

Church & Village News

Baconsthorpe • Barningham Winter • Edgefield • Hempstead • Itteringham • Little Barningham
Matlaske • Plumstead • Saxthorpe with Corpusty • Wickmere with Wolterton

February 2017



Sunrise, Plumstead Village Pond

by Michael McMahon

Nature Watch - Waxwing



This winter, birdwatchers have enjoyed a large invasion of waxwings. They are colourful birds, and are roughly about the same size as a starling. They have a warm-brown coloured head with a neat little crest on top. They also have a small black bib, and a yellow band across the tip of their tail. They breed in the birch and pine forests of Scandinavia. However, when the berry crop fails across Northern Europe they are forced in huge numbers to fly westwards in search of food. Although most of them have now moved well inland, you may still be lucky enough to get one visiting your garden.

Another bird here in good numbers this winter is the shore lark. Like the waxwing, they are also from Northern Europe. They are skylark size, and have yellow and black markings on their head. They are also known as horned lark, for during the breeding season they have two small black feathers on their head which look like horns. Although many have moved on, you should still be able to find a few of them wintering around the Holkham Bay area.

David Braithwaite

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www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk

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Baconsthorpe	Jonathan Cooper	577527
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Itteringham	Jimmy Fowell	587356
Lt Barningham	Harry Betts	577640
Matlaske & Barningham	Sara Buxton	577207
Plumstead	Alastair Brown	577447
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Imogen Waterson	587610
Wickmere	Leslie Ash	577566

District Councilors

Baconsthorpe, Corpusty, Edgefield, Hempstead, Itteringham, Lt Barningham, Plumstead, Saxthorpe

Georgie Perry-Warnes 538344
georgie.perry-warnes@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Matlaske & Barningham

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

Wickmere

Norman Smith 768665
norman.smith@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Parish Council Websites or Email Addresses


Baconsthorpe	http://baconsthorpeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Edgefield	http://edgefieldnorfolk.co.uk/the-parish-council.shtml
Hempstead	hempsteadpc@gmail.com
Itteringham	halandisabel@hotmail.com
Lt Barningham	http://littlebarninghamparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Matlaske & Barningham	s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk
Plumstead	http://plumsteadparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com
Wickmere	theforge3@gmail.com

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What's On

FEBRUARY

Wed 8	7.00pm	Hempstead Play Reading	Village Hall
Sat 11	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Dinner with a Twist	Village Hall
Wed 15	2.00pm	Corpusty LinC	Village Hall
Mon 20	7.30pm	Baconsthorpe Parish Council EGM	Village Hall
Thur 23	3.30pm	Corpusty Families Together	Village Hall
Fri 24	7.30pm	Hempstead Winter Talk	Village Hall

MARCH

Sat 4	10.30am	Plumstead Spring Clean	Village
Thur 9	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Fundraising Quiz Night	Village Hall
Fri 10	7.00pm	Edgefield Quiz Night	Village Hall
Mon 13	7.30pm	Baconsthorpe Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Sat 18	7.00pm	Edgefield Irish Night	Village Hall
Tues 21	2.00pm	Barningham Winter PCCAGM	Manor Farm, North Barningham

Coffee Morning in aid of the Angela Houston Award

Mannington Hall
10am Friday 24th March

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16 Feb / 16 Mar / 12 Apr

Itteringham	11.00	NR11 7AP	The Common
	11.15	NR11 7AY	The Rectory
Lt Barningham	12.05	NR11 7AG	The Street
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

2 Feb / 2 Mar / 30 Mar / 27 Apr

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

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Regular Events

Baconsthorpe Village Hall

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

Corpusty Village Hall

Second and fourth Monday	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Bure Valley Quilters & Stitchers
Tuesdays during term time	5.45pm - 7.15pm	Brownies
Second Tuesday	10.00am - 12noon	Norfolk Knitters £7 - 4 weeks or £2-1 week 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 Village Hall

Third Monday	7.00pm
First Tuesday	2.00pm
Second Wednesday	2.00pm
Last Thursday	10.30am

