

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE BENEFICE



*The Yoxmere  
Fisherman*

July 2023

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR JULY 2023

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### Sunday 2nd

10.00am Darsham Benefice Holy Communion

### Sunday 9th

09.30am Theberton Taizé  
 09.30 for 10 Westleton Croissants@church – Informal Worship  
 09.30am Yoxford Holy Communion  
 11.00am Darsham Morning Prayer  
 11.00am Dunwich Holy Communion  
 11.00am Middleton Morning Prayer  
 11.00am Peasenhall Morning Prayer - BCP

### Sunday 16th

09.30am Theberton Morning Prayer  
 09.30am Westleton Holy Communion  
 09.30am Yoxford family@church  
 11.00am Dunwich Morning Worship  
 11.00am Peasenhall Holy Communion – BCP  
 18.00pm Darsham Evensong

### Sunday 23rd

09.30am Theberton Holy Communion  
 09.30am Westleton Informal Worship  
 09.30am Yoxford Morning Prayer  
 11.00am Darsham Holy Communion  
 11.00am Dunwich Morning Prayer  
 11.00am Middleton Holy Communion  
 11.00am Peasenhall Morning Worship – with the Methodists  
 18.00pm Sibton Evening Prayer

### Sunday 30th

09.30am Theberton Healing Service  
 11.00am Middleton Holy Communion  
 18.30pm Westleton Flower Festival – Informal Worship

### Sunday 6th August Trinity 9

10.00am Dunwich Benefice Holy Communion and Flower Festival

### Every Wednesday unless stated:

10.00am Westleton Holy Communion

### LECTIONARY

*Trinity 4, Green*

Genesis 22.1-14

Romans 6.12-23

Matthew 10.40-42

*Trinity 5, Green*

Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Romans 7.15-25a

Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

*Trinity 6, Green*

Genesis 25.19-34

Romans 8.1-11

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

*Trinity 7, Green*

Genesis 28.10-19a

Romans 8.12-25

Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

*Trinity 8, Green*

Genesis 29.15-28

Romans 8.26-39

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

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*Thanks to Debby Turner for this month's cover photo of Westleton churchyard in glorious no-mow May.*

## RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

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Recently I found myself stuck for a sermon idea, so I asked ChatGPT: ‘Write me a sermon on the theme of Pentecost, for a small rural Anglican parish.’ And in the blink of an eye, *voilà!* Five hundred words on Pentecost, making four clear points about the coming of the Holy Spirit. It made sense, they were good points, it fitted the context. Amazing!

Thrilled by this new-found genie in a bottle, Sarah asked for a mission plan and hey presto! Easy! The future is here! Robo-rector is around the corner, with perfect answers to all our pastoral needs!

Artificial Intelligence has been coming, by slow degrees, for a while. Ada Lovelace (1815-1852!) envisaged music composed by computer. More recently, brilliance at chess was seen as a mark of intelligence — but Deep Blue has come and gone and my phone plays better than the current world champion. Even Go was conquered a few years ago (I recommend watching *AlphaGo* the movie on Youtube).

ChatGPT’s ability to search the web and compose answers that are basically right, even in academia, is both scarily close to meeting the Turing Test, and scarily close to enabling a cheating few to grab qualifications that they can’t back up with real knowledge or understanding.

There have been dramatic headlines recently that have increased our sense of living in science fiction. Will HAL really kill off the humans to protect the mission objectives? Will Skynet become conscious and the Terminators rise against us? Yet again, technology is moving faster than our ethical thinking, or our power to control, and there are aspects of this that alarm me.

But what AI does not have is soul, and therefore humanity. I didn’t preach that cheater’s sermon: but it did give me ideas of what I wanted to say. Robo-rector *isn’t* coming soon — I, or any other minister, am only any good if I have the capacity to love, to believe, to create, to fail, to suffer, to forgive, to bless... as you do.

Perhaps AI will remind us what it really means to be human, and to strive harder for all that genuinely is good.

*Blessings, Tim.*

## FROM THE REGISTERS



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### Wedding:

On Saturday, June 10th Paul Ellesley was married to Jodie Ellis at All Saints' Church, Darsham.

### Funeral:

**Joyce Kemp (Joy)**, aged 92 years. On 23rd April. Service at Holy Trinity Church, Middleton, followed by burial in the churchyard.

	 Christian care for families worldwide
<b>Thursday July 20th</b>	
<b>Westleton Church</b>	
<b>2.30pm</b>	
<b>Wave of Prayer</b>	
All Welcome	
Contact Sue Norrington	
660280 or	
Jennifer Clough 648597	
for more information.	

