



# eleven says

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP OF CHURCHES COVERING 11 PARISHES

DECEMBER  
2021 /  
JANUARY  
2022

ISSUE 292

## The Advent Journey Towards Christmas . . .

By the time you've picked up this copy of *Eleven Says*, Advent will have begun. Advent comes to us as a time of kindling light amid the growing darkness of the world.

The Advent wind begins to stir  
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir;  
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,  
And in between we only see  
Clouds hurrying across the sky  
And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry

The beginning of John Betjeman's poem 'Advent 1955' reflects the damp chill and shortening days as we move towards the Winter Solstice on December 21st. Beyond it, we will celebrate the Saviour's birth.

However, this month can feel out of step with nature's slowing down into winter - more like a headlong rush. So many Christmas events, including carol services, happen during Advent that we can forget that Advent exists.

The name of this new season derives from the Latin 'Adventus', which means 'the coming'. It is a time in the Church's year of waiting for God to act, for heaven to come down to earth. It's a healthy discipline in a frantic world to allow ourselves time to be still and enter this time of profound waiting.

Jesus comes to earth as the light that shines in the darkness. Give yourself time to experience the darkness he came to illuminate. We try to keep the darkness at bay during the long evenings by switching on the lights, putting on the TV or radio or communicating on our phones. Instead, put the lights out, leaving just one on, or lighting a candle. Switch off the sound and flickering images. Draw back the curtains and look at the night sky. Let your body be still and listen to the unaccustomed silence.

If you want to go further, think of the darkness of the world that Jesus came into. Think of the darkness in our world today. Think of the darkness in our lives that he came to illuminate and heal.

If you want to go further still, there is an ancient Advent prayer that uses just one word: 'Maranatha'. It means, 'Come, Lord.' Say it slowly, reflectively, thinking about people or situations we're concerned about. We can say it for ourselves as well. When we're ready, we can put all the lights back on and go back to our normal activities. This kind of Advent journey can be made without leaving the room.

But it can take us a long way towards the loving heart of God, who made us and waits for us to be still with him. It can feel hard for us to do this, even for a few minutes. That is why he sent his only Son Jesus to be born among us. He came closer to us, so that we can draw near to him.

Betjeman's poem ends with these words:

'The time draws near the birth of Christ'.

A present that cannot be priced  
Given two thousand years ago  
Yet if God had not given so  
He still would be a distant stranger  
And not the Baby in the manger.



The Church is making its Advent journey towards the light and joy of Christmas. You are very welcome to join us in any of our services and events across the Group parishes as we prepare to greet him once again.

Wishing you every blessing during Advent and Christmas,

Rev. Nick Garrard

### Christmas Eve

Bethlehem, star, shining brightly,  
Choir boys singing, voices lightly,  
Sing for joy, of a brand new baby boy.  
Sparkling tinsel, on Christmas tree,  
Through the windows, you will see.  
Presents, in a grand array  
To be opened on Christmas Day.  
Children all tucked up in bed  
Waiting for the man in red.  
Carollers trudging through the snow  
Knocking on doors as they go,  
Singing happily as on their way  
"Jesus" was born on Christmas Day.

Phyllis Christina Samuel



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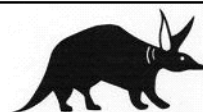
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## Wednesday Fellowship

Wednesday Fellowship is a meeting for ladies and men held at Alington and Yelverton Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2 - 4pm. It is open to anyone in the Bramerton Group (or beyond!)

A variety of interesting speakers, fellowship, tea and cake. Transport can be arranged within the Bramerton Group.

**8th December** - Seasonal Thoughts, Rev. Cate Turner

**12th January** - Musical Entertainment with Karen Dansell

For more information please contact Pat Barter on 493570 or Leo Smith on 493695.

We are grateful to Rev. Cate Turner for agreeing to be our leader.

## Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 1st December from 10.30 am - 12 noon the Fellowship are holding a **Coffee Morning** in

**St Mary's Church, Yelverton, with a Tins & Soldiers Collection for the Salvation Army Appeal.**



There will be cakes, crafts and curiosities on sale.

Gentlemen, you are cordially invited to a

## Mid-Day Mardle

Returning by popular request

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



New members are always given a warm welcome.

**Ferry House, Surlingham**

Our Christmas Gathering  
Wednesday 8th December  
Anytime between 12 noon and 2 pm  
(then planning for Wednesday 12th January 2022)

Sonia has prepared a 'specials' menu for us.

- Christmas Baguette with chips: turkey or vegetarian option, stuffing and cranberry sauce £6.95
- Game Pie or Vegetarian Nut Roast with new potatoes and vegetables £10.95
- Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce £4.50



## \*\*\*\*\* Café Church All Welcome \*\*\*\*\*

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**Sunday 16th January 2022**

**Theme: "A Fresh Start"**

Drop in any time between 10.30 am-12.00 noon

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

\*\*\*\*\* Café Church All Welcome \*\*\*\*\*



## "Upon this Rock"

Norfolk church buildings are full of mystery, the silent history of peoples' lives and this country's stormy wars of religion. There are over 1000 churches of which 682 are still in use including, St. Peter's, Bramerton.

Recently we were very fortunate to have Dr. Ian Hinton from the Historic Buildings Group come and tell us about our Church, which it's believed was re-built in 1462.



We walked around the Church outside and looked at "Decorated" windows. Could some windows have been inserted in older walls? Dating parts of a church is always difficult. We stared up at the tower which had been built in three stages: the lower part possibly 13<sup>th</sup> century or even Norman; then the belfry stage for the bells, and finally the parapet. Ian pointed out how to spot the annual builds, known as lifts, which went on between March and September, starting with a thick mortar course and larger stones which became smaller as the year's build progressed and we thought of the masons working so long ago.

