

Church & Village News

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

December 2025 & January 2026



Hempstead Snow Storm

Photograph by Jonathan Neville

Newsletter Team

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Hempstead Paul Sanders 713217

Matlaske & Barningham Lucy Raines TBC

Plumstead Ruth Campion-Ridge

Saxthorpe & Corpusty Guy Hodgson 575277

Parish Council Websites

Baconsthorpe

<https://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc>

Edgefield

<https://edgefield-pc.gov.uk/>

Hempstead

<https://hempsteadpc.wixsite.com/hempsteadpc>

Matlaske & Barningham

<https://matlaske-pc.gov.uk/>

Plumstead

<https://plumsteadpc.wixsite.com/plumsteadpc>

Saxthorpe & Corpusty

<https://corpustyandsaxthorpe-pc.gov.uk/>

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Village Websites

www.baconsthorpe.org

www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk

www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk

www.plumstead.org.uk

Church People

Rector Revd Canon David Longe 01263 577252

Asst Priest Revd Judy Rosser 07469 390178

Lay Minister Dr Jane McLarty 07791 870104

Church Wardens

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B Winter Amelia Courtauld 01263 577250

Rebecca Hill 07960 739593

Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 01263 587049

Alison Mawson 01263 587236

Hempstead Airlie Inglis 01263 577440

Matlaske Thomas Courtauld 01263 577250

Duncan Wood 01263 570293

Plumstead Vacant

Saxwith Corp Lesley Last 01263 587782

Jill Perry-Warnes 01263 584 221

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safeguarding@matlaske.org.uk

Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or

Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882345

County Councillor

Steffan Aquarone

steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk / 01603 327827

What's On

DECEMBER

Mon 1	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations Christmas Wreaths	Village Hall
Wed 3	10.30am	Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Fri 5	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee + Catch-Up	Village Hall
Fri 5	6.30pm	Baconsthorpe Christmas Quiz	Village Hall
Fri 5	7.00pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Film Night <i>The Ballad of Wallis Island</i>	Village Hall
Sat 6	11.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Wreath Making with Karen	Village Hall
Sun 7	6.00pm	Matlaske Christmas Party Invitation Only Baconsthorpe	Village Hall
Tues 9	10.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Tech + Tea	Village Hall
Fri 12	4.30pm	Plumstead Christmas Gathering children first 5.30pm all	Church
Sat 13	10.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Living Nativity	Church
Sat 13	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations Christmas Crafts	Village Hall
Sat 13	7.00pm	Edgefield Festive Evening	Village Hall
Sat 13	6.00pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Christmas Bingo	Village Hall
Thur 18	6.00pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Carols at the Station	Old Station
Fri 19	10.00am	Baconsthorpe Decorating for Christmas	Church
Fri 19	7.00pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Book Club <i>Christmas Get Together</i>	Village Hall

JANUARY

Mon 5	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Wed 7	10.30am	Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Sun 11	10.00am	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Plough Sunday Procession	Village Green
Sat 17	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Thurs 22	10.00am	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Fri 30	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall
Fri 30	6.30pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Race Night	Village Hall

Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 01263 712202

Staffed Hours

Tues 10am-7pm / Wed 2pm-7pm

Fri 10am-7pm / Sat 1pm-4pm

Unstaffed Hours

8am-7pm weekdays Sat 8am-4pm Sun 10am-2pm

accessible with Open Library Access

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van

Wednesdays 10.45am - 11.30am Village Hall

Corpusty Stores 587726

Monday-Friday 9.00am - 12.00noon

Itteringham Shop 587325

Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

Banking Hub

Barclays Bank, 16 High Street, Holt, NR25 6BQ

9am-5pm weekdays

Monday NatWest Thursday Santander

Tuesday TSB Friday Lloyds

Wednesday Barclays

Mobile Library Van

18 December / 15 January / 12 February

Matlaske 12:40 NR11 7AQ Old Post Office

Plumstead 13:00 NR11 7LG Walnut Farm

Baconsthorpe 14:30 NR25 6LJ Council Bungalows

14:50 NR25 6LE Hare & Hounds

Hempstead 15:05 NR25 6TL Telephone kiosk

Edgefield 15:45 NR24 2AL The Memorial

16:10 NR24 2AX The Street

Corpusty 16:35 NR11 7BU Great Farm Cottis

Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County

website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA> / Route No CEN 411

