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December 2023
Issue 424

Quartet

The Parish Magazine



For Higham, Stratford St Mary, Raydon and Holton St Mary



For sale

Stylish extending wooden coffee/buffet table, with a glass insert in the centre extending section. Excellent quality and condition.

Measurements: Height-16" (41cm)

Width- 25" (64cm)

Length-39" (99cm)

Extended length 57" (145cm)

Offers of around £50 to 07703 498508

Help us with our campaign!

If you know any merchant or service provider living in one of our four villages, please let us know by emailing quarteteditor@hotmail.co.uk. We will contact them and see if they would like a **free listing** in the Quartet



Small Ads Pin Board

No charge for non-commercial ads placed for one month only, space permitting. Email quarteteditor@hotmail.co.uk

Quartet Diary



Details of events can be found within the magazine. **It would be advisable to check with organisers if regular events are happening, we may not have been informed of last minute changes**

December

- 1 Holton Lunch Club
SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
- 2 Christmas Shopping in Holton
- 5 SSM Chapel Coffee Morning
- 6 Raydon Social Club
SSM Mums and Tots
- 8 Holton Social Club
SSM Youth Clubs
- 12 SSM Chapel Coffee Morning
- 13 Raydon Social Club
SSM Mums and Tots
- 15 Holton Social Club
SSM Youth Clubs
- 16/17 SSM Christmas Tree Festival
- 19 SSM Chapel Coffee Morning
- 20 Raydon Social Club
SSM Mums and Tots
- 22 Holton Social Club
SSM Youth Clubs
- 23 Higham Carol Service
- 31 Raydon NYE Party

January

- 2 SSM Chapel Coffee Morning
- 3 Raydon Social Club
SSM Mums and Tots
- 5 Holton Lunch Club
SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
- 8 SSM Parish Council Meeting
- 9 SSM Chapel Coffee Morning
- 10 HSM Parish Council Meeting
Raydon Social Club
SSM Mums and Tots
- 12 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
- 14 HSM Social Drinks and Nibbles
- 16 SSM Chapel Coffee Morning
- 17 Raydon Social Club
SSM Mums and Tots
- 19 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
- 23 SSM Chapel Coffee Morning
- 24 Raydon Social Club
SSM Mums and Tots
- 26 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
- 30 SSM Chapel Coffee Morning
- 31 Raydon Social Club

Editors Corner



Well, here we are again with the final Quartet of the year! May we be among the first to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

Lots going on this month with a Christmas Shopping Morning, a Carol Service, a Concert, a Festival and some parties all hiding in the pages, ready for you to find.

Christmas Greetings too, from Stratford and Holton on their Christmas Card pages. A nice eco friendly way to send Christmas wishes to your neighbours!

For all you wishing to get something into print for the January edition, remember the deadline for this is 19th December. It's very close to Christmas, so if you can be kind to us and get articles in as early as you can, we really do appreciate it!

In the meantime, we do hope you have an enjoyable Christmas and support some of the hard working souls who organise so many events in our area. It makes it a community and a far better place to live.

Happy reading

Anne and Jane.



Articles for the Quartet are included if we have room, and if, in the opinion of the editors, they are of general interest to our readers. Please remember all articles will be subject to editing. We prefer you to contact us via email where possible.



Copy deadline for next edition:
19th December 2023

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Rev'd Manette Writes



Dear friends,

Advent has not even started but the shops are full of displays of Christmas offers and we are reminded to order our turkeys and other festive supplies. I have just come back from a few days in London and the streets and shop windows are all beautifully decorated. Tourists are chatting excitedly and taking pictures, hurrying along the streets with bags full of presents to take home. But just round the corner they stumble over people sitting on the pavement, asking for help, begging, and claiming to be homeless. A stark reminder that for many of us the run-up to Christmas is a time of excitement and looking forward to family gatherings, presents under the Christmas tree and festive meals, while others don't have a roof over their head and don't know where their next meal may be coming from.

Like most children, I loved Christmas. When I grew up and had children of my own, I enjoyed the busy weeks leading up to Christmas. We cooked and baked, we made lots of different Christmas biscuits, we wrapped presents, posted parcels to friends and wrote lots of cards; and I shared the children's excitement during the weeks of Advent until Christmas Eve finally arrived. But then my father died when I was in my mid-twenties and I struggled to find joy the preparations which, with a young family, still needed to happen. I struggled when the Christmas boxes came down from the attic and the children were all excited about putting up the

decorations. But one Christmas Eve, I took my dog for a walk on the village green. That night, there seemed to be an unusual stillness in the air and I noticed the floodlit cross on top of the church tower, shining bright against the dark night sky. And suddenly I felt that the love of Christ surrounded me, and from that moment I could look forward to coming home to the excitement of the children, and the midnight service in church later that evening. And from then on, Christmas was all right again.

So this year, like every year, my prayers are for all of you who find it difficult to celebrate Christmas, especially if it is the first Christmas without a loved one, when there will be an empty space at the dinner table.

There is more to Christmas than presents and turkey! A few years ago there was a popular slogan, "Let's put Christ back into Christmas". In all the busyness, I hope that you can find a moment to reflect on what Christmas is all about – that Jesus was born in Bethlehem to live among us. And I hope that you may experience the love, peace and healing of Jesus Christ, the light shining in the darkness of our world.

I wish you and your families a good Advent, a very Happy Christmas and every blessing, peace and good health for 2024.

