

Church & Village News

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

March 2024



Little Egret, Hempstead

Photograph by Jonathan Neville



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MANY THANKS

To Karen Hall, who has retired as our Designer, Advertising Manager and Treasurer after nine years of faithful and tireless service. Her generous input has contributed greatly to the development and success of the magazine. We are all hugely grateful to her!

What's On

MARCH

Mar 1	7.00pm	Corpusty + Saxthorpe Film Night	Village Hall
Mar 2	3.00pm	Corpusty + Saxthorpe Film Afternoon	Village Hall
Mar 11	6.00pm	Annual Vestry Meeting & APCM	Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Mar 11	7.30pm	Matlaske and Barningham Parish Council	Matlaske church
Mar 13	3.45pm	Music in Hempstead	Village Hall
Mar 16	7.00pm	Edgefield Quiz Night	Village Hall
Mar 16	10.00am	Digital Changeover talk	Corpusty and Saxthorpe Village Hall
Mar 19	10.00am	Spring Clean	Hempstead Church
Mar 23	10am-2pm	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair	Village Hall
Mar 29	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall
Mar 30	10.00am	Easter Garden making	Plumstead Church

Clash Diary To add an event contact

Corinne Youngs 577263 corinne@avyoungs.com

April 3	Music in Hempstead	July 20	Edgefield Disco + BBQ
April 6	Baconsthorpe churchyard tidy day	Sept 22	<i>The Samphires</i> concert Edgefield church
June 12	Baconsthorpe Village Hall AGM	Oct 16	Baconsthorpe Murder Mystery
July 6	Hempstead Open Gardens	Nov 16	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair
July 7	Hempstead Open Gardens	Dec 6	Baconsthorpe Quiz Night
July 13	Baconsthorpe Fete		

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van		
Wednesdays	10.45am – 11.30am	Village Hall
Corpusty Stores		587726
Monday-Friday	9.00am – 12.00noon	
Itteringham Shop		587325
Monday + Thursday	9.00am-1.00pm	

Local MP

Duncan Baker MP
 Tudor House, Grammar School Lane
 North Walsham, NR28 9JH
duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk www.duncanbaker.org.uk
 Monday–Friday 9am – 5pm 01692 557140

County Councillor

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

Mobile Library Van

14 March

Matlaske	12:40	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	13:00	NR11 7LG	Walnut Farm
Baconsthorpe	14:30	NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows
	14:55	NR25 6LE	Hare & Hounds
Hempstead	15:05	NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk
Edgefield	15:45	NR24 2AL	The Memorial
	16:10	NR24 2AX	The Street
Corpusty	16:35	NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cott

Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA> Tel: 01603 222303

Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 712202
 Tues 10am-7pm / Wed 2pm-7pm
 Fri 10am-7pm / Sat 1pm-4pm

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 Dr Jane McLarty, Lay Minister

A friend once told me she and her new husband went to Venice for their honeymoon. 'A waste really, as all we did was sit and gaze at each other, not at all the wonders around us!' This season of Lent is a call to spend some time gazing at the God who loves us. At its heart the Christian faith is very simple, and it's about love: our calling to love God, and to love one another, especially those who are unloved and unnoticed by anyone else.

As human beings we are so inclined to make faith something complicated, to pile up things we ought to do. We make ourselves feel that we are achieving something. Or, perhaps more often, we beat ourselves up when we don't meet the standards we set for ourselves.



Sister Wendy, one of my favourite writers on prayer, says that when it comes to Lent, 'many people seem to think that true religion is defined by giving up things.' I would not want to put anyone off who has decided to give up meat or chocolate or alcohol for Lent: we are embodied creatures, and denying our bodies something has many deep meanings for us: solidarity with those who suffer (especially if we give the money we would otherwise have spent to causes that support them), a physical expression of our turn or return to God.

But there is another kind of fasting, that the prophet Isaiah talks of: 'Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice . . . to let the oppressed go free . . . to share your bread with the hungry . . .' (58:6-7)

A fasting from selfishness, from closing our eyes to what's going on around us. A fasting too, perhaps, from thinking too much about ourselves and whether we are becoming good and holy people. Sister Wendy advises, 'Leave it, this is God's business.' She goes on to say, 'our business is to accept the terrible simplicity of prayer, that accurate barometer of whether we want God or not.'

I wonder whether perhaps God calls you and me to 'the terrible simplicity of prayer', this Lent? Not just praying for things: though heaven knows there is more than enough going on at the moment to keep us on our knees until Easter.

