

# Church and Village News for March 2024

Bedfield, Monk Soham, Southolt, Tannington and Worlingworth

All services for Easter on grid on centre pages

Bedfield Good Friday 10.30 am Easter Sunday 10.30am

Monk Soham Good Friday 9.00am Easter Sunday 11.00am

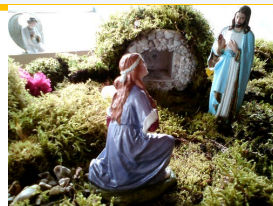
Worlingworth Good Friday 11.00am Easter Sunday 11.00am



## EASTER GARDEN: AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH:

Date: Saturday 30th March. Time: 11.00am.

You are invited to join in creating an Easter Garden from greenery/ flowers/bark/ moss and stones. All Ages Welcome to join in this lovely activity.



## Good Friday & Easter Day at Monk Soham

Sung Litany at 9 a.m. Good Friday, this is a short service with two hymns, based on a collection of prayers, the Pastoral Quire will be in attendance, and will lead the singing, all are welcome to come and join in.

On Easter Day 11am Holy Communion, with Easter Hymns and all are welcome. We hope that the people who normally decorate the church windows etc for the Easter Day service will kindly do so again this year.



Easter Messy Church led by Rev. Enid will take place in the benefice four schools during March.

**MESSY CHURCH** took place in Worlingworth and Bedfield primary schools during Epiphany where crafting of angels, snacks and games and stories were enjoyed by the children who also received a fair trade chocolate angel. Eighty children plus some adults attended messy church in the Four Rivers Benefice.

News from Worlingworth Community Centre.

**Film Club:** *Polite Society 3rd Feb* This engaging, funny and feisty film follows the story of two sisters Ria and Lena Khan who embark on a fast-paced, hilarious, ludicrous and highly enjoyable family heist.

The next Film night: *Trolls 3 Band Together, Saturday 9th March* Trolls 3 is a delightful animated gem, offering a fun and feel-good family movie experience. The movie provides an explosion of colour and peppy animation. The script is packed with boy-band humour, sibling love and snippets of catchy pop songs. **Doors open at 5pm. Bar open.**

**Summer Fair: SAVE THE DATE: 29th June 2024.** A Summer Fair sub-committee has now been created to move forward with the planing of a family fun day on 29th June. Over the coming months we will be advertising for volunteers to help with the planning and running of the day. Watch this space for further information...

## **Bingo: Next Bingo night is the Easter Special 13th March, eyes down at 7:30pm.**

**What are we fundraising for?** The project to modernise the curtains in the hall has been completed, a big thank you to all of those involved in the planning, making and fixing of the curtains and blinds - they look amazing! We are currently fundraising to update the larger folding tables in the hall, moving forward with plans to replace the tin shelter near the car-park with 2 x 6 seater wooden 'pods' and we will be undertaking some essential gutter and eaves maintenance and renovation in



The Post Office in **Bedfield** is open every Tuesday morning from:

**9.15 am to 11.15 am** in the Community Hub.

You'll be aware that Banks are closing or have closed in nearby towns.

**Did you know?** Not only can you buy stamps and send parcels, **but you can also bank cash into your bank account and withdraw cash (even if you bank with another provider)**. With so many high street banks closing this is a useful service.

**The pop-up Coffee Shop** also opens every Tuesday from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Warm scones are always available to eat in or takeaway. Come and join us for a cuppa and a catch up with friends and neighbours.

**Can you help?** The Coffee Shop welcomes volunteers to help run the weekly event. If you would like to get involved, helping occasionally, please contact us at: [Bedfieldmonksoham@btinternet.com](mailto:Bedfieldmonksoham@btinternet.com)

### **Pilates At Bedfield and Monk Soham Community Hub**

Places are still available on Tuesday evenings either 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. or 7.15 p.m. – 8.15 p.m.

