



eleven says

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP OF CHURCHES COVERING 11 PARISHES

DECEMBER
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JANUARY
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ISSUE 286

‘The light shines in the darkness . . . ’

Christmas is very much built on tradition. We all have them. Some traditions have been created for us such as Christmas trees, turkey dinners and Christmas puddings but others we have invented for ourselves. In our house, my tradition is that I like to have the preparations finished by three o'clock on Christmas Eve so that I can listen to the Nine Lessons and Carols Service from King's College Cambridge.

There is one lesson that always brings a tear to my eye. It contains the words,

‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.’

There are so many times this year when I have thought about these words. So much has happened that at times it has felt hard to stay positive.

For many people this has been a frightening, ultimately tragic year when they have lost people that they love, for others it has meant financial worries as jobs have been furloughed or lost entirely.



Other people have experienced utter boredom, a sense of lives put on hold, with plans shelved and no clarity as to the future. It is probably safe to say that very few of us will emerge from these times completely unscathed but amidst all that, the light still shines.

I have been amazed at people's inventiveness and willingness to help and support others, to volunteer, to encourage and to comfort. So many people have been, and I hope will continue to be, lights to each other and we should not underestimate how much a small gesture on our part can really brighten someone else's day.

Before the latest lockdown period began, the newspapers were full of stories about how the Prime Minister wanted to ‘save Christmas’ as if somehow, Christmas wouldn't happen if we could not get the virus under control.



Of course Christmas will still happen, whether we can celebrate it in our usual way or not. We are marking the birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago and nothing can change that, but what we might have to think differently about are those traditions.

The way we celebrate Christmas is so often based on things we have done since childhood, some even pre-date that. Perhaps we follow traditions our grandparents started, but this year we may have to look at things differently.

Like many of the couples who have had to scale back their wedding plans this year, perhaps the restrictions will focus our minds on what is important. Above all we are celebrating that birth, into a world every bit as imperfect and troubled as our own.

And I am sure that people will be as warm, generous and creative as we have seen them be already this year. There may be empty chairs at our tables or gifts we were unable to buy but I think we will find ways to make people feel just as loved and included as ever even if we have to do it through the lens of a camera on a mobile phone.

There are a thousand ways to bring light into the darkness and who knows? Perhaps this year may be the start of some new traditions for all of us.

May you and all those you love, have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Rev Cate Turner



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La Belle Heather SRH

HAIR STYLIST

Following the lockdown due to the coronavirus, I have decided to call it a day and close my salon. I would like to thank all my clients for their support and custom over the years (some for 50 years!!). I feel I have been very lucky to have found so many friends within my work.

I would like to wish you all good health and the very best for the future.

Heather Lewin

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✝ What's On in Rockland Benefice in December and January

We hope you are keeping safe and well. December and January are the darkest months of the year, but for Christians they are seasons of light, as we prepare for Jesus's coming in Advent, celebrate his birth at Christmas, and the coming of the Magi and all the ways Jesus was revealed to the world during Epiphany. This year the time from Advent to Epiphany runs from November 29th to February 2nd, taking us from the growing darkness to the lengthening days again.

New for this year are the Advent Windows, online Advent Group and the Tree of Light, among many other exciting activities. We'd like to share some things that are currently happening, things that will definitely take place in December and January, and things that will become possible if it's safe to do so and the current restrictions have been lifted.

Things That Are Already Happening . . .

Care, listening and support. Please call Nick, Helen and Mandy if there's anything we can help you with.

Open Churches. Our churches are open daily for private prayer between 10am and dusk. You're welcome to come in. Please wear a mask and follow the safety notices to keep everyone safe.

Sunday service videos. Every week we're releasing short video services. These will be linked to the Rockland Churches Face Book page and posted on village websites. Please contact us if you wish to join the contact list.

Reading and Prayer Sheets. A weekly sheet with readings, prayers and a reflection for anyone who isn't online and would like to receive the service booklet. Please get in touch if you'd like to be added to our postal list or collect them from a church porch.

Live worship on Zoom: Night Prayer and Sunday Services. Join us online for Night Prayer from the Barn 9pm from Tuesdays to Thursdays every week, except between December 24th and January 4th. There will Sunday worship on Zoom most weeks. Please contact us for your recurring invitation. We will also send passwords to anyone who isn't online but would like to join in on the phone.

Art Café. The Café continues to meet via Zoom most Wednesdays at 10.30am, looking at works of arts or artists and talking about everything that inspires and intrigues us. The Café finishes for Christmas with an online Christmas Party on December 16th, 7.30pm. Christmas jumpers may be worn! Please contact Nick for your copy of *Barn Owl*, the monthly arts and spirituality mailing that includes the Café programme.

Things That Are Definitely Going Ahead . . .

Our villages will turn into giant Advent calendars as day by day in December a new Advent display window will be revealed! Our thanks go to everyone involved in organizing and creating the displays, which will brighten our walks around the villages from mid-afternoon onwards, and on Christmas Eve the crib scene will be unveiled. At the time of writing, parts of the plan are still coming together such as walking maps that could be available from the Post Office, in church porches or online. Please contact Helen if you'd like to take part or look at village websites and Rockland Church FaceBook page for more info.

Advent Group online, Mondays until December 21st. Meeting at 7.30pm for around an hour, this time involving art, music, poetry, prayer, silence and worship as we enter into the light and mystery of Advent. Please contact Nick for your Zoom invitation and further details.