He pointed out the putlog holes for scaffolding. We looked at different shades of Norfolk cobbled flints, shiny knapped flints, and a medieval sundial or was it a mass dial engraved in south facing stone?



On entering the Church through the medieval door, he pointed out the sanctuary door ring, hold on to that and you would be safe, and on the inner door catch a saltire, a symbol that stops the devil from entering! The Church still has its priest's door, where before the Reformation the priest entered the chancel to keep himself separate from the congregation, who had their own area called the nave. There are slight remains of the rood screen which also kept the priest and congregation apart until torn down by Protestants, although the rood loft stairs are still visible. There is one thing we can definitely date and that is the north transept built in 1860 in memory of John Blake. Churches are mysterious places which leave you with so many questions.

Incidentally you may think of Norfolk churches as centuries old, but think again, the rocks from which they are built may have been left by two ice ages, or be part of the Bramerton crag with fossil sea shells in the rocks from when the North Sea covered the Broads. Look at your church with new eyes, but recall the real meaning of "Upon this Rock". Christ re-named his disciple Simon and called him Peter (Latin for rock) and told this ordinary man that he and people like him were to be the foundation of Christianity. Let's remember a church is more than just a building, it is people.

**B. Smith, Bramerton**



## ✝ Rockland Benefice Update

### 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 28th to February 2nd, taking us from the growing darkness to the lengthening days again.

❖ **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.

**Advent Group.** I expect that we are all hoping that this Christmas might be a little more normal than last. Last year for very necessary reasons we were restricted in our contact with families and our usual festivities. Hopefully this year we will once again open our homes to others and celebrate in style.

At the heart of the Christmas season is a very special message and it's all about love. God's love for the world He created and that love poured into our lives by the gift of a very special baby - His own Son; Jesus.

If you would like to share in a time of spiritual preparation for Christmas which will involve quiet reflection, gentle conversation, creative response and refreshment you are warmly invited to join in our short Advent course.

"A Light Shines".

Three sessions of contemplation and preparation for Christmas during the season of Advent. These sessions are held in The Rectory Barn Rockland St Mary and also on zoom. From 7.30-8.45 pm on Thursdays December 2nd, 9th, 16th (zoom only on 16th). All are warmly invited and very welcome. For further information and zoom link please contact: The Rev. Helen Garrard, 01508 538014. rocklandrev@aol.com .

❖ **Church services.** Please look out for further details on village websites, Rockland Churches FB page, posters and church noticeboards.

As Boxing Day is a Sunday this year we would like to invite you to worship and fellowship online. From 11am- 12 noon we will host a Zoom Service where you are invited to join with your household. We have called this Presence and Praise; it will be a time to share our presents, prayers and carols within the Presence of God.

Topic: Presence and Praise. Time: Dec 26, 2021 11:00 AM London. Join Zoom Meeting:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82003070623?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82003070623?pwd=cEIYeUtLbXZ3dklqcWc5RjErS3VsQT09)  
[pwd=cEIYeUtLbXZ3dklqcWc5RjErS3VsQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82003070623?pwd=cEIYeUtLbXZ3dklqcWc5RjErS3VsQT09)

Meeting ID: 820 0307 0623. Passcode: 680202

With seasons' greetings,

Rev. Nick and Rev. Helen

## ✝ Thurton Benefice Update

**Church Services:** We are now getting closer to our 'normal' monthly pattern of services but there will still be some changes from time to time so please continue to check the service rota closely each week. With the high number of COVID cases in the area, we are still encouraging worshippers to wear face coverings during the service and to use hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the church building. The Common Cup will not be offered for the foreseeable future and the wine will continue to be received by intinction by the priest not the communicant.

**Daily Prayer:** Morning Prayer is said in the benefice at 9am from Tuesday to Saturday on 'zoom'. If you would like to join us, as several do, please ask one of the clergy for the meeting ID.

**Weekday Communion:** Monthly Services of Holy Communion are offered on the first Thursday of each month at St Mary's Yelverton. In December it will be on the Thursday 2nd and in January, Thursday 6th, when we will keep The Epiphany. Both services will be at 10.30 am. All are most welcome.

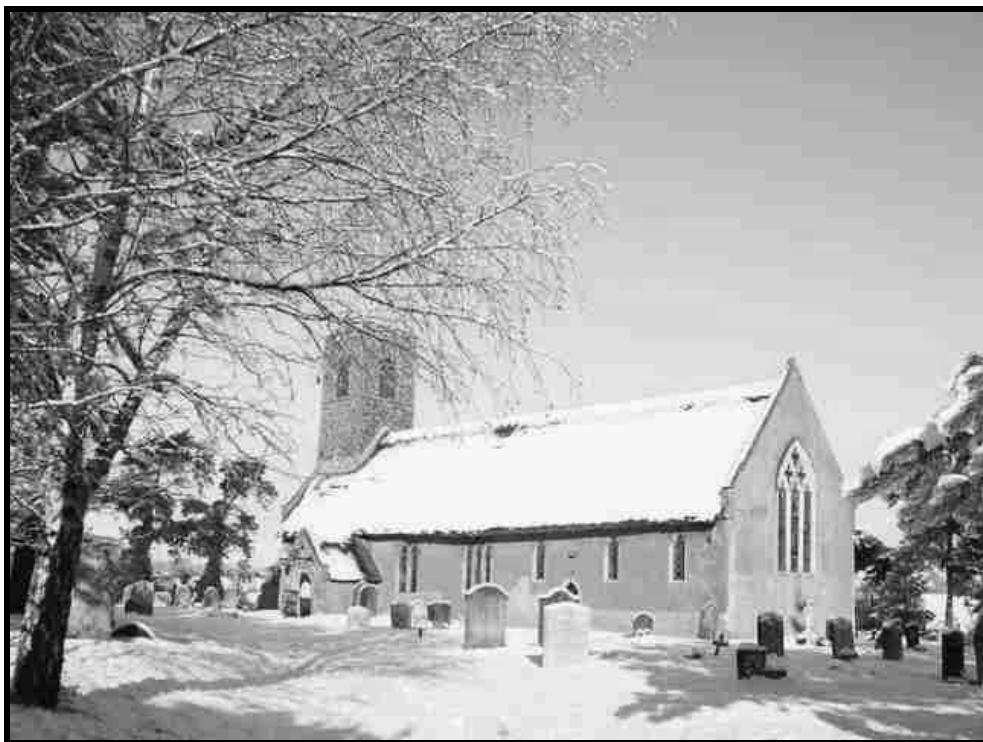
**Christmas Services:** We will be holding all the usual Christmas Services this year, including Carol Services on the 19th December, Crib Service, Christingle, The First Eucharist of Christmas and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, and a number of services on Christmas Morning. We do hope you will join us for as many of them as you can as we celebrate the Birth of Christ and enjoy the opportunity to sing carols once again, having been denied last year by the pandemic.