**Special Offer** - new starters will receive the first session free.

Please contact Emma Hodson for more information on 07914 535448 or email: [pilatesbodyharmony@aol.co.uk](mailto:pilatesbodyharmony@aol.co.uk)

### Bedfield XI Football Club Fixtures - March 2024 ( all Sundays )

3rd March - Bury Bowl FC vs Bedfield FC (Division 2 Cup semi final) - Away

10th March - Bury Bowl FC vs Bedfield FC (League) - Away

17th March - Bedfield FC vs Thetford Wanderers FC (League) - Home

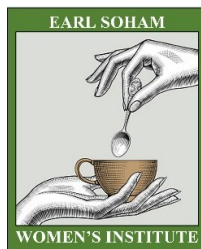
24th March - Thetford Wanderers FC vs Bedfield FC (County Cup semi final) - Away



**Earl Soham WI** A thriving, growing and friendly group. We hold interesting, informative and fun meetings. These are usually on the 4th Thursday of every month 7.00pm at Brandeston Village Hall. New members from Earl Soham and the surrounding villages/areas are most welcome.

**8<sup>th</sup> Mar – 7.00pm Brandeston Village Hall**

Birthday Meeting. A light hearted evening with Robin and Sue Franklin



## Letter for March Parish Magazines From Revd Enid

March is the season when spring is almost sprung and we are seeing signs of new life emerging all around us. However, it is also a month when we can still have some unpleasant weather surprises if we are tempted to put new plants out too early. We have to temper our excitement at the improving weather with a little caution.

Similarly, as Christians, we are going through Lent; there are exciting signs of life but we still have the sting in the tail of Good Friday, the uncertainty of Holy Saturday, before the glory of Easter Day when Jesus rose again. We are definitely progressing towards our goal, but we need to take our time reflecting on what Jesus is trying to teach us in this journey, taking time to reflect on the terrible sacrifice he made in order that we could have eternal life. It is very tempting to rush over the bits we don't like with the suffering and death, in order to get to the celebration, but we short change ourselves if we do. If something is too easy, it has no real worth. The things we actually really value in life, an education, a career, a good relationship for instance, or a good and holy Easter, involve work, effort and maybe some sacrifice on our part. We can't just rush in, or we end up with something shoddy that cannot withstand the pressure of real life.

Let's spend some time dwelling in the preparatory times of life, laying the foundations for a solid and prosperous future. A preparation that will sustain us, even when we inevitably go through future difficult times. That is real life rather than a child's fairy story.

I pray that God will bless you in these liminal times of preparation, and grant you a rich harvest for your patient investment of time and effort. God bless you Revd Enid

**Southolt village hall said hello to many people on Saturday, who enjoyed home made soup and cake. Thank you all who came and raised £330 towards the hall maintenance. See you again soon.  
Maureen Flannery and Gill Richardson.**



## **The Bedfield Town Estate    Registered Charity no 207196**

Consultation with Bedfield residents regarding the Bedfield Town Estate's charitable purposes.

The trustees have been reviewing the wording of the charity's deed, which was set up in 1883 to benefit the church, the school and residents who were considered deserving within criteria at that time. This was before the NHS and Benefits System was in existence.

In order to comply with the Charity Commission's requirements, we need to update the wording of our deed and its purpose with regard to the above. Whilst the distributions for the church and school would remain, we would like to be more flexible with the remainder of our funds. The current wording of the deed limits our ability to support wider village projects, for example the Bedfield 'Community Hub' which is a resource that benefits residents in a more inclusive way.

We are therefore consulting with all residents to allow for comments.

We propose a period of 4 weeks for this from the end of February. Please address any comments to Rebecca Waterman (clerk) [rwaterman@gmx.co.uk](mailto:rwaterman@gmx.co.uk) or by letter Rose Cottage, Back Hills, Botesdale, IP22 1DW by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**Pizza at Swan car park in March**

**14th and 28th**

**Home delivery on Tuesdays in all villages Please call**

**Emma on 07921 512052 ( but need to book early)**

## **The Debenham Project**

January is the traditional month for reviewing the past year and looking forward to the new. So, it is also with The Debenham Project, and why the trustees and the leaders of our groups, activities and services get together to hear about and discuss the whole breadth of the Project – What we do, how many we support, what it costs, the benefits, and what we could do better this year. During the year we tend to concentrate on our individual bits of the Project as volunteers and participants and rarely think about the spectrum of support we offer and whether we would like to know more about one or many of the other bits. So here they all are:

**Carers Club/Info Café; Fit Club; Lunch Clubs; TLC (Talking, Listening, Caring) Group; Post Diagnosis Support; Songs for Sharing; On-line Support Package; Events; Website; Information and Advice; Transport; Publicity and Promotion; Project Management; Funding and finance.**

All of it is based upon the very real needs of local carers and those they care for. The amazing generosity our community, and often (sadly) by donations made in the memory of those loved ones and friends who have passed away. Please do let anyone you know who might be struggling to care for a partner, mum, dad, relative, friend or neighbour about The Debenham Project, or if you would like to become a volunteer with us, to call me on 01728 862003.

With all my thanks and best wishes, Lynden Jackson [www.the-debenham-project.org.uk](http://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk) ; 01728 862003 ***Carol Garrett***

Dates for your Diary ( more details in April Magazine )

**Worlingworth Jumble Sale** Community Centre Saturday April 6th 12.30 to 3.00 pm

**Supper Quiz Night, Worlingworth Community Centre** organised by  
Worlingworth WI Saturday April 20th 6.30pm start

## **Open Gardens, Bedfield**

**29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June**

The Friends of Bedfield Heritage are organising a weekend of Open Gardens in our village.



Would you consider sharing your garden? It doesn't have to be both days.

Offers of help and baking goodies are also welcome.

Please contact Debi on 07974 220669 or Lin on 07743 369920 for more information.

**Easter Bingo Night Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

**@ Worlingworth Community Centre**

**Doors open 18:45, eyes down 19:30**

**Cash Prizes, guaranteed £100 jackpot or more depending on numbers. £12 for your books. 18+ Only as cash prizes!**

**Amazing Easter Raffle.**

**Bar Open Come and join the fun**



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# Bedfield and Monk Soham Tennis Club



## **THE TENNIS COURT IS OPEN AGAIN!**

After the combination of bad weather and poor playing conditions over winter, which prevented playing tennis on our court, we are now very pleased to announce that the tennis court on Bedfield Playing Field has opened again for play for members of the Tennis Club and their guests.

Club sessions are on Saturdays 10.00-12 and Wednesdays 2-3.30pm. These sessions are also open to non-members.

Tennis Club members have access to the court at any time.

Further details about the club, which is open to the whole community, (not only Bedfield and Monk Soham, but also the surrounding villages) can be found on the website

<http://bedfield.onesuffolk.net/clubs-pubs-groups/tennis-club/>

Membership enquiries email: [bedfieldmonksohamtennis@gmail.com](mailto:bedfieldmonksohamtennis@gmail.com)

Court bookings (optional) email: [martinpierce@hotmail.com](mailto:martinpierce@hotmail.com) or phone 01728 627141

## **BEDFIELD AND MONK SOHAM GARDENING CLUB**



I'm pleased to let you know the date of our first meeting this year. **March 8th at 7 pm in The Hub, Bedfield, IP13 7JE.** In response to past requests, we spring into action with an informative, professional presentation on **Propagation** given by **Luci Skinner of Wootens Nursery, Wenhaston.**

Non members are most welcome (£5 per non-member, to inc. tea/coffee and cake).

We look forward to welcoming you. Please do contribute any seasonal 'clear-outs' of part-used or surplus seed packets or seasonal garden seed collections to our **community seed share**. It is available to all, whenever Bedfield Hub is open. Labelled packets or envelopes of seeds, please. Also enjoy looking through to see if there's anything you'd like to grow.

For further information, please contact Barbara Lee  
[gardenclubgarden@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubgarden@gmail.com)

## News from Worlingworth Primary school

**SEND Success** The school has been praised as ‘*a beacon of inclusive practise*’ following a recent monitoring visit by the Specialist Education Services. The report further highlighted that the school has ‘*a whole school approach to inclusion which is needs-led. The school knows their children well and care for them deeply; this fosters a strong sense of community and belonging which is evident to visitors*’. The school was delighted to have its hard work recognised and continues to strive to support every child to flourish and be understood.