Tree of Light. Christmas is an important time to remember those who we've loved and lost. If you would like to add the named of a loved one to our tree, please e-mail or phone Nick and Helen with details. The tree will be lit during a short service in early December in the Barn. This will be recorded and available on request.

Dial-a- Carol! Want to hear your favourite Christmas song? Call Nick and Helen and we'll do our best to sing it to you! This new phone service is available from December 1st to 23rd, 9am to 9pm. Leave a message and we'll call you back!

Things We Hope Will Be Possible . . .

Church services. The resumption of church services between July and October was a great blessing and encouragement to many, and we hope that it will be safe and legally possible to gather again for worship at this very special time of year.

We have made plans for face to face church services in December and January and will publish them when we know when we will be allowed to reopen and it is safe locally to do so. Please look out for details on village websites, Rockland Churches FaceBook page, posters and church noticeboards.

With seasons' greetings from Nick and Helen

Apologies - It has been brought to my attention that in my front page article for the October /November issue of *Eleven Says* I reflected on the experience of shaking hands with a window cleaner. I failed to state that I should not have shaken hands with the window cleaner as this is against current government guidance. I trust my article has not been confusing or misleading and wish to assure all our readers that as clergy and community leaders we are committed to upholding and supporting all of the current social distancing regulations in order to minimize the risk of the spread of the Covid 19 virus. My sincere apologies for any distress my writing may have caused.

Revd Helen Garrard

NEW!!

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Thurton Benefice Update

Church Opening: At the time of writing we have just entered another lockdown. Although public services are suspended again, I am pleased to say that the churches of the benefice remain open during the day for private prayer.

Christmas Services will look very different this year. We will not be able to hold the Crib Service at Bergh Apton on Christmas Eve or Christingle Services open to the public; however, arrangements have been made for the schools to celebrate Christingle either in their local church building or in school depending on the guidelines in place at the time.

We hope that the other services planned for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will go ahead as detailed on the Service Rota on the back page of this edition.

Our Carol Services this year will, as things stand, not involve congregational singing, but we will still have the traditional Lesson and Carols but with recorded carols. **Please note** at Bergh Apton, Framingham Pigot and Yelverton it will be necessary to book tickets because of the expected numbers and the need to maintain social distancing. The Carol Services are:

Sunday 13th December at 4pm - Thurton

Sunday 13th December at 6pm - Yelverton
(Phone 492059 to book)

Saturday 19th December at 6pm - Ashby St Mary

Sunday 20th December at 5pm - Framingham Pigot
(Phone 492571 to book)

Sunday 20th December at 7pm - Bergh Apton
(Phone 550924 to book)

October Gift Month: we have been delighted by the response to our Gift Month appeal. It is impossible for us to thank everyone personally for their gifts in support of the churches of the benefice, but please accept this as a heartfelt 'Thank you' to all who donated so generously.

Thurton Church Mice: a gallant crew consisting of Keith Todd, Mehdi Humeh-behbehani, Lynton Johnson and Jim Black undertook a number of maintenance tasks at St Ethelbert's in October.

They replaced and refixed wooden frames in the ringing chamber; cleared a huge amount of Jackdaw nesting material from the tower and tidied the churchyard. We and the PCC are enormously grateful to them and to all who quietly serve the churches through maintenance, cleaning, flower arranging, locking and unlocking, etc.

Finally, thank you for all you are doing to support the Church and our communities. We are still in very uncertain times and we must all be willing to adapt to changing circumstances. The clergy of the benefice are always available to offer support so please contact: Revd Chris Ellis: 01508 484174. Revd Cate Turner: 01508 484026

Christmas-time services in Thurton Church

Christingle - children only. We are working with the primary school to provide a Christingle experience for the children. The exact nature and location of the service is still to be finalised, but unfortunately adults will not be able to attend this year due to the pandemic. This is a real shame as it is one of the highlights of the year for many people. At least the children, as at Harvest-time, will not miss out despite the circumstances.

Carol service - Sunday 13th December at 4pm. This is your chance to celebrate the Christmas season in church for our service of lessons and carols. In line with government restrictions we will not be able to sing, but instead listen to carols being sung via a bluetooth speaker.

Christmas Communion - Christmas Eve at 8pm. Along with many other walks of life, we are doing what we can to be as normal as possible in the church, whilst complying with the rules. Face masks need to be worn in church and we will only use alternate pews to keep people as safe as we can, but please come and join us if you feel able.

Unfortunately at the moment the small print of coronavirus and all the rules seem to take centre stage, but in the church we are determined to celebrate our faith at this special time. Prayers of healing and peace are more important than ever.

Chris Limbach, on behalf of St Ethelbert's Parochial Church Council

News from Sanyu Babies Home, Kampala, Uganda

Please, this Christmas, remember the babies of Sanyu.

A number of you provide much needed support for Sanyu. Thank you. The Home's ability to rescue and care for babies abandoned in and around Kampala depends on the support of people like you. Like us, Covid is also having its impact and we want them to know that they are not alone - distanced, yes - but not alone. Actually, a volunteer, Emily from the UK, has been helping at the Home for 13 months.

Sanyu's autumn newsletter explains, "SBH has been struggling with Pandemic imposed difficulties and are trying to limit the risk of exposure to the Sanyu family as much as possible, so while we do miss our visitors, interns and volunteers, we are not allowing anyone to interact with the children." But the needs of the Home are unceasing. In the third quarter, six babies (1 day - 9 months old) were rescued and brought in by the Police and others. Seven children (aged around 4) left the home to be reunited, adopted, or fostered. Derrick Mugabi (6 mths) arrived in July. He'd been rescued from a house in a Kosovo suburb where he was found starving. He weighed 3.5kg, was the size of a new-born and was very malnourished, so weak he couldn't even cry and he had such sad eyes. The police brought him to Sanyu.

