

DECEMBER 2023

# CONTACT

EAST HARLING – WEST HARLING – BRIDGHAM – ROUDHAM –  
BRETENHAM – LARLING – RUSHFORD

## VILLAGE NEWS AND EVENTS

CHURCH SERVICES & NEWS PAGES 3 AND 5

REV'D SIMON'S NEWSLETTER SEE PAGE 6

GARDENING NOTES SEE PAGE 9

HARLING EVENTS SEE PAGES 9 & 10

EAST HARLING SURGERY REPORT SEE PAGE 13

REVIEW MAKERS & DESIGNERS AND

VARIETY SHOW SEE PAGE 14

WEST HARLING, BRETENHAM, BRIDGHAM – SEE  
PAGE 18



**Do not forget to visit The Christmas  
Tree Festival in East Harling Church  
Starts 8th Dec @ 4pm details page 5**



**You are warmly Invited to join in the Christmas  
Services and  
Concerts across the Villages  
See details on pages 3 and 18**



**There will be joyous singing with our choirs  
and festive delicious treats afterwards  
Mince pie anyone?!**

[www.harlingguiltcrossbenefice.org.uk](http://www.harlingguiltcrossbenefice.org.uk)

Also published online on the following web pages  
<https://www.facebook.com/ehspp20/>

<https://www.harlingguiltcrossbenefice.org.uk/our-churches/east-harling-st-peter-and-st-paul/contact/>

<https://roudhamandlarling-pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/2020/08/17/contact-magazine/> for  
Roudham and Larling

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Signs

### Special Occasions

Wedding Stationery  
Order of Service

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~ Welcome to our Services in December 2023 ~

**Midweek Communion every Wednesday at 11.30am in East Harling Church**

| Date  | E Harling   | Garbl'sham   | Wretham  | Bridgham  | Larling                      |
|---|---|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| Sunday<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec<br>Advent 1   | 11.00am<br>All Age  | 9.30am<br>Holy<br>Communion  | 9.30am Service<br>of the Word                          | 11.00am<br>Holy<br>Communion  |                              |
| Sunday<br>10 <sup>th</sup> Dec<br>Advent 2  | 9.30am<br>Holy<br>Communion   | 9.30am<br>Holy<br>Communion  |  | 6.00pm<br>Blue Xmas<br>Service  | 11.00am<br>Holy<br>Communion |
| Sunday<br>17 <sup>th</sup> Dec<br>Advent 3<br> | 9.30am<br>Holy<br>Communion<br>6.00pm<br>Carol Service<br>amongst Xmas<br>Trees | 11.00am<br>All Age<br>3.00pm<br>Carol Service<br> | 9.30am<br>Holy<br>Communion<br>5.00pm Carol<br>Service | 11.00am<br>Christingle<br>Service   |                              |
| Friday<br>22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec  |   |  |  |  | 7.30pm<br>Carol<br>Service   |
| Sunday<br>24 <sup>th</sup> Dec<br>Advent 4-<br>Christmas<br>Eve   | 4.0pm<br>Christingle<br>11.15pm<br>Midnight Mass                                | 3.00pm<br>Christingle<br>11.30pm<br>Midnight<br>Mass   |  | 8.00pm<br>First Mass<br>of<br>Christmas   |                              |
| Monday<br>25 <sup>th</sup> Dec<br>Christmas<br>Day  | 10.00am<br>Holy<br>Communion  |  | 9.30am<br>Holy<br>Communion                            |   |                              |
| Sunday<br>31 <sup>st</sup> Dec<br>Holy Family   | 11.00am<br>Benefice<br>Service - Holy<br>Communion                              |  |  |   |                              |

| Date  | Rushford  | Shropham  | Brettenham  | Riddlesworth                               | Blo'Norton  |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Sunday<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec<br>Advent 1       | 9.30am Holy<br>Com'union  |   |  | 6.30pm<br>Benefice Advent<br>Carol Service |  |
| Sunday<br>10 <sup>th</sup> Dec<br>Advent 2      |   |   |   |  | 11.00am<br>Holy<br>Communion  |
| Friday<br>15 <sup>th</sup> Dec                  | 5.30pm<br>Carols<br> |   |   |  |   |
| Sunday<br>17 <sup>th</sup> Dec<br>Advent 3      |   | 9.30am<br>Holy<br>Communion   |   |  | 4.30pm<br>Carol<br>Service  |
| Wednesday<br>20 <sup>th</sup> Dec               |   | 6.00pm<br>Carol Service   |   |  |   |
| Thursday<br>21 <sup>st</sup> Dec                |   |  | 6.30pm<br>Carol Service   |  |   |
| Sunday<br>24 <sup>th</sup> Dec<br>Christmas Eve | 5.30pm<br>Christmas<br>Service  |   |   | 6.00<br>Holy<br>Communion                  |   |
| Sunday<br>25 <sup>th</sup> Dec<br>Christmas Day |   | 9.30am<br>Matins  |   | 10.00am<br>Holy<br>Communion               |   |



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## ~ Parish Records 2023 ~

### ~ Funerals ~

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:-  
**MAUREEN ANN DUNTON** whose Funeral was held in East Harling Church conducted by Revd Simon Richardson-Best and Revd Caryll Brown on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November followed by interment in the Churchyard.

