

Church & Village News

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

November 2025

Woods near the Full Mill Bridge, Corpusty

Photograph by Roger Last

Newsletter Team

Issue No 118 / November 2025

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Parish Council Websites

Baconsthorpe
<https://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc>
Edgefield
<https://edgefield-pc.gov.uk/>
Hempstead
<https://hempsteadpc.wixsite.com/hempsteadpc>
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<https://matlaske-pc.gov.uk/>
Plumstead
<https://plumsteadpc.wixsite.com/plumsteadpc>
Saxthorpe & Corpusty
<https://corpustyandsaxthorpe-pc.gov.uk/>

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 www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk
 www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk
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 Jill Perry-Warnes 01263 584 221

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 safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882345

County Councillor

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

What's On

NOVEMBER

Sat 1	6.00pm	Corpusty Bonfire Procession (no fireworks) fire lit 7.30pm	Corpusty Green
Mon 3	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Tues 4	12.00noon	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Lunch Club (alternate Tuesdays)	Village Hall
Wed 5	10.00am	Baconsthorpe Coffee Morning	Village Hall
Fri 7	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catch-Up	Village Hall
Fri 7	7.00pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Film Night <i>Four Letters of Love</i>	Village Hall
Sat 8	10.00am	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair	Village Hall
Sat 8	10.00am	Hempstead Craft Market	Village Hall
Sun 9	9.00am	Corpusty Breakfast & Bric a Brac	Village Hall
Fri 14	3.45pm	Hempstead Music 3.45pm tea - music 4pm	Village Hall
Fri 14	5.00pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Supper Club bar open	Village Hall
Tues 18	12.00noon	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Lunch Club (alternate Tuesdays)	Village Hall
Thur 20	12.00noon	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Fri 28	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub last one of the year	Village Hall
Fri 28	7.00pm	Corpusty & Saxthorpe Book Club <i>Never Ending Chapter</i>	Village Hall
Sat 29	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall

Clash Diary to add an event contact

Corinne Youngs 01263 577263 corinne@avyoungs.com

Dec 1 Hempstead CC Christmas Wreaths
 Dec 5 Baconsthorpe Christmas Quiz
 Dec 5/6 Corpusty Wreath Making with Karen
 Dec 7 Matlaske Christmas Party
 Dec 9 Corpusty Tech & Tea
 Dec 9 Barningham Hall Wreath Making

Dec 13 Edgefield Festive Evening
 Dec 13 Saxthorpe Living Nativity
 Dec 13 Corpusty Christmas Bingo
 Dec 14 Edgefield Christmas Carols
 Dec 19 Baconsthorpe Church Decorating
 Dec 21 Baconsthorpe Christmas Carols

Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 01263 712202
Staffed Hours
 Tues 10am-7pm / Wed 2pm-7pm
 Fri 10am-7pm / Sat 1pm-4pm
Unstaffed Hours
 8am-7pm weekdays Sat 8am-4pm Sun 10am-2pm
 accessible with Open Library Access

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

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.

Banking Hub

Holt Community Centre, Kerridge Way, NR25 6DN
 9am-5pm weekdays
 Monday NatWest Thursday Santander
 Tuesday TSB Friday Lloyds
 Wednesday Barclays

Mobile Library Van

20 November / 18 December / 15 January
 Matlaske 12:40 NR11 7AQ Old Post Office
 Plumstead 13:00 NR11 7LG Walnut Farm
 Baconsthorpe 14:30 NR25 6LJ Council Bungalows
 14:50 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 Cotts

Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA> / Route No CEN 411
 Tel: 01603 222303

Letter from The Rector, Reverend Canon David Longe

01263 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear All

Is the Church now irrelevant? And what about this 106th?

Many argue that “the Church is outdated, clinging to a Bible full of disproven ideas.” I disagree – the Bible is not a single book, but a library containing history, poetry, spirituality, prayer, and prophecy. It requires careful, contextual reading. At ordination, every priest promises to preach the Gospel afresh in each generation – demanding courage, creativity, and faithfulness.

