



## FEBRUARY 2021 NEWS

Contributions for the February 2021 News to be submitted by:

**5.00 pm Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January.**

The news will be ready for distribution by **Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January.**

### DISCLAIMER

**The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Team.**

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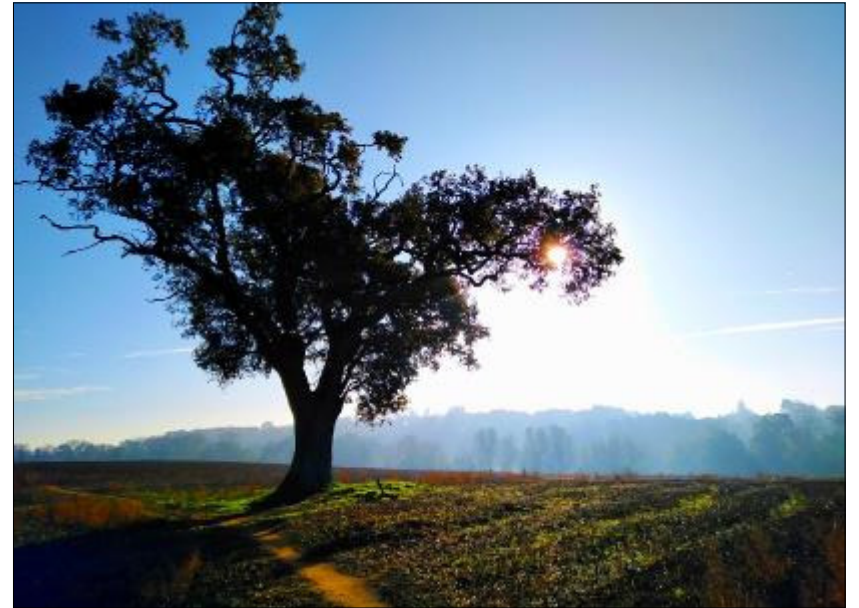
## *Fynn - Lark News*

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# *Fynn - Lark News*

DECEMBER - JANUARY 2021



I am very grateful for this opportunity to say an official 'hello' at last through these pages, and to thank you for the warmth of your socially distanced welcome! Of course, it is frustrating to be in lockdown again, so it looks as if I will finally be unpacking my books and trying to put them in some kind of manageable order. At the various 'zoom' meetings I have had, people have been looking at lots of cardboard boxes, so my time has come. It certainly beats watching any more daytime television!

That said, I am confident that our churches will soon re-open 'with a vengeance' because the wonderful seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are soon upon us – and we cannot miss out on them. However, restricted we may be by numbers and masks, we need to come together to worship and celebrate whenever we possibly can - because good "tidings

**Magazine for the Parishes of Great & Little  
Bealings, Playford and Culpho**

of comfort and joy” can never be silenced. carol service with contributions from a whole range of local churches.

I also believe the pattern and shape of our ‘union’ with new benefices is a cause for hopefulness and exciting possibilities. We should not be frightened of change, but instead explore and embrace new partnerships, relationships, and ways of serving one another and serving God.

Very often too, we need to broaden our Christian lives ecumenically. A good example of that co-operative and imaginative partnership is the forthcoming outdoor celebration in Kingston Field, Woodbridge (Monday, 21st December): ‘Christmas Unwrapped’ at 6pm. Families are invited on a strolling trail to stop at each nativity scene as the story unfolds and then at 6.30pm, on a giant screen, we are all invited to watch a pre-recorded

Something we are only just beginning to learn is for the Church, nationally and locally, to ‘come out of its shells’ and to be more ‘public’ about the faith we love and the communities we are privileged to serve.

So, wherever we are, let us come together and enjoy our differences: to re-tell a universal message which prophets like Isaiah, could only dream about. The Incarnation, God-with-us, is the greatest of truths to set us free. Be in no doubt. I look forward to meeting you or ‘your bubble’ and very soon:

*Rev'd Nigel Prior*

*Priest in Charge of Great Bealings*



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**NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS!**

## ROUND-THE-WORLD YACHTSWOMAN

Those who remember Rev Dr John Hare and Mary from their recent links with Great Bealings may be interested in the following news of their daughter – of interest to sailors all around the local area, since Pip learned to sail on the River Deben:

Last Sunday our daughter Pip set off from Les Sables d'Olonne in France as part of a racing fleet of 33 60-foot IMOCA yachts entering the Vendee Globe Single Handed Round the World non-stop Yacht race. Pip is one of only 6 women in the race, 3 of whom are British. Her yacht is called Medallia, the name of the American software company sponsoring her. Pip's aim is to finish the race and try and beat Ellen McArthur's 94-day record.

On Monday 16 November BBC Look East featured Pip in their early evening programme. Look East plan to follow her race for the three months with regular updates.

*At the time of going to press Pip is currently in 23rd position and approaching the coast of Brazil—Ed*

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

**&**

**BEST WISHES FOR**

**2021**

***A very Happy Christmas to all our readers, contributors, advertisers, sponsors and volunteers***

***From The Editorial Team***

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## NEWS & GENERAL INTEREST

This is the last issue of the Fynn Lark News for 2020. It is time to reflect on the year just past, and to plan for the future.

The indications seem to be that the Magazine has served a particularly useful role in "Lockdown" times, and that it has enabled people to share their experiences of it: Francis Mutimer's Lockdown Diary is a case in point. We are also pleased to say that our financial position has stabilised and is improved on last year's panic situation. Subject to receiving income this coming year from the usual sources, we should be able to see the year through. In that respect may we thank all those who have supported us financially over the past year: individuals – many of them – Parish Councils, and advertisers. Without you, we would not exist.

And so, to next year. Our annual survey of general levels of contentedness produced positive results. It was an important year, being the first year that the four villages were not bound together by a common Benefice identity. We sum up the conclusions reached by representatives of the 4 villages at the end of the year, and invite readers to get in touch, either to endorse them, or to put an alternative viewpoint.

1. The FLN is broadly valued by Bealings and Playford as a means of keeping the community together and of contributing to its cohesion. At this particular time, given the effects of Covid, it is important that our hard-copy FLN be

published as it offers a range of contributions that many enjoy. It would be good to receive contributions from a wider range of people.

2. While Culpho agree with that sentiment, they feel that they should now channel their allegiance towards Grundisburgh, particularly as the two villages have a joint parish Council. Any decision to leave the FLN should only be arrived at after consultation with Culpho readers. The village is well served by other means of communication. A three-village Mag would be perfectly viable.

3. Having local advertisers advertising local services is a valued function of the FLN. The FLN is also very valuable for advertising local events.

4. While the churches may now feel conflicting allegiances, and the old Benefice is no more, the church news is now a relatively small proportion of the Magazine so the rest remains relevant to the "geographical entity", the Fynn-Lark valleys. The churches can send their news both to this publication, and to any partner church.

5. It has been suggested that, to ensure the continuity of organisation of the FLN each of the parishes could designate a representative from their Parish Council to belong to a small standing committee, responsible for ensuring that appropriate personnel are in place.

6. Despite the ever-increasing



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## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

### GREAT BEALINGS

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December** 9.30 a.m. All-age Communion  
 Please note the earlier time.

This is being kept as the Feast of St Nicholas, so we are asking people to contribute NEW toys, suitable for ages 0-18, for distribution to local children in need. Please contribute – if you can, even if you are not coming to the actual service.

**Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>** 5.00 p.m. Carol Service – with a rural flavour  
 If you expect to come, please notify the churchwarden – Covid19 precautions will probably still apply.

**Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup>** 4.00 p.m. Crib Service  
 8.00 p.m. First Communion of Christmas

**Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup>** 9.30 a.m. (tbc) Family Communion

If you prefer Midnight Mass then that will be celebrated in St Mary's, Woodbridge. (Similarly, there are 2 traditional Carol Services being held there on 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30p.m.)

### PLAYFORD

**Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>** 10.00 a.m. Normal Sunday Service

**Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>** 6.00 p.m. Candlelight Carol Service.

**Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup>** 10.00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion

**Friday December 25<sup>th</sup>** 10.00 a.m. Christmas morning service  
 (About 30 minutes)

**Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>** 10.00 a.m. Normal Sunday Service.

Midnight Mass at 11.30 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> will be held at All Saints Kesgrave Rev Gary Jones presiding.

### LITTLE BEALINGS

**Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup>** 10.00 a.m. Family Communion  
 7.00 p.m. Carols of Reflection

In the churchyard: we will be holding a short service of reflection outside (weather permitting), and listening to some of our favourite carols

**Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup>** 4.00 p.m. Christmas Eve. Zoom Crib Service  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December** 10.00 a.m. Family Toy Service

An opportunity for children to bring their favourite Christmas toy to talk about and share with us all during the service

### CULPHO

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December** 3.00 p.m. Carol Service

With this Christmas marking the first time that our parish have been separate, it is perhaps timely to mention this Woodbridge event, bringing local churches together



The poster features a dark red background with white stars and a white silhouette of a stable. Inside the stable, a shepherd with a staff stands on the left, and a woman kneels on the right. A manger with a baby is in the center. The text is arranged as follows:

churches  
together  
WOODBIDGE

INVITE YOU TO

*Christmas  
Unwrapped*

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6.00pm FAMILY TRAIL TO FIND BABY JESUS.

6.30pm CAROL SERVICE

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digitalisation of media, and pressures to reduce the amount of paper produced, a printed, hard-copy Magazine is still enjoyed by many. There are arguments for reducing the number of issues per annum, but this would result in a loss of immediacy.

The over-all conclusion, based on responses from village representatives, and given a stabilised financial position, is that we continue as we are, at least for

2021, possibly with just the three villages.

If the Magazine is to continue to flourish beyond that, it needs continuity of personnel. An advertisement for extra help, probably as understudies in the first instance, is published in this issue. It is a very good way of contributing to your community, and possibly, for younger people, a way of developing useful skills.

*Norman Porter. Co-ordinating Editor*

## The FYNN-LARK NEWS 2021

We look forward to next year with confidence.

The editorial and distribution teams remain in place.

### FINANCE

We are financially stable, but are still entirely dependent on Parish Council contributions, advertisers and individual donations.

If you can support us through any of these channels, please do so. Contact the Editor if you would like to advertise with us. If offering individual support, please fill in a Standing Order or make donations to Fynn-Lark News, either by cheque or by BACS to Or by BACS to the Yorkshire Building Society: Sort code 60-92-04 - Account No 81099367. Ref Fynn-Lark News

### IMPORTANT - CAN YOU HELP?

We still desperately need understudies for any of the following roles:

#### ***Editing, Designing, Proof-reading, Distribution.***

These roles are unpaid but give you a great opportunity to contribute to your community, and possibly to use or enhance latent skills. Youngsters: good for the CV?

**If you would like to be involved in any way,  
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## CHURCH NEWS

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### WORD FROM THE STUDY

How wonderful it was to see so many people turn out for our short act of remembrance at Playford and Little Bealings at the beginning of November, to honour those who fought for our freedom. Given the confusion about being able to have a service, then not, left people scratching their heads as to what is happening. I can only apologise to anyone who may have turned up on Remembrance Day itself. At the time of planning, we were within Government guidelines on Covid, which quickly changed when we went into lockdown. Please accept my heartfelt apologies. The day itself at both Churches produced a service, though short, was a fitting tribute and thank you for all who were able to come.

At the time of writing this, we are due to come out of lockdown at the beginning of December. It is our hope that we will be able to have some form of Christmas services (details in the magazine). This is, of course, subject to restrictions. But we do not need to be in Church to think of the story of Christmas, Yes, we will miss out on nativity plays, carol singing, and so on. Over the years, Christmas has been dressed up with tinsel, bright lights and rose-tinted glasses.

Just over 2000 years ago, when the nativity of our Lord took place, it was far from a sparkling event. A story of a young mother, with an animal trough for a cradle, not your average maternity ward today, cold, dark, and an inn that had no room, how does this translate to the greatest story ever told? How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given. There was no rushing round, on the contrary, Mary and Joseph found themselves on a journey, which would have been long and slow, as they made their way. Rushing around would have been the last thing on their minds.

When I was growing up, a Boxing Day tradition was tea at my grandmothers. Very often her friend would visit, "Had a nice Christmas?" my dad would ask, "Yes" would come the reply, but thank God it is all over now. When I look back, that comment often makes me smile. She was a very kind Christian lady with a good heart. What I think she meant was, she was glad to see an end to the hustle and bustle and preparing for the big day. I think many of us can identify with her on that one!

There is a lovely saying, yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift, that is why we call it the present. I wonder what gifts people will receive this year? God chose to give the best gift humankind could ever have, the gift of His only son. God's son, born to a human family, not in a palace, but in poverty. Christ came to identify with us, to live amongst us. He came, not because we needed a social worker, but because the world needed a saviour.

God in this season came to be with us, to identify with us, the gift of love which Christ brings, the reconciliation, the gift that transforms. When Christ enfolds us in His arms and says, "I love you for who you are, warts and all, you are mine".

My hope and prayer this Christmas is that people don't put Christ away with the decorations, that child in the manger must grow in our hearts and live in us if we are to transform the world into a better place. A happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.

*Reverend Gary Jones*

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## PLANT SALE 2021

– a second rallying call

Just to confirm that we are still determined to offer up plants for sale next spring, somewhere, somehow. We do have to be a bit more precise about a date, so can we provisionally settle on the weekend of Saturday/Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> – the week after Easter? We could go for a week later, so do get in touch if you feel strongly that we should give the weather a week's extra opportunity to warm up.

**SO, on that basis, please continue to prepare plants as usual.**

**As before:** Please direct your reactions, support, queries, worries to: Norman Porter: [nhp@rillcott.co.uk](mailto:nhp@rillcott.co.uk)

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who has sorted, distributed and delivered the Fynn Lark News throughout the difficult times of 2020.

If you would like to join the 'Team', either as a distributor or deliverer, please contact Peter Carr:

[pandvcarr55@gmail.com](mailto:pandvcarr55@gmail.com) 01473 620213

## THE GRUNDISBURGH NEWS

We understand that there will be no hard copy version of the Grundisburgh news at the end of November – a consequence of Covid19. The on-line version WILL be available. It is hoped that the February edition will appear as normal.

## BEALINGS VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 24th January 2021

3.00 p.m. to 4.10 p.m.

### ROBIN HOOD

Subject to the current Covid situation, Puzzle House Pantomimes will present a family friendly show with traditional pantomime-style fun. Six performers play a range of characters in a show full of songs, live keyboard music, thrills, spills and silly jokes.

ALL GOVERNMENT COVID REGULATIONS WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.

We are planning a one act show, with no interval. Sadly, the end of show song contest and the handing out of sweets won't be happening. We'll try and get something in place that's much more fun!

Tickets will NOT be on sale on the door. Limited seating, so booking is essential. Box office 01379 384656 opens on Monday 4th January.

