

Church & Village News

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

February 2018



Cygnets on Selbrigg Pond
John Mears

Skipper's Corner

Snippets that Skipper approved by wagging his tail when they were read to him

Addressing an open-air meeting, Bishop Boyd Carpenter was asked by an atheist if he believed that Jonah had been swallowed by a whale.

He replied, "When I get to Heaven, I will ask Jonah."

"Suppose he is not there?"

"In that case, *you* will have to ask him."

Bateman and Stenning, *The Wit of the Church*

It is sobering to consider that when Mozart was my age, he had already been dead for a year.

Tom Lehrer



Skipper

MPH
MATLASKE PRIVATE HIRE

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Hempstead Paul Sanders 713217

Matlaske & Barningham Sara Buxton 577207

Plumstead Alastair Brown 577447

Saxthorpe & Corpusty Imogen Waterson 587610

Parish Council Websites or Email Addresses

Baconthorpe	http://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc
Edgefield	http://edgefieldnorfolk.co.uk/theparishcouncil.shtml
Hempstead	hempsteadpc@gmail.com
Matlaske & Barningham	s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk
Plumstead	http://plumsteadparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com

Local MP

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Unit 4
The Garden Centre
Nursery Drive
Norwich Road
North Walsham, NR28 0DR
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<http://www.normanlamb.org.uk/>
Office hours are Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm
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District Councillors

Baconthorpe, Corpusty, Edgefield, Hempstead, Plumstead, Saxthorpe

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georgie.perry-warnes@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Matlaske & Barningham
Michael Knowles 825995
mike.knowles@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Church People

Lay Minister Gill Peat 734226

Lay Minister Judy Rosser 587584

Church Wardens

Baconthorpe Tessa McCosh 577611

Barningham Winter Amelia Courtauld 577250

Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 587049

Angela Turner 587292

Hempstead Ann Udale 713656

Su Summers 710702

Matlaske Thomas Courtauld 577250

Plumstead Eleanor Faulkner 577868

Saxthorpe Merlin Waterson 587610

Heather Monks 587118

What's On

FEBRUARY

Sat 10	10.30am	Saxthorpe Snowdrops	The Old Rectory
Wed 21	7.00pm	Barningham Scrabble Night	Barningham Hall
Sun 25	6.00pm	Plumstead Taizé Service	Plumstead Church

MARCH

Fri 2	7.00pm	Edgefield Quiz Night	Village Hall
Mon 5	2.30pm	Baconsthorpe PCC AGM	Ash Tree Farm
Mon 5	7.30pm	Hempstead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tue 6	1.30pm	Barningham PCC AGM	Manor Farm, Baconsthorpe
Thur 8	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Quiz Night	Village Hall
Mon 26	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Mon 26	7.00pm	Plumstead Parish Council Meeting	Plumstead Church

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karen@karenhall.co.uk

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Clash Diary

July 6 Baconsthorpe Auction
July 8 Plumstead Fête & Open Gardens
July 28 Matlaske Fête

If you are arranging an event please
e-mail Corinne Youngs:
577263 / corinne@avyoungs.com
to check that there is not already an
event being held on the same day. This
will help prevent any clashes.

Regular Village Hall Events

BACONSTHORPE

Tuesday during term time	10.00am - 12noon	Diocesan Play Van - 07918 027092
Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Carpet Bowls - 711320
Last Friday	6.00pm - 11.00pm	Pop-Up Pub

CORPUSTY

Second and fourth Monday	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Bure Valley Quilters & Stitchers
Second Tuesday	12.30pm - 3.00pm	Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach
Tuesdays during term time	5.45pm - 7.15pm	Brownies
Second Tuesday	10.00am - 12noon	North Norfolk Knitters Rita Taylor 587507 K2togp1@btinternet.com
First and third Thursday	10.00am - 12noon	Art Group Non-members £10 a session Professional artist in attendance every 3rd week
Friday during term time	9.30am - 11.30am	Toddler Group

EDGEFIELD

Third Monday	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
First Tuesday	2.00pm	Tuesday Club
Second Wednesday	2.00pm	Ladies Club
Last Thursday	10.30am	Coffee Morning

