Church & Village News

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

December 2018 & January 2019



Saxthorpe Church at Christmas Photograph by Roger Last



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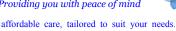








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Matlaske & Barningham	Sara Buxton	577207
Plumstead	Nick Fulford	577433
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Imogen Waterson	587610

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Matlaske & Barningham

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

Parish Council Websites or Email Addresses

http://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc Baconsthorpe Edgefield http://edgefieldnorfolk.co.uk/theparishcouncil.shtml

Hempstead hempsteadpc@gmail.com

Matlaske & Barningham http://matlaskeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk Plumstead http://plumsteadparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com Saxthorpe & Corpusty

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

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

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Merlin Waterson 587610 Saxthorpe 587118 Heather Monks



DECEMBER

Sun 2	9.30am	Aldborough Christmas Farmer's Market	Community Centre
Sun 2	4.00pm	Matlaske Christmas Party Baco	nsthorpe Village Hall
Sun 2	11.00am	North Barningham Advent Carol Service	St Peter's Church
Mon 3	6.30pm	Plumstead Parish Council Meeting	Oak Tree Cottage
Thur 6	10.00am	Barningham Wreath Making	Barningham Hall
Fri 7	7.00pm	Hempstead Christmas Party	Village Hall
Sat 8	11.00am	Matlaske Church Decorating	St Peter's Church
Sat 8	6.30pm	Edgefield Festive Evening	Village Hall
Sun 9	6.30pm	Matlaske Sing-Along	St Peter's Church
Fri 14	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Gossip	Village Hall
Sat 15	10.00am	Hempstead Church Decorating	Church
Sat 15	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Sing-Along	Village Hall
Sun 16	11.00am	Hempstead Christingle Service	Church
Sun 16	3.00pm	Baconsthorpe Christmas Party	Village Hall
Sun 16	4.00pm	Edgefield Carol Service	Church
Fri 22	10.30am	Plumstead Church Decorating	Church
Sun 23	5.00pm	Plumstead Candlelit Carol Service	Church
Mon 24	10.00am	Hempstead Crib & Carols	Church
Mon 24	5.30pm	Saxthorpe Candlelit Service	St Andrew's Church
Mon 24	10.00pm	Edgefield Christmas Eve Service	Church
		JANUARY	

Fri 4 10.30am Hempstead Coffee & Gossip Village Hall

FEBRUARY

Old Hall Barn Mon 11 11.00am Matlaske Fête Planning Meeting

Clash Diary

April 30 June 22 June 23	Baconsthorpe Plant Sale Edgefield Open Gardens Edgefield Open Gardens	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

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

CORPUSTY

2.00pm - 4.00pm Bure Valley Quilters & Stitchers Second and fourth Monday 12.30pm - 3.00pm Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Second Tuesday 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

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

Mobile Library Van

20 Dec / 17	Jan /	14 Feb / 14	1 Mar
Matlaske	12.30	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	1.15	NR117LG	Walnut Farm
Baconsthorpe	2.45	NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows
_	3.20	NR25 6LE	Hare & Hounds
	4.10	NR25 6LG	Old Post Office
Hempstead	3.40	NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk
6 Dec / 3 Ja	n		
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
Ü	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.

Small Beauties

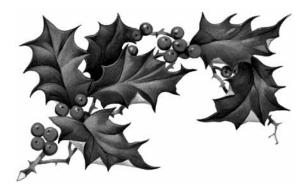
A couple of years ago, a friend introduced me to 'Small Beauties', a simple concept that encourages you to look back at your day and find positives, even if your day has been a bad one. It's about gratitude. I try to practise this daily, and though some days do seem devoid of beauties, small or any other kind, if you just take two minutes to think back, to replay your day with a lighter mind, you will find beauty.

You might want to just allow these moments to exist in your head, to meditate on them, to acknowledge them. Or you may wish to jot them down as a list on your phone or note book. Or you could write a journal, which is what I do, of sorts, most often, although the list method is useful if you have a memory like mine! My friend takes photos of hers.