## COMMUNITIES TEAM

Lockdown created a greater focus on those that are at risk of isolation and loneliness. The local response was incredible – supporting neighbours and making sure people got the support they needed. Whether you were part of a formal group or informally helping your neighbour, thank you.

GrandPad is a smart, simple and safe way to connect older people with their loved ones. We have been running a pilot project in East Suffolk and so far, the results are extremely positive. People are feeling less isolated, more connected and have greater confidence in using technology. Our rollout of GrandPads will continue through the winter with more local residents taking part.

Our Planning team are consulting about improvement to the walking and cycling infrastructure. The data will map areas of priority and build funding proposals for improvements. I would strongly recommend sharing your views – it only takes two minutes. Responses can be made online via the East Suffolk Council website or via the Customer Services phone line.

Finally, do you have an interest in the environment? Our local Community Partnership have launched a small grants scheme to help local groups start having a positive impact on the environment. Grants up to £1,500 are available, and we are keen to see applications that involve the community. The deadline for applications is 14<sup>th</sup> December. For a copy of the application form please email [communities@Eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communities@Eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

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## **CULPHO**

### **PARISH COUNCILLOR**

John Lapsley, 1 Abbey Farm Barn, Culpho

Ips 738008

### **PCC SECRETARY**

Mrs Margaret Gornall, Flintstone Cottage, Dallinghoo Road, Wickham Market

01728 747605

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## **ST. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH**

### **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

As we look forward to Christmas, we do so in the hope that the current Covid-19 restrictions will diminish sufficiently to allow Churches to welcome visitors to share in the most important event in the Christian calendar. For St. Botolph's, preparations are being made to hold a socially distanced and safe Carol Service at 3 p.m. on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 where a small choir, provided by P.C.C. Member Christine Pearce and friends from the Ipswich Choral Society, will sing Carols on our behalf. Practises will be in place to keep everyone safe, but, unfortunately as things stand, masks will need to be worn.

This information may, of course, change when Government restrictions alter after the 2<sup>nd</sup> December and replaced by something else. Everything possible will be done to hold a Carol Service and all will be done to keep you informed. Details will be placed on the Church notice board, with up-to-date information obtained by contacting Churchwarden Richard on 01473 738139. Assuming some restrictions will remain in place, it may be advisable to book a seat to avoid disappointment. Please be assured a warm welcome awaits.

### **CHRISTMAS WISHES**

As we enter 2021, we do so in uncertain times, but remain optimistic that the Church will once again fulfil its role within the Community and able to hold regular services, restart the Culpho Music concerts, welcome visitors without constraint, and see a return to some normality.

Whilst it has been a most difficult year for so many, St. Botolph's remains ever grateful for the support received throughout the year. Churchwarden Richard and all associated with St. Botolph's send their good wishes, in the hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, can, once again spend time with family and friends as we look forward to better times.

To everyone who supports the Church financially, gives willingly of their time and energy in keeping the Churchyard looking its best we say, 'thank you'. Your generosity ensures Culpho Church remains at the heart of the community and able to remain open.

*Margaret Gornall*

*Secretarial Support*

*On behalf of Churchwarden and P.C.C. Members.*





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## **READY, STEADY, CENSUS**

The decennial census is almost upon us. Households across our villages will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is March 21. For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](http://census.gov.uk).

## **USEFUL CONTACTS**

**Suffolk Advice and Support Service – 0800 068 3131** or

*<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>*

SASS brings together five essential areas of work - Single Point of Access, Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, Food banks, Suffolk InfoLink and The Warm Handover.

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*Download Local Welfare Assistance Scheme guidance (PDF, 277KB)*

*Referral organisations (online form)*

**Shielding Helpline – 0800 028 8327** or

*[www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable)*

**NHS Volunteer Responders – 0808 196 3382** or

*[www.nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk](http://www.nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk)*

The direct referral link is *[www.goodsamapp.org/NHSreferral](http://www.goodsamapp.org/NHSreferral)*

**SCC Customer First (Social Care needs) – 0345 6066167** (Consultation Line)

**NSFT First Response – 0808 1963494** (24/7 mental health helpline) or

*[www.wellbeingnands.co.uk](http://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk)*

**One Life Suffolk – 01473 718193** or *[www.onelifesuffolk.co.uk](http://www.onelifesuffolk.co.uk)*

**Alzheimer's Society Dementia Connect Support Line – 0333 150 3456**

**Suffolk Cruse Bereavement Care – 01473 230888**

**Homestart – 01502 507 988 / 01502 507 989**

**Suffolk Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0800 977 5690**

## A CHRISMUSS TALE

I was given this letter a couple of months back by the granddaughter of my Uncle, Arthur Mullins who was a well known architect in Woodbridge. He is talking about his reminiscences of childhood living at Letheringham Mill, and then Riverside, Wickham Market (which was my home). He mentions my father, Tom( his brother) who was a well known basket maker in Wickham Market. It is a true account of a mishap on his motor bike with a "Gentleman of the Road" ie: a Tramp, and how the said tramp finished up spending Christmas in Plomesgate House, Wickham Market which was the workhouse.

*Wendy Wilson*

It was autumn 1908 when I was five years old, we had moved from London to the Mill House at Letheringham, near Easton in Suffolk, which seemed wonderful by comparison with Edmonton , a suburb of north London, where the houses were mostly terraced and, in my memory, there was always fog and the smell of gas indoors when mother was cooking , or even simply when the gas lamps were lighted.

The Mill House was somewhat isolated, and, in those days, there were very few cars on the roads.

There were eight of us - Mother, five of my eight sisters, one of my two brothers and me. Father spent most of his time in London where he had a Basketmaker's business, and it was very exciting for me when he came home - mostly at weekends.

We had our meals whilst sitting on forms on each side of a long narrow refectory table in the living room/kitchen which was next to the dairy where there was a milk churn and large pans in which the new milk was kept until cream formed on top that was then skimmed off.

Occasionally the clip clop of the horses pulling the farm wagons or tumbrils, or the chugging and spluttering of the Duchess of Hamilton's car which resembled a large arm chair on four wheels, could be heard, and there was pandemonium if it happened to be at mealtime. Nearly everyone at the table would get up and rush out of the house to watch the car going by puffing out blue smoke. In 1911, towards the end of the summer, my Father announced that, although the Mill House was very nice, there was not sufficient outbuildings for a basketmaking business and that he needed space to enable him to form dishes in which to stand the bundles of osiers until they began to go bad, when they were then ready for peeling. Also, because Easton was an Estate Village, the cottages who were all employed on the estate were not allowed to take lodgers, therefore there was no hope of employing more journeymen basketmakers to work for him.

So, on Michaelmas Day the furniture was taken on a wagon to Riverside, Wickham Market. Mother and my sisters went by horse and trap, Albert- the carthorse- pulled one of the wagons, which went to and from Wickham Market several times to collect everything comment of the old and a cow had a colour put round her neck and was led by Bill Benham - the 'general dog's body' I cannot remember how the pigs and other animals were transported, but they arrived into course.

I can remember the Christmases at Riverside when my father and some older sisters and their families were there, and some of us went skating on the fishpond at Glevering. Of course,

equally insincere "No worries, have a nice day, innit".

So he thought he would go down to the local library. He went in. It was very quiet except for the occasional thud of the rubber date stamp coming down hard on the inside page of a pile of books on the human anatomy being withdrawn by a strange looking man in a dirty raincoat and a battered trilby. Binky recognised him as the top surgeon at the hospital. Binky made a mental note of not to be seriously ill until the doc had read everything.