Arrivals are often heart-wrenching. Departures though, are so often real success stories. Children leave after several years of happiness, learning, friendship and fun. Thanks to your help they depart so much healthier than when they arrive as every month we pay for the nurses on call and the doctor who visits twice a week.

Please Remember the Babies Of Sanyu this Christmas. You can help by sending a cheque to Bergh Apton PCC (to access Gift Aid) or for Sanyu Babies Home, to Liz Meynell, Bergh Apton Hall, NR15 1AX. You might consider setting up a standing order; if so please ask for bank details.



From the Registers

BAPTISMS

MARRIAGES

10/10/20	Daniel WORTH and Alexis BROOKS	Bramerton
10/10/20	Johnny PARFITT and Naomi SOWTER	Bergh Apton
01/11/20	Richard WETHERALL and Elizabeth ANDERSON	Surlingham

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

22/09/20	Enid BASEY-FISHER	Carleton St Peter
23/09/20	Josephine Mary Elizabeth STANLEY (90)	Thurton
30/09/20	Charles William PARFITT (57)	Bergh Apton
14/10/20	Heather Madge PERFITT (83)	Bergh Apton
17/10/20	Ethel Joan BAILEY	Surlingham
21/10/20	Gladys May ELLIS (Interment of Ashes)	Surlingham
21/10/20	David John POOLE (64)	Aylsham
21/10/20	Audrey Rose PURLING (100)	Thurton
29/10/20	Jean Olga CALABY	Kirby Bedon
29/10/20	Marie SETON	Surlingham
06/11/20	Phyllis Margaret Rose TURRELL (80)	Rockland St Mary
11/11/20	Nicholas Twigge OAKDEN (88)	Rockland St Mary
20/11/20	John Albert HOWMAN (87)	Framingham Pigot

Bramerton Wedding

Daniel WORTH and Alexis BROOKS were married at St Peter's Church, Bramerton, on Saturday 10th October.

Due to current restrictions, it was a small party of close family and friends, but none the less, it was a very special and happy day.

Their bridesmaids were Alexis' sister Rachel with her small daughters Alba and Imogen, and the ring bearer was Daniel's son Alex.

Daniel and Alexis would like to send all their thanks to everyone who helped contribute to their special day, including those who prepared the church and made it look so beautiful.



Carleton St Peter Church news

The Funeral took place of Enid Basey-Fisher on Tuesday 22nd September, a beautiful summer day, the RAF even arranged a fly past mid service. Despite the funeral adhering to the covid restrictions, a significant number of the community turned out to pay their respects along the route. The family would like to thank everybody who did, as this brought a lot of comfort and strength to them.



It is ironic that Enid spent much of her life trying to welcome people into her beloved church and on her funeral day, people were restricted. To those who have donated in her memory to the Church the family would also like to thank you. A flower festival is planned to take place in remembrance of her at the end of July 2021, if covid permits.

Enid had such a presence and many people have commented on her cheeky laugh, her kindness and her amazing cakes and buns. For all the good Enid did for the church it will not go to waste as her legacy will live on through others who will ensure the church is still active.

On that note she would have been so proud as the church held its first service since lockdown for Harvest. Thank you to Debbie Linder, Judy Soanes, Myrtle Wright and family for making it look so welcoming and filling it with flowers, and to all who donated harvest goodies for the food bank appeal.

We hope that our next service, which is scheduled at 2pm on Sunday 20th December can take place and bring Christmas joy to those who would like to attend.



Is your home insurance due soon?

Ecclesiastical insure many of our local churches, but also offer cover for ordinary homes. The good news is that if anyone takes out a home insurance policy, Ecclesiastical will donate £130 to the local church of your choice. This offer is valid throughout 2021. For further information please phone 0345 777 3322 or visit the website: www.ecclesiastical.com/individuals/home-insurance/

Thank you!

Lillian and Dick Thompson of Claxton wish to thank everyone for all the kindness and care they have received over the past months whilst Dick was waiting for his hip operation. It was performed on October 3rd and all is going well. They are so grateful for everything.



The beauty of a village church

In a big world, the small church has remained intimate.
In a fast world, the small church has remained stable.
In an expensive world, the small church has remained plain.
In a complex world, the small church has remained simple.
In a national world, the small church has kept feelings.
In a mobile world, the small church has become an anchor.
In an anonymous world, the small church calls us by name.

Found by Chris and Ros Limbach, when they were on holiday in the Lincolnshire Wolds, at St Peters' Church, Gayton, part of the South Wold Group of Churches.

Hot off the press . . .!

Christine and Peter Knight are proud grandparents! Baby Nia made her appearance, and in a hurry! She was born just after midnight on October 29th, 2 minutes from the hospital door in the front seat of the car, delivered by Anna herself, as Tim tried to get them all safely to the hospital in time!

All is well thank the Lord! Baby Nia weighed in at 5lbs 14oz. They had already been to the hospital twice before during the evening!

South Yare Wildlife Group

I speak for all the Committee when I say **thank you** to members for their continuing support when we have had to cancel all our events. As soon as it is safe and legal to do so we will re-start a programme. In the meantime there is our **Wild Patch** project for us to promote. The Wild Patch is about encouraging people to manage habitats such as road verges, hedges, ditch banks, ponds and gardens in ways which improve their value for wildlife. In many cases this comes down to mowing and trimming less frequently, making things a bit wilder, which allows more wildlife to have somewhere to live and find food.