<b>family@church</b>
<b>Yoxford Church Sunday 16th July</b> <b>Breakfast 9.00am Service 9.30am</b>
Special guests <b>Alan and Jane Hutt</b> from <b>THE BEEHIVE</b> in Nakuru, Kenya will be talking about their important work with vulnerable children and young people
 <b>A relaxed family-friendly service for the young and the not so young</b>

### ***THE YOXMERE FISHERMAN - Guidelines for contributors***

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

Visitors may find more information at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

**SUBMISSIONS** should be sent by the 14th of the preceeding month, and preferably by email to [yoxmerefisherman@gmail.com](mailto:yoxmerefisherman@gmail.com)

For details of advertising please email: [yoxmereadvertisers@gmail.com](mailto:yoxmereadvertisers@gmail.com)

### **VIRTUAL FISHERMAN**

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

Performers at Yoxwood festival  
(see P. 31)



Above right: 100th birthday celebration for Barbara Caines, for many years resident in Westleton, with greetings from a new king

Right: Installation (at a great height) of the repaired east window in Theberton church



Below: Painting from Westleton Art Group (see details of summer exhibition on P.27)





### Narrative in the Bible

Narrative writing takes up a huge part of the Bible. Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Ruth, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther are all principally interested in telling the story of God and his chosen people, Israel: from creation through slavery in Egypt, strength under David, and eventually exile in Babylon and return. The gospels and Acts pick up the story of Jesus and the birth of Christianity hundreds of years later. Story is very significant to the Bible. But how should we read this? Are the major

figures in the stories heroes of the faith to be revered and imitated? And how does all this story tell us about God?

Firstly, how big a ‘chunk’ is expected to have meaning? When we read the gospels each *paragraph* has a significance to it — be it a parable of Jesus, or a miracle, or the events around the crucifixion. But in the Old Testament you can’t really work out what it is saying without reading *the whole book*: e.g. the whole of Samuel (both books), or the whole of Judges. And that puts Biblical story telling into a similar area of writing as more modern serious literature, from Moby Dick to Wolf Hall. How so, exactly?

Just as great novels are trying to say something, or provoke you to thought, so are the Bible’s narrative books. Just as Moby Dick wants you to think about obsession and nineteenth-century America politics, Joshua wants us to see the good consequences of remembering and respecting the Lord; and Judges charts a downward spiral, from relative peace to anarchy, as a consequence of forgetting the Lord and the law. Both of these fit into a longer continuous narrative that includes Samuel and Kings, which also explores the pros and cons of monarchy and other political systems in a world where, ideally, God himself would be king. These books contain contrasting views even within the same book, urging you to see with perspective.

So, as much as anything, this narrative seeks to ask probing questions, begging mature answers about the nature of God and God’s interventions in history, and how it is best for us to respond to God.

What becomes apparent is that Old Testament writing is not simply adulation of heroes and saints. Rather the figures of Israel’s history are presented warts and all — suggesting not that you draw inspiration from them, but that you

critique them and try to do better yourself. Samson may seem like a superhero with his strength, but the book of Judges does not approve of him. Even the great King David, with his many great qualities, is shown to be inadequate. Biblical narrative demands that you read with a critical eye.

It's easy to get hung up about 'Is it true?' Middle-eastern archaeology often seems motivated by proving it either way. The archaeology cannot prove the narrative (except to say that there really were people in that place, at roughly that time). But still, we should be a little cautious on insisting on the absolute historicity of everything we read. Just as Shakespeare preferred to tell a good story than to get every detail right, we might reasonably accept that the older parts of the Bible are a piecing together of oral tradition, with the intention to talk well about God and our response to God, as much as to get the history accurate.

On the other hand, the gospels are written with at least as high a degree of accuracy as any contemporaneous historical documents. For example, there is significant evidence that each person named in the gospels was a real person, from Mary Magdalene to Zacchaeus, the reformed tax-collector.

Within the Old Testament, books disagree with each other in their outlook. Calm Ruth reminds its people that David's great grandmother was an immigrant. Esther wants to remind you that the Persians were on the verge of committing genocide. Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs (wisdom books rather than narrative) couldn't be more different in outlook. But they are bound into the same library so that we can learn from their tension.

The final thing to be said now is that while some Christians will insist the Bible is, effectively, written by God, I think the narrative is written by *people*, who were *inspired by God*. We all have different perspectives on this, naturally.

But I rather like the thought that God trusted his people to write their history, to reflect on their relationship with God, and to yearn to be better. God has always sought to collaborate with his children, and he does so even in the pages of the Bible.

*Blessings, Tim.*

## **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Monday 3rd July, 2pm, Westleton Village Hall Foyer.

Have you lost someone close in the last few years? This group is a safe space for those who have been bereaved to be as open as you wish about your experiences, both emotional and practical, following loss.

Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied and no charge.

More information from Revd Tim.

## Westleton Bookshops!

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## SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCH TRUST 50TH ANNIVERSARY RIDE & STRIDE 2023

Our 50th ANNIVERSARY of the setting up of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust RIDE & STRIDE takes place this year on Saturday 9th September between 9am and 5pm.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our benefice SHCT efforts in past years, either in riding & striding, sponsoring, or manning churches during the day to welcome and register participants, or to offer refreshments and a comfort stop! Our thanks also go to Rupert Hannen who, after many years, has recently retired as our SHCT Local and Area Organiser.

This 50th anniversary year is an important one for the trust, which has a countywide target to raise £215,000 this year. In 2021 the event raised £201,000 and last year £189,000. The trust would also like to encourage more sponsors and participants, especially younger riders or striders.

So, if you feel like cycling, walking, sponsoring, or helping in a church for an hour or two, you will be very welcome - don't be shy! (Sponsorship forms and details of participating churches should be available in our benefice churches.)