The bespectacled lady of a certain age looked up. "Yes" she said. "I wonder" said Binky "Have you got any books on shelves?"

The sound of the panic alarm going off triggered some primeval reaction in Binky and he ran off leaving a distraught rubber stamping, know it all, hyper sensitive lady of a certain age sobbing uncontrollably into a silk handkerchief which she kept in the till for such an occasion.

Binky sauntered along the row of shops until he saw one called 'The Do-It-Yourself Shop'. He went in but there wasn't a single assistant. He thought he would go a little further down the street. Eventually he found an old bookshop and purchased an old handyman's book. Why young men couldn't be handymen he couldn't fathom. Whilst there, he bought a book for his wife for Christmas called *Orchestral Percussion* by Tim Penny, she would love that. Anyway off he happily went to start the day's work.

As his daft son was home at the time he thought he would ask son to help with the erection of the shelves. Binky would not

normally ask his son to help him with anything but he knew it would please Indigo. So he started, measuring, sawing, drilling, swearing and not necessarily in that order.

"Right" said Binky to his son "Start handing me the screws from the screw box." Daft son did so, one at a time. But Binky noted that every so often his son would throw one of the screws away. Binky could stand it no longer. "Look son" he said in his best caring manner. "Why do you keep throwing screws away?" "Well" said his son "Because they are no good, they are pointing the wrong way." "Don't be silly" said Binky, "They could be used when drilling from the other side." "Ahh" said daft son "I didn't realise that." "Well" said Binky "That's what they call experience."



### ***Binky's Christmas cracker.***

Two snowmen standing in a field. One said to the other, "Can you smell carrots?"

Binky says "Thank you to the hundreds of people that haven't written to me this year and the one that did. A very Happy Christmas to you all."

## RESILIENCE & JOB COACHING OFFER

Here we are again in a 2nd lockdown and for many people a very uncertain time. I have decided to offer my coaching skills on a voluntary basis to people who feel they could benefit. I am a certified Leadership and Career coach and am offering coaching mainly in resilience and job/career for those that are finding these times particularly challenging.

I am offering to work initially for 4 to 6 weeks with new clients. It will be on a first come first served basis. If you or anyone you know, would benefit from coaching please get in touch. I can be contacted via email at [jos@x10k.com](mailto:jos@x10k.com)

*Jocelyn Saunders clc*

*PG Dip Bus Admin (Open)*

*Executive & Career Coach, Trainer & Mentor*

*Member of the ICF; Corporate Coach U*

*mobile: 07753 903056*

*e-mail: <mailto:jos@x10k.com>*

when we grow old we are inclined to associate Christmas with frost and snow and skating, but maybe, this was not only at Christmas.

My Father died in 1917 but Mother kept the business going until my brother, Tom, who was a prisoner of war in Germany, returned to take over the supervision of the workmen. He purchased a "Sparkbrook" motorcycle. I cannot remember its horsepower but whatever it was Tommy soon got the urge for a more powerful machine and I bought his "Sparkbrook".

Although the business was flourishing and quite interesting I did not relish sitting on a low box with a plank resting on my legs and weaving damp osiers to create baskets, because this played havoc with the hands, producing cracks which were very painful.

I was a keen motorcyclist for many years, and in spite of the discomforts created by our weather conditions, I enjoyed it and, in fact, in due course when I bought a car, there were times when I missed the exhilaration and manoeuvrability, often leaving cars in traffic jams whilst I was able to continue on my journey.

At the latter part of my motorcycling days I was en route for home one Christmas Eve with breakable presents in my haversack, when a "Gentlemen of the Road"- "Darkie" Barker - stepped into my path and was knocked down. We were both injured, and my motorbike was somewhat damaged. The police were quickly at the scene and "Darkie" was whisked away by ambulance. It transpired that he was taken to the Infirmary at Plomesgate House, Wickham Market, where he spent Christmas. In due course he called to see me to discuss compensation and after some 'humming and harring' he settled for Tommy's old Army Greatcoat plus half a crown, and shaking hands with me, he said " *Thank yew very much Sar, Oil be there aggin next Crissmuss Eve und Oi hoop yew'll dew the same aggin soo uz Oi can be in thowd Werkhewse, arve nivver had sitch A Wunnerful Crissmuss.*

A WJ Mullins  
Selwin Garden House  
Lime Kiln Quay Rd  
Woodbridge, IP12 1BB

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1988.

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### Christmas is coming...

Just some ideas....

1. Light up the villages...in these dark times it would be great if houses and windows could be lit up to celebrate the Season.
2. Ring a bell, (hand bell, doorbell, bicycle bell) outside at 7.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve to thank all the key workers who have worked so hard.
3. Collection for FIND to help support the many families who are in difficulties this Christmas.

More ideas offers of help etc contact...Toni Cornish 01473 625237. [tonicornish@hotmail.com](mailto:tonicornish@hotmail.com) [pandvcarr55@gmail.com](mailto:pandvcarr55@gmail.com) 01473 620213



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In fact, we had 29 people turn up.

As one person said to me at the end, if all church services were this short, I would come more often. (Note to the vicar about long sermons?)

*Churchwarden*

## **CHURCH LIGHTS**

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2020.** The Church floodlights were on for this Remembrance Day as this year, 2020, is 75 years since the end of the Second World War.

## **CHRISTMAS FLOODLIGHTS**

– appeal for sponsorship

It would be wonderful to be able to cheer up Christmas this year of great sadness for those amongst us who may not be able to see their close family and ensure that we are able to put on our Church floodlights for the whole period.

As a result of my appeal in November's Fynn Lark News, I have received one generous offer of sponsorship but would welcome any further donations. The floodlights will be lit every evening from Christmas Eve, Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> December until Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (Twelfth Night or Epiphany Eve) inclusive. Due to current restrictions I am usually to be found at home but, if not, donations can be put through the letter box (cheques welcome although I do not have the facility to accept card payment). Please state name of donor (not compulsory) and which evening, if there is one in particular you would like to sponsor.

Requests to sponsor lights to: Veronica Bunbury, Church Corner Cottage, Church Lane, Playford Telephone 01473 623366 or email: [vronxbunbury@gmail.com](mailto:vronxbunbury@gmail.com)

## **PLAYFORD POSADA**

Sadly with all the uncertainty over lockdown and social distancing restrictions, we have decided to cancel the Posada this Advent, but I am sure Mary & Joseph will look forward to visiting you all next year. In the meantime I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas 2020 even if it will be very different to usual. Please stay safe and well.

*Liz Royle*

## **PLAYFORD W.I.**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. via Zoom.

The following positions for the coming year were proposed and seconded.

President	Sally Herrington.
Treasurer	Liz Royle.
Secretary	Sue Bruce.

## **BINKY AND CO**

Binky was in a very good mood. Covid 19 restrictions meant that he could progress all his do-it-yourself jobs around the house that had built up over the years. His lovely wife, Indigo, had asked him to put up some bookshelves in order to house her many cookery books. Binky was a little apprehensive because the last time he had tried to get the job done, the shelves had collapsed after a couple of days. He decided to take advice. But from where and from whom? He didn't fancy going to the local do-it-yourself shop and asking some 18 year old on the till whose only vocabulary was "Did you find everything you wanted?" followed by an

on the website for more details of these items.