#### THANK YOU

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE MAUREEN DUNTON would like to say a huge thank you to all her friends who helped at the funeral. The support you have given us at this difficult time has been absolutely amazing. Also to Simon and Carol for such a beautiful service.

Your help is truly appreciated.

From Rachel and Mark. (also see page 10 Ed)

#### FLOODLIGHTING DECEMBER 2023

Requests to sponsor the floodlighting of East Harling Church should be posted/delivered to: Susan Dolling 4 Hamblings Piece, East Harling. NR16 2PZ

Please make sure your requests are clearly written, include the date and add your name and contact number in case of any queries. Donation of minimum £5/night should be enclosed (cheques payable to E Harling PCC please).

#### December 2023

8<sup>th</sup> In loving memory of our dear friend **JANE BOWYER** who brought so much joy and laughter into our lives, Susan and Mike Dolling

Thank you to all who sponsor the floodlighting of East Harling Church



**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE THIRD ANNUAL Christmas Tree Festival**

AT ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, EAST HARLING

|                           |         |   |
|---------------------------|---------|---|
| FRIDAY 8 <sup>th</sup>    | 4PM-8PM | Come and experience the wonder of over 70 glowing Christmas trees decorated by local organisations including schools, clubs, businesses and other groups! |
| SATURDAY 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 3PM-7PM |   |
| SUNDAY 10 <sup>th</sup>   | 4PM-7PM |   |
| THURSDAY 14 <sup>th</sup> | 4PM-7PM |   |
| FRIDAY 15 <sup>th</sup>   | 4PM-8PM |   |
| SATURDAY 16 <sup>th</sup> | 3PM-7PM |   |
| SUNDAY 17 <sup>th</sup>   | 4PM-5PM |   |

**Carols by Tree Light**

SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - 6PM  
CAROLS AMIDST THE CHRISTMAS TREES!

FREE ENTRY TO FESTIVAL AND CAROL SERVICE WITH DONATIONS WELCOME TOWARDS PARISH FUNDS!

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## METHODIST CHAPEL WHITE HART ST METHODIST SERVICES IN DECEMBER

3rd December 10.30 am Mr Dennis Cartwright

NO SOUL CAFE in December

10th December 6.30pm **Carol service** Rev David Ely

17th December 11am United service at St John the Baptist Garboldisham

6pm Carol service at Parish church

24th December 6.30pm Christmas Eve Service followed by mince pies

31st December 6.30pm Rev David Ely Covenant service

### Quidenham Carmelite Monastery Chapel (Roman Catholic) Public Worship

Daily Mass 8.00am

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Holy Days 8.00am

For further information contact:

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### Meditating with Darkness and Light



Meeting for 5 weeks starting on  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at  
40 White Hart St, East Harling  
2.15 to 3.15

As the nights get longer and the dark sets in, we start with a story and dialogue about light and darkness leading in to Advent, followed by 30 minutes' meditation

For more information, please ring Rev Lynn Fry on  
07554930054

#### Harling Gullcross Benefice

Confirmation Service 26 Nov 2023,

St Peter & St Paul's Church, East Harling at 6.00pm

On the evening of Sunday, 26th November, the new Bishop of Thetford, the Right Reverend Ian Bishop, will be confirming candidates into the Church of England in East Harling Church. Harling Church Choir will be joined by the Benefice Pop-Up Choir in this joyful celebration, followed by refreshments -All welcome!

#### ADVENT SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD



**Benefice Advent Service** at  
Riddlesworth Church at 6pm followed  
by seasonal refreshments.



You are warmly invited to  
St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church East Harling  
**Christingle Service**



at 4pm on Christmas Eve  
In aid of The Children's Society



Dear friends and neighbours

Well, I suppose that I have to say something about Christmas ... but what can I say to you that you haven't already heard too many times, that isn't just a well-meaning but ultimately meaningless load of clichés?