Tel: 01603 222303

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
01263 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk



Icon of the Nativity

Dear All

Do we have a soul? Is this a question that we might whisper to ourselves at times of difficulty recognising that we are far more than the flesh and blood we see reflected in the mirror?

We know that we are able to be creative beyond our imagination, to love another to such a depth that it hurts, to revel and delight in the beauty around us that our heart appears to sing; and – alas – we know we have the power to wound and destroy beyond the depth of despair.

The Jesuit priest Anthony de Mello once said that we don't have a soul; we are a soul. That present within the depth of our being is something so luminous, so beautiful and so free that it is the very breath of God. The Trappist monk Thomas Merton called it "le point vierge", a hidden centre of our being, dazzling and unsullied by sin and selfishness.

And this remarkable story that is soon to echo in churches and homes, through cards and carols, of the Christ-child born humbly in a stable to a young woman, named Mary, with a confused husband named Joseph, watching on, speaks to that beauty deep within us.

Perhaps you picture that night as sacred history or holy mystery or a bit of both – I would like to invite you this Christmas to engage with this remarkable story with an open heart, trusting that you are not just flesh and bones but something far more beautiful than any physical appearance. To allow that stable on that night to become more than a place, rather allegorical as a pointer so to speak to the room deep within ourselves, where God dwells. To reveal the place where our soul resides: a place untouched by selfish desire, where pride and fear cannot enter in. It is here, in our own stable, that we find the beauty of the Divine revealed in the purity of a child, discovering that God has been waiting all along to awaken joy, peace and delight deep within us.

This is the light God, I believe, longs for us to find within ourselves. De Mello wrote that being enlightened to God is not about acquiring new light – chasing after some new fashion – but seeing the light that is already within: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (*John 1:5*).

And this narration we hear again this Christmas is about this discovery. It is God's true gift to Creation. As St Augustine wrote: "You were within me, but I was outside." (*Confessions X.27*).

So, as you place your Christmas cards around your rooms, as you hum your carols down the lane, as you trek to church (you are so welcome) notice the crib, notice the stable, and know that you have Bethlehem within, for this child was born for each of one of us.

With my prayers for you, your families and friends this Christmas,

David

Mondays 10.30am - Coffee Morning - Plumstead Church
Tuesdays 10am-12noon (term time) - Country Mice Toddler Group - Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Wednesdays 10am - Coffee, Cake & Chat - St Andrew's Saxthorpe
Details of all our services: achurchnearyou.com/benefice/26-271D/



The Benefice of Matlaske
Church Services for December & January

3 rd	Wednesday Meditation 6pm	Hempstead
7 th	Advent II	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Matlaske Saxthorpe
14 th	Advent III	
10.30am 4.00pm	Eucharist Carols & Nativity	Barningham Winter Edgefield
17 th	Carol Service	
6.00pm	Carol Service	essingham
21 st	Advent IV	
10.30am 5.00pm	Eucharist Carol Service	Plumstead Baconsthorpe
22 nd	Monday	
5.00pm	Christingle	Hempstead
24 th	Christmas Eve	
5.30pm 11.00pm	Candle Lit Service Midnight Mass	Saxthorpe Matlaske
25 th	Christmas Day	
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
28 th	Christmas I	
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
4 th Jan	Christmas II	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Saxthorpe Matlaske
7 th	Wednesday Meditation 6pm	Hempstead
11 th	Epiphany I	
8.30am 10.30am 5.00pm	Eucharist Plough Sunday Evensong	Barningham Winter Saxthorpe Edgefield
18 th	Epiphany II	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Baconsthorpe Plumstead
21 st	Wednesday Meditation 6pm	Hempstead
25 th	Epiphany III	
8.30am 10.00am 4.00pm	Eucharist Sharing Church Family Church	Hempstead Saxthorpe Edgefield Village Hall
1 st Feb	Epiphany IV	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Matlaske Saxthorpe