### New Topic – What A Load of Rubbish

This term our curriculum cog is ‘Care & Community’ and our new whole school topic provides children with the opportunity to learn about how we can work together to care for our planet, to reduce, reuse and recycle and take the plastic out of the oceans. During this month, we will be joining thousands of schools by taking part in the **Big Plastic Count** – counting the amount of plastic we throw away each day for a week! The results of the investigation will reveal how much plastic we are throwing away in the UK, and find out what really happens to it afterwards. The children hope it will be used as evidence to get the government to think

**Eco Book Week** Reading is the golden thread of our school and this month we are having a special book week with an environmental theme. The children will spend time reading and listening to a variety of books which focus on how to look after our planet. From their reading they will participate in writing activities linked to the themes and ideas discovered in their books. The week will begin with a chance for children to come to school dressed up as a book character or an endangered animal and to celebrate our favourite books and also what we love about the planet we live on. Throughout the week there will be special reading moments – buddy reading, cosy reading with family members and my time. There will be book swaps, book mark making and the week will end with an author, James Campbell visiting the school to read his new book ‘Don’t Panic, We Can Save The Planet’ and to lead some fun sessions about being a writer with the children. Every child will end the week by making their own pledge to do one thing to help our planet.

**Rainbow Values** In Collective Worship this term, we will be exploring the value of kindness and how this is taught in the bible and demonstrated by Christians around the world. We will reflect and pray for thanks for the many acts of kindness in our world and encourage the children to demonstrate this value in all that we do. Rev Enid will lead an Easter Messy Church session for the children in school, encouraging the children to explore the events of the Easter story and what Easter means for Christians. Our Collective Worship Ambassadors will be creating a prayer space for Lent, encouraging us to think about what we would like to leave behind this Lent.

### Willows Nursery

Our full-time nursery is thriving and caring place full of curious learners. We always welcome new parents to come and visit our Early Years class and see our curriculum in action so please contact the office if you would like to arrange a visit .

### For updates and further information about the school :

Please log on and take a look: [www.worlingworthschool.co.uk](http://www.worlingworthschool.co.uk) . You can also follow us on Twitter:

@WorlingworthSch and facebook: Worlingworth.School. There are lots of wonderful photos on our website and information about our curriculum and values which give a flavour of life as a pupil here.

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## Four Rivers **March** Church Services.

<b>Benefice</b> 9 Churches <b>2024</b>	Sunday 3rd. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Sunday 10th. Mothering Sunday	Sunday 17th. 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	Sunday 24th. Palm Sunday
<b>St. Nicholas Bedfield.</b>		<b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion CS		<b>10.30am</b> Family Service EP
<b>St. Peter. Monk Soham.</b>		<b>11.00</b> Morning Prayer RA	<b>11.00</b> Holy Communion RA	
<b>St. Ethelbert. Tannington.</b>				
<b>St. Margaret. Southolt.</b>				
<b>St. Mary. Worlingworth</b>	<b>11.00</b> Morning Prayer BCP LE BS	<b>11.00</b> Let's Celebrate  LE BS	<b>11.00</b> Holy Communion CW CM	<b>11.00</b> Morning Prayer CW RA
St. Lawrence Brundish.	<b>9.00am</b> Holy Communion  CS			<b>9.00am</b> Holy Communion  RA
St. Mary. Cratfield.	<b>9.00am</b> Village Worship LE SP	<b>6.00pm</b> Evening Prayer EP		<b>9.00am</b> Holy Communion EP
All Saints Laxfield.	<b>10.30</b> Celtic Morning Service LE	<b>10.30</b> Morning Praise  CM	<b>10.30</b> Holy Communion  EP	<b>10.30</b> Fourth Sunday Worship FS Team/CS
St. Mary. Wilby.	<b>10.30</b> Village Worship EP	<b>10.30</b> Holy Communion EP	<b>10.30</b> Village Worship LE SP	<b>10.30</b> Morning Prayer CM
<b>Zoom Services Online</b> <b>Celtic Prayer Wednesdays 7pm.</b> <b>Celtic Prayer Fridays 9.00a.m.</b> <b>To join us, email: <a href="mailto:rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com">rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com</a></b>			<b>If no service is scheduled at your local church, you will</b> <b>be warmly welcomed to any sister church.</b>	
<b>The Lectionary Year B</b>	Ps. 19 Exodus 20:1-17 1Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	P Ps. 34:11-20 Exodus 2:1-10 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:33-35	P Ps. 119:9-16 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	P Ps. 118:1-2,19-end Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