Well, I was away on a brief holiday this week, and I was sitting enjoying a cup of tea in Oxford, and at the table next to mine was a young family. I assume a mother and a father - and a little baby, sitting and enjoying a biscuit. I looked over and made eye contact with her; she smiled and then reached out her hand, offering me a bit of biscuit. In these days, I am wary of being too interested in children I don't know! But mum and dad seemed to be charmed by the little interaction between their generous little daughter, and this unknown man sitting nearby.

Such a small thing - but I think perhaps an image of Christmas that I will be holding on to this year. Because whenever God comes among us, it is virtually never as a bolt from the blue, as a great sign borne down by angels from heaven. No; in Palestine 2,000 years ago a mother held her baby and wondered *what on earth is going on?* Today, just like that mother, we look around at a bewildering world filled with danger, violence and trouble, and wonder where God might be, if there even is a God. And the closest we will get to an answer is in the smile of a child, with the offer of a biscuit. Or in the contact we make when we offer to help a neighbour. Or in the creation of community when we help out at the Warm Hub, or as a volunteer at the Fire Station, or in any of the other ways in which we can show - or, perhaps, *be* - a glimmer of the Love that created all things.

The frail little story of a frail little baby in a frail little stable is exactly the story of God among us because this is how God comes among us even now. It is never (in my experience) through the great and the glorious, but the small and the frail, the potential and the 'not-quite-yet.'

This Christmas, in a world of chaos, and struggle, and of questioning, I pray that you will see glimpses and glimmers of the God who continues to be born among us in tiny little whispers of love, hope and joy.

Your friend and priest

*Simon*

The Revd Br Simon Richardson Best, OC

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**Anna Paynter**

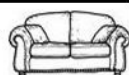
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## THE GARDEN IN DECEMBER

**Outside taps:** Turn them off inside if you can, if not insulate them. There could be some severe frosts.

**Lawns:** The normal advice was not to mow between late October and mid- March, because the grass would have stopped growing. With global warming that has changed, and lawns still need some TLC from time to time.



If it needs a trim, keep the blades of the mower at least an inch high, and don't cut if the grass is either frozen or waterlogged. Remove leaves which have gathered to let the grass see light and breathe.

### **Trees and shrubs including Roses:**

Continue to plant bare-root plants – these can be purchased until mid to late March. Stake trees to prevent rocking in the wind.

**Cuttings:** Take hard wood cuttings of shrubs and trees, including gooseberries, blackcurrants, figs, olives and mulberries.

**Prune:** deciduous shrubs such as flowering currant, philadelphus and deutzia. Thin them out by removing a few branches at ground level.

**Plant:** Plant or move shrubs, trees and hedging. Keep them watered if necessary until Mother Nature takes over – there will be dry spells with cold winds.

**Short biennials:** Remove any fallen leaves to prevent them from being covered.

**Bulbs:** It is not too late to plant tulips and daffodil bulbs – watch out for generous reductions in the garden centres. Check potted bulbs planted in September and move any that are ready to a greenhouse or cool room.

**Vegetables:** Continue to harvest any that are ready. Pigeon proof your brassicas with netting. Only dig parsnips as you need them, they taste sweeter after a frost.

**Fruit Trees:** Continue winter pruning of established fruit trees (not stone fruit) up until early March.



**Grape Vines:** Finish pruning by early January. Keep some hardwood lengths of stem. Cut at an angle just below a bud, and straight across just above a bud about 30cms (1 ft) up the stem. Leave on the bench in a greenhouse or shed for a couple of days then plant several in large pots of soil or compost. Keep watered, and they should be ready to plant out next Autumn.

**Rhubarb:** Start forcing rhubarb, either in a greenhouse or outdoors, for the first tender stems in the Spring. Exclude light either with a terracotta forcing pot or an upturned bucket or dustbin.

According to the textbooks rhubarb requires a rich moisture retaining soil, however rhubarb can't read, and I have found that it grows pretty well in Harling's' terrible thin Brecks soil!

**Seeds:** Catalogues are now mainly online, but worth a browse. Only buy from reputable seed merchants – if buying from eBay make sure that the seeds originate in the UK or Europe.





Good Gardening and Happy Christmas

Kevin 

---

## WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE HALL

 December 

Sat Dec 2

Light festival. Join us for our annual village Christmas light switch on which includes lantern parade and Xmas market. See event article



Wed Dec 6  
Coffee morning and  
Christmas Tombola  
10-12 noon

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[WWW.HARLINGGOLDSCHOOLVILLAGEHALL.CO.UK](http://WWW.HARLINGGOLDSCHOOLVILLAGEHALL.CO.UK)

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Happy New Year!  
Thanks for all your support this year.

 The Harling Old School Village Hall  
Management Committee

---

East Harling Methodist Church,  
White Hart Street.

