



ELEVEN SAYS

DECEMBER
2022 /
JANUARY
2023

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP OF CHURCHES COVERING 11 PARISHES

ISSUE 298

The Kings' Speeches

This year marks 90 years since the first royal broadcast on Christmas Day. It would have been the 100th year except that when Lord Reith approached King George V in 1922, the King felt that the radio was purely for entertainment and so it wouldn't be appropriate for him to make a speech. Radio was still in its early days then, but 10 years later, he visited the BBC, learned more about it and was persuaded to make a broadcast. The speech was written for the King by Rudyard Kipling and delivered live from Sandringham on Christmas Day. 3pm was chosen as a time, because it was thought to be the most suitable for majority of the then Empire and Commonwealth to hear his words.

Making it happen involved putting in place a network of technical wizardry and on the day the challenges of trying to go live from a relatively remote location, meant the speech was delivered slightly late, but in the end, all went smoothly and the King's speech was heard across the world. If you visit Sandringham today, you can still see the rooms that were converted into a studio to allow the broadcast to take place all those years ago.

The tradition of a Christmas speech was firmly established by the Queen's father George VI, who famously addressed his people on the eve of war in 1939 using the Minnie Haskins poem beginning:

*'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

From then on, the broadcasts have taken place every year through time of war and of peace. The Queen took over from her father when she came to the throne in 1952, first on the radio and then, in 1957 also on the television and spoke every year.

For many people it has become part of the Christmas ritual, along with turkey and crackers. The image of families in party hats, gathering around the television to hear the Queen has been a regular scene in sit coms and soap operas for as long as I can remember. Yet for so many, the speech was a punctuation mark in the day, a pause in the festivities to listen and reflect and to remind ourselves of the world beyond our windows.

The Queen wrote her own scripts although she often had support from her husband Prince Philip and latterly her staff. She would speak about world events, events in her own life and almost always about her faith and how it had sustained her during the year that had passed. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, recalled being sent the text for approval, but saying that as she was one of the best speakers on faith in the church, he rarely, if ever, had anything to add.

Talking about her faith was something she never shied away from and something which she did with such sincerity and sensitivity that those of other faiths found warmth in her words, not offence.



This year, for the first time in 70 years, we will again have a King's speech. Only the privileged few will be able to remember the last one, so it will be something of a novelty for many people. Although the King has been a familiar figure to us for many years as the Prince of Wales, I am not really sure I feel I know much about him.

In his first address after the Queen had died, it was comforting to hear his promise to maintain the traditions and approach of his mother, but I am sure he will also want to put his own stamp on the institution of the Monarchy. In order to keep it relevant in the 21st century, it is almost certain that we will see some changes and reform. Undoubtedly things will come and go, but I hope the Christmas speech isn't one of the casualties and I hope he feels able to tell us something about the importance of faith in his life too.

But Charles III isn't the only king we will hear from this Christmas. Christians often refer to Jesus as the King or even the 'King of Kings', the one above all others. The angel who visited Mary to announce that she would be the mother of the Christ child talked of his 'kingdom' and there are so many references to his kingship in our hymns and reading. We sing 'Crown him with many crowns', and of Jesus as 'The King of Love' because his words, his speeches, were all of love. He wasn't a king living in a golden palace, with beautiful robes, noble friends and servants, Jesus sought out those on the edges of society, the poor, the sick, the weak and those who others shunned.

Yet in all that darkness his words were always that we should love and care for each other. He called for us to be generous to others and to put their needs before our own. It is Jesus's voice that runs through the Christmas messages of peace and goodwill that will fill our Christmas cards and greetings and I hope that above all the celebrations, when we hear our new King's speech we might also pause in our festivities to hear the voice of the one whose birth marked the start of it all 2000 years ago.

Revd Cate Turner

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline date for all contributions for Eleven Says has been moved forward to the 5th of the relevant months. From 2023 onwards deadlines will be 5th January, 5th March, 5th May, 5th July, 5th September and 5th November.

The email address is also changing: elevensays22@gmail.com

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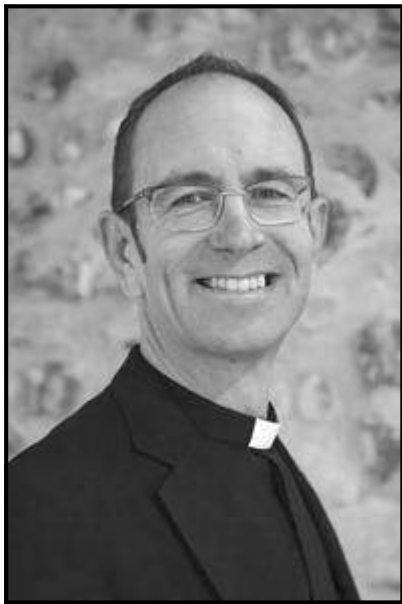
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New Archdeacon of Norwich



On Saturday 1st October, Revd Canon Keith James was installed as the Archdeacon of Norwich at Norwich Cathedral. The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher, led the service which was open to everyone.

The new Archdeacon of Norwich, Revd Canon Keith James was born in New Zealand but his childhood was spent in the North West of England.

He studied at Leeds University and has served in Lincoln and Worcester dioceses in parish ministry in rural and urban settings. He moved to Norwich in 2015 to be the Continuing Ministerial Development Officer for the Diocese and Residentiary Canon of the Cathedral. In 2020, his Diocesan role changed to become Director of Ministry and in March 2022 he became Interim Archdeacon of Norwich in addition to this.

