

Church & Village News

Baconsthorpe • Barningham Winter • Edgefield • Hempstead
Matlaske • Plumstead • Saxthorpe with Corpusty

March 2021



Winter Tree - Baconsthorpe Castle
Photograph by Isabel Christophers

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immediate future

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Edgefield Mark Cook 587735
Hempstead Paul Sanders 713217
Matlaske & Barningham Sara Buxton 577207
Plumstead Nick Fulford 577433
Saxthorpe & Corpusty Imogen Waterson 587610

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Baconthorpe <http://baconthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconthorpepc>
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Hempstead <https://hempsteadpc.wixsite.com/hempsteadpc>
Matlaske & Barningham <http://matlaskeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>
Plumstead <https://plumsteadpc.wixsite.com/plumsteadpc>
Saxthorpe & Corpusty <https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com>

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Lay Minister Gill Peat 734226
Lay Minister Judy Rosser 587584
Authorised Worship Assistant Dr Alain Wolf 577292

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Baconthorpe Tessa McCosh 577611
Harry Steel 07711 890360
Barningham Winter Amelia Courtauld 577250
Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 587049
Angela Turner 587292
Hempstead Airlie Inglis (acting) 577440
Matlaske Thomas Courtauld 577250
Duncan Wood (acting) 570293
Plumstead Eleanor Faulkner 577868
Saxthorpe with Corpusty Kevin Beales (acting) 585067
Cathy Stern 587014

GOVERNMENT IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS HAVE CAUSED THE
MAJORITY OF EVENTS TO BE POSTPONED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE
THIS INCLUDES REGULAR EVENTS

Clash Diary 2021

Mar 29 Plumstead PC
May 10 Plumstead Annual Church Mtg
June 26 + 27 Hempstead Open Gardens
Sept 6 Plumstead PC
Dec 6 Plumstead PC

If you are arranging an event please check
with Corinne Youngs that there
is not already an event being held that day
577263 / corinne@avyoungs.com



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Village Contacts for Co-ordinating Help & Support

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Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Andrea Bell, Cathy Stern and Imogen Waterson
01263 587998 covidcommunityteam001@hotmail.com

Foodbank Voucher Distributors

If anyone is in need of food please contact the following who can authorise vouchers for the local Foodbank (we can arrange for individuals to deliver food if necessary):

Revd David Longe 01263 577263 rector@matlaske.org.uk
Michael McMahon 07748 754550 mjmc25@gmail.com
Cathy Stern 01263 587014 cathy.duffy5@yahoo.com
Corinne Youngs 01263 577263 administraor@matlaske.org.uk

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Fri 9.30am-6.00pm

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Church & Village News. Apologies if contributed material is not published due to space constraints. All facts are believed to be correct at the time of going to press.

Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe
577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear All

Writing this letter as the snow thaws and Lent begins, I came across the following prayer:

As the days lengthen and the earth spends longer in the light of day,
grant that I may spend longer in the light of Your presence, O Lord.

May those seeds of your Word, which have been long-buried within me, grow, like everything around us, into love for you.

Grant, Father, that this Lent there may be a springtime in my life. Amen

This prayer for me resonates with this Lent. Perhaps this is because Spring is revealed in the thaw - I have marvelled at the snowdrops and daffodils raising their heads having been buried (and here trampled on following snowball fights and igloo building attempts) for a week or so.

This Lent is going to bring something new as lockdown eases. We will re-discover pleasures that have been frozen during this winter.

I wonder if you like me, have found that even the smallest incidents like a face-to-face chat have taken on a deeper significance, or whether going into a shop has become almost surreal as my eyes delight on things I have not seen for months. For me even the smallest things that used to be 'normal' have become more special: they have become almost sacred. It is as if my eyes have been re-opened to what is around us.

Reflecting on this, I am conscious that all may become 'normal' again, as we slip into the old routine taking things for granted.

The discipline of Lent is about renewing our spiritual life, re-connecting with God and seeking to understand that mysterious, confusing and delightful reality that we are truly loved by the Divine. To perceive that our souls are treasured, and that all around is created in and by love. It can be so hard for us to connect to this, to see through the fog of daily pressures, to perceive the beauty around us and that we too, with all our hang-ups and foibles, are beautiful too.

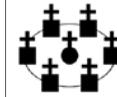
You quip back: "Vicar, easy words to write, but really can you say all this with the tragedy of lockdown and this pandemic?". I hang my head, wishing you would not ask such a question. But I write on, as the message of the Church, of Christ, is one of hope, it is one revealed in Easter as a triumph over death. I repeat that it is mysterious, for it is about our souls, about true beautiful light therein unsullied by all the difficulty: it is about love conquering all.