HEMPSTEAD

First Monday alternate months	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (next is 5 March)
Tuesday	10.00am	Charcoal Drawing £4 - Mike Thody 711282
Third Wednesday	7.30pm	Film Club

Mobile Library Van

15 Feb / 15 Mar

Matlaske	12.30	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	1.15	NR11 7LG	Walnut Farm
Baconsthorpe	2.45	NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows
	4.10	NR25 6LG	Old Post Office
Hempstead	3.20	NR25 6LE	Hare & Hounds
	3.40	NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk

1 Feb / 1 Mar / 29 Mar

Saxthorpe	11.50	NR11 7BL	Old Post Office
Corpusty	12.10	NR11 6QP	School
	12.40	NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cott's
	2.00	NR11 6QJ	Adams Lane
	2.15	NR11 6QL	3 Council Houses
	2.30	NR11 6QL	16 Council Houses
Edgefield	3.15	NR24 2AX	The Street
	3.40	NR24 2AL	The Memorial

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Village Hall

Tuesdays	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Fridays	10.00am - 1.00pm
All services	

Corpusty Stores

Monday-Saturday	9.00am - 12.00noon	587202
All services including Euros		

Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB	712202
Mon Wed Sat 9.30am-1.00pm	
Fri 9.30am-6.00pm	

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.

HOLT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Royal Opera House Satellite Screenings 2018

Carmen

2.00pm Sunday 11 March

Macbeth

7.15pm Friday 6 April

Manon

7.15pm Thursday 3 May

Swan Lake

7.15pm Friday 15 June

Advanced Tickets £12.50 At the door £15.00
Under 18s £10.00

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www.holtcommunitycentre.org.uk

Father Michael's Parish Letter

February 2018

Dairy Farm Cottages
577865

Dear Friends

In 2014 I said 'Goodbye and God bless you' after being with five of the Parishes since 2009. Well, here I am again! It is with great joy that I have agreed to the Bishop's request to look after the newly formed Matlaske Benefice until the Rev David Longe arrives in October.

It is not a case of 'mixture as before' because things move on, develop and, hopefully grow. We are seven different Parishes, each one has its own identity and we, as a Benefice, must seek to grow together in friendship and in trust. By worshipping together we shall grow in strength. We have a rich variety of liturgy and it is good to experience different forms of service - everything from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer to Common Worship in both traditional and modern language.

On Christmas morning more than seventy adults and about fifteen children came to 'Family Communion' at Baconsthorpe. This is most encouraging - especially for the faithful souls who keep the church running no matter what! There are green shoots of growth and each one of us has a job to do in nurturing - by the warmth of our welcome, by encouraging neighbours to 'Come and see'.

We are lucky to have two Licensed Readers and several retired Clergy who give of their time generously. Support them with your prayers. The Benefice Choir is a joy and enriches our worship - thank you all who enliven our services.

When the magazine reaches you, Lent will be almost upon us. We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday (14th February) with Communion at Saxthorpe at 10am. There will be extra services during Lent on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. A hymn, an address by a visiting Preacher and the evening service of Compline. What is Compline? As I said earlier in this letter 'Come and see' - each Wednesday night service lasts for about forty minutes - and a warm welcome awaits you.

Please remember that I'm here for **you** and remember me in your prayers.

God bless you all

Father Michael Cartwright

Church Services for February

Sun 4 th Candlemas		
10.00	Benefice Choral Eucharist <i>BCP</i>	Barningham Winter
Sun 11 th 1 Before Lent		
9.30	Eucharist <i>BCP</i>	Matlaske
11.00	Matins	Baconsthorpe
Wed 14 th Ash Wednesday		
10.00	Eucharist	Plumstead
Sun 18 th Lent 1		
9.30	Eucharist <i>CW</i>	Saxthorpe
11.00	Matins	Barningham Winter
Wed 21 st		
19.00	Compline Address by Father Stephen Graham (Curate at Holt)	Hempstead
Sun 25 th Lent 2 Lent 2		
9.30	Eucharist <i>CW TL</i>	Edgefield
18.00	Taizé Evening Prayer	Plumstead
Wed 28 th		
19.00	Compline Address by Rev David Head (Rector of West Runton)	Hempstead
Sun 4 th March Lent 3		
9.30	Eucharist <i>CW TL</i>	Hempstead
11.00	Matins	Matlaske