### *Local organisers and stop-off points in our benefice:*

Darsham Church – John Millward 01728 668712

Dunwich Church, Leper chapel & Monastery ruins – Joan Godfrey 648270

Middleton Church – David Burgess – 07795 292885

Peasenhall Church – Michael Thickitt – 01728 660549

Peasenhall Methodist Chapel - Christine Cole - 01728 660075

Sibton Church – Jan Belton – 01728 660111

Theberton Church – Nicolas Cooper – 01728 635736

Westleton Church – David Blencowe – 01728 648566

Yoxford Church – Rosemary Draper – 01728 668536

Area Organiser: Greg Spray – gregspray5@gmail.com

Enjoy your day whether cycling or walking, but please keep safe!

*Rosemary Draper*



# The Bible Course



Do you find reading the Bible difficult? Do you find it confusing and contradictory? Do you know some of the Bible stories, but not how they all fit together? Do you wish you knew more about the big picture of the Bible?

Help is at hand!

*In a fun, friendly and interactive style we will explore:*

- The big story of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation
- the images and themes that really help us understand Jesus
- what different parts of the Bible are trying to say (and what they aren't!)
- how to read the different writing styles — gospels, letters, poetry, prophets.

*Finish this course and you will:*

- Be excited about the Bible and equipped to read it
- understand the readings in church
- be ready to make big steps in faith

More information from Revd Tim Rogers:  
[rector.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com](mailto:rector.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com); 668951

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## DARSHAM

### ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The Songs of Praise and Celebration of Spring was a great success. The hymns and songs were chosen by the congregation, Celia read a couple of beautiful seasonal poems, and there was a reflection that again was seasonal. We finished with coffee and cake organised by Shirley. It was good to see some holiday visitors joining in the chat at the end.

Friday Prayers continues as normal at 9.30am. All are welcome as we pray for our community. You do not have to actively take part. If there is an issue that you would like us to pray for please come or contact Roger.

We recently had our five-yearly inspection of the building and we pleased to be given a clean bill of health.

*Roger Coates Smith*

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**DARSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**Open Summer Show: 15th July 2023 Village Hall**  
Entries from 9.30am – 10.45am  
Refreshments available from 2.45pm.

(and save the date...)



**DARSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**Open Autumn Show: 16th September 2023**

Flowers, Domestic and a children's section  
Exhibits will be received between 9.30am and 10.30am, all exhibitors must leave by 10.45am. Refreshments and viewing from 2.45pm.

*All Welcome*

Schedules will be available from Village Hall noticeboard  
and the stall outside Springfields.

Also, on the Darsham village website; [www.darsham.onesuffolk.net](http://www.darsham.onesuffolk.net)

Jill Fergusson Show Secretary: [jillfergusson2@gmail.com](mailto:jillfergusson2@gmail.com)

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### DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A successful annual parish meeting was held in Darsham on Tuesday 16th May. It was well attended by the community who enjoyed finding out about the wide variety of voluntary organisations from around the village, as well as a glass of wine and canapés very kindly provided by Chris at Budgens, the Fox Inn, and a number of villagers.

Jasmine Backhouse, former vice-chair of Darsham Parish Council, gave a report in which she thanked the outgoing chairman, Robin Leggate, for his ten years of exemplary service to the village, and also thanked former parish councillor Keith Rolfe for his pivotal role in the delivery of Darsham's new village hall in spite of many hurdles. Jasmine congratulated Paul Ashton who kindly attended the meeting following his successful election as District Councillor. She went on to welcome Christine Redgrave as the newest councillor following an uncontested election in early May, which has left one vacant councillor position to be filled by way of co-option. Anyone who meets the criteria to be a councillor is warmly invited to draft a statement of interest which they can submit by email to the parish council's clerk, Marie Backhouse, at [clerkdarshampc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkdarshampc@gmail.com)

Each of the incumbent councillors then gave a brief presentation of what they have achieved during the last four years and set out their objectives for their forthcoming term. The council convened for its annual general meeting shortly after 7pm, with Jasmine Backhouse unanimously proposed as the new chair, and Richard Green as vice-chair. The councillors were then assigned their respective portfolios as follows: Heather Ballantine, village hall representative and planning; John Butler, maintenance officer; David Stanley, allotments officer; Diane Taylor, emergency officer; Richard Green, environment; Christine Redgrave, footpaths; Michael Simons, Sizewell; Jasmine Backhouse, SALC.

The councillors proceeded to give their usual reports and discussed a small number of planning matters to which no objections were raised. The council agreed to pursue the setting up of a separate domain and email addresses for councillors in order to enhance GDPR compliance. Before the meeting closed, it was agreed to hold the next parish council meeting on Tuesday 20 June at 7pm in Darsham village hall.

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### **WALKING MARKET**

The second Darsham Walking Market took place on Sunday 11th June and was another great success aided by the lovely weather. There were twenty stalls in total in the hall and dotted around the village, and we received many visitors from around and about the local area.



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### **VILLAGE FETE**

Plans are being made for the Village Summer Fete which will be on Saturday 5th August. If you wish to have a stall, please contact Heather Ballantine on 07860 278955. A meeting will be held shortly asking for any volunteers to help.

## CORONATION LUNCH

On the 8th May 2023 the Parish Council organised a lunch for the village to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. About ninety villagers attended for a buffet lunch which included coronation chicken. A good time was had by all. It could not have been held without all the hard work from a team of volunteers.