The more recent **WildEast** project, backed by the Archant Group, has the same aim but on a regional scale. Its success does depend upon the work and actions of individuals and local groups such as SYWG. Its aim is to have one fifth of East Anglia (250,000 ha) pledged as good wildlife habitat. See their website for more information. <https://www.wildeast.co.uk/>

Ivy

This is an appropriate time of year to highlight ivy. It often gets a bad 'rap' but it is one of our most valuable Wild Patch plants for wildlife. In November, as it comes to the end of its flowering period, it provides many insects including butterflies and moths with a crucial source of nectar late in the season. People may not be as pleased to see wasps also taking advantage of the sugar boost but wasps do have an ecological role.

When the ivy berries form they will provide a food source through the winter. Members of the thrush family such as Redwings, Blackbirds, Song and Mistle Thrushes are keen devourers of the fruit. The foliage provides shelter for butterflies and small mammals at a time of year when most of our native trees are leafless.

As spring approaches, ivy encourages an early show of spring butterflies and nesting habitat for birds.

Does it kill trees? The answer is usually no. It will compete with trees for soil nutrients to some extent but healthy trees should be able to cope. Where it needs to be controlled, regular trimming should be sufficient.

Rodney Aldis



www.southyarewildlifegroup.org



WEA Loddon Branch

We now know for certain that we shall **not** be able to offer a face-to-face course of lectures in January. The future spread of the Covid virus is too unpredictable to make firm arrangements which might have to be cancelled at the last moment.

However, the WEA does offer a wealth of courses 'virtually' if you are interested. Full details can be found on line. Visit either: eastern@wea.org.uk OR www.wea.org.uk.

We are very sorry to have to announce this and we shall miss our weekly meetings with friends.

Poringland and District W.E.A - Adult Learning Within Reach

Spring Term 2021 Update

I do hope all our students are in good heart and coping with all the Covid-19 restrictions. Regrettably the WEA has cancelled all January face-to-face sessions and appears to be favouring the online courses route.

The course I am following at the moment online on a Thursday morning is excellent. It is called "Channel Coastlands- Beaches, Bungalows, Promenades, Pebbles and People". It is a small class with a lively lecturer. The technology we are using is "Zoom" which I had to download. Do visit wea.org.uk to find out what is on offer for January.

We will keep you informed about what's happening through this local magazine.

Best wishes to you all

Jane Walker, Chair, Tel:- 01508 494381

The WEA is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1112775) and in Scotland (no. SC039239)

How will Christmas begin for you this year?

For millions of radio listeners, it will begin on Christmas Eve with the clear treble voice of a single Cambridge choirboy. As has happened every year since 1919, he will begin the hymn 'Once, in Royal David's City' at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast from King's College Chapel.

The hymn was written by a Mrs Alexander in 1848, who was inspired by the Apostles' Creed: '.... born of the virgin Mary.' It is a superb introduction to Christmas:

'Once, in royal David's city,
stood a lowly cattle-shed,
where a mother laid her baby,
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

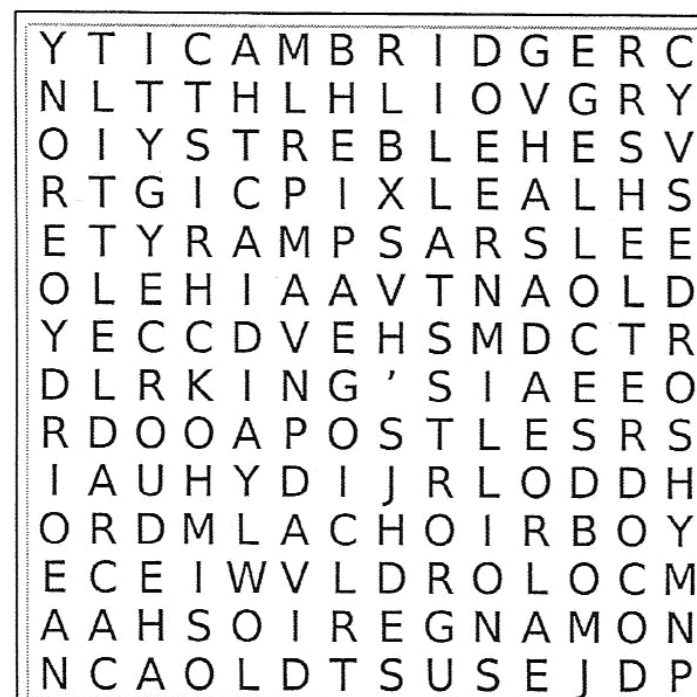
He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all;
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.'

Enjoy this Christmas word search and the approaching Festive Season, however strange it might be for us all this year.

Take care and stay safe.

Christmas
Millions
Radio
Eve
Treble
Cambridge
Choirboy
Royal
Hymn
David
City
King's
College
Chapel
Alexander
Apostles
Creed

Virgin Mary Jesus Christ Little Child Earth
Heaven Lord Manger Stall Shelter Cradle Poor Mean



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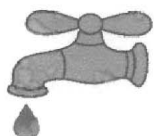
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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton

Alpington with Yelverton Parish Council

Much of 2020 has been dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic, something that we couldn't have envisaged in January and February when we were planning for the Annual Parish Meeting due to be held on 16th March. That meeting had to be cancelled, but thanks to having our Community Emergency Plan already in place we were quickly able to activate the Plan and coordinate volunteers in the villages to assist residents who were self-isolating or shielding during lockdown with shopping and collection of prescriptions.