CW = Common Worship *BCP* = Book of Common Prayer *TL* = Traditional Language

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Holy Communion Services at Matlaske Every Thursday 10am

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Farewell Service for the Venerable John Ashe Archdeacon of Lynn

Sunday March 11th at 3.30pm

Norwich Cathedral

We shall be very sorry to say farewell to John Ashe on his retirement as Archdeacon of Lynn. He has served the Diocese and the parishes of his archdeaconry with distinction over the past eight years and I know he is held in very high affection. We wish John and Shelagh every happiness in their retirement home on the Devon/Cornwall border.

Everyone is welcome to attend the service in Norwich Cathedral where we will be bidding farewell to John on Sunday 11th March. Choral Evensong begins at 3.30pm and there will be a presentation to John and Shelagh alongside expressions of our gratitude. No tickets or reservations are required. There will be refreshments afterwards for everyone.

A collection is being organised for John and contributions are very welcome. Please send cheques, either personal or from your PCC, made payable to "The Bishop's Fund" and marked "John Ashe collection" on the back and send these to:

Coralie Nichols
 Bishop's House
 Norwich
 NR3 1SB

Alternatively you can make a bank transfer to the Bishop's Fund:

Sort Code: 20 62 53

Account Number: 90136174

Please clearly state on the reference "John Ashe collection"

It will be very helpful to have every contribution by the end of February.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the Cathedral on March 11th at 3.30pm.

+Graham Norvic



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Baconsthorpe

200 Club

Dec: £25 Michael Regis, £10 David Youngs, £5 Ian Robinson, Roger Hall, David Youngs

Jan: £25 Yvonne Law, £10 Judy Game, £5 Corinne Youngs, William Peck

Happy birthday to Alice Hazeel who celebrated her 95th birthday on 9th January.

Best wishes to Pauline Fuller who has broken her shoulder, we hope it soon mends.



Corinne Youngs

577263

Parish Council Meetings 2018

Please note the dates for future Parish Council meetings 26th March, 21st May (Annual Meeting and Parish Council Meeting), 10th September and 5th November.

Pop-up Pub Friday 23rd February from 6.30pm when cottage pie will be served.

Church News

The PCC AGM will be held on Monday 5th March at 2.30pm. This is a public meeting and should be held in the church, but as there is still a temporary roof, and it is so cold, the meeting will be held at Ash Tree Farm. All are welcome.

Raise the Roof - Save the Date

On Friday 6th July there will be an **auction of promises and interesting things** in aid of the roof repair to Baconsthorpe Church. Please put your thinking caps on for interesting ideas, or look in your loft for treasures that could be auctioned. Do contact Corinne with suggestions. More details will follow.

Village Hall News

Well it seems an awfully long time ago - 15th November to be precise - where does the time go? I digress. I am of course referring to our last Prize Bingo held on that date. Big success. Thank you to everyone who braved the fog to attend. Thank you to Jonathan for 'calling' and to Yvonne for providing the nibbles, not forgetting Evelyn's sausage rolls! THANK YOU ALL. £148 was raised after expenses.

Success continued with our Festive Weekend. The Sing-along and the Christmas Party ... and yes, Santa came too. Once again, thank you to all the volunteers and for all the donations that were so generously given - we couldn't do it without you. Special thanks to Yvonne for organising the weekend - we're going to miss you! A good upbeat end to 2017 - long may it continue. More thanks, this time to the Pop-Up-Pub for providing dimmer switches to the general lighting in the hall.

On Thursday 8th March at 7pm there will be a Quiz Night in the village hall. £6.00 a head, supper, raffle, please bring your own drinks. To book a table please call Emma 07884432412

Susan Belbin

Baconsthorpe Castle

English Heritage have closed off access to the bridge across to the inner castle area at Baconsthorpe Castle. They have a small conservation project about to take place to consolidate some of the masonry of the inner gatehouse. This is planned to be complete by late March and access will be resumed then. The car park and the outer gatehouse will remain open throughout.