**FINANCE**

Payments were authorised for clerk’s salary from August to October, to HMRC for tax due on clerk’s salary, and to the clerk for stationery expenses. Payment to Joan Metcalfe was reimbursed for new defibrillator pads. Credits received: Second half of the Precept £4000.00. Retrospective acceptance of a small increase in the clerk’s salary as recommended by NALC, was agreed. A bank reconciliation was carried out. A review of the parish Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders was made by Joan Metcalfe and unanimously accepted. The budget for 2020-21 was discussed and it was agreed that the Precept should be increased for next year, the amount to be decided at the next meeting.

**HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Thanks to Sam Webber for kindly making improvements to the drainage ditch near the entrance to the Village Hall car park - ongoing improvements will be discussed at a later site meeting. Sam has also replaced three marker posts in the centre of the village. Agreement for the location of four poles to hold SIDS equipment has been sanctioned by Highways. A discussion on Quiet Lanes was undertaken but more information on the criteria for this is needed before an application can be considered.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

It had been decided to wait until the Local Plan was adopted before finalising Playford’s N/Plan. Planning Direct to be chased for an update as the final draft should now be available.

**OTHER MATTERS**

Clerk will respond to the LGBCE consultation on new boundary changes to the Suffolk County boundaries as Playford will lose the support of Great and Little Bealings parishes if the proposals go ahead and these are moved over to Woodbridge ward.

It is hoped that funds may be obtained from the Community Partnership scheme to fund a replacement oak tree for the playing field as the one bought to commemorate 100yrs since the end of WW1, has died.

Recent damage to the verges in Church Road by farm vehicles, has been noted – clerk to contact landowner if necessary.

Trees which were removed from verges to facilitate EAOW cabling operations, have not all been replaced – landowners are being consulted over this.

One more councillor is still required to serve on the parish council – please contact the clerk or any councillor for details if you are interested.

Joan Metcalfe thanked Colin Hedgley as Churchwarden for arranging the meeting in the Church.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Weds 13th January 2021 (provisionally) in Playford Church at 7.00 p.m.

*Marian Hedgley – Clerk 01473 738468  
e-mail: playfordpc@hotmail.co.uk  
website: www.playford.org.uk*

**CHURCH NOTES**

We had a very successful Remembrance Sunday on November 8th which lasted 15 minutes with plenty of chat time afterwards.



Friends of The Admiral’s Head  
**CHRISTMAS PUB QUIZ**

FoTAH invites you to its  
**Kahoot! Christmas Pub Quiz**

**Live On-line!**

**Friday 11 December 2020 at 7.30 p.m.**

\*\*\*\*\*

To take part just send a quick email to [Hello@friendsoftheadmiralshead.org.uk](mailto:Hello@friendsoftheadmiralshead.org.uk) - we’ll send you joining instructions a few days beforehand!

*Entry is free – make a donation to your favourite charity!*



## NATURE NOTES

### Mistletoe



Sales of mistletoe may plummet this Christmas, as Covid dramatically reduces the number of people whom we might legally give a festive peck on the cheek. Let us hope its use survives the pandemic and it comes back again to reclaim its rightful role, as this unusual plant has roots deep into our history and culture.

In pagan times mistletoe was considered a symbol of fertility, for reasons which must go unexplained in this family magazine. The Romans considered it an emblem of peace, and in the Christian era it came to be considered to confer on any man the right to kiss whichever pretty woman – or indeed any woman - who happened, by accident or design, to be standing beneath it – not only that, but it was considered bad luck to refuse the offer. What would the Me-too movement have made of that?



Mistletoe is a parasitic plant. The sight of its bulging green clumps in a tree can be

considered a sign of bad arboreal management. Understandably so, since an infestation can stunt, and even, in extreme circumstances kill a tree, as the parasitic growth draws down deep into the tree's would-be nutrients. The -mistle part of the name goes back to an ancient word meaning "twig" – which is where the seed will lodge, in the first instance, brought there by birds.



So, if you have mistletoe in your orchard, or infesting your trees, it is best probably to pick it, and to try and make a penny or two from selling it around the Christmas period. There are some therapeutic effects, but it is best not to bank on those to increase sales. Either way, watch out, if you want a healthy tree.

## HISTORY CORNER

### Cockerels

People of a certain age may re-call the pre-turkey era. If my memory serves me right, the turkey has not always been considered the prime bird for festive carving-up. The cockerel used to strut its stuff much more arrogantly than it seems to do nowadays. Mind you, that strutting tended often to come to an abrupt end on Christmas Eve, as the coops were emptied, and folk living in the country personally delivered the last rites to the

---

## PLAYFORD

### PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs. Marian Hedgley, The Coach House, Playford Mount, Great Bealings, IP13 6PH  
Ips 738468

### PCC SECRETARY

Mrs. Eileen Stennett, Lux Farm, Playford Road, Playford  
Ips 635236

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## PARISH COUNCIL

These are condensed notes of the proceedings of the Playford Parish Council meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 in Playford Church. A full version of the minutes appears on the website: [www.playford.org.uk](http://www.playford.org.uk)

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no County Council report

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Colin Hedgley's and Tony Fryatt's report included details of East Suffolk Business Festival next month, the Marina Service Centre in Lowestoft which has just re-opened, the election of the new chairman Keith Robinson and the "New and Ambitious Local Plan" which has now been approved. A new service for council tenants is due to be launched later this year and a new campaign to encourage safe shopping in local shopping centres, also a campaign to promote safety on beaches and coastal locations. Relevant representation has been submitted for Sizewell C in respect of the Development Consent Order – this represents many hours of hard work and vigorous discussion. There has been a major funding boost to help tackle homelessness and a High Street Heritage Action zone programme in Lowestoft to give the high street a new lease of life. The building of 75 new homes at Rendlesham will not go ahead as the appeal against the District's rejection of

plans (due to poor design and layout issues) was dismissed. Finally, a move called Pumpkin Rescue has been launched to promote pumpkin recipes instead of wasting pumpkin flesh at Hallowe'en and to encourage people to put any remains into the compost bin instead of ordinary waste.

In addition, Colin reminded us that the LGBCE's deadline for commenting on the Suffolk County Co. boundary changes is 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, that Road Safety Week is 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November and that Community Partnership grants are available at present – please contact Andy Jolliffe for details at [andrew.jolliffe@eastssuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.jolliffe@eastssuffolk.gov.uk)

A copy of the full report is appended to the full minutes on the website.

### ACTION POINT REVIEW

Clerk to chase progress on the unregistered FP between C330 and C3311 and to ask Debbie Adams for an update on the cutting schedules for FP1 as the width of available path is inadequate.

Broken bridgeway signpost at start of FP1 is to be reported.

Progress on potholes on southern end of Butts Road will be investigated.

Overhanging branches from a tree in Spring Meadow near the lay by is to be assessed as action on this was requested several months ago.

See Action log appended to the Minutes



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bird that they had been carefully fattening up on scraps over the preceding weeks, The dawn chorus of cockadoodledooing fell silent. The duly plucked bird – home-plucking was just one of a myriad of Christmas Eve jobs – became Christmas Dinner.



The cockerel has mixed religious connotations. It is forever linked with crowing thrice before Judas betrayed Christ, and the linkage is such that you almost feel that the poor bird had something to do with the betrayal. Of course, it did not – it was just doing what cockerels do, acting as the daily harbinger of dawn. And that's something that it seems to do less and less nowadays, as so-called townies all too often find it disturbs their rural idyll. By way of compensation it is reputed that Pope Gregory I declared the cock the most suitable emblem of Christianity. Some say that it was as a result of this that the cock began to be used as a weather vane on church steeples.



Cockerels do not lay eggs – so that is another possibly useful function scotched.