Revd Keith is married to Linda; a special needs teacher, and they have three adult children. He enjoys tea, travel and live sport, especially following the England cricket team and the mighty Burnley Football Club.

Keith divides his time between Norwich Cathedral and the Diocese, resourcing those in licensed ministry so that their ministries can flourish. This means that he works to support them with the practicalities of ministry and the inner demands of a life that are particular to clergy, whilst also making sure that they are aware of developments in thinking about ministry, mission and theology. The role involves sharing prayer and worshipping at the Cathedral. Keith is at Morning Prayer most days and often at Sunday services, as well as sharing in leading the worship and preaching.



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SUNDAY 4th December 2022



Theme: "A Journey Carrying Gifts"

Drop in any time between
10.30am - 12.00 noon
Future date - tbc

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

***** Café Church All Welcome *****

Wednesday Fellowship

A Meeting for all people in the Bramerton Group and beyond! A Meeting on the second Wednesday of the month 2-4pm at Alington and Yelverton Village Hall with Christian and secular speakers followed by Tea cake and fellowship. All welcome.

December 14th - Nativity sets with Georgette Vale

January 11th - Being An Author by Sheri Winn

February 8th - What My Dad Did In The War by Bob Kerry

For more information please contact Rev. Cate Turner
498494 or Pat Barter 493570



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

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

New members are always given a warm welcome.

Ferry House, Surlingham

Wednesday: Dec 7th, Jan 11th, Feb 1st
(every month, normally 1st Wednesday but please note: 2nd Wednesday in January)
Any time between 12 noon and 2 pm

Our Christmas Gathering Wednesday 7th December

Sonia has prepared a 'specials' menu for us to say thank you for all our support throughout the year.



- Christmas Baguette with chips: vegetarian option or turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce £5.95
- Game Pie or Vegetarian Nut Roast with new potatoes and vegetables £11.95
- Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce £4.95

Any questions, please contact David Fairbourn on
01508 538437 or email surlingham.midday.mardle@gmail.com

✝ Rockland St Mary Benefice Update

Mary and Joseph come to South Norfolk! I've just pulled a black shoulder bag out of the study cupboard. Inside are the small wooden figures of Mary and Joseph, their donkey and of course Jesus in the manger. They have been with us since 2007 and are about to begin a new journey through Advent and into the New Year, travelling around our villages, attending events, services, or simply standing on people's mantelpieces while life goes on around them. This will be their first journey since they came to Rockland and they are looking forward to fresh adventures here!

Can you help? If you can, you'll discover that they are delightful guests, less than 20cm tall. You can read about all their travels so far in their journal and you're welcome to add in your message or pictures about their time with you. If you would like them to visit for a night or two, please contact Helen or Nick (01508 538014) and we will add your name to the list.

These little figures remind us that we too are invited to become part of this year's Christmas story. You are warmly welcomed to join us in activities in our churches and the Barn. As we welcome Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child to our homes, may we be open to all he wishes to give us too.

Wishing you a holy Advent and a happy and blessed Christmas,

Revd Nick and Revd Helen Garrard

Warm Welcome Mondays at the Barn, 10am-5pm. We hope by now that you may have experienced the warm atmosphere, drinks, snacks and lunches that began last month. If not, they're happening every Monday until December 19th, when we have our Christmas lunch! Please see the notice below for more details. We're reviewing how much it's being used during the month, and if it looks as if it would be valued throughout the Winter, Warm Welcome Mondays will begin again on January 7th until March. Watch out for posters and news on parish websites for updates.

Still at the Barn. Beginning on November 30th, a time of quiet reflection, stillness, relaxation and exploring seasonal themes led by Helen (please see article for further details). After Christmas, Still at the Barn moves from Wednesday evenings to Sunday afternoons.

❖ Carols, Christingles, Cribs and Christmas services.

Please look out for details on the back page of this issue, village websites, Rockland Churches FB page, posters and church noticeboards.

❖ Christmas Communion at home.

If you or someone you know is unable to come to church through illness or mobility issues and would like to receive communion during the Christmas period, Helen and I would be happy to bring you communion at home. Please contact us on 01603 270769 for further information.

A big thank you....

...to everyone who supported our Harvest Festivals and Supper in the Barn. A large amount of food and £110 was donated to Norwich Food Bank.

With seasons' greetings,

Revd Nick and Revd Helen Garrard

✝ Thurton Benefice Update

Christmas Services: A full list of services over the Christmas period can be found on the separate advert in this edition of Eleven Says. All are warmly invited to join us at the various services over the Christmas Season.

Service Times: For various reasons the rota of services will be changing in the Thurton Benefice in the coming months. Please ensure that you check the rota on the back cover of each edition of Eleven Says to be certain where and when services will be taking place each week.

Sabbatical: I will be taking a Sabbatical in 2023. This is traditionally a period away from parish ministry to encourage rest and reflection and I will be away from parish duties from Ash Wednesday (22nd February) until Ascension Day (18th May). During this period, Revd Cate will be responsible for all parish and clergy matters and she can be contacted on the number below or at the email address on the back cover of this magazine.

Home visits and Home Communions: 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.

Revd Chris Ellis: 01508 484174

Revd Cate Turner: 01508 498494

Still at The Barn

Have you ever longed to be still?
To take time to reflect and
contemplate and grow in peace and
joy and love.

Advent provides a perfect season for this. Amidst the business and excitement of Christmas preparations it can be important to remember that we can be ready in our hearts as well as our homes.