**Gift Days:** I would like to say a very big **Thank you** to everyone who supported the Gifts Days across the Benefice in October. I have attempted to write to everyone who donated for whom I had contact details, but for those who gave anonymously, thank you for your support of the life, mission and ministry of the churches and the maintenance of our ancient and beautiful buildings.

**Home visits and Home Communion:** The clergy are very keen to visit anyone who is unwell or feeling isolated or lonely, either simply for a conversation or to share Holy Communion in their homes. Please do contact us if you, or anyone you know, would like a visit.

Rev. Chris Ellis: 01508 484174

Rev. Cate Turner: 01508 498494



Snow covered Thurton Church



## From the Registers

### BAPTISMS

26/09/21	Elena Jade ROSE	Surlingham
10/10/21	Henry Peter RICKMAN	Framingham Pigot
24/10/21	Primrose Harper Grace ALDIS	Yelverton
06/11/21	Rex Henry Maxwell BARBER	Bramerton

### WEDDINGS

19/09/21	Julien BORGHINO and Katrina ELLIS	Framingham Pigot
24/09/21	Rory BONE and Elise JEANRENAUD	Surlingham
23/10/21	Thomas LENTHALL and Laura CARTER	Claxton
06/11/21	Michael and Karen ZEEBROEK (Renewal of Vows)	Framingham Pigot

### FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

02/09/21	Rodney SAVORY (71) (Interment of Ashes)	Yelverton
27/09/21	Peter Alan SPARROW	Kirby Bedon
29/09/21	Sir Timothy COLMAN	Kirby Bedon
14/10/21	David LESTER (84)	Bergh Apton
19/10/21	Betty Mary WATSON (Interment of Ashes)	Kirby Bedon
21/10/21	Audrey Barbara LING (89)	Rockland St Mary
21/10/21	Betty and Gordon STURMAN (Interment of Ashes)	Surlingham

## Surlingham In Time

Some of you may remember, back in April 2020, *Eleven Says* published a piece entitled *The Mystery of the Missing Vicar*. At the time, we were researching the medieval history of Surlingham. Now the fruits of our discoveries have been put into a book entitled *Surlingham in Time: Meeting the Medieval Ancestors*.

As the subtitle states, it paints a picture of the village and its people from the Norman Conquest of 1066 to the time of the first Queen Elizabeth in 1600.

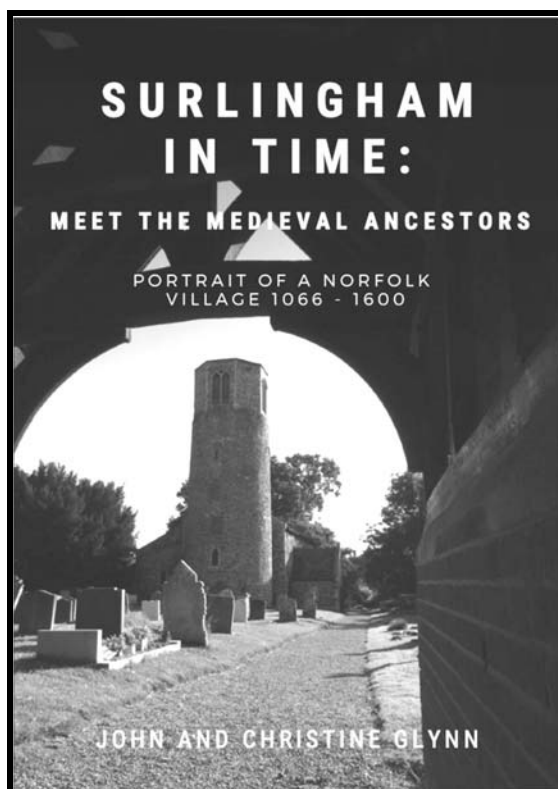
As well as interviews with a selection of vicars of the period, we take an imaginary tour of the area in 1441, find out how life changed here as Normans took control of Anglo-Saxon Norfolk, trace the fortunes of the lords of the manor, and take an inside look at the poverty and prosperity of the Elizabethan village community.

The two churches played a pivotal role in medieval life. St Mary's is still with us after a thousand years, while the evocative ruins of St Saviour's are a cherished heritage. But now the round tower of St Mary's, with its 14th century bells, is in dire need of renovation, to the tune of £130,000.

Donate £20 to this worthy cause, and in return receive a piece of Surlingham history. *Surlingham in Time: Meet the Medieval Ancestors* is available from: Surlingham Garage, The Ferry House, Yare Valley Farm Shop, St Mary's Church Carol Service 19th December, Friends of St Mary's volunteers, by telephone: 01508 538372 or email [chris@glynn.me](mailto:chris@glynn.me)

We are immensely proud of our local heritage.