Despite the pandemic, a number of projects sponsored by the Parish Council were completed. The Village Play Area behind the Village Hall was refurbished and expanded and reopened in time for the summer holidays and is now able to be safely enjoyed by children in the villages.



Last month we reported on the progress with the Village Pond restoration project and since then a small group of volunteers have cleared some dead trees from the central island and tidied up the vegetation on the banks. Thanks to all the rain we had in October the Pond is now almost completely full of water and looking good. Both these projects were managed by parish councillors and made possible with grants from the Community Benefit Fund which receives annual payments from the local Solar Farm. The Community Benefit Fund is administered by the Parish Council and local groups can apply for grants for projects and activities that benefit the community. We will be letting this year's applicants know whether they have been successful by the beginning of December.

If you have driven or walked by the Pond recently you would doubtless have seen the restored Yelverton Village Sign. The old sign was in a very poor condition and the Parish Council approached the local Men's Shed to ask if they would help restore it. In the end the sign had to be completely replaced and the gentlemen at the Men's Shed did a fantastic job.



Another project was the launching of a community website for the villages, alpingtonwithyelverton.com, where you can find lots of useful information and regular posts of local news. This project was a passion of Kevin Gotts, Parish Councillor for the past ten years. Sadly, Kevin has decided to step down from his position at the end of the year so there will be a vacancy for a parish councillor.

If you are a resident of Alpington or Yelverton and are interested in becoming a parish councillor please contact Emma Havers: clerk.alpington@gmail.com. Alternatively, you could talk to one of the parish councillors, who are Jeremy McNulty, Ivan Green, John Lain, Sue Stacey, Louise Taylor and David Whitehead.

The Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped out this year. We wouldn't be able to achieve our goals without them.

The Parish Council meets every two months and meetings are open to the public. Due to coronavirus restrictions we have been holding virtual meetings via Zoom since July but the public are welcome to join in. Agendas and meeting details are posted on the Community website and Village Noticeboards. The next meeting will be on 4 January 2021 at 7.30pm.

Finally, a plea on behalf of local wildlife. There's been reports of hedgehog casualties on local roads lately. Please drive carefully and keep an eye out for hedgehogs and other wildlife crossing the road. Also, check for sheltering hedgehogs when clearing up in the garden or having bonfires. Hedgehogs are now an endangered species and need our help.

We would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and best wishes for 2021.

Alpington with Yelverton Parish Council "

Ashby St Mary & Thurton

Ashby & Thurton Village Hall

All was well at the start of 2020, the hall and playing field was used regularly by the pre-school, church youth groups, Loddon football club, short mat bowls, along with the community café once a month and other organisations/activity groups as well as private parties.

The play park has been a great success since its opening in April 2019. Many people have been visiting and not only from our own villages. Unfortunately we have had a few problems with some vandalism.

Then in March came the national lock down!!! As a result of this the hall was closed immediately. A Covid-19 risk assessment was carried out on the hall and put in place (hand sanitiser, posters, extra sinks and water taps etc.) in readiness for all existing and future hirings to resume. In June, Pre-School was able to start up again, but unfortunately no other activity could continue at that time.

The Village Hall Committee has to fund raise to remain financially viable but because of Covid-19 this has been impossible. Sadly our March Quiz with Fish and Chip Supper had to be cancelled, as did all fund raising events planned through until Christmas.

We were delighted to obtain a Government grant from RHL (retail, hospitality and leisure) of £10,000 which could go towards a capital project or just upkeep of the hall.

The hall desperately needed the main flat roof replaced because of rain water ingress in the small meeting room and ladies toilets. The money was therefore used for this purpose.

The committee is always undertaking reviews of associated spending with the view of added efficiency and cost saving. A Health and Safety Inspection was carried out and an action plan put in place. Two new emergency fire doors have been installed as well as additional emergency lights.

The Committee continue to apply for grant funding as there is a lot more that can be done for our village hall including the car park and drive. A questionnaire has been sent out to all households in both villages to help with this. If you still haven't returned your questionnaire could we please ask that you do so asap as we need to show we have the support from the community to obtain grant funding.

(Continued on page 9)

Village News

Ashby & Thurton continued

(Continued from page 8)

The 100 Club - We managed to keep this going with the help of 100 people from the villages buying tickets. This enables us to pay out a prize of £40 per month with a £120 super-draw in November. The additional money raised helps towards the upkeep of the hall. Winners were: Sept: 12, Polo. Oct: 70. S Goate. Nov: 100, V. Harvey, and the super draw was 97. E. Leathers.

The Facebook page for the Ashby & Thurton Village Hall has widened the scope of accessibility to our Information/Communication and News which seems to be working well. We have also registered on www.easypfundraising.org.uk, a free and simple way for the Village Hall to raise money just by you shopping online through this site. There are over 4,000 retailers for you to choose from. When you join and shop, select our cause which is Ashby & Thurton Village Hall and Playing Field. Once you make a purchase the retailer makes a small donation to our Village Hall charity at no cost to yourselves.