I am delighted to invite you to join me in being Still at The Barn. You are welcome to come and relax; enjoy music and light, gentle conversation and guided meditation. There will be the opportunity to make a response in word or art or simply by benefitting from a warm and still environment. Week by week we will move through the themes of angels and stars, the animals at the manger, Mary and Joseph and light and dark in a unique and beautiful shared journey.

Come alone or come with friends or family and you can be assured of a warm welcome and respectful space.

**Still at The Barn, The Barn, Rockland Rectory,
Rectory Lane, Rockland St Mary NR14 7EY**

**November 30th, December 7th, 14th, 21st, 7.30-9pm in
The Barn or via zoom**

For further details from the Revd Helen Garrard
rocklandrev@aol.com or 07920528282

Via zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81665462126?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81665462126?pwd=MU0rUFp2RjlhcWZNC2F3VWIPT21Tdz09)
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From the Registers

BAPTISMS

18/09/22 Coby Michael Proudlove-Burton Framingham Pigot

MARRIAGES

16/09/22 Jason KING and Jennifer WHYBROW Framingham Pigot
17/09/22 Marcus EASTER and Poppy CLARK Framingham Pigot

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

28/09/22 Richard CROSSKILL (86) Bramerton
30/09/22 Gordon Newson (88) Thurton
(Interment of ashes)
17/10/22 Marjorie HARVEY (86) Yelverton
30/10/22 Robert (Bob) PATTERSON (79) Rockland St Mary
(Interment of ashes)

Christmas Services in the Bramerton Group of Churches

Carol Services

December 11th

Bramerton 3.30
Kirby Bedon 17.00
Surlingham 16.00

December 17th - Saturday

Rockland St Mary 17.00

December 18th

Ashby St Mary 18.00
Bergh Apton 18.30
Carleton St Peter 11.00
Claxton 14.00 Wassail
Framingham Pigot 18.00
Thurton 11.00
Yelverton 18.00

Christingle Service

December 23rd

All are welcome. Please bring the children
Thurton 16.00



Crib Services - December 24th

Bergh Apton 16.00
Rockland St Mary 18.00

December 24th - Christmas Eve

Thurton 20.00 - First Mass of Christmas

Midnight Mass

Bergh Apton 23.30
Rockland St Mary 23.30

Christmas Day

Ashby St Mary HC 11.00
Bramerton HC 09.30
Claxton FS 10.00
Framingham Pigot HC 09.30
Kirby Bedon HC 11.00
Surlingham FS 10.00
Yelverton HC 09.30



Framingham Pigot Wedding

Jennifer WHYBROW and Jason KING were married at the beautiful St Andrew's Church in Framingham Pigot on 16th September 2022.

It was a beautiful day even though it rained. We were able to publicly commit our lives in marriage to our Lord God. We would like to especially thank Rev Cate for the most amazing and personal service.

We have been blessed immensely by the love and fellowship of the church and plan to continue to attend the services regularly. Thank you all so very much for welcoming us into the church and making our wedding day so incredibly special.

Photo: Rebecca Woods



St Andrew's Church, Framingham Pigot

CAROL SERVICE, Sunday 18th December at 6pm

Come and join us and The Framingham Earl Singers for a service of lessons and carols in our beautiful Victorian Church

Festive refreshments after the service



St. Michael's Church, Langley

Christmas Service of Light

Thursday 15th December at 6.30pm

All Welcome

(Be part of the REAL Spirit of Christmas)

Mince pies and Mulled Wine served after the Service

Parking in the field adjacent to the Church



Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 3rd to Sunday 18th December
Rockland St Mary Church

In The Barn

On Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th December
Between 10am - 4pm
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.

Contact Jayne Regan (01508 538087)



TWIG - The Women's Independent Group

Nearly 15 years ago Bergh Apton, Alington and Yelverton Independent Women's Group was formed after deciding to break from The Women's Institute. Baytwig and more recently TWIG (the bay leaf has been retained on the programme as a reminder of the original title) was a thriving group of 40 members keeping closely to the format of previous WI meetings with a speaker, refreshments and concluding with general business pertaining to the group.

Over the years TWIG welcomed men to many of their meetings and also other social events. The year was punctuated by social gatherings - **Spring** meant a crab supper, **Summer** brought a garden meeting and trips to the theatre at Southwold, **Autumn** was a themed meeting with a meal, **Winter** offered a lunch and a trip to the Theatre Royal in Norwich. Alongside the monthly meetings ran a Scrabble club, Craft club and a walking group.

Since the pandemic and lockdowns, it has been harder to keep TWIG going as membership has dwindled, speakers harder to find and all costs have risen. The committee (several of whom have been members since WI days) have decided that they can no longer carry on and are looking for new people to replace them. It would be sad to see such a proud group of independent women close, so this is an appeal for new people to come forward.

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Alington Village Hall.

December 7th - Lynton Johnson - Christmas food and flowers

January 4th, 2023 - Meeting to discuss the future of TWIG

Time to move on from Old Mill and Millgates Medical Practice

After 15 years working as a Phlebotomist at Old Mill and Millgates Medical Practice I have decided it's time to move on and try something new. I couldn't leave though without saying a big thank you to all the wonderful people I have met and come to know throughout my time at the practice.

My new role will continue to see me working in Norfolk so I'm sure I will see some of you around in due course. In the meantime, bye for now, take care and hope to see you again soon.

Kind regards

Elizabeth (Watts)

Poringland Community Cinema at Poringland Community Centre

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

Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm.

Please wear a mask when moving around the centre

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER

Downton Abbey - A New Era (PG)

Drama/Romance

Stars Hugh Bonneville and Maggie Smith

Loddon Flower club



Tuesday 6th December - Magical Musical Christmas with David Wright.

