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**March 2026**  
Issue 451

# Quartet

**The Parish Magazine**

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



Severe weather can cause power cuts and the following advice comes from The Met Office for vulnerable people for whom a power cut could cause them health problems:

Sign up for the Priority Services Register (0800 111 999) in case of power cuts - this is a free service provided by water and power suppliers for older and disabled people, or if you depend on electricity to keep medical or mobility equipment running.

For the general public who are experiencing a power cut a call to 105 will give you details of your local network operator who can offer details about how long the power cut is likely to last, is it in the local area or is it just your property, safety advice, etc

Two seater sofa by Derwent, 66" long X 36" width. Fire retardant, £10 buyer to collect.

Contact 07703498508



A pair of fire retardant arm chairs £10 buyer to collect, one pictured

Contact 07703498508.



### Help us with our campaign!

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



## Small Ads Pin Board

No charge for non-commercial ads placed for one month only, space permitting. Email [quarteteditor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:quarteteditor@hotmail.co.uk)

# Quartet Diary

Details of events can be found within the magazine. **It would be advisable to check with organisers if regular events are happening. We may not have been informed of last minute changes - especially close to the New Year!**

### March

3 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM  
Community Garden Holton  
Raydon Parish Council Meeting

4 SSM Mums and Tots  
Stitch Sewcial SSM  
Raydon Social Club

6 SSM Youth Clubs  
Holton Social Club  
FFOTMLC - Holton

7 Green Gym Holton

9 SSM Parish Council Meeting, Village  
Institute

10 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM  
Community Garden Holton

11 SSM Mums and Tots  
Stitch Sewcial SSM  
Raydon Social Club  
HSM Parish Council Meeting

13 SSM Youth Clubs  
Holton Social Club

14 Lent Lunch SSM

17 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM  
Community Garden Holton

18 SSM Mums and Tots  
Stitch Sewcial SSM  
Raydon Social Club

19 Slow Stitch Holton

20 SSM Youth Clubs  
Holton Social Club

21 Higham Church Maintenance  
Morning

26 R&DGC Meeting Night

28 HSM Social Club Games Afternoon  
Raydon Pop Up Sale

### April

2 SSM Mums and Tots  
Stitch Sewcial SSM  
Raydon Social Club

3 FFOTMLC -  
SSM Youth Clubs  
Holton Social Club

4 Green Gym Holton

7 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM  
Community Garden Holton  
Raydon Parish Council APM

8 SSM Mums and Tots  
Stitch Sewcial SSM  
Raydon Social Club  
Holton St Mary APM

10 SSM Youth Clubs  
Holton Social Club

11 HSM Social Club Quiz Night

14 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM  
Community Garden Holton

15 SSM Mums and Tots  
Stitch Sewcial SSM  
Raydon Social Club

# Editors Corner

Around this time in the year, when things are relatively quiet, it's AGM time for the Quartet team. We got together over a cup of coffee and had a think about the past year. To be honest, we didn't come up with anything exciting or earth shattering, just thankful that we had made it through another year. The budget is looking healthy enough, thanks to the extra support of some very kind individuals earlier in the year and we were all thinking we are ready to see what this year holds.

Thank you to everyone who sends in articles large or small telling us about local events coming up, or reports on things that happened - you are the magazine really, it would be nothing without you!

Thank you too for our regular commercial advertisers. Without your support we couldn't afford to print the magazine every month. It's often the advertising budget that gets cut if the funds are low.

So here we go again, events, messages, reports, local businesses and hopefully useful information for you living in the parishes.

We'd always love to hear from you if you can think of any ways we can improve, but in the meantime,

Happy reading!

Anne and Jane.

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



Copy deadline for next edition:  
**19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

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# Rev'd Manette Writes

Dear friends,

Like the changing seasons of the year the church moves through its liturgical cycle. On 18th February we observed Ash Wednesday which also marks the beginning of Lent. Sadly, this is not a great tradition in the four churches of our benefice and only ten of us gathered for a very moving service in Higham. The Ash Wednesday service included the opportunity to receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads with ash made out of burnt palm crosses. This custom reminds Christians of our human mortality and the importance of reconciling with God. But we also reflected on God, our loving Father who wants nothing more than to be reconciled with us, as shown in him sending his son Jesus for our redemption.