 **Christmas Coffee**  
**Morning** 

Join us for coffee/tea/hot chocolate  
& mince pie or sausage roll

**December 16<sup>th</sup> 10am-noon**

**All welcome!**





### **MAUREEN DUNTON**

Maureen was born on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1945 to parents Annie and Eddie Bloomfield at home in Blo Norton Road South Lopham, she had an elder sister Patricia. Happy childhood memories include the huge adventure of travel on the coach to visit grandparents in

Poplar in the East end. When she was a young teenager she started work in South Lopham Rectory, she said it was hard work as there were so many rooms needing lots of dusting. She also walked to Redgrave shop where she worked helping cleaning and sometimes taking deliveries to customers whilst walking the shop keeper's dog! At 15 she started work in the sewing factory in Victoria Road, Diss, a journey of at least six miles (on today's roads), biking there and back in all weathers. She would check the time by Bressingham Church clock to make sure she wasn't going to be late, and if she did not pass it at a certain time she would pedal faster to make sure she was not told off!

Maureen met husband David at a dance in Banham and after a short courtship they married in South Lopham Church. They set up home at "The Limes" on Market Street in East Harling next to Muriel's hairdressing shop and the butchers. David, a plumber by trade, modernized the house by the installation of an inside bathroom and also a Parkray fire. They had two children Rachel born in 1969 and Mark in 1973.

Once the children were at school Maureen started working for Norfolk County Council as a Home Help, biking round the village, cooking, cleaning and caring for the elderly. This is how people got to know her. She worked as a Dinner Lady at East Harling Primary School, helping to prepare meals, serving the children and clearing up in between being a "home help". In the 1980's she also delivered the "pools" coupons and "spot the ball" competition, biking round the village in all weathers. She collected for the poppy appeal too, being awarded a medal for 30 years spent collecting.

She loved being a Nanny and adored her grandchildren looking after Amy whilst Rachel was working and visiting Isaac, Eddie, Dennen and Jake in Yorkshire, when she could. She looked forward to school holidays when the Yorkshire family would visit Norfolk and they and the Norfolk family could go out all together.

They moved from "The Limes" to Kerridges, in 1997. Maureen always said what lovely neighbours they had, receiving a lot of support from them when David had a liver transplant at Addenbrooks hospital in 2000. Volunteers from The Liver Trust would visit the Hospital giving help and advice, which they both appreciated. When he had recovered, they joined the local Norwich and Norfolk branch of the Liver Trust, helping with fundraising for a Fibroscanner for the N&N hospital.

Maureen and David loved going on coach holidays, many organized by Gardening Club. Maureen always took her own pillows and a huge suitcase, (I know a few others who do the same!) and David would always roll his eyes and say "Maureen we are only going for a week"! She was an active member of both the cleaning team at the local church and at the chapel, supporting coffee mornings and baking cakes for them as well as for the village fete.

She was a staunch supporter of Gardening Club and the Raffle was her province for many years. She was also on the team for CONTACT and delivered her bundle down the Kenninghall Road every month until she passed away. She was a lovely lady with a kind heart, always willing to help out, one of those people who did those small things for others that really count and she will be very much missed. *With kind permission of Rachel and Mark, Ed.*



### **Our Annual Village Christmas Light Switch- Sat 2 Dec - we can't wait to kick start the village festivities!**

This year we've made a few changes to hopefully ease congestion around the hall. Our Christmas craft market will open at the village hall at 1pm and run right through to 6pm. There will also be festive hot food and drink vendors serving from 1pm-6pm so come on down for a spot of lunch or dinner (or both!) and make a start on your Xmas shopping. Remember, when you buy local you are supporting a dream and a local family's livelihood. From 1pm there will be last minute lantern making and other activities being run by the PTFA and there will be festive music performances throughout the afternoon too including from New Buckenham Brass Band.

The Lantern Parade begins from 4.15pm at the Church towards the Village Christmas tree on Peppers Corner and will be spectacular. All welcome to take part in this - bring your own lantern or even a (battery) candle. There will be Christmas music being performed live at the Christmas tree from 4:30pm, and just before 5pm we will sing carols en masse as a village. If we are lucky, we will be joined by a Christmas VIP - Santa himself! - who will, with our help counting down, turn on the village Xmas Lights. From here, with the village looking fabulously festive, you can return to the hall for hot food, shopping and much more. Over 20 stalls will still be open at the hall.

