

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE BENEFICE



*The Yoxmere
Fisherman*

March 2024

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2024

Sunday 3rd March ~ 3rd Sunday of Lent

10.00am Peasehall Benefice Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 10th March ~ Mothering Sunday

9.30am Yoxford Holy Communion
 9.30am Theberton Taizé
 11.00am Darsham Morning Prayer
 11.00am Dunwich Holy Communion
 11.00am Peasehall Morning Prayer
 3.00pm Westleton Tea & Biscuits followed by
 Informal Worship

Sunday 17th March ~ 5th Sunday of Lent

9.30am Yoxford family@church
 9.30am Westleton Holy Communion
 9.30am Theberton Morning Praise
 11.00am Peasehall Holy Communion (BCP)
 11.00am Middleton Morning Prayer
 3.30pm Darsham Evensong

Sunday 24th March ~ Palm Sunday

10.00am Yoxford Benefice Service with Holy Communion
 11.00am Peasehall Morning Prayer at the Methodist Chapel
 3.30pm Sibton Evensong

Thursday 28th March ~ Maundy Thursday

6.30pm Darsham Holy Communion with Washing of Feet

Friday 29th March ~ Good Friday

2.00pm Westleton Stations of the Cross

Sunday 31st March ~ Easter Sunday

6.15am Dunwich Sunrise Service at the Beach
 9.30am Yoxford Holy Communion with Archdeacon Rich Henderson
 9.30am Westleton Holy Communion
 9.30am Dunwich Holy Communion at Westleton
 9.30am Theberton Holy Communion
 11.00am Peasehall Holy Communion
 11.00am Sibton Holy Communion at Peasehall
 11.00am Middleton Holy Communion

LECTIONARY

3rd March, purple
 Exodus 20.1-17
 1 Corinthians 1.18-25
 John 2.13-22

10th March, purple
 1 Samuel 1.20-28
 Colossians 3.12-17
 John 19.25-27

17th March, purple
 Jeremiah 31.31-34
 Hebrews 5.5-10
 John 12.20-33

24th March, red
 Mark 11.1-11 or
 Psalm 118.1-2, 19-24

31st March, white
 Acts 10.34-43
 1 Corinthians 15.1-11
 Mark 16.1-8

*The cover photo shows a church in the Diocese of Kagera, Tanzania, on Palm Sunday.
 (See Page 9)*

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS



Confirmation

Confirmation is a service that, rightly or wrongly, has become much less common in the Church of England — perhaps following the reduction in church congregations generally. But what exactly is confirmation?

Jesus instituted two sacraments — baptism and communion. He intended baptism to signify initiation to the faith, and communion as the ongoing practice that demonstrates and builds our relationship with Christ and with the church. As time went on, it became increasingly normal for children of Christian parents to be baptised as infants — but this did not guarantee a person's faith, salvation, or readiness to live a Christian life in maturity. As a consequence, confirmation evolved — a moment in which a bishop would pray and lay hands on such a person, praying that they might receive the Holy Spirit. After this they would also be able to receive communion.

So why would you want to be confirmed? The chief reason is to make a public declaration that this really is your faith — you are now owning the faith that your parents hoped you would embrace when you were baptised. It doesn't make you a Christian exactly, but confirms to you, and to others, that this really is your faith.

Prior to confirmation we normally give some confirmation classes. This is to explore together some of the basics of Christianity — the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments — and to build your understanding of what you're doing (and why) when taking communion. Classes should be informal, interesting, and, dare I say it?... fun.

If you would like to be confirmed, please **let me know!** There will be a service of confirmation for the deanery on **26th May, at 3pm in Aldeburgh church**, conducted by Bishop Mike. If you let me know your interest I can submit your name, and also arrange a few sessions of preparation. There is no upper age limit; the lower age limit is 'the age of reason' — can you think for yourself and express what you believe?

Hoping you have a very happy Easter:

Blessings, Tim.

LENT COURSE “THE STORY WE FIND OURSELVES IN”

This year's course will meet in **Darsham Church** each Wednesday of Lent **at 2.30pm**.

Thinking within the framework of the big story that the Bible tells, we will discuss some key themes of theology, looking at what they say, and why, and how this helps us on our Christian walk. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided!

mothers
union



Christian care for
families worldwide

Thursday 21st March
Westleton Church

2.30pm.

Lesley Davies

Lent Reflection

All Welcome

Contact Sue Norrington 660280
or Jennifer Clough 648597
for more information

MOTHERS' UNION MEMBERS' DAY

Thursday 7th March, 10.30am - 12.30pm
St Michael's Church,
The Drift, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3SH

To include: Prayer & Worship,
Craft Stall & Activities
MUE Pop-Up Shop

Option to stay for lunch at the Douglas
Bader pub next to the church

To book for lunch, please contact
Beryl Mee by March 1st
secretarysuffolkmu56@gmail.com

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A women-led, global ecumenical movement)

Each year on the first Friday in March this begins on the international dateline in Samoa. As the sun moves across the earth, Christians take part in a wave of prayer, which encircles the earth until the sun finally sets over American Samoa. Become part of this wave of prayer.