This is an open meeting with stalls, tombola, seasonal refreshments, raffles for the

arrangements and a Christmas hamper. This meeting will be held at St John's Church, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB. Doors open at 6-15pm for a 7pm start.

Visitors £12, members £6.

Saturday 10th December - Christmas Workshop to make a swag. Held at the Lecture Hall, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB, from 1pm to 4pm. £10 with seasonal refreshments. A list of items you will need to bring is available from our Chairman.

Friday 20th January - New Year Lunch at the White Horse, Chedgrave.

Contact Tricia Godfrey (Chairman) on 01508-480522, tricia646@aol.com or Alex Pinder (Secretary), 01508 493869, nnark@aol.com.

We are available to arrange flowers for family occasions. Our website is www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk.

Loddon WEA - Spring 2023

Eerie East Anglia - Local Tales of Weirdness!

We are delighted to be able to offer a full term's course for Spring 2023 starting on **16th January**. The 7 week course on **Eerie East Anglia - local tales of Weirdness**, will be held by Nigel Herwin who will explore and try to explain some of the region's most bizarre mysteries.

The lectures will last for 2 hours, starting at 2.00 pm in The Jubilee Hall, George Lane, Loddon, NR14 6NB. The cost for the course will be £56.00 and bookings can be made using the WEA Student Services, phone number 0300 303 3464 or online at enrolonline.wea.org.uk. Remissions are available for those receiving certain benefits.

For further details, please contact Alison on 01508 521976 or Sharon on 01508 520386.

Poringland and District WEA - Adult Learning Within Reach. Spring Term 2023

"Hooray for Hollywood" given by Nigel Herwin

This course explores the history of the American film industry from 1900 to 1960, examining the rise and fall of the studio system and how it created "more stars than there are in heaven!"

It starts on **Thursday 19th January** at 10.30 am at the Poringland Community Centre, Overton's Way, Poringland, NR14 7WB

The course comprises 7 sessions of two hours each, including a short break for tea/coffee and biscuits. The cost is £56 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. C2229198.

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

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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton



FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Christmas Quiz Night

on Saturday 10th December 2022
at Alpington and Yelverton Village Hall

Start time 7.30 p.m.
(Doors open 7.00 p.m.)

£6.00 per person. Tables of up to 6 people
(to book, contact Mary Fewster 01508 492059)

Bring your own drinks and food
Coffee and tea available at the break
Raffle

ALPINGTON & YELVERTON HISTORY SOCIETY
alpingtonandyelvertonhistorysociety.wordpress.com

Alpington & Yelverton Village Hall,
Church Road, Alpington, NR14 7NU

Season's Greetings from the Society

Meetings begin again on
TUESDAY 28th MARCH 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

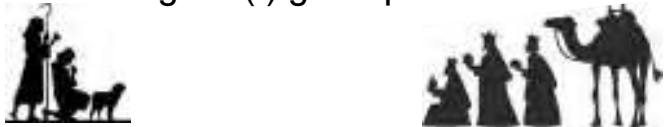
Details will be in the Eleven Says
and on the website.

Bergh Apton

Crib Service Bergh Apton Church Christmas Eve at 4 pm

Come along to take part in the retelling of the wonderful Christmas Story.

For Children of All Ages - toddlers to great(!) grandparents



Bergh Apton & District Society

Bergh Apton village hall, Cooke's Road,
Bergh Apton, Norwich, NR15 1AA

11 January - A social evening with a showing of films of Norfolk, accompanied by a light cheese and wine buffet. £5 pp. We will have our usual Raffle.

8th February - Royal Coronations and Celebrations in Norwich in the first half of the 20th Century. Speaker Phyllida Scrivens

Meetings begin at 7.30 pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits are served. Raffle. Admission £4 pp

A Christmas Carol - Ashley Ramsden

This promises to be a really Grand Finale for Bergh Apton's year of celebrating HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee.

Do join us for a masterful telling by Ashley Ramsden of Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol'. Ashley is returning to Bergh Apton following his much enjoyed Tistou the Boy with the Green Thumbs last May.

Places are limited as before, so please book early to be sure of tickets for this very special evening.



BERGH APTON JUBILEE FESTIVAL

Charles Dickens
A Christmas Carol
as performed by
ASHLEY RAMSDEN

MASTER STORY-TELLER,
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in Dickens' masterpiece.
Suitable for children over 8.
Dress warmly!

Come and be captivated!

Sat 3rd December 2022, 6.45pm

At Bergh Apton Church NR15 1BX
Parking & Refreshments

TICKETS: Adults £14, children 8-15 £7
Via <http://berghapton.org.uk/events/>
or 01508 558440

Bramerton

News from St Peter's Church

Chris Hawes

35 years ago, Chris Hawes and his family came to live in Bramerton and started to attend St Peter's Church. In 1990 Chris was elected as a member of the PCC and two years later he took on churchwarden's responsibilities, which he carried out conscientiously for almost all of the 30 years since then.

He became the face welcoming you into church and he was keen to make services more interesting. Both Chris and Brenda, his wife, enjoyed poetry and this was introduced in special services to good effect. A poetry evening was organized by Brenda in Church and there were fund raising barbecues at Squirrels Drift and harvest lunches after the Harvest festival services.

During his time the Church has been well maintained. The interior of the Church has been redecorated, the organ refurbished, the dampness in the vestry has been reduced, the vestry renovated, and an electric motor now winds the clock. Outside the gutters on the south side of the Church have been replaced, the lychgate has been rethatched and a battle has been fought to keep the elderly slate roof watertight. When the diocese sold a nearby property the opportunity was taken to extend the Church car park which has made the church more accessible.