For more info or any questions about the event please see our facebook page **EAST HARLING LIGHT FESTIVAL** or the hall website [www.harlingoldschoolvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.harlingoldschoolvillagehall.co.uk). Up to date timings and event info will be posted in the run up at both of these places. For Event info send enquiries to the email address [eastharlingeevents@gmail.com](mailto:eastharlingeevents@gmail.com)

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## EAST HARLING GARDENING CLUB



Our November meeting was a brilliant illustrated talk / demonstration on making wreaths and Christmas table centres, and how to make a bunch of flowers look special.

Laura who lives and works in the village donated her wonderful creations for the raffle, and 4 lucky members went home with masterpieces. Laura's Flowers are based at Mount Pleasant Farm, Kenninghall Road. See her online or her Facebook page Flowers by Laura.

On Wednesday 6 December there is a trip to the Pantomime in Bury St Edmunds, leaving the Market Square at 12 noon. We have paid for the Tickets that were ordered, but if you want to go then you could book your own and there is space available on our coach at a cost of £10 or there is one spare ticket at the time of writing, and there may be some cancellations nearer the time. – contact Mary on 01953 717 193

Also in December, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> we will be returning to The Swan for our Christmas ? ? ? lunch after an excellent meal last year. (12.30 for 1.00)

We now have a Facebook page (East Harling Gardening Club), see pictures and notices all in one place. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, in the Old School Hall unless otherwise notified. Annual membership from 1<sup>st</sup> April currently costs just £10, or we welcome visitors at just £3 per meeting.

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS



Harling Parish Council would like to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Can we also take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the village who run all our amazing events throughout the year, care for the community garden and our beautiful Church, serve lunches and coffee at the Old School Hall, keep sport alive for all at the Recreation Ground, and all those volunteers working behind the scenes to make our village the wonderful place it is to live in.

And from me personally I would like to thank all eleven members of the Parish Council who voluntarily work so hard throughout the year.

A big thank you to our village Grounds Team who do an amazing job every year.

And a HUGE thank you to all the team behind CONTACT, a monthly gift through the letter box that we would all miss if it wasn't there.

Happy Christmas to you all

Kate Filby

Clerk to Harling Parish Council and Harling Recreation Ground Trust



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## EAST HARLING & KENNINGHALL MEDICAL PRACTICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2023

October was one of the busiest months that the Practice has seen this year with **4,081** incoming telephone calls answered and **4,575** appointments booked during the month. Regrettably there was also an increase in the number of appointments not attended, where the Practice was not advised in advance, and these appointments were therefore lost. The total number of lost appointments in October was **226 - approximately 11 appointments each day**. Appointments can be cancelled 24/7 via our website, the cancellation form is accessible by typing in "cancel an appointment" in the search box on our website (<https://www.eh-khsurgery.co.uk/>), or via the link sent via SMS at the time the appointment was booked, or by calling or visiting the Practice. **With continuing extremely high demand for appointments please do let us know if you are unable to attend a booked appointment**

Our Dispensaries also had another very busy month, with items dispensed being at the same level as Christmas 2022.

Please remember that our Dispensaries needs **5 WORKING DAYS** for repeat prescription requests. Requests for repeat prescriptions can be made in person at either Practice site (including the prescription boxes which are available 24/7), or by telephone (01953 717204) by selecting OPTION 2 between 08:30 and 18:00 on days that the Practice is open. There will be little or no queuing time on this dedicated repeat prescription line. We also have a Managed Repeat Service available for patients who collect their medications from either of our Practice sites – please speak to our dispensary staff if you would like more information about this service.

As we approach Christmas, the Practice will be open as usual on Friday 22nd December and will re-open at 08:30 on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December. The Practice will also be closed on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

Staff news: Pauline Dawes, Health Care Assistant retires in late November after 21 years with the Practice, and we all wish Pauline a well-deserved, long and happy retirement.

We have a new Practice Nurse, and also a Health Care Assistant joining the Practice at the start of December.

Our Patient Participation Group (PPG) continues to meet every 4-6 weeks. This group has the opportunity to feedback to Practice management and hear the latest news from the Practice. If you are registered as a patient and are interested in being a member of the PPG please enquire via our website, or by asking at either Practice site.

Simon Round, Practice Manager, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST BRECKLAND GROUP

Last month we had an extremely interesting talk by Anne Mason from friends of Thetford Forest. She spoke on the history of the Warren industry in the Brecks and proved to be very popular.

On Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> we have a talk by BTO director, Ieuan Evans who will be Unravelling the Mysteries of Bird Migration. This will be at 7.30pm at The Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton. IP25 6AB. Festive refreshments will be served. Cost £2 members £3 non-members.

Please note that the first 2 talks of 2024 have had to be swapped around. So it's a NWT staff member giving an update from the reserves in January and Martin Hosier with foreign wildlife photography in February along with our AGM.