Friday 1st March, 2pm in Westleton Church

This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

"I beg you, bear with us in love" is their theme.

Please join us and learn a little about their lives and hopes for the future of the world.

For anyone wanting to know more about Palestine there will be an opportunity to explore the themes prepared by the women of Palestine before the service from **11am in Westleton Church**. A lunch will be provided. This is an informal time of reflection and you can come and go as you are able.

Please contact 01728 649045 to book a place for lunch.



Above: At the February gathering of the Westleton Film Club. What do you think they've come to see? Clue - it's not *Oppenheimer*.



Left: Actor Ralph Fiennes on Laura Kuenssberg's *Sunday* TV show, speaking passionately against the installation of a huge energy hub in the area. Find out more at [Suffolk Energy Action Solutions](#).

Below: the ensemble Zephyr Baroque who will be playing in Sibton Church on April 13th (see Page 21)





Reading Paul's Letters 2

Last month I spoke about how Paul's world had been transformed by his conversion from Judaism to Christianity, and he needed to work through deep theological thinking to replace the framework of Torah, temple, covenant etc. with a theology of the new covenant in Jesus.

In the theology that he produces one thing becomes abundantly clear — for Paul everything comes back to the cross. He is relentlessly focused on the cross. He refers to almost nothing else that Jesus said or did, but his

crucifixion and resurrection. Why so? Did he not know the other stories? Did he know them but not think them important?

I think it is clear that Paul did know the oral tradition around Jesus — he did know the stories. The gospels had not been written when he wrote, but on his conversion he immediately joined the community of Christians and, in a culture that was well used to storytelling and oral tradition, he would have heard faithful accounts of what Jesus said and did from eye-witnesses — and committed them to memory himself. Paul, however, was not there to tell again the Jesus story, but to interpret it — to 'go up the ladder of abstraction' towards universal principles, so that he might come down again into new, concrete practices. And all he needs for this is the cross.

While Paul talks a lot about the theology of the cross, his overriding aim, most often, is to justify the inclusion of all people within the Christian church. This may seem surprising to us, as it is so commonplace that the Christian church is multinational, but it was a huge deal in the early decades of Christianity. Paul, in his vocation to preach to the gentiles, the non-Jews, was foremost in arguing that they did not need to take on any Jewish practice, but only the new Christian innovations — communion and baptism. Again, this was not as obvious as we may think. Jesus was a practising Jew, and had not made any explicit references to breaking the food rules, or other parts of Jewish practice. On the other hand, Judaism had always recognised that the Lord was not only their God, but God of all: Christ's resurrection and ascension held all the clues that this wider reign had begun, and the phenomenon of the Holy Spirit being present in non-Jews also told them that this change was happening. So Saul, the scrupulous keeper of every Jewish law, became Paul, who argued furiously that there was no hierarchy within Christianity, and that for a gentile to undergo a Jewish practice like circumcision was a betrayal of the Christian faith, and a significant backward step.

Why was there even the temptation for Christianity to remain as a sect of Judaism? Chiefly, because Judaism had become a protected religion under Roman rule. It was like this: the Romans had found that most religions could be assimilated and syncretised with their own pantheon and religious practice. But Judaism had been extraordinarily stubborn at resisting. The Romans had shrugged their shoulders and pragmatically permitted Judaism to go on as it was (despite occasional tensions and uprisings, which culminated in AD70). While Christianity remained a Jewish sect, Christians could continue as a tolerated group. Once it became clear that it was now a majority gentile religion, it became visibly more of a threat to Rome: Christians not only refused to worship the Roman gods, but also refused to bow to Caesar, claiming instead that Jesus was Lord. That made them dangerous to the cohesion of the empire, and that got them persecuted at various points. Within such a context Paul doesn't pull his punches but continues to argue for the full inclusion of all people who believe, be they male or female, Jew or gentile, slave or free. And he argues against the temptation of some Jewish Christians to drift back towards the safer waters of Judaism — because they did in fact believe that Jesus had died and risen, that the Messiah had come and ushered in a new kingdom, and that only faith in him had any worth in their salvation.

This is the backdrop in which we need to read Paul's letters.

What I have said is far too little to get you going on these books of the Bible, in a way. I'm about half way through a 1600-page volume on Paul; when so much can be written, how can I hope that these few words will help much?

Perhaps you'll believe me that despite the formidable intellect, heavyweight theology and tendency to sidetracks, Paul was an extraordinary, unique man, whose love for the people of his churches really shines through in his writing, whose theological thinking was priceless and compelling, and whose love of God was worn with passion and a joyful grin.

Blessings, Tim.

THE YOXMERE FISHERMAN - Guidelines for contributors

The *Yoxmere Fisherman* is published for the Yoxmere Benefice, which comprises the Church of England parishes of Darsham, Dunwich, Middleton, Peasenhall, Sibton, Theberton, Westleton and Yoxford.