Carol Services

14 December 4pm Edgefield Church with Nativity
17 December 6pm Bessingham Church
21 December 5pm Baconshorpe Church with Choir

You are invited to our Christingle Service

Friday 22nd December at 5pm
Hempstead Church

Refreshments afterwards
(parking on the playing field)



Christmas Eve Candelight Service

Wednesday 24th December at 5.30pm
Saxthorpe Church



Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Wednesday 24th December at 11pm
Matlaske Church

Christmas Day Service

Thursday 25th December at 10.30am
Saxthorpe Church

Baconsthorpe

200 Club R Hall £50, R Hall £25, H Martin £25



Parish Act of Remembrance

Baconsthorpe was pleased to welcome Hempstead and Plumstead for our Remembrance Sunday Service on 9 November. The names of those who gave their lives for their country in WW1 and WW2 were read out, from each parish, and we remembered those who continue to suffer in conflicts around the world.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

It was particularly moving to have with us Valerie Harmer (née Cooper), her daughter (Debbie McRoberts) and family (see picture). Valerie is the great niece (and Debbie the great, great niece) of Gunner George Cooper, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, whose grave we rededicated, having recently rediscovered it as part of a project of mapping the graves in the churchyard. Gunner Cooper was born in the village and died of tuberculosis in 1917, at Shorncliffe, Kent, aged 25. Valerie remembers her mother, who was a pupil at Baconsthorpe School (now the Village Hall) at the time, describing to her Gunner Cooper's burial, with full military honours.

Harry Steel - Church Warden

Festive Quiz Night - Friday 5th call Emma to reserve a table 07884 432412

Village Hall News

Pop Up Pub There is no pub in December, the next one is on Friday 30 January. Shepherd's Pie will be on the menu from 6.30pm, with the Bar open from 6pm.

The bar and hall refurbishment continues. Following on from the successful redecoration of the bar, we are in the process of installing a new AV/sound system in the hall. This will allow hirers and ourselves to stream music etc to a multi speaker system and to use it for announcements etc. We also have plans to put some sound dampening in the bar area.

We were delighted to receive a very nice letter from our local MP, Stef Aquarone, congratulating us on the 10th anniversary of the Pop-Up Pub. He wrote, "It's a wonderful example of what makes our local communities so special." Thanks for the support Stef.

Diary Dates In 2026 we plan to hold the following events: Monthly Pop-Up Pub; Coffee Morning every month; two Craft Fairs (Spring and Autumn); a Wine tasting night; the Village Fete (this year a bit earlier, in June); a performance of a Shakespeare play, abridged, in July; a Christmas Quiz. Do come and support or help with these events. Keep an eye on the village website and this page of the CVN for updates.

The Village Hall 200 Club We have numbers available. Subscriptions are £1 a month, and you could win £50 every month. See the village website for details.

Country Mice Funding Boost

All are welcome to our regular toddler/baby group which runs on Tuesday mornings, in school term time, at the village hall, from 10am to 12noon. The project provides activities and a mid-morning snack and is run by a trained leader with volunteer support. It is open to any parent/carer with children aged between 0 and 4 from any area.

We were delighted to receive a grant of £5,000 from the Hornsea 3 wind farm project, which will secure funding for us for at least another two years.

Church Stall

Thank you so much to the person who left 3 huge boxes of beautiful apples to be sold on the church stall. The stall continues to be a major part of the church income and thank you to everyone who supports it.