Yours in Christ, Rev'd Manette

Stratford St Mary



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In Stratford

Hall Farm Shop Cafe and Restaurant
www.hallfarmshop.com

Anchor Inn www.stratford.pub
01206 322143

The mobile pizza co - 07982 427483

ABC Preschool - 01206 322466

Kate Baines, Virtual Assistant - 07799 391343

Orwell Electrical - 01206 322969

Andy Smith Roofing - 01206 322882

Jackson Plumbing and Heating -
01206 322063

Nigel Bruce Electrician - 01206 322751

Penrose and Partners - Vets. 01206 323414

Finest Gardens - 07756 364560

John Burrell Bespoke Bedrooms -
07734700507

Nexus Creative Print Production -
gill@nexuscpp.co.uk

tim germain - furniture designer-
maker. www.germain.co.uk

Gary Moye, plasterer - 07807 314911

Baker Vet physio - 07905 657895

Katrina Wade, Physiotherapist
07968 964826



Save the Date

SSM

May Ball

Back at the Talbooth

24th May 2024

Further details to follow
shortly

STRATFORD ST MARY INSTITUTE HALL

Please note that requests should be made through the bookings email address: ssminstitute.bookings@gmail.com
Information supplied to book should include a name with contact details and the nature of the event.

This results in a natural queuing system which ensures that first come is first served. I check this address every day and will respond accordingly.

Steve Kite
42 Strickmere
Stratford St Mary, CO7 6YG



Stratford St Mary Church
PRESENTS



Christmas of my past
TREE FESTIVAL



Winners of SSM 100 Club

The winners of the 100 club draw are

£50 S Davies (No 89)
£10 R Kite (No 50)

For just £1 per month be in with a chance of winning £50.

All surplus funds go towards the upkeep of the Institute Hall. Each member can hire the hall once a year at a reduced rate.

Contact either Norman Woodard on Norman.woodard@fatbloaters.com or Phil Brown on philipbrown123@hotmail.co.uk for details

16TH-17TH DECEMBER | £2 ENTRY | 10.30AM-4PM

Over the weekend join us to view Christmas Trees and enjoy Coffee, Cakes, Breakfast, and Lunch. We will also have Children's crafty corner, live music and festive goodies for sale. Then round off the weekend with Carols by Candlelight at 4 pm on Sunday afternoon.

If you fancy getting in to the Christmas spirit early, join us on Friday 15th for our preview evening with canapes and a performance from the Constable Singers for just £10

For more information, to enter a tree or buy a ticket for Friday evening, please contact Christine (07791648806) or email Harriet (harrietannaruth@gmail.com)

**Stratford St Mary Parish
Council Meeting Dates 2023**

8th January 2024
11th March 2024
22nd April 2024 (Annual Parish Meeting)

Stratford St Mary Parish Council currently have 1 vacancy for a Councillor – If anyone is interested or would like more information then please contact the Clerk - email parishcouncil@stratfordstmary.org.uk address

DEDHAM ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES?

PLOTS AVAILABLE FROM 1ST OCTOBER - RESERVE YOUR PLOT NOW

CONTACT dedhamaa@btinternet.com

Can you help?

Mark and Sophie would love to gain a little insight into the History of The Swan as they update their new website.

Does anyone have any factual information that they might be willing to share about the life and times of this historic inn?

They would love to produce as detailed a record as possible

Mark & Sophie Dorber

The Swan, Lower Street, Stratford St Mary CO7 6JR.



STRATFORD ST. MARY CHAPEL

COFFEE MORNINGS

We are pleased to announce that the Coffee Mornings will re-commence on Tuesdays between 10am – 11 am beginning on Tuesday 12th September. Beverages and Cakes will be served (free of charge)

This will form part of our warm space scheme for the Winter months.
Everyone is welcome



**Stratford St Mary
Parish Room**

Our comfortable, well-equipped hall in the centre of the village is open and available for hire.

Please contact our new bookings clerk for more information or to make your booking by emailing

ssmparishroom.bookings@gmail.com

or contact Paul Ranson on 01206 322156
or
03870 388184



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Donations have been made to Stratford St Mary Church in lieu of Christmas Cards

RBL POPPY APPEAL 2023 – STRATFORD ST MARY

Stratford St Mary has raised **£1972.66** so far this year in support of the poppy appeal.

Thank you, donors and supporters, for your efforts. Injured military personnel and their families all appreciate your generosity.

David Isaac



Stratford St Mary Parish Council have received the following data back from the ANPR camera that was in the village:

Stratford St Mary – Lower Street

- Total photos taken – 1745
- 27-30mph – 767
- 31-34mph – 563
- 35mph+ – 415
- Fastest speed – 50mph



Did you know Stratford St Mary Parish Council has a Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/stratfordstmaryparishcouncil>

Please find below some information from the **Stratford St Mary Parish Council meeting held on the 13th of November:**

• The Parish Council are looking into registering for the Suffolk County Council's Community Self Help Scheme.

• The issue of dog fouling has been raised by a parishioner – it has been agreed for no dog fouling signs to be placed on lampposts in Strickmere and for notices to be placed on Noticeboards, Facebook etc reminding people to clean up after their dogs.

• Expenditure has been approved for the installation of a bollard in front of the gate on the River Garden pending permission from Northumbrian Water.

• The noticeboards at the Anchor and the Weir need to be replaced which the Parish Council are looking to obtain quotes for.

• The purchase of a new speed sign is still being looked into – a final proposal for this will be made at the January meeting.

• The Parish Council have instructed Suffolk Highways to repaint 15 lampposts in the village – a date for this is to be confirmed.

Faye Hall

Clerk to Stratford St Mary Parish Council

<http://stratfordstmary.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

<https://www.facebook.com/stratfordstmaryparishcouncil>



Future events underway:

15th, 16th & 17th Dec - Christmas Tree Festival in SSM Church– we're going to make a weekend of it with fun evening celebrations with a preview night on the 15th with the Constable Singers and Carols by Candlelight on the 17th. **Full details can be seen in the advert in this Quartet** 😊

We are asked for feedback about ideas for the 2024 so thought we would provide a quick update:

- May Ball – following the success of last year's event, the next ball will take place on 24th May at the Talbooth, ticket information will be available in the New Year.

