Church & Village News

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

December 2026 & January 2027



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, St Andrews, Saxthorpe
Photograph by Pete Jones

Newsletter Team

Issue No 130 /December 2026 / January 2027

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CVN@matlaske.org.uk / 01263 584290
Copy Date second Friday of the month
January 8 / February 12
Advertising advertising@matlaske.org.uk
Treasurer Justin Hill
Distribution Heather De 07703 261087
Print Clanpress www.clanpress.co.uk
Postal Subscriptions
£15 per year Corinne Youngs 01263 577263
To download previous editions visit:
www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk

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Matlaske & Barningham	Lucy Raynes	07894 061571
Plumstead	Steve Price	
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Guy Hodgson	07771 575277

Parish Council Websites

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

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Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead
Callum Ringer 01263 802784
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Local MP

Steffan Aquarone MP
Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk

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Village Websites

www.baconsthorpe.org
www.corpustyandsaxthorpevillagehall.org.uk
www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk
www.plumstead.org.uk

Church People

Rector Revd Canon David Longe 01263 577252
Asst Priest Revd Judy Rosser 07469 390178
Lay Minister Dr Jane McLarty 07791 870104

Church Wardens

Baconsthorpe	Harry Steel	07711 890360
B Winter	Amelia Courtauld	01263 577250
	Rebecca Hill	07960 739593
Edgefield	Emma Cletheroe	01263 587049
	Alison Mawson	01263 587236
Hempstead	Airlie Inglis	07540 566766
Matlaske	Thomas Courtauld	01263 577250
	Duncan Wood	01263 570293
Plumstead	Vacant - contact the Rector	
Sax with Corp	Lesley Last	01263 587782
	Jill Perry-Warnes	01263 584 221

Safeguarding Officers
Emma Youngs 07884 432412
safeguarding@matlaske.org.uk
Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team
safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882345

County Councillors

Andrew Brown - Holt Division
andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk
Callum Ringer - Erpingham division
callum.ringer@north-norfolk.gov.uk

What's On

DECEMBER

Thurs 3	All Day	**Saxthorpe + Matlaske Advent Foodbank Collection**	Churches
Fri 4	3.30pm	**Hempstead Music**	Village Hall
Fri 4	7.00pm	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Film Club** *The Devil Wears Prada II*	Village Hall
Sat 5	All Day	**Saxthorpe Holly & Ivy Festival**	Church
Sat 5	11.00am	**Hempstead Crafty Creations** Family Christmas Crafts	Village Hall
Mon 7	2.00pm	**Hempstead Crafty Creations** Christmas Wreaths	Village Hall
Tues 8	10.00am	**Matlaske Wreath Making**	Barningham Hall
Fri 11	6.30pm	**Baconsthorpe Festive Quiz Night**	Village Hall
Sat 12	10.00am	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Litter Pick**	Village Green
Sat 12	10.30am	**Edgefield Children's Angel Workshop**	Church
Sat 12	6.00pm	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Prize Bingo**	Village Hall
Sat 12	7.00pm	**Edgefield Christmas Party**	Village Hall
Sun 13	9.00am	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Breakfast Club**	Village Hall
Tues 15	12.00noon	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Lunch**	Village Hall
Thurs 17	10.00am	**Hempstead Crafty Creations** Christmas Decorations	Village Hall
Thurs 17	7.00pm	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Carols**	Village Hall
Fri 18	6.00pm	**Edgefield Carols on the Green**	Village Green
Fri 18	7.00pm	**Hempstead Christmas Party**	Village Hall
Tues 22	5.00pm	**Baconsthorpe Carol Service**	Church

JANUARY

Sat 9	2.00pm	**Hempstead Crafty Creations**	Village Hall
Sun 10	10.30am	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Breakfast Club**	Village Hall
Sun 10	2.30pm	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Plough Sunday Procession**	Village Green
Tues 19	12.00noon	**Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Lunch**	Village Hall
Thurs 21	10.00am	**Hempstead Crafty Creations**	Village Hall
Fri 29	6.00pm	**Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub**	Village Hall

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

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

Barclays Bank, 16 High Street, Holt, NR25 6BQ
9am-5pm weekdays

Monday	NatWest	Thursday	Santander
Tuesday	TSB	Friday	Lloyds
Wednesday	Barclays		Halifax
			Bank of Scotland

Mobile Library Van

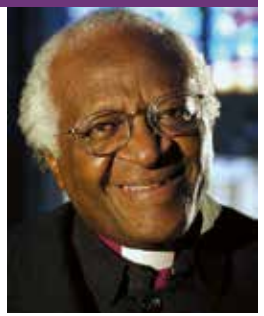
17 December / 21 January / 18 February

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

"If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** - pictured.