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## WHAT'S ON AT DARSHAM VILLAGE HALL - JULY 2023

### Classes & Clubs

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crafty Club – Mon. 3rd July - 9.30am (contact Heather Ballantine 07860 278955)

Patchwork and Quilting – Wed. 5th July 9am

Darsham Dames – Thurs. 13th July 2pm, *Fish & Chip lunch trip being planned*  
(contact Heather Meggison on 07516 540638)

Pétanque – every Tues. 6pm (contact Ron Clark on 07423 399406)

### Events and Meetings

- Coffee Morning – Sat. 8th July 10am
- Summer Horticultural Show – Sat. 15th July
- Parish Council Meeting – Thurs. 20th July 7pm
- Earthdance - Soulful Sunday – Sun. 30th July 10am

### Future date for your diaries

- Darsham Village Fete – Sat. 5th August

## **DARSHAM VILLAGE HALL PROJECT UPDATES**

### **Northern boundary**

The border around the north of the village hall site has at long last been fenced. We are now planning on tidying up and landscaping this area. A new footpath will go along the northern border of the pétanque court. The parking bay closest to the pétanque court will be marked off to facilitate access for any disabled visitor via the new footpath from the gate.

### **Solar Panels**

In co-operation with Darsham Parish Council, we are exploring the possibility of equipping the village hall with a solar panel and battery system, along with emergency backup power that would support the village hall's status as a local REST centre. There is also the potential for a solar-powered electric vehicle charger, and the project has been put out for tender. Updates to follow.

### **Playground (next to Village Hall)**

It has been very time-consuming and difficult getting firms to quote for the work to prepare the ground for the play area. The Village Hall Committee has now received two quotes from local known contractors. They range from £26,176 to £64,200 depending on the size of the playground and the nature of the preparation. These are for site preparation only and do not include the additional cost of equipment. A rough guide to equipment and installation costs could be in the region of an additional £15,000 to £20,000. Although we are committed to having a play area there is some concern at the overall cost.

We have £36,148 we can access from the Sec 106 contributions made by the developer of Cheyney Green, Sunbury Homes. If we don't spend £10,273 of that by July 2024 it can be clawed back by the developer.

We hope to apply for some further funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy held by the Parish Council but there is competition for this money for installing solar panels at the Village Hall – both ventures are currently being assessed.

Taking the above into account, a vote was taken with the attending and representative committee members to establish the feeling of the committee. The result of this is that five members voted for the "98sqm rubber surface with meadow grass surround" and four members voted for "170sqm rubber surface with full rubber surround".

It is clear that whilst we have a majority feeling within the committee about which direction we should be heading, we still have a number of hoops through which to jump before a firm decision can be made such as:-

- *Final quotations for the contract*
- *Investigation of equipment*
- *Completion of "Play and Sport funding document" and "Outdoor Playing Space fund" documentation*
- *Village-wide consultation/communication of the project*

There is also an issue of ongoing costs in terms of insurance, maintenance, initial and annual inspection fees which currently will have to come from Village Hall funds – the Parish Council have indicated possible first year assistance but as yet no firm agreement.

Although the playground was in the original plans for the Cheyney Green development over ten years ago, we still have to apply for planning permission for whatever we propose to do with the playground.

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## DUNWICH

ST JAMES CHURCH, DUNWICH

Flower Festival

“Celebrating Dunwich”

August 5th, 6th & 7th, open 10 am - 5pm.

Flowers, plants, books stall, music, refreshments, cake stall, children's stall

Car parking

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### ST JAMES CHURCH, DUNWICH

**SYZEWELL GAP:** this lively band will be presenting a FOLK CONCERT at St James Church, Dunwich on Saturday 12th August from 7pm.

FREE BUT DONATIONS INVITED FOR UKRAINE.

*Do come and join us.*

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### EVENTS AT THE DUNWICH READING ROOM AND MUSEUM

**July 1st: Summer Sale - 11am to 5pm.**

Stop by the Reading Room and field to see what new and upcycled treasures you might stumble across. Teas and refreshments. Clothes, crafts, collectables, and books. Clearing out and want to sell the neat bric-a-brac you found?

Email Sarah at [chronicles@dunwichmuseum.org.uk](mailto:chronicles@dunwichmuseum.org.uk) for a late booking.

**August 4th-7th: Summer Art Show**

To coincide with the Dunwich Flower Festival. Local artists are invited to display works for sale or exhibition. Please contact us and send sample JPEGs to take part.

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## **Saturday July 22nd: 11am-1pm - Meet the Bees**

Join us on an adventure to meet a local beekeeper and her bees. Learn more about how bee colonies live, work, and make honey. Free, for all ages.

To participate in these events, email Sarah at [chronicles@dunwichmuseum.org.uk](mailto:chronicles@dunwichmuseum.org.uk)

## **CHRONICLES OF GREYFRIARS ENVIRONMENTAL ART WORKSHOPS**

Are you interested in local geology and biodiversity? Do you want to know more about the stories that can be told by the rocks of Dunwich? Join our Environmental Art Workshops and learn to look at the world around you in a different way through art and nature. These workshops are FREE to all ages, and drop-in visitors are also welcome

Upcoming workshops: July 15th, August 10th, August 12th and August 16th.