Chris introduced the book of remembrance and the carved wooden holders for gift aid envelopes, made by Chris Postle, which are in the pews at St Peter's Church.

Chris served on the Bramerton Group Council including as Secretary for some years and arranged the men's breakfast meetings and their speakers. He was also chair of the Bramerton Society.

The photo shows Chris hosting one of the very popular annual Harvest Lunches, held in Bramerton village hall for many years, which helped to raise funds for the church.

Recently increasing health problems have meant that Chris has needed to leave Bramerton to get additional necessary support from his family in Surrey. He will be missed. We are thankful for all that Chris has done for St Peter's Church over the years and wish him every happiness in his new home near his daughters.

Geoff Shaw



Village News

Bramerton continued . . .

OBITUARY - Richard Crosskill

The overflowing church of St. Peter's, Bramerton, told its own story. Family, friends and former business colleagues from near and far had gathered to pay their respects in a special Thanksgiving Service for Richard who died in September at the age of 86.

Devoted family man, business leader, wit, raconteur. Just some of the descriptions bestowed on one of Bramerton's best-known and respected figures who gave a lifetime of service to the local and wider Norfolk community.



Educated at the Norwich School and then the Leys School in Cambridge, Richard won a place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge to read law but with the death of his father he decided to remain at home and join the family wholesale chemists company Crosskills which was founded in 1810. He worked there as a director for 40 years before retiring at the age of 57.

Married in 1965, Richard and Merrilyn, known to everyone as Merry, moved to Bramerton the following year where they lived for 47 years. They had two daughters Alison and Caroline. Richard doted on his three grandchildren Connor, Finn and Olivia. More recently Richard and Merry moved to Framingham Earl, "just across the border" as Richard called it with his customary humour.

Richard's was a life filled with community and civic service. In his twenties he was Chair of the Young Conservatives in Norwich. In his thirties he became President of the Norwich Junior Chamber of Commerce before becoming President of the Norfolk County Association of Parish and Town Councils, having served as Chair on Bramerton Parish Council. He was also an independent member of Forehoe and Henstead Rural District Council.

For 36 years Richard served as a Magistrate on the Norwich Bench, retiring in 2006. He Chaired the 160-strong Bench from 1991-95.

Life was never dull for Richard. He edited the Eleven Says, the newspaper of the Bramerton Group of Churches, he served on the committee of the Bramerton Society, was a member of the local Bramrocks Drama group and Chair of Bramerton Relief-in-Need which helps residents at times of financial crisis. He was a passionate advocate for maintaining the local footpaths and wrote two books of walks within the Eleven Says area.

If that was not enough he found time after his retirement to complete an Honours Degree in politics and modern history at the University of East Anglia.

Ever the perfectionist, as his health deteriorated Richard selflessly set about easing the pain of his passing for the family. He chose the readings and hymns for his Thanksgiving Service and even outlined his obituary for the Eastern Daily Press.

And in a final and typically mischievous flourish he asked that the congregation at that final service sing the hymns he'd chosen with gusto. We did!!

Dick Meadows

St Peter's Church, Bramerton Harvest Festival

This was our opportunity for a challenge to "Fill the Wheelbarrow for the Norwich Trussell Trust Food Bank" and thanks to the generosity from St Peter's Church the barrow was soon overflowing. The contents were passed on to a food bank volunteer in the village, who filled her car boot and delivered it to the charity.



She commented that as soon as bags of food arrived and were unpacked, the food was disappearing off the shelves.

A sobering thought!

Brenda Smith

Carleton St Peter

As winter approaches it is all about Christmas and the New Year. We will be serving mince pies and refreshments after our Christmas service on **Sunday 18th December at 11am**. All are welcome.

We had a great harvest festival in October and the kindly donated food went to the Norwich food bank. Thank you to those who provided so much for those in need. Thank you also to those who helped decorate and clean the church to make it look so welcoming. Refreshments were served after the service and it was so nice to see the church so full and vibrant.

Annie Meo

Celtic Daily Prayer at Surlingham Church

We sit together to pray and meditate on a Bible reading and a reflection for the day. We meet at 10am for approximately half an hour on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings of the month.

Our Next Dates are: **13th December, 10th and 25th January**. Everyone from the Group is very welcome to join us.

If you are unable to come, but would like to receive the chosen material for the day, please email me and I will send you a copy for your own reflection time.

Revd. Mandy Ansell, 01508 538654,
mandy.ansell44@gmail.com

Village News

Claxton

St Andrew's, Church, Claxton

We have been appreciating worshipping in our now water-tight building, especially after the heavy down pours we have experienced recently.

In October we held a successful Michaelmas quiz, where everyone enjoyed a hot supper and learned some new facts. As a bonus we raised some money towards the cost of maintaining our ancient building.

We are busy planning our **Christmas Wassail**, when we hope lots of people will join us at **2 pm on the afternoon of 18th December** for a collection of Christmas readings accompanied by mulled wine and festive treats.

Claxton Village Hall

The village hall continues to be a popular venue for village events and family parties. We have two vacancies for trustees so if you would like to find out more about supporting this valuable community facility please contact Adrian Gidlow 01508 480173.

Claxton Community Café - We used the October **Claxton Community Café** to support Macmillan Cancer Support and raised a remarkable sum of £362.40. Thanks particularly to Dick Thomson, who made a bird table, which we were able to auction.

On **Wednesday December 7th** our **Christmas Café** will run for an extra hour until 1 pm. Alongside our ever popular bacon rolls there will be lots of festive fare including mulled wine. We have invited a range of local craft stalls so come along and buy some Christmas gifts and enjoy a friendly chat.