During March we journey through the season of Lent. We mark Mothering Sunday on 15th March with Café Church in Stratford's Parish Room at 9.30 and a service in Holton at 10am. We then remember Jesus' Passion during the days of Holy Week before we come to the great feast of Easter Day on 5th April.

April will also bring a big change for our Benefice. As many of you already know, I will be retiring from stipendiary parish ministry after nearly 5 ½ happy years in our benefice and the Easter Day service at 10am in Raydon will be my last service. It would be lovely if many of you from all our villages could come and mark this special occasion.

It has not been an easy decision, but the past few years have not only been extremely busy for me but also very difficult on a personal level. Now I need some time and space to reflect and refocus, and to do

some of the things I had hoped to have time for when I came here at the end of 2020 in between the two Covid lockdowns.

I won't be moving far away and I hope that friendships will continue. I am certainly planning to be back for the occasional event ...

During the vacancy, our churchwardens will be very busy as they will have many additional responsibilities, as will some of our other volunteers. Perhaps, if you haven't got involved in our churches yet, you could do so now and join one of our PCCs or lend a helping hand here or there? We would love to hear from you.

This year our annual meetings (APCMs) will take place on the following dates:

Higham – 28th April, 7.30pm in Church  
Stratford St Mary – 5th May, 7.15pm in the Parish Room

Raydon – 6th May, 11am in Church  
Holton St Mary – 7th May, 7pm in Church.

I wish you all a good Lent and I will pray for you and for our churches as I hope you will for me.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Manette



# Stratford St Mary



## In Stratford

Hall Farm Shop Cafe and Restaurant  
www.hallfarmshop.com

Anchor Inn [www.stratford.pub](http://www.stratford.pub) 01206 322143  
The mobile pizza co - 07982 427483

Kate Baines, Virtual Assistant - 07799 391343

Andy Smith Roofing - 01206 322882

Jackson Plumbing and Heating - 01206 322063

Nigel Bruce Electrician - 01206 322751

John Burrell Bespoke Bedrooms - 07734700507

Print, Marketing, Design - [gill@nexuscpp.co.uk](mailto:gill@nexuscpp.co.uk)

tim germain - furniture designer-maker. [www.germain.co.uk](http://www.germain.co.uk)

Gary Moye, plasterer - 07807 314911

Katrina Wade, Physiotherapist 07968 964826

Pampered Village Paws - Tel 07747482313

KSB Home Improvements - Tel 07736 944 474

R .Crick & Co Ltd, roofing and scaffolding servs Tel 07759714854

Alexander Painting and Decorating - 07729178182

Kevin. Pet and House Sitting services 07753 539393



2026 is officially the Year of Reading, and the Ipswich Star and East Anglian newspapers have launched their new Born & Read campaign to help inspire a love of reading and writing across the communities.

There will be a token collection competition from 7 March – 16 May, giving our school the chance to win a share of £12,000 worth of brand-new books, simply by collecting tokens printed in the Ipswich Star and East Anglian newspaper titles.

If you or anyone you know has this newspaper/s please can you ask them to collect the tokens for us. If you have any tokens, please drop them off at the School Office.

Thank you,

Miss Jones

## Stratford Chapel

Upper Street, Stratford St. Mary

**Leaders:** Phil Wyncoll & Bill Richardson

**Youth Leaders:** Jamie & Beckie Wyncoll

We are an Independent Evangelical Church encompassing and providing for all age groups. We particularly specialise in the areas of Children's and Youth work, Bible teaching and Evangelism. All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you!