I have been rather busy recently, so it's easy, in the state of constant rushing, to miss things. But when I stop and dig deep, I can find so much to be grateful for, so many moments that are beautiful. For example, the simple task of putting Hercules and his chicken ladies, and Rincewind and his duck ladies to bed. Walking down the garden, I was joined by the bats, their wings silhouetted against the dusky sky, the moon only half-illuminated but bright over the trees. A muntjac peering from the fruit trees in the orchard. He spends a lot of time here, in fact, he has made friends with one of our cats! The gentle sounds of pigeons settling in for the night and the coolness of the air signaling that autumn is here.

Try to acknowledge the small beauties in your day. It is a really lovely and positive practice that takes minimal effort and time.

Claire Barker



Letter from the Rector, Revd Canon David Longe Tel 761757 / mobile 07881 950294



Now an angel appeared to Joseph and said: "Take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt and be thou there until I bring thee word." Matthew 2:13

Dear All

There is a haunting line in the poem *In Flanders Fields* that was read out throughout the Benefice on Remembrance Sunday:

If ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders field.'

I have listened to that poem and followed the words for the last four years as it is recited at the Remembrance Day Service in the Commonwealth War Graves on Mount Scopus overlooking Jerusalem, but it was only here that the power of them struck: that we must not break the trust of those who gave their lives for our freedom.

And if we are honest with ourselves, we know we do break that trust. We break it when we are in conflict with anyone however small or large the dispute. We know too well that the world still groans as wars and conflicts sadly abound.

Remembrance Day is about both reminding ourselves of sacrifices that have been and committing ourselves to living new lives of peace.

While I write this letter in the month of

remembering - All Saints, All Souls (All Hallows - hence Halloween) and Remembrance Sundayit is written to be read in the months when we are called to anticipate (Advent), rejoice (Christmas) and celebrate new beginnings (New Year).

We do remember, but we also look forward excited by the opportunities ahead. For the Prince of Peace, the Baby in a Manger, came into this world so meekly, born in a stable (it really was more likely a cave on the side of a hill just outside Bethlehem) to bring us something beyond wonder, beyond our wildest understanding. He came to bring us the warmth and beauty of peace in our hearts and love in our lives.

Let us trust in the Christ-child who shows us beauty through his birth; let us trust in the adult Jesus who showed us the way to love; let us make amends when we have quarrelled; and let us strive always to live peaceably!

As we move from 100 to 101 years since the Armistice, this Christmas and New Year is an opportunity to allow us to commit ourselves to peace.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for December

2 nd	Advent Sunday	
9.30 11.00	Eucharist Advent Carol Service	Saxthorpe North Barningham
9 th	Advent 2	
9.30 11.00	Eucharist Eucharist	Baconsthorpe Edgefield
16 th	Advent 3	
9.30 11.00	Eucharist Christingle Family Service with collection for Children's Society	Plumstead Hempstead
4.00	Benefice Carol Service	Edgefield
23 rd	Advent 4	
9.30 11.00 5.00	Eucharist Matins Family Carol Service	Matlaske Baconsthorpe Plumstead
11.00	Matins	Baconsthorpe
11.00 5.00	Matins Family Carol Service	Baconsthorpe
11.00 5.00 24 th 10.00 5.30 10.00	Matins Family Carol Service Christmas Eve Crib & Carols Candelight Carols Midnight Mass	Baconsthorpe Plumstead Hempstead Saxthorpe Edgefield
11.00 5.00 24 th 10.00 5.30 10.00 11.00	Matins Family Carol Service Christmas Eve Crib & Carols Candelight Carols Midnight Mass Midnight Mass	Baconsthorpe Plumstead Hempstead Saxthorpe Edgefield
11.00 5.00 24 th 10.00 5.30 10.00 11.00	Matins Family Carol Service Christmas Eve Crib & Carols Candelight Carols Midnight Mass Midnight Mass Christmas Day	Baconsthorpe Plumstead Hempstead Saxthorpe Edgefield Barningham Winter



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for January

6 th	Epiphany	
10.00	Benefice Eucharist Thanksgiving and blessing for the new roof followed everyone for their wonderful help in raising the fund	
13 th	Epiphany 1	
9.30 11.00	Eucharist Morning Prayer	Edgefield Plumstead
20 th	Epiphany 2	
9.30 11.00	Eucharist Matins	Hempstead Matlaske
27 th	Epiphany 3	
9.30 11.00	Eucharist Morning Prayer	Baconsthorpe Saxthorpe
3 rd Feb	Presentation of Christ	
9.30 11.00	Eucharist Eucharist	Barningham Winter Edgefield



Eucharist Services

Saxthorpe 9am Wednesdays December 5th and 19th January 2nd, 16th and 30th

Matlaske 10am every Thursday except for December 27th and January 3rd

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£25 Sue Arnold, £10 David Youngs, £5 Pauline Fuller, Annie Brown

Pop-up Pub

Friday 28th December with a free buffet and Friday 25th January with chicken and ham pie.