But the prayer that simply gives a little time out of our day to sit in the presence of the God who loves us. Perhaps we could try every day just to sit for a while and do nothing. Let go of busyness: just sit, reminding ourselves that we come into God's presence who is everywhere in his world. Perhaps say something to God; perhaps just look at God's beautiful creation. Take time to gaze at the God who sees and loves us.

As the last Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks said:

'A life without prayer is like a life without love . . . Prayer is where the human voice meets God's listening heart and we discover that we are not alone.'

Image: Dalit Madonna by Jyoti Sahi from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission. www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for March

3rd March Lent III

8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead

10th Lent IV / Mothering Sunday

8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Mothering Sunday	Edgefield
10.30am	Mothering Sunday	Saxthorpe

17th Lent V

10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Hempstead

24th Palm Sunday

10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
4.00pm	Family Service	Edgefield

25th Holy Monday

6pm	Way of the Cross	Plumstead
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26th Holy Tuesday

6pm	Contemplation	Hempstead
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27th Holy Wednesday

6pm	Compline	Matlaske
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28th Maundy Thursday

6pm	Eucharist with foot washing	Saxthorpe
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29th Good Friday

2pm	Veneration of the Cross	Edgefield
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31st Easter Day

6am	Dawn Service	Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe

7th Apr Easter II

10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
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Coffee, Plumstead Church, 10.30, every Monday Morning
 Coffee Cake and Chat: Saxthorpe Church, every Wednesdays 10-11am
 Country Mice Toddler Group, Baconsthorpe Village Hall Tuesdays 10:30-12
 Children's Activity Morning Edgefield Church, Tuesday 9th April 10:30

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 M Rowe £25 T Venes £10 L Rix

Church News

St Mary's church is looking spick and span after our cleaning day on Tuesday February 6th. Many thanks go to Jane Warner for all the hard work she put in that day. We were ably 'assisted' by Bunch throughout the morning. The shingle path which leads to the main door is also looking very smart, thanks go to Richard Youngs for delivery and distribution of shingle. A final thank you goes to Tessa McCosh for the lovely flower arrangements on the altar which have flourished all through January.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

New Hymn Books

It has been agreed by the PCC to purchase 30 new blue hymn books. These new books would include hymns which are more up to date and have many which do not appear in the old copies. The cost is approximately £10 each and we are hoping that members of the community would perhaps like to purchase a book. A stamp inside will provide a space for the donor's name. The Annual Parochial church council meeting will be held in Baconsthorpe village hall on March 11 at 6pm. All welcome.

Churchyard Tidy Day

A tidy up of the St Mary's churchyard will take place on Saturday April 6th starting at 10am. Main jobs are straightening leaning gravestones; tidying up and weeding the gravel paths; cleaning the gravestones and any other tasks. Do bring along spades, rakes, wheelbarrows anything that you think will be useful. Above all bring yourself – a BBQ will be provided afterwards.

Why not pop in and have a walk around the churchyard? The Snowdrops are beautiful at the moment.

Coffee Morning

Many thanks go to Delphine Steel for inviting Baconsthorpe residents and others via the village What's App to a coffee morning on February 1st. It was a lovely chance to get together and catch up with friends.

Sad News

It is with sadness that I have to report that Margaret Gee died peacefully at her home in Baconsthorpe on January 2nd. Richard and Margaret moved from Holt to the bungalow in Baconsthorpe in 1978. All her life Margaret was passionate about caring for animals. She supported many animal charities – RSPCA and Battersea Dog's Home to name just two. At her home Margaret cared for horses, donkeys, cats, dogs, chickens, guinea fowl, geese – no animal was ever turned away, certainly a full-time job. Outside Margaret's front gate was a sign 'Beware cats crossing'. Margaret's animals were important to her and they needed to be kept safe. Margaret is buried in Holt cemetery next to her mother as was her wish. Such a sad start to the new year for her family

Village Hall News

Craft Fair – Saturday 23 March from 10am – 2pm. A lovely range of hand-crafted gifts to suit all tastes and pockets.

Pop-Up Pub is on Friday 29 March. Fish pie is on the menu, served from 6.30pm, bar opens at 6pm.

Survey – last month we sent out a survey to ask everyone in the village what kind of events you would like to see at the hall. Thank you to those who have returned their survey form or commented online. If you have not commented yet, please send us your views. We will compile the responses and use these to inform future events.