Other suggestions where we would welcome your input

- Barn Dance
- Open Gardens (June)
- Summer Fete / Picnic at the Institute field
- Village pram Race (possibly as part of the above)
- Wattisham MWC

Register your interest at
villagelife@stratford-st-mary.org

particularly if you would like to attend the May Ball or will open your garden in June and let us know if you have any thoughts on the above or other suggestions for future events.

email us at: villagelife@stratford-st-mary.org or phone Sandy on 0770 660 2749 or Julie on 07989 639583

Stratford Chapel

Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary

Leaders: Phil Wyncoll & Bill Richardson

Youth and Children's Pastors: Jamie & Beckie Wyncoll

We are an independent mainstream Evangelical Church of around 60 people encompassing and providing for all age groups. We particularly specialise in the areas of Children's and Youth work, Bible Teaching and Evangelism.

Services and Groups:

Every Sunday:

10.30am Morning Worship and Junior Church

6.30pm Church Prayer Meeting

8.00pm Bible Teaching Group (currently on Zoom)

Monday: 8.00pm House Group (on Zoom)

Tuesday: 7.30pm Discipleship Group (at the Chapel)

8.00pm House Group (on Zoom)

Wednesday 9-11am Mums and Tots

Friday: 5.00pm "Sparks" Children's Club for ages 7 – 11 (at the Chapel)

7.30pm "Ignition" Youth Club for ages 12 – 16 (at the Chapel) .

Web-site: stratfordstmarychapel.com

Enquiries: Children's & Youth: Jamie & Beckie (01206 323095) email: Beckie.w@live.com

General enquiries: Maggie Chapman (01473 311436)

Higham



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In Higham

Karl Chisnal - mower repairs.
07557771721

Brett Valley Installations 07896 054439

Higham Carol Service

Our traditional Higham
Children's Carol & Crib Service
will take place at

4.30pm Saturday 23 December.

followed by Mulled Wine and Mince
Pies.

Everyone is warmly welcomed.

If you have any children or
grandchildren who would like to take
part in the service, please contact
Hannah Lee or Imogen Vickers.
Some assistance with mince pies
etc would be much appreciated.
Please contact Caroline Parker.

Harvest Festival collection.

FIND (Families in Need, Ipswich) have
written to thank for the donations received
from the village at the service on 8
October:

*'Please thank Church members for
the £187.50 given to FIND and for
the food donations too. I
understand that these were all given
from your recent Harvest Festival.'*

*This donation will be used in many
ways : either to help us to deliver
food supplies or furniture or to help
pay for utility bills for those families
and individuals who are in particular
need at present. These are all
people who have been referred to
FIND either by Social Services or by
one of the many helping charities,
from whom we receive an
increasing number of requests each
month.*

*As we discussed, we do now require
drivers to help us in our work,
whether to collect or deliver furniture
or to deliver the food supplies for
families. If you know of anyone or
some people who could offer to help
for a day regularly, even once a
fortnight or a month then please do
contact Maureen on 01473 833351.
She will be delighted to hear of
volunteers.*

*We do appreciate your church's
support for FIND's work in local
communities.*

*Yours sincerely,
Heather Cade (FIND Trustee)'*

Raydon



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In Raydon

Blackwell Barn Holiday Let -
www.cottages.com

Phil Avery Electrician 01473 311261

Ashley Short Carpentry 01473 311226

Gordon Short Decorator 01473 313053

SW Stiff Builders - 07811 005241

Earth&Turf Garden Services -
07922078241

DIY Livery - 07710 540926

Chef Neil - 07584 573474

Swift Garden Services - 07947 322429

Rheal Coatings - 07539 377740

Franklyn Nevard - Architect 07515
351894

Fresh Eggs - Roadside stall Fox Farm

Katie's Little Beauty Box - 07802
847628

Tarbins Bakes and Cakes - 07922
129825



Fair Trade coffee morning

Our "Halloween" Fair
Trade coffee morning was
enjoyed by us all, thankfully no spiders or
cobwebs just some really lovely goodies to
enjoy with our delicious "Fair Trade coffee"
As well as the usual excellent baking from
our friends in Frinton we had some
pumpkin scones, also lovely chocolate
muffins with orange icing and spooky
spiders webs, so many thanks for getting
into the spirit !

We had our champion Suffolk Historic
Churches Trust sponsored rider here as
well, she announced the fabulous total that
her and her team raised, so with a huge
thanks to all the sponsors the total was
£870!!! This was a major proportion of the
total that was raised here in Raydon of
£1170. Again, many thanks to everyone
whether riding, striding, driving, Church
recorders or sponsors.

Well, I managed to return from my train
journey to Cornwall using the "assistance"
scheme. It was a wonderful experience and
one that I will definitely use again on my
travels.

We have one more Fair Trade coffee
morning this year and it will be our
Christmas celebration even though we are
holding it on November 28th. There will not
be one in December as the date would be
26th and Boxing Day, I think all of us will
have other things to do on that day, so
thank you very much for your continued
support and see you on November 28th

Wendy Mumford
01473 312123



Raydon and District Garden Club



The nights have "pulled in" and it's dark by mid-afternoon, shortest day only 4 weeks away, it will then start to "pull out" once again and we all start looking forward. We have of course enjoyed (or endured) a wet, wet Autumn this year with lots of flooding all around, and our thoughts must go out to all concerned who have had excess water getting into their homes to ruin everything. On the other hand of course the natural world of trees, shrubs, plants, crops etc need plenty of rain, as do we to help maintain our water supplies (reservoirs) for the coming new year. Autumn's vibrant colours have been enjoyed once again, and now it's all bare as leaves have fallen and everything is resting. Hope you managed to clear up and save some of the leaves to produce your own free leaf litter ready to use next year as free mulch or soil improver. Why buy it when for a little effort you can collect your own but still leaving enough for small animals, creepy crawlies, & other insects to hibernate in to get them through the colder weather to come. Those that fall on flower gardens get taken down into the soil by worms so no need to clear them all. Summer migrant birds have long gone and winter visitors have arrived somewhat later than usual due to warming weather. Will we see something different moving into the UK because of this change,!!! time will tell. Daffodil bulbs are growing and will soon be showing themselves peeping out of the ground along with the snowdrops which tend to start flowering by mid-January, a sure sign that spring will be on the horizon.