Nor do they nowadays seem to be the source of the meat we call chicken. If they want to have a future as meat, they have to lose their virility and become capons. The hen, or female seems to be multi-functional – but you hardly ever see cockerels free-ranging in a field. Territorial and sexual masculinship means that they fight – and fighting is disruptive and stops them putting on weight. So, they are not best at being potential meat or giving us eggs. Their fighting qualities did once make them useful for crowd entertainment – in the shape of cockfighting, but that has quite reasonably been outlawed as a sport. Hence widespread cockerel unemployment. Such a shame, as they are wonderful-looking birds, with their flaming red combs, proud strut, sheeny colours, and imperious behaviour.



Do tell me if I am missing something here, and not being sufficiently observant as I look around the countryside? You just do not see or hear as many cockerels as you used to. The cockerel is still proudly the emblem of the French, often smuggled into Twickenham as subversive supporters of the French rugby team. And Tottenham Hotspur FC have the cockerel as club emblem.

But what is topical here is the role played by cockerels on the Christmas Dinner table. And that seems to have shrunk. Looking beyond that, what better way of keeping Christmas going than writing in with tales of Christmas past, and what YOU used to put on the Christmas dinner table many years ago.

*Something for History Corner, hopefully the photos are of sufficient quality for use in the magazine, they are scans of the originals which I have enhanced as much as possible to make them a little clearer.*

With the long dark winter evenings now upon us, I have been sorting through and cataloguing all the old family photos handed down to me from previous generations. Some of these old photos provide a glimpse of old Bealings and the characters who lived here in days gone by.

Here are four of my favourites, along with such information as I have been able to unearth regarding each one. Taking them in chronological order:

#### **GREAT BEALINGS QUILTS CLUB 1913.**

Those of you with good memories will recall a similar photo appearing in the June 2014 edition of the Benefice Magazine, which preceded this publication. This photo appears to be a larger group photo, taken at the same time as the one shown before. Whereas the photo which featured in 2014 showed 8 members, in this photo the group has expanded to show some 21 assorted characters, all of whom presumably had some connection with the quilts club.

Further research has enabled me to name all but five of the men in this photo, so I have captioned the photo with the names of those I have been able to identify. It is a sobering thought that five of the young men named in this photo were to lose their lives in the First World War - the names of John Emmerson, David Hockley, Arthur Mutimer and Wilfred Mutimer appear on Great Bealings war memorial, while John Mills is named on the memorial in Little Bealings.

#### **BEALINGS SCHOOL c 1930.**

Although undated, this photo can be put at around 1930 as it features my father, John Mutimer in the front row, second from right. He was born in 1923 and would appear to be one of the 'infants' here so late 1920s/1930 would be around the time of this photo. Note also the young lad sitting to his left, who clearly found the whole process very tiring!

The playground surface appears to be no more than compacted earth, none of your fancy tarmac surfacing in those days, one wonders what it must have been like in the depths of winter! If you look closely, Little Bealings church can also be seen in the background behind the trees.

#### **RED HOUSE, BOOT STREET, - 1940s.**

The fine-looking gentleman featured in this photo is my Great Grandfather, who went by the splendid full name of Sydney Michael Charles Harry Plantaganet Gibbs. Although not a Bealings man originally, he spent the last years of his life in Great Bealings after a long and illustrious career as a blacksmith, firstly in Westleton and later in Rendham, near Saxmundham. He is pictured in the garden of Red House where my family lived at the time. He died in 1947 at the age of 86.

#### **ADMIRAL'S HEAD c 1950.**

This band of happy drinkers, pictured outside the Admiral's Head, also features my father John Mutimer, on the left of the group as we see it. I am not sure of the names of any of the other men in the photo - the one on the right of the group is possibly Brassy Lambert, a long-time drinking buddy of my father's. If anyone can put names to the other faces it would be lovely to know who they are. Note also the vintage bicycles parked by the front door, somewhat different to the velocipedes now often seen hurtling through the village.

*Francis Mutimer*

and avert our use of reserves to keep the church running this year and next.

Friends and neighbours, you have saved the Angela Cobbold Hall, you are pledging to save the Admirals Head, now we need you to help save our local church by donating via the details below. We thank you in advance for your generosity,

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#### **More News from All Saints Church**

Looking back through November does not fill us with joy. With lockdown announced with very little notice, we had to cancel all church services since the government announcement. We were, however, allowed to hold a small outside Remembrance Service which was attended by 10 people and watched from windows by others! Rev Gary Jones officiated at this service to honour and remember those who have fallen and we hope that next year we will be back to having a far more wide-ranging and even better attended service, especially in light of the Royal British Legion Centenary in 2021.

Looking forward to December as well as we can, we hope to be able to go forward with a celebration of some sort during this Christmas season, however, we will, of course, adhere to all government regulations as and when we are made aware of them and the following is our current anticipated schedule:

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 a.m.  
Family Communion Service

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.  
Carols of reflection in the churchyard: we will be holding a short service of reflection outside (weather permitting), and listening to some of our

favourite carols

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00 p.m.  
Little Bealings Crib Service: due to restrictions we will be holding our Crib service via Zoom this year, the link to access the service will be sent out via Enews nearer the day or it can be found on our church website

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 a.m.  
Family Toy Service, an opportunity for children to bring their favourite Christmas toy to talk about and share with us all during the service

Please note due to government restrictions and to avoid disappointment, all places at church services must be booked in advanced by phone or text to Corinne on 07810 355511 or via Email [corinnejarvis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:corinnejarvis@hotmail.co.uk)

On behalf of the PCC and our local priests, Rev Gary Jones and Rev Robin Spittle, Tony and I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With every blessing,

*Corinne Jarvis Fear*

#### **Lights, Lights, Lights**

On 10 & 11 November, the Lights were lit in memory of Monica Bowling, stalwart of the Bealings Drama Group in the 50' and 60's. She was a director of positive decision making, evident from the success achieved by both the W.I & Bealings Drama Groups. In addition, in 1986, she masterminded the celebration of the "900 years History" of our church, St. Mary's, Bealings 1086.....Great Bealings 1986, ably assisted by Anne Morris, Paddy Haywood Smith, Jane Walker, Laurie Wood, Pauline Stentford, Moira Usher, John & Mary Halliwell and Mark Usher. A marvellous occasion!



delivered by Sister Mary Mitton. Son Peter was born prematurely in October 1963 and was cared for at home by Nurse Roffy. Their third child Elizabeth was born at Ipswich Hospital in May 1971. John worked as van salesman for Harris Meat Company, Hadleigh Road Ipswich. He enjoyed being on the road meeting customers. Later he worked for Pork farms Depot, Needham Market, as a van sales supervisor. He was often deployed to other parts of the country, coaching other salesmen on the ever-increasing complexity of paperwork and procedures. But he found time for cricket, becoming secretary of Bealings Cricket Club. At 60 he was offered and took an early retirement package due to ill health.

He found a less demanding job as night cashier at Shell Orwell Bridge filling station. John was always a devout Catholic, worshipping at Holy Family & St. Michael Church in Kesgrave, where he was Eucharistic Minister, Reader, Welcomer, and Co-Custodian of the Church Rooms. Over the years in Little Bealings he transformed the shop and cottage into a comfortable home for his family. Eventually selling the Stores and the cottage in 2003 when he and Violet settled in Kesgrave. His son Peter recalls his father as a quiet, selfless, thinking man, with a passion for classical music, theatre, satirical comedy and good food. In his final years he suffered ill health, but he battled through all this, thanks to his strong inner resolve, which was a testament to his faith.

## ALL SAINTS

### URGENT! SOS!

Save Our Service to the community!