Find out more and book a place on one of these days at [artbranches@icloud.com](mailto:artbranches@icloud.com)

Dunwich Museum is open daily between 11.30am and 4.30pm. Come visit us, bring your guests, and learn more about the amazing story of the lost city.

We are looking for volunteers to join our team and help us tell our dramatic story.

Email us or visit the museum to learn more and see if you would like to join us, behind the scenes or front of house: [manager@dunwichmuseum.org.uk](mailto:manager@dunwichmuseum.org.uk)

Our projects are supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. We are thankful to players for their great contribution to Arts and Culture in the UK.



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## **NEWS FROM DUNWICH HEATH**

July is traditionally a quieter month in terms of visitor numbers here on the heath, as families gear up for the summer holidays, but nature never stops, and bird watchers and species spotters will find the heath at the peak of its activity should they visit.

To reflect the wealth of species to see on site, our programme of activities and events is jam packed, spread throughout the month to satisfy all sorts of nature enthusiasts. We have our Ranger walk (11th), final Nightjar Walk (13th), Mini-Ranger walk (16th), Insect Safari (22nd) and Bat Walk (22nd also), all of which are bookable on our website. The Bat Walk and Insect Safari are two particularly fascinating events. The former takes you on a wander around the heath to listen out for the miniature winged creatures that call the heath home, such as the

common pipistrelle, or the rarer Daubenton's bat. The latter investigates the smallest species that live on the heath, from dragonflies to dor beetles, and ant-lions to green tiger beetles.

Looking ahead, it will be great to welcome summer holiday-makers, and especially families, to the heath. We are taking part in the National Trust's summer campaign, 'Summer of Play'. We will have nature play activities running, from den building to trails, and loose parts play, where children will be invited to use their imagination to play with the things put out for them, however they want. Lastly, the heather will hopefully make a grand backdrop by the end of the month, if it flowers. Here's hoping for the perfect conditions to get a brilliant bloom!

*Daniel Payne, National Trust, Dunwich Heath*

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### **CALLING ALL WILD SWIMMERS!**

I recently moved to Dunwich and am a regular all year round sea swimmer/dipper. Last year saw the creation of the "Dunwich Dippers" wild swimming group. We meet on Dunwich Beach on an ad hoc basis throughout the year making arrangements via a WhatsApp group! All levels welcome, dippers and swimmers alike! If you'd like to join then please email me [kbrookhouse66@gmail.com](mailto:kbrookhouse66@gmail.com)

*Katherine Brookhouse*

## **MIDDLETON**

**1923 -2023**



### **MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL ...**

...is celebrating its centenary year with a special two-day archives event on **Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd July**. Doors open 11am – 4pm both days. All welcome to drop in and browse, no need to book. Disabled parking space available. Free admittance, light refreshments (including celebratory cakes) on sale throughout the day.

We would be very interested to hear from anyone with any historical items pertaining to the hall that might be in your own archive collection - perhaps you used to live in Middleton or had relatives living here sometime in the past 100 years? The building (we are fairly sure) began life as the WI hall, but can anyone shed light on why in the original 1923 photo of the Grand Opening the wall plaque says Westleton WI? Please feel free to contact [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com) Tel. 648345 or [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com) Tel. 648726.

---

### CONCERT IN MANOR HOUSE GARDEN

In 2022 we staged our first garden performance with local Benhall-based musicians Jon & Lucy Hart plus Toby Shaer - aka Honey & The Bear.

We did this in aid of Bowel Cancer UK which was meaningful to us in honour of Mandy's younger brother Darren who succumbed to the disease in 2021.

When the meadow was cut in late summer, we erected a stage and invited Middleton villagers to bring a picnic (and chair/blanket) and enjoy an afternoon of excellent folk music. It was such a success we would like to invite a wider local audience this year on: **Sunday August 6th**, again to raise funds for Bowel Cancer UK.

If you would like to join us this year, please send an email to:

[manorhousegarden@btinternet.com](mailto:manorhousegarden@btinternet.com) and we will make sure you receive full details nearer the time. (We are looking for a suggested donation of £10 per person to attend.)



*Mandy Beaumont*

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### MIDDLETON WI NEWS

At our May meeting we welcomed Richard Allenby-Pratt, a professional photographer, to tell us about his "Suffolk Project". Richard grew up in the west country, served in the armed forces and spent sixteen years in Dubai as a commercial photographer. While in the UAE he became interested in taking personal pictures of the effect of humans on the environment, with oil production, container shipping and quarrying. He also liked to capture the wild flowers that bloomed in the desert after a rainfall. This interest remained when in 2014 he moved with his wife and son back to England - to Suffolk where his wife grew up. After all those years in the desert, the change of seasons was so striking that he was inspired to photograph his new local county. The Suffolk Project was born: a series

of photos covering all aspects of Suffolk life including agriculture, conservation, the character of Suffolk and childhood. The “Farming” photos showed all forms of agriculture from intensive to small organic, from large modern machines to old threshing and scything methods. The “Conservation” pictures were of marshes, meadows, hedges, shingle beaches and wildlife. The “Character of Suffolk” showed never-changing landscapes, old farms and buildings, people and their occupations, and pigs and sheep. Our favourite was of Achilles - a Suffolk Punch and his handler. Finally, “Childhood”: photos of a nine-year-old boy (Richard’s son) discovering the natural wonders of the countryside. All in all, Richard showed us over 200 beautiful photographs which were enhanced by his commentary on the why and where of each one. We thanked him with a round of applause for a very entertaining presentation.

