

Church & Village News

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

November 2018



Sunset over Plumstead

Photograph by Roger Last

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Newsletter Team

Editor Michael McMahon
mjmcm25@gmail.com

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Design Karen Hall 577547
Print Barnwell Print Ltd, Aylsham 732767
Advertising Paul Boast 577883
magic4@myself.com

Distribution Mary Lintott 577718
Treasurer Corinne Youngs 577263

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To download previous editions visit:
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Parish Council Chairs

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Baconthorpe | Jonathan Cooper | 577527 |
| Edgefield | John Seymour | 587504 |
| Hempstead | Paul Sanders | 713217 |
| Matlaske & Barningham | Sara Buxton | 577207 |
| Plumstead | Nick Fulford | 577433 |
| 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 | http://matlaskeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.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
norman.lamb.mp@parliament.uk
<http://www.normanlamb.org.uk/>
Office hours are Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm
01692 403752 daily between 10am – 1.30pm

County Councillor

Steffan Aquarone
steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk
01603 327827

Village Correspondents

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Baconthorpe corinne@avyoungs.com | Corinne Youngs 577263 |
| Barningham Winter s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk | Sara Buxton 577207 |
| Edgefield rhpeaver@btinternet.com | Richard Peaver 587486 |
| Hempstead shazyhannah@yahoo.co.uk | Sharon Hannah 711769 |
| Matlaske jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com | Marion Shepherd 577521 |
| Plumstead mary.lintott57@btinternet.com | Mary Lintott 577718 |
| Saxthorpe & Corpusty saxthorpecastle@gmail.com | Sophia Hodgson 587510 |

District Councillors

Baconthorpe, Corpusty, Edgefield, Hempstead, Plumstead, Saxthorpe

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

Matlaske & Barningham

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

Church People

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Rev'd Canon David Longe djhlange@gmail.com | 761757 07881 950 294 |
| 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

NOVEMBER

| | | | |
|--------|---------|--|---------------------------|
| Fri 2 | 10.30am | Hempstead Coffee & Gossip | Village Hall |
| Mon 5 | 7.00pm | Baconsthorpe Parish Council Meeting | Village Hall |
| Thur 8 | 7.00pm | Baconsthorpe Village Hall Meeting | Village Hall |
| Sat 10 | 10.00am | Baconsthorpe Climb the Church Roof | Church |
| Wed 14 | 7.00pm | Baconsthorpe Quiz Night | Village Hall |
| Sat 17 | 7.00pm | Plumstead Keith Skipper Evening | Baconsthorpe Village Hall |
| Tue 20 | 7.30pm | Corpusty Parish Council Meeting | Village Hall |

DECEMBER

| | | | |
|--------|---------|---|------------------|
| Sun 2 | 7.00pm | Matlaske Christmas Party | Barningham Hall |
| Mon 3 | 6.30pm | Plumstead Parish Council Meeting | Oak Tree Cottage |
| Thur 6 | 10.00am | Barningham Wreath Making | Barningham Hall |
| Fri 7 | 10.00am | Hempstead Christmas Party | Village Hall |
| Sat 8 | 6.30pm | Edgefield Festive Evening | Village Hall |
| Sun 9 | 7.00pm | Matlaske Sing-Along | Barningham Hall |
| Sat 15 | 7.00pm | Baconsthorpe Sing-Along | Village Hall |
| Sun 16 | 4.00pm | Edgefield Carol Service | Church |
| Sun 16 | 3.00pm | Baconsthorpe Christmas Party | Village Hall |

If you are arranging an event please check with Corinne Youngs that there is not already an event being held that day. This will help prevent any clashes.

577263 / corinne@avyoungs.com



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 Rita Taylor 587507 k2togp1@btinternet.com |
| Friday during term time | 9.30am - 11.30am | Toddler Group |

EDGEFIELD

| | | |
|------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Third Monday | 7.00pm | Parish Council Meeting |
| First Tuesday | 2.30pm | Tuesday Club |
| Second Wednesday | 2.00pm | Ladies Club |
| Last Thursday | 10.30am | Coffee Morning |

HEMPSTEAD

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|--|
| First Monday alternate months | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting |
| Tuesday | 10.00am | Charcoal Drawing £4 - Mike Thody 711282 |
| Third Wednesday | 7.30pm | Film Club |

Mobile Library Van

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------|
| 22 Nov / 20 Dec / 17 Jan | | | |
| 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 |
| 8 Nov / 6 Dec / 3 Jan | | | |
| 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 | 587202 |
| Monday-Saturday | 9.00am - 12.00noon |
| All services including Euros | |
| Holt Library | 712202 |
| 9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB | |
| 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.