Recent research from Bible Society suggests Gen Z (aged 16–24) may be more open to faith than we assume. Their 2024 report, *The Quiet Revival*, shows church attendance in this age group is up (from 4% in 2018 to 16% in 2024) as are Bible reading and prayer. One of the report’s authors, Rob Barward-Symmons, notes that “[w]ith much of the population struggling with mental health, loneliness and a loss of meaning in life—especially young people—church appears [to offer answers].” Our rural churches are not suddenly full but we are seeing signs of new life across our services. For instance, our Family Church service has grown, bringing joy and delight. As always, all are welcome.

So, what about this “106th”? It refers to the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, the first woman (after 105 men) to be appointed to this historic role. After nearly 10 months of discernment (longer than the Conclave!), her appointment was confirmed last month.

This is significant. The Church of England began ordaining women as priests in 1994, with the first female bishop in the Church of England, Libby Lane, consecrated in 2015. Dame Sarah’s path to this role is remarkable. She began in nursing and became Chief Nursing Officer for England at age 37—earning her a Damehood. Ordained in 2001, she served in South London, became a cathedral canon, then Bishop of Crediton, and later the first female Bishop of London.

This is no token appointment. Bishop Sarah is widely respected for being pastoral, thoughtful, and spiritually grounded. Her new role is significant—not only for the Church of England but also for the global Anglican Communion, where many still oppose the ordination of women. The Archbishop of Canterbury is not only a national leader but also *primus inter pares*—first among equals—across the Anglican Communion (which is made up of 96+ million people).

She will need wisdom, grace, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as she seeks unity amid division. There is, I believe, reassurance that she was appointed following a long season of prayerful discernment.

I believe future generations need a Church that faithfully proclaims the Gospel - the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Not a Church that blows with the wind, but one that is rooted in Scripture, shaped by prayer, and committed to the truth, justice and the glory of God.

Bishop Sarah’s appointment shows the Church of England is capable of taking bold, hope-filled steps. Please keep her and her family in your prayers,

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for November

November is the month of Remembrance where we reflect on the lives of the Saints, on the 1st November, those whom we love yet see no more, 2nd November and give thanks to all those that have served their country on 9th November. On 9th November there will be four services in the Benefice where the names of the fallen of the First and Second World Wars will be read out. See below for the locations.

2 nd	All Souls	
8.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Eucharist Eucharist All Souls All are welcome to remember those we have lost.	Matlaske Saxthorpe Plumstead
5 th	Wednesday - Meditation	
6.00pm	Meditation - 30 minutes long	Hempstead
9 th	Remembrance Sunday	
8.30am 10.45am 10.45am 10.45am	Eucharist Incorporating names from Hempstead & Plumstead Incorporating names from Barningham Winter	Barningham Winter Baconsthorpe Matlaske Saxthorpe Edgefield Village Hall
13 th	Thursday	
9.00am	Eucharist	Matlaske
16 th	Trinity XXI	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Plumstead Baconsthorpe
19 th	Wednesday - Meditation	
6.00pm	Meditation - 30 minutes long	Hempstead
23 rd	Christ the King	
8.30am 10.00am 4.00pm	Eucharist Sharing Church bringing together faith, fellowship and food Family Church - introduces the Christian faith through welcome, talk, craft, prayer, music, and shared refreshments	Hempstead Saxthorpe Edgefield
30 th	Advent Sunday	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Advent Carols	Matlaske North Barningham
7 th Dec	Advent II	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Matlaske Saxthorpe
Tuesdays 10am-12noon Country Mice Toddler Group - Baconsthorpe Village Hall Wednesdays 10am - Coffee, Cake & Chat - St Andrew's Saxthorpe First Wednesday of the month Coffee Monrning 10.30am - Baconsthorpe Village Hall		

Details of all our services: achurchnearyou.com/benefice/26-271D/

Baconsthorpe

200 Club K Glassfield £50, R Hall £25, R Hall £10

Church News

9th November – Remembrance Sunday. This year we are going to carry out the Parish Act of Remembrance around the newly re-discovered grave of Gunner George Cooper of the Royal Artillery in the churchyard. Gunner Cooper is the only one of our war dead buried at home, as he died in hospital in Shorncliff (Kent). The short service will commence in the church at 10.45am.