Private events. The hall is being booked for a wide range of private events now, which is great to see. It remains excellent value at £10 per hour and we hope we can keep it at this level but this will depend on the rising costs we face. So, book now for your event.

200 Club. We still have numbers available, please check the village website for details. As mentioned last month we are only just breaking even, so we have reduced the prize pot by taking out the three £5 prizes. However, you can still win £50, £25 or £10 every month if you subscribe for just £1 a month. Thanks for your support.

Hold The Date – AGM – Wednesday June 12th at 6pm

Barningham Winter

No news from a very wet Barningham this month.

The next meeting of Matlaske and Barningham Parish Council will take place on Monday, 11th March at 7.30pm in Matlaske church



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

At our Mothering Sunday service on 10th March at 10.30am, children will help to tell the story of the baby Moses in the bullrushes. There will also be a children's and family monthly service in the church at 4.00pm on Sunday, 24th March.

We are pleased that the female vocal group The Samphires will be returning to give a concert in the church at 5.00pm on Sunday, 22nd September.

The Annual Vestry Meeting (also known as the "Annual Meeting of Parishioners") will take place in Baconsthorpe Village Hall at 6.00 p.m. on Monday, 11th March. (For convenience, all the parishes in the benefice will be holding their meetings simultaneously, and at the same venue.) At this meeting, churchwardens are elected. Any resident of the civil parish of Edgefield whose name appears on the local government electoral roll (as opposed to the parliamentary electoral roll) is entitled to attend, and vote, at this meeting (the term "parishioner" in this context does not necessarily imply churchgoer). The Vestry Meeting is followed immediately by the (ecclesiastical) parish's AGM, known as the "Annual Parochial Church Meeting" (APCM). At this meeting, only those whose names are on the church electoral roll are entitled to attend, and vote.



Richard Peaver
587486

Village Hall News

Our next event will be a Quiz Night on Saturday 16th March at 7.00pm. £10 for a team of 4 or £2.50 for an individual ticket, available from any committee member. An important date for our diaries: on 20th July we will be holding a midsummer's disco and BBQ, which weather permitting will be on the Green. It would be lovely to see a large gathering of Edgefield people at this!! January 200 Club winners were: 1st Myles Dewar (£50), 2nd Hillary Diamond (£30) and 3rd Tricia Pepper (£20).

Jim Frost

Hempstead

Coffee & Catchup

Friday 1st March 10.30–12.00

All welcome—in the Village Hall

Hempstead 200 Club winners

£50 D Sanders; £25 I Tyabji; £10 E Summers; £5 A Inglis, N Summers, T Collier



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Music in Hempstead

Wednesday, 13 March @ 3:45

Wednesday, 3 April @ 3:45

In the Village Hall

Hempstead Village Hall

Due to current increases in services costs the hall has had to increase our hiring fees for all new bookings to £10 per hour from 1st January 2024. Are you organising a personal event locally and don't have enough tables and chairs? Hempstead village hall is happy to allow you to borrow their trestle tables and chairs, for a small donation to the Hall dependant on how many you require (minimum £10). To arrange this facility please contact a member of the hall committee.

Family Crafts for Mother's Day and Easter

Saturday 9th March 1pm–4pm in the Village Hall

Lots of different crafts available for the children to make that special gift or card.

As well as adult crafting too. £5 per person. All Welcome!

Crafty Creations

The next meetings in the Village Hall are -

Monday 4th March 2.00–4.00 pm–Willow Weaving

Saturday 9th March 1.00–4.00 pm–Family day all ages – Mother's Day and Easter crafts

Thursday 21st March 10.00 am–midday

Poppy Display D-Day 80th Anniversary

The Hempstead Crafty Creations group have launched a new project for 2024 whereby they will be making a display of poppies in different mediums to support the 80th Anniversary of D-Day this June. The display of this assortment of handmade poppies will be outside the Village Hall from the end of May and will remain until after the Open gardens event in early July. We are welcoming any type of handmade poppy made to last in the outside environment. There will be a 'wave' to hold the softer items (e.g. knitted/crochet etc.) along with the larger 'planted' poppies (e.g. clay/plastic/metal etc.) along the front grass. Anyone willing to join in with this is welcome to make their entries at home and pass them onto either Lesley Lennox – lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk or Moira Moira Ratcliffe – grasshopper@fast-mail.net before the end of May. Any further

information please contact us. Thank you.