At Christmas, when I hear the story of the shepherds overcome by fear as angels announce Jesus' birth, I am reminded of a field in Beit Sahour, outside Bethlehem. Each year the Anglican Archbishop leads a carol service there, concluding with wine and lamb in a cave. It is cold and evocative of that first mysterious night, and said to be where the shepherds encountered the angels. Here I heard of another extraordinary Christmas Eve, not 2,000 years ago, but in 1989.

The first intifada, a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule, began in 1988. By Christmas 1989 there had been bloodshed and severe travel restrictions. Yet word spread that a diminutive, brave man from South Africa was preaching at Shepherds' Field. Archbishop Tutu was in town. Some 30,000 people, mainly Palestinians, travelled on foot to hear him. Israeli soldiers, M16s slung over their shoulders, watched. Tutu spoke: "We support the struggle of the Palestinian people for nationhood... We say that the Jews have a right to their independent state as well... [A] two-state solution is a central hope to peace in the region."

Applause rippled across the crowd as his words poured hope into their hearts. Tutu, witty and clever, knew that criticising Israel risked inciting violence. As he described Palestinian life - boycotted schools, tear gas, imprisonment and the threat of being shot - he added: "Of course, I am talking about South Africa."

Earlier this year, a colleague returning from Bethlehem described, with tears, how Palestinians live in fear of settlers, unable to work and crippled by taxes. 2026 is worse than 1989: 1.4m Gazans remain under canvas, threatened by floods, while settler violence is commonplace.

I am increasingly aware that engaging with the news is painful for many in the Benefice. Faced with suffering, we struggle to respond, grasping at any sign of hope. I write in November as the US talks in Russia about Ukraine and an alternative to Netanyahu's administration in Israel struggles to form. Will these glimmers of hope become reality?

It is easy to be deluded by quaint Christmas cards about the Holy Family's experience: Jesus was born under occupation, when hope and peace were equally elusive. Yet the mystery of Christmas is that the Prince of Peace, born in a cattle feeder, is also born into our hearts. Peace begins with and in us. Our actions matter. Peace is not just the business of geopolitical leaders; it is something we can bring into the world.

This is the message of Christmas: Christ, born in Bethlehem, is born into our hearts. Like the shepherds 2,000 years ago and the Palestinians in 1989, we need not only to hear this message but believe it. We have the capacity to be people of peace.
May God's peace be revealed again to you this Christmas,

David

The Benefice of Matlaske
Church Services for December

6th	**Advent II**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
13th	**Advent III**	
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
4.00pm	Carols & Nativity	Edgefield
17th	**Thursday**	
6.00pm	Carol Service	Bessingham
20th	**Advent IV**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
5.00pm	Carol Service with the Bishop of Norwich - meet at Barningham Hall	Barningham Winter
22nd	**Tuesday**	
5.00pm	Christingle	Baconsthorpe
24th	**Christmas Eve**	
5.30pm	Candle Lit Service	Saxthorpe
11.00pm	Midnight Mass	Hempstead
25th	**Christmas Day**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
27th	**Christmas I**	
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe



The Benefice of Matlaske
Church Services for January

3rd	**Christmas II**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10th	**Epiphany I**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
2.30pm	Plough Sunday	Saxthorpe
17th	**Epiphany II**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
4.00pm	Family Church	Edgefield Village Hall
24th	**Epiphany III**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
10.00am	Breakfast Church	Saxthorpe
31st	**Epiphany IV**	
10.30am	Eucharist	Bessingham
7th Feb	**Sunday before Lent**	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe

Regular Groups in the Benefice

Tuesdays	10.00am	Country Mice Baby & Toddler	Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Tuesdays	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Plumstead Church
Wednesdays	10.00am	Coffee, Cake & Chat	St Andrew's Saxthorpe
1st Wednesday of month	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Wed 2 Dec / 6 + 20 Jan	6.00pm	Meditation	Hempstead Church

Details of all our services: https://tinyurl.com/mvyfajre

Baconsthorpe

200 Club £50 C Bone, £25 L Rix, £10 E Youngs.
We still have numbers available. £50.00 first prize each month for just £1.00 monthly subscription. See Village website for details how to sign up.


Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Church News

Autumn Cleaning An extremely efficient and entertaining morning's work cleaning, polishing and tidying inside the church; and pruning, trimming and headstone straightening in the churchyard, interrupted by the Rector and Church Warden being mistaken for lead-stealing criminals by the Norfolk Constabulary whilst clearing out the gutters on the church roof. The upside for us is that we now know the roof alarm works; and the upside for the four Bobbies (one car from Wells, the other from Fakenham) was that they had an excuse to put their sirens on and after finding it was a false alarm were able to enjoy coffee and cake in the church.

The Rector and Church Warden were released without charge and we all repaired to the Manor for a BBQ. Many thanks to Team Polish: Corinne, Tessa, Hazel, Jo, Piers, and Jane. Team Prune: Richard, Emma, Niall and Katherine. Team Headstone: Simon and Jim. And finally thank you to David Longe, the Rector for clambering around on the roof and risking arrest.

Vibrant Harvest Festival We hosted a vibrant Harvest Festival Service on October 18th – a hugely symbolic event in our rural parishes. After a terrible harvest it was uplifting to see so many in church from across the Benefice. Those who attended marvelled at the beautiful decorations in church and delicious bread baked by Jo Brannigan that morning and used for communion (a serious upgrade from the rather bland wafers, if the truth be told). Huge thanks to Corinne, Hazel, Jo, Emma and Tessa for their magnificent harvest decorations.

Harry Steele, Church Warden.



New to Baconsthorpe

The lovely photograph is one of several sent in by Jacqueline Checkley who has recently moved into the village. She loves living here in such a magical place which I think we can all agree, looking at her photography.

Baconsthorpe Book Club

As we close another year our book club sadly says goodbye to Angie Mansell and Joanna Ryan who joined us each month from Fakenham. However, we welcome two new members, Catherine Dew and Trish Doughty, who have just moved into Baconsthorpe. If anyone is interested in joining we meet monthly at 10am in Corinne Young's kitchen with coffee and refreshments.

Village Hall News

Get Christmas Quizzing! The annual festive quiz will be in the village hall on Friday 11 December. The bar opens at 6.30pm. Supper at 7pm. Quiz after supper. Tickets £15.00 a head, maximum of six per team. Ring Emma Youngs on 07884432412.

Moving Remembrance On Sunday November 8 we hosted a joint Remembrance Day Service with Hempstead and Plumstead conducted by Harry Steel, deputising for the Rector. The church was beautifully decorated by Karen and Saffron D'Almeida who had also baked some outstanding poppy-shaped biscuits. Charles Inglis read out the names on the Hempstead War Memorial after which Jonathan Cooper and Stan Martin commemorated Baconsthorpe's fallen in WW1. Alexander Steel and Hamish Nichols provided youthful hope for the future in their readings and Mike Strong read the evocative *In Flanders Fields.* Stan Martin also read out a moving poem written by a ten-year-old former pupil.

Carol Service Our next large Community Service is Baconsthorpe Carol Service at 5pm on 22 December, followed by fortifying damson gin. Harry Steel: 07711 89036

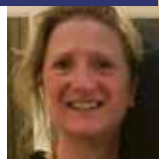
Coffee Morning first Wednesday of each month, 10.30am until 11.30am -free, all welcome.

Pop-up Pub Friday 29th January bar opens at 6pm and beef stew and vegetarian option from 6.30pm.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and thank all those who have contributed in so many ways to our vibrant village. And a Happy Christmas from my dog Bunch.



Barningham Winter



Amelia Courtauld
01263 577250

Join us for Wreath Making!

Our annual Christmas wreath-making event is on Tuesday 8 December at 10am, so with limited places, be quick if you want to join us in the stables at Barningham Hall. Homemade soup and rolls with delicious mince pies are included in the ticket price of £30. Wreath frames, wire, moss and all greenery will be provided, just bring anything that you would like to add sparkle.
Please email amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk to see if any places are left.

Bishop heads to Barningham

Our carol service on Sunday 20 December at 5pm, starts outside Barningham Hall, there will be a candlelit procession to the church where the Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich will preside. Please do come.