577263

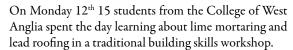
Church News



November was particularly busy for the church. On Saturday 10th 50 people visited for a guided tour of the building and the chance to climb onto the roof, inspect the re-roofing work and view the surrounding countryside. Some very brave people even climbed the ladder to the top of the church tower for even better views!

Sunday11th saw the village Remembrance Service. Our two churchwardens, Tessa and Harry took the

service for us and 28 villagers attended this very special event. After the service the Flanders Poppy Seeds, a gift from North Norfolk District Council, were scattered in the churchyard.





New Village Website

The village hall committee and PCC have jointly funded a website for the village. The PCC is able to support this website as a result of the Heritage Lottery Grant to repair the church roof which also included funding for community projects. The website address is

www.baconsthorpe.org

Please send your pictures, stories and ideas for inclusion to karen@karenhall.co.uk

Village Hall News

Although a busy time of year for most of us, it's actually fairly quiet at the hall. We are, of course, looking forward to our Christmas Weekend with the Sing-Along and the Christmas Party. See you there!

May we take this opportunity to say a special 'thank you' to all our loyal helpers and supporters and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. We really couldn't do it without you. Thank you.

SING-ALONG 15 Dec at 7pm-9pm Carols & Christmas songs, mulled wine and great company CHRISTMAS PARTY 16 Dec at 3pm-6pm Games, food and maybe even a visit from you know who...

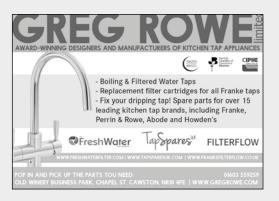
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Barningham Winter

It was lovely to see St Mary's Church full on Remembrance Sunday. The service was taken by Mrs Courtauld, our church warden, and with the hymns and readings it made what was a very special and memorable service.

Do come to the Advent Carol Service at St Peter's Church, North Barningham. The service will be taken by the Rev David Longe and is on the 2nd December at 11am. Refreshments will follow the service. Don't forget this redundant church isn't heated so dress warmly!!



Sara Buxton 577207

You may have noticed that the sugar beet is getting harvested, so please be aware and beware of the lorries that are on the road collecting them, especially with the dark mornings and evenings.

A very happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.

Edgefield

Church News

The repairs to the church chancel roof are slow to get under way, mostly due to people on holiday. Scaffolding, erected the day after the Craft Exhibition, now has to be extended as our architect needs to examine the left-hand corner above the East window where the plaster shows worrying stains. To the right is a large amount of nesting material, doubtless hiding a hole where birds have found access. There are no signs of serious leaks or dry rot. Relief!



Richard Peaver 587486

It was good to see the village hall with 55 people on Remembrance Sunday. Gremlins seemed determined to prevent us having any music for hymns or the Last Post. All our efforts were in vain. Many thanks to Alain Wolf for taking the service. Tolling the church bell one hundred times in the evening proved more difficult than expected. It was Lucy and Sarah Cletheroe who were faultless and did brilliantly! Well done, girls.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Carol Service on $16^{\rm th}$ December at 4 pm and for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. Our Christmas Service is at 10pm on Christmas Eve. Hope to see you then.

With very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year from Angela and Emma.

Edgefield Fuel Fund

Angela Turner

The annual distribution of fuel money will be made in the village hall on Saturday 15th December 2018 between 11.00am and 12noon. No payments will be made outside these stated hours. Eligible applicants will receive a payment of £25 per household. Those who qualify must:

- a) have reached the age of 60 years;
- b) have been permanently resident in the Parish of Edgefield for the past five years and remain a resident on the day of distribution;
- c) apply in person (the infirm or incapacitated may send a representative, but they must bring a written authority signed by the person who qualifies).