Hempstead Church

Starting to think about that annual Spring Clean? . . .

. . . then why not get in the mood, perhaps meet new people / get to know your neighbours a little better, and help to share the load, by joining together with local folk who make up the church's cleaning and flower arranging teams, on Tuesday, 19th March at 10:00, when we give everything in the church a really good dust, polish and hoovering. Cleaning materials will be available and although things do get the onceover every two or three weeks in the ordinary way, things can get missed during the course of a year and thus pretty dirty, so if you are able to bring along the odd duster and can of spray polish as well as yourself, that would be really helpful. For those of you who prefer wielding such tools as hedge cutters or strimmers, there will also be plenty to do at the churchyard's boundaries. Efforts will be rewarded with hot / cold beverages and home-made goodies at half-time. We do hope you will be able to come and join us.

Diane Collier

Matlaske

A hearty welcome to Cathy, Jason and their son who have recently moved into the village. They have a daughter in London; and I should also mention their beagle, Rufus! They have lived in South Norfolk for many years but originate from Yorkshire. Cathy says, "We feel very blessed to be here." They are looking forward to meeting the residents of Matlaske over the coming months.



Duncan Wood

570293

Matlaske and the Big Bang



The drama began when Gary found a hand grenade in the back garden of his house on Wickmere Road on a Saturday afternoon. The grenade was in a flower pot and didn't seem to have a pin in place. Gary's first thought was to call the police. A bevy of coppers arrived and looked at the grenade. 'We need the Army,' they said, and called out the bomb disposal team. The soldiers said they couldn't be there until the morning, so the coppers decided to mount guard and stayed all night.

The Army arrived with the daylight. The bomb experts looked at the grenade and decided to blow it up somewhere safe. So they transported it to a part of the old airfield known as the Hangars, where no innocent dog-walkers were likely to get a nasty surprise. There they dug a hole in the ground, put the hand grenade in the hole with 100g of plastic explosive on top, filled it in, retreated to a safe space and pressed the red button.

BOOM! I was reading the news in bed when I heard the explosion. 'Was that Gary knocking down another wall in his house?' I asked Mandy. 'Must have been a big one.' (Not that we mind.)

Gary was brave enough to take a close-up photo of the grenade. But what was it doing in a plant pot in his garden? Is there a Barningham Winter Liberation Army at work? I think we should be told . . .

Plumstead

Easter Activities at St Michael's

All children are invited to come and help make the Easter Garden in the church at 10a.m. on Saturday 30th March. Bring a few flowers if you have some—vases provided.



Harriet Rossi
577239

Wildlife Surveys at Plumstead Churchyard

Norfolk Wildlife Trust are carrying out surveys of our churchyard over this year. The snowdrops, crocuses and mini daffodils are looking lovely as I write. At the end of January 30 different species of plants were recorded.

Community Space in Plumstead Church

We are awaiting the outcome of 2 grant applications for the creation of the community space in the church. Let's hope they respond positively so that the work can be started in the next few months.

Book stall, cards and crafts are on sale in the church and Monday morning coffees continue—do drop in sometime.

New Arrivals

We welcome Simon and Louise to Plumstead, we wish them all the best settling in and look forward to meeting them in due course.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

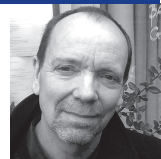
Worried about phone changes?

The biggest change in landline phone services for years will soon be upon us—raising fears among some people that they will lose vital services when moved from the old analogue phones to the new digital system.

All landlines will need to become 'internet connected' by the end of next year (2025). Although there are advantages, the change does make landlines vulnerable in a power cut, so to make emergency calls you'll need either a mobile phone with signal, or a back-up battery. Concerns have also been raised by people who have special landline services, such as medical alert systems, or who have unreliable internet access.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the changes is invited to a meeting at the Village Hall at 10am on Saturday 16th March when County Councillor Steffan Aquarone will update people on the latest position and hear their concerns. Phone operators are aware that some people will need help, and this short talk will include how to get registered for extra support.

Free event. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. For further details contact Caroline Randell at caroline.randell@hotmail.co.uk



John Birchall
584290

Film and dance dates at Village Hall

The Village Hall's first film night was a truly inspiring evening with 51 people enjoying the film,

The Great Escaper, the wine and the great British community spirit. The next films to be shown at the village hall are *Barbie* at 7pm on Friday 1st March, and *Wonka* at 3pm on Saturday 2nd March .