Edgefield



Richard Peaver
01263 587486

Church News

Craft Fair back in October was very successful, with lots of visitors enjoying the opportunity to buy from a wide range of talented crafters, partake of delicious refreshments and catch up with friends. As well as that, it raised £830 for church funds. A huge thank you to Joy and John Hardiment for organising such a super event.

Family Church The church looked beautiful adorned with fairy lights for our November Family Church as families enjoyed a short service, learning about Jesus feeding 5,000 people with five loaves and two fishes, followed by crafts and refreshments. After a break in December we will be meeting in the Village Hall (warmer than the church) on 17 January. We welcome all, whether familiar with church or not.

Children's Angel Workshop - Sat12 Dec All primary school age children in the benefice should have received a gift from the church which includes materials to make two craft angels. Please bring them along to our workshop in the Church (10.30-11.30am), hang one angle on the church tree and take one home. There will be other crafts to do and refreshments served. If your child hasn't received a gift bag, please contact Alison on 07802 619603.

Christmas Carol Service - Sun 13 Dec 4pm Following the success of last year, we will again have a retelling of the Nativity story in which any children are welcome to come along and take part. Costumes will be provided. We will sing Christmas carols, and the service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Carol singing on the green, Fri 18 Dec 6pm Join us for rousing carol singing on the village green, or in the Village Hall if wet. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served. Bring your friends and neighbours to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Day Service, 10.30am We have a service on Christmas Day for everyone to come and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas; do join us on this joyful morning.

Edgefield Open Gardens 2027 Looking ahead to next year, we are planning to hold Open Gardens, possibly in May. This is always a lovely village event and a chance for others to explore and enjoy Edgefield, with gardens to visit and refreshments in the Village Hall. If anyone would be willing to open their garden or to help in any way, please get in touch with: alisonmawson@hotmail.com

Alison Mawson



Remembrance Sunday

More people than usual gathered in the Village Hall for our traditional remembrance service, before processing out to the War Memorial. Many were proudly wearing their war medals and recounting stories of their own service, or of loved ones who had served. The morning was about remembering the sacrifice and loss of war, but also offered prayers of hope for a peaceable future.

Join the Tuesday Club

The Village Hall Tuesday Club is becoming a firm favourite. The reputation of the cakes and puddings is spreading! We will continue having a two course lunch during the winter months. In December we are gathering on Tuesday 15 at 1pm for Christmas fare and carols. Richard Peaver has kindly agreed to play the keyboard.

In January we meet for a warming lunch together on Tuesday 26 at 1pm. Menu to be decided - may be shepherd's pie! It helps to have an idea of numbers, so if you are not a regular, please let us know if you plan to come along (Kay 07941 985635). We rely upon donations to cover costs, and so far this has worked well. All thanks to our brilliant supporters and bakers Cynthia, Debs, Sally, Karen, Sandra and Kay.



Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Joyce and John Kingsley! On12 November they were joined by family and friends to celebrate 60 years of marriage, having tied the knot at Bodham in 1966. They even received a card from the King and Queen! Joyce and John are well known for their garden produce and eggs, and for being incredibly supportive, kind and generous members of the village.

Village Hall News

We have sold out of tickets for our annual Christmas party, so apologies for those who have missed the boat. However, we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and prosperous and healthy 2027 and thank everyone who supports us. Winners of the October 200 Club were as follows: 1st John Kay (£50), 2nd Gemma Keogh (£30) and 3rd Glyn Rogers (£20).

Jim Frost

Edgefield Fuel Fund (from the Trustees)

The Trustees will distribute a payment of £25 per eligible household in the Village Hall on Saturday 19 December between 11am and 12noon. (No payments outside these hours.) To be eligible:

- You must have reached the age of 60 years.
- You must have been permanently resident in the Parish of Edgefield for five years, and be a resident on the day of distribution.
- You must apply in person.
- The infirm or incapacitated may send a representative, who must bring a written authority signed by the person who qualifies.

Please note: The distribution of funds is at the discretion of the Trustees. Rude and abusive behaviour is likely to result in a refusal to release a payment to an applicant or their proxy.

Strong men and women needed!