**Services may not be as listed above. If you wish to confirm the time and format, please telephone**

# March

For Pastoral Care, Baptisms, Wedding or Funeral arrangements

**Friday 29th.**  
**Good Friday**

**Sunday 31st.**  
**Easter**  
**Sunday**

please contact: Rev'd Enid Pow 01986 743093  
Priest-in-charge. [revid4drivers@gmail.com](mailto:revid4drivers@gmail.com)  
Please note: Friday is Rev'd Enid's day-off

**10.30am**  
Easter Garden  
CS

**10.30am**  
Family Communion  
CS

**Churchwardens. Elders. Contacts. Tel:**  
**St. Nicholas.** Jenny Hinchey 07710 218957  
**Bedfield** Rev. Chrissie Smart 01728 627838

**9.00am**  
Sung Litany  
RA

**11.00**  
Family Communion  
RA

**St. Peter.** Rev. Rebecca Artiss 01728 685663  
**Monk Soham.** **Geoff Artiss** 01728 685663

**St. Ethelbert.** **Chloe Cross** 07714 734756  
**Tannington.**

**St. Margaret.** Secretary,  
**Southolt.** Sarah Drnec 01728 627949

**11.00**  
At the Foot of  
The Cross  
LE BS

**11.00**  
Family Communion  
RO

**St. Mary. Ww** **Ann Davidson** 07807 588485  
ChW & LE BS **Bert Stanford** 01728 628474  
Ch. Secretary. Val. Swallow 01728 628068  
LLM MS Lay Minister. Mark Sheard

**9.00am**  
Family Communion  
CS

**St. Lawrence.** Rev. Chrissie Smart 01728 627838  
**Brundish.** Tina Smiddy 01379 388298

**9.00am**  
Family Communion  
CM

**St. Mary.** Andy Edmunds 01986 798523  
**Cratfield.** Rev. Clive Mobbs 01986 798030

**10.30am**  
Easter Garden  
EP

**10.30**  
Family Communion  
EP

All Saints **Jackie Turton** 01986 798618  
Laxfield.  
Lay Elder. LH Liz Hammond 01986 798726

**10.30**  
Good Friday  
CM

**10.30**  
Family Communion  
CM

**St. Mary.** **Mary Pipe** 01728 723443  
Wilby. **Rob Barber** 01379 388040  
Lay Elder. SP Sheila Pipe 01728 723443

al church, you will  
urch in the benefice.

Hangings removed.

\* Denotes  
Self Supporting  
Minister }

Ps. 118:1-2,14-24  
Isalah 25:6-9  
Acts 10:34-43  
Mark 16:1-8

**Clergy. Monday is Rev'd Chrissie's day off.**  
Rev. Enid Pow. Priest-in-charge. 01986 743093  
Administrator. Virginia Skoyles 07900 350117  
RA \* Rev Rebecca Artiss 01728 685663  
CM \* Rev Clive Mobbs 01986 798030  
CS \* Rev Chrissie Smart 01728 627838  
RO \* Rev Ron Orams. *Retired* 07721 682183  
LE = Lay Elder licensed to Benefice LH SP BS

a Churchwarden or LE in the Parish.

BCP=Book of Common Prayer. CW=Common Worship



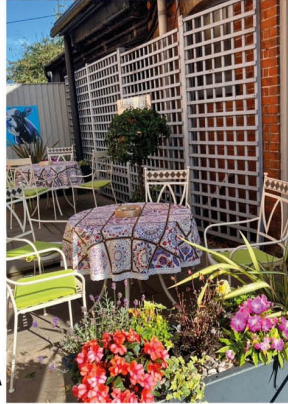


HuttonsOfEarlSoham

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

01728 685259

The Street, Earl Soham, IP13 7SA



## IAN LOCHHEAD.



It is with regret that we have to tell you that Ian died peacefully in Malta on the 27th December with all his family around him.