Another exciting event at the village hall is the *Northern Soul* night on Saturday 23rd March, so dig out those blue suede shoes and dance to the music of DJ's Trevor Bailey and Piers Hawkins from Cromer Soul Club.

For further details on these and other events see the Village Hall website at www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk

Join Corpusty & Saxthorpe Brownies!

This lively group of girls aged 7-10 years meet 5.15-7.15pm every Tuesday in term time at Corpusty Village Hall. We do a wide range of activities including crafts, cooking, learning about the world around us, outdoor fun, working towards badges and plenty of games. We go on outings, meet up with other groups and have sleepovers. Being a leader is fun and rewarding and we are keen to recruit new adult helpers as well as welcoming new Brownie members. For more information or to ask about helping or joining, please contact Alison Mawson (Brown Owl) 07802 619603 alisonmawson@hotmail.com

Don't miss the Wednesday treats at St A's

If you haven't sampled the Wednesday morning treats at St Andrews, it's time you did. The home-baked delights, excellent coffee and good company have for many people made the 10am Coffee Cake & Chat a regular diary date to look forward to. As the picture shows, the baking team excelled themselves for Valentine's Day



Nature Watch – March Hares

Arthur Pentney



'Mad as a March hare' is an often-found expression, but are the actions of these hares really mad? Their antics certainly give some credence to the statement, standing upon hind legs and 'boxing' with their front feet. It was always thought that this performance was between two males trying to gain dominance, whereas now the perception is that it is actually a male and a female sparring, with the latter letting her suitor know that she is not ready for any mating ritual just yet!

Hares and rabbits – so similar in appearance, and yet so different in habit. Rabbits live in a community of warrens underground, but the hare is a solitary creature staying

only on the surface, using a 'form', a depression in the grass to conceal itself from predators. The female rabbit keeps her young close by, and nurses them at all times, whereas the hare leaves her newly-born youngsters (leverets) alone in the form and returns to them perhaps a couple of times a day.

The hare, with its strong back legs and flexible back can run at speeds of up to 40 mph, making it our fastest land mammal, and this speed, together with its act of concealment, helps to keep it safe.

Country folk were never keen on eating hares, unlike rabbits, which were always a useful addition to the villagers' food intake. There appeared to be something different about the hare, so any caught were likely to end up for the London market.

I shall conclude with a quote from an elderly Norfolk villager who had just witnessed two mad March hares in action: "Thass how they go on, a hully rare sight to see!"

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



As I write to you about the joys of gardening in March, it is actually the middle of February – St Valentine's Day, to be exact, and to my utter delight I have just been given a lovely bunch of viburnum bodnantense, which has the prettiest of pink flowers and the most beautiful of fragrances. I would highly recommend it as an addition for your garden even if it's just for cutting and bringing in the house as the warmth opens the shrubs flowers and releases the most delightful of perfumes.

I will admit I have been struggling to feel the gardening Love these last few months, I think the combo of the relentless torrential rain and the overwhelming worry of a close family member who

is very seriously ill has taken its toll. Yet I know just how hugely beneficial time spent in our garden will be and whilst not a solution to the worry, just spending time outside pottering, sorting and doing will work wonders. There is something just so hugely special and beneficial about gardening, whilst the result is obviously important it is the process that is so cathartic, enriching and uplifting. So, I will dig out my waders and crack on!

Because I have been inadvertently dragging my heels these last few months, as you can well imagine my to-do list is now huge, so instead of letting that list become completely overwhelming, I am going to just do what I can do and anything that is heading in the right direction will be good. The old adage of 'little and often' I think might well be the way to go!

So, what can be done this month? If you've ordered dahlia tubers you can pot them up in March, however I would tend to sit tight and wait until spring has hopefully really got going in April. I think if they are miserably sitting around in over wet pots in the cold that's when you get problems with the tubers rotting. It's the same with a lot of seed planting, you need good consistent warmth and momentum so that plants grow strongly rather than limping on through. If, like me, you have completely missed the boat with some of your early seed sowing for your greenhouse, then can I recommend Simpsons seeds for more unusual varieties, I have used them for over 20 years and their young plants have always done very well for me. They cheerful arrive in the post and if planted promptly and exactly as advised they normally get going very well. It also means that I can order a really interesting selection of varieties. Last year, I ordered nine different tomatoes and three different aubergines, so not only is your salad bowl looking like a total joy but you also get to see what varieties thrive in your conditions. I can happily report that all the aubergines did very well – they were stunning plants with beautiful flowers and the fruits were just delicious to cook with, in comparison to shop-bought aubergines these are just so much better to cook with, as they have a beautiful texture, which makes you realise how un-fresh the shop bought varieties are. So, these are the tomato varieties that did well for me last year: Brandy Boy, Rose de Berne and the best of all of them was Liguria which looks great, thrives well, and had a lovely flavour. Finally, the three epic aubergines were Baluroi, Bonica and Galine all different and all a joy!