December 19th at 10am we will gather to decorate the church ready for Christmas. Everyone is invited to come and give a hand – you do not have to be artistic – I certainly am not! We are grateful for any bags/sacks of greenery, holly, mistletoe, candles, tangerines! It's a very fun informal occasion helped along by Jo Brannigan's special coffee.

December 21st at 5pm we will be holding our carol service in St Mary's. This is always a joyful gathering to really get everyone in the mood for Christmas. A time to sing your heart out and this year we will be supported by a visiting choir. There will also be refreshments.

Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride – thanks to all who visited St Mary's in aid of this wonderful event whether by bicycle, by car or on foot. Thanks must also go to those who manned the church and provided refreshments



Hazel Martin
07879 414577



Baconsthorpe Castle

I looked back at the newsletter for November last year and saw the headline 'Christmas target for work to be completed at Baconsthorpe castle'. Sadly here we are a year on and still closed for the last improvements. However I thought it was worth enclosing these lovely photos taken by Tom Worboys a few days ago to remind us what a special place we have in our village

Festive Quiz Night

On Friday 5th December there will be a festive quiz night in the village hall. The hall and bar will be open from 6.30pm and supper (bangers, mash and red cabbage) will be served at 7pm. The quiz will start after supper – there will be a big picture quiz and eight rounds of questions. We will be finished by 9.30pm when the raffle will be

drawn and the winner presented with their prize. It will be a fun evening! £15 per head. Maximum team size – 6 people. To book call 07884 432412 In the last newsletter I made an mistake with the number to call for booking. I am mortified and would like to thank the person who noticed my error and reported it.

The New Look Bar Area in the Village Hall

I enclose a photo of the newly refurbished bar area in the village hall. 42 years ago this room in the village school was the infants room. Ages would have ranged from 5 to 8; times tables were chanted; milk was delivered at break time and Mrs Cousell was in charge. The school closed in 1983 with only 22 pupils. Now we hope everyone approves of the changes made to the space with new tables, comfortable chairs and a rather 'glitzy' lit bar. Do come and enjoy the space either at the pop up pub or at the coffee morning which is held in this room on the first Wednesday each month. We have a new coffee machine and Corinne is still making her famous cheese scones.



Village Hall News

Craft Fair Saturday 8 November, 10am–1pm – come and find some unique Christmas gifts

Pop Up Pub Friday 28 November will be the last pub night of the year, as there is not one in December. Sausage casserole on the menu from 6.30pm – first come first served as always. Come and see the newly refurbished bar which opens at 6pm.

200 Club We still have numbers available. You could win £50 a month for just £1 a month subscription, See website for details.

Barningham Winter

Please see the item on the Matlaske airfield and info about the event on November 9th to commemorate those from our parish who died in both World Wars.

Wreath Making Returns

Once again we are holding our annual wreath making day in the stables at Barningham Hall. Homemade soup and delicious mince pies are included in the ticket price of £25. All greenery will be provided, just bring anything that you would like to add sparkle. The date for your diary is Tuesday, 9th December, starting at 10am. Please email amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk to secure a ticket. Places are limited!



Amelia Courtauld
01263 577250

Edgefield



Church News

Churchyard Working Party

A wonderful group of 14 volunteers turned up on a blustery Saturday morning to tidy the churchyard. Armed with strimmers, shears, forks, rakes and trowels, they worked very hard to clear around the graves, the church and the wall and to fix the gatepost. Visitors often comment on how well kept our churchyard is, so a big thank you to all who came along.

Welcoming Family Church

Our relaxed family church is growing and we welcome new people every 4th Sunday (4pm).



Richard Peaver
01263 587486

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 9th November at 10.45am the village Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Village Hall and War Memorial. We welcome all to commemorate those who gave their lives for their country.

Village Hall News

We held a well-attended quiz evening on 4th October, with a narrow 1 point victory to the Mawson/Lawry team. Congratulations! September's 200 Club winners were: 1st Andy Stokeley Smith (£50), 2nd Joyce Kinsley (£30) and 3rd Joy Durkin (£20).