### Services and Groups:

Every Sunday

10:30 - Morning Worship and Junior Church

18:30 - Church Pray Meeting (Currently on Zoom)

Mondays (Every two weeks)

20:00 – Bible Study on Zoom

Tuesdays (Every two weeks)

19:30 – Discipleship group at the Chapel

20:00 – Bible Study on Zoom

Every Tuesday

10:00 – Coffee Morning at the Chapel

Every Thursday (term time)

09:00 to 11:00 – 'Little Sparks' Stay and play group for under 5's

Every Friday (term time)

17:00 - 'Sparks' Youth group for Years 3 to 6 (Please register by contacting Beckie on the email below)

19:30 - 'Ignition' Youth group for Years 7 to 11

**Website** (currently under construction)  
[stratfordstmarychapel.com](http://stratfordstmarychapel.com)

**General Enquiries:** Margaret Chapman (01473 311436 or [stratfordstmarychapel@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordstmarychapel@gmail.com))

**Youth and Children Ministry Enquiries:** Jamie and Beckie Wyncoll ([sparksandignition@gmail.com](mailto:sparksandignition@gmail.com))

## WHAT'S ON

INSTITUTE HALL

WHEN	ALL WELCOME
every MONDAY 2.00pm	SILVER SWANS ADULT BALLET £9.00 <a href="mailto:Itschoolofdance23@gmail.com">Itschoolofdance23@gmail.com</a>
*TUESDAY 6.00pm	DANCE MOVEMENT £8.00 <a href="mailto:barefootascalmovement@gmail.com">barefootascalmovement@gmail.com</a>
*TUESDAY 8.00pm	BODY BALANCE £10.00 <a href="mailto:Becky@bcalm.co.uk">Becky@bcalm.co.uk</a>
every WEDNESDAY 10.30 am	STITCH SEWCIAL MINDFUL CRAFTING £2.00 <a href="mailto:stitchsewcial@gmail.com">stitchsewcial@gmail.com</a>
WEDNESDAY 7.30pm	DANCE TO 50'S/60S MUSIC £7.00 <a href="mailto:esthersewing@gmail.com">esthersewing@gmail.com</a>
*THURSDAY 7.15PM	HYGGE COMMUNITY CHOIR £6.00 <a href="mailto:jaquie.choir@btinternet.com">jaquie.choir@btinternet.com</a>
THURSDAY 5th 9.30am	THE MAZE COFFEE MORNING FREE <a href="mailto:amanda.towns@themazegroup.co.uk">amanda.towns@themazegroup.co.uk</a>
*FRIDAY 3.45 - 4.45pm	FOOTBALL FUN £7.00 <a href="mailto:info@footballfunday.co.uk">info@footballfunday.co.uk</a> 07585 959529
TUESDAY 10th & 24th 9.00am - 5.00pm	*NEW* WORK & CONNECT £15 shared working space <a href="mailto:gill@nexuscpp.co.uk">gill@nexuscpp.co.uk</a>
FRIDAY 13th 7.00pm	BREATHING WORKSHOP £25 <a href="mailto:laura@baselinebreathing.com">laura@baselinebreathing.com</a> 07710467254
FRIDAY 20th 7.00pm	PAINT 'N SIP £30 <a href="mailto:info@sunflowerartistry.co.uk">info@sunflowerartistry.co.uk</a> 07468 522463
SATURDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 10am-2pm	STEP INTO SPRING £75 PERFUME MAKING WORKSHOP <a href="mailto:Becky@bcalm.co.uk">Becky@bcalm.co.uk</a>

Classes marked \* operate term time only  
TO HIRE email: [ssminstitute.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:ssminstitute.bookings@gmail.com)



## Stratford St Mary Parish Council

future meeting dates:

Monday 9th March 2026 - Village Institute

Monday 13th April 2026 - Parish Room

Monday 27th April 2026 - APM Parish Room

Monday 11th May 2026 – AGM Village Institute

Monday 8th June 2026 - Parish Room

Monday 13th July 2026 - Village Institute

Monday 14th September 2026 - Village Institute

Monday 12th October 2026 - Parish Room

Monday 9th November 2026 - Village Institute

Please find below some information from the Stratford St Mary Parish Council meeting held on the 9th of February 2026:

Planning Application DC/25/05618 – Constable Country Childcare planning application for the former ABC nursery site. District Councillor Ward advised that this application is going to Babergh Planning Committee on the 04.03.26 for a decision to be made. Members of the public are welcome to speak at the meeting to give their views and will get 3 mins to do so. If anyone would like to do this then they must pre advise Babergh in advance of the meeting.