I pray that your Lenten journey is one of renewed pleasure and delight so the normal becomes sacred and the beauty of the Divine brings hope you and all whom you love.

David



The Holy Trinity by Andrew Rublev (1425)
A Community of Love



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for March

Please see below an outline for the forthcoming services. If service times vary due to COVID 19, an email will be sent on advance. Please do sign-up to the mailing-list by contacting administrator@matlaske.org.uk or directly from the Church & Village Newsletter website:

www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk

7th	Lent III	
7.00pm	Compline	Zoom
14th	Mothering Sunday	
10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service	Edgefield
7.00pm	Compline	Zoom
21st	Lent V - Passion Sunday	
10.15am	Matins	Saxthorpe
7.00pm	Compline	Zoom
28th	Palm Sunday	
10.15am	Meet at playground and process to church	Baconsthorpe
7.00pm	Compline	Zoom
29th	Holy Monday	
7.15pm	Lent Course	Zoom
30th	Holy Tuesday	
7.00pm	Compline with reflection	Matlaske
31st	Holy Wednesday	
7.00pm	Compline with reflection	Hempstead
1st April	Maundy Thursday	
7.00pm	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
2nd	Good Friday	
10.30am	Stations of the Cross walked from St Peter's Corpusty to St Andrew's Saxthorpe	
2.00pm	Good Friday Vigil with reflections	Plumstead
4th	Easter Sunday	
10.30am	Easter Sunday Service	Saxthorpe
Wednesday Eucharists via Zoom 4.30pm 3rd / 10th / 17th / 24th		

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Baconsthorpe

As if total lock down was not bad enough we were then truly locked down by the weather. Day one and the snow was wonderful and the countryside looked so beautiful. As the days wore on the novelty wore off and the aggravation of trying to get about increased - indeed as I write on 18th February our back road to Edgefield is still blocked by a huge drift. But as with everything, out of this came good. As soon as light dawned on the Monday the Baconsthorpe WhatsApp was full of offers of help, getting about in four-wheel drives, clearing paths and generally neighbours looking after one another. Thankfully the snow has gone and the snowdrops and aconites have reappeared and the temperature is definitely more spring like.



Corinne Youngs
577263

Sadly during this time Lily Faulkes has died, a true Baconsthorpe stalwart and our thoughts and prayers go to Brian and her family.

I hope as many of you as possible received last month's newsletter on line. If it wasn't sent to you directly by email, the newsletter can always be read on line: www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk



The Street, Baconsthorpe - Photograph by Norman Allen

Barningham Winter

A belated welcome to Dominic, Sarah, Felix, Scarlet, Poppy and Felicity Brady who have moved into Barningham Rectory. We hope that they will be very happy there.

A new grandson has arrived for the Buxtons at Wells Farm. Congratulations to the parents Joe and Olivia on the arrival of Rudy Philip Thomas Buxton who arrived on a very snowy day in February.

Thank you to all the farmers in and around Barningham who helped keep the roads clear and pull cars out of snow drifts during February. What a cold spell of weather.

I am still very willing to collect tablets etc. from Aldborough surgery for anyone who wants me to.



Sara Buxton
577207

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Edgefield

Village Hall News

January's 200 Club winners were: 1st Marion Thorne (75), 2nd Zach Parsons (28) and 3rd Julie Coe (205). Don't forget to remain optimistic, and, all being well, Edgefest 5 will take place in late July!



Jim Frost
Richard Peaver
587486

Edgefield Open Gardens

We hope to be able to go ahead with Edgefield Open Gardens on the weekend of 19th - 20th June. Several kind people have already agreed to open their gardens, but please get in touch if you would be prepared to take part too. We plan to have a plant stall, book stall, raffle and refreshments. Any donations or offers of help would be much appreciated. Please contact Alison Mawson (587236).

Alison Mawson

Toad Patrol

A reminder that Richard Sear and his team would very much welcome additional volunteers to help save our amphibians this spring. Last year the toad patrols successfully rescued over 650 toads, newts and frogs from the danger of the road and lane to the safety of the pond. The migration normally continues into March, from dusk until 9 p.m. There will be a rota, so volunteers are normally only required two or three evenings a week. If you are interested, please contact him on richard.sear@mac.com / 01263 587674.

Richard Sear



Hempstead

200 Club

£50 D Matthews, £25 Ros Hart, £25 S Timms, £5 W Mack, J Sanders and P Tomlinson



Diana Spalton
711117

There is not much to report this time. Just a reminder that the TOAD PATROL will soon be starting. Also I have been told that it is quite easy to report potholes to the Highways Department. of the Norfolk County Council on line.