Gearing up for Christmas!

Tickets will be on sale soon for Edgefield's Christmas Evening on Saturday 13th December (7pm). Contact Jim Frost or any Village Hall committee member, or request a ticket via the Facebook page.

To keep you in the Christmas spirit, why not take part in the village carol service and nativity on Sunday 14th? Alison Mawson would like to hear from children and adults who would like a role in re-enacting the Christmas story.

Hempstead

200 Club - October Winners

£50 K Hill; £25 P Loach; £15 F Feilden; £10 J Spencer-Jones

Coffee & Catchup Friday 7th November 10.30am - village hall - all welcome.

Hempstead Village Hall

We regret that we were not successful in the recent award of grants from Hornsea 3. Our application was intended to provide new kitchen and toilet facilities at the hall. However we shall apply again when next eligible and indeed for other suitable grants. If anyone in the village has experience of grant applications we would be very grateful if they could assist our team in this quest. Contact the Chairman on 01263 715851 or the Secretary on 01263 712505.

Richard Roy



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Crafty Creations - We will be starting to work on Christmas theme crafts this month with specifics to come. (Please check village website for details.)

Monday 3rd 2pm - 4pm / Thursday 20th 10am - 12noon / Saturday 29th 2pm - 4pm

Monday 1st December 2 pm- 4pm Christmas wreaths with moss rings. These will be £12.50 to make. All welcome to join us.

New Arrivals

We are very pleased to announce the birth of James Luca Winspear, who was born on the 10th of September at 4.50am. He weighed 6lb 10oz and both mother and baby were back at home after a few days and an excited older brother (Alex) was able to meet his baby brother and bring them home on the Saturday.

And a warm welcome to Garry and Jane Clement-Boggis, who have moved into White Horse Cottages, to Tracey and Alan Burton, who have moved into Church Cottages, and Scarlett Knights and children who have moved in nearby.

Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride

Once again we are so grateful to our sponsors and supporters who have enabled us to raise the

magnificent sum of just over £1, 500 for the sponsored cycle ride which took place this year on Saturday 13th September.

Particular thanks to fellow cyclist Lizzy Ames and to the rota of helpers who sat in the Church throughout the day to welcome visitors. This annual fundraising event raises much needed money for our Church and for the Norfolk Churches Trust which helps us with grants in times of need. This is an impressive result for a small village, thank you all.

Yvette Gibson



Hempstead Craft Market

A craft market with refreshments, will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 8th November, 2pm-4pm. Please come and support the event.

Music in Hempstead

Friday 14th November in the Village Hall 3.45pm tea and cake followed by music at 4pm.

Back Lane

Just a month short of two years ago Hornsea 3 shut Back Lane in Hempstead after flooding the old Marlpit with silt, washing away a large part of the bank and undermining a huge ash tree, which subsequently crashed to the ground. Work is now finally underway to repair and shore up the bank and we hope to see the track open again during November.



Matlaske

100 Club £25 June Stevens, £10 Susan Fern, £5 Pete Rushmer



Fine Flowers for Harvest Festival

The harvest festival service for the whole Benefice took place in Matlaske church on Sunday 5th October. It is striking to think that harvests have been celebrated on this sacred site for nearly 1,200 years.

The church was beautifully decorated. Going in early to turn on the heating, I saw just how lovely the flower arrangements were.

The rector led the service with various folk contributing readings and prayers. There was hearty singing of old favourites such as *Come Ye*



Duncan Wood
01263 570293

Thankful People, come and *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*, with our rather wheezy old harmonium sounding glorious due to Richard's skill.

Our stewardship of the land that feeds us is rightly a big issue these days. Opinions may vary on how best to look after planet Earth, but in this Benefice there is plenty of experience, insight and wisdom to draw on.

Remembrance at Matlaske Airfield

There will be a number of services at different churches and sites throughout the Matlaske Benefice on Remembrance Sunday this year. One of them will be at the Memorial Stone at the site of the former Matlaske Airfield, which was operational throughout the Second World War. All are invited to attend, and to whet your appetite, below is some information on the site from Matlaske resident Colin Airey.