Well, just strong enough to lift vases full of flowers on and off pedestals in the church. It would be no more than once or twice a year. Some of us are becoming less able to carry and lift vases and would love to find stronger buddies to join us for a few minutes on a Saturday morning. If you can help, please contact Frances Emeleus, on 01263 584151 or femeleus@gmail.com

Hempstead



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Coffee & Catch-up Friday 4 10.30am - 12noon. All welcome

Music in Hempstead Friday 4 3.30pm for refreshments music at 4pm

Social Saturdays 12 Dec and 9 Jan from 10am. Come along and join us or just pop in and collect a takeaway breakfast bap.

Hempstead 200 Club November winners
£50 N Tyabji, £25 L Hill, £15 JTyabji, £10 ID Lennox

The 200 Club pays for the mowing of the churchyard, and after nearly 10 years Glen Sullivan has retired from doing this. Thank you Glen! If anyone is interested in the village to take this on; please contact Francis Feilden 07780765173 by the end of this month. You must be self-employed and provide your own equipment.

Glen has also retired from his other grass mowing duties in the village and we offer our thanks and wish him well in his retirement.

Hempstead Crafty Creations
Saturday 5th December 11am-4pm Family Day Our extended meeting with family Christmas crafts. Join us at any time throughout the day. Christmas wreaths as well. £15 All welcome
Monday 7th 2pm-4pm - Christmas Wreaths
Thursday 17th 10am - 12noon - Christmassy Decorations
Saturday 9th Jan 2pm-4pm - Topic to be decided
Thursday 21st 10am - 12noon - Topic to be decided

Christmas Party - Friday 18 at 7pm in the village hall

A meal with a festive theme (vegetarian options available) is provided. There will be mulled wine as you arrive but please bring along your own beverages for the rest of the evening. We will have a raffle and games so please bring some cash to purchase tickets and you may win a brilliant gift. This is a free event but please advise Lesley or Sarah if you plan to attend. All are welcome to join us for this fun evening. If you are able to help with food preparation or setting up the hall please let us know. Thank you.

Christmas Eve Service

Come along at 11pm and support the only Christmas service in our church this year Do bring any family and friends staying with you. We will be mostly lit by candles and have some well known carols - it should be a very happy start to the twelve days of Christmas. Due to a lack of organist we will be accompanied by Kings College Cambridge Choir through our new hearing loop, so fingers crossed! If you need to drive, please park on the playing field if you are in a 4WD, especially if it's wet, leaving the street free for less robust vehicles.

Speeding in Hempstead

Several residents have complained about motor cycles frequently speeding through the village, one with a very noisy exhaust. One comes from Pond Hills on to The Street at an estimated speed of around 45mph - if he continues, a serious accident is likely. If anyone can obtain registration numbers, please share via the Village WhatsApp Group or 07836 675369, so the police can be informed. Hempstead Parish Council.



Matlaske



Duncan Wood
01263 570293

WhatsApp Group

Matlaske and North Barningham Parish Council have set up a residents' WhatsApp group to encourage community spirit and aid neighbourly engagement. The aim is to share local information and knowledge. For example, maybe you've had a bumper crop of broad beans and don't know what to do with them all. You can use the WhatsApp group to offer them to your neighbours. Or maybe you notice increased littering, pop it in the WhatsApp group and we can try to organise a litter pick. Perhaps you have building work due to commence and want to reassure neighbours about any potential disturbance. It is a closed group, open to anyone residing in the parish. To join please email clerk@matlaske-pc.gov.uk with your name and mobile number asking to be added. Please remember that it is not the place to air grievances! If there is an issue you wish to raise with the Parish Council, please email our clerk.

Lucy Raynes

Plumstead



Harriet Rossi
01263 577239

Concert in St Michael's

There will be a concert in St Michael's Church on 27 February at 7pm, given by village resident Peter Hemsley and fellow musician Steven McDaniel, in aid of the church. Although Peter and Steven are seasoned rock and soul musicians, their individual original music is much more reflective and meditative. Peter combines beautiful tuned percussion with jazz and ambient sounds, whilst Steven's music has a distinct classical sensibility. In this project they are combining these forces to create a beautiful immersive and calming event. See page 19 for more information.

They will be joined by Charlotte Arculus & Rachel Wright, who specialise in live visual projections. Arculus & Wright have been lighting up barns, wharfs and holy spaces in Norfolk for over a decade. Using experimental projection techniques that are improvised and created in the moment, their stunning visual material is gathered and gleaned from beloved and familiar places to be manipulated, live, in response to sound and space.