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday Club

Ladies Club

Coffee Morning - Jeff Witts 587661

Hempstead Village Hall

Tuesday	10.00am
Third Wednesday (not Dec)	7.30pm
First Friday	10.30am

Charcoal Drawing £4 includes coffee,
biscuits and paper Mike Thody 711282

Film Club

Coffee & Gossip

Clash Diary 2017

Please e-mail your dates to
Corinne Youngs corinne@avyoungs.com

	April
Plumstead Talk	6
Plumstead Spring Fair	29
	June
Plumstead BBQ	17
	July
Matlaske Village Fete	29
	September
North Barningham Concert	15/16/17
	October
Plumstead Quiz & Supper	13

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Village Hall

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

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

Itteringham Village Shop 587325
Monday-Thursday 9.00am – 1.00pm
All services including Euros
Free cash withdrawals

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

Farewell & Thanks



You will all know that our Priest-in-charge, Rev Marion Harrison, has left us to take on a new benefice in Wiltshire. A wonderful farewell service of thanksgiving for her work within our community was held in Edgefield Church where members of all ten parishes came together. The singing was accompanied by Richard Peaver, and the benefice choir sang anthems chosen by Marion. Afterwards a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all, thanks to the hard work of Emma

Cletheroe and Angela Turner, and Marion was presented with a generous cheque, a gift from the people of the parishes in appreciation of her ministry here. We are all grateful for all her hard work and guidance through the changes within the benefice. In her busy schedule she has managed to find time to write *Reflections from the Rectory*, thought provoking pieces which added greatly to this publication. We all wish her well in her new position.

Thomas Courtauld

From February 8th, this group of churches will be in an interregnum but services in the churches will continue with the help of local retired priests, lay readers and authorised worship assistants (see magazines as usual for service times and venues). From that date, the churches of Little Barningham, Wickmere and Itteringham will be joining with the Aylsham group of churches whilst the remaining seven parishes will stay together.

In the absence of an incumbent, people of the seven churches with queries should contact the Rural Dean, Rev Jeremy Sykes on 01263 860280 or briston.vicarage@gmail.com or speak to a churchwarden who will contact him if necessary.

For those in the three parishes the Rural Dean is Rev Canon Andrew Beane 01263 732686 or andrew.beane@btinternet.com

Eleanor Faulkner

Church People

Lay Minister Gill Peat 734226

AWA Judy Rosser

Church Wardens

Baconsthorpe	Tessa McCosh	577611
Barningham Winter	Amelia Courtauld	577250
Edgefield	Emma Cletheroe	587049
	Angela Turner	587292
Hempstead	Ann Udale	713656
	Su Summers	710702
Itteringham	Ray Covell	587659
	Derek Turnbell	587259
Little Barningham	Pamela Daniels	577436
	Michael Daniels	577436
Matlaske	Thomas Courtauld	577250
Plumstead	Eleanor Faulkner	577868
Saxthorpe	Merlin Waterson	587610
	Heather Monks	587118
Wickmere	Tony Hurn	577309

Do you enjoy singing choral music?
Come and join The Benefice Choir.
Our small group needs a further 2 altos,
2 tenors and a bass to rehearse regularly
and sing for some church services.
Interested? Call Su Summers 01263 710702

Church Services for February

5th 4 Before Lent

9.15	Holy Communion <i>CW</i>	Little Barningham
9.15	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Plumstead
11.00	Matins	Baconsthorpe
11.00	Family Service	Wickmere

12th 3 Before Lent

9.15	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Itteringham
9.15	Holy Communion	Barningham Winter
11.00	Matins	Hempstead
11.00	Morning Praise	Saxthorpe
11.00	Holy Communion <i>CW TL</i>	Edgefield

19th 2 Before Lent

8.00	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Wickmere
9.15	Holy Communion	Matlaske
11.00	Morning Prayer	Little Barningham

26th Sunday Before Lent

9.15	Matins	Edgefield
9.15	Holy Communion <i>CW TL</i>	Hempstead
11.00	Matins	Barningham Winter
11.00	Morning Prayer <i>BCP</i>	Itteringham
11.00	Holy Communion <i>CW</i>	Saxthorpe