## EAST HARLING

### MAKERS & DESIGNERS ON 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

We had a really busy day with lots of people visiting for both the coffee morning and the Exhibition. There was plenty to see from the lovely glass works of Marie Dawe and the sensational pottery made by Heather Graham, to our local artists, Alan Fitch, Paul Sharrock, Maz Jackson, and David Wheeler.

There was lots of chat, plenty of interest and happy shoppers going home with some unique pieces!

Apart from the fun and entertainment we also raised funds which will go towards the Roof Restoration Fund. Thank you to the artists who supported us and all the people who visited. A very happy successful day.



Paul Sharrock artist printmaker



Alan Fitch Bookbinder



Maz Jackson artist in tempera



Jane Kelly willow weaving

### THE VARIETY SHOW 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

The London Palladium came to East Harling on Saturday 28th October with the presentation of the much anticipated Variety Show. What a joyous evening, full of laughter and delight it proved to be. There was plenty for everyone; singing, music, sketches and as you would expect some truly terrible jokes! From Hollywood to Bollywood we travelled around the world in dance, music and song with a handful of magic sprinkled in.



Thanks to Dorothy Jubb's talent of persuasion, we saw some people as we have never seen them before (or even imagined!). The energetic performances of the "If I were not upon the stage" characters made everyone laugh (some fell off their chairs!) - the dancing girls entranced us with their colourfully executed routines and the swaying South Sea Island, grass skirted "boat crew" paddled off stage to delighted laughter!. As the advert says once you see it, you can't unsee it!!

Huge appreciation to everyone who was involved in producing the show, and very grateful thanks to all who came to see it and made it a wonderful evening and a very successful fund raiser too!

We have had a busy month in church with this show, the Light Party, Remembrance services and the Makers and Designers Day. Now it is time to prepare for our Christmas tree Festival - we hope you will join us there. The Christmas tree festival will be open for visitors on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 4pm onwards. Please see the poster on page 5 for details. (More pics on the Church facebook page Editor)



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## WANT TO KNOW WHICH IS THE BEST MINCE PIES & CHRISTMAS PUDDING TO BUY THIS YEAR?

– Thanks to WHICH magazine we can offer some ideas!!!

In the puddings collection, top of the heap was the M&S Collection 12-Month Matured Christmas Pudding – it was £13 for 800g (£1.63 per 100g) and a smaller version is also available. This pudding had an excellent flavour, good amount of alcohol and plenty of vine fruits apple and nuts, was not too sweet and a lovely moist texture.

Second was the Sainsbury's Taste the Difference 18-Month Matured Christmas Pudding - £10.50 for 800g (£1.31 per 100g) had a good balance of spices fruit and almonds, pecans and walnuts generously laced with a mix of alcohol a nice balance of tastes and very moist. A smaller version is also available and it was best for value.

Third was the Lidl Deluxe 12-Month Matured Christmas Pudding - £4.49 for 400g (£1.12 per 100g). This had an appealing smell, lovely appearance and great flavour. However, nearly a third of our tasters found the alcohol flavouring too weak for their liking! This was the cheapest of the top three puddings tested. Maybe buy one and stab it and feed it with a little brandy before eating?

Which rated the Best mince pies for this year and found that

Co-op and Tesco were the best with perfect pastry and excellent fillings. The Co-op Irresistible Luxury Mince Pies £2.75 for 6 (46p per pie) stood out overall, with a lovely smell and taste with buttery pastry and a generous level of filling. The Tesco Finest Mince Pies –

£3 for 6 (50p per pie) had a great flavour and are an excellent choice for a pie that will please everyone.

### NIGEL SLATER'S CHRISTMAS TARTS

An alternative to mince pies, Makes 24 and you can use ready made to save time.

#### For the pastry

butter 150g, plus extra for greasing the tart tins  
plain flour 285g; salt a pinch  
ice-cold water a little

#### For the filling

golden syrup 200g; sultanas 75g,  
candied peel 75g, mixed spice a pinch  
butter 25g plus a little extra  
4 soft amaretti disaronno biscuits – or 4 tablespoons  
of plain, soft cake crumbs 85g  
egg 1 large, lightly beaten  
You will need 2 x 12-cup mince pie or jam tart tins.



**Method** (1) To make the pastry, cut the butter into small chunks and rub it into the flour with your fingertips. It should resemble fresh coarse breadcrumbs. Add a pinch of salt if liked. Sprinkle a little cold water over the crumbs and bring them

together with your hands to form a soft, but not sticky, ball. Pat the dough into a thick disc, then wrap in kitchen paper and refrigerate for half an hour.