Barningham Winter

Winter Diary Dates

Winter is here and so it is nice to have a few things in the diary.

Our wreath making on Tuesday 9th December is sold out but we may be able to squeeze a couple more in if anyone is interested.

Another date for your diary is Thursday 5th February when we will be holding a Scrabble evening at Barningham Hall. It is always a fun evening. Sitting by the fire on tables of four playing four sessions of 20-minute games with drinks and nibbles at half time. Come and join us, being a Scrabble expert is absolutely not a requirement. The evening will start at 6pm for a 6.30pm start and tickets are £10 and include refreshments. There will be a raffle. Please email amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk.



Amelia Courtauld
01263 577250



Wedding Bells

Bringing our minds back to the warmer weather of the summer we would like to send our congratulations to Thomas Seaman who grew up at Dairy Farm. On the 3rd October he married, Francesca Ferlazzo at St Michael's Church, Bray in Berkshire. It was a wonderful day with Sicilian traditions blending with British. We wish them all the best for a very happy life together.

Edgefield



Church News

Craft Fair The Craft Fair in October was very successful, with lots of visitors enjoying the opportunity to buy from a wide range of talented crafters,



Richard Peaver
01263 587486

partake of delicious refreshments and catch up with friends. As well as that, it raised £800 for church funds. A huge thank you to Joy and John Hardiment for organising such a super event.

Family Church, 3rd Sunday 4pm The church looked beautiful adorned with fairy lights for our October Family Church as families enjoyed a short service followed by crafts and refreshments. In November we will be celebrating Jesus as the light of the world. We will take a break in December and in January will be meeting in the Village Hall, where it will be warmer than church. We welcome all, whether familiar with church or not.

Half-term Light Party Children had fun with light- and autumn-themed crafts and glow sticks in and around the church, which was decorated with pumpkins and candles. Thank you to all who helped with this exciting event.

Carol Service, Sunday 14th December 4pm Following the success of last year, we will again have a retelling of the Nativity story, in which any children are welcome to come along and take part. Costumes will be provided. We will sing Christmas carols and the service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Carols on the green, Friday 19th December 6-7pm Join us on for rousing carol singing on the village green or in the village hall if wet. Mulled wine, mince pies and candy-floss will be served. Bring your friends and neighbours to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.



Alison Mawson

Village Hall News

A final reminder that our ever-popular Christmas party will be on Saturday 13th December at 7pm. Tickets from any member of the committee. October's 200 Club draw winners were: 1st Tim Corballis (£50), 2nd Jan Brooks-Bullen (£30) and 3rd Louise Watt (£20). Finally, a merry Christmas to all our many supporters from all of us on the Committee and we look forward to seeing you in 2026!

Jim Frost

Edgefield Fuel Fund

The Trustees will distribute a payment of £25 per eligible household in the Village Hall on Saturday 6th December from 11am - 12noon.

Hempstead

200 Club - November Winners

£50 N Tyabji; £25 J Keen; £15 C Inglis; £25 P Loach

Coffee & Catchup Friday 5th December 10.30am - village hall - all welcome.

Hempstead Goes to Hollywood!

Well, not quite, but over a period of three days last week several scenes for a 90 minute feature film commissioned by the BBC were shot in and around Hempstead Village Hall. Other locations in North Norfolk have included Blakeney, Wells, King's Lynn Hospital, Fakenham Town Centre and Edgefield Garden Centre.

The film is directed by John Madden whose previous works include *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. Its working title is *But When We Dance* so look out for it, although of course the title may change.

Our particular thanks go to all those residents of The Street and The Knoll who showed forbearance and co-operation when the village was invaded by more unmarked white vans than we could count. In fact, these were only half the story - Holt Rugby Club car park was filled to the brim with even larger white vans. These provided everything the crew, who must have numbered over 100, needed.

I will not divulge the plot but it is a romantic story with some sadness and some joy. The interior of the hall was transformed with temporary fixtures and fittings. There are no plans for us to stage such an event in real life!