5th Lent 1

9.15	Family Service	Edgefield
9.15	Holy Communion	Baconsthorpe
11.00	Morning Prayer <i>CW</i>	Plumstead

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

Sunday 12th 12.30pm - Community Sunday Lunch
Little Barningham Village Hall

Baconsthorpe

Sat 11 7.00pm **Dinner with a Twist** - Village Hall
 Mon 20 7.30pm **Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting** - Village Hall

200 Club

£25 Doreen Grant, £10 Nancy Glazebrook, £5 Rosemary Warboys, Tracy Rudd

Parish Council

The next meeting will be on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There will be a Quiz Night in the Village Hall on Thursday 9 March at 7pm to raise funds for the speed awareness camera. More details next month.

Pop-up Pub

This month Friday 24th February when lasagne will be on the menu.

Terry Blackall

Terry passed away on Boxing Day. "Wherry Terry" as he was affectionately known never really recovered from his recent stroke. Our condolences go to family and friends. Terry's funeral will take place on Wednesday 25th January at 1pm, Cromer Crematorium, 32 West Street, Cromer, NR27 9DS.

Village Hall News

Soup & Cake

We thought we would try a monthly Soup & Cake lunchtime event. Join us for a snack lunch in the Village Hall where homemade soup and cake will be served for £3 a head. A chance to



Full House for the Christmas Prize Bingo

meet your neighbours and have a chat at the same time. Our trial run will be on Thursday 2nd March from 12noon, so come along and join us.

At the Christmas party MAGICAL EDD did us proud and although a few more faces would have been nice, the afternoon was a complete success. Another triumph was the CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO. Thank you to Pat and John for seeing us through the evening and special thanks to Jerry Eldridge

for stepping in at the last minute. The COBWEBS were well and truly cleared on our New Year's Day walk! The weather could have been kinder and a few more faces would have been nice! However, a good time was had by all, and Yvonne Delany's great catering did wonders for the winter chill. Thank you Yvonne, very much appreciated. Same time next year!

A ring has been found in the Ladies at the Village Hall. If you think it might be yours please contact Susan Belbin on 577474.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please note, from 18th February until 29th March, bookings for the Village Hall are to be made through Karen Hall on 577547. Thank you.



Corinne Youngs
577263

Barningham Winter

Huge congratulations to Gemma and Ben Radley of Keepers Cottage, Barningham Winter whose darling baby daughter Evie May was born on 27th December. Our very best wishes go to all the family.

The AGM of Barningham Winter PCC is on Tuesday 21st March at Manor Farm, North Barningham at 2pm.

In the run-up to Christmas it was noticed that a car was parked outside St Mary's Church late at night. On investigation some three men were found inside who said they were paranormal researchers. Please be vigilant when you see strange cars outside the churches.

We are delighted to report that we have now received Permission to Start (work) on the Delivery Phase of repairs to St Mary's. We are immensely grateful to HLF for allowing us to undertake this work and huge thanks go to Mrs Amelia Courtauld, Mrs Chuffy de Bunsen and to Mr John Perks for all the time they have given in overseeing the submission for these works to be carried out.

Thank you to all those that came to the wreath-making day at The Stables in December. It was a great success and some beautiful wreaths were made under the watchful eye of the instructor Mrs Tessa Papworth. £400 was made from this event, which will go towards the repairs to the church. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event and to the Courtaulds for allowing us to use their stables, and to Mrs Judith Castle-Smith for providing such delicious damson gin!!



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

On 8th January, we had a lovely farewell service for Marion in our church. This was a group service for all the parishes, we had a brilliant choir, and the church seemed full with 85 people. Emma's parents, Philip and Carol Otty, provided a splendid hot lunch for us, and delicious puddings arrived from other parishes, and it was a great send-off for Marion, whom we are so sad to see leave us. We hope she will be very happy in her next living. Many, many thanks to Philip and Carol for our chilli, to Heather for a lovely arrangement of flowers, and to all who brought food or helped in different ways on this occasion.