Club matters:- Hopefully our AGM / social evening in November went to plan and you have chosen your New Committee for 2024, or perhaps reinstated the outgoing committee members for another term. If that's the case thank you to all members for your

continued confidence in us to carry your garden club forward into 2024, its **44th year**. Another yearly challenge for us all as we look forward to achieving another successful gardening club year. What an achievement for such a relatively small village club, it seems a long time ago since we started in 1980. A small seed that was planted then in the minds of an enthusiastic 8 people the club was born, using Shelley hut (now sadly demolished) to which we held meetings and of course our first shows, which has now grown into your garden club of today. December and January are a rest period for both gardens and members alike but your committee continues with planning for next season which starts again in earnest in February. We are always open to suggestions for subjects (garden related), but could also be a members holiday with gardens visited, saving the club funds in the process, and anybody who may know of a guest speaker who would be prepared to come to Raydon and give us an evening talk and slide presentation for us to all enjoy. Please let us know as soon as possible.

Advance notice: For all new members who may have joined the club this November, we start our new year meetings (held 4th Thursday each month) on



Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 7.30pm in the KGV pavilion on playing field, followed by March 28th, April 6th (Spring Show), + April 25th, May 23rd and onwards. Speakers and subjects will be announced in January Quartet.

Your current committee wishes to say thank you all for your continued support, and also we wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year. Enjoy your winter gardens and start looking out for the signs of "Spring" which after Christmas day is only a few weeks away. If you get a chance make the most of winter, go out to see some other well-known winter gardens (masses of snowdrops) followed by crocus and early daffodils, especially February onwards, it really makes for an enjoyable day out whilst picking up ideas to bring home to your own garden.

Looking forward to seeing you all again at our February meeting if not before.

Geoff Horrex. 01473 310422 / 07810086143



Ideal for your special event

The Raydon Pavilion is for hire
Fully carpeted room for up to 80 people
Kitchen and preparation room
Easy parking
Available morning, afternoon and evening

For details, contact Mark Smout
Tel 07748 842750 or email
marksmout@gmail.com

RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk - Stacey Lowe 07944 968011 clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chairman Councillor Keith Lovering 07939 075143
Councillor Jayne Tann 01473 828283 or 07887 767478
Councillor Jo Brothers 07875 329901
Councillor Martyn Cranfield 07727 100988
Councillor Lorraine May

We have a new website <https://www.raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023
(all at 7.30pm in the KGF Pavilion)

Tuesday 7th November

NB: if you would like to see copies of the minutes of any Raydon Parish Council meetings, please visit www.raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk, or contact the Parish Clerk.

Raydon Club

is open to residents of this parish.
Wednesday evenings each week
from 7.30 till 11.30 p.m. And Sunday
12.30 to 3pm
At the
Pavillion



Raydon Christmas Trees

We have around 3,000
Nordmann Fir and Norway
Spruce trees available.

Not many at 6ft though so come
early to avoid dissapointment

Put your wellies on and
choose your tree.

Tag-it in November for
collection/delivery at a later
date.

Find us on Facebook
fb.me/Raydonchristmastrees



Opening Times (9-4 each day)

Fri-Sun [Nov 3-Nov 26]
Tue-Sun [Nov 28-Dec 10th]
Fri-Sun [Dec 15-Dec 17]



W : raydonagricultural.co.uk
E : christmas@raydonagricultural.co.uk
M : 07515472742
A : Blackstump Cottage, Woodlands Road,
Raydon, IP7 5QD
Near Raydon Railway Walk



Bike Ride in Memory of Margaret Hammond

The family would like to say a big "Thank
You" to everyone who sponsored us again
this year for our bike ride.

We managed 83 miles (how old Margaret
would have been), got a "bit warm" but it
was all worth while as you sponsored us for
an amazing £870 !

So from all the family, thank you all very
much

The Hammond family



**RAYDON NEW
YEARS
EVE PARTY!**

31st December 7:30pm til Late
At The Pavilion
Disco, Raffle, Cold Buffet and a glass
of fizz at Midnight
Tickets £10 - Available at the bar, from committee
members or raydonssc@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CONCERT with music by **PHOENIX BRASS BAND**

ST MARY'S CHURCH RAYDON

**SATURDAY
9th DECEMBER
AT 7.30**



TICKETS **£12 PER ADULT**
children under 12 FREE

LIGHT SUPPER AND INCLUDING
WINE OR SOFT DRINK
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW ON
01473 310320

IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Holton St Mary



SHOP
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In Holton

Ann Mason Care - 01206 233372
Hazelton Plumbing and Heating -
07448 152693
Love refills - at Church square every
fourth Tuesday



Saturday 2nd December 2023
Holton St Mary Village Hall
9.30 am to 12 noon

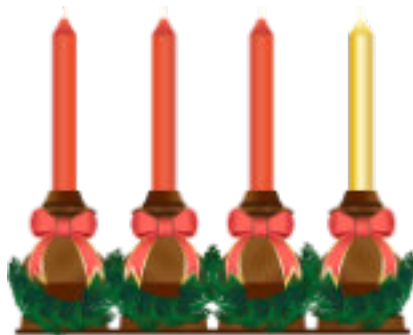
Stalls will include:
Roger Shipley's Carved Wooden Products
Tombola
Made in Holton Stall
Christmas Crafts and Gifts
Stall for children
More to follow
plus
Coffee, Cakes and Chatter
Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Holton St. Mary



First Friday of the Month Lunch Club

Our December lunch will be a
buffet, maybe on platters and we
increase the price to £5.

Please do book via Sal or Frances
(salthurlow@gmail.com or
familytorrington@btinternet.com) so
our wonderful volunteers don't over or
under-cater.



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!