Things had started to go back to the 'new normal' with Circuit Training on Wednesday evenings from 6pm-7pm, Kettle Bells on Saturday mornings from 8.30am - 9.30am with Keith, Pilates on Monday evenings from 7pm-8pm and 8:15pm-9:15pm with Rosie Mathewson, Dancing on Tuesday evenings with Jackie Mayfield, Little Fish from 10:30am- 11:30am with Judy Jackson and Short Mat Bowls on Wednesdays 2pm-4pm.

Sadly with a second lockdown now in place we have had to close our doors once again with the exception of the pre-school. We hope to be able to welcome everyone back late December/Early 2021.

We wish you all a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Claxton

There has been a strong sense of community in the village, particularly during the time when people were restricted to their homes. This is again evident as we enter our second period of 'lockdown'.

As soon as regulations allowed, we were pleased to re-open the village hall. Yoga sessions recommenced and the social club opened on Friday evenings. In September, we managed a very successful 'Coffee to Go' morning, where we raised £370 for Macmillan Cancer Support. A carefully organised 'Pub Night' was also enjoyed by residents. Sadly, our thriving community café has not yet been able to reopen but we have plans for simpler, 'Coffee and Catch Up' sessions on Friday 4th and 18th December. Our aim is to give villagers a chance to meet in a safe, socially distanced way. Organisers have worked hard to ensure all of these could proceed safely according to the restrictions in place at the time. We look forward to being able to open to the community again soon. There are already plans for a fundraising 'Pub Night' event to take the place of our usual ceilidh, which has raised valuable funds for our church. Look out for posters and flyers. Planning for the refurbishment of the village hall is underway and we look forward to seeing a bright and cheerful interior in the near future.

We were delighted to open the church as soon as it was permitted and know that both local residents and walkers have been grateful to have access to the building. A monthly service has taken place between July and October and an Act of Remembrance was held in the churchyard on Remembrance Sunday.

Rockland St Mary

The Rockland Scarecrow Trail was held over half term from 26th October - 8th November 2020 and was a fantastic fundraiser for the Friends of Rockland St Mary School (FORMS). We always hoped but never imagined that it would be so successful and FORMS would like to thank everyone who made an effort to build Scarecrows and participate in the Trail. How lovely it was to see so many happy, smiling faces, walking around our beautiful village at a time when we needed it the most. The Village was even featured on the front page of the EDP and was the final destination of Radio Norfolk's Treasure Quest when we were able to chat to them about how fantastic our Trail was.

Congratulations to the Stone Family who won 1st prize of a £50 Green Pastures Voucher for their amazing Despicable Me themed Scarecrow with Gru and the Minions.

Other great TV/Film themed entries included Dracula, Toy Story, The Little Mermaid, Spiderman, The Wizard of Oz and Stickman to name a few.

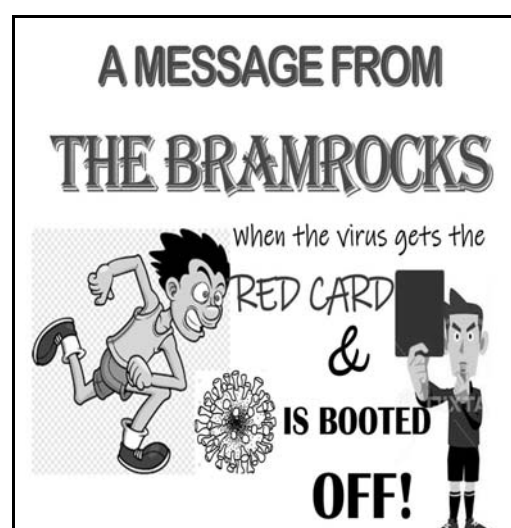
After such a successful Trail this year, raising an amazing £350!, we would be silly not to do it again in 2021 and who knows, maybe it will become a Rockland St Mary Village Tradition. Next year our theme will be 'Heroes and Villains'. We look forward to seeing your creations from Comic Books to Real life heroes and everything else in between. The Trail will run again over October Half Term and we are hoping to get many more entries next year. We are also looking for people who may not want to make a Scarecrow themselves but would be happy for one to be placed on the driveway/front lawn as there are several people who would like to participate from outside of the village. If this is something you would like to be involved in you can email us at friendsofrms@gmail.com



We will keep you updated via the FORMS Event page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/rocklandforms) and on the Rockland and Hellington Facebook Page. The Text donation is still available if anyone would like to make a donation. Text SCARECROW followed by your donation to 70450 e.g. to donate £1 text SCARECROW 1 to 70450; to donate £5 text SCARECROW 5 to 70450.

Thank you again and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

Claire, Chair of FORMS



Village News

Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council

New Playground Equipment at Green Lane

It has been a long time comingbut the newly installed playground equipment at Green Lane was signed off and ready for use in the October half term. The Parish Council started the process three years ago when we learned that we would be given money specifically to be used for play facilities as the developer's contribution arising from the Bee Orchid Way housing development.



Former Councillor Jim Wretham consulted residents and children about what they would like. Councillors Nikki Green supported by Mike Hayward took over the very considerable task of further researching suitable equipment within the budget, liaising with contractors, and overseeing and completing the project. We are most grateful to them all for their time and are sure you will agree that it has been worthwhile. Thanks too go to our village caretaker, Steve Gildersleeve, who also helped with the project.

The playground will remain open during this second lockdown period unless government Covid rules change. We have already received positive comments from several residents and their children, and we hope that your children enjoy playing there.

Parish Council Meetings - Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Parish Council will continue to hold its meetings online for the foreseeable future, ensuring the safety of councillors and the public. Meetings are open to all parishioners and details of how to join the meetings using the Zoom online facility can be found on the meeting agenda (published on the Parish Council website or on the parish noticeboards).