Visitors may find more information at www.achurchnearyou.com

SUBMISSIONS should be sent by the 14th of the preceeding month, and preferably by email to yoxmerefisherman@gmail.com

For details of advertising please email: yoxmereadvertisers@gmail.com

VIRTUAL FISHERMAN

The current edition and a few months of previous issues can be found at <https://westleton.onesuffolk.net/church/yoxmere-fisherman/>

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

Elisabeth Mary Young, aged 88 years, on 17th January 2024 at St Peter's, Westleton, followed by burial at the Greenwood Burial Ground, Farnham.

SAFEGUARDING COURSES

These are being run by Mark Bee, safeguarding trainer for our benefice, in **Darsham Village Hall** in the coming weeks. They are very important to keep visitors to our churches and ourselves safe.

Basic Safeguarding Course Wednesday 27th March 10.00am -12.30pm.

Foundation Safeguarding Course Wednesday 27th March, 2.00 - 4.30pm. This is necessary for all PCC members.

Domestic Abuse Course Wednesday May 15th, 2.00 - 5.00pm.

Please let me know if you can attend.
01728 648140.

Kathryn Branch

family@church
Sunday 17th March 9.30am Yoxford Church
The Fruit of the Spirit - Joy

 A relaxed family-friendly service for the young and the not so young

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This month's cover shows a Palm Sunday service in the diocese of Kagera in Tanzania. The picture quality is not ideal, but it is such a vibrant and joyful image that I wanted to use it. It is notable that the people are worshipping in such a modest building. In contrast, church members in our benefice are weighed down with the maintenance of ancient and costly (albeit beautiful) buildings. That's how it is here, but the picture is a compelling reminder that it is people who make up the church, wherever they find themselves. Below is the information about the Lent Appeal from Bishops Martin and Mike.

BISHOPS' LENT APPEAL

The Bishops' Lent Appeal has been launched following visits by the bishops to Kagera in Tanzania, Africa, where the Diocese has had a link for nearly thirty years. Bishop Martin visited Kagera last year and Bishop Mike is returning from the region soon.

Bishop Martin says his presidency of the Suffolk Show this year further connects the Diocese to farmers abroad suffering from the impact of the climate crisis, and particularly the unpredictability of the seasons. "The challenge of changing climate, which we are experiencing in this country, is biting hard in impoverished rural areas like Kagera. The church there plays a key role in helping people adapt their farming methods to feed their families and communities. We can help by giving them funds to buy equipment and support agricultural projects as well as support the clergy and their villages with bikes and health care. Therefore, the bishops are focusing our Lent appeal on raising funds for the agriculture, health and church sectors in Kagera. This partnership is two-way – we learn a huge amount from our friends in Kagera about how to live as Christians in the midst of the world's challenges."

Bishop Mike said his trip, accompanied by curates, inspired the Diocese to strengthen ties: "I realised just how the global economic downturn compounding the climate crisis is affecting farmers, pastors and doctors in terms of costs and basic material needs. Lent is a time traditionally when we turn outwards in generosity towards others and even small amounts in UK terms go a long way to alleviate suffering in this area of the world."

You can order the Lent booklet from kagera@cofesuffolk.org or download it from the diocesan website: <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/>



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

This will be on Monday March 4th at 2pm in Westleton Village Hall Foyer.

A safe space for those who have been bereaved to be as open as you wish about your experiences, both emotional and practical, following loss.

Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied and no charge. More information from Revd Tim.

Westleton Bookshops!

Barnabees Books

Yoxford Rd: we take cards
Th-Sun 11-5 07456 609790

Chapel Books

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DARSHAM

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Notice Board We would like to thank Darsham Parish Council for the gift of a splendid new double notice board and also Michael Shipp and David Stanley for removing the old one and erecting the new one. It took a lot of hard work.

Friday Prayers These continue as usual at 9.30am. All are welcome and it would be nice to see some new faces. You are not expected to take part verbally. This is something that has been going on for ten years. More information from Roger - Rcsmith377@outlook.com

Save the Date We will be holding a **Celebration of Spring and Songs of Praise on Sunday 12th May at 11.00**. This will be followed by a lunch in the village hall. As usual book your lunch with Jean or Shirley. Further details later.

DARSHAM VILLAGE HALL MARCH 2024

Play Area Update Pre-planning advice has been sought and received for the play area; this is the first step towards applying for full planning permission and funding for the project. Thank you for all your suggestions and feedback which will be fed into the final plan where appropriate.

Other news

Many thanks to the several Cheyney Green residents who gave up a weekend recently to plant the new hedge inside the fence along the Street.

Also, several other large-scale projects are being discussed by the Village Hall Management Committee. Large scale projects mean large budgets and we will need to look at ways of fundraising to be able to fulfil the projects.

Could you help kickstart our efforts by developing fundraising ideas? Could you help us explore fundraising opportunities and search for those ideas which could support our community? We are looking for anyone who may have expertise in this area, or an interest in helping, to join us in our quest to make the Village Hall and the surrounding area the best it can be for the use of everyone in the village.