FROM

Tudor and Pam

Sally and Geoff

Love from Claire

Chris, Bid & Archie

Bill and Anne Priestley

John, Paula, Seb & Lexi

Marjorie and Chris Haste

Diana and Michael Wilson

Erik, Naomi and Coco Ellis

Keith, Karen, Tazmin & Isobel

Paul, Frances, Dom, Martha and Lydia

Yuletide felicitations from the two Davids

Greetings from Megan, Lee and Phil Howes

Wishing everyone in Holton St Mary a Happy Christmas
and every blessing for 2024. From Rev'd Manette

Donations have been made to Holton St Mary Church in Lieu of Christmas Cards

Holton St Mary Social Club (HSMSC) Update

A bonfire night to remember 3 November

A massive round of applause and heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making the Holton St Mary bonfire night such a huge success. In particular the unsung heroes who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, ensuring that every detail of the event was flawlessly executed. From setting up the bonfire, manning the bar, managing the crowd, the excellent soup and BBQ, your hard work did not go unnoticed, and we are immensely grateful for your help.

Special recognition is however reserved for Kevin and Lee, who not only brought their expertise to the table but also went the extra mile by undertaking firework safety training. Their commitment to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all deserves our highest praise. The dazzling display they orchestrated was a testament to their dedication and skill, turning an ordinary night into an extraordinary one.

FUTURE EVENTS

14 January 2024 - New Year drinks and nibbles Sunday

Please join the HSMSC committee on 14 January to welcome in the new year. The bar will be open from 12.30pm until 3pm. The first welcome glass of wine, beer or soft drink is on the house and a light sandwich buffet will be served. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Members of the Village Hall Committee will be in attendance to share their thoughts and ideas for the refurbishments of the village hall. Please come along and take the opportunity for the committee to engage with the village community as they welcome your thoughts and ideas.

11 February 2024 - Sunday opening

The HSMSC committee will be opening the bar from 12.30pm until 3pm to anyone that would like to pop along and chat to friends and neighbours.

17 March 2024 – Sunday opening and live music from Lee Rose

Lee Rose of Bacons Green will be entertaining us all with a live set as the HSMSC committee open the bar from 12.30pm until 3pm to anyone that would like to pop along and chat to friends and neighbours.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED

The HSMSC are looking for new members to join the committee and also to volunteer for the Friday bar rota. Please do get in touch with a committee member if you would like to know more.

FREE MEMBERSHIP

If you aren't a current member of the HSMSC and would like to be, it is free to join, just contact Bob Holmes on 07966 266293/ bobholmes55@icloud.com to sign up.

As always, we welcome suggestions for what HSMSC members would like us to arrange in terms of events, so please feel free to get in touch.

THE HOLTON ST MARY SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Bob Holmes, Lee Barton, Kevin O'Connor, Suzie O'Connor, James Lancaster, Steve Sleigh, Sally Longmate, Vaughan Vannierkerk and Lou Dolan.



Holton St Mary Village Hall

The Hall is back in use and taking bookings again. Please contact Tanya Kunz on 01473 311570

Holton St Mary Parish Council

Scheduled meeting dates:

January 10th 2024

March 13th 2024

April 10th 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

May 8th 2024 Annual General Meeting

Holton St Mary Millennium Green Century Club Draw

Winners are:

October: £35 No 46 Anne Priestley, £20 No 19 Lyn McWatt, £10 No 16 Malcolm Norton, £10 No 31 Marion Gill

November: £35 No 104 Frank Swallow, £20 No 108 Lee Rose, £10 No 55 Matthew Maddison, £10 No 5 Georgie Russell

December: £35 No 30 David Hales, £20 No 89 Jimmy Hammond, £10 No 61 Sue O'Connor, £10 No 128 Babelle Duvoisin

Thank you all for your support this year, subscriptions for 2024 will be due in January. Further details in next Quartet.

Marjorie Haste, Secretary



Green Gym

We are very grateful for the generous donations of daffodils that have enabled us to plant over 200 bulbs in the village this year. The gracious donors were; Dave and Jenny Leach, Caroline and Martin Favell, Alan and Jacqui Lester and an anonymous donor. We hope that you will all appreciate the glorious transformation of these un-assuming and subterranean brown blobs into transcendent yellow starbursts of delight in the spring and bring a smile to your faces and a spark of God-created hope into your consciousness.

The Team have also laboured to make a safer passage on the raised verge between the entrance to the micro-Holton Business Park and Sandpits Lane. Hitherto, people would have to walk on the road with all the attendant risks of traffic including speeding cars and HGVs. It now allows at least a modicum of safety for residents of Bacon's Green and Sandpits Lane to access the village and also for the village's litter-picking team.

There will be no Green Gym sessions in December 2023 and January 2024 and we will therefore next on Saturday, 3 February at 10.30. We all hope that you have a happy and joyous Christmas as is possible and a healthy 2024 - which will be even healthier if you come and join us. You might even be able to lower the dose of your statins....

The Green Gym Team

Parish Council Vacancies

Holton St Mary Parish Council currently have 2 vacancies for Councillors – If anyone is interested or would like more information then please contact the Clerk

- email address hsmparishclerk@gmail.com

A Parish Council meeting for Holton St Mary was held on the 8th of November 2023, Please find below some points that were discussed at this meeting:

- The Parish Council still has 2 vacancies for Councillors - if anyone is interested in becoming a Councillor then please contact the clerk hsmparishclerk@gmail.com

- Suffolk County Council are asking people for their views on what they would like to see from their library services in the future - there is an online consultation on the Suffolk County Council website - www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraryconsultation and paper copies are available from the mobile library. The consultation closes on the 26.01.24

- Brett Vale Golf Club planning application DC/22/04751 - a change in application has been submitted which Holton St Mary Parish Council has submitted an objection letter to.

- The proposed Care and Rehabilitation Centre at Holton Hall Farm was due to go to the Planning Committee on 15.11.23 but this has now been postponed awaiting a new date.

- New tubs are looking to be purchased for Church Square.

- CIL money - the Parish Council still has a considerable amount of CIL money to spend and would like to hear from Parishioners on ideas for what this money could be used for.

- A Coronation tree is being looked into to go on Millennium Green.