Please note: Change of date for January only - In January we are moving the café to **Wednesday 18th** and will again run for an extra hour. A simple hot lunch of home-made soup and bread rolls will be available, as well as our usual fare of freshly brewed tea and coffee, bacon and egg rolls, and a selection of home baked goods, all at very reasonable prices.

Claxton Social Club - Don't forget the Social Club is open at The Village Hall every Friday from 8:00pm, earlier on the popular food nights. Look out for the posters advertising these. Next food night will be December 16th, Durban Grill

Rockland St Mary Winter Hardship Fund

Grants will be available in January 2023 from a Winter Hardship Fund to parishioners of Rockland St Mary and Hellington who currently receive Universal Credit, Pension Credit or Council Tax Support.

To receive an application form and more information, access the link on the Rockland Facebook page or send contact details to rocklandtrustclerk@yahoo.co.uk or leave a message or text on 07931 945564.

The closing date for applications is 31st December 2022.

Rockland St Mary

Rockland St Mary Primary School & Nursery and Surlingham Primary School News

Rockland St Mary Primary School & Nursery and Surlingham Primary School have been recognised by the Norfolk Music Hub for their commitment to providing quality Music teaching and learning, and have been invited to accept the Music Mark award/accreditation! This is a wonderful celebration of our music opportunities provided to our wonderful children.

All staff have received specialist professional development through the Norfolk Music Hub. We use Charanga for our dedicated music sessions for all year groups. We work with peripatetic teachers to provide guitar lessons and we work in a consistent and dedicated approach with specialist professionals. We also sing at the Norfolk County Music Festival hosted at St Andrews Hall each year too! Well done to our fantastic children and dedicated staff. What an achievement to celebrate!

With kindest wishes

Zoe Marsden,

Head of School, Rockland St Mary Primary and Nursery

FORMS - Friends of Rockland St Mary School

Well done to everyone who entered a Scarecrow into the Scarecrow Trail this year. We all succeeded in making the Village look awesome for October half term and helped to raise £2,042.48 for the Friends of Rockland St Mary School!

The Story Character's theme was so poignant for us this year as our primary focus is to expand and rejuvenate the School's library. Creating a love of stories and reading is one of the most fundamentally important things that we can do for the children at the school! It opens up their Universe; brings their imagination to life; builds their vocabulary and generally makes them happy little kids!

The Winner of the 2022 Scarecrow Trail, with an enormous 230 votes, was Scarecrow Number 5, Paul Johnson's BFG! We're sure everyone will agree that the skill and effort that went into making this magnificent Scarecrow was truly amazing and he really was the ultimate Big Friendly Giant, he was colossal!!!!!!

Scarecrow Number 2, The Tiger Who Came To Tea, was second and Scarecrow Number 26, Room On The Broom, was third.



Thanks again to all entrants, to those who voted and also to the many visitors to our village, who all helped to make this event a great success. We're all now looking forward to next year and to seeing even more magnificent scarecrows on show!

Village News

Surlingham

St Mary's Church News

Harvest saw a wonderful array of sunflowers, both painted and knitted, together with writing, mainly about the personal joys that come with late summer. There were sunflowers around the font for a christening, and a backdrop for the School Harvest Service, which included some very thoughtful contributions and some AMAZING singing!



An ancient building does require attention, the most pressing need is work on the church tower, costed in the region of £100,000. We had a meeting with our church architect and a professional who helps with applications for grants and setting up liaisons with supportive organisations. What is a key factor is the involvement of the village community. We have a simple and historic building which can lend itself to a variety of activities; particularly as it is set in a valued natural habitat.

Recently a survey was made by Norfolk Wildlife of St. Saviours and we have a report. If there are any ways, however small, that you would like to contribute and be involved with the care of the church or at St. Saviour's, it would be very welcome.

In the New Year we will have a book sale with refreshments and then an Art and Craft Exhibition of work created in the village inspired by the Church, churchyard and St. Savours. Plenty of warning, please make/create!

Christmas isn't far way and we look forward to celebrating with the singing of carols, listening to readings and to the mince pies on offer at the service on Sunday 11th December at 4pm.

Pippa

The BUILD Charity volunteer campaign:

BUILD is a Norfolk based independent registered charity providing social, leisure and learning opportunities for people with sensory, physical or learning disabilities. We are looking for people to support our social events with a small group of adults with disabilities, with all expenses covered.

If it is a relaxing weekend that you are after, this could be a Sunday Roast, a Sunday afternoon Walkabout, a Grow and Go gardening session or even a Sunday afternoon cinema trip. If you enjoy even more excitement, why not head into the city for our Ten Pin Tuesdays or even a Wednesday Club Social!

Alternatively, if you have expertise in marketing, fundraising, event management or photography and are willing to share your skills with us, we would also love to hear from you! We believe that volunteers should get as much out of the BUILD Charity as they put in, so there are many benefits to these roles. As a volunteer, you attend events whenever it suits your schedule, all volunteer expenses are covered by the charity and by becoming a BUILD volunteer, you receive your disability awareness training and safe-guarding training.

If any of these volunteering opportunities are of interest to you then either call the office on 01603 618029, email us at volunteer@buildcharity.co.uk, or check out the website www.buildcharity.co.uk for our sign up form and donation pages. We look forward to hearing from you! Working days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Telephone 01603 618029.

BUILD Charity Limited is registered in England & Wales with company number 8069610 and registered with the Charity Commission with charity number 1147395 at the registered office being Ground Floor, 12 Bank Street, Norwich NR2 4SE to which all correspondence should be sent.