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www.fullmotionpilates.co.uk



Barningham Winter

Christmas seems a bit of a distant memory now but it started with a wonderful
Advent Service at St Peter's Church, North Barningham, which was attended by
over 80 people. The Rev Michael Cartwright took the service and the congregation
enjoyed mulled wine and nibbles afterwards. Huge thanks to Mr & Mrs de Bunsen
for organising and providing for such a memorable occasion.



Sara Buxton
577207

St Mary's Church, Barningham Winter has received the final payment of the HFL
grant. Building work is just about completed which has taken nearly a year, and
now the church has a new heating system plus lots more improvements. So many thanks to all
those who have been involved with this massive project.

Lots of pretty wreaths were hung up over Christmas which were made at the wreath making day
at Barningham Hall. £500 was raised from this event, and thanks to Mrs Tessa Papworth for such
good instructions and to the Courtaulds for letting us use the stables and providing lunch.

The next PCC meeting and the AGM will be held on the 6th March at 1.30pm at Manor Farm,
Baconsthorpe.

Shake off those winter cobwebs and come and join us at a scrabble evening at Barningham Hall on
Wednesday 21st February at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 each which will include nibbles and wine and will only be available in advance
from Mrs Amelia Courtauld on 577250 or amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk There will also be a
raffle. Places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment. Cheques payable to Barningham
Winter PCC.

Edgefield

200 Club

163 Jeff Witts, 48 Libby Fox, 24 Karen Massingham

Church News

I hope you can make careful note of our services under the new regime. On
February 25th we have our normal 9.30 Holy Communion. We then, in Lent, have
Compline at 7.00pm on March 14th and 21st, and Common Worship Communion
at 11.00am on March 18th. We have our usual GOOD FRIDAY service of Readings
and Hymns at 12noon. On EASTER SUNDAY we go to Hempstead for a Benefice Eucharist
with the Benefice Choir. It would be so good if many of us join this special service, and also go to
other services around the Benefice during the months Michael Cartwright is looking after us until
David Longe comes in October.

Exciting work is in progress in the old church tower. With scaffolding erected inside, we have ejected
the pigeons, and now have to wire all the openings securely with stainless steel mesh to keep the
tower bird free. Do help yourselves to the heap of guano for your gardens! Please go and enjoy the
snowdrops, which will soon be at their best. The old churchyard is free from the brambles, nettles and
elders, and it should look wonderful after all our very hard work this past year.



Richard Peaver
587486

Angela Turner

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Hempstead

200 Club

Dec: £50 D Durst £25 P Hawkey £10 Mary Scarff £5 A Sewell, E Summers, R Hunt, L Matthews, R Collier, N Sanders

Jan: £50 M Thody £25 E Buxton £10 P Loach £5 R Hall, A Parker, J Smith



Sharon Hannah
711769

Hempstead 200 club has for 30 years been supporting the maintenance of the churchyard, last year paying for the iron railings to be painted and the churchyard mowed and kept in good order. It also gives ticket holders (including my dog!) the chances to win one of 6 prizes each month, as half the money contributed is paid back out in prizes – all for the cost of just £1 per month per ticket. (You don't even have to live in the village to hold tickets). The draw takes place at Coffee & Gossip each month. In November one of my tickets – held in my dog's name, Alfie - won the top prize of £50, so he got a new bed and lots of toys with his prize money. Currently, there are a few vacant numbers, so if you, or your dog (or dare I suggest cat) would like to join the 200 club please contact me 713137 or Su Summers 710702.

Francis Feilden

Irene Bassett, who for many years has been the leading light amongst our flower arrangers in church, feels it is time to stand down. We thank her so very much for all she has done for us. However, of course it leaves a big gap, so if there is anyone who would enjoy arranging two altar vases and something in the porch (expenses for purchase of flowers are claimable) one month a year, we'd be very pleased to hear from you! Ann 713656 or Su 710702

Coffee & Gossip

Thursday 1st February 10.30am to 12noon in the Village Hall.

Hempstead Play Reading Group

New season begins on Wednesday 7th February in the Village Hall, 7pm for a prompt start to reading at 7.30pm. If you would like to join the play Reading Group please ring Su 710702.