*Lynne Venn*

## PEASENHALL

### EVENTS AT PEASENHALL ASSEMBLY HALL

Film Club Friday 7th July

Pop Up Pub Friday 28th July and Friday 25th August. Doors open 7pm.

Summer Party Saturday 19th August. Save the date!

Bingo Friday 21st July, 6.30pm. Over 18s only, please.

---

### PEASENHALL TRAFFIC ISSUES

A public meeting will be held on Thursday 13th July 7.30pm in the Peasehall Assembly Hall.

This is an opportunity for residents in and around Peasehall to contribute observations and suggestions so a report can be prepared and used for future traffic and road safety measures. If you are not able to attend, please contact the Parish Council with any suggestions.

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### NICKY’S FOUNDATION PLANT SALE

The annual plant sale in aid of Nicky’s Foundation was once again a tremendous success thanks to the many visitors and supporters who came along. We raised a fabulous £2,000, which is much needed to continue our work in Cameroon.

It was good to share with visitors the work we are doing in SW Region of Cameroon to help rebuild the lives of young people with disabilities displaced by the civil war there. All money raised will go to our Livelihood Skills Project which offers young people apprenticeships in entrepreneurial skills in areas such

as graphic design, photography, dressmaking and hairdressing. The project aims to overcome the following local issues:

- There are few rehabilitation services and inclusive schools to provide disabled children/young people with both skills and knowledge required for employment.
- Most employers are reluctant to incur costs to adapt their environment to ensure it is accessible to all. Many also lack knowledge of the types of assistive devices and technology needed to accommodate disabled people in the workplace.
- Many people lack knowledge on disability-related issues and avoid interacting with disabled people. Some people still believe that the conditions are contagious or a punishment for sin, so prefer to isolate disabled people.
- Some family members still have a negative perception about disabled children and see them as a burden and not worth investing in.

### **Sponsor a Trainee at our Livelihood Skills Centre**

For as little as £45 per month a trainee/apprentice will receive training and mentoring in their chosen subject. All donations will help us and it might be that nine people can give £5 per month or three people can give £15 per month to sponsor a trainee and for us at Nicky's Foundation. Any amount is very very welcome. Please get in touch to find out more at [info@nickysfoundation.co.uk](mailto:info@nickysfoundation.co.uk)

Thank you. [www.nickysfoundation.org](http://www.nickysfoundation.org)

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## SIBTON

### HERITAGE WEEKEND AND EXHIBITION AT SIBTON CHURCH WITH TOURS OF SIBTON ABBEY: IMPORTANT NEW DISCOVERIES

July 8th & 9th, 10.30am – 4.00pm. Begin your visit at Sibton Church with a demonstration of the heritage of the surrounding area in part of the Yox valley, including the Sibton Abbey Ruin. Sibton Church building, partly built with material from the former Sibton Abbey, has a history and extant remains dating back to the twelfth century. By kind permission of Nicholas Levett-Scrivener, the event will also include guided tours of the Sibton Abbey ruin founded in AD1150; the only Cistercian foundation in Suffolk and a well documented ancient monument site. The remains have been consolidated recently and new information has been established through geophysical survey. The recent discoveries will be demonstrated by Historic England. There are activities for the whole family and refreshments will be available at the church.

Tickets are now on sale from The Weavers Tea Room and Peasenhall General Store, and online at Eventbrite [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

Any spare tickets will be available at Sibton Church on event days.

### A HUGE THANK YOU – Our Books-n-Bric-a-Brac Sale was a huge success.

To all of you who donated books, bric-a-brac, plants, clothes, children's toys, DVDs, CDs, LPs and refreshments, a great big thank you. We had a great weekend and raised over £2,500 towards immediate repairs needed for the roofs of the church.

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## SIBTON'S PEWLETS

The money raised has also gone towards shortening the pews so that they can be on display and be more useful because they will be just about light enough to move round the church. We are grateful to Jon Alexander for his skilful work on the pews. Do drop by and have a look!

## A NEW CHANCE FOR SIBTON'S CHURCHYARD WILD FLOWERS

Sadly a dangerous bough had to be removed from one of the trees in Sibton's churchyard. Chris Spall shortened other branches as well, which created a new canopy with the fresh growth. In the meantime the wildflowers around the tree have been given a better chance to thrive. (See photos on Page 32.)

*Andrew Campbell*



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## WESTLETON

### ADVANCE CLOSURE NOTICE OF ST PETER'S CHURCH WESTLETON

Unfortunately, it will be necessary to close the church during August for essential repairs. We apologise for any disappointment or inconvenience this may cause. We assure you that with this work we will continue to care for this 700-year-old building, enabling it to provide a place of peace, prayer and worship for all.

Our last Sunday service will be on July 30th at 6.30pm after the Wildflower Festival. We will reopen in time for our Harvest Service on August 27th at 9.30am.