(2) Preheat the oven to 170C fan/gas mark 5.

(3) To make the filling, warm the syrup in a saucepan together with the dried and candied fruit, mixed spice and butter, then crumble in the amaretti or cake crumbs. Remove the pan from the heat, then stir the beaten egg into the mixture. Roll out the pastry and, using an 8cm cutter, cut out 24 discs of the pastry. Lightly butter the tart cases with the extra butter, then place the pastry discs in the tart cases and divide the mixture between them. Bake until pale gold and bubbling – about 15-20 minutes. Let the tarts settle for 10 minutes before easing them from their tins. Dust with icing sugar if you wish.

### WANTED RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS

East Harling station have got not 1, not 2 not 3 BUT 4 fire helmets that need filling.



They are a friendly, enthusiastic bunch who would love YOU to be one of them.

To be an on call (retained) firefighter you don't have to be superhuman but you do need to be physically fit and be able to pass some tests. You also need to live or work within 5 minutes safe travelling distance of the station. They all have different "day" jobs and different reasons why being an on call firefighter suits their lives, some do it for the money, some do it because they like being part of a team and some do it because they love getting extra qualifications and skills that they can then put on their cv. But all of them do it because they know how important it is to their community, not just the community of East Harling, but the WHOLE of Norfolk.

So how can you help? Well if you think you want to apply you can follow this link

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/.../becoming-an-on-call...>

and fill in the forms or if you are unsure and want more info you can visit Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service youtube channel

<https://youtube.com/@NorfolkFireandRescue...>

Lastly, and by no means least if you can't be an on call firefighter you can still do your bit by sharing this with any friends, neighbours or family.



**Aaron Stokoe**  
Certs CII MP & ER

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## BRETENHAM

ST ANDREWS CHURCH



### Carol Service

THURSDAY

21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 6.30pm

Celebrate the Yuletide season in the traditional way. All welcome.

*Refreshments & festive cheer after the service.*

### WEST HARLING CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us for a magical afternoon of festive cheer as we welcome you back to the West Harling Christmas Concert after a five year break!



**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2023**

**Time: 3.00 pm**

**Theme: A Good Old-Fashioned Christmas**

Admission to this enchanting event is FREE for all.

However, we kindly invite you to contribute to a collection during the Concert to support the Churches Conservation Trust, which diligently preserves and maintains this lovely church.

Embrace the festive spirit with a heartwarming Carol singalong with band accompaniment. Seasonal refreshments: Don't miss our scrumptious, festive mince pies, savoury delights, sausage rolls, and mulled wine. Children, you're in for a treat! Every child will receive a delightful chocolate Father Christmas.

Showcase Your Talent: Calling talent of all ages, if you have a hidden talent, we invite you to be a part of our festive celebration! Whether you have a poem you've written, a poem to recite, a song to sing or any other means of contributing to the joyous occasion please contact Ian on 717431, Doug on 717725 or Rosemary on 717893 for further information.

We welcome musicians of all skill levels and instruments to join our band. Whether you play the trumpet, trombone, guitar or any other instrument your musical contributions will be greatly appreciated. If you'd like to participate please contact Doug on 717725. As the church is heated only by the glow of candles, we recommend dressing warmly to keep cosy.

This promises to be an unforgettable event that will warm your hearts and kick off the holiday season in style. Let's come together to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

See you there!

## WEDNESDAY SOCIAL

Come join us for some fun and games, a cup of coffee or tea Bring your crafts, cards, or just yourself...



**Open from  
11am**

**On the 1st and 3rd  
Wednesdays Monthly**



### CHRISTMAS CAROL AND CHRISTINGLEE SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE

3rd Dec: Riddlesworth - Benefice Advent  
Carol Service 6.30pm

10th Dec: Bridgham - Blue Christmas  
Carol Service 6pm

17th Dec: Garboldisham - Carol Service 3pm

Blo Norton - Carol Service 4.30pm

Wretham - Carol Service 5.00pm

E. Harling Carols amidst the Christmas Trees 6pm

20th Dec: Shropham - Carol Service 6pm

21st Dec: Brettenham - Carol Service 6.30pm

22nd Dec: Larling - Carol Service 7.30pm

24th Dec Garboldisham - Crib and Christingle 3pm

East Harling - Christingle 4pm

Rushford - Christmas Service 5.30pm

Bridgham - First Mass of Christmas 8pm

East Harling - Midnight Mass 11.15pm

Garboldisham - Midnight Mass 11.30pm

25th Dec: Wretham - Christmas Day Eucharist 9.30 am

Shropham - Christmas Day Matins 9.30am

Riddlesworth - Christmas Day Service  
Holy Communion 10am

East Harling - Christmas Day Eucharist 10.00 am

31st Dec: East Harling - Benefice Eucharist 11.00 am





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joy signing different songs to your fa-  
vourite tunes, working towards a perfor-  
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East Harling Methodist Church invites YOU to...