In the light of current events, it would be helpful to use email as a medium to quickly contact as many people in Hempstead as possible with alerts to village news and relevant village website updates as they happen. Therefore, if anyone would like their name added to the email list, please advise via the email link on the Hempstead website:

www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk

or by emailing Jonathan Neville directly: jneville@hempstead-norfolk.co.uk

Matlaske

100 Club

£25 John Rounce, £10 Sara Longe, £ 5 Brian Gough

Rubbish

After the February's online Newsletter I had an e-mail from one of our residents. When out walking, as a family they noticed a lot of rubbish had been left about, so they now take a bin bag out with them and pick up bits of rubbish. In the first week alone they filled 5 bin bags! Whilst they feel they have broken the back of this, it would be great if others followed their example. In their words "...small things like this can make such a difference to local wildlife and reminds us all to look after our local area and take pride in our surroundings". Such a wonderful thing they have been doing. Thank you to this family.

Vera Norman 1926 – 2021



Vera was born in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, in 1926. During the times of depression and lack of work, situations were difficult, being "out on the street" in those days meant exactly that, belongings in a pram, and walking the streets. These memories would stick with her throughout her life.

Before volunteering for the WAAF in 1946, she worked as a seamstress at a company in Nuneaton named Hart and Levey, sewing battledress for the Army. She once told me that the material coming into the factory was full of fleas. Once in the WAAF, Vera trained and qualified as a parachute packer, being based at St Athan in Wales and then at Upper Heyford.

Some years ago after visiting her grandson in Oxfordshire, we managed to get alongside the main part of what still remains at Heyford and to Vera's absolute pleasure she could still identify many of the buildings, including the parachute packing hall.

After working in the family newspaper business, Vera and husband Ted decided to move to Norfolk. Finding the village of Matlaske and the then for sale Sub-Post Office as their ideal they moved in on January 4th, 1961.



Marion Shepherd
577521

Vera enjoyed being part of the village life (in the days of a village hall, at that time in the old mess hall in the park and later at the vacant School.) She was at one time a serving Church Warden.

I don't think Mum missed a fête right up until maybe two years ago.

In later years, after selling the Post Office and house, Vera and Ted moved into the bungalow belonging to Vera's mother-in-law. After many happy years living in a house that "was hers" (bearing in mind her early life in insecure accommodation) it proved a difficult move to live in someone's house again.

Vera enjoyed those years more than she expected, holidaying, almost solely in Malta, where she not only developed friendships made when Ted was based there in the war, but making new friends with whom she remained in constant touch. Ted died in 2016 and although Vera showed a happy face most of the time she was heart-broken.

Vera's health began to deteriorate until in early 2020 she was admitted to hospital in March.

Unfortunately, her well-being and care came to a head in July 2020, when increasing dementia necessitated moving to a Nursing Home at Ingham. She passed away peacefully on 12th February 2021.

Jeremy Norman

Plumstead

Lockdown, 7 inches of snow and temperatures of -9 threw most of us even further into hibernation last week and as I write this it is now almost 20 degrees warmer with the promise of spring around the corner. This is the joy of a temperate climate and the beautiful seasons we experience. I'm aware that when you read this the snow will likely feel in the distant past, but in years gone by memories of Plumstead residents give a small snapshot of how once the weather takes hold things don't change very much. Cars need to be dug out of snow drifts. Children and their parents go tobogganing - Eileen remembers taking her boys in the early 70s to Oakhills with nothing so fancy as a toboggan but using plastic bags and tin trays. However, the following story gives a glimpse of history in our village. In 1945 Cherry Tree Road was in need of clearing. The DPs (Displaced Persons) who were living in the old POW camp in the Barningham Estate Yard dressed in their mandatory black coats and hats with a distinguishing coloured patch on the back, were pulled into duty. With spades, they dug one side of the road clear piling the snow up on the other side. Finally the village was passable - the young lads of Plumstead thought it an "idea" to dig tunnels in the piled up snow - it gave them plenty of fun and kept them occupied for hours. What would today's Health and Safety have made of that?

Church News

The APCM – Annual PCC meeting will take place on Zoom on Tuesday 2nd March at 4.30pm. It is open to all and if anyone would like to join please contact David 577252 or Eleanor 577868 for details.

We have reluctantly decided that our Daffodil Day planned for March 14th is to be postponed. We shall review it again before the April edition so look out for details. We do hope to hold another Pumpkin & Dahlia event in the Autumn so as the time for buying seeds and tubers is upon us remember your contributions would be more than welcome.