All Expenditure was agreed and signed off

The ANPR camera is scheduled to come to Stratford St Mary on the 11.05.26 to 18.05.26 and will be located outside Hay Barn on Dedham Road.

The PC agreed to write a letter to James Cartlidge MP with regards to the ongoing issues of flooding on the B1029 Dedham Road.

Neighbourhood Plan – the PC are looking into the option of creating a joint Neighbourhood Plan with the surrounding villages of Holton St Mary, Raydon and Higham. Residents will be invited to a public meeting being held at Raydon on the 04.03.26 to gauge opinion.

The Parish Council currently have a Councillor vacancy – if anyone is interested or would like to find out more then please email the Clerk – Parishcouncil@stratfordstmary.org.uk

The minutes of this can be found on the Stratford St Mary Parish Council website <https://stratfordstmary.onesuffolk.net/>.

### Stratford St Mary Parish Room

Our comfortable, well-equipped hall in the centre of the village is open and available for hire. Please contact our new bookings clerk for more information or to make your booking by emailing [ssmparishroom.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:ssmparishroom.bookings@gmail.com) or contact Paul Ranson on 01206 322156 or 07870 388184

PARISH ROOM

WHAT'S ON

EVERY MONDAY 10.00AM	MOBILITY FITNESSCLASS £5.00 Mark Thompson 07708 856925
EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY	TABLE TENNIS COACHING £POA Rik James 07900 154579
EVERY 1ST MONDAY 7.00PM	CRAFT EVENING £3.50 Maddy Kaye <a href="mailto:maddykaye1@protonmail.com">maddykaye1@protonmail.com</a>
EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY 2.00PM	CARPET BOWLS £2.00 Eileen Platford 01206 323463
EVERY TUESDAY 6.00PM	YOGA MIXED ABILITY £7.50 Sarah Brazington 07891290193
FRIDAY MONTHLY 12.30PM DATES TBC	LUNCHEON CLUB £10 Christine Cousins <a href="mailto:cousinsc303@gmail.com">cousinsc303@gmail.com</a>
SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 12-2.00PM	LENT LUNCH (DONATION £8) Christine Cousins <a href="mailto:cousinsc303@gmail.com">cousinsc303@gmail.com</a>
FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 7.00PM	A VILLAGE LIFE FREE EVENT EASTER WREATHMAKING BRING & SHARE Julie Alexander 07989 639583

TO HIRE contact Paul Ranson  
email: [ssmparishroom.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:ssmparishroom.bookings@gmail.com)



SSM First Responders AGM will be held at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms on Tuesday April 14th. Everyone is welcome to come along and hear how we have got on over the last year and about the upcoming year

It's back – by popular demand!

### The Big Breakfast

Save the date... Saturday 18th April in the Parish Room.

Not to be missed!

### Stratford St Mary Parish Room

LENT LUNCH MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>  
12.00 – 2.00



Do join us for a delicious bowl of homemade soup, followed by bread & cheese. No need to book – just come along

*All proceeds to Christian Aid as part of our Lent Appeal*

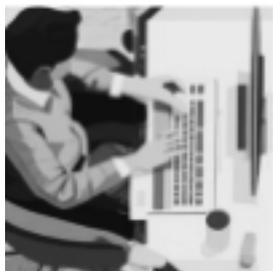


## Stratford St Mary Work & Connect

*Flexible shared working space in the Village Institute*

*Starting 10 March 2026, then fortnightly on Tuesdays.*

- Open 9am-5pm
- £15 per day
- Inc. Desk, Chair, Monitor & Cable
- Great WiFi
- Quiet room available
- Refreshments & Sweet Treats
- Pre-bookable for convenience