Christmas in Plumstead

Once again, Plumstead villagers are invited to a Christmas gathering in the church on 19 December from 5pm for mulled wine, mince pies, and possibly a hamper to raffle. We are fortunate to have a wonderful bunch of volunteers who look after the Flagpole garden and churchyard. This event is to say 'thank you' for all they contribute to this village.

Christmas Day will be celebrated at an 8.30am service in our beautifully decorated church. All welcome.

Volunteers Needed

Would anyone like to volunteer to deliver roughly 25 copies of the CVN along Cherry Tree Road in Plumstead plus two properties on the edge of the village? Please contact Heather De for details.
Christmas Day will be celebrated at an 8.30am service in our beautifully decorated church. All welcome.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Bonfire, Barbecue and Apple Crumble





John Birchall
07810 016976

The locally-focussed Corpusty bonfire was a triumph as hundreds of people descended upon the village green on a perfect night for a bonfire, fortified by food from the Dukes Head's barbie, plus 70 portions of apple crumble dished up by the bonfire team. The traditional procession around the village ended when the guy, looking suspiciously like a certain US President, was tied to the chair atop the bonfire. If you enjoyed the evening and would like to contribute towards next year's event, donations can be made by bank transfer: to Madeleine Jones 04-14-50 64262611.

Candlelight and Carols for Christmas

Christmas Eve's magical Candle Light service at St Andrews Church (5.30pm) has become an essential part of the festive season for many (as the cover picture shows), but there will be other opportunities to get into the Christmas spirit this year:

Holly & Ivy Christmas Festival

Come along to St Andrews on Saturday 5 (10am to 4pm) for the Holy & Ivy Festival, when hedgerow and woods will provide the materials for decorating the church for Christmas. The transformation into Narnia early this year helped inspire this return to nature as a celebration of the festive season. Lots of stalls and refreshments, but no White Witch!

Rattlebox Return to Their Roots

The Corpusty-born group Rattlebox will be bringing their own style of raucous folk music to energise Carols At the Station on Thursday 17 (6pm). The five-strong group formed in 2007 and have included a European tour, as well as many gigs in Norfolk. As well as Rattlebox, the carol singing will be supported by Jane and Neil McLarty, and fuelled by mince pies and mulled wine.

Coffee, Cake & Carols

On the last Wednesday (23) before Christmas, there will be a very special Coffee & Cake at St Andrews when tenor Rory Carver, fresh from singing engagements in Venice (and Kings Lynn), leads us through some of our favourite Christmas carols. All voices welcome - or just come for the cake...

Litter Pick on 12 December

Come along at 10am on Saturday 12 and help spruce up our villages for Christmas and the New Year. Autumn has revealed hidden litter of all sorts, so the Parish Council is organising this litter pick. Meet at the phone box on the Green.

December dates at the Village Hall

Friday 4 7pm Film night - *The Devil Wears Prada* with Meryl Streep
Saturday 12 6pm Prize Bingo
Sunday 13 9am till 10.30am Sunday Breakfast
Tuesday 15 2 till 1.30pm Lunch
Thursday 17 6pm Carols at the Station with Rattlebox
In January: Breakfast Sunday 10 9am till 10.30am; Lunch Tuesday 19 12noon till 1.30pm.

Morris Dancers back for Plough Sunday

Holt Ridge Morris will be back for Plough Sunday on January 10, so come along to the plough on Corpusty Green at 2.30pm (later and perhaps warmer than last January) for the blessing of ploughs and cultivation tools, and the procession to St Andrews.

Solar Panels for Village Hall

There will soon be solar panels on the south facing roof of the village hall. In January Cooks Electrical Services will be installing 65 x 535w panels, with battery and inverter. This project has been made possible by grants from Hornsea 3 Community Fund and the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, with the outstanding balance from village hall funds. A worthy project for the village hall and the environment.

1st Corpusty & Saxthorpe Brownies



The Brownies had a lot of fun on a trip to The Slime Studio in Holt, where they each created their own unique slime, choosing their style, colour, scent and charms. They took it home to enjoy playing with it some more. Thanks to Lara for a great evening out.

We have also been busy packing shoe boxes with treats and essentials to go to children in need in Eastern Europe and making things to sell at the Holly and Ivy Christmas Fair on Dec 5. We will be rounding off the term with a Christmas Party.