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Hempstead

200 Club

£50 D Lister, £25 P Loach, £10 J Morter, £5 T Collier, A Inglis, A Udale

Personal reflections on the Armistice Day Service of 2018

Hempstead Church welcomed a comfortable congregation for the Annual Remembrance Service. The Order of Service was carefully crafted to include the usual prayers, hymns and silence, but with a fresh feel. To my delight the old 'church parade' attitude has gone; we now consider three groups of people:



Sharon Hannah 711769

the fallen, the survivors, and all their families. Apparently, I was the only one present who had donned uniform during the Second War: this made me feel very ancient. During the First War it was normal to suppress memories of horrors experienced; thus, my father would never tell me what he saw in Gallipoli (Turkey) in 1915. It made an unwelcome barrier between us which still worries me. The differences in the Second War were that casualties were spread over all ages and all peoples and the demons were talked about more freely. Nowadays, when everyone talks about everything, I ask if we have not over-reacted and now private thoughts are coming (like personal responsibility) to resemble endangered species.

David Durst

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Charles Inglis for winning this year's Norfolk Farming & Wildlife Conservation Award. There's a link to a fascinating film about his achievement on the news page of www.norfolkfwag.co.uk

Hempstead quiz night

Congratulations are in order to Andy and Pammie Wallis and all the volunteers who helped to make this year's quiz night a roaring success. A full house, with overspill, all enjoyed an evening of food, fun and hospitality! Mike Thody called the raffle with great enthusiasm and everyone had a good night out. Pammie's efforts in the kitchen deserve a special mention (all that washing up!) Thanks to all.

Children's Society

If anyone would be interested in collecting around 16 charity boxes spread over the village for the Children's Society please contact 711117. Diana Spalton has been collecting for the last 20 years and would appreciate someone taking over the responsibility.

Coffee & Gossip

On December 14th and January 4th from 10.30am to 12noon. As from this month, half the profit for six months will be given to a charity nominated by one of our 'regulars'. So, for the next six months the charity will be the NSPCC. The other half of the profit goes to the church.

Christmas Party

Village residents and guests are invited to the Christmas Party on Friday 7th Dec at 7pm. Please let Liz Buxton know if you are coming on 714082 and bring a wrapped raffle prize with you.

Church Decorating

Calling all children and the young at heart! Church decorating will take place at 10am on Dec 15th. We'd love you to come and help us make the church feel very special for our Christmas services. You did such a good job last year! At the same time, we will be making the Christingles and again need help with this. Many thanks.

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Christmas Services

Christingle Service on 16th December at 11am with collection for the Children's Society

Christmas Eve Crib & Carols at 10am. We are hoping for lots of help from the children singing well known carols, reading the Christmas story and placing the figures and animals in the crib just as we had last year.

Christmas refreshments after both services.

Have a fun-filled Christmas and a happy New Year!

Hempstead Christingle Service

16 Dec @ 11 am - A beautiful candlelit service for the whole family. Our Christingle celebrations will include singing, prayers, and the lighting of Christingle candles. The Christingle is an orange, tied with red ribbon, with dried fruits and a lit candle. These are then taken home from the service.

There will be collection in aid of The Children's Society.

Matlaske

Welcome to David, Sara, Rex, Xar and Artie Longe who have now moved into The Rectory.

We wish David and Pauline Wooff and David Linkhorn speedy recoveries after their spells in hospital. We are glad to report that they are all now at home.



Marion Shepherd 577521

Decorate the Church

St Peter's at Matlaske is going to be decorated for Christmas on Saturday 8th December at 11am. We do have some volunteers to help, but if anyone else can also spare some time it will be very much appreciated. Sherry and homemade mince pies will be supplied.

Christmas Sing-Along

Everyone is welcome to come and have a sing-along in St Peter's Church, Matlaske on Sunday 9th December at 6.30pm - the perfect opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit with some carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Party

Just to clarify that our Christmas Party is at Baconsthorpe Village Hall and not at The Old Stables as stated in last month's newsletter.

Matlaske Fête 2019

The fete committee will be getting together on February 11th, 11am at Old Hall Barn, Matlaske to start planning for next year's fête. We would be delighted to receive your ideas and suggestions to help make it the best fête yet. Anyone is welcome to come along. Please contact Cherry on 577827 or cherrywestgate@hotmail.co.uk so we can discuss your ideas at the meeting.