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Richard Roy



New Arrivals

A pair of swans appeared at Selbrigg Pond on 11th November. The pond had been swanless since the original pen moved on to Baconsthorpe Castle pond after the disappearance of her dog-traumatised mate earlier in the year. Let's hope they take up full time residence.

Hempstead Autumn Craft Market

On Saturday 8th November the village hall hosted its third annual Autumn Craft Market. The hall was full of a large variety of crafts mostly handmade by local people. Another lovely day with a great friendly vibrant atmosphere. With a steady flow of visitors coming along, some local and some from further afield (thanks to Radio Norfolk yet again advertising for us). All in all another successful fundraising event. Thank you to all that supported us by coming along to share a chat over coffee and bacon roll, purchasing some Christmas presents from our lovely sellers or just having a social browse. A very big thank you to all that helped to get this event set up, served refreshments or helped pack away. Your help is always appreciated. Sharing this day with our neighbours in Baconsthorpe at their Craft Market added to the experience for our visitors with many taking in the offerings at both events. Thank you

Crafty Creations

December

Monday 1st 2- 4pm Christmas wreaths with moss rings (£12.50)

Saturday 13th 2- 4pm Christmas Crafts - all ages welcome

January

Monday 6th 2-4pm / Saturday 17th 2-4pm / Thursday 22nd 10am-2noon

Anyone wishing to book please contact Lesley 07446 777660

Matlaske



Matlaske Church by Kay Harvey

Remembrance

We held a well-attended Remembrance Day service at the war memorial on the site of RAF Matlaske, just off Wickmere Road. It was ably led by the Revd John Hardy, who struck just the right tone. We read out the names of the Matlaske men who perished in the Great War and of the men and women associated with RAF/USAAF Matlaske who lost their lives in the Second World War. The hymn singing was heart-felt.



Duncan Wood
01263 570293

John Coulton

Sadly, we note the death of John Coulton of Sheringham, the brother of Florence Hunt who used to live in Barningham Place in Matlaske. John spent many years making sure that Florence could remain independent in her own home until, sadly, this was no longer viable. He supported and attended many Matlaske events and is remembered with affection by many folk here.

From the Archives - Cromer & North Norfolk Post - Friday 25 December 1914

MATLASKE HALL HOSPITAL. A LIST OF INMATES. A generous gift of ten pheasants has just been received for the wounded soldiers at the Matlaske-hall Hospital from his Majesty the King.

The following patients are at present inmates of the Hospital: Sergeant Preston, 1st Norfolk (rheumatism); Sergeant Panther, 19th Hussars (heart trouble); Lance- Corporal J Binnott, 2nd Royal Irish (shrapnel wound, ankle); Private A Simmonds, 3rd Worcesters (bullet wound, leg); Private J Smith, South Wales Borderers (shrapnel wound, knee); Private T Forde, 2nd Leinsters (bullet wound, hand); Private R Weston, 2nd Warwicks (bullet wound, arm); Private J.Ward, 2nd South Staffordshires (bullet wound, hand); Private A Kennedy, 2nd Seaforth (bullet wound arm); Private Mitchell, RAMC (dysentery); Private Bakes 1st Norfolk (rheumatism); Sergeant Bannington, 1st Norfolk (bullet wound, thigh); Private Elvin, 1st Norfolk (rheumatism); Private Biddle, 1st Norfolk (fracture of jaw).

The following Belgian soldiers are also in the hospital: Sergeant Joseph Van Doorselaire, 4^{me} de Ligne (bullet wound; body); Private Gaston Fieux, 8^{me} de Ligne (bullet wound; thumb); Private Theophile Sottiaux, 4^{me} R de Chasseur (bullet wound, hand); Private Michael Willemarche, 2^{me} Chasseur (bullet wound, arm); Private Francois Goidsenovea, 2^{me} Carabiniere (bullet wound, shoulder); Private Emile Verheyden, 26^{me} R de Ligne (cyclist) (bullet wound arm); Private August Verbelen, 9^{me} de Ligne (bullet wound, wrist).