Tony and I don't like to ask for your help very often and we have been happily working our socks off over the last 2 years to keep our beloved church open for services and events during this interregnum and while this Covid crisis lasts. Maintaining the building and churchyard has also taken a lot of time

and energy and we are grateful to all those who have helped during this very challenging year with the daily upkeep and care of the church building and the churchyard.

Over the last 18 months we have seen other buildings within our village reach out to the community for help: the STACH team did a brilliant job of raising £60,000 to purchase the Angela Cobbold Hall and FOTAH are doing exceptionally well raising pledged funds in excess of £80,000 to purchase the Admiral's Head public house to ensure this community asset survives. All of this could not have happened without the generosity and determination of you, the local villagers. However, the time has now come for Tony and me--on behalf of All Saints Church Little Bealings--to ask for your help in keeping our church open.

All Saints Church has stood proudly in the village for more than 700 years, a place that has seen a lot of activity--both happy and sad, some of you may have been married or christened your children here, or perhaps your parents or grandparents walked up the aisle many years ago! While we have raised significant funds for the church upgrades and repairs and the installation of the Tearoom, all of those funds are restricted and we cannot use them to take care of the bills, which is why we are asking for a one-time or small monthly donation towards the church running expenses.

Did you know it costs in excess of £1,100 a month to run the Church? A big part of this is our parish share of nearly £11,000 a year which we pay to the diocese to cover administration, local priest support, parish activities, and mission outreach around the world. On top of this, we have monthly utilities and insurance that we are straining to cover in the current Coronavirus crisis which has prevented many of our usual services and activities designed to support the church finances. A one-time donation of £50 or a small £5 monthly standing order would make a huge difference to the church finances



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### Leah Hinks Ceramics Classes will be Back!

Leah will be re-opening her studio in **January 2021** just as soon as the current restrictions allow.

Let her know if you would like to join either the Adult classes on a Tuesday evening, or would like your children to attend Wednesdays after school by contacting her 01473 735880, or email [leahhinks@gmail.com](mailto:leahhinks@gmail.com)



She wishes all her pupils a very  
Happy Christmas and is very much  
looking forward to the New Year.

### HIGHWAYS

#### Installation of poles for speed indicator devices

SCC had approved two of the three locations for the poles in The Street and would be asked to proceed with installation.

#### WOODBIDGE AND DISTRICT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR MEETING

Dr Hopkins had attended the last meeting on behalf of the Council. Incidents of anti-social behaviour had decreased but speeding traffic remained a general concern. Dr Hopkins would attend the next meeting on 3 December.

#### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL DIVISION BOUNDARY REVISION CONSULTATION

The proposals placed the parish in a Woodbridge ward, rather than a more rural Grundisburgh and Wickham Market ward. It was agreed to object to the proposals and show how the electoral representation targets could still be met if the parish was included in the more rural ward. A joint response proposed to be sent with Great Bealings Parish Council would also be prepared.

#### FINANCE

The draft Budget would be revised and decided at the Council's meeting in January, after ESC had confirmed the Council Tax base figure.

The bank statement/cheque book reconciliation for the first and second quarters had been completed by Mr Hunter and no issues had arisen. The following expenditure was agreed: Clerk's salary and expenses for October, and salary for November and December, and PAYE for October, November and December.

A donation of £25 to AGE UK Suffolk had been returned by the charity's administrators and it was agreed to donate the sum to Headway, a charity which had recently confirmed that it was assisting residents in the parish.

#### DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish

Council is changed from Monday 4 January to Monday 11 January and will use Zoom. Joining details are included on Agendas, which are published here before each meeting:

<https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/pc-agenda-list/>

Please visit our website for further information, including draft and approved minutes of Parish Council meetings:

<https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

The Parish Council wishes all residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Carol Ramsden - Clerk  
01473 610088

Email: [littlebealingspc@btinternet.com](mailto:littlebealingspc@btinternet.com)  
Website: <https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/>

### Obituary

#### John Francis Knight

John was born in Edgbaston, Birmingham on 19th. August 1935. He was brought to live in Suffolk in infancy and baptised in St. Pancras Roman Catholic Church in Ipswich. He attended St. Joseph's College in Ipswich as a boarder. As a young teenager it was felt he had a vocation to the priesthood and he was sent to the junior seminary, St. Peter's College Freshfield near Liverpool. Later he studied at the seminary at Osterley, London, moving on to the English Collège in Valladolid, Spain. It was here John decided the priesthood was not for him. Returning to Suffolk, he worked at solicitors, Turner, Martin & Symes. He moved on to work at Prentice Aircraft. Next, he found work in the offices of the Farm Mechanisation Company, which was part of Egertons in Ipswich. It was here he met Violet Hill, who he married in September 1959 at the Church of the Holy Family & St. Michael, Kesgrave. John and Violet set up home in the cottage adjoining Violet's parents' home at the Stores in Little Bealings. Their first child, Frances, was born in the Phyllis Memorial Nursing Home in July 1961,

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## GREAT BEALINGS

### PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs Dee Knights, Dunure, 39 Avocet Lane, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3SF Ips 624240

### PCC SECRETARY

Mr Eric Barnett, Southernhay, Lodge Rd, Great Bealings Ips 738803

## ST MARY'S

Plans have had to be made to revert to lock-down conditions. Happily, this seems to mean that although services have been affected, the church can still be open for private visits and prayer, subject to the now well-understood and rehearsed precautions. The C of E bishops collectively sent a letter pleading that this should happen, arguing that mental and spiritual health is as important as physical health, and that our churches have an important role in promoting this. We applaud that stance and would add in the churchyard as a similarly important spiritual facility.

### LOOKING BACK

#### REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

This service took place entirely in the open air but was none the less poignant for that. Some two-dozen people gathered around the Memorial, in bright November sunshine. Charles Barrington, Chairman of the Parish Council, read out the names of the 15 Great Bealings fatalities, and Virginia Porter laid the wreath in their memory. Being in the open air it was legal for us to sing a rendering of *Oh God our help in Ages Past*, and this being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2, Churchwarden, Norman Porter, paid a specific tribute to non-relative Edward Porter, the only victim of that war, who had grown up in Boot Street. We are grateful to Rev Andy Todd for officiating at the service.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### SUNDAY DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>. ST NICHOLAS. FAMILY COMMUNION AT 9.30 AM

St Nicholas is the patron saint of children (also of sailors, merchants, archers,

repentant thieves, prostitutes, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students).



He had a legendary habit of secret gift-giving which gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus, a contaminated version of his name. In much of continental Europe this is the day when presents are given and received.

In that spirit of giving, and of being thankful for all that we are able to enjoy, we invite people to bring along an **offering of a new toy**, something that can be later donated to needy local children. Even if you are not a regular churchgoer, we are more than happy to accept such gifts from you for subsequent distribution – all in the real spirit of Christmas. Thank you.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our first Christmas in the new Benefice will be complex, not least because of the complications posed by Covid19 uncertainties. At the time of going to press it was planned to hold our Carol Service at 5.00 pm on Sunday December



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## LITTLE BEALINGS

### PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs. Carol Ramsden, The Hollies, Holly Lane, Little Bealings

Ips 610088

### PCC SECRETARY

Ms. Helen Clarkson, Leawood House, Sandy Lane, Little Bealings

07889907615

### PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is continuing to hold remote meetings using Zoom, and met on 9 and 26 November. The public are able to attend remotely and participate as usual during the Public Participation Session of each meeting.