Letter from the Rector, Revd Canon David Longe

Tel 761757 / mobile 07881 950294

Dear All

I want to begin this letter by saying thank you for the welcome we received at St Mary's, Baconsthorpe. I wrote the following words to the Church Wardens and also want to share them with you all in the Benefice:

"As a family we were deeply touched by your kindness and generosity in putting on what we found to be a deeply moving, prayerful and fun evening. We are more than aware of the effort that went in to make it so wonderful. I understand that the cleaning and preparing of the church was an extraordinary feat, given the scaffolding and other obstacles that were in place. I have received comment after comment describing the incredible array of food and saying how delicious it all was. I felt the service went incredibly smoothly, showing the dedication and professionalism of how it was put together, from the preparation of the liturgy to the rehearsing. The choir's singing was exceptional. I know too what an effort it was to send out the ever-growing number of invitations, and I received so many messages, including ones from the Holy Land, from those who could not attend, assuring me that they are holding the Benefice in their prayers. I am so grateful too for what I can only imagine was an equally tough task in terms of cleaning and clearing up after everyone left."

Since that Thursday, it has been busy and as I visited folk around the Benefice, including taking 'Open the Book' at Corpusty School, I have already begun to discover some wonderful things about our Benefice. In particular I have found that this is a community that does seek to serve and care for each other.

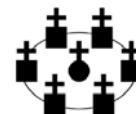
One example is the Edgefield Church's Craft Fair. The church was busy – beautiful tapestries adorning walls and draped over fixtures, superb photographic displays, intricate and delightful paintings and drawings, yet more delicious food – cakes and scones and more, Christmas gifts, a raffle incredible origami, and even vegetables at the door. It may have been cold and wet on Sunday, but the stallholders were undeterred and the atmosphere in the church made it fun. Later on Sunday, I found myself transferred to another realm as I sat transfixed listening to seven harps and a bassoon, in Hempstead Village Hall.

What I have seen echoes the words of the Bishop of Norwich last Thursday, when he spoke about how a community should care for one another, and that a community that cares is one that ensures that "the sick are visited and the needy helped, the lonely comforted and the old or alone... are not neglected."

We do this by creating spaces where people can meet, and being ever mindful and responsive to the needs of our neighbour.

And may you all have a wonderful November,

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for November

| 4 th | All Saints | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 9.30 | Eucharist <i>CW</i> | Saxthorpe |
| 11.00 | Matins <i>BCP</i> | Barningham Winter |
| 5.00 | Patronal Choral Evensong | Hempstead |
| 11 th | Remembrance Sunday | |
| 10.30 | Services & Acts of Remembrance | Baconsthorpe Barningham Winter Edgefield Village Hall Hempstead Matlaske Plumstead Saxthorpe |
| 18 th | Trinity 25 | |
| 9.30 | Eucharist <i>CW TL</i> | Edgefield |
| 11.00 | Morning Prayer | Plumstead |
| 25 th | Christ the King | |
| 9.30 | Eucharist <i>CW TL</i> | Hempstead |
| 11.00 | Matins <i>BCP</i> | Matlaske |
| 11.00 | Toys & Tins | Saxthorpe |
| 2 nd Dec | Advent Sunday | |
| 9.30 | Eucharist <i>CW</i> | Saxthorpe |
| 11.00 | Advent Carol Service | North Barningham |

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

Eucharist Services
Saxthorpe 9am Wednesdays 7th and 21st
Matlaske 11am every Thursday