Mary Lintott
577718

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Offshore wind farms and their impact on us

The Parish Council and Alison Shaw from Oulton PC met our MP Duncan Baker on 11 February to find out what support he could give the Parish to promote a co-ordinated offshore transmission network, referred to as the OTN [which succeeds the idea of an offshore ring main]. If the planning process for the projects that are due to dig multiple trenches through our and neighbouring parishes were to commence now, government policy would prompt a co-ordinated approach that would probably take the cables by routes that would not directly affect us, but the concern is that the planning process is so advanced that it will now be difficult to make that change.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

The PC had 3 questions:

1. Could the current projects become pathfinder projects for the proposed OTN?

If that is not possible:

2. How could our MP help the various different projects to work together so that we were not subjected to ever increasing disruption caused by multiple trench digging to install cables?

3. What further amelioration might be possible?

Mr Baker assured the PC that he has been working with other East Anglian MPs to produce a White Paper promoting an OTN and that he hoped a Bill would be in the next Queen's Speech. He also confirmed that he would continue to encourage the many wind farm companies to work together, to include investigating incentives to achieve this.

The PC will meet with Mr. Baker again in 3 months' time.

COVID Support Group

The over 70s are very pleased to have received their vaccinations! The COVID support group has not been very busy but the phone number remains open for support: 01263 587610

Village Shop

We are all extremely grateful for the village shop which has remained open throughout the severe weather.

Fuel Boxes

Emily Southgate is a talented young woman from Corpusty. Her speciality is pastry cookery. She decided to take this up as a career and when she left college was good enough to get a job as a pastry chef at the Blakeney Hotel. As with so many people, the Covid pandemic meant that she was furloughed. She has now set up a charity called FUEL and the Corpusty and Saxthorpe PC has decided to use some of the proceeds from the bottle bank to support it with a donation.

The aim of this charity – which is called FUEL – is to provide weekly boxes of food ingredients alongside simple laminated recipe cards to enable children to cook nutritious meals and snacks at home during this time of lockdown (and hopefully beyond). The idea is to fuel both bodies and minds. The meals provide enough food for a family of 4 people or as snacks/starters for 6 plus people. The aim is to engage children in the enjoyment of cooking and to provide activities for their learning which are not just internet based. FUEL has piloted this approach with 12 families

from Corpusty Primary School and have had really positive feedback. Parents have sent photos in of their children making the meals and of course eating them! They have commented on the excitement of receiving the box and the way it can engage different family members to be involved.'

The PC thinks this is an excellent use of local funds to support a creative approach to furlough by an enterprising young woman from the community who also wants to do a good and generous thing by setting up a form of charitable giving which could even spread beyond these villages.

Well done, Emily.

If you would like to add to the Parish Council's contribution on all our behalves by offering your personal support, you can do so at the Just Giving website:

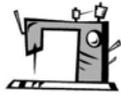
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Baconsthorpe Castle in the Snow - Photograph by Isabel Christophers

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Our Local Cinema: The Regal, Holt (1937 – 2004)

Recollections by Arthur Pentney



Most small Norfolk towns had at least one cinema, and our local one situated down Peacock Lane was typical of the type. Most sprang up in the picture house boom of the 1930s, when the 'talkies' first came out, and the local pub was their only real competition.

The late 1930s, 40s and much of the 50s saw these small cinemas thrive, but the coming of television to our villages mainly in the late 1950s signalled a rapid decline both in their use and profitability.

Although I did visit the occasional evening show, the happiest memory for me will always be the kids' club Saturday afternoon feature. For sixpence (2 and a half new pence) we were entertained to a serial, a cowboy film and another of a comic nature. The cowboy films were always predictable: baddies versus goodies, the latter usually turning up on horseback with guns blazing right at the end, accompanied by a great deal of cheering from the young audience. If the comic feature happened to be *The Three Stooges*, the place erupted, the slapstick activities of these jokers greatly appealing to us younger viewers.

Some evening films I recall seeing are *Lullaby of Broadway*, *Oklahoma*, *Singing in the Rain* and *The Ship that Died of Shame*. Another (1954) was *Conflict of Wings*, when the cinema was absolutely chock full of patrons due to its local content. Starring Michael Gregson and Muriel Pavlow, it was about the RAF versus the local bird sanctuary, and included shots of Cley windmill and Ludham village. Despite the appalling 'Norfolk' accents, this film is worth a look and often features on the 'Talking Pictures' TV channel.