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

As I write this in the middle of November, we have just had our first frost, which after the worry of the extreme heat of the summer, feels like a good thing. Today it feels properly cold in the raw way that only North Norfolk does a chilly day, but the sky is the most beautiful blue and the trees look beautiful in their Autumn colours, so for now all is excused and I feel grateful for a bit of normal, even if it's Baltic!

This month's article is to cover both December and January, so before our time is completely side-tracked by seasonal madness, I would suggest grabbing a sturdy but cosy coat and heading outside. Recently I have been feeling a tad daunted by my to-do lists, so my new strategy, apart from attempting to arrange some hefty delegation, is to do a little bit every day...whatever the weather. The theory is that by nibbling away at it each day, gardening and general morale will be



lifted by being outside in the (very) fresh air and seeing tasks slowly getting done. It also gives me a chance to hear and see some of our winter visitors. In the last few weeks the skies around here have seen the happy return of the Pink-footed geese, one of my favourites. I am still waiting to see our returning Redwings or Fieldfares, but meanwhile I am happy to be distracted by our cheerful flocks of Long-tailed tits who delightfully move from tree to tree in our garden, or our lovely collection of Goldfinches that brighten up any grey day.

Now back to the list! Because our weather is rather changeable at present, I will be finding a moment to dry-mulch any plants I am worried about. By this I mean anything border-line hardy, like agapanthus etc. Have some fleece on hand for anything that might need protecting. Make sure your raise any pots off the ground so they don't get waterlogged. Find a moment to clean your garden paths to prevent them from getting slippery, and check if all your fences trellis are intact before the more wintry windy weather sets in. Also if you haven't got round to planting any tulips, you still have time!

Finally, after all that maintenance or bird watching prevarication, head inside and find a cosy spot to go through any seeds you have collected and make sure they are stored well and labelled clearly. Then go through all of this year's seed packets and ditch any that are out of date. You can then have the total joy of armchair gardening in the warm, going through seed catalogues and happily planning your 2027 Garden!

Many Thanks to everyone who took the time and trouble to write in with your questions. It is always good to hear from you! Do also keep the questions coming in. Email us at redmaple@btinternet.com. As ever, the most interesting question will be published next year!

All that's left to say is that we both wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

History Watch - Arthur Pentney

The Norfolk Jacket

This traditional garment can trace its origins to at least 150 years ago, but no-one is quite sure who invented it, supposing it was ever 'invented' at all. Two names put forward for its birth are the 15th Duke of Norfolk, and Coke of Holkham, but I am inclined to believe that the jacket merely evolved in our home county so as to be a practical piece of clothing for wearing outside in the countryside. You would not expect to find this type of jacket being worn by any 'Townies'!





The jacket would be made from Harris Tweed and being expensive was generally favoured by the well-off country gentleman. It has such a distinctive appearance that it could never be mistaken for any other type. It is single-breasted with buttons to the front and a belt passing all the way round.

The garment looks smart and is practical for its intended uses. The cut gives sufficient movement to allow either a gun or a golf club to be raised easily, and several large pockets enabled cartridges and other shooting items to be carried.

In earlier times it was traditional for parents to dress their children in clothes similar to those worn by grown-ups. The photo shows my father and his younger brother circa 1910, taken at Rambler Cottage Baconsthorpe. It shows my father wearing his 'Sunday best' Norfolk jacket. Rest assured, those innocent looks are merely for the benefit of the camera!

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There are no forms to fill in and no income tests; each situation is considered on its own merits. If you or someone you know could benefit, apply via churchandvillagenews.org.uk/support-fund or contact Revd David Longe (01263 577252) for a confidential conversation.

Norfolk County Council's Crisis and Resilience Service

Financial support funded by central government is available to residents experiencing financial hardship and can help with essential household costs, including heating and heating oil costs as well as food and other immediate pressures. More information is available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/CRS, or residents who cannot apply online can call 0344 800 8020.