John and Christine Glynn



## Christmas Services in the Bramerton Group of Churches



### Carol Services

#### December 12th

Bramerton	15.00
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#### December 19th

Ashby St Mary	18.00
Bergh Apton	18.00
Carleton St Peter	11.00
Claxton	14.30
Wassail (Christmas readings, music, craft activities for children, snacks and mulled wine).	
Framingham Pigot (followed by festive refreshments)	16.00
Kirby Bedon	17.00
Rockland St Mary	15.30
Surlingham	16.00
Thurton	16.00
Yelverton	18.00

### Christingle Services

All are welcome. Please bring the children

#### December 12th

Surlingham	10.00
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#### December 24th

Thurton	16.00
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### Crib Services

#### December 24th

Bergh Apton	16.00
Rockland St Mary	18.00

### First Eucharist of Christmas

#### December 24th

Ashby St Mary	20.00
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### Midnight Mass

#### December 24th

Rockland St Mary	23.30
Yelverton	23.30

### Christmas Day

Bergh Apton HC	09.30
Claxton FS	10.00
Framingham Pigot HC	09.30
Kirby Bedon HC	11.00
Surlingham FS	10.00
Thurton HC	11.00
Yelverton PT	09.30



It had been provisionally arranged that the talks would be on "What is Criminology?", given by Mr. Jack Fawbert. Unhappily, his wife has become seriously ill and he now has to work exclusively from home. Luckily for us, Mary Fewster has agreed to step in with ten 1½ hour talks on "The Company of Preachers". These will show how the religious changes that have taken place in East Anglia over the centuries since the Reformation can be revealed in buildings, artefacts and documents, and will also describe the vibrant characters of 'the preachers'. If everything goes to plan, the first talk will be in the Jubilee Hall Clubroom on **Monday January 17th, starting at 2 p.m.** There will be no talk on February 16th so the series will end on March 28th.

If you wish to enrol you have two choices. The first is to phone 0300 303 3464 and ask to register for the course by name, giving the WEA reference number, which is C222 8492. (This has been tried and tested). The cost will be £59.25, which can be paid either over the phone or by handing a cheque to the Branch Treasurer at the first talk. The second option is to go on line to WEA Eastern Region and scroll down the lengthy list of available courses. At the time of writing, however, the list had not been updated and, for Loddon, was still showing the now cancelled course on criminology.

We hope that nothing will prevent the talks going ahead, but please be assured that we will take all the precautions considered necessary at the time. Any further queries, please phone: (01508) 521036 or 521976.

**7th December - Wendy Goodliff - Countdown to Christmas. Members £5, visitors £10 to include refreshments.**



**1st February** - Lois Gill - The Queen. The Queen is knitted. Visitors £6.

Our meetings are held at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB. Doors open at 6-30pm for a 7pm start. A raffle will be held afterwards for the arrangements.

**Saturday 11th December - Christmas Workshop.**  
Make a Christmas Wreath. A list of items required is available. 1pm to 4pm, cost £8 which includes refreshments.

Contact Tricia Godfrey (Chairman) on 01508-480522 or [tricia646@aol.com](mailto:tricia646@aol.com) or Alex Pinder (Secretary) on 01508-493869 or [nmark@aol.com](mailto:nmark@aol.com).

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## Enjoying the snow

## Spring Term 2022

## “Defence of the Realm” by Mary Fewster

This course charts the physical and documentary evidence of warfare and defence in East Anglia from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the 20th century, and its effects on the lives of the region's inhabitants.

**Starting Thursday 13th January 2022 at 10.30 am** at Poringland Community Centre, Overton's Way, Poringland, NR14 7WB, the course comprises 10 sessions of two hours each, plus a short break for tea/coffee and biscuits.

The cost is £79 for the course - free to those on certain means tested benefits. Places are limited and you can enrol online at **wea.org.uk** or by phoning **0300 303 3464**, quoting course no. **C228271**

**For more information, please phone 01508 500993. Do come along and join us!**

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

**SYWG Xmas Walk on Sunday 5th December. Meet 1.45 pm at Rockland Staithe for walk along Claxton Marshes to the New Inn for Mulled Wine, Sausage Rolls and Mince Pies. £5.00, booking essential, phone; 07837064649. This will be a long walk, but there will also be a shorter route available.**

## Richard Mabey in conversation with Henry Layte of the Norwich Book Hive

The South Yare Wildlife Group was honoured to host the author and broadcaster, Richard Mabey, in conversation with Henry Layte of the Norwich Book Hive at the Poringland Community Centre on November 4th.

Henry very ably encouraged Richard to elucidate on his knowledge and experience of conservation and nature writing over a career exceeding fifty years. In responding to a question on his thoughts on rewilding, Richard said that there was the problem that people wanted to be in control. He gave as an example what may turn out to be a conservation shibboleth of the vogue for tree planting. He didn't use the term 'natural regeneration', but he said that trees often grow better if land is just left alone. 'Hurray', I thought: I can show anyone who is interested more than one place where deciduous woodland is growing very nicely on land that has been left unploughed and ungrazed by livestock. No planting, no plastic guards, no watering, no weeding. There are situations, of course, where trees DO need to be planted – along streets for instance, or where there are not enough local seed sources.

In response to another of Henry's questions on changes to the countryside, Richard decried the effects of agricultural intensification on wildlife and the landscape and the landscape with so many fields in his local area of south Norfolk being ploughed up to the field boundary and hedges cut frequently and hard so that their value to wildlife is severely reduced. Again, this was not mentioned, but a new subsidy regime is being introduced next year where one of the options is for farmers to elect to be paid for cutting their hedges less frequently and no more than once every other year, instead of yearly, as so often happens at present.