Is there anyone who loves arranging flowers who would like to go on our rota? It only involves one vase of flowers, and for one month in the year. They make such a difference.

The advertising for a new priest will go out after 8th February, after Marion has been licensed in her new parishes. Such are the diocesan rules.

A very happy and healthy New Year to all.

Angela Turner

Village Hall News

The next event at the Village Hall is our ever-popular Irish Night. Starting at 7.00pm on Saturday 18th March with an Irish stew and pudding, the rest of the evening will be spent dancing to music played by Compass Moon, who have royally entertained us in the past.. There will be a licensed bar and tickets are £10 per head, available from me on 587110 or Dawn Hulbert on 587379. This event always sells out, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Jim Frost



Richard Peaver
587486

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FENCING SERVICES

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Hempstead

Wed 8 7.00pm **Play Reading** - Village Hall
Fri 24 7.30pm **Winter Talk - They Spied for Germany** - Village Hall

200 Club

£25 J Roach, £10 Mary Scarff, £5 A Tyabji, Rose Carver, P Doy

Hempstead 200 Club

The 200 Club is under new management. Linda and Robin West have retired after many years of dedicated service raising money for the maintenance of the churchyard and we thank them very much. The new Committee has given them a red rhododendron and pot which we hope will bring them much pleasure. The new committee is: Jo Hurrell, Francis Feilden (treasurer), Jill and Dick Roy, Airlie Inglis, Su and Ian Summers (draw organisers). The draw will take place at Coffee & Gossip each month. Thank you all for your continued support of the 200 Club. If you are not members and would like to be, please contact Su 710702.

Play reading starts its new season on Wednesday 8th February, 7 for 7.30pm in the village hall. If anyone from any village is interested in joining us or finding out a bit more they should ring Su Summers 710702. We would particularly like a few more men to join us!

Toad Patrol

We are now in 2017 and our little amphibian friends will be on their way before we know. Last year we had an excellent team of Toaders coming from several villages round about, but would welcome more to ease the rota. if you would like to know what's involved please contact Su Summers 710702.

Our village Christmas party was very well attended this year, the new format was a great success with emphasis on the pudding club. A full house enjoyed a great evening of food and mulled wine, followed by live entertainment. Everyone worked hard, especially the Colliers and the Summers! A big thank you to them and all the caterers whose voluntary contributions to this gastronomic extravaganza made it a festive night to remember.

They Spied for Germany with Geoffrey Harris - Friday 24th at 7.30pm

Geoffrey will tell the illustrated story of two men recruited and trained to travel to England in 1940 to spy for Germany. How long were they free to spy; were they successful in avoiding detection and what subsequently happened to them after their arrest? Entrance £1 towards costs. Refreshments available for donations to East Anglia Air Ambulance.



Sharon Hannah
711769

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Sunday 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Itteringham



There have been several captions suggested for the photograph as you will imagine. The most appealing seems to be 'Might as well keep busy while waiting to make a call'!



Eric Goodman

587278

The Village Hall, the Hall parking areas and the brushwood around the land and the telephone box have all been restored by two teams of enthusiastic and competent 'volunteers' drawn from those detained at Her Majesty's pleasure. This is gratefully applauded by, hopefully, all of the village

and recognition is to be expressed in at least one Norfolk news publication. The writer would hope that a connection might at some time be made with these men. The result is excellent and gives indication of what can be achieved by a dedicated management of the village hall through their new team. More help is always welcome. If you feel you can help please contact Ray Covell on 587659.

The writer has strong views about the idea that the humiliation of those who have offended against the rules of our society should be a no-no and he has now written a substantial essay on this question to be published online as was the case when it was promoted that offenders might be required to wear armbands to identify themselves in the public domain. In the early stages of the restoration as described above there was displayed to the outside of the Hall a sandwich board on which the text announced that the work was being undertaken, not by volunteers but by 'OFFENDERS' and in addition, as per the photo, the gang master bore the words, 'COMMUNITY PAYBACK' on his overall. This was an exercise in humiliation, but by oblique intervention your writer was able to have the board removed and it did not re-appear whilst the work proceeded for several more days. Writings to the Home Secretary and Prime Minister are in preparation. NOT IN THIS VILLAGE PLEASE!