The Induction of David Longe as Rector of the Matlaske Benefice



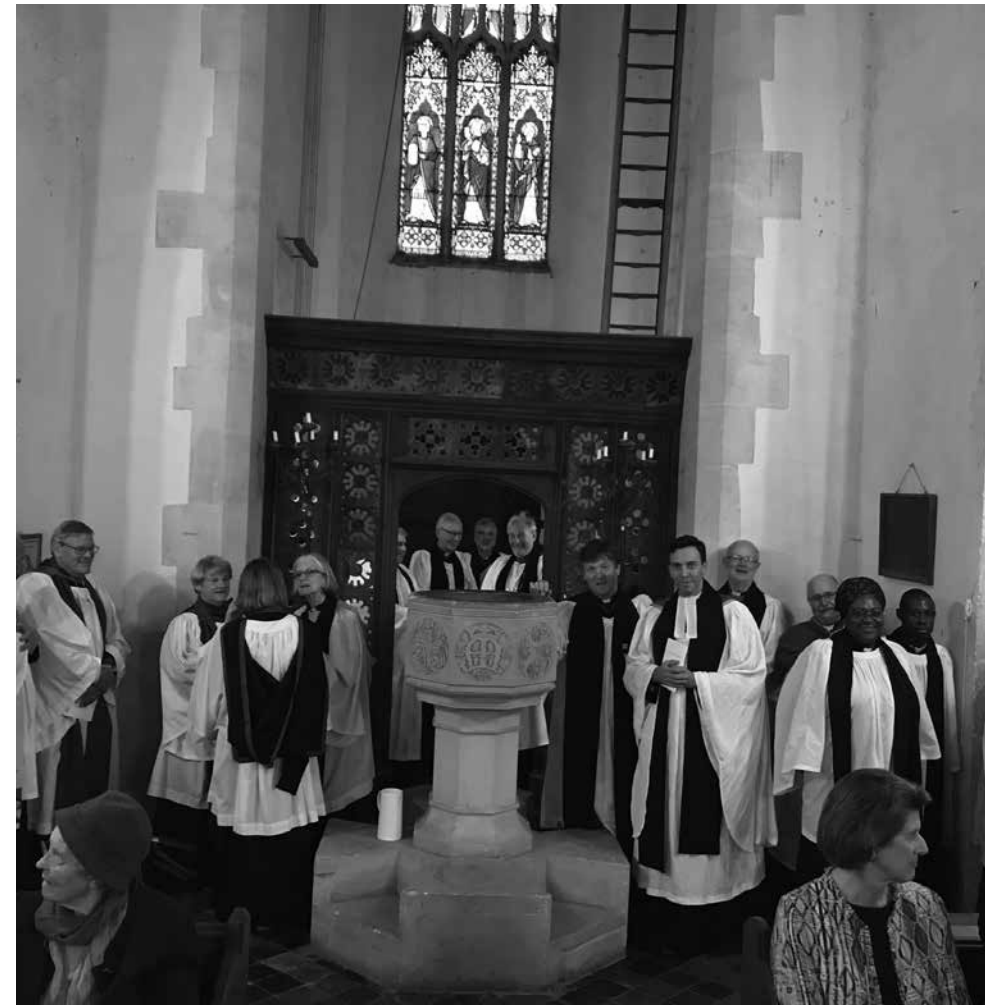
It is 5pm on Thursday 11th October, the day we had all been waiting for for over a year. Baconsthorpe Church was swathed in scaffolding but inside the builders' black plastic had been removed the previous day and a group had arrived to support the PCC sweep, vacuum and polish until the whole place shone and glistened. Flowers had been arranged, all was ready. The church was full. An impressive array of 'robed' clergy headed by the Bishop of Norwich processed in. Some of the congregation had travelled many miles to support David and his family on this momentous occasion and they were joined by a large number of his new parishioners. The choir excelled themselves and the traditional Induction Service commenced. An hour later David emerged as our new Rector.

We all crossed the road to the Village Hall where a repetition of the 'feeding of the 5000' had truly taken place. Plates and plates of delicious food appeared and we were able to welcome the Longes into our community in true Norfolk style. It marks the beginning of a new and exciting time in the life of our church.

Baconsthorpe PCC could not have managed all of this alone and we thank everyone from the other villages in the benefice who worked so hard and helped us create a truly memorable evening.

WELCOME to David, Sarah, Xar, Rex and Artie.

Corinne Youngs



Bishop Graham, Lord Bishop of Norwich Announces his Retirement

In May, the Lord Bishop of Norwich, Graham James, announced his intention to retire on 25 November 2018 after 19 years of service to the Diocese. He has been a wonderful bishop and as a community the Benefice are going to contribute to his retirement gift.