Gifts of game, rabbits, bacon, sausages, cheese, eggs, jam, butter and cake will be gratefully received by the matron, and should be addressed by post, Matlaske Hall, Norwich, or by rail to Holt Station, M and GNR.

Plumstead

Christmas at Plumstead

The Christmas get together in St Michael's Church will be held on Friday 12th December from 4.30pm for children when there will be festive activities, refreshments and carols, and from 5.30pm when there will be a glass of wine (please bring a few nibbles if you can) and a raffle in aid of church funds. It would be very much appreciated if anyone in Plumstead could donate an item for the raffle, on the theme of 'Christmas Hamper', to be dropped off at Field Cottage in Plumstead Green, St Michael's Cottage or Jasmine House, in advance of the event. The church will be looking very festive once again. This is always a fun evening and Plumstead folk old and new are warmly invited.

The Light of Christmas

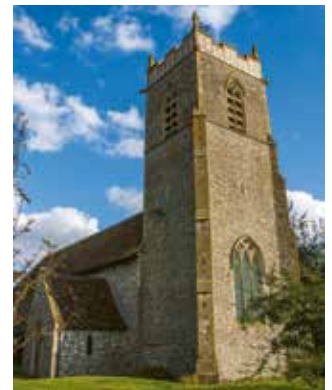
As Advent begins, Plumstead church will be the first to host a star making workshop for children from all parishes across the Benefice. It begins at 10am on Saturday 29th November. We are looking forward to festooning our pretty church with stars.

Big Challenges at St Michael's

Major structural challenges face our church, including urgent works costing around £66,000 within the next 12 months and a



Harriet Rossi
01263 577239



further £75,000 needed the following year. The repairs, brought to light through the quinquennial inspection of the building, are essential for safety and to preserve our historic church for future. Unfortunately, we do not have the funds to undertake any of this work.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is developing fundraising plans, but raising more than £140,000 in such a short time will be a huge challenge. We need the support of the whole community and external grant bodies to make this possible.

Creating a New Space

But there is also better news. Thanks to generous donations and careful budgeting, the church has raised £17,000 to create a more flexible and welcoming space at the back. This involves removing five rows of pews - three on the north side and two on the south - and adjustments to the walls and floors. Start and completion dates are yet to be confirmed, but this initiative marks a step forward in making our church more accessible for all. A plan will be posted in the church soon.

How You Can Help?

The cost of running the church continues to rise, and an excellent way to help us meet these challenges is to join the Parish Giving Scheme. You can make one-off or regular donations with the added value of Gift Aid, which boosts donations by 25%. Visit www.parishgiving.org.uk or call 0333 002 1271 to set up your contribution. Thank you for your continued support.

Welcome to the Village

We offer a warm welcome to Michelle who has moved in on Mill Lane, Pete and Margaret on Plumstead Green and Bryan and Sue on Church Street. We very much look forward to meeting you and seeing you around the village.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Strange goings on at a stable near you....

King Herod is hopping mad, three well connected strangers have turned up bearing excellent gifts, but he's discovered they're not for him.

A young couple in the village are fighting off rumours about the baby they're expecting, and embarking on a hazardous journey with only a donkey and no room booking at the other end.



John Birchall
07810 016976

Corpusty and Saxthorpe's new innkeeper and his wife are at their wits end - what with overbooking problems, a potential scandal and huge star overhead that's keeping all the guests awake.

Can the guiding Angels sort it all out? And will the live animals and shepherds steal the show?



Come along to the Living Nativity at St Andrew's Church on December 13th, at either 10am or 2pm to find out, and sing a few carols.

Many Christmas goodies on sale, and hot food and mince pies available all day, plus the Grand Draw at 3.30pm.