He and his wife Elizabeth were great supporters of St Mary's, extremely generous with their time and gifts to our church. The second feast painting, the handbells completely restored and a new box made for them, a Union Jack flag in a new oak box were just a few of their contributions.

They assisted and supported all fundraising events and gave many donations.

Support was also given to our school, local businesses and many individuals during their time at the Red House.

St. Mary's and those who knew Ian and Elizabeth are so grateful for all they did, both together and individually.

## Willows Nursery School

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7HX

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## WORLINGWORTH AND TANNINGTON WI

Worlingworth Community Centre

Wednesday March 6th 7.15pm *Speaker Dr Geoffrey Kay*

**Death, Sex and Drugs - the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood**

*More details Val 01728 628068 Diana 01728 628077*

**HIGH SUFFOLK COMMUNITY BUS (HSCB)- Weekly services to :**

**Framlingham - Tuesdays, Diss - Fridays (Not 29th)**

**March - Bury 6th, 16th Stowmarket 14th, 21st, 28th**

**Norwich 9th, 27th Woodbridge 2nd**

More details Alan 01728 685694 / Val 01728 628068 All Timetables  
available on [www.combus.org.uk](http://www.combus.org.uk)

Defibrillator	locations
Worlingworth	Outside Community centre building
Bedfield	Village Hub, and Worlingworth cricket club Pavilion
Monk Soham	Jewsons outside gates



**The next meeting of the Parish Council is on  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm  
in the Community Centre, all are welcome  
[worlingworthparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:worlingworthparishclerk@gmail.com)**

Minutes of previous parish council meetings can be viewed on the village website at [www.worlingworth.onesuffolk.net](http://www.worlingworth.onesuffolk.net)

### **Report on public meeting to discuss flooding in the village**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to come to the public meeting at the Community Centre on 21<sup>st</sup> February where representatives from the County and District Councils and Anglian Water responded to resident's concerns about the recent flooding. Flood Investigation works have already started in Worlingworth and Newtown and affected residents will be contacted for more information about their own personal experiences in due course. Local knowledge will be key in helping to work out what can be done to mitigate future risks. The County Council has a template to capture key information to summarise the impacts of Storm Babet, this template is available from the Parish Clerk, just email [worlingworthparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:worlingworthparishclerk@gmail.com) and a copy can be sent across to you.

### **One Network**

County Councillor Matthew Hicks has a quick reminder about the website [one.network](http://one.network) a free-to-view website, with large ranging sources of roadworks and traffic disruption information in the UK. The [one.network](http://one.network) map enables highway authorities to communicate authoritative up-to-date information about roadworks, events and other activities on the highway. Users can register for email alerts about upcoming roadworks affecting their area and it can also provide live traffic information.

### **Grants available to plant more trees**

The Parish Council does have funds available to offer small grants to people who wish to increase the numbers of trees in our parish. If you would like a native tree planted in your garden, or if you have a larger area that could take more, then please contact the Parish Clerk who can pass on your details to our Tree Warden, Francis Muldoon.

### **Website Update Emails**

If you would like to subscribe to a mailing list to receive notifications of when updates have been posted to the village website, please email [worlingworthparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:worlingworthparishclerk@gmail.com) with "PC Alerts" in the subject line. Your email address will not be used for any other purpose.



## Bedfield Church of England Primary School

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich  
Diocesan Multi Academy Trust

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed... nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20-21



## Village Newsletter March 2024

### School Trips

Maple Class have been looking at the illustrations of Martin Waddell in Owl Babies so they spent an enjoyable day at The Owl Sanctuary at Stonham Barns. The children learnt lots of interesting facts about the different birds and watched a flying display.

Ash Class visited Suffolk Food Museum to learn how agriculture has changed since the Victorian times. They also learnt about the types of jobs they would have done on the farms.



### Reading Cafe

We were delighted to have Mrs Plowman, our English Coordinator, from Wetheringsett here on 1<sup>st</sup> February to lead a Reading Café for parents and children. The afternoon was a great success and has set the way for other cafes. We hope to hold a maths café in the Summer Term.

### Class Assemblies

Ash and Oak classes have both presented assemblies to parents. Ash enjoyed talking about their Science topic of

Sound and about all they have learnt about local history, in particular interesting facts they have learnt about the school during the Victorian times.