If you would like to know more, please contact either Jill Edwards or Heather Ballantine to discuss it further or email info@darshamvillagehall.net

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

This will take place on **Sunday 24th March**.

For details see posters around the village or the Darsham website.

WHAT'S ON AT DARSHAM VILLAGE HALL - MARCH 2024

Classes & Clubs

Sequence Dancing – every Tues. & Thurs. from 1pm (contact Carol 01986 784642)

Pilates – every Thurs. 9.30 to 10.30am (contact Maria 07999 848655)

Seated Exercise – every Thurs. 11am to 12pm (contact Maria 07999 848655)

Yoga – every Fri. 10.30 to 11.30am (contact Debbie 07906 346545)

Table Tennis – every Thurs. 7pm to 9pm (contact Alan Holland 01728 668451)

Carpet Bowls – Every Friday 2.30pm (contact Heather Shipp 01728 668251)

Baby Sensory Group – Every Tues. 9.30 -10.30am and 11am to 12pm (contact Megan Mayes – 07521 318146)

Crafty Club – Mon. 4th - 9.30am (contact Heather Ballantine 07860 278955)

Dash Astro – Sun. 10th - 7pm (Observing) & 24th 7pm (Meeting), (contact Chris Mead - chrismeadhome@hotmail.com)

Events and Meetings

- Coffee Morning – Sat. 9th at 10am hosted by the Bowls Club
- Film Night – Sat. 9th – *The Great Escaper* (see notice below)
- Parish Council Meeting – Tues. 12th at 7pm.
- Textile Temptations – Wed. 13th at 10am (contact Sally Goodacre on 07900 522577).
- Writers' Group – Mon. 18th at 2pm (contact Russell 07496 096056)
- Watercolour Classes – Mon. 25th 9.30am to 12.30pm (see notice page 13)

FILM NIGHT SATURDAY 9TH MARCH - *The Great Escaper*

Michael Caine (Bernie Jordan) and Glenda Jackson (his wife Rene) give superb performances in this drama based on a true story. It was Glenda Jackson's last film - and who doesn't love Michael Caine?



It is 1944 and Bernie is sad to miss out on an official group outing to the D-Day anniversary in France. With Rene's encouragement, he sneaks out from his care home and goes on one last big adventure to cross the Channel, while reminiscing about his wartime experiences.

Tickets are on sale on the door or at the coffee morning in the Village Hall in the morning of the 9th. Doors open at 6.45pm and the film starts at 7.00. We will have wine, beers, soft drinks, savoury snacks, chocolate and ice creams for sale and there will be a short interval. Please contact me on 01728 668270 or 07852 237389, or anniemcphail1@hotmail.com if you want any further information. We look forward to welcoming regulars and newcomers alike to a great evening!

Anne McPhail

MONTHLY WATERCOLOUR CLASSES

Suitable for all levels of ability. Starting Monday 25th March, 9.30am until 12.30pm; subsequent classes will fall on the third Monday of each month.

Step-by-step tuition, cost £25, bring your own materials; tea and coffee provided.

Learn how to paint landscapes, street scenes and coastal scenes, as well as other subject matter in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Colin is a professional associate of the SAA (Supporting All Artists) www.saa.co.uk.

To find out more information or to book a place contact Colin on 07528 515214 or info@colinayersart.co.uk, website www.colinayersart.co.uk



Darsham Horticultural Society

Open Spring Show

Village Hall

6th April 2024

Viewing from 2.45pm

All welcome

Refreshments available

Schedules available from the boxes outside the Village Hall and “Springfields”.

Also available from the website at:-

www.darsham.onesuffolk.net

Clubs/Horticultural Society

DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council’s meeting on Tuesday 13th February was preceded by a public presentation on plans for the Cockfield Hall estate in Yoxford, which are expected to include the former Darsham Nurseries site. In his report, District Councillor Richard Smith mentioned Suffolk County Council’s continued budget constraints,

but did highlight when questioned by Cllr Backhouse that a further £528,000 has been earmarked for arts organisations.

Cllr Green reported on recent flooding issues and has made contact with the relevant landowners and developers in an effort to resolve issues on The Street and The Wash. Cllr Butler has kindly agreed to assist in clearing a gully at The Wash. Cllr Stanley noted that there are now three vacant allotment plots and anyone interested should contact him.

Cllr Redgrave reported on the Northern Transport Forum meeting for Sizewell C, and councillors agreed that a complaint should be filed regarding the poor conduct of that meeting.

Cllr Davies is exploring the reinstatement of Footpath 8 together with Cllr Backhouse and the representatives of Cockfield Hall. The council would also like to extend its sincere thanks to Darsham House for the creation of a permissive footpath through its land to enable safe passage along a dangerous section of Westleton Road.

Councillors voted to object to three planning applications regarding the Cockfield Hall estate, and supported one application relating to Darsham House.