The main proprietor in charge of the Holt cinema that I recall was a Mr B Pert, who was not slow in chucking out any unruly kid that had misbehaved, and without giving him (yes, it was always a boy!) any refund, either. Mr Pert was later to run a small shop in Bull Street after the cinema's closure.

The 1960s were tough times for our local picture houses. Attendance fell, and many were converted into bingo halls or clubs of some kind. The one at Holt was run by the brothers Lee for a time, then later as Virgo's snooker club, but it was never really successful long term. The photo taken by me in 2004 shows a sad building soon to be demolished and redeveloped for housing as Regal Court. Happy memories do remain for many from that golden age when 'going to the pictures' really meant something special.

Meet the Neighbours

Jonathan Neville – Hempstead



Jonathan was brought up at Itteringham Mill, his parents ran it as guest house, tea rooms and a book shop. He attended Itteringham Primary School where he was the first child in seven years to pass the eleven plus! From there he went to boarding school in Saffron Walden. His headmaster wanted him to stay on for A-levels and then go to university but Jonathan didn't follow that path, he knew he didn't want to spend years at university but wanted to make his own way in life.

Having left school at sixteen Jonathan did a variety of jobs including signing the Official Secrets act to work with the scientific staff at the Warren Springs Laboratories in Stevenage and then by way of contrast became a long distance lorry driver.

In the 1970s Jonathan started working in the mailing industry - initially for Clive Brockdorff (late of Hempstead Vicarage). One of the most notable events of this job involved moving a whole factory operation from Reading to Norwich - moving a factory 170 miles was no mean feat. In the 1980's Jonathan went out on his own launching Polyprint, a company of flexographic printers and converters (printing and making bags for magazines and latterly the food industry). Polyprint was sold in 2017 and Jonathan retired.

As a child he was always interested in wildlife and collected Brooke Bond Tea cards - and still has the whole set of African Wildlife. He knew each and every card intimately and longed to see the animals and birds in their natural habitats. This became a reality in the 1990s and it was even better than he had imagined when looking at the Brooke Bond Tea cards. He now visits Africa every year and has many thousands of photographs, some of which can be viewed at www.digitalwild.co.uk.

Living at Itteringham Mill gave Jonathan an interest in mills and in the 1970's the plan was to write a book on mills. By 2003 the book had instead turned into a website where now there are over 1,200 Norfolk watermills and windmills recorded at www.norfolkmills.co.uk.

Jonathan clearly likes discovering and researching things. His latest project is the history of Hempstead, where he has lived for the last twelve years. It is not unusual for me to find an email from Jonathan with a photo attached with a note "This is not Hempstead, is it Baconsthorpe?". To see more about Hempstead please visit www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk



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Karen Homeffer-Genter www.karenhg.com Art by Paulo Hansen www.chart-magic.com

The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



Here's to March! When winter should start heading out the door and spring starts heading in, although I am saying that somewhat tentatively after the large amount of snow we have just seen the back of in February, fingers and toes crossed then! So with that in mind and as long as we don't get a repeat of the Beast from the East...it's time to hopefully get out in the garden! First up is setting seeds in pots and trays for planting out later in the year, make sure you choose a warm light area, if you haven't already set your tomatoes now is the time, cucumbers also need to get going in March too. Do keep a can of water in your greenhouse for your seedlings as it helps to keep the chill off them.

Also if the weather is kind enough you can get early potatoes started in the veg patch and onion sets too, it's always a good idea to put some sort of twigs interlaced over your onion sets until they have properly got going, otherwise birds seem to find their tips irresistible and you will be re setting your onions constantly! Another good tip is to use cloches to warm the soil up prior to setting seeds directly outside, as you want your seedlings to thrive not struggle, you want all their energy to go into making good strong plants.

Moving on to the cutting garden by the end of the month it should be OK to plant out dahlia tubers either new ones or any you have overwintered, do check over any you have overwintered for rot or damage. Set the dahlias about 10cm deep and keep an eye on any emerging shoots and protect them with either straw or fleece from frost.

Take the time this month to cut down any dogwood or willows that have worked hard over winter to cheer the garden up, they will need pruning hard to ensure they put on good fresh growth.

If rhubarb is a favourite in your household like ours, do make sure you cover your rhubarb to help force an earlier crop. Last year we rediscovered rhubarb and vanilla jam which is an absolute match made in heaven!

This month's question is from P Jenson who asks when should the first cut of the lawn be? All being well we look to give the lawn a tidy-up after the winter at the end of the month, that's obviously weather dependent! It's also best to start with the mower set high for the first cut. Then drop it for the next cut the following week. Hope that helps!

Do keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet as ever the most interesting question will be published next month....keep safe!

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