Please see the list of Sunday services in our sister churches within the benefice where you will be warmly welcomed.



**St Peter's Church  
Westleton**

**Wildflower Festival**

&

**Westleton Village Hall**



**Craft Fair**

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> & Sun 30<sup>th</sup> July**  
**12noon to 5.30pm**

**\*Free Entry: Donations welcome\***

***Kids Bug Hunt in the Churchyard !***

**Craft & Plant Stalls &  
Refreshments at the Hall**



The theme for this year's Wildflower Festival is  
the patronages of HRH King Charles III  
that stem from his passions for the environment and arts.  
Wander around the medieval church  
admiring the window wildflower displays  
and the flora and fauna in the churchyard.

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& quiet.*



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## WESTLETON COMMON JULY 2023

There will be a Nature Walk on

**SATURDAY July 1st**

10.30am - 12 noon (approx)

We hope to see the rare silver-studded blue butterflies during this gentle stroll round the common.

**Please meet near the main Common Noticeboard, at the top of Mill St down a short track on the right.**

---

### PLANT SALE FOR WESTLETON GARDENERS

The weather came up trumps for the Westleton Gardeners fund-raising morning in Jean and Ivor Murrell's garden at Windmill Hill in Westleton, on June 10th. A good crowd were there for the opening at 10.30 am and they were keen to buy! In addition to an enormous selection of plants, there were gardening books for sale to swell funds. In another area one member was selling garden pots, with half the money taken for the benefit of Westleton Gardeners funds. Coffee and biscuits did a roaring trade as visitors enjoyed all the seating places in the garden. There were a few plants left so some were kept for growing on for future fund-raising events and the remainder were put on a roadside table the next day, for people to help themselves and leave a contribution. This added to the total raised amount which finally amounted to £749.90.

This will enable Westleton Gardeners to run their autumn and winter evenings of lectures and presentations this year, in Westleton Village Hall.

---

### WESTLETON WELLBEING WALKS

Tuesday 4th July Hogs Grove, 10am. Meet at Forestry England Hogs Grove car park

Sunday 16th July Snape reed beds and woodland, 10am. Meet at Snape Maltings.

Monday 31st July Dunwich Greyfriars, 3pm. Meet at the beach car park.

Further information on these and many more walks can be found at:

[onelifesuffolk.co.uk](http://onelifesuffolk.co.uk)

*Joyce Burtenshaw*



## Westleton Art Group



## Summer Exhibition

**Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd July**

**Westleton Village Hall**

**10.30am to 4.30pm**

***Admission Free***

The Street, Westleton, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 3AD  
[www.westletonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.westletonvillagehall.co.uk)

## WESTLETON 100 CLUB

Winners for June: 1st prize- Jean Edwards; 2nd prize - Don Foster

---

### WESTLETON VILLAGE HALL

The film for Saturday 1st July's **Film Night** is *A Man called Otto* - a comedy-drama starring Tom Hanks, about a bitter old man reluctantly getting involved in the lives of his neighbours, but who finds a new purpose in his life. Tickets are £5 from the Hall's Foyer, the Westleton Stores or on the door on the night. Refreshments will be available from 7pm and in the interval. Film night then has a break for the summer, starting again in October.

On Saturday 15th July we will be running a **French Day** from 10am in the car park, Foyer and in the hall in the evening. A day full of food and French fun - from croissants, crêpes and canapés to French wine, boules, quiz, music, French cars, conversation, dancing to a fantastic French band in the evening - and more! All welcome and an itinerary will be posted online and throughout the villages. We look forward to seeing you. A **French conversation group** for all abilities will also be starting on Friday afternoons 2-3pm weekly in the hall's Foyer from Friday 4th August. For further information on this please contact Sue Evans on:

[evans.sue-mark@wanadoo.fr](mailto:evans.sue-mark@wanadoo.fr) or call 07946 365632.

We are continuing to have **fun Bingo** monthly in the Foyer! The next session will be 2.30-4.30pm Thursday 20th July. All welcome, no experience or booking in advance required. £5 each to play for small cash prizes, all equipment provided. Refreshments will be available.

The next weekend is the **Westleton Art Group's** annual exhibition. 10am-4pm on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July. Do pop in to see what the group has been working on, with a fascinating variety of work on sale. Their cards are also for sale in the Foyer, and refreshments available when possible.

The last weekend of July is the **Wild Flower Festival and Craft Fair**. Free entry from 12noon – 5:30pm and on both days there will also be a bug hunt, refreshments and more. See the separate entry for more information.

**Consultation Room:** Monday 31st July we have Linda Freeman **hairstressing** 10am – 12noon. Contact her to book on 07765 971774. We have a pet and human registered **Physiotherapist** Emma Strachan fortnightly (variable days). For further information contact her on 07821 055404. **Reflexology** is back on Saturday 29th July 9.30am – 1.30pm. Contact Juliet Overton: 07930 341901

[www.julietoverton.co.uk](http://www.julietoverton.co.uk)

To see our latest timetable of varied activities, events and groups please see our website: [www.westletonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.westletonvillagehall.co.uk) and do join us on Facebook and

Instagram. You can also pick up a copy of the monthly “What’s On” in the Foyer. The Foyer is open 10am-12noon every weekday for light refreshments, information and chat with our friendly volunteers.