- The Parish Council have received positive correspondence from Phillips Brothers advising that they have instructed all their drivers to follow the instruction of 'No overtaking cyclists' when travelling

through Holton St Mary.

- Community Self Help Scheme - The Parish Council have agreed to sign up to this scheme and have received interest from 3 people who would be willing to volunteer.

- The parking sign on Church Square will be changed to 'Private parking for residents and Church visitors only'.



An annual charity Craft Fair held at Whatfield Village Hall attracted over 240 people last month and raised £1800 for Success After Stroke.

The Organiser, Mandy Squirrell, expressed special thanks to her family and friends for their hard work and to the visitors for helping to make the event such a success.

The Village Hall has already been booked for next year's Craft Fair on Sunday 13th October 2024.



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SESAW NEWS

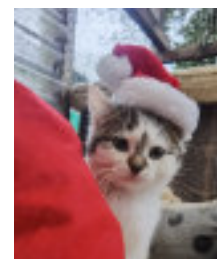
Brrrr! I don't like these cold, dark days and nor does Ollie (the Black) Cat. He sprawls across the desk, swipes Mum if she tries to access her paperwork then walks over the keyboard which spues blank pages out of the printer!

One of my other housemates, Buttons, is a Norfolk Terrier, a good solid no nonsense member of the family. She was the ideal companion for Mum at a Thanksgiving Service for animals to celebrate the love and care between pets and their owners. They received a warm welcome at St. Mary's in Stoke by Nayland and the collection raised over £235 for SESA W.

It's been a difficult year for all animal charities with many people forced to give up their pets due to health or financial problems. Other animals are brought in, having being abandoned at the side of the road and often in need of urgent veterinary attention. Like most rescue centres, SESA W has been full to bursting and short of volunteers but we keep going, hoping the situation will ease up soon.

Now that winter has arrived, please check our website or Facebook pages before visiting us as our seasonal shutdown begins in December. Meanwhile, very best wishes for good health and happiness to all our friends and rehomed animals, from Ollie (the Black) Cat and me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Registered Charity
No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787
210888, email: info@sesaw.co.uk website: www.sesaw.co.uk



I'll do all I can to protect my health this winter, says COPD survivor

77-year-old Phil Gladwell from Suffolk who has lived with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) for the last 20 years, has spoken for the first time on how he has successfully managed his condition to live a full and active life. He hopes to raise awareness and encourage those living with COPD to make the best choices to stay well over the coming winter months, including taking up the offer of the pneumonia, flu and COVID vaccinations and staying active.

COPD is a preventable and treatable condition which causes breathlessness and a chronic cough. It is one of the leading causes of death worldwide with an estimated three million deaths each year. In the Suffolk and north east Essex area in 2022/23, 21,236 people were diagnosed as living with COPD and 413 people died in the same year due to the condition.

Phil says: "I was a smoker for 47 years of my life and from my teenage years I inhaled large volumes of grain dust due to my working in agriculture. With exposure to tobacco smoke and other toxic particles being one of the main risk factors for COPD, it was perhaps inevitable that I would eventually end up living with the condition. It took me a little while to fully recognise and adapt to the fact that I was living with COPD, but since doing so I was determined to do all that I could to live a happy and active life. I finally quit smoking in 2007. It was in the same year that I had my pneumococcal vaccination. Prior to this I had pneumonia more than once and can testify to how an unpleasant experience it was. I never want that experience again. Since the vaccination I have not contracted pneumonia. I love my life and want to enjoy many more happy years."

Visit www.sneewellbeing.org.uk for a useful factsheet on living with COPD



Manningtree & District Photographic Society

Club members enjoyed a busy November which included presentations by Barbie Lindsay and Roger Hance, a PDI mono competition judged by Tony Bramley FRPS and a field trip to Green Island Gardens.

We are now looking forward to the club's Christmas Dinner in December and we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Please visit our website for details of our full programme together with competition results, photo albums and further club information.

We continue to have fun with our monthly Facebook Challenge and our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also features various club news and activities.

This month's featured image, is Portstewart Strand by Mark Rivers, which won a recent prints competition.

We are a small group of photography enthusiasts with a wide range of photographic experience and knowledge. The club aims to provide a friendly environment for members to enjoy the development of their photographic skills through a variety of activities in the company of like-minded individuals

If you are interested in photography, at whatever level, you would be most welcome at M&DPS and we would like to invite you to come along to a free club meeting. We meet at Mistley Village Hall, on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays of the month between September and May at 7.30pm.

For further information please contact our Secretary Pat Ainger on 01206 231242 and email: madps@post.com

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/manningtreeanddistrictphotographicsociety/>



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We have over 40 interest groups including walking – from strollers to 5+ milers – theatre trips, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel there's something for everyone.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, East Bergholt. Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join. Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2pm in the Constable Hall, East Bergholt. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

Please take a look at our website www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley for more information and contact details.

St. Mark's Roman Catholic Parish

St. Mark's, Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich
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Holy Family Church, Ipswich Road,
Brantham CO11 1TB
Parish Priest: Rev Fr Luke Goymour
The Presbytery, 180 Hawthorn Drive,
Ipswich IP2 0QQ
Tel: 01473 684963
revgoymour@googlemail.com

The tradition of the Christmas crib reflection by Pope Francis

"Setting up the Christmas creche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on that event. At the same time, its portrayal in the creche helps us to imagine the scene...as contemporaries of an event that is living and real...The Christmas creche is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, brothers and sisters all, thanks to that Child who is the Son of God and the Son of the Virgin Mary."

Weekday and Sunday Masses and devotions

All are very welcome to attend services; it is not necessary to be a Catholic. The following are the usual mass times but please check the parish website for updates in case of changes: www.stmarksparish.org.uk or the noticeboards outside the churches. Christmas Day masses will be at the same time as for Sundays.