In response to a question from the floor about what advice he would give to a group such as SYWG, he said, "raise money and buy land".

There was lots more – too much to recount here, but the conversation was recorded and is available via this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTGT\\_Zznykc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTGT_Zznykc) and will be on the SYWG website soon.

## Rodney Aldis



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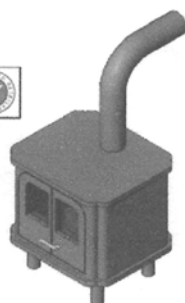
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# Village News

## Alpington & Yelverton

**NEWSFLASH**

*Roll up, roll up for a sociable afternoon of*

### CARPET BOWLS

now being played at

Alpington & Yelverton Village Hall, Church Road,  
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Friday afternoons 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm

All equipment provided

£3 to include refreshments

For more details, contact John and Christine  
01508 492950



## The Alpington & Yelverton Local History Society

The History Society meets bi-monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The venue is the Alpington & Yelverton Village Hall, Church Road, Yelverton, NR14 7NU. Meetings start at 7.30 pm with a nominal fee of £3 for guests to include refreshments. Members are free.

We begin on 25th January 2022 with an AGM followed by our popular Mardle evening and the topic is "Fashions in your lifetime". Please raid your wardrobes and lofts for old garments plus old photograph albums to bring along some fashions we might have forgotten!

## Bergh Apton

*The Bergh Apton & District Society* meets on the second Wednesday of each month, breaking during the Summer when we take day trips and short holidays. The venue is the Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road, NR15 1AA.

Meetings start at 7.30 pm with a nominal fee of £3 to include refreshments.

We also have a raffle. Below is the new programme for 2022. We hope there is a topic which will appeal to you. We look forward to meeting up with old and new faces.

2022 <i>BERGH APTON &amp; DISTRICT SOCIETY</i>			
MONTH	DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
JANUARY	12	Dr Mary Fewster,	Norwich Goldsmiths
FEBRUARY	9	Dr Anne Edwards	Tanzania
MARCH	9	Jill Mann	Odd and Interesting
APRIL	13	Terry Holloway	Chocks Away
MAY	11	Jan Edwards	The Victorians
<i>BREAK</i>			
SEPTEMBER	14	Stephen Ferrey	Moco
OCTOBER	12	Lizzie	Upstairs, downstairs at Blickling Hall
NOVEMBER	9	Pip Wright	The story of Rev. John Heigham Steggall

## Bergh Apton

### Thank you!

Paris Back and Liz Lester would like to thank those who supported their Coffee Morning on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at Washingford House, Bergh Apton.

Due to all who attended the event to buy, donate, ran stalls, gave their time on the day, contributed towards the Tombola and Raffle, made delicious cakes and biscuits, we All raised £3,821.25 for The Matthew Project and The Brooke.

### POSTPONEMENT OF BINGO AT BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL

Due to the present very high Covid infection rates we have decided to postpone the Christmas Bingo at Bergh Apton Village Hall which was due to be held on 10th December.

## Bramerton

### Bramerton Cycling Club

Just after 9am on Saturday 11th September eight members of the Bramerton Cycling Club departed from St Peter's Church, Bramerton for the annual Norfolk Churches Charity cycle ride on a 40 mile route which took in 21 churches and one brewery. Pre-Covid most of the churches were manned, providing refreshments and opportunity to learn about the church and its history. St Mary's Yelverton has always been the gastronomic highlight of the ride and, even under current conditions, still managed to provide some delightful refreshment.

There was an enormous contrast in both age, architecture and condition among the many churches we visited.

The small late-Saxon church of St Andrew's Framingham Earl is particularly impressive in its utter simplicity. St Andrew's Bedingham is equally impressive although on a much larger scale and would rival many of the Norwich churches for sheer size.

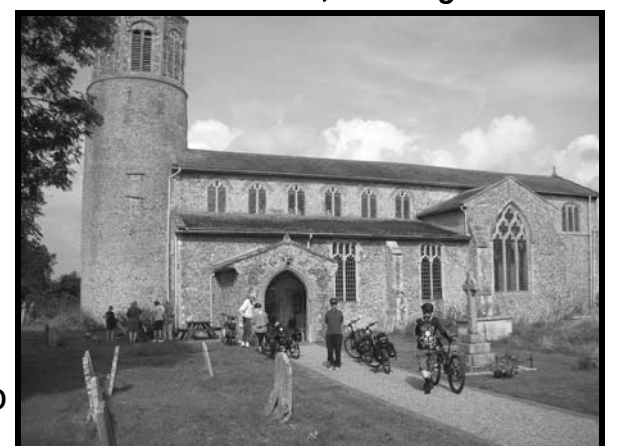
Our final church of the day was St Ethelbert's, Thurton, after which the group made a 'refuelling' stop at the nearby George & Dragon pub before heading home to Bramerton.

The group extends a huge vote of thanks to all those volunteers who were at the churches to welcome and sign in the arriving cyclists.

John Firmin



St Andrew's Church, Framingham Earl



St Andrew's Church, Bedingham



# Village News

## Bramerton

### Bramerton Helping Hand

With winter upon us, the Bramerton Helping Hand charity (officially known as Bramerton-in-Need) is redoubling its efforts to help local people who may be struggling to keep warm in the cold months ahead. That may mean help with oil deliveries, boiler repairs, paying heating bills, food bills or anything that makes winter more bearable.