The Church & Poor Charity - Applications invited

The Surlingham Church & Poor Charity was created in 1909 and modified by the Charity Act 2006 for the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually for people living in the village of Surlingham.



The charity can assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure occupation of individuals who have need by reason of their youth, age, infirmity, disability, financial, or social circumstances with the aim of improving their conditions of life.

If you would like to apply for help, in strict confidence, please contact The Clerk to the Trustees, Janet Rogers, 1 Broadfields Way, Rockland St Mary. Telephone: 01508 538921 or Email: surlinghamchurchandpoor@outlook.com.

Please be aware due to changes in how the funds are managed the amount available for distribution to the community is limited.

The closing date is 10 December 2022.

If you are aware of someone who may benefit please pass this information to them.

Janet Rogers

Clerk to the Church & Poor Charity



St Mary's Church, Surlingham

Sanyu Babies Home Kampala, Uganda.

For nearly thirty years our Eleven villages have been providing support for Sanyu Babies Home. We currently send a payment every month to cover weekly visits by the home's doctor and for the two full time nurses.



They and we are very grateful for your generous donations which make this support possible. Many of you buy plants from John and Ruth Everett of Applebee Orchard in Rockland. The Everetts, through their efforts as well as thanks to you have raised a significant part of our Sanyu funding. They have done, and are really doing wonders for Sanyu. Another vital source is the Churches in the group. But it is so many individuals that, especially at Christmas, provide lifelines for these babies.

Every quarter in their newsletters, we learn of unwanted Kampala babies literally thrown away in rubbish dumps or even pit latrines, of babies left on the steps of churches or police stations around Kampala. The stories often are heart-wrenching, but Sanyu accepts them, feeds, cares and nurtures them, whatever the circumstances. The Home provides whatever medical care they need and helps with early years education.

Sanyu, having been set up in the 1920s by an English missionary, is run and manned by Ugandans and much of the funds required are locally sourced. There are a few much-needed foreign supporters like us and very often young foreign volunteers on gap years, work at the home helping wherever help is needed. The newsletters always seem to sing the same song, not only of how the volunteers contribute so effectively to the lives of the babies, but also how often the contribution is two way. Being there gives them real benefit too.

So, this Christmas please think of helping Sanyu Babies. Any donations can either be to Sanyu's UK bank account or via Bergh Apton Church, through which the extra benefit of Gift aid can be obtained. For details please contact Liz or Christopher Meynell on lizmeynell@gmail.com.

"Rowan's Imaginary Adventures" - The latest children's story book by local author

Rowan is just an ordinary boy. He likes reading books and playing with his toys, and he likes daydreaming about going on adventures to places he's read about. But Rowan's imagination is different. When he daydreams about places, he goes there!

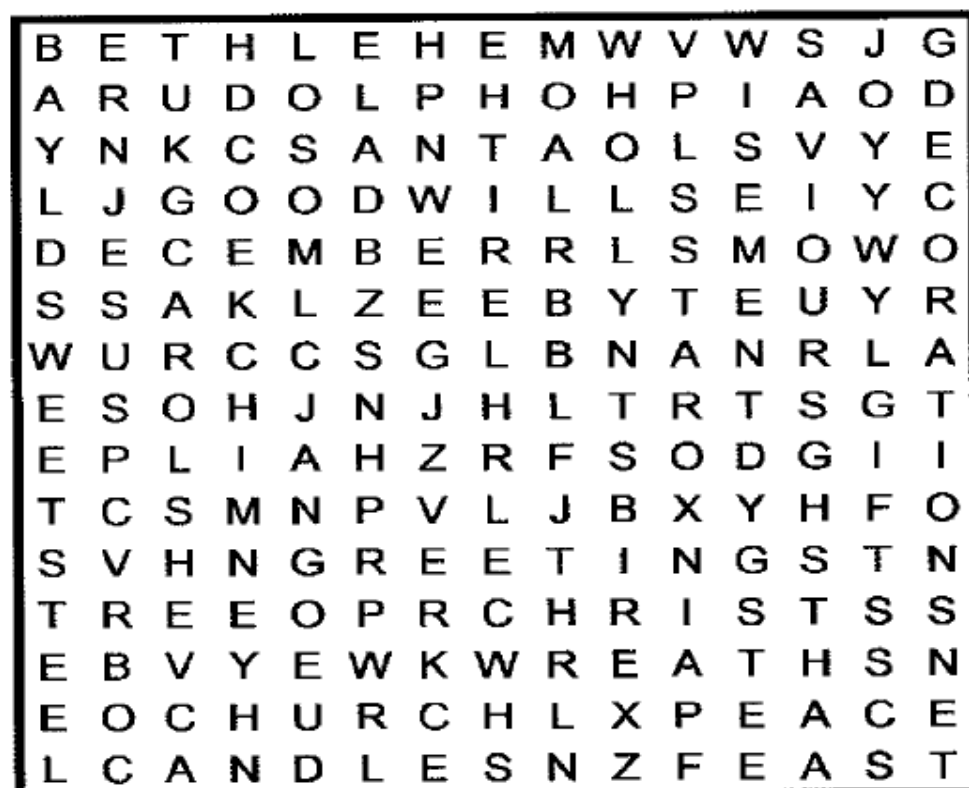
One day, whilst playing with his toy dinosaurs, Rowan starts to feel a little sleepy. And the next thing he knows, he's back in the time of the dinosaurs. Looking around, he can see plants, animals and ... a stegosaurus!