Saturday 17.30 St.
Mark's vigil mass with confessions from 17.00

Sunday 09.00 Holy Family
Brantham
11.00 St. Mark's
Tuesday 10.00 Holy Family mass
with Adoration from 09.20
Wednesday 09.30 St. Mark's
Friday 12.15 St. Mark's mass
with Adoration from 11.40

**Father Luke's Sunday sermons are
available at anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour**

Events & Diary Dates

The popular **Bring & Buy Coffee Morning** at Viv Szitasi's home, Paddock Gate, Whitehorse Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TR will take place on **Thursday December 21st** 10.30 to 12. Everyone is most welcome.

Living Stones prayer group meet on the first, third and fifth Mondays each month at 6pm at St. Mark's, beginning with guided adoration and at St. Mary's, Ardleigh (CO7 7LD) at 6.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. New members welcome.

The Sick & Housebound

Please let Fr Luke know of anyone who is ill at home, housebound or in hospital, so that they may receive appropriate pastoral care, he can be contacted on 01473 684963.



Boxted Methodist Silver Band

presents a Welcome to Advent concert on Saturday December 2nd at St Mary's Church Stoke by Nayland starting at 6pm.

Free admission but retiring donations welcomed.

Join us to listen to festive music and sing along with advent carols. Enquiries to 01206271511.

Bin collections

Week Commencing		
	4 th December	Refuse Week
	11 th December	Recycling Week
	18 th December	Refuse week
	25 th December	Recycling week - Collections two days later than usual except Friday 29 th collection will be on Tues 2 Jan
	1 st January	Refuse week - Collections two days later than usual except Friday 5 th Jan collection will be on Monday 8 th .
Waste Services 0300 1234 000 (option 4) Email: recycling@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk Visit www.recyclenow.com to find your nearest recycling banks		



Do you want a recommendation?

Tell us your favourite local service - could be a pub or restaurant or takeaway, or other service you think would benefit getting a recommendation...If we agree, we'll print it here

The Layham Queen take out service on Fridays & Sunday Roasts - Steve and Tannith are very community minded and give a very good service

Simply Thai Manningtree - It was simply delicious! Freshly cooked, and arrived within the quoted time frame. 01206 396060. Delivers to Holton St Mary

Zaynab and **Mother Indian** at Capel. Really good and highly recommend. They don't deliver, but it's made quickly for pick-up.

Brantham Bull 01473 328248

Lucca Enoteca Manningtree 01206 390044

Oranges & Lemons East Bergholt 01206 299000

the florist in East Bergholt does lovely flowers:- www.gayedrummond.com

Sam Pritchard sam@samselectrics.co.uk 07940031776 - Sam can certify safety for insurance and landlord work too. Anyway, he's great.

The Runway Cafe situated Acacia Road, Notley Enterprise Park, Raydon CO7 6QD on the old airfield! Also do lunches and teas.

Chef Neil is back! Does the best takeaways ever. Changing menu Thursday Friday and Sunday 07584 573474

There's room for more - and don't forget to keep us updated...let us know...!

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Heath Road, East Bergholt, Colchester CO7 6RT

Surgery opening hours

8.00am – 6.30pm Monday to Friday
Telephone 01206 298272

36 The Street, Capel St Mary, Ipswich IP9 2EE

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Dispensary 8.30am – 6.15pm

(closed between 1-2pm)

Telephone 01473 310203

Fax 01473 311722

Crime prevention

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/safetyadvice/reportacrimetellthepolice.aspx>

PC 1347 Gilkes Pcco 3041 Cooper

babergeast@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Telephone...101

Your District and County Councillors

District Councillor: John Ward

Leader, Babergh District Council

Phone: 07802 414981

Email: john.ward@babergh.gov.uk

County Councillor: Georgia Hall

Email: georgia.hall@suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 07955 434445

Both have correspondence addresses at Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road Ipswich IP1 2BX.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Stratford St Mary - Route 11

The bus stops every 4 weeks on Wednesdays, subject to current restrictions

20 December, 17 January 2024

Black Horse - 11.05am - 11.20am

Tally Ho! Corner - 11.25am - 11.45am

Strickmere (School Lane end) - 11.50am - 12.10pm

Route 14

The bus stops every 4 weeks on Tuesdays

23 January 2024

Holton St Mary

Church Square - 9.30-9.45am

Raydon

St Mary's Raydon - 9.50-10.30am

Lower Raydon

Sulleys Hill - 11.30 - 11.45am

Higam

The Green - 11.55am to 12.10pm

The **customer service line 01473 283838**

is staffed 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday and can handle any library customer queries renewals and reservations to any general library queries.

