30am	Hope Café: Neatishead Baptist Church Chapel Road NR12 8YF

Local Services and Contact Details

- New Victory Hall: Street Hill, Neatishead, Norfolk, NR12 8A. For enquiries/hall bookings www.victoryhall.info or email bookings@victoryhall.info tel: 07551 008065. Online ticket sales for events and cinema, order these via Red Box link
- White House Stores Community Shop: Irstead Road, Neatishead NR12 8BJ, 01692 631549. To join the Community Shop Membership: info@whitehousestores.co.uk
- White Horse Inn: The Street, Neatishead, NR12 8AD, thewhitehorseinnneatishead.com
- Wroxham Library: 01603 782560; <https://www.facebook.com/WroxhamLibraryNorfolk/>
Weekdays 10am-7pm, Saturday 10-4pm. Many exciting, interesting and interactive things to do. Groups for all ages- not just reading! See their Facebook pages for full details: many interesting things to do and join.

Parish Council Clerks: Barton & Irstead: Nicola Ledain, bartonturfirsteadpc@yahoo.com

Neatishead: Laura Bateman, neatishead.parish@gmail.com. Meets every month on 3rd Thurs: 7.30

Benefice of St Benedict - Church Services – December 2025 - January 2026



December				
Sunday 7 th	2 nd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Benefice HC Sunday Club	Neatishead
Sunday 14 th	3 rd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Benefice HC	Ashmanhaugh
Friday 19 th		5pm	Carol Service	Ashmanhaugh
Sunday 21 st	4 th Sunday of Advent	9.30am 9.30am 6pm	HC MP Carol Service	Irstead Barton Turf Horning
Wednesday 24 th	Christmas Eve	4pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Midnight Mass	Irstead Neatishead
Thursday 25 th	Christmas Day	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11am	HC HC HC Carol Service	Ashmanhaugh Horning Irstead Barton Turf
Sunday 28 th		11am	Benefice HC	Barton Turf
January				
Sunday 4 th	Epiphany	9.30am	Benefice HC	Neatishead
Sunday 11 th	Baptism of Christ	9.30am	Benefice HC	Ashmanhaugh
Sunday 18 th	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am 11am 11am 4pm	HC (BCP) Sunday Club HC EP	Irstead Neatishead Horning Barton Turf
Sunday 25 th	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am 9.30am 11am	HC MP HC	Irstead Horning Barton Turf



Bible Study: Tuesday 2nd, 9th and 16th December at 1.30pm: Rev Ben: NVH

Weekday Morning Prayer Services at our Benefice Churches at 9.15am*

Irstead 3rd Monday HC, Tuesday: Neatishead, Wednesday: Horning, Thursday: Barton Turf,

Friday at 9.45am*: Ashmanhaugh Contact: Rev Ben-brother ben@btinternet.com 01692 630216

Coffee Mornings at Barton Turf: **Saturday 20th December and Saturday 17th January 10am- noon**

Parish Church Wardens St Peter's Neatishead: Pauline Simpson on 01692 630674

St Swithin's Ashmanhaugh: Anne Mulhall at anne.mulhall1@btinternet.com

St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf: Barbara Pilcher on 01692 536132

St Benedict's Horning: Christine Hewitt at christine.hewitt@hotmail.co.uk



Neatishead Baptist Church Chapel Road NR12 8YF

December 2025			January 2026		
Sunday 7 th	10.30am	Marc Grimston Communion	Sunday 4 th	10.30am	Marc Grimston
Monday 8 th	2pm	Fellowship - St Mark Study 11	Monday 5 th	2pm	Fellowship - St Mark Study 11
Sunday 14 th	10.30am	Harry Hicks	Sunday 11 th	10.30am	John Leaf
Friday 19 th	10.am	Prayers	Friday 16 th	10am	Prayers
Sunday 21 st	10.30am 6pm	The Rev'd David Mayne Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Val Khambatta
Thursday 25 th	9.30am	Christmas Day The Rev'd Sue Seeley	Monday 19 th	2pm	Fellowship - St Mark Study 11
Saturday 27 th	10am- 11.30am	Hope Cafe	Sunday 25 th	10.30am	The Rev'd Neville Khambatta
Sunday 28 th	10.30am	Val Khambatta	Saturday 31 st	10am- 11.30am	Hope Cafe

Contact for more details: Sue Gibbons Secretary secretary@neatisheadbaptistchurch.org.uk