Some of you may have reason to want to contribute something personally. If you would like to do this email Francis Feilden selbriggpond@aol.com who will forward the details of how give directly to the Diocese fund.

Bishop Graham will preach his final sermon at the Cathedral on Sunday 25th November at 4pm. All are warmly welcome.

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Baconsthorpe

200 Club

October

£25 Alice Hazeel, £10 Ben Dowman, £5 Julie Rudd, Ben Dowman

September

£25 Susie Belbin, £10 Simon Burton Pye, £5 Tracy Rudd, Richard Pepper



Corinne Youngs
 577263

Pop-up Pub

Last month saw the third birthday of the Pop-up Pub. Once a month a small dedicated group prepare the village hall, organise the bar and drinks, produce food for 60 and run the pub. At the end of the evening everything has to be cleared up and put away. This event is always well attended and many people (aged from 9 to 90!) spend a very enjoyable evening. Thank you so much Pop-up Pub team for all your hard work and long may this excellent event continue. This month it takes place on Friday 30th November when supper will be lasagne.

Climb the Church Roof

On Saturday 10th November between 10am and 12noon the architect in charge of the roof restoration will be giving tours of the church including a unique chance to climb up the roof and see the wonderful views of the surrounding countryside – much better than a drone! Refreshments will be available.

Village Hall News

Once again CHANDLER GREEN excelled themselves - such good value entertainment. However, once again we could have done with a bigger audience, not just for the sake of the Village Hall and its survival, but for Chandler Green who always go the extra mile. Nineteen people made up the audience, nineteen loyal supporters. It's been said before and it's being said again, if the Village Hall is not supported, it will be no more. This is not an idle threat, this is a fact. Having said that, maybe we are at fault, maybe we are not putting on your idea of what you'd like from your Village Hall. If that is the case, then please tell us. Please tell us what you would be happy to come along to. We look forward to hearing from you, maybe come along to the next Committee Meeting on Thursday 8th November at 7.00pm.

Village Hall Dates for Your Diary

QUIZ NIGHT – 14 November at 7.00pm. Supper provided - bring your own drinks.
 Table booking essential. Contact Kevin Delaney 07801 916769 - thank you

SING-ALONG – 15 December at 7pm - 9pm Carols and Christmas songs, mulled wine and great company

CHRISTMAS PARTY – 16 December at 3pm - 6pm Games, food and maybe even a visit from you know who ...

Susan Belbin



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Barningham Winter

We send huge amount of thanks to Michael and Jo Cartwright for all the love and kindness they have shown all their 'flock' over the last years. We all will miss them and send them lots of love and happiness for their future in Foulsham.

Advent Carols at St Peter's, North Barningham

ST PETER, NORTH BARNINGHAM
ADVENT CAROL SERVICE
SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER AT 11 AM
Conducted by the Rev David Longe
All Welcome!



Sara Buxton
577207

This service will take place on the first Sunday in December at 11am and will be conducted by Canon David Longe, our Rector. This service marks the start of the Christmas Season and has been held in the old, redundant church for some years. There is neither light nor heat in this medieval building, so please dress warmly and include thick-soled shoes or boots, but don't let that put you off. We can promise you a very warm welcome, lots of singing, the traditional lessons, and finally, warm refreshments afterwards. All of us in North Barningham look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas wreath making

Please do come to the Christmas Wreath making session at Barningham Hall on Thursday 6th December at 10am. Mrs Tessa Papworth will be there to help you make your wonderful Christmas Wreath masterpiece. Greenery etc supplied but do bring along any bits you like to make your wreath special. The cost is £20 which includes coffee and a soup lunch. Numbers are limited so please contact amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk if you would like to join us as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Colin Gallon of Cromer Lodge, Barningham Winter, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the 12th October. It seems like only yesterday since their wedding at Aldborough Church all those years ago!!

Edgefield

Church News

We were sorry to learn of the death of Olive Benton, who died aged 103. Her funeral took place on 19th September.

We have had a busy time with the church, starting with our Harvest Festival and Supper. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a lovely service, especially to Judy and to all who provided food.

The Bishop of Norwich came for David Longe's Induction Service, and it was very sad to say goodbye to him. It is so good to have our new Rector with us, and it was an inspiring evening and a great welcome for him and his family.