Remembrance Service

What a fantastic service we had at St Peter's on 11th November to remember our fallen heroes. Karen Neill kindly stepped in to play the keyboard, Jim Shepherd read the poem In Flanders Fields, James Boyd read the lesson, Donny March assisted by Thomas Courtauld laid the wreath, Chanelle Shepherd read The Kohima Epitaph. Oli Davis beautifully played The Last Post and thanks also to Richenda Riches who served refreshments afterwards. Thank you, Canon David Longe for conducting such a poignant and moving service.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, all that is left is for me to say is have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

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World War I Commemoration

It cannot have escaped anyone's notice that last Sunday 11th November at 11am was the 100-year commemoration of the end of the Great War. It was a time for the nation to remember the enormous sacrifice that the men, many of them not much more than 18 years old, lost their lives in the most horrific circumstances in the trenches. At home, the women and those men not able to sign-up, found themselves thrust into living their lives alongside a backdrop of tremendous grief,



Mary Lintott



working to keep the machine of war running and finding their lives turned inside out by the menfolk returning from the Front, badly scarred by the horrors of war.

Nick Fulford, the Chairman of our Parish Council, along with Brian Faulkner, initiated the Commemoration that took place in our church. The idea was then taken up by each church in our Benefice encouraged by David Longe. It felt a fitting tribute to a time when community was the backbone of our nation and the knowledge that each of

our local churches was marking this important occasion. So, a big thank you to Nick, Brian and the Parish Council for organising it. We are so grateful to Nick and Julie Cometa who gave of their time to research Plumstead and its villagers and provide a picture of what life was like 100 years ago. School leaving age was just 12 years old!

The commemoration itself was a great success. It was attended by 27 of us including members of the Fitt and Hazelwood families who had lost a family member during the War. There was a mixture of music, readings, hymns, prayers and a moving account of the three from our village who died. Thank you to those who took part and especially to Nick who managed to set-up an apparently slightly moody sound system so that we could all sing with great gusto. Refreshments were eagerly partaken of afterwards - thank you to the PC for those.

Finally, at 7.05pm the church bell was rung 100 times by Jonathan Pilbrow to mark the final end to the day. It was indeed a fitting end to remembering an extraordinary time in the life of our country.

Church News

Decorating the Christmas Tree - Friday 22nd December at 10.30am. Come and help decorate the church and the tree. Children especially welcome. Drinks and biscuits provided.

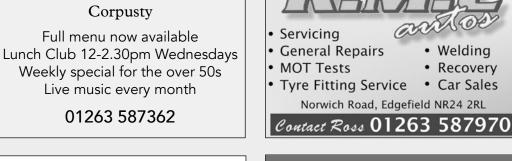
Candlelit Carol Service - Sunday 23rd December at 5pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies (or seasonal refreshments). Do bring family and friends to celebrate the Christmas season.

An Evening with Keith Skipper

A very entertaining and convivial evening where Keith Skipper related a number of highly amusing stories from his early career as a journalist, as well as giving us a light-hearted look at some of the quirks and confusions of Norfolk life and language. Well over £400 was raised for Plumstead Church and Matlaske Benefice; sincere thanks go to all who ventured out on a dark November night to support the event; those who generously provided delicious food and their time to make it such a success, and of course to Keith Skipper for keeping a proper bit of Norfolk alive.

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Remembrance Day



The Remembrance Day service was well attended by over fifty people. The bell ringers did a superb job with their muffled bells and Ellie Martin played the Sophia Hodgson organ. The service was followed



by the unveiling of the plaque representing the Saxthorpe airbase and then a walk to the village green plough for the children to plant daffodils to commemorate those who had died and then a return to the church for a soup lunch.

Christmas Eve

The traditional candle-light service will be held on Christmas Eve at St Andrew's Church at 5.30pm. Arrive early to ensure a seat.

Recipe of the Month Individual Christmas Ice Creams

150g sultanas 100g dried cranberries 150g glace cherries quartered 150g ready to eat apricots chopped 6tbsp Cointreau

100g pistachio nuts chopped 150g dark chocolate 74% cocoa 3 large eggs separated 75g icing sugar 300ml double cream

Put the sultanas, cranberries, glace cherries, apricots and Cointreau in a bowl, cover with cling film and let soak for 2-3 days.