**BOOK HERE!**



# Higham

Our four villages are blessed with four lovely ancient Churches and every Easter on "Good Friday" we hold a walk of witness which tells a story (on the wild side) which means we can walk most of the time off road which means safe walking for you, your children and any dogs (on leads in some parts) Why not join in the fun enjoying hot cross buns and coffee, a picnic hopefully outside enjoying the sunshine (most years) as well as good company and some fantastic views on route and who knows what nature and animals we may see.

We assemble at Raydon Church 8.45am for 9.00am start. Car parking & toilet available. Leaving at 9.30am we walk to Holton Church arriving 10.30am. At 10.45am we cross to Holton village hall for hot cross buns and coffee, donations please to cover cost. Car parking & toilets available here. Then walk to Stratford Church arriving 12.30pm. Then walk down to the parish room where we can eat our own picnic lunch either inside or out (weather dependant). Hot drinks, car parking, and toilets available. And finally, we walk to Higham Church arriving for 3.00pm and a short 30 mins service in Church to finish the day. Toilets & car parking available.

Essential items include good walking shoes / boots, bottled water, picnic, walking stick, For those who cannot walk any or all route why not come by bike or car and join us at each Church etc..

Look forward to meeting you all,  
Geoff Horrex.

**In Higham**



Karl Chisnal - mower repairs.  
07557771721

Brett Valley Installations 07896 054439



## Higham Church Maintenance Morning – Saturday 21st March 2026

We are planning a Spring cleaning and maintenance day at the Higham church on Saturday 21st March between 9.30am and 1pm. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor jobs to be done and we would be very grateful for some help from anyone who can spare a bit of time on Saturday morning. Refreshments will be provided.

## Higham APCM Meeting – Tuesday 28th April 2026

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th April in the church. It is open to all on the Church electoral roll.

# Raydon

## In Raydon



Blackwell Barn Holiday Let - [www.cottages.com](http://www.cottages.com)

Phil Avery Electrician 01473 311261

Ashley Short Carpentry 01473 311226

SW Stiff Builders - 07811 005241

Earth&Turf Garden Services -  
07922078241

DIY Livery - 07710 540926

Chef Neil - 07584 573474

Swift Garden Services - 07947 322429

Franklyn Nevard - Architect 07515  
351894

Fresh Eggs - Roadside stall Fox Farm

MS Surveys Chartered Surveyors -  
01473 249020

Lotus Bloom Yoga - 07788660893



Lift available from Raydon to any Sunday church service in the Benefice, please phone 07703 498508.

Look forward to some company

Wendy Mumford

**Raydon Sports and Social Club**  
Your Community Club

Live Sporting Events      Quiz & Party Nights

The Pavillion, King Georges Playing Field, Raydon

**Sunday - 12:30 - 15:00**  
**Wednesday - 19:00 - 22:00**

Regular and guest ales  
Wine & Cocktail Specials  
Large selections of 0% drinks

**We welcome all new members**

Dogs Welcome  
With well behaved owners

## POP UP SALE

SATURDAY MARCH 28th  
beside the stall 10am-12 noon  
Books, Bric a brac, jig saws  
And other interesting items large  
and small

In aid of St Mary's  
Raydon fabric fund



## KING GEORGE'S FIELD, RAYDON



### NEEDS YOU!

The "King George's Field, Raydon" charity is working hard to deliver a new pavilion in the village and is looking to expand the Board by recruiting new Trustees to help spread the workload involved with taking this exciting project forward. We are looking for volunteers, based in Raydon or in any of the surrounding villages, who can bring additional skills and expertise to complement those of the existing Trustees. In particular we need people with a background in:

- secretarial work    · administration
- Finance    · accounting    · legal

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee, can offer expertise in one of the above areas, and are willing to give your time on a voluntary basis please contact Rex Coleman (07930 622966 or [rexcoleman@outlook.com](mailto:rexcoleman@outlook.com)) for further details.