The next parish council meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th March at 7.00pm in Darsham Village Hall.

DUNWICH

St James Church

LENT LUNCH

Wednesday March 6th 12.30pm

Dunwich Reading Room

Come and enjoy soup, a cheese roll and fellowship.

Please support our Bishops' Lent appeal for Kagera in Tanzania.

COFFEE 4 U

It's nearly Spring! Hurrah!!

Come and enjoy coffee and cake at our COFFEE FOR U, in the reading room on Thursday 7th March, and Thursday 21st, at 10:30am until 12:00.

It's great fun!



Heather Cook

NEWS FROM DUNWICH HEATH

Spring is in the air, and there are signs of nature waking up for the warmer months ahead, with the first buds on the trees and wildlife appearing more and more frequently. As a result, our ranger has finished all of his more disruptive conservation work on the heath, and will now focus on the low-key work, and surveys of the wildlife. One important thing to mention now spring is here, is that dogs must be on a lead while on site (unless on our woof walk) so as not to disrupt the ground-nesting birds which are just coming into nesting season. It also prevents your dog getting a nasty surprise from an adder should they wander into the undergrowth and disturb one that's just woken up!

What's On this month

1st & 2nd – Spring flower arrangement workshop

8th & 9th – Mother's Day flower arrangement workshop

16th/17th & 23rd/24th – RSPB residency

16th – Folk tunes in the Tea Room with the Belle Heathers

16th – Turbulence to Tranquillity; Dunwich Heath history talks

27th – Birdsong and breakfast walk

29th – 1st April – Easter egg hunt

As you can see it's a busy month! The events marked with a star are bookable on our website, which also has more information on the events. A few highlights from that list are the flower arranging workshops, where participants will make two beautiful displays, the folk tunes in the tea room, where the Belle Heathers will be performing folk tunes with an Irish twist for St. Patrick's Day, and the Birdsong and breakfast walk, where you will wander the heath as nature wakes and song fills the air, before returning to the tea-room for a full-English breakfast or vegetarian/vegan alternative.

With Easter being early this year, our usual brilliant Easter egg trail will be running over the bank holiday weekend, with all sorts of nature-themed fun on the way round, and a chocolate treat at the end (or non-chocolate if you prefer). We will still have the geo-caching, den building, tracker packs and of course our miles of walks across the beautiful heath.



Daniel Payne



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MIDDLETON

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH : UPDATE ON PCC-LED SERVICES

These services are, for obvious reasons, quite different from those led by the clergy. We have a small group of willing volunteers who do a wonderful job in putting them together. A recent innovation has been to invite everyone to bring a poem or piece of music to share. If we would rather, however, we are equally welcome to simply listen and then to join in with any thoughts we might have. Accompanied by a cup of tea/coffee and warm croissant, it creates a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere in our beautiful church.

We are delighted that each time we have such a service we welcome more people, so please feel free to join us when next you see one of these PCC-led services advertised.

And, thank you once again to those who organise and give of their time and in so doing enable Holy Trinity to continue in providing our village with two services a month which, otherwise, at times would not be possible

Rita Pateman, Churchwarden

MIDDLETON WI NEWS

At our January meeting we were expecting to hear a talk about scams given by someone from the Suffolk Police but that had to be postponed. Instead that gave us a chance to concentrate on the National Federation of WI's campaign resolutions for 2024. Out of fifty-eight resolutions submitted to the federation last autumn, four made the short list:

1. Dental Health Matters. There is a chronic shortage of NHS dentists and people are suffering health issues as a result.
2. Impacts of Poor Housing Conditions. Poor housing can have a deleterious effect on human health, well-being, safety and quality of life.
3. Say No to Gambling Advertising. Harm caused by excessive gambling is a global problem and some countries are already addressing this by banning advertising.
4. Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System. There is an urgent need to radically reform decision-making in respect of women, in particular those who are pregnant or have children, to reduce the number of women imprisoned for non-violent offences.

After each resolution was presented, we discussed it, asked questions, gave opinions and personal anecdotes and thoughts on what the WI could realistically do to campaign for these issues. We thought all of them worthy of government action but we had to choose just one of the four. Our WI voted for the improving



of women's outcomes in the criminal justice system. We shall know which resolution will be the 2024 Campaign in March after all the WIs have submitted their votes.

Our next meeting will be March 20th at 7.15pm in the village hall. The author Francesca Armour-Chelu will discuss "Pen to Published". All are welcome to join us.

Lynne Venn

SAVE THE DATE - MIDDLETON OPEN GARDENS 1ST & 2ND JUNE

Looking forward to welcoming new and returning visitors to our annual open gardens in Middleton; natural, formal, cottage, wildlife, courtyard, and gardens in progress, with people coming back time and again to see the development through to completion. <http://www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk/>

The Friends of Middleton School invite you to battle your wits and have fun at our 2nd annual...