Norfolk Heating Oil Crisis Fund

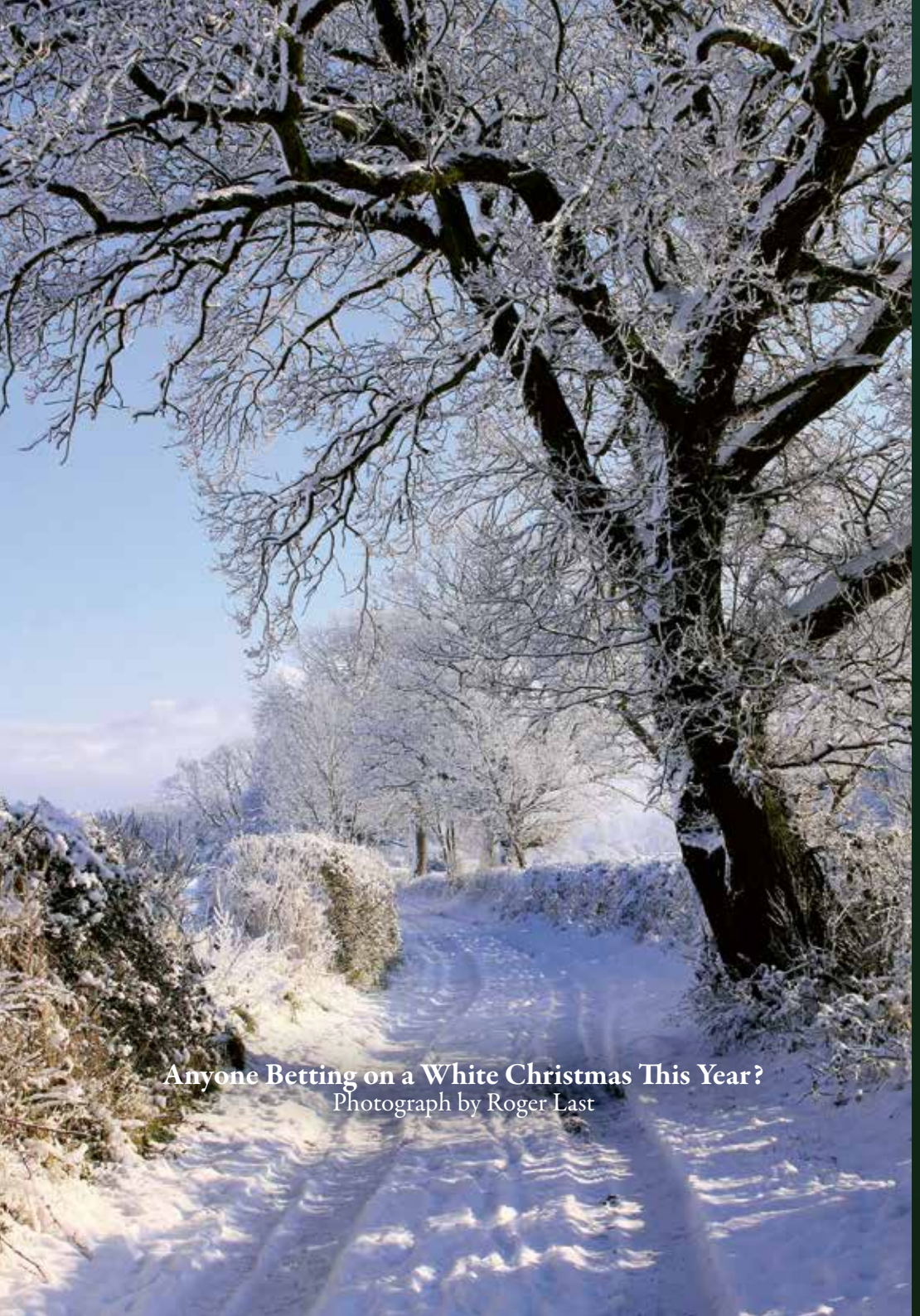
This is part of the Government's Crisis and Resilience Fund and is also administered locally by Norfolk County Council. It is particularly aimed at those in rural communities who rely upon heating oil rather than mains gas.

Further information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, can be found on the County Council's website:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/81837/Help-with-heating-oil-costs.

And finally don't forget this Advent our Benefice is supporting the North Norfolk Foodbank. Items will go to the hub in Cromer for distribution to those in need, and boxes of donations will be collected from Matlaske Church and Saxthorpe Church by midday on FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER The Foodbank needs: tea, coffee, sugar, healthy cereals, cereal bars, tins of hearty soups, veg, fruit, fish, meat, chilli con carne etc. NO BEANS (The Foodbank is awash with beans!).

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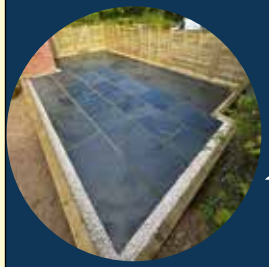
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