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help@suffolklibraries.co.uk

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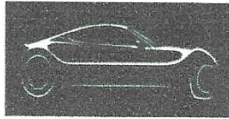
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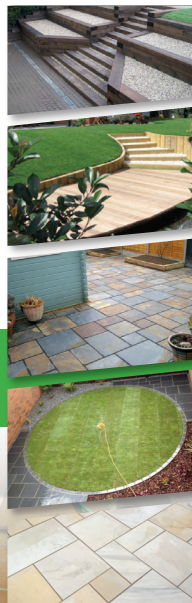
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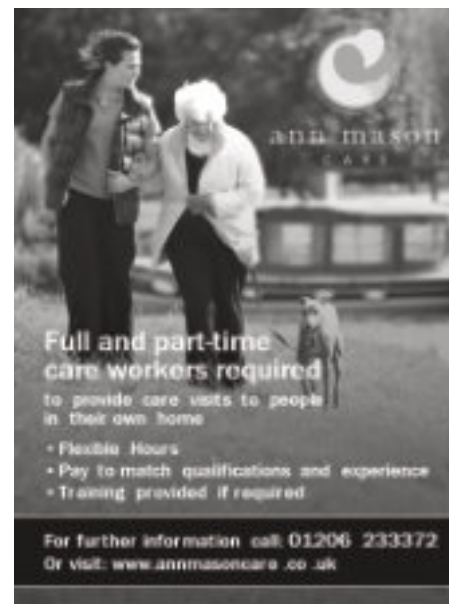
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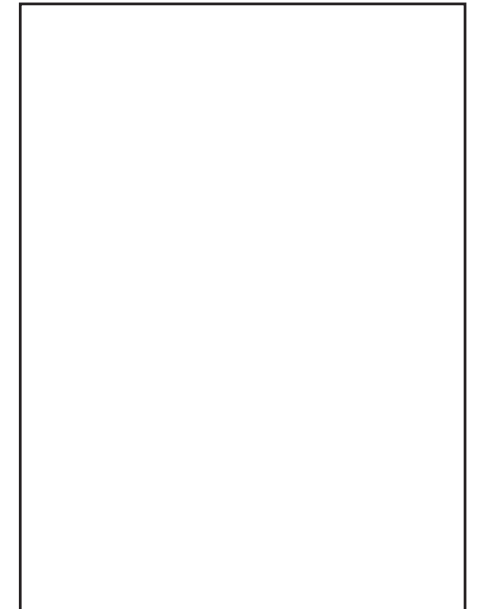
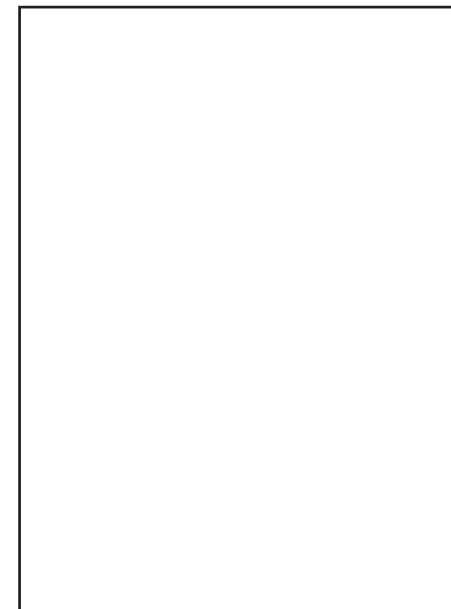
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BENEFICE CONTACTS, SERVICES AND EVENTS

Rector: Rev'd Manette Crossman: Tel. 07947 737789
Email: revmcrossman@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: Rev'd Nicola Tindall: Tel 01787 212340
Email: revnictv@outlook.com

Lay Elder: Sandy Ranson 01206 322156
Email: sandyranson29@gmail.com

**Please contact Rev'd Manette if you or your children would like to be baptized, if you would like to get married in one of our churches, or if you need to arrange a loved one's funeral.
Home Communion for the housebound can also be arranged.**

If anyone would be interested in Confirmation in 2024, Rev'd Manette would be happy to hear from you and we can have an informal conversation about what is involved.



Regular updates about our parishes can be found on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/4-Marys-Benefice-111433503828636>
or on our

Benefice website: www.4marys.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Higham	Hugo Parker 01206 337234
Holton	Richard Noel 01206 298276 Paul Torrington 01473 312046
Raydon	Geoff Horrex 01473 310422
Stratford	Sandy Ranson 01206 322156

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

We are very grateful that Martin O'Brien has agreed to be our new Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice. Martin has now completed all the training and his contact detail are as follows:
Tel. 07964 543718
Email: martinobrien@orwellpark.org

Church Services for December

Sunday 3rd December: 10am Stratford Advent Communion
Advent Sunday

Sunday 10th December: 10am Higham Holy Communion
2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday 17th December: 10am Holton Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of Advent

4pm Carols by Candlelight SSM
followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Friday, 22nd December: 5pm Raydon
Traditional 9 Lessons & Carols by candlelight

Saturday, 23rd December 4.30pm Higham Carol Service

Sunday 24th December: 10am Raydon Morning Service
Christmas Eve: 11.30pm Raydon Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December: 10am: Stratford Christmas
Christmas Day Family Service

10am: Holton Christmas
Family Communion

Sunday 31st December 8.30am Highm Communion (BCP)
1st Sunday of Christmas

10.45 Deanery Service in
St Mary's Church, Hadleigh

Preview for 2024

Our Services will follow the same pattern in 2024 and more details will be published in the January edition of the Quartet.

7th January: 10am Stratford St Mary

14th January: 10am Higham

21st January: 10am Holton

28th January: 10am Raydon

9.30am Stratford Family Hour

Family Hour in Stratford St Mary at 10am

There will be a slight change to the Family Hour in December. Instead of our usual meeting in the Parish Room on the 4th Sunday, which falls on Christmas Eve this year, we would like to encourage all our families and friends to join us in the church on **Sunday 17th December** to enjoy the Christmas Tree Festival, admire the Family Hour Tree, enjoy the kids craft activities, and stay on for **Carols by Candlelight at 4pm**. Refreshments available throughout the day. We hope this will be a very special occasion in the lead up to Christmas. The Family Hour Team.



5th Sundays in the Benefice

The 5th Sunday services in December will be as follows:

8.30am at Higham - Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45am Deanery Service in St Mary's Hadleigh

In 2024 the 5th Sundays fall on 31st March (Easter Day), 30th June, 29th September & 29th December and we will be meeting in our churches around the benefice.

Chat, Prayer & Coffee every 3rd Wednesday at 10am
Stratford St Mary Parish Room,

Our last meeting in 2023 will be on **Wed. 20th December**.
We look forward to seeing you!

Benefice Bible Study / House Group

The next meeting of the Bible Study Group will on **25th January** at 2.30pm at the home of Mrs Judith Shanks, 34 Strickmere, Stratford St Mary. **In December - please look out for the study's group's tree, as part of the Christmas Tree Festival.*

Prayer pointers for the Benefice

We pray for all those who are ill, in pain or in any way unwell, for those personally known to us and for: Nicky Bull, Steve Meech, Amanda Berry, Penny Watkins and Annie Marshall.

We remember all those who have recently died, among them Verna Castle and Ann O'Connell, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for all who mourn. May they be held in God's love and comforted in their grief.

Advent

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

Malcolm Guite

Christmas Eve

Christmas hath a darkness brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus, brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music, birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music for all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus, brought for us so low.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Benefice Churches Open

All the churches in our benefice are open for visiting every day.