Screen Printing Alchemy on Our Doorstep

In a quiet corner of Corpusty behind the doors of an ordinary-looking shed a kind of magic is happening. The space that once housed a bio-mass boiler has been transformed into a fully-equipped studio, where Arthur Buxton is bringing the joys of screen printing to North Norfolk.

You don't have to be an artist, or even much good at drawing, because the alchemy of screen printing turns even the most homely designs to gold.

Arthur, an artist and master printmaker with deep roots in Bristol, has printed for many artists, but insists that anyone can enjoy the fun and satisfaction of the screen printing process. After moving from Bristol in April, Arthur has created 'Studio All Day Long' at 29 Irmingland Road.



Bristol's loss is very much our gain, because Arthur is offering a range of workshops, from taster sessions and print your own greeting cards to much more advanced screen printing techniques. He is also offering residencies to artists, photographers and designers, including accommodation in the workshop itself. The photos show Arthur (right) working with artist Till Lukat.

Find out more at studioalldaylong.com, including artwork and gift vouchers.

Morris Dancers for Plough Sunday

Whatever the weather in January, Plough Sunday on the 11th is a day for looking forward to spring and beyond. At 10am the Holt Ridge Morris Dancers will be taking the lead in a procession from the plough on the green to St Andrew's Church and the blessing of ploughs, spades, trowels at the start of the new season, with liquid refreshment at the Dukes Head afterwards.

Village Hall

Friday film night 5th December 7pm. *The Ballad of Wallis Island*. Tickets £5, bar open. Starring Carey Mulligan, a quintessential English quirky comedy.

Christmas wreath making, 6th December 11-2pm. £25 per person, includes all materials (bring your own scissors) and a glass of mulled wine. Other warm drinks and mince pies available. Limited spaces so booking essential. Contact Karen 07494. 521555. Or Hester 07557005045

Never Ending Chapter - book club Christmas get together, Friday 19th December, 7pm. £2 per person, bring plate of goodies, a bottle and a wrap a book for secret Santa

Christmas carols at the station with choir and band. Thursday 18th December 6-7.30pm. Mince pies, sausage roll availability and all donations towards future projects.

Fun, Friends, Food and a Flutter – Get ready for an exciting Race Night on 30th January. Brighten up those dark post-Christmas evenings with a night of fun and friendly competition. Look out for the details to follow.

Police Target Speeding and Road Safety

Norfolk Police will be targeting speeding and road safety across north Norfolk for the next three months. This was chosen as their priority after hearing the concerns affecting communities in the Holt Neighbourhood. If you have anything to raise with the police next Holt Neighbourhood meeting will take place on Monday 8 December 2025, at 7pm, and can be joined online via Microsoft Teams. Email SNTNorthNorfolk@norfolk.police.uk for a link to join. Keep up to date with policing in our area by signing up at www.myneighbourhoodupdates.co.uk

1st Corpusty and Saxthorpe Brownies



The Brownies have had a busy Autumn Term with a range of activities. They have been learning First Aid and about safety, which included a visit from a Policeman who taught them how to keep safe online and outside. They had a very exciting day out at Banham Zoo, took



part in the Remembrance Service, packed shoeboxes with Christmas presents for children in Ukraine, baked apples, decorated cakes, were creative with crafts and played lots of games.

The Village Gardener - To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



As I write, we are all being bulldozed by relentless Christmas TV ads and high pressure Black Friday marketing emails that somehow squash any Christmas spirit one might have quietly been accruing, leaving you feeling like you've subconsciously binged on too many Quality Street before the festive season has even got going.