Christmas Eve at All Saints Church

The Churchwardens would like to thank all those who decorated the church so joyfully, both adults and young people, and to the young who took such important roles in the Christmas Eve service. The generous collection meant we could send £200 to The Children's Society.

Ann and Su

Chas Lister Writes

Not being regular church goers and relatively new to the village, Dulce and I did not know what to expect as we headed towards All Saints Church on the morning of Christmas Eve. What we found was a church decorated for the occasion and packed with family members of all ages. Of course, it was a religious service and an important one for churchgoers, but more so in my mind, it was a gathering of friends and neighbours at a focal point in our village to celebrate this special time of year. Su Summers gallantly stepped in to conduct the service at the last moment as illness struck down Judy Rosser. Music for the occasion was provided by Richard Peaver on the organ and by Stephen Dunstone playing the harp, both sounding wonderful within the acoustics of this relatively small church. The music raised voices to full flood as traditional carols were enthusiastically sung

by all. Young members of the congregation delivered readings and added crib figures one by one as the story unfolded, contributing delightfully as only excited children can. Following the service, the gathering of locals and visitors continued, as seasonal refreshments were enjoyed. I would end by saying that if for whatever reason you did not attend, then do make a note in your diary for 2018, it was an enjoyable occasion and as we found, all are very welcome.

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday March 5th at 7.30pm so if you want to keep up with the state of play with the Lanpro development, keep this date free. Minutes of the last meeting, and the agenda for the coming one are posted a fortnight before in the bus shelter.

Village Hall Grounds

I'd like to say a big thank you to Jill and Dick Roy for undertaking the maintenance of the garden around the Village Hall. Having been a bit apologetic when taking bookings for the hall about its rather unkempt appearance, I am now really proud of it! Well done both of you.

Su Summers

Hempstead Christmas Party

Too many to thank individually, but congratulations to the village hall committee, and their volunteer helpers, for making such a successful event!

The olde hall bedecked in seasonal spruce and holly,

Filled to the roof with party goers, all happy and jolly,

Joining in celebration with good festive cheer,

As is only befitting at this time of the year,

Delicious food, 'Bucks fizz' and high spirits galore,

Dancers and singers spilling across the dance floor

The sixties band with their Beatles renditions and other melodic inclusions

Bringing the evening of merrymaking to a successful, and reluctant conclusion,

An evening to remember for we parishioners one and all

On party night at Hempstead's historic village hall!

T

Toading

Before we know it, the toads will be returning to Rookery Pit on their annual trip back to their spawning pond. We would be most grateful to anyone who could offer the time to do an evening shift or two each week to patrol the road and save the toads from being squashed by passing traffic. We can't specify exactly when they will come, but we need to be on the alert from the middle of February and the toads have usually left by the beginning of April. If you would like to hear more, please ring Su 710702.

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Matlaske

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope you all enjoyed the festive season.

Welcome

To Pete who has moved into The Rectory, hope he enjoys his time here.

Get Well

We wish Florence a speedy recovery after her fall, which resulted in a long stay in hospital. She is now back home.



Marion Shepherd
577521

Christmas Party

Once again Baconsthorpe Village Hall was full for the Christmas party, when lovely food and entertainment was enjoyed by all. It was great to see our community together and old friends catching up.

Plumstead

Fête & Open Gardens - 8th July

The Parish Council and the PCC are planning a joint fundraising event for Sunday July 8th. It will be a Fête and Open Gardens combined. Planning is well underway and we are delighted to have the offer of nine gardens for people to explore. The traditional fête will have tempting refreshments, including a licensed bar. Please do put the date in your diaries. There will be more details in future magazines.



Mary Lintott
577718

Taizé Service - 25th February

For the first time Plumstead Church will hold a Taizé Service on Sunday 25th February at 6 pm. For those of you who don't know about Taizé it is very different from the usual centuries old form. The Taizé Community was founded by a Protestant monk Brother Roger in wartorn Europe in 1940 and is based in France. It has since become a community for both Protestants and Catholics. The music which is a fundamental part of the worship reflects this sentiment and combines musical traditions from around the world. The service itself will be short with some readings and prayers. The Taizé chants which are an integral part will be led by the Benefice Choir. Most importantly it provides a space for quiet reflection and meditation. The church will be candlelit and warm!