Richard Peaver
587486

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Thank you to all who worked hard for our Craft Exhibition. Roger devised excellent support for the screens that Hempstead kindly lent us and he and Alan worked hard hanging all the pictures and photographs. The exhibits, all produced in the village, were amazing and such a variety of crafts were on display! A final balance sheet is awaited, but about £650 will have been made for church funds.

The church now has to remain locked while scaffolding is in the chancel. The architect has been to the top of it and found the problem in the roof above. We hope all will be sorted before our next service on November 18th.

Angela Turner

Village Hall News

Following our highly successful quiz night, don't forget our fun-packed Festive Evening to be held on Saturday 8th December, starting at 6.30pm. Tickets are £6 per head, available from any committee member. Price will include food and there will be a licensed bar.

Jim Frost

Craft Fair

There was a very interesting, colourful and creative exhibition held in Edgefield church last weekend. From delicate beadwork and colourful quilts to photographs, paintings and handmade garments, the variety of crafts was amazing. Homemade refreshments were much enjoyed and there was a very happy and mellow feeling in the church. It is always surprising how much talent there is in the village. Sadly, the numbers of visitors were disappointing, but it was good to see and welcome those who supported us. Thank you, Angela, for organising the event.

On a separate note, I would just like to say a very heartfelt thank you for all the wonderful support I have received in the village since Ian died. It helped so much. He loved and supported Edgefield and was always interested in village affairs.

Janet Keymer

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 A Price, £25 K Hurrell, £10 I Hicks, £5 P Wallis, J Sanders, A Pailing

Coffee & Gossip

This month will be on Friday 2nd November, 10.30am to noon in the Village Hall. Thank you to everyone who came in October and generously helped raise £85 for Macmillan Cancer Care.



Sharon Hannah
711769

Patronal Festival Evensong on Nov 4 at 5pm

All Saints Church Hempstead celebrates its Patronal Festival - a time when we honour the saints of the past after which our church is named and also celebrate the place of our church in the community. The singing of well-known hymns will be led by the Benefice Choir. There will be wine or fruit juice after the service and all of you are very welcome to share this occasion with us.

Christmas Party

This year on FRIDAY (yes, really!) 7th December. Please put it in your diary now! Join us for a pre-Christmas celebration: delicious food, excellent company, plus live music from the Back to the Sixties Band. There is no charge for this event, but an idea of numbers for catering purposes would be really helpful, so please ring Dick Roy, 715851, to let us know you are coming. As usual please bring a wrapped present for the raffle.

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Matlaske

100 Club

Apologies for the mistake last month, the winners were:

£25 Pete Rushmer, £10 Cherry Westgate, £5 Sam Pointer

This month's winners are:

£25 Jan Legge, £10 Louise Kinsley, £5 Marion Shepherd

Welcome

To John and Maureen who have moved into Church Cottage and David who has moved into 6 Barningham Place. We hope they will be happy in Matlaske. I will send out a revised Matlaske contact list shortly.

Quiz Night

Lovely to see so many of you at what was a fun-filled and enjoyable evening at The Old Stables. Thanks to those who kindly donated raffle prizes and helped with catering. It is always good to get the grey matter into action!

Scam Mail

Please see the poster in the Matlaske Notice Board. In essence it is important not to provide any bank details or send money to organisations about which you are not 100% confident. Again, the scam mail targets the more vulnerable in our community. If in doubt always ask a friend for a second opinion.

Christmas Party

You will have received your invite to our annual party by now. Please let Cherry or Marion know whether or not you are coming by the 14th November so that the catering can be finalised.

Plumstead

Autumn has arrived and finally some much needed rain at long last. The nights are drawing in and the clocks will have changed by the time you read this. Christmas will only be seven weeks away!

Although there is little to report this month the national commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the end of the Great War on Armistice Day is an important milestone. It gives us an opportunity to remember and reflect, not only on the end of that horrific time but also to hope that the conflicts around the world today might come to a peaceful conclusion.

A Village Remembers

Sunday 11th November 10.30am Plumstead Church: An Act of Commemoration on the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1. This is a Parish initiative with narration, readings, music, prayers and an act of remembrance. There will be refreshments afterwards.

At 7.05pm the Plumstead Church bell will ring 100 times as part of a national tribute.