RAF MATLASKE During the years leading up to the Second World War, government developed its air policies significantly. The focus for building up military sites became the East of England. Coltishall, which had been planned as a bomber station, was passed over to Fighter Command in May 1940, and Matlaske was prepared as its satellite airfield. It was one of nearly forty new airfields that transformed the landscape of Norfolk during the early years of the war.

Matlaske was unusual in that it was a square airfield bounded by public roads on all sides. There were three short grass runways within a concrete perimeter road. None of the runways were concreted over: they were of grass, supported by wire netting, and suffered from frequent water-logging. For this reason, the airfield was never granted full independent operational status

and continued as a satellite station to Coltishall. Personnel were accommodated in buildings throughout the Barningham estate. The more fortunate ones, (officers) were billeted in Barningham Hall or Itteringham Mill.

None the less, when it was barely operational, in October 1940, the airfield was bombed and machine gunned by the Luftwaffe. There were casualties, but no fatalities. In the subsequent years it became very busy. Hurricanes and Spitfires flew from there and a full range of Fighter Command planes, mainly acting as bomber escorts.

Owing to the water-logging problems, the airfield was among the earliest of Norfolk airfields to be closed before being used as a Prisoner-of-War camp and then as a Displaced Persons camp. It then returned to use as arable land.

In 2011 the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust erected a memorial stone, dedicated to all the units and personnel based there. Ten years on, in November 2021, with the permission of the current landowners, a service was held at the memorial stone, dedicated not only to those who had lost their lives flying from Matlaske Airfield, but also to the victims of both World Wars from the Parishes of Matlaske and Barningham Winter. That service is being repeated at two-year intervals - with this year's event marking the end of Second World War hostilities.

Plumstead

Continued thanks to Catherine for her very kind work as temporary church warden, we are very grateful to her for stepping in. Catherine and the PCC would like to thank all those in our small village who continue to help, as they are able, to mow and scythe the grass in our churchyard, prune and tidy our trees, weed as necessary, provide plants for our seasonal plant sales, decorate our beautiful church, raise funds for the simple changes we need, and help us produce a new church guide.



Harriet Rossi
01263 577239

On this note, Mike Ray-Jones reports that a small but hard-working team spent an hour or two one Sunday in October, raking away cuttings from the wild areas in the Plumstead Churchyard. The areas had previously been scythed, then left awhile to allow flower seeds to drop.

Scything is better ecologically than using powered tools, since it gives small animals a chance to escape and survive. It also cuts the material long rather than chopping it up into small pieces; longer material is easier to rake up and remove, thus preventing nitrogen from returning to the soil and making it more suitable for grasses rather than wild flowers.

Once the job was done, the team was rewarded with coffee and Melissa's excellent rock buns.

Festive News

Happy news, plans are afoot for a Christmas gathering in the Church. Details to follow in the next edition.

New Arrivals

A warm welcome to the village for Adam and Penny who have moved in to Woodfield Cottage.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty



Railway Station Revival

Congratulations to the Village Hall team and others for all their work in bringing Corpusty Railway Station building back from the brink. The transformation was marked by a celebration event when Jon Moore led local railway songs before Maureen Kimbley declared the building open. It is now available for parties or events - email corpustystationbookings@gmail.com.



John Birchall
07810 016976

Village Hall Diary Dates

Tuesday Lunch Clubs (12-2pm): 4 and 18 November, 2 and 16 December. Monthly Breakfast and bric a brac (9am-12) Sundays 9 November and 14 December. Film nights (7pm) Friday 7 November *Four Letters of Love* and 5 December: *The Ballard of Wallis Island*. Details on the website for the Supper Club (5pm-8pm) Friday 14 November, Wreath Making on 6 December and a Christmas Bingo on 13 December.

Harvest Supper Success

The harvest supper team served up another feast of food and music at Millers Barn, where Lesley and Niven Last played host to 52 diners, including 15 who were there for the first time.