But there is hope! Gardening is the perfect antidote. Nothing brings you back to earth (in a good way!) than completing a dreaded task in horizontal rain. I am out in the garden every day, whatever the weather, because it works its very own chilly magic. We all need that in the tank for the abyss that is January and February. There is also plenty to do! Having been out of action for several weeks I have a myriad of tasks to complete. Having had a glorious dahlia season I am hoping to look after my dahlia tubers as best I can. I don't dig them

up but they require protection over winter which can be a bit hit and miss, so I will give strulch a whirl and report back. Other tasks are catching up on any clearing and cleaning in places such as your greenhouse, cold frames, etc. Sweep any treacherous brick paths with sharp sand. Make sure terracotta pots are gathered in or set up off the ground to prevent them getting waterlogged or damaged by frost.

After all of that hard work you have earned your place by the fire with a pot of tea and a good seed catalogue or a good gardening book. Thank you for your book suggestions; they were most appreciated. One that has intrigued me is Margery Fisher's *We Made a Garden*. What struck me was the author's easy manner in relating the mistakes she and her husband made whilst creating their garden. I found this completely endearing, as is her chatty breezy style of writing. It's a gem of a book and I thoroughly recommend it.



Some gardening books can leave you feeling that the author had all the gardening know how from the start and never put a foot wrong. Real gardening is all about mistakes and lessons learned. That's the joy of it, you are always learning and a garden is always evolving and that's the whole point.

The most dog-eared books on our shelves are *The Vegetable Expert* by Dr D G Hessayon. If you need a quick answer to a veg glitch then this is your book. Three more books I turn to time and again are Monty Don's *Complete Gardener* and Sarah Raven's *A Year Full of Veg* and *A Year Full of Flowers* - all good, reliable and encouraging garden companions.

Finally we'd both like to thank you for all your questions and to wish you a Merry Christmas and an even better New Year!

Keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet.com - the most interesting question will be published in the New Year



Michelle & Mick McCarter

History Watch - Dairy Farming at Baconsthorpe



Mr Underwood who farmed at Manor Farm Baconsthorpe at the time of the first World War could now be described as a progressive farmer. For it was he who first introduced electric milking machines into our area.

These early machines were not totally successful as they failed to emulate the calves natural sucking motion, tending to suck continuously which the cows did not take to. However, once a pulse was introduced

into the system the days of milking by hand were soon over. A good herdsman could milk ten cows by hand in about two and a half hours, but with electric machines milking two cows at a time there was scope for the herd to be made much bigger and the milking time speeded up.

Mr Underwood's cows were Dairy Shorthorns the native English breed and used extensively for milk production until the Dutch Friesian took over.



Manor House by Sandy Gerrard

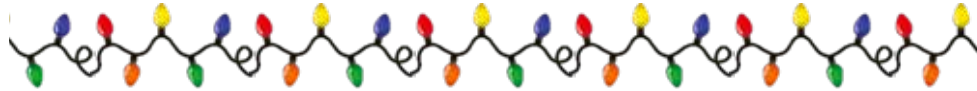
Strange then nowadays there are no longer any dairy herds in our locality when all our villages had at least one. I for one miss them.

Children, Youth & Families

As Christmas approaches primary school age children across the seven parishes will receive a gift bag. These will be delivered to each home with an invitation to come along to a pop-up workshop to decorate the two items in the gift bag!

One item is for children to take home and one please to decorate the church.

We know we have some creative talent, so we invite all children of all ages to pop along with a responsible adult to the venues listed below. There will be extra crafts and activities for all ages and refreshments.



Pop-Up Workshops

Saturday 29 November 10-12 Plumstead Church

Saturday 6 December 10-12 Saxthorpe Church

Saturday 13 December 10-12 Baconsthorpe Church

Inside the gift bag is also details of lots of other family events in churches during December, including Carol services, Christingle service, Carol singing on a village green, with light sticks and candy floss, plus a living nativity with real animals and human characters!

Everyone is most welcome. Further info: youth@matlaske.org.uk

Country Mice Group

Baconsthorpe Village Hall, nr Holt
Tuesdays 10-12

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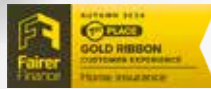
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