QUIZ NIGHT

Sat 23rd March, 7.00pm start

At Middleton Village Hall

Tables of up to six, £7 per person

Cash Bar SUPPER Raffle

To book your table contact Rebecca - curlyreynolds@gmail.com

All proceeds to Middleton School PTA



MIDDLETON-cum-FORDLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

presents an entertaining talk by local residents

Neill from Fen Lodge: 'The Principles of Planting Design - how to improve your beds & borders'

&

Mandy & Steve from Manor House:
'The Evolution of a Garden'



MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL, SATURDAY 6th APRIL 2024

7pm-8pm (doors open 6.45pm)

Refreshments provided

Entry is free but donations gratefully received



YOXFORD GARAGE

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****NEW EVENT** starting on Tuesday 5th March** - and every Tuesday evening - **Dance Fit** – 6.00–7.00pm. £5 per class. Suitable for all ages. Spaces are limited, to book your space go to:- www.fleighactivewear.co.uk/book-online.

Bingo 8th March. Doors open at 6.45pm till 10pm. Refreshments available. Come and have some fun!

Saturday 30th March – Table-top / Jumble Sale where there will be refreshments and a cake sale. If you are having a new year sort-out or a spring clean and have anything you can donate, we would be most grateful. Please contact Jane on 07767 167968 or jane.collins23@gmail.com to organise delivery or collection.

The Pop-up Pub will recommence on **Friday 26th April** and thereafter the last Friday of every month. There will now be a snooker table / table tennis, darts and a selection of games to make these occasions even more enjoyable and everyone is always very welcome.

SIBTON

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST PETER'S SIBTON

Join us at Sibton Church on **April 13th at 3.00pm** for a concert by **Zephyr Baroque** who gave the opening concert last year to great acclaim. The programme of baroque music will be played on period instruments which provide a magical sound in the church building that still retains its medieval design. Liz Alexander – recorders, Karen Bainbridge - baroque bassoon, and Geraldine Taylor – harpsichord. (See photo on Page 5.) Tickets are on sale at the Weavers Tearoom and the Peasenhall General Stores, as well as on Eventbrite.

Also please note advanced warning of the **Sibton Mighty Books-n-Bric-a-Brac Sale on 25th, 26th & 27th May, 10.30am–4.30pm**; always a popular event.

Watch out for further events including an arts event in July in the entrancing **Sibton Abbey Ruin.**

Andrew Campbell

THEBERTON

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 2nd March, at Theberton Village Hall, 11.00am – 1.00pm. Come and have a browse. For more details call Sally on 01728 832386.

SPRING QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 6th April, at Theberton Village Hall. Doors open 6.30; quiz starts 7.00pm. £5 per person, max six per team. Half-time food and raffle; bring your own drinks. To book a table please call Sally on 01728 832386.

“BRING YOUR BAKES” DAY

Saturday 25th May 2024, Theberton Jubilee Hall. Enter up to eight bakes (cakes/breads big or small/adult and children categories). All entries to Theberton Jubilee Hall, between 8.30 and 10.30am. Judging between 11am and 1pm. Viewing from 2.00pm with tea and cakes on offer. Auction of donated exhibits and prize-giving at 4.00pm.

Entry form from Suzi Cooper thebertonlionesses@hotmail.com or phone 01728 635736 or message WhatsApp 07879 685136.

Proceeds from all the above will be shared between EACH and St Elizabeth Hospice.

SUMMER FUN DAY

SATURDAY 15TH JUNE

A future date for the diary!!



WESTLETON

WESTLETON VILLAGE HALL MARCH 2024

The **Wheelbarrow/Community Market** is back in the Foyer on Saturday 2nd March from 10am-12.30pm. Come along to find lovely local produce, bric-a-brac, gifts, crafts and more! Refreshments will also be available. Later that evening at 7.00pm for 7.30pm the **Film Club** is showing *A Haunting in Venice*– an American mystery, set in the 1960s. Tickets are £5 and available on the door.

The hall will be running a **Jumble Sale** on Saturday 9th March 2-5pm. 50p entry, under 18s free. Light refreshments will be available in the Foyer. All funds raised will go towards hall maintenance.

The **Parish Council** will be running their monthly drop-in surgery session in the Foyer (this month on Monday 18th March 10.30-11.30am). Two members of the Parish Council will be available to hear residents' views and answer their questions. Do pop in for a chat and coffee.

CATS are still running the **bus service** from Westleton to Saxmundham for us every Thursday. The minibus collects from Heath View bus stop at the top of the village at approximately 10.50am and from the bus stop outside The Crown at approximately 11.00am. It leaves Saxmundham at 1.00pm for the return trip. A return ticket is £6 or £5.10, depending on the number of users. Please do use this

service if you need to go to Saxmundham, as it will become uneconomic unless it is well used.

Bingo is in the Foyer on Thursday 21st March from 2.30-4.30pm. All welcome, no experience or booking in advance required. £5 each to play for small cash prizes, all equipment provided.