Oak class transported us back in time to 793AD when the Vikings attacked Lindisfarne Monastery and also read their poems inspired by James Carter.

### Sports

A small group of children attended Boccia, a precision ball sport event led by High Suffolk Sports Partnership. We are also looking forward to Orienteering and Netball.

As part of our sports curriculum we are looking forward to joining with Wetheringsett for Bollywood and African dance workshops.

### FABS Fundraiser

FABS held a 'Break the Rules Day' as a fundraiser for the school. The children came in with crazy hair and odd socks.



Letter from Rev Clive Mobbs on his recent visit to Kagera

Dear Friends,

Bwana asifiwe (Praise the Lord – the regular greeting throughout my stay.) What an adventure I have had during my trip to the Kagera region of Tanzania. The journey, the people I travelled with and the people I met, so much to tell and hopefully sometime soon we can find an occasion to share all this with you in more detail.

Amongst the highlights were worshipping with local congregations in rural churches – a very different experience to church in Suffolk, the time spent shadowing the hospital chaplain at Murgwanza Hospital and spending the day with Thomas Shavu, a community development project manager.

I have come back with so many thoughts and new perspectives. My overall impression was of a community and local leadership with a plan and the drive to improve their lot, starting with relatively little in the way of resources but not letting that stop them getting started – in fact that is what their motto has been. In recent years it was “We have a plan – lets get started.” Now they have moved on to “We have started– let’s make progress” – which they are doing but as I mentioned with comparatively few resources progress can sometimes seem frustratingly slow until some quite basic things are in place – clean and reliable water sources, universal education and access to health care, for example. Against this background, communities are also facing problems associated with climate change without the systemic resilience to ride the wave of rapid weather changes. Most farming in Kagera was at a subsistence level and few people have reserves to see them through difficult times or to make the next step towards sustainable prosperity even within the context of their quite basic expectations.

I have two asks of you. There are immediate needs and there are longer term needs and I do not think that offering assistance at either level is mutually exclusive.

**The most immediate need** that I encountered was within a school unit for children with additional needs – here 120 young people were living in pitiful conditions. They lived in dormitories sleeping four to a bed but many of the beds were broken and without mattresses and there were insufficient blankets and mosquito nets – **Mosquito nets cost £3, blankets £5 and a mattress £20.** If you think you can help with a donation, then please do.

**Donations can be made through the benefice bank account, (Four Rivers Benefice, 20-98-07 a/c 53300382).** The staff at the unit were doing their absolute best to care for these young people in the most difficult of circumstances.

In the longer term I would like to garner your support for raising funds to help the communities we visited address one of their most basic needs – access to reliable and clean water supplies. This could be either *Thanks Clive*

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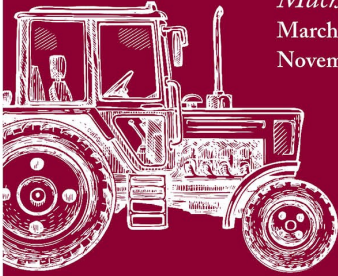
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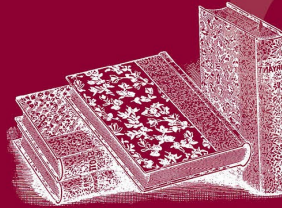
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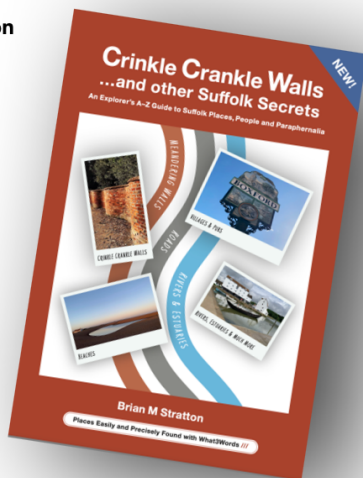
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**About the Author:** Brian has been writing reference and text books since 1988 and this is his latest publication. With a keen eye for detail and forensic in-depth research, Brian provides a fresh look at Suffolk. His engaging style of writing ensures his books are easy-to-read, informative and entertaining.

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