Line 10 ramekins with a double layer of cling film.

Break the chocolate into small pieces and melt in a bowl over a pan of simmering water.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff then gradually whisk in the sugar.

In another bowl, whip the cream until it holds its shape. Beat the egg yolks in a bowl with a fork to break them up.

Using a large metal spoon, fold the fruit with liquid, nuts and egg yolks into the cream then gently fold in the egg whites.

Spoon into the ramekins, cover and freeze for at least 4 hours.

To serve turnout onto a small plate and decorate with a piece of holly.

Marion Shepherd

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

December can be a challenging time in the garden! There isn't much light, and any free time is spent on festive prep. But if you can spare half an hour when it's not too gruesome outside it's worth having a good wander round your garden with a mug of tea. This time of year means it's so much easier to see if any structural differences need to be made to your space. Only a few weeks ago I got to go and look round George Carter's garden courtesy of the NGS and it gave me a fresh perspective on my own garden and has inspired a few crucial and exciting changes. It's not about lifting the whole of someone else's garden and recreating it in your own. It's about the little flashes of brilliance that can be interpreted in your own style and in your own space.

Enough day dreaming! Now for a few important chores. A useful job to get done is to wash out properly all your flower pots and seed trays perhaps with some Jeyes fluid (other products are available!) then pack them away nicely for the New Year. You will have a virtuous glow about you after that task and you really will thank yourself when you start setting seeds in the New Year. Next stop is the lawnmower. It's very important to remove all the old grass that has adhered itself to the underside of the deck. If left in place this encourages rot and there is no common sense in shortening the life of your mower. Handy tip: a paint scraper in my experience is just the job to remove the debris. Finally, run an oily rag over your mower that will create a barrier against moisture. The last chore I have for you isn't a chore, it's possibly what this all about, planning and planting and dreaming for tomorrow, so order those seed catalogues, put that really good garden book that took your fancy on your Christmas wish list and enjoy thinking about what you're going to plan to do in your garden in 2019.

Before I answer this month's question, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Stanley Wells asks if it's OK to remove hydrangea flower heads at this time of year? Whilst it's tempting to want to tidy up as much as possible, it's far better to leave the heads on so that they protect the emerging buds from frost.

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

Mick McCarter



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Meet the Neighbours

In this centenary year we remember Arthur William Richard Cletheroe



Private Arthur William Richard Cletheroe, known as Richard, was born at Church Farm, Bodham on 10th March 1896. He fought in the First World War in the 5th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment and was killed in action at the Second Battle of Gaza in Palestine on 19th April 1917 aged 21 years. He is buried at Gaza Military Cemetery.

The Second Battle of Gaza lasted three days from 17th April 1917; the Allies were defeated. The attacking infantry were decimated by Ottoman artillery, machine-gun and rifle fire and the Allies sustained 6,444 casualties. Gaza was eventually taken by the Allies in the Third Battle of Gaza on 1st Nov 1917.

As a boy, Richard lived at Baconsthorpe Hall (castle) in the Outer Gatehouse and went to Baconsthorpe School. He lived

with his mother Alice, father Arthur, brother George and sister Dulcie. His mother played the organ and taught Sunday School at St Mary's Church.

The family were living in the Outer Gatehouse when it was struck by lightning in 1921. The damage to the Outer Gatehouse was so extensive that it was no longer inhabitable. Arthur and

Alice moved to Chestnut Farm, Baconsthorpe where descendants of Dulcie, Richard and Margaret Gee, live today. Richard's parents also bought Manor Farm in Edgefield which is also still lived in by the descendants of George, Mary, Roger and Emma Cletheroe.

The pictures are of Richard and his Memorial Plaque (also known as a Dead Man's Penny). Memorial Plaques were issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as the result of the war. 1,355,000 plaques were issued.



The plaque is 12cm wide and shows Britannia standing with a lion. She holds an olive wreath in her left hand and has two dolphins swimming around her symbolizing Britain's sea power. At the bottom there is a second lion tearing apart the German eagle.

Emma Youngs

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