And that isn't his only adventure. He meets pirates, cowboys, cavemen and astronauts as well! Let's just hope that he manages to get back home without any trouble. Not everyone and everything he meets is friendly.

Stephen Gibling



Christmas Word Search



Angels	Ivy
Bells	Jesus
Bethlehem	Joy
Candles	Love
Carols	Manger
Cheer	Peace
Chimney	Rudolph
Christ	Santa
Church	Saviour
December	Sleigh
Decorations	Snow
Elf	Star
Feast	Sweets
Gifts	Toys
Goodwill	Tree
Greetings	Wise Men
Holly	Wreaths



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Rockland St Mary Parish Room

Improvements to the 1909 Parish Room are now complete thanks to a full grant from Saffron's Community Foundation for new electrics and lighting, and the Restart Grant from SNDC towards the refurbishment of the roof and other minor repairs.

The Parish Room continues to be available as a valuable community resource.

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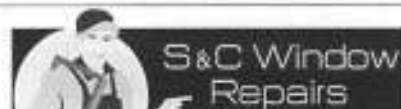
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Ashby and Thurton - Main hall with kitchen facilities and/or committee room available for private hire per hour, day or half day. Discounted rates for regular contract bookings. Ideal for meeting groups and social activities. Please contact Laura Vaissiere,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

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

Bramerton - Spacious hall with fully equipped kitchen and large car park. £8 per hour, minimum hire 2 hours. Daily rate available. Discounted rates for regular bookings. Contact Alison on 01508 537041 or Jane on 01508 538279.

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Rockland St Mary - Margaret Mack Hall available evenings and weekends for private parties, meetings and social activities. Rates per hour or per day. Contact after 4pm please, Debs Sayles, 01508 537077, or email: deborah.sayles8@gmail.com.

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	4th December Advent 2 Purple	11th December Advent 3 Purple	18th December Advent 4 Purple	24th December Christmas Eve White or Gold	25th December Christmas Day White or Gold	1st January Christmas 1 White	THURSDAY 5th January	8th January Baptism of Christ White or Gold	15th January Epiphany 2 White	22nd January Epiphany 3 White	29th January Epiphany 4 White	5th February 3rd before Lent Green
Ashby St Mary	11.00 MP PT		18.00 Carol Service		11.00 HC				11.00 Mass with Incense		GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	11.00 MP
Bergh Apton	09.30 HC		18.30 Carol Service PT	16.00 Crib Service PT 23.30 Midnight Mass		11.00 BENEFIGE SERVICE			09.30 PT	09.30 HC(BCP)	GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	09.30 HC
Bramerton		15.30 Carol Service			09.30 HC			14.00 Blessing of the Waters - Bramerton Common or church if bad weather			GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	
Carleton St Peter			11.00 Carol Service							11.00 MP	GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	11.00 MP
Claxton	09.30 HC		14.00 Wassail		10.00 Family Service	10.00 BENEFIGE SERVICE			09.30 MW		GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	09.30 HC
Framingham Pigot	08.15 HC (BCP)	10.00 BENEFIGE HC	18.00 Carol Service		09.30 HC				09.30 HC(BCP)	11.00 HC	GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	
Kirby Bedon		17.00 Carol Service			11.00 HC				11.00 HC		GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	
Rockland St Mary	10.30 -12 Café Church in Parish Room	11.00 HC		18.00 Crib Service 11.30 Midnight Mass			18.30 HC and Epiphany Party in the BARN	11.00 HC			GROUP SERVICE HC	
Surlingham	11.00 HC	16.00 Carol Service			10.00 Family Service			09.30 HC		09.30 HC	GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	
Thurton	11.00 HC		11.00 Carol Service	20.00 First Mass of Christmas					11.00 Family Service		GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	11.00 HC
Yelverton	09.30 PT		09.30 HC 18.00 Carol Service PT		09.30 HC			10.00 BENEFIGE SERVICE HC	09.30 HC	16.00 ALL 4	GROUP SERVICE ROCKLAND	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 5th January 2023 at 10.30 am in anticipation of The Epiphany.

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: December 2022 and January 2023

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
04/12/22	Isaiah 11.1-10	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12	2nd Sunday of Advent
11/12/22	Isaiah 35.1-10	James 5.7-10	Matthew 11.2-11	3rd Sunday of Advent
18/12/22	Isaiah 7.10-16	Romans 1.1-7	Matthew 1.18-25	4th Sunday of Advent
24/12/22	Isaiah 9.2-7	Titus 2.11-14	Luke 2.1-14-20	Christmas Eve
25/12/22	Isaiah 52.7-10	Hebrews 1.1-4-12	John 1.1-14	Christmas Day
01/01/23	Isaiah 63.7-9	Hebrews 2.10-18	Matthew 2.13-23	Christmas 2
08/01/23	Isaiah 42.1-9	Acts 10.34-43	Matthew 3.13-17	Baptism of Christ
15/01/23	Isaiah 49.1-7	1 Corinthians 1.1-9	John 1.29-42	2nd Sunday of Epiphany
22/01/23	Isaiah 9.1-4	1 Corinthians 1.10-18	Matthew 4.12-23	3rd Sunday of Epiphany
29/01/23	1 Kings 17.8-16	1 Corinthians 1.18-31	John 2.1-11	4th Sunday of Epiphany
05/02/23	Isaiah 58.1-12	1 Corinthians 2.1-16	Matthew 5.13-20	3rd 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.



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NEXT ASSEMBLY: SATURDAY JANUARY 28th, BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL, COOKE'S ROAD, NR15 1AA, 9am - 11am (approx)