The stacking of coffins in the Church porch are soon to be a thing of the past. Planning consent has finally been given for the extension to the Churchyard which will provide plots for the departed for years ahead. Odd in a way, because the village has actually shrunk in recent years but perhaps the queue was longer than thought. For those who sleep lightly the reference to piles of coffins should be seen as a comic reference...probably!

We wish Marion Harrison God Speed. The Rectory may be let, because it is planned that Itteringham will join the Aylsham group of parishes.

Thanks are in order to Carol Lake and John Kitson for their gift of greetings cards (designed by Carol) to your village shop.

The Treasurer of the Itteringham Community Association, Chris Lawrence, will be submitting articles to this magazine to keep us informed of what is going on down at Wolterton Road.



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The shop is open seven days a week 9am to 5.30pm and our Post Office hours are 9am to 1pm Monday and Thursday.

Unfortunately, the shop's future is uncertain because our current lease has not been renewed and we may be forced to scale back our services or even close.

Please show your support by using the shop and cafe, and sign up to our campaign to Save Our Shop, or alternatively email 'Save Itteringham Community Shop' to itteringhamcommunityshop@outlook.com and we will keep you updated.

Without your support, our 380th year could be our last year.

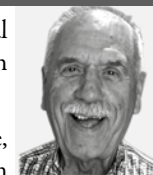
Thank you

The Itteringham Community Association Management Committee

Little Barningham

Although Christmas may now seem a long time ago, I must mention our traditional Christmas luncheon on the 11th December. Many thanks to those who once again made it a resounding success for the largest number ever – 50! Wow!

The thanksgiving service for the life of Henry Betts was attended by 150 people, indicating what great respect he was held in. We think of Margaret and family in their sad loss, and support them with our prayers.



Derek Wintle

570097

It was good to see the church so full to say thank you for Marion's ministry and to wish her well in her new sphere of work. Why can we not come together in such numbers at our Benefice Sundays? Many thanks to the choir. Could they sing at all the benefice Sunday services thus making such a great contribution to the worship?

Once again, all change as we separate and come together with a different combination of other churches. Let us hope and pray and perhaps make a greater effort to make it work well this time. NB our community Sundays will still be on the second Sunday in the month at 10.30 am in the Village Hall.

Now it is so long farewell, auf Wiedersehen, good bye, as this will be the last Little Barningham report in the best ever magazine.

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Matlaske

Christmas Party

Another good turnout for our annual party, when everyone enjoyed the food and entertainment. It was great to see a gathering of 70 people having a good time. Thank you to those people who kindly donated raffle prizes and also to the people who helped on the night, it was very much appreciated.



Marion Shepherd
577521

Goodbye & Welcome

Judy has moved from The Old School House to Holt and Paul & Robert have moved in. Joanne and her children Florence and George have moved into Surrey Cottage. We hope they will all be happy in their new homes.

Wedding

Congratulations to Tracy Turrell and Duncan Mills who were married at St Peter's Church, Matlaske on 17th December.

Charity Evening

A big well done to Threescore who held a charity evening with Tony Hall at Baconsthorpe Village Hall in November. Good music and entertainment raised £300 for EACH at Quidenham. Thank you to all who supported.

Plumstead

Now the days are showing signs of lengthening, Christmas seems a distant memory, but it seems important to reminisce on some happy events in the Village. January, on the other hand, is often a leaner month when we are all tightening our belts after the festive excesses, so there is little to report.

We say goodbye to Marion who leaves us officially in early February. She had the unenviable task of knitting together two benefices and administering to the Benefice of ten parishes. She moves to, I hope, an easier role in Salisbury. We wish her well. We thank her for all she has done during the past few years. So, to the future – it's all change again – we are now to be a Benefice of just seven parishes.