If you or anyone you know is in need in the village and may benefit from some financial assistance please contact Dick Meadows on 01508 538771, or [dick.meadows@virgin.net](mailto:dick.meadows@virgin.net). All enquiries or offers of help are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

### Bramerton Winter Wander

**Sunday 5th December**

**Come and take a beautiful wintery walk  
around our lovely village!**

Last year the village did itself proud with the effort and creativity that went into producing many wonderful seasonal displays in driveways, gardens and windows.



Come to the village hall between 11am and 3pm to collect a map, follow the trail and admire the wonderful displays. Collect clues en-route to solve a seasonal puzzle and a chance to win a goodie-packed hamper!

Mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies will be offered to take away between 11am and 3pm. Bring your own travel mug to reduce waste!

If you would like to enjoy the trail, but cannot walk so far, get in touch and we can help!

If you have any questions about the event please contact **Angie on 07584 287058 or Jane on 538016.**  
Alternatively email [bramertonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:bramertonvillagehall@gmail.com)

## Carleton St Peter

As the summer drew to a close we came together to have a wonderful harvest thanksgiving service, which was very well attended.

Thank you to all of those who came and donated to the food bank. Special thanks to all of those who helped decorate the church in true harvest fashion and to Dick Fisher who strimmed the entire churchyard before the event.

We look forward to our carol service on December 19th at 11 am and please join us for a mince pie after the event.

## Claxton

### St Andrew's Church, Claxton

The highlight of the last few weeks for St. Andrew's Church was the Carter family wedding, which saw the church beautifully decorated.

Thanks to a hardworking group of volunteers, a great deal of work has been undertaken in clearing the churchyard. Trees have been pruned, ivy removed and grass and nettles trimmed. Together with the new bench and cycle rack, funded by The Pits Trust, we hope the many visitors who walk through the area will appreciate the much tidier environment. Our attention is now focused on planning for the repair of the thatched roof especially the ridge.

This December there will be a Christmas Tree Trail around the village. Residents are invited to use their artistic skills to create a 'tree' window display or to put a Christmas tree of any type in their garden. We are hoping for some original designs. A trail map will be created showing all the homes taking part. The church will be decorated with trees and a nativity display.

### Claxton and Carleton Village Hall

The Village Hall has seen a steady flow of returning and new hirers. Decorated for a recent wedding reception, (see photo), our newly refurbished hall looked quite spectacular and demonstrated it is suited to all sorts of functions.



It is encouraging to see residents from Claxton and other nearby villages at our Community Café, which takes place between 10 am and 12 noon on the first Wednesday of each month. In October we supported the Macmillan Cancer appeal and were delighted to be able to send £250 to the charity.

The **Social Club is open every Friday** evening and the monthly visiting food vans are proving very popular! Customers can enjoy a drink in the village hall while they are waiting or to accompany their meal.

**On Friday 3rd December** Phat Khao is offering Thai food

**On Friday 17th December** The Bucket List is offering 'dirty' fries with various toppings

**Friday January 14th** will see the return of the very popular Durban Grill

Watch out for Pizza Nights in 2022!

The Village Hall Committee are constantly striving to make the Hall an attractive place to be. We are currently looking to improve the outside of the hall with new notice boards and seating. The village hall website is on its way too which will make it easier for people to see forthcoming events and the facilities the hall can offer.

The last weekend of October saw numerous carved pumpkins outside homes around the village as part of a Jack O Lantern Trail. There were certainly some original and skilled designs!

# Village News

## Kirby Bedon

### Kirby Kids Update

Sadly, we have not been able to have the annual Kirby Kids Reunion for the last 2 years due to the pandemic. A lot has happened since then and there have been many changes.

The Kirby Kids Reunion, held every September, is where we would meet and recall our childhood wartime memories of not just that fateful day in 1944 when an American bomber plane crashed into Kirby Bedon hillsides, but all the happy times growing up and going to school together. Photo albums and other memorabilia were always on view when we met to share our childhood memories.

It's over 20 years ago now since we were lucky to meet the American pilots, Roger and Frank, when they visited us at our reunions, and it was truly wonderful to have them share our memories, stories and laughter. They were survivors when the plane, 'Broad & High' crashed into the hillsides at Kirby Bedon in August 1944. Many of the children from Kirby Bedon, Bramerton and the surrounding villages who grew up during the wartime remembered vividly that terrible event. Some even witnessed it when it happened and often spoke about it.

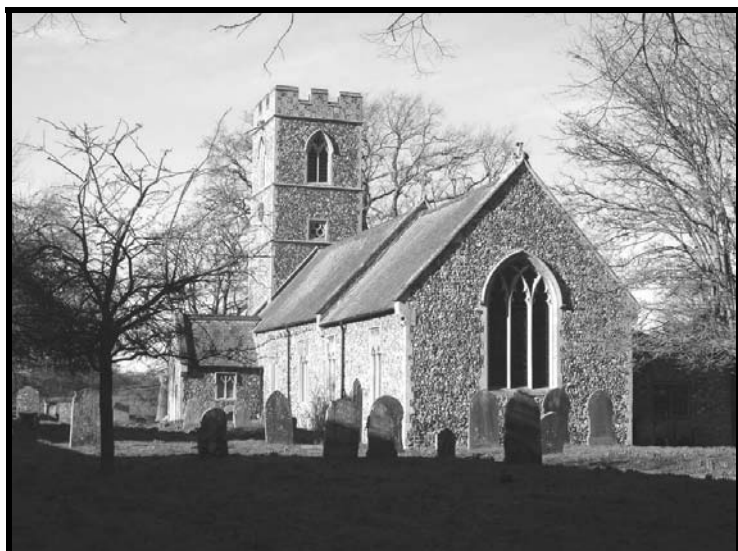
Sadly the two American pilots have now passed away, as have many of our special Kirby Kids, who are all greatly missed. As our numbers have declined, and we are all getting older, it has sadly been decided to no longer hold the reunions, but we can all treasure the friendships made and memories we have gathered over the years.