This month's question is from Sally Fletcher, who wonders if it's worth planting an asparagus bed? Well, I can totally understand why you're giving it proper thought Sally, asparagus beds are a real commitment, firstly space wise and time wise. Not only do they require a proper dedicated patch they need time spent preparing the patch and patience whilst you wait for the plants to mature. There is also the fact you can't realistically interplant either. But what I would say is if you've the space and if you've the patience... Go for it! But do your homework...choose your asparagus crown varieties carefully. You can get different varieties that harvest either earlier or slightly later in the growing season, so if you're canny, you can chose a selection to lengthen the harvesting period. I would also properly dedicate time to preparing the soil. If you've already got good draining soil that's a bonus, but you will still need to add extra grit for drainage. I think the *The Vegetable Expert* guide by Dr D.G. Hessayon describes the procedure very well. Good Luck!

Do keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet as ever the most interesting question will be published next year!

Michelle and Mick McCarter

A Matlaske Benefice Wall Calendar – Your Help Needed!

Plans are afoot to make a wall calendar for the Matlaske Benefice. The first one would be for 2025. It would promote a Christian spirituality of the land: appreciating it as God's gift for our livelihoods, food, and enjoyment, and promoting our care of its beauty and fruitfulness.

We would like people in the Benefice to offer content such as:

- Your photographs of countryside and country life that celebrate God's blessings through nature and natural cycles, the beauty of the agricultural and pastoral landscape, and human care for the countryside.
- Your favourite Bible texts bearing on God's care, the beauty of nature, stewardship of the land, the lives of those who live and work in the countryside.
- Short lines of your favourite poetry, sacred or secular, on the same themes.

Please send your suggestions (and any questions) to matlaske_benefice_calendar@cantab.net. We can discuss any copyright issues. Thank you. Duncan Wood & the team.

Lent Course



Come and watch the Ken Loach film

'The Old Oak'

in three instalments

followed by refreshments and discussion

(no charge)

Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th March 7:30 - 9pm

Corpusty Village Hall

Contact administrator@matlaske.org.uk

for further details

Children, Youth and Families

The belief is our villages are full of holiday/second homes and retired people. But within the 7 parishes that this magazine covers there are estimated about 150 children of primary school age. This may surprise you.

Family life presents its own challenges in a rural area and this page is about highlighting what is going on locally for Children and youth, and raising their profile.

There is currently:-

One primary school in Corpusty

One nursery school "Strawberry Patch" in Hempstead

Three toddler groups – one in Baconsthorpe and two in Corpusty, meeting Mondays and Fridays

One brownie pack based in Corpusty that meets on a Tuesday evening

And likely you will be aware of more!

Last April the Revd. David Longe established a team to seek creative and meaningful ways to engage children and families in all the churches do.

Competition

A simple logo for children, youth and families in rural villages is required and so any budding artists or creative types please send in your ideas to Youth@matlaske.org.uk.

March this year has so much in it. We warmly invite Children and their families, whatever your faith or beliefs to these events. Gift bags for each Child of primary age should arrive in the middle of the month.

Mothering Sunday 10th March 10.30am Saxthorpe church with the Brownies doing a play and Mothering Sunday 10th March Edgefield Church when children will act out The Moses in the Bulrushes story.

Palm Sunday on 24th March 4pm at Edgefield church has an informal service with children able to dress up and act out the excitement and celebration of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Easter weekend Saturday 30th March Plumstead Church invites children to build an Easter Garden in the Church.

Easter Morning 31st March A Big celebratory service for everyone at Saxthorpe Church. Egg hunt for children.

Free holiday activity morning Tuesday 9th April 10.30-12 for Children in Edgefield Church

If you want further information or want to be added to our mailing list contact Youth@matlaske.org.uk.





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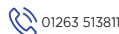
If so, please get in touch with your local community connector.



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