PEG's annual Mulled Wine & Mince Pie 'do' kicked off the Christmas period in the village. The Church was beautifully decorated with flickering candles welcoming everyone into the building.



Plumstead Posada

A 'good ole time' was had by all. This time there was a raffle in aid of the church repair funds. The winner of the hamper, David Logan, very kindly donated it back, and a lively auction ensued. Steve Price in his customary mode ably manoeuvred the auction which was finally won by Fred Fisher. In all, £169 was raised. A very creditable sum! Thank you to everyone who made the evening a success, particularly Nick and Linda Fulford whose expertise in concocting a superb Mulled Wine cannot be bettered!



Mary Lintott
577718

It was lovely to see the Church full for the Carol Service. The Benefice Choir sang well, as did the congregation, and the Posada was passed from its journey around Plumstead homes to the next leg of its journey through Matlaske. Many stayed afterwards for seasonal refreshments. Plumstead decorated a tree as part of the Saxthorpe Christmas Tree Extravaganza. Thank you to everyone who participated in making the decorations. It took pride of place at the back of our Church during the Christmas period.

Congratulations to Ben Stimpson who has secured a conditional place at Pembroke College Oxford to read Biology.

Parish Council Events - Save the Dates

Saturday March 4th Great British Spring Clean, 10.30 - 11.30am. Come and join us to tidy up the litter from hedgerows and roadside verges around the village. Contact Alastair Brown on 577447.

Saturday June 17th The PC are holding a BBQ to raise funds for the upkeep of the village pond. This is also a summer social for the village to enjoy the pond area and meet up for a chat over a BBQ. The PCC are holding three smaller events instead of the normal Church Fete which raises funds for the general running of the Church. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

Thursday April 6th Plumstead Church - *A Rose By Any Other Name* - Tony Leech

Saturday April 29th Spring Fayre - Baconsthorpe Village Hall

Friday 13th October Quiz Night - Baconsthorpe Village Hall

If you are able to help with any of these events, please contact Mary Lintott on 577718 or Eleanor Faulkner on 577868

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Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Wed 15 2.00pm **LinC** - Village Hall

Thur 16 3.30pm **Families Together - Hidden Treasure** - Village Hall

Rev Marion's last service at Edgefield, on 8th January, was well attended by some 80 folk. Marion spoke of her joy at being with the ten churches, while Thomas Courtauld thanked Marion for her five years' service to our communities, and gave her a donation collected from all ten parishes.



Judith Banks
587319

It is sad to report that Bob Collins, formerly of Corpusty died late November 2016. Sincere condolences to his family. May he rest in peace.

Trish Porthouse writes: Unfortunately the CAN-MAN has gone out of business, so there is no longer a can bank in the Village Hall car park. However, there is still a waste paper bank and a textile bank. Please go on using these facilities, especially the paper bank, as the Village Hall receives recycling credits on the paper collected. Thank you.

"Thank you to everyone who gave so very generously to needy children in North Norfolk", so said the Salvation Army Officers who collected many bags of Toys and Tins from St Andrew's Church, Saxthorpe, following the service. Thanks to Anne and Peter Humphrey who helped load the gifts into the Salvation Army Transport. We hear that Anne is now slowly recovering from an emergency operation just before Christmas, we wish her continuing improved health.

"A vibrant, musical occasion" is how one spectator described Corpusty School's Nativity Pageant *A Light has Come*, which was very well supported by families and friends, so much so that it was standing room only. All the children were engaged in each of the songs. The costumes were spectacular and shown off to their best advantage by very well rehearsed and well behaved youngsters. The staff and all who had any part in the preparations of this foretaste of Christmas are to be congratulated. Well done. Thanks for a superb occasion. A collection for Save the Children and St Andrew's Church was made at the end.

Apologies for posting the wrong time for the Candlelight Carols on Christmas Eve at St Andrews. It was a special service conducted by Rev Marion and organised by Charles and Yvonne Tyndale. Thanks to all involved.