BBC Filming at Rockland Broad - In late September, a crew commissioned by the BBC Natural History Department spent a week filming scenery on Rockland Broad to be used in a special TV natural history series, due to be broadcast in 2021. Watch this space!

Hellington and Rockland St Mary Community Reserve

The Reserve has been very well visited all year, especially through our lockdown periods. It has been very pleasing to get great feedback from visitors. New members have joined including many who have discovered the joys of local exercise and our fabulous local landscape.

Our AGM and committee meetings have been held on zoom. Although we have not held working parties we have trimmed paths and tried to keep access for visitors clear. We still hope to improve steps into the north of the site and are monitoring the water levels in the marsh area.

200 Club has continued and lucky winners announced, we thank Jane Paterson and Debbie Frosdick for their record keeping and administration of the draw and especially those who have joined and helped us raise funds for the Reserve.

2021 Calendar. Just before lockdown we held a print workshop and began to collate art and poetry for a Calendar. Thanks to Andy Jarrett, Hatty Halstead and Amanda Addison who ran workshops and especially to Kaarin Wall as designer of the calendar.

Calendar sales are going well and if you need Christmas presents there is still time to stock up. Please telephone Hatty and Philip Halstead 01508 538952 or Jane Paterson 01508 538415, or email: hellington.rsmcommunityreserve@gmail.com

Rockland St Mary

Exciting news!! Sunbeams Pre-School have now taken up residency in a brand new purpose built lodge within the grounds of Rockland St Mary Primary School. We would sincerely like to thank everyone who gave up their time to help us move - it was quite a big job! We would also like to thank the Sapientia Education Trust for the building, and of course we would like to thank Bramerton Village Hall for being our home for over 20 years and for supporting us throughout our time there.



L-R: Kerry Mansfield - Pre-school assistant; Karen Hall-Pre-school assistant; Karen Orme - Pre-school manager; Louise Linford - Chair of Sunbeams Committee; Julie Lincoln - Vice Chair of Sunbeams Committee

Sunbeams provides a range of play and learning experiences for children aged between 2 to 5 years old. Our nurturing, supportive staff and well structured activities will support and aid your child's development whilst preparing them for school life. We are very proud to have had this recognised and been rated 'GOOD' by OFSTED in 2017. Please get in touch to come and see for yourself our amazing new home and what we have to offer your child throughout their Pre-School education. We are awaiting our new phone line so please get in touch via email: sunbeamseast@tiscali.co.uk

Louise Linford Chair of Sunbeams committee
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Rockland St. Mary Primary School

As a school we are absolutely thrilled to have welcomed Sunbeams on site and we are looking forward to further developing our strong relationship with Sunbeams. Together our ambition is to provide the young children of our community with a warm, caring and nurturing environment where children learn, explore and are encouraged to be curious.



Helen Norris
Headteacher of Rockland St Mary Primary School

The new, purpose built lodge provides our children with a beautiful learning environment which fits in with our EYFS ethos of learning through The Curiosity Approach, which they will experience whilst in Sunbeams and in our EYFS / KS1 classroom when they start school. Sunbeams is a positive addition to our wonderful community school, where children are happy, feel safe and enjoy learning. We achieved outstanding results in the 2019 KS2 SATs and are extremely proud of our pupils. Please see our website for more information about us, including our welcome brochure and a virtual tour.

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Remembrance Day November 11th



Rockland Benefice Acts of Remembrance

St Andrews Church, Claxton was able to commemorate Remembrance Sunday on the 8th November, outside and socially distanced.



This followed advice from the Diocese and complied with government guidelines. 15 parishioners enjoyed a short service led by Janice Dix. The weather was glorious, and music was provided by Paul Carter on the saxophone.

Remembrance gathering at Surlingham

There was a small unofficial gathering at the Lychgate on Sunday 8th November. We observed the two minutes silence and the wreath was presented by Val Parritt (below) on behalf of the village.

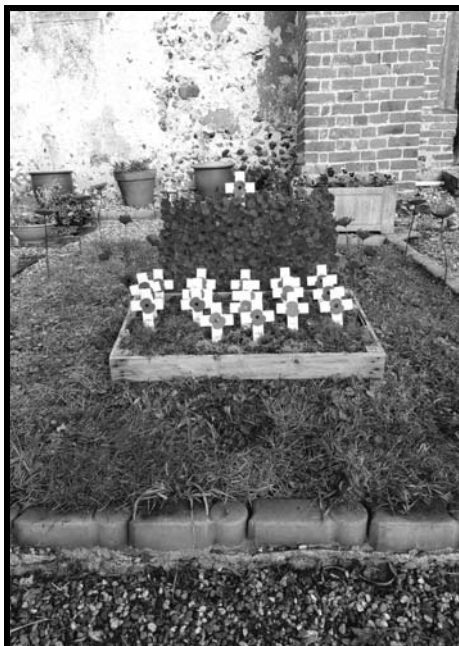


Bramerton village Memorial



Thurton Benefice

A number of short Acts of Remembrance were held across the Thurton Benefice to mark Remembrance Sunday. On the right is the Ashby St Mary memorial. Below is the memorial at Yelverton.



Following government guidelines the services were all held outside, with limited numbers in attendance, but had a very special feel to them which was helped by the glorious autumnal sunshine.

Rev Chris Ellis

Remembrance Sunday in Alington and Yelverton

Remembrance Sunday was a bit different for us all this year.