Come along to our fun **Irish Shindig** on Saturday 23rd March 7.30-10.00pm! Featuring local live band **Silmor** and delicious food prepared by James Finch (Irish stew and cheesecake, vegan alternative available) with a bar serving a variety of drinks, with tasty Irish options! Tickets are only £20 - including food - and are available from the village shop and Foyer when open.

Carpet bowls this month will be on **Sunday 24th** from 2.00-4.00pm, as the Tallis Chamber Orchestra will be rehearsing in the hall on the 17th. The cost is only £2 per person, as a drop-in rate. Refreshments will be provided in the Foyer half way through. No experience needed – all are welcome – this will be a social and fun game.

Foyer Exhibition: Throughout March during Foyer opening times, Rachel Robinson will be exhibiting her fabric collage pictures (and also sews patchwork, dresses, bags, mats etc.) in exchange for donations to www.Karuna.org. Inspired by Buddhist values, Karuna supports some of the poorest communities in India and Nepal, particularly focusing on education, dignified livelihoods and gender equality. Instagram: [rachelhandmadewithlove](https://www.instagram.com/rachelhandmadewithlove)

Consultation Room: We have a pet and human registered **Physiotherapist** Emma Strachan fortnightly (variable days). Contact her to book on 07821 055404. Linda Freeman will be **hairdressing** in the Consultation Room on Monday 11th – 07765 971774 - to book. **Reflexology** is back on Saturday 30th March 9.30am – 1.30pm. Contact Juliet Overton: 07930 341901 www.julietoverton.co.uk

To see our latest timetable of varied activities, events and groups please see our **events page** on our website: www.westletonvillagehall.co.uk and join us on Facebook and Instagram. You can also pick up a copy of the monthly What's On in the Foyer, view it at the inside and outside hall notice boards. For more information or to go on our mailing list contact Annie - Centre Manager on 01728 648354 or email centremanager@westletonvillagehall.co.uk

Save the date!

WESTLETON GARDEN TRAIL

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June 2024



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WESTLETON COMMON EVENT MARCH 2024

The last **Working Party** of the spring will be held on **Saturday March 16th: 10am - 12.30pm**. All Welcome - tools are provided. Bring your own tough gardening gloves. *Refreshments at half time*. **Please meet near the main Common Noticeboard, at the top of Mill St down a short track on the right.**

WESTLETON GARDENERS - OPEN TO ALL

Our final meeting of this season will be Tuesday 19th March in Westleton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

This month's talk is from Tony Brown who will be talking about 'The Wonder of Wildflower Meadows'. Tony's interests are wildlife and nature and he is a keen wildlife photographer.

We will also be taking payment for our summer trips. Cash preferred.

£4 entry payable on the door and all are welcome. Doors open at 7.15pm and there will be time to chat and refreshments after the talk.

Marilyn Stephens

WESTLETON 100 CLUB WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY

1st prize: No 205, Carol Herrman. **2nd prize,** No 186, Grania Webber

TALLIS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



St Peter's Church, Westleton Sunday 17th March, 3pm

Conductor: Jack Gonzalez-Harding

Soloists: Maia Cabeza (violin) Jack Gonzalez-Harding (harpichord)

Overture from An Occasional Oratorio, HWV 62 – G. F. Handel
Concerto for 3 Trumpets, 2 Oboes and Timpani – G. P. Telemann
Violin Concerto in E major, BWV 1042 – J. S. Bach
Harpichord Concerto No. 1 in D minor, BWV 1052 – J. S. Bach
Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major, BWV 1068 – J. S. Bach

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WESTLETON WELLBEING WALKS

Guided walks available free of charge in our area. Do join our friendly group.

Tuesday 5th March 10.30am Snape Reedbeds.

Meet at the Plough & Sail PH, Snape Bridge. 2.5 miles, 60 mins. Grade 4

Wednesday 20th March 10.30am Hogs Grove.

Meet at Forestry England Hogs Grove Car Park Dunwich.

2.85 miles, 80 mins. Grade 4

Friday 5th April 11.30am Walking Westleton Woods

Meet beyond Ralphs Mill on Mill Road. WTW// stadium.furniture.fluctuate

1.65 miles, 45 mins. Grade 4

Friday 19th April 10.30am Quarry Fen and Wood

Meet at Westleton Heath Car Park Dunwich Road. 3.25 miles, 90 mins. Grade 5



WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

On 5th February, the WPC gave a presentation to residents explaining the plans which it has drawn up together with EDF, SCC and ESDC in the B1125 Working Group (WG) for traffic calming measures in the village to mitigate the anticipated SZC construction traffic. EDF has projected that volumes will increase by up to 45% increase at peak times and this traffic will include LGVs up to 3.5 tonnes. Following the residents' meeting, WPC drafted a series of questions for residents to continue the consultation. The questionnaires (and associated plans) are available in the Village Hall Foyer and will can be completed until the end of March. Completed questionnaires can be posted in a box in the Foyer. The questionnaire can also be downloaded from the Westleton Parish Council and Westleton Village Hall websites. Your answers to the questions will guide the WPC's position at the next B1125 WG so please do take time to complete a questionnaire.