Edith Chestney

We say goodbye to Edith (Edie) Chestney, née Barnes, who sadly passed away on 21st December 2017. Andy, her middle son, will be familiar to many of us as he and his red vans pass through the village on a mission to repair buildings on the Barningham Estate and he is responsible for the wonderful building work that is being done on our church. Edie, born in 1931, was raised, married and lived in Plumstead all her life until her health required 24-hour care and she moved to a nursing home in Norwich in 2013. She was one of nine children and attended Matlaske Primary School. Edie met Albert (Sailor) and after a flourishing courtship they were married on November 8th

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1952 in Plumstead Church. They moved into number 11 Council Houses and raised their three children, Trevor, Andy and Anne. She had a varied career from working in the fields to caretaker of Baconsthorpe School until it closed in 1974. She took much pride in this role and continued cleaning for various people in the local community. Sadly, a major stroke in 1995 left her paralysed on her left side and unable to speak, but with grit and determination she accepted her disability. Plumstead played a big part in Edie's life, with lots of happy memories. She was very much a family person, and adored her six grandchildren and four great-grand children. We send our condolences to all the family.



Parish Council Meetings 2018

Please note the dates for future Parish Council meetings
26th March, 14th May (Annual Meetings) ~ Plumstead Church, 16th July, 17th September and 3rd December.

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Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Happy New Year to all and we hope that everyone had a joyous time over the Christmas and New Year period. Christmas was set off well by the lovely Candle Light Service in Saxthorpe Church.

Sophia Hodgson
587510

The Community Payback Group have done a terrific job of tidying-up the Church yard and walls. Many thanks to the group.

Come and see the snowdrops in the Watersons' garden, The Old Rectory, Saxthorpe on 10th February 10.30am – 12.30pm - donations. Enjoy coffee in the church afterwards in aid of the Church & Matlaske Group Fund.

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Recipe of the Month

All-in-One Chocolate Cake

This recipe makes a really nice textured and moist cake. I have in the past substituted some gluten free flour for half of the 4oz required, or you could try using all gluten-free – I don't see why it would not work.

To make a deeper cake please double the recipe, but also make sure your tins are deep enough, and don't forget to grease and flour well.

To make one 8-inch cake

100g / 4oz fine caster sugar

100g / 4oz butter or good quality margarine

100g / 4oz self-raising flour

1 tablespoon cocoa (unsweetened) (Bourneville is good quality)

Half heaped teaspoon baking powder

2 eggs

Blend all ingredients together until well mixed (do not over mix)

If the mix seems too dry (it should just drop off your spoon) add a little milk.

Bake in pre-heated oven at 180c / 350f / gas mark 4 for 30 mins until well risen and springy to the touch.

Paul Boast

Sudoku

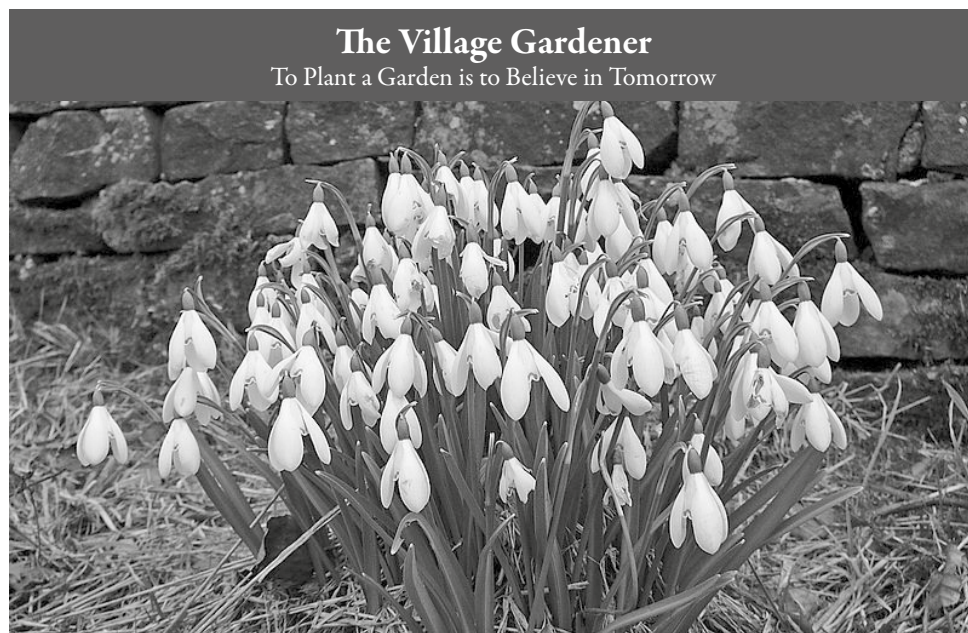
Enter a digit from 1 to 9 in each cell, so that each horizontal row contains each digit once, each vertical column contains each digit once, and each subgrid contains each digit once.