The issues considered on 9 November were:

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

##### Public Sewer for The Street

A resident raised concern about the adequacy of the sewer system at the Angela Cobbold Hall. The Council understands the Environment Agency hopes to recommence work on the Council's appeal against Anglian Water's postponement of a new public sewer for some properties in The Street, including the Angela Cobbold Hall, shortly. Any resident with information relevant to the appeal and the need to install the new sewer as soon as possible should contact: Will Tipper, Advisor, Surface Water Quality Protection and Performance, Environment Agency, Manley House, Kestrel Way, Exeter EX2 7LQ email:

[will.tipper@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:will.tipper@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Telephone: 020 302 52546 or

Mobile: 07787 151647

#### FINANCE – BUDGET FOR 2021/2020

A resident questioned whether it was appropriate to propose a 30% rise in the Precept given the current global pandemic. A final decision on the budget would be made at the Council's meeting in January, but in real terms the proposed increases were small and reflected government recommendations made in 2019 that small Councils should hold a year's expenditure in reserve.

#### WEBSITE 'SENSE' REVIEW

A content review of the Council's website would be carried out by Mr Hunter and Ms Saagi.

#### PLANNING - APPLICATIONS

**DC/20/4219/VOC: Variation of Condition 2 of DC/20/3387/FUL (Erection of a two-storey dwelling and formation of vehicular access to Martlesham Road: Bealings Holt Martlesham Road) Bealings Holt, Martlesham**

There was no objection to this application.

**ENF/2019/0303/FUL: Enforcement Action at The Chestnuts, Martlesham Road**

It was agreed to defer discussion of this item as District Councillor Colin Hedgley was unable to attend the meeting.

**DC/20/3514/FUL: Change of Use of a Vacant Public House to Residential Use: Admirals Head Inn Sandy Lane**

This application had been refused. The Friends of the Admiral's Head group was taking legal advice in respect of compulsory purchase of the pub by ESC, and the Public Works Board Loan consultation would therefore be delayed.

**DC/20/3340/FUL: Extension to create single storey garden room with minor internal alterations plus roof lights: Beacon Ridge, 24 Beacon Lane**

This application had been approved by ESC.

#### PLANNING - POLICY CONSULTATIONS

ESC's consultation on a Statement of Community Involvement, a Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document, a Cycling and Walking Strategy and an Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document would be considered at the next meeting. Full details are here: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/planning-policy-consultations/>



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20<sup>th</sup> This will be a service with a rural/ Suffolk flavour, with music and readings. it would be helpful if you could let me know if you are intending to come, so as to ensure we harmonise covid-capacity and numbers attending, and don't have to turn anyone away. If you would prefer (or also like to attend) a traditional Carol Service, there will be two of them in St Mary's, Woodbridge.

The Carol Service will be followed by two services over the immediate Christmas period: a Crib Service at 4.00 in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, and a First Communion of Christmas, mid-evening at 8.00 pm, again on Christmas Eve. That should cover the generations. Those who prefer the full Midnight Mass or an actual Christmas Day Service will, of course, be welcomed in St Mary's, Woodbridge.

### PCC MEETINGS - ANNUAL MEETING

A much-delayed Annual Meeting took place in St Mary's Church on 21<sup>st</sup> October. The various reports on the preceding year, plus a significant over-run, were approved. Our financial position has been significantly challenged by a lack of income, owing to the impact of Covid19 on services and events, but this has been offset by a reduced Parish Share payment. Challenges remain, with the PCC looking to be positive about the future in the light of our new partnership with Woodbridge and newly appointed Priest-in-Charge, plus the possible challenges of an impending Quinquennial inspection.

PCC Officers have been elected for the coming year. There are no changes, apart from the addition of Bridget Tanno as a member. We are very pleased to welcome her in that capacity, not least as she immediately offered to take on the responsibilities of Safeguarding Officer, as well as our second Deanery Synod representative. Those re-elected and still serving are: Churchwarden: Norman Porter; Hon Secretary: Eric Barnett; Hon Treasurer: Will Self; Jonathan Keer (Electoral Roll); Virginia Porter (Deanery Synod Rep); Julian Haywood Smith (Rep

to Village Hall.)

### CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is slumbering. While not exactly a part of the churchyard, but important, nevertheless, is the car park area. We are very grateful to Dan and John Carter (who advertise in the FLN!) for their work on the extension, cutting it back, and making it look tamed – aided and abetted by Andy Mayhew, who keeps an neighbourly eye on it, and helps out when he sees the need. We now need to keep our fingers tightly crossed that a reversion to normality may again see large events and services in the church, when the overflow is really needed once again.

Norman Porter. Churchwarden  
([nhp@rillcott.co.uk](mailto:nhp@rillcott.co.uk))

## FRIENDS OF GREAT BEALINGS CHURCH (in partnership with Friends of St Mary's Church, Woodbridge)

### MUSIC IN ST MARY'S

Our plans to hold a series of concerts/recitals in St Mary's, Woodbridge and St Mary's, Great Bealings had to be temporarily shelved when the second lock-down was announced. The first of those recitals was scheduled to be staged in November.



The two concerts by violinist, Rose Hinton, and cellist, Jonathan Ayling were scheduled to be held over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> December. It is not impossible that these dates may still be possible, but at

the time of going to press they could not be confirmed. Several people have already signed up. We have noted their email addresses and they will be duly informed of developments.

The whole of the mini-series is promoted in the poster published in this Magazine, but no dates have yet been set. We are taking note of names of all who are interested, and once dates are confirmed we will notify those on the list, and they will then be able to confirm their intention to come along. As planned previously, there will be no tickets, payment will be by donation at a recommended level of £10 at the door.

As previously announced each concert is likely to be for about an hour, without interval or refreshments. Recital-goers will have to sign up in advance, as above, to book seats, because of Covid-limitations, and programmes will be available by email when the booking is made.

We remain convinced that performers and concert-goers alike, are hungry for live music, performers the more so as livelihoods are disappearing, so we are keeping fingers tightly crossed that this appetite for such music will be gently satisfied by our provision of such music in our two churches, whenever and however this is possible.

#### **OPEN GARDENS 2021**

It is hoped to resuscitate plans for opening gardens sometime in the early summer of 2021. An outdoor event is less likely to be affected by COVID-19 regulations. Charles Barrington has once again kindly offered The Lodge garden as a venue for a final gathering. If June 5<sup>th</sup> seems a suitable date, please get in touch to confirm that you would be prepared to be included in the organisation of this year's event. It is not just for grand gardens, ordinary cottage gardens offering a warm welcome are equally part of our village scene.

## **VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS**

There are currently two vacancies for parish councillors due to the recent resignations of Anthony Sheppard and Paul Norris. If any resident is interested in joining the Council, please contact me by 7<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like more information about the work of the Council and/or the duties of its Councillors, please contact the Chairman Charles Barrington on 07880 736672.

*Dee Knights, Parish Clerk*

Tel: 01473 624240

Email: [greatbealingspc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:greatbealingspc@hotmail.co.uk)

# MUSIC AT ST MARY'S

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Dates to follow - the concerts will take place as soon as possible after lockdown to cheer us all up!

Please register in advance for one or more concerts by emailing [nhp@rillcott.co.uk](mailto:nhp@rillcott.co.uk). Places will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis.

**Register in advance - email [nhp@rillcott.co.uk](mailto:nhp@rillcott.co.uk)**

**Dates to follow!**

Please note that numbers are limited because of socially distancing rules in both churches.

Suggested donation of £10 per person, per recital, payable on the door. All profits to church maintenance, Macmillan Cancer Support and other chosen charities.