Classical guitarist Estevao Divides delighted the audience by playing throughout, ensuring that all went home happy. St Andrews Church will benefit from the funds raised.

Faith, Friends and Food

Come along to the friendly Sharing Church on Sunday 23 November at St Andrew's Saxthorpe. Pastries and drinks available from 10am, informal service starts at 10.30am. Our theme: 'what makes good government?' Come to enjoy faith, friends and food!

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



As I write this, it is THE most glorious Autumnal day, it started well with a beautiful low mist and now it's all golden amber light, deep blue skies and the trees and hedgerows are full of colour. It is always a big adjustment in October when the clocks go back, I am reminded of my Grandad who was determined to have none of this nonsense of the clocks changing, he literally stuck to GMT all year round. I think the person I feel more for is my Nana who still had to get his lunch ready on time!

Back to now, I think it's worth having a bit of a plan. I try and get in the habit of going around the garden at least once a day just to get a bit of daylight and it's always much nicer outside than you think it's going to be. Shorter days also means there is less time to get stuff outside done so it's good to make lists especially as there's always an unseen tipping point in November when the focus relentlessly switches to Christmas.

This month in our garden there will be a lot of hedge cutting, clearing and tidying, washing down outdoor furniture and storing well and generally putting away, flower pots etc. All worthy stuff but the nicest task in November is planting tulips. I don't think anyone ever regrets planting tulip bulbs they are always the most tremendous lift when they show up in April or May, it's worthwhile making a note of what works and what doesn't work in your garden, just recently I almost added to cart a tulip collection that I did try here a few years ago, they were a beautiful collection but they are too dark for our garden. Instead I've ordered a collection that has brighter colours.

This month I will also be keeping an eye on the dropping temperatures and the dahlias. This year I am following Sarah Ravens advice and mulching in a mound over each plant. I am also making a note of the dahlias as my plan is to dig up any that don't work (next spring) and move them on. Top dahlias in my flower patch this year have been Sweet Sante, Le Baron and Schippers Bronze - the last is a joy, a really prolific and hard-working dahlia, good for bees and stands well as a cut flower and it also works well with a multitude of other colours, a total win!

This month's question is actually one from me to you. I am trying to compile a good list of people's best loved or best used gardening books for December's article. I appreciate there is always a stream of new books pushed each Christmas, but what interests me are the ones you keep coming back to and ones you wouldn't be without. Just pop them in an email and we shall see what we all come up with ...Many Thanks!

Please do keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet.com as ever the most interesting question will be published next month!



Michelle & Mick McCarter

Nature Watch - The Red Squirrel



Cycling off to work in Holt some fifty years ago there was no shame to dismount and push your bike up the steep slope of Hempstead Mill Hill. For by walking quietly you had that delightful opportunity of seeing red squirrels in the wood there.

These then were our native squirrels. It was a joy to see these little creatures scampering around. Not anymore alas, those ubiquitous grey things have taken over and our smaller reds have been driven out. Estimates suggest no

more than 250,000 red squirrels now exist, whereas those grey incomers now number three million!

To see red squirrels in the wild now you need to go either to the Isle of Wight or Scotland. Nearer home, Penshorpe near Fakenham have bred some in captivity, but sadly the chances of ever having them in their natural environment here in Norfolk have long gone.

I cherish the days I was able to enjoy seeing them so close to home, and they are never forgotten.

Arthur Pentney

Children, Youth & Families - The Light of Christmas

The churches across our villages are excitedly preparing for Advent and this includes gift bags to all children of primary school age. Each year the Christian folk in our rural villages pay for and prepare about 150 gift bags. This year the theme is Light and what better to represent this than a Star.

The star brings such a simple but essential message of light and hope in our homes, communities and world. We are inviting all children to bring their stars to one of the organised workshops listed below and to decorate one star for their home and one for the church.

Saturday 29 November 10-12 Plumstead Church

Saturday 6 December 10-12 Saxthorpe Church

Saturday 13 December 10-12 Baconsthorpe Church

Please all children must come with a responsible adult

NB All workshops are run by vetted and trained safeguarding personnel

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