A huge thank you must go to everyone who came along to our annual reunions and to all the helpers and to those who donated food, raffle and tombola prizes, helping to make those evenings so enjoyable for everyone. We also made lots of money for charities over those years and that is something else we are very proud of.

Finally, special thanks must go to Tricia and David Rix who recently held a 'Reunion' in their garden and raised £300 for EACH. It was wonderful to meet and talk with Tim who gave a talk about the hospice - telling us such a lot that we didn't know - thanks Tim.

With very best wishes to all.

Janet Rush



Kirby Bedon Church courtesy of David Matthews

## Rockland St Mary

### Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 4th to Saturday 11th December

Rockland St Mary Church

In The Barn

On Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th December

Between 10am - 3pm

We will be serving tea, coffee and cakes.

Tombola, Raffle and home made crafts.

All money raised in aid of St Mary's Church,  
Rockland St Mary.

For more information contact Jayne (01508) 538087

### RSM School News

All the staff and children at Rockland St Mary Primary School would like to say a big thank you to everyone who participated or came and supported the fantastic Scarecrow trail.

Also, a big thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed a delicious cake or biscuit at the Community Café. It was a lovely event and enjoyed by so many and has been a fantastic fundraising event for the school. We're already looking forward to next year.

The events were organised by the Friends of Rockland St Mary Primary School, so a huge thank you and well done for all of their continued efforts in supporting the school.

Ben Wilson, Headteacher

### The 'Heroes and Villains' Scarecrow Trail

This October half term saw Rockland St Mary come to life as the village was filled with Scarecrows for the Rockland St Mary 'Heroes and Villains' Scarecrow Trail.



The Incredible Hulk



Percy and hedgehog made by the pupils of Rockland St Mary Primary School.

A massive 50 amazing scarecrows were made by the local community with the winning prize going to the Incredible Hulk, who was seen forcing his way through the hedge, made by Tracey and Paul Johnson of Surlingham Lane.

The Trail was fantastically well supported and raised an amazing £2000 for the Friends of Rockland St Mary School (FORMS).

(Continued on page 11)

# Village News

## Rockland St Mary continued . . .

(Continued from page 10)

Special thanks goes to Winkworth Estate Agents for sponsoring the event and to The New Inn pub for having a whip round and donating the final amount to help us reach our £2000 goal!!!!

We are delighted to announce that FORMS are paying for the whole of Rockland St Mary School to visit the Hippodrome Circus in Great Yarmouth to see their Christmas Spectacular Show. Thank you to everyone who has helped to support us and has helped to make this happen.

There are some very, very excited children, who have had to endure a rather unsettled year of schooling, with lockdowns, and not to mention the home schooling!!! This is a massive occasion for them and such a fantastic opportunity to take the whole school out for a Christmas Treat!

**Claire Artingstall - Chair of The Friends of Rockland St Mary School (FORMS)**

## Surlingham

The fine September days were great for community and family events - a joyful wedding with hearty singing, a double decker bus and even the lychgate blossomed with beautiful flowers - the florist remembered happy visits here as her grandfather once lived at Church Farm.

On Sunday 26th September little Elena Rose was baptised. I remember her great grandfather Brian proudly carrying the British Legion flag at Remembrance Day services; a family with a long village presence.

We also had a visit from a group looking at the geology of round tower churches. It was fascinating to learn about the construction of the church, about the procurement and use of materials, to see fossils embedded, to note the shaping of bricks and stone, graffiti and more. Layers of history witnessed by the building during the medieval period, have been researched and written up by the Glynnys, a wonderful addition to our knowledge.

It has been a time of harvest and the schoolchildren, teachers and helpers walked up to the church for their Harvest Celebration. It is always lovely to see the church filled by our young people. We look forward to greeting more over Christmas.

### Help required . . .

My name is Dick and I live in Surlingham. I entertain at sheltered homes, residential and care, and having recently had a double amputation of my legs I now require someone to drive my van to help me get to my venues. It will include some light lifting. This may only be once or twice a week so maybe would suit someone who is retired.

If you can help and would be interested please call me for more information on 01508 538762/mobile 07817834656.

## Thurton

### Harvest at Thurton 2021

We celebrated Harvest this October with an informal All Age Service which, amongst other things, offered craft for the young and some interaction for everybody. This included searching for certain food items



around the church. Once things had been safely gathered in, the various food items were brought to the altar where they were blessed by Rev. Cate Turner.

There was also a reflection by Iain Turner of why people go to a food bank and what it is like to have to go there. He explained that people can only get help with food parcels if they are referred there by various organisations and that around 50% of people are in work, usually low paid on zero hours contracts. Iain is working with various organisations to help people so they didn't need to use a food bank. He said some parents go without lunch so their children can have something to eat for tea. It is humbling to hear such stories so let us be thankful if we don't need to use a food bank.

We are so grateful to all those who have contributed to the many tonnes of food donated by churches across Norfolk. These include the children, parents and staff at Thurton Primary School as well as many individuals from the parish. Also, a special thank you to all those who work hard all year in keeping the church and churchyard clean and tidy. It was wonderful to see the beautiful floral pedestal (back left of photo) which appeared overnight so thank you to yet another church mouse.

Chris Limbach

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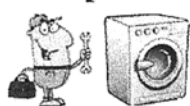
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**Rockland St Mary - The Parish Room** is available for hire. With kitchen facilities it is ideal for social functions, parties, clubs and meetings. Hire rates are extremely reasonable. Please contact Jayne Regan, 01508 538087.