Marion Shepherd
577521



Mary Lintott
577718

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Keith Skipper

Saturday November 17

For those of you who have not booked your tickets - please come and join us at Baconsthorpe Village Hall for what no doubt will be a memorable evening and will also raise some funds for the Benefice and the Church.

Parish Council

The next PC meeting takes place on Monday 3 December 6.30pm at Oak Tree Cottage.

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Saxthorpe with Corpusty

School News

Welcome to the new head of Corpusty Primary School, Jacqui Lound, who is also Head of Foulsham Primary School. Also, thanks to Julian Trott for taking on the role of Chair of the school's governing body.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

Saxthorpe Airfield

A plaque in memory of Saxthorpe Airfield, donated by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust, will be unveiled next to St Andrew's Church on Armistice day. Its housing will be temporary with a permanent arrangement to follow. Details of the unveiling will be made available before the event.

St Peter's Church News

Thank you to those who supported Corpusty Church at the Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle ride and walk. £202 was raised on behalf of the church, with part of the money raised intended towards new signage. A special thank you to young Corpusty man, Edward Beales, who visited the church twice on the same day to both raise and hand in his sponsorship money!

Remembrance Day Service

The centenary of the Armistice offers our community a unique opportunity to show appreciation for the generation who gave so much to secure a victory and an end to the Great War. Please join us at 10.45am, Sunday November 11th, at Saxthorpe Church, for a special Remembrance Day service, including a commemorative bell ringing, followed by a sit-down fare of hot soup and rolls.

Glass Recycling

Many thanks to the Parish Council for their village bottle bank donation, supporting St Peter's Church, Corpusty. The bottle bank is a worthy cause benefiting the community and its environment.

Toys & Tins Service, St Andrew's Church, Saxthorpe

This will take place on Sunday 25th November. Please come to the service and bring your gifts for needy families.

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Recipe of the Month Salmon with Pesto & Spinach



2 Salmon fillets
125ml mayonnaise or sour cream
1/2 tbsp. green or red pesto
30g grated parmesan cheese
225g fresh spinach
15g butter or olive oil
Salt & Pepper

Preheat oven to 200C

Grease a baking dish with half of the butter/oil. Season the salmon fillets and place them in the dish, skin side down.

Mix mayonnaise/sour cream, pesto and parmesan cheese together and spread over the salmon.

Bake for 15-20mins, or until salmon is done.

Meanwhile, sauté the spinach in remaining butter until wilted, approx. 2mins then season.

Serve immediately with the salmon.

Marion Shepherd

If you have your own favourite recipe to share, do please send it to the editor.

The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



As I write this after a few days of extraordinary balmy warm weather we are now in the thick of autumn. High winds have brought down a lot of leaves in the garden and some trees elsewhere. This leads me neatly on to the first task for November: leaves! Keep raking them up, they won't do your lawns any favours if you leave them on there. So, put them somewhere they will turn into some useful (leaf mould) for which you will need a chicken wire frame bin and with a bit of time and patience you will eventually have a great soil conditioner.

Now off to the cutting garden and dahlias. People often ask me how I protect my dahlias, and the truth is – minimally! Although I appreciate that laid back approach might not suit everyone, I don't dig them up each year and they seem to manage well where they are, but if you've had problems in the past, don't hesitate to dig them up – but do remember to label them. There's nothing more frustrating than to have a perfectly healthy tuber yet not to have the slightest inkling what variety it is.

Now for tulips! If you have patiently waited to plant (as I have) to escape the various tulip viruses that should be seen off by a good dose of cold weather, it's time to get started. Remember to plant a good 2 ½ times their own size deep, although you won't thank me if we do have a good hard frost! But your tulips will be much happier that deep and should reward your efforts in the Spring. A handy tip: do not hesitate to contact your supplier if any of your tulips come up blind, a decent supplier should refund or replace them for you.

Finally, if you have the time and inclination, to try and visit an arboretum before we lose all this gorgeous colour, it might just inspire some new additions to your own garden!

This month's question comes from Shelia Mounts, who asks how she should look after her lemon tree that has been so happy this summer in the fantastic weather. The trick with lemon trees is to bring them indoors, but not into a warm room so a cool porch or cooler room with a bit of light would suit, also do slow the watering down as they won't need so much as they won't be growing so much. You don't want to over-water this time of year as rot could set in.

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

Mick McCarter


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