Easy

	2				8			6
	4				2			3
	5				9		1	
		7		4		2		9
2		4	1	3	7	8		5
8		6		2		1		
	8		6				7	
3			5				2	
1			2				9	

Medium

	5		2			1		
7			3			4		
8			4	1		9		
	2		1	7			6	
4	1						8	5
	3			5	2		1	
		5		2	1			7
		3			8			2
		6			9		4	



The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow

Happy New Year to you all! So far (touch wood) we've escaped any damaging snow, just significant rainfall. However, now is the time to wrap-up warm and prune your wisteria, cutting back summer side shoots to two to three buds.

While you have your secateurs to hand, cut back shrubs such as Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow). These are both grown for their colourful winter stems, but they will need cutting down right to the base. This treatment promotes vibrant new growth that isn't woody, so helps prepare for a really good display next winter. Lastly, winter flowering shrubs such Mahonia and Viburnum x bodnantense will need the tops taking out after they have flowered.

If you are tired of looking at one lonely clump of snowdrops, then seize the moment: be brave, and lift them just after they have flowered (in the green). Separate them into smaller clumps – odd numbers always look better in the garden than even numbers. Now, if you can face it, is a good time to move any small trees and shrubs whilst they are thoroughly dormant. But whilst they might be dormant do not neglect to water them back in properly.

Good housekeeping in the greenhouse will pay off huge dividends when it finally warms up, so take the time to properly clean out all your pots and seed trays, attempting to recycle any that are beyond their best. Now you've earned that warm cup of tea and cosy armchair by the fire with a stack of seed catalogues...dream on!

Many Thanks for all your questions! Peter Enis has asked when is a good time to harvest hazel for garden structural supports. In my opinion I would harvest it now, because the later you leave it, the greener it will get and the quicker it will shed its bark and deteriorate.

Keep the questions coming in! Do email me at redmaple@btinternet. As ever, the most interesting question will be published next month.

Mick McCarter

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Nature Watch - Red Kites



Since moving to Matlaske I have been pleased to see the red kites on numerous occasions swooping over the land as they glide and fly right over our house. You don't often see them in still and quiet weather as they like to fly with the wind under their large wings as they then don't have to expend too much energy.

Their effortless flight resembles that of the kites that are flown by many enthusiasts today. Close up, the raptor is marked beautifully, and when the sun shines upon them it shows striking colours – mainly golden and with the rich, red-brown that gives it its name.

The red kite is mainly a scavenger, only sometimes catching its own prey. It mainly feeds on road kill and animals such as rabbits, sheep and other carrion that have succumbed especially to the cold winter months.

Red kite nests can often contain paper, fabric and even soft toys, so that it's a cosy nest for its young; as Shakespeare wrote in *A Winter's Tale*, 'When the Kite builds, look to lesser linen'.

After being persecuted in the late 18th century, they are doing well now, and their numbers have increased dramatically since 1992, when feeding stations especially in Wales were introduced.

You can always recognise a kite because of its long slender wings often set at angles at the knuckle and also the classic forked tail. Its call is like a shrill mewing "weeou-weeou".

One issue that has come to light in recent months is that as these raptors are mainly scavengers, like the buzzard, many are being killed now because farmers are putting out poisoned bait to kill foxes and other predators that threaten their livestock. If not checked this could threaten their survival. We must manage at all costs the preservation of this beautiful bird; long may it soar over our homelands!

Paul Boast