**Silent Night**

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas Parish Church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

Silent  
Night  
Loved  
Carol  
Austria  
First  
Sung  
Stille  
Nacht  
Heilige  
Christmas  
Eve

S	I	I	O	E	V	E	T	E	T	A	L
T	H	I	R	D	G	H	N	L	F	Y	E
T	V	O	G	G	G	I	E	G	A	O	L
I	E	I	A	I	N	E	L	N	T	U	O
P	R	S	N	I	J	U	I	I	H	N	R
B	S	D	I	H	R	O	S	S	E	G	A
S	I	E	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C
M	O	V	T	F	I	T	S	E	I	R	P
C	N	O	S	L	I	R	H	U	P	E	T
I	E	L	L	A	H	R	V	G	A	H	U
V	M	E	L	O	D	Y	S	B	I	N	G
S	S	A	M	N	A	C	H	T	H	N	H

Father	Joseph	Mohr	Young	Priest	Organist
Midnight	Mass	Single	Bing	Version	Third

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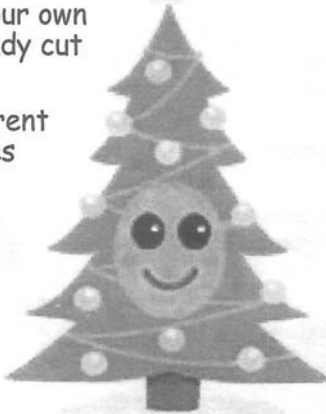
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	5th Dec Advent 2 Purple	12th Dec Advent 3 Rose/Purple	19th Dec Advent 4 Purple	24th Dec Christmas Eve Gold	25th Dec Christmas Day Gold	26th Dec St Stephen Red	2nd Jan Christmas 2 White	9th Jan Baptism of Christ Gold	16th Jan Epiphany 2 White	23rd Jan Epiphany 3 White	30th Jan Epiphany 4 White	6th Feb 4th Before Lent
Ashby			18.00 Carol Service	20.00 First Eucharist of Christmas		10.00 Benefice HC	11.00 MP		11.00 HC		10.00 GROUP B Apton	
Bergh Apton	09.30 HC		18.00 Carol Service PT	16.00 Crib Service	09.30 HC		09.30 HC		09.30 PT	09.30 HC (BCP)	10.00 GROUP HC	09.30 HC
Bramerton		15.00 Carol Service						11.00 Benefice HC			10.00 GROUP B Apton	11.00 MP
Carleton St Peter	11.00 MP		11.00 Carol Service						11.00 Confirmation Benefice HC		10.00 GROUP B Apton	09.30 MP
Claxton	09.30 HC		14.30 Wassail		10.00 Family Service		09.30 MP			09.30 HC	10.00 GROUP B Apton	
Fram. Pigot	08.15 HC (BCP)		16.00 Carol Service		09.30 HC		08.15 HC (BCP)		08.15 HC (BCP)	11.00 HC	10.00 GROUP B Apton	08.15 HC (BCP)
Kirby Bedon			17.00 Carol Service		11.00 HC					11.00 HC	10.00 GROUP B Apton	
Rockland St Mary			15.30 Carol Service	18.00 Crib Service 23.30 Midnight Mass					10.30-Noon Café Church Parish Room		10.00 GROUP B Apton 16.00 Evening Prayer	
Surlingham		10.00 Christingle	16.00 Carol Service		10.00 Family Service					10.00 HC	10.00 GROUP B Apton	
Thurton	11.00 HC		16.00 Carol Service	16.00 Christingle	11.00 HC		11.00 HC	10.00 Benefice HC			10.00 GROUP B Apton	11.00 HC
Yelverton	09.30 PT	10.00 Benefice HC Rededication of Clerestory Windows	18.00 Carol Service	23.30 Midnight Mass	09.30 PT		09.30 PT		09.30 HC	16.00 All 4	10.00 GROUP B Apton	09.30 PT

CODE: HC = Holy Communion; E. Praise = Evening Praise; FC = Family Communion; FW = Family Worship; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer; .PT = Parish Team; VM = Vestry Meeting. A Short service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Yelverton on Thursday 2nd DECEMBER and Thursday 6th JANUARY at 10.30 am.

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: December 2021 & January 2022					
Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel		
05/12/21	Baruch 5.1-9	Philippians 1.3-11	Luke 3.1-6	2nd Sunday of Advent	
12/12/21	Zephaniah 3.14-20	Philippians 4.4-7	Luke 3.7-18	3rd Sunday of Advent	
19/12/21	Micah 5.2-5a	Hebrews 10.5-10	Luke 1.39-45[46-55]	4th Sunday of Advent	
24/12/21	Isaiah 9.2-7	Titus 2.11-14	Luke 2.1-14[15-20]	Christmas Eve	
25/12/21	Isaiah 52.7-10	Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]	John 1.1-14	Christmas Day	
26/12/21	2 Chronicles 24:20-22	Acts 7:51-end	Matthew 10:17-22	St Stephen	
02/01/22	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1: 3-14	John 1: 10-18	Christmas 2	
09/01/22	Isaiah 43.1-7	Acts 8.14-17	Luke 3.15-17,21,22	Baptism of Christ	
16/01/22	Isaiah 62.1-5	1 Corinthians 12.1-11	John 2.1-11	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	
23/01/22	Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10	1 Corinthians 12.12-31a	Luke 4.14-21	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	
30/01/22	Ezekiel 43:27-44:4	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 2.22-40	Epiphany 4	
06/02/22	Isaiah 6.1-8[9-13]	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	Luke 5.1-11	4th Sunday 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.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL OUR  
READERS  
AND BEST  
WISHES  
FOR  
2022


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<b>NEXT ASSEMBLY: SATURDAY JANUARY 29th, BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL, COOKE'S ROAD, NR15 1AA, 9am - 11am (approx)</b>																				