---

## WI NEWS

Our June meeting included a rather sombre moment when we were asked to think of our friend and a long-standing member of the WI Gillian Padgham who passed away on the 25th May. We will remember her and think of her as a friend and a loyal member of the WI.

Our speaker for this month was July Hadridge of Harris & James Chocolates. She was a very entertaining speaker and took us through the history, ethos and process of chocolate production at their main shop at Beccles. We are especially fond of speakers who bring samples for tasting, but there was also no hesitation in taking advantage of special offers specially from those not familiar with this high-quality product.

Next month on the 4th July we will gather once more in the lovely garden of Gill for our annual garden party. So get the sun hats and florals ready and join us to relax and enjoy.

*Susanne Bennell*

---

## COLD CALLERS IN WESTLETON

### Safety Warning to Residents

Please be aware of cold callers who may be operating in the local area - the advice is for anyone not to engage and to inform the Police straight away.

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## YOXFORD

### FLOWER FESTIVAL

A great big thank you to all of you who supported the Flower Festival! To the flower arrangers for beautiful displays, to everyone who baked cakes and scones to sell (I'm sure you gave us more than ever this year!), to all who helped out in the church over the weekend, to our bellringers and to Mary for playing the organ.

We had lots of visitors, the church looked and smelt glorious, and we raised £1,300 pounds! Thank you all so much.

*Carole Lee*

---

### YOXFORD HISTORY GROUP EXHIBITION

Do you remember the village shop when it was run by the HORNER family? Three generations were here from 1906-1994. Do you have any memories or photos you would like to share with us? What did your mother buy there? Do you remember the difficulties of rationing? What were your favourite treats as a child? Who worked there in your time?

The **History Group** is holding an **EXHIBITION** in the Village Hall **1st-2nd JULY, 11-4**. Refreshments will be available for a small charge towards our funds.

---

### YOXWOOD MUSIC EVENT 2023

The Yoxwood volunteers would like to thank all those who attended their annual fundraiser on June 3rd. The weather was glorious and the wood has never looked better. The event featured as many as nine musical acts, who performed on a stage kindly provided by CAT Scaffolding. Food choices included hand-made pizza, chilli, hot dogs, and cake; the bar offered draught and canned beer, lager, wine, and soft drinks. Raffle prizes included valuable vouchers from Two Magpies Bakery and Black Dog Deli, a bird nesting kit from Wild About Birds, also an ornamental bird from the same source.

*Chris Michie, Acting Chairman*



**Sing Out!**  
YOXFORD

**An Evening of Song**  
*Musical Director – Gretel Dowdeswell*

**SATURDAY 8 July @ 7.30 PM**  
**St Peter's Church, Yoxford**

**Entrance Free**  
**Donations to Charity**  
**Wine and Nibbles**



Tree in Sibton churchyard after radical surgery (see P. 24), and with new spring growth

Tea party in Yoxford for Carole Lee and Barrie and Mary Davis, to celebrate their many years' service to the church







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## SAVE OUR SAX MUSIC FEST - Can you spare just three minutes?

We need as many local residents to complete a three-minute online survey - to help save our free Sax Community Fest!

This annual July festival - for all ages and backgrounds - provides not only two days of live music but also a number of children's fun activities. In addition, there is a wide range of community sources present, promoting a range of local social and community activities and domestic advice services.

You may already be aware that we were forced to cancel this year's festival through a shortage of funding. We need to strongly demonstrate the need for



this free event, which is open to all our community to come together, unwind, enjoy some time together, and learn of other ways to improve life more.

The link to the online survey can be found here: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/saxmusicfest](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/saxmusicfest) on our website: [www.saxcommunityfest.co.uk](http://www.saxcommunityfest.co.uk)

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## CHURCH CONTACT LIST

<b>Rector</b>	Revd Tim Rogers	668951
	<a href="mailto:rector.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com">rector.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com</a>	
	The Rectory, The Street, Darsham, Suffolk IP17 3QA	
<b>Assistant Priests</b>	Revd Susan Warne	668410
	Revd Christine Brooks	688972
<b>Lay Elders</b>	Roger Coates-Smith	667037
	Lesley Davies	561934
	Tina Neal	830237
	Michael Trovell	660218
<b>Benefice Administrator</b>	Lisa Eveleigh	
	<a href="mailto:lisaeveleigh.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com">lisaeveleigh.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Methodist Minister</b>	Revd Saul Tadzaushe	01394 383674
<b>Roman Catholic Priests</b>	Mgr Tony Rogers	07778 221509
	Revd Christopher Smith	01502 723207

### CHURCH WARDENS

<b>Darsham</b>	Shirley Field	668371
<b>Dunwich</b>	Secretary: Angela Abell	648107
<b>Middleton</b>	Rita Pateman	648377
<b>Peasenhall</b>	Michael Thickitt	660549
	Michael Trovell	660218
<b>Sibton</b>	Jan Belton	660111
<b>Theberton</b>	Nicholas Cooper	635736
	Simon Ilett	833364
<b>Westleton</b>	Jeremy Branch	648140
<b>Yoxford</b>	Barrie Davis	598461

There are VACANCIES for Church Wardens and PCC Members for YOXFORD.  
Enquiries to: Barrie on 598461.

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