We wanted to share a few photos from around our villages, taken by parish council member and local photographer Kevin Gotts.



This photo shows a poignant display in Church Meadow

A poppy wreath at the Church



Pictured on the left is Mick, a local ex-serviceman who helps a lot in the churchyard



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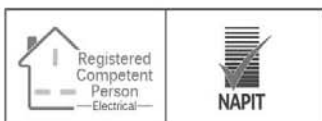
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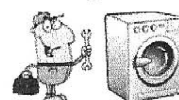
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Ashby and Thurton - Main hall with kitchen facilities and/or committee room available for private hire per hour, day or half day. Discounted rates for regular contract bookings. Ideal for meeting groups and social activities. Please contact Laura Vaissiere,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

Bergh Apton - Fully refurbished 2014. Large main hall with stage, smaller additional room, fully-fitted new kitchen, all with heating. 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 - Main hall and separate kitchen area available for hire. Charge is £6 per hour, minimum hire 2 hours. Daily rate on request. Car park. Please contact in first instance Alison Lamont on 01508 537041 or Jane Wheeldon on 01508 538279.

Claxton & Carleton St Peter - Spacious, fully equipped hall. Ideal for functions and regular users. Disabled facilities. Fully fitted kitchen. Large car park. Bar available on request. £8 per hour or by session. Contact Jo Bissonnet, 484081 or Sarah Carter, 480555.

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 4pm please, either Debs Sayles, 01508 537077, email: debssayles@yahoo.co.uk or Daphne Howlett, 01508 538553.

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

Christmas Quiz

We hope you enjoy this quiz. All answers Christmas related. Some clues are cryptic, some hard, some easy! Answers in next issue.

1	Untidy up above	
2	Kill	
3	Baby's bed has its annual overhaul	
4	Metallic merchandising	
5	Top of the bill	
6	Herbal Honey-maker	
7	Tedious ringer	
8	Much pondered grape juice	
9	Illumines	
10	Medals and honours	
11	...on the ridiculous?	
12	Precipitation costs a lot	
13	Liz's soft fruit	
14	It was dark when acceleration divided force	
15	Not male	
16	Evolved see no evil...	
17	25 letter alphabet	
18	Pugilistic occasion	
19	No time like it	
20	Equitable ecstasy	
21	Would they vote for it?	
22	Let them eat it	
23	Fine cut flans	
24	7 th letter works it out	
25	Give someone their cards	

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	6th Dec Advent 2 Purple	13th Dec Advent 3 Purple	20th Dec Advent 4 Purple	24th Dec Christmas Eve Gold	25th Dec Christmas Day Gold	27th Dec Christmas 1 White	3rd Jan Epiphany Gold	10th Jan Baptism of Christ Gold	17th Jan Epiphany 2 White	24th Jan Epiphany 3 White	31st Jan Presentation of Christ Gold	7th Feb 2 Before Lent Green
Ashby			Saturday 19th Dec 18.00 Carol Service		11.00 HC		10.00 HC					10.00 HC
Bergh Apton	10.00 HC		19.00 Carol Service Tickets 550924	23.30 Midnight Mass				10.00 HC				
Bramerton	SEE	PAGE 3										
Carleton St Peter	SEE	PAGE 3										
Claxton	SEE	PAGE 3										
Fram. Pigot		10.00 HC	17.00 Carol Service Tickets 492571		9.30 HC					10.00 HC		
Kirby Bedon	SEE	PAGE 3										
Rockland St Mary	SEE	PAGE 3										
Surlingham	SEE	PAGE 3										
Thurton		16.00 Carol Service		20.00 First Eucharist of Christmas		10.00 MP					10.00 HC	
Yelverton		18.00 Carol Service Tickets 492059			9.30 MP				10.00 HC			

SERVICES SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: December 2020 and January 2021

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
06/12/20	Isaiah 40.1-11	2 Peter 3.8-15	Mark 1.1-8	Advent 2
13/12/20	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11	1 Thessalonians 5.16-24	John 1.6-8,19-28	Advent 3
20/12/20	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16	Romans 16.25-27	Luke 1.26-38	Advent 4
25/12/20	Isaiah 9.2-7	Titus 2.11-14	Luke 2.1-14[15-20]	Christmas Eve &Christmas Day
or	Isaiah 62.6-12	Titus 3.4-7	Luke 2.[1-7]8-20	
or	Isaiah 52.7-10	Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]	John 1.1-14	
27/12/20	Exodus 33:7-11a	1 John 1	John 21:19b-end	John the Apostle & Evangelist
03/01/21	Isaiah 60.1-6	Ephesians 3.1-12	Matthew 2.1-12	Epiphany
10/01/21	Genesis 1.1-5	Acts 19.1-7	Mark 1.4-11	Baptism of Christ
17/01/21	1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20]	Revelation 5.1-10	John 1.43-51	Epiphany 2
24/01/21	Genesis 14.17-20	Revelation 19.6-10	John 2.1-11	Epiphany 3
31/01/21	Malachi 3.1-5	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40	Presentation of Christ
07/02/21	Proverbs 8.1,22-31	Colossians 1.15-20	John 1.1-14	2 Before Lent



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.

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Email: Frpadraighawkins@gmail.com

Times of Masses

Saturday 6 pm Loddon

Sunday 9 am Poringland

Daily Mon-Fri 8 am Poringland

Saturday 9 am Poringland

Staff days off.

Monday

Chris Ellis

Thursday

Mandy Ansell

Friday

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