### 'Monday Craft Café'

10am-12noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month



Next on 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December

N.B. NO meeting on Jan 1st

In the Hall behind

East Harling Methodist Church.

White Hart Street.

Bring along any craft you would like to, have a chat, and  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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**DIARY DATES 2023/2024**  
For fundraising events, outings etc. in the parishes in the  
Harling United Benefice. Full details appear in the  
magazine

#### DECEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup> EHSSC Whistle Rock & Roll Club 7.30-10.30pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> East Harling Church Community Café 10-12noon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Feline Care Roudham Pop up Shop weather permitting 10 – 1pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> OSH Christmas Lights & Market 1-6pm
- 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> E Harling Church Christmas Tree Festival Decoration
- 5<sup>th</sup> East Harling Film Club OSH 7.15pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> Gardening club trip to the Panto at Bury St Edmunds all welcome! (see advert on P 10)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Bridgham Village hall Wed Social 11-1m
- 6<sup>th</sup> OSH Coffee Morning & Tombola 10 – 12noon
- 8<sup>th</sup> E Harling Church Christmas Tree Festival 4 – 8pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> EHSSC Eyes Down Bingo @7.30pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> E Harling Church Christmas Tree Festival 3 – 7pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> EHSSC Karaoke Night
- 10<sup>th</sup> E Harling Church Christmas Tree Festival 4 – 7pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> West Harling Church Christmas Concert 3pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> Gardening Club Christmas Lunch at the Swan
- 14<sup>th</sup> E Harling Church Christmas Tree Festival 4 – 7pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> E Harling Camera Club Rudd Room EHSSC 7.00pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> E Harling Church Christmas Tree Festival 4 – 8pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> E Harling Church Christmas Tree Festival 3 – 7pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> E Harling Church Christmas Tree Festival 4 – 5pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> E Harling Church Carol Service among the Christmas Trees 6.00pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> Bridgham Village hall Wed Social 11 – 1pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> EHSSC Kids Christmas Party
- 21<sup>st</sup> Brettenham Church Carol Service 6.30pm followed by refreshments
- 24<sup>th</sup> EHSSC Family festivities with nibbles
- 31<sup>st</sup> EHSSC Themed New Years Eve party

#### JANUARY 2024

- 2<sup>nd</sup> No FILM NIGHT in Jan starts again in FEB
- 6<sup>th</sup> NO E H Community Café this month
- 10<sup>th</sup> OSH Coffee Morning 10 0 12 noon
- 16<sup>th</sup> EH WI OSH Dancing Keep Fit with Gary 7.30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Roudham & Bridgham Parish Council at Roudham and Bridgham Village Hall 7.30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> OSH Lunch 12 for 12.30

#### FEBRUARY 2024

- 3<sup>rd</sup> East Harling Church Community Café 10-12
- 6<sup>th</sup> E Harling Film Night OSH

**CONTACT** is published monthly by East Harling Parochial Church Council and. Items for the January edition should be submitted to the editor by email by 12<sup>th</sup> December at the **ABSOLUTE LATEST**.

Please ensure that the sender's name and address or telephone number is included in all communications.

Please don't wait until the last day as we cannot guarantee last minute items will be printed.

EDITOR: email [sue.wall@uwclub.net](mailto:sue.wall@uwclub.net)

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**SATURDAY 2nd December**  
**East Harling Church 10am -12.00 noon**  
Seasonal Cakes and sweet treats together with Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be served all morning. You will find a warm welcome, the opportunity to chat with neighbours and friends, to purchase some home made Christmas Gifts and browse the second hand book stall.  
**Everyone Welcome!**

**Tuesday 5th December**  
**FILM NIGHT**  
In Harling Old School Hall  
Film starts at 7.30 pm  
Open at 7.15pm for crisps, pop-corn, soft drinks, teas & coffees  
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#### CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKE S



Why doesn't Santa eat junk food?  
Because it's bad for your elf!

Doctor, doctor! I'm scared of Father Christmas!

"You're suffering from Claus-trophobia!"  
Which reindeer has the worst manners?  
Rude-olph!

What do elves learn in school?  
The elf-abet!

Who says "Oh, oh, oh"?  
Santa walking backwards!

Who's Rudolph's favourite pop star?  
Be-y-on-sleigh!  
And Finally...

*The CONTACT team would like to wish all  
our advertisers, readers and contributors*

*a very*

*Happy Christmas !!!*