The Parish Council has started holding monthly surgeries in the Village Hall to provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions or raise matters with councillors outside of Parish Council meetings. The first was on 22nd January and was attended by several residents. The date of the next surgery is 18th March – 10.30-11.30am. The surgeries are attended by two councillors.

As mentioned in the February Fisherman, the Parish Council will be circulating a Housing Needs Survey at the end of March. The results will be used by Orwell Housing Association for a planning application for Affordable Housing in the village. We hope all residents will complete the survey. Importantly, it is also open to all people with a strong connection to the village; this could be through

family, work or current or previous residency in the village – and in particular people living outside of Westleton and who would choose to return if the right types of housing were available. Please keep a lookout for the survey which will be delivered to your houses in late March / early April and tell relevant others outside of the village of the survey.

In January, a diseased lime tree fell onto a car parked by the village pond. The District Council has since removed the tree debris and has removed the branches of another similarly diseased tree - although (strangely) not the trunk. However, the smashed car has not been moved. The WPC is aware that it is an eyesore and is working with the owner and our District Councillor to have it removed. We have also called on the District Council to fell the standing trunk as it is potentially dangerous.

With the ending of the Barrel Fair, the WPC has taken a decision to hold a village fete at some point during the summer months. WPC will set-up a group to plan/organise the fete. Please contact the Parish Clerk on westletonclerk@gmail.com if you would like to participate in the organising group.

*Andrew Turner,
Chair, Westleton Parish Council*

WESTLETON WI

This month it was our privilege to welcome Mr Guy Marshall - the Leiston optician - to our meeting. He discussed the most common problems occurring in the eye, and illustrated with the most amazing images. We were especially impressed with the knowledge available, and healing made possible by the modern equipment now used.

The second half of his talk concerned the Thomas Marshall Education Fund, mostly operative in Mozambique. The fund was founded after the very tragic death of their son and in his memory. It is a very hands-on charity with some truly impressive results to show for their hard work. It was good to see how help was tailored around the existing cultural customs of the communities. Even more impressive was to see how much light and joy grew out of such a personal tragedy. And now, my friends, the time has come that I have to thank you all for the welcome and support you have given me in these last eleven years in Westleton and as a member of the WI. It is time for me to stop my ramblings and move on. It will be a wrench to leave Suffolk and I will miss you, but that is what we now need to do. We are moving to Buckinghamshire and a place called Quanton. Surely, surely with a name like that there must be something interesting there?

Susanne Bennell



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YOXFORD BOWLS CLUB

Do you fancy trying your hand at lawn bowls? Our season runs from late April 2024 until September. The bowls rink is just around the corner in Yoxford, opposite the Village Hall. If you would like to have a go, please ring either Margie (668570) or David (648225) for more information. Bowls are available for you to use.

Also have a look at our website - www.yoxfordbowlsclub.com



COMING SOON to Yoxford

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- a stay-and-play parents/carers and toddler group
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Your Local Community Choir

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“YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME” AT WRENTHAM CHAPEL

Join us at Wrentham Chapel for another Caedmon Evening on Wednesday March 20th at 7.00pm. The evening is a seasonal celebration in music, word and song. The programme is assembled on the night, using contributions from some of those attending, on a “bring and share” basis. Anyone is welcome to enjoy the performances, and the interval which includes a light buffet with wine and fruit juice, and time to chat. There is no charge for attending, but any donations towards the upkeep of this historic Grade II listed chapel will be gratefully received. For further details: Sue Hardy 07771 882738.

CRAFT FAIR - LEISTON

Looking for that special Mother’s Day or Easter gift? Then come along to a **Craft Fair at St Margaret’s Church** in Leiston on **Saturday 2nd March (10.00am-2.00pm)**. The church will be filled with stalls selling a wide variety of hand-made goods and unique gifts. There will also be a raffle for church funds, and delicious home-made refreshments on sale. Admission is free and there’s plenty of parking. We look forward to seeing you there!

ALDE VALLEY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Monday 18th March at 2.30pm

Jackie Depelle, a Family History Federation speaker based in Leeds, will be ‘Zooming’ our Group to talk about ‘**Reading the Original**’ - hints for deciphering old documents.

Jackie is an experienced Family History tutor and has given presentations at major international events. She is also a member of the Guild of One Name Studies, the British Association for Local History, and many family history societies.

If you are interested in how best to transcribe (and decipher) old handwriting, whether it be in an original Victorian Census Return, or a manuscript possibly dating as far back as the Magna Carta, you will undoubtedly find her talk of interest!

The meeting takes place at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL (behind the Library). If you cannot attend, the talk can be accessed on Zoom for members only. The talk starts at 2.30pm. No need to book – just turn up — at £1.00 for members, £3.00 for visitors, including tea/coffee/biscuits. Good, free car-parking.

For more info or the Zoom link, see: <https://avsfhg.org.uk/news/view/136>

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