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival was a "triumph", so remarked a visitor. Twenty beautifully and originally decorated Christmas Trees supplied by Gary Sillis of Edgefield Nurseries were much appreciated by folk from far and wide' including some visitors from Lincolnshire and Yorkshire who had seen the advertisements while in the area. Hot toasted sandwiches, mince pies, Christmas cake and much more, encouraged many to stay and enjoy a quiet spell before the rush of Christmas festivities. Thanks to Kevin, Ian, Brian and Merlin for erecting the trees in their locations. Thanks to Irene Peck for her generosity in supplying many wonderful, baked goods and to Heather, Anne and Judith for their energy and planning. At the time of going to press £900 was the figure raised, but one expense was still outstanding. Many thanks to all who made this such a success.

The Thursday Art Group meet every first and third week, between 10am and 12noon with a professional tutor attending on the third week. Cost £22per 4.month term or £10 a session if only attending the tutor class.

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The Churchyard, St Peter's, Corpusty



Recent repairs to St Peter's – largely paid for with grants specifically for redundant churches – have put the church into a structurally sound condition, with a new roof, repairs to the stone tracery, glazing to the windows instead of sheets of corrugated iron, and new gutters and downpipes.

When the church was declared redundant by the diocese, it was originally taken on by The Friends of Friendless Churches. It was in a precarious condition, with the windows, chancel screen and font smashed by vandals. Forty years ago, urgent repairs were carried out and access to the church restricted by new gates. The church was then transferred to The Norfolk Churches Trust, which has

organised the recent work, and has been investigating appropriate uses for the building.

For sixty years the churchyard has been neglected, allowing scrub to take over and self-sown ash, oak and thorn to become established. Rabbits have burrowed beneath the headstones, toppling some of them. Nothing was done to maintain the churchyard, because there was some doubt about which body was responsible. Only the church itself is in the care of the Norfolk Churches Trust. The Parish Council owns and manages the extension to churchyard, where burials continue to take place. The Diocese has now confirmed that it owns the churchyard immediately around the church and that responsibility for it therefore rests with the churchwardens of Saxthorpe (although during the last fifty years this was never made clear).

There is, fortunately, a remarkably complete record of what the churchyard has looked like since the middle of the nineteenth century. There is a watercolour of the church by Miles Edmund Cotman (1811 – 1858) showing the churchyard completely open and without trees. Photographs taken in the early 1900s show it still in good order, surrounded by grass. Forty years ago, it was still remarkably open, with virtually no trees. The views from the church were impressive, and it was a much more prominent landmark in its commanding position above the village.

A group of local people has agreed to pay for clearing the churchyard. Thorn and scrub will be cleared and self-sown trees will be removed where these threaten to damage the church or the headstones. There is, for instance, a young ash growing in the masonry of the boundary wall – which is probably medieval – on the south side of the church, and that will come out. Some of the older trees, including those with bat boxes, will remain. The brambles and bracken will also be cleared and the area returned in due course to mown grass.

The intention is that this work will be carried out early in the New Year. If anyone wishes to discuss it with me, or would like to see photographs of what the church used to look like, please give me a ring. Donations towards this long over-due work will be gratefully received, and we would welcome volunteers to help with future maintenance.

Merlin Waterson 01263 587610 merlinwaterson@gmail.com

Wickmere with Wolterton

There is little report this month, but we would like to take the opportunity to say a final farewell and offer heartfelt thanks to Marion, and to wish her every success and happiness in her new post.



Helen Goulty
570043

Times Past

This is the first edition of our magazine to appear in 2017, and this New Year message published 130 years ago caught our eye:

THE YEAR 1887.

Baconsthorpe.—THE NEW YEAR.—The Magazine brings my best New Year's wishes to my parishioners. May Almighty God's blessing rest upon the Parish during the coming year; and since the "richest" blessings cost no money, and may be had by all, who care enough for them to go and seek them, it will be surely our own fault if it is not full of blessing to all of us. The New Year calls us as it has so often called us before, to make a fresh start, and to live a new and better life. Let us begin "*at once*," for delay will not make the work easier, and we cannot afford to delay.

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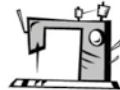
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