## Litterpick

We have held a litterpicks in the past and our next planned date in 2026 is: Saturday 18th April 10am-12noon starting at the KGF. Picking equipment and havis is provided. Please bring your own gloves. A couple of hours of your time would make such a difference. As the above are self help activities insurance cover is organised by Raydon PC. As a token of thanks some light refreshment will be provided. Sign up for either or both by emailing [clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call Jayne on 07887 767478

## RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk - Stacey Lowe 07944  
968011 [clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Chairman: Keith Lovering  
Jayne Tann      Theresa Halloran  
Lorraine May      Chris Chambers  
John Smith

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

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

### Raydon Parish Council Meeting Dates 2026:

Meetings take place at 7.30pm in the KGF Pavillion.

3rd March,      7th April - APM  
5th May - AGM      2nd June,  
7th July,      1st September,  
6th October,      3rd November

### Raydon Council needs you.

The Parish Council can have up to nine councillors and currently we have five. We would like at least two more residents to get involved in the running of the village affairs.

The councillors can get as involved as their time and commitment allows. The minimum set up for Raydon is to attend ten monthly meetings. There are lots of initiatives individuals can take working as part of the Council.

To be able to work on these and other great improvements to village life in both Raydon and Lower Raydon we need hands on support to make things happen

Please either email the clerk on [Clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or phone the chair 07939 075143 or email

[Cllr.keithlovering@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.keithlovering@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We are happy to have a chat about the role and the great feeling of involvement and accomplishment it can bring you.

# Raydon and District Garden Club

March is always nice for many things, and above all that's to start looking forward to Springtime in earnest, as the snowdrops & aconites (cheering us all ) in February with the early promise of what's to come once again, as they start to fade and the daffodils take over. Writing these shortened notes on yet another very wet Sunday I do wonder how long it will be before we get very dry weather and the watering cans come to the fore !!!

Hopefully, our start to monthly meetings got off to a great start with guest speaker Imogen Morsman and a good number of members turning up to listen all about Compact Trees and taking tips of what to buy for your gardens.

Now this month on Thursday 26th our meeting is all about "Daffodils" and how appropriate is that. Darren Andrews is our in-house speaker so please come along and give Darren your support for what will be another fantastic night. This is followed by our Spring Show on Saturday 18th April, then on April 23rd our guest speaker will be Matthew Tatton Brown on subject of pruning. Yet another fascinating and interesting talk

Your committee as always looks forward to meeting you all at any of our club events.

Geoff Horrex. 07810086143



Raydon & District Garden Club  
1880 - 2025  
**Daffodils**  
And The Reverend Engleheart  
Presented by  
**Darren Andrews**  
Thursday March 26th  
7.30 p.m.  
KGV Pavilion, Raydon  
New Members Always Welcome  
Raffle & Refreshments

Raydon & District Garden Club  
1880 - 2025  
**Spring Show**  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
2.30 p.m.  
Refreshments  
Raffle  
KGV Pavilion  
Raydon

## Raydon Sports and Social Club

As our article has to be prepared in advance for submission to the Quartet we are still in February - and a very wet one it is. But by the time you read this we will be coming out of winter and Spring will be in the air – a time for optimism and renewal. When events fall outside the Quartet's submission deadline we will communicate via email and/or our facebook page.

We enjoyed a very good turn out for our screenings of the Six Nations Rugby on our "Big Screen" with England a convincing winner in their first game. I am encouraged and pleased that we were joined by members of Holton St. Mary's community and hope more of our sporting enthusiasts will attend the remaining screenings. England's games will be screened on Saturday March 7th at 16:40 and hopefully the big one on 14th March at 20:10. An opportunity and time to express optimism at least in the sporting world! Come and join us - as Mick Hampton says to "shout at the screen, jump up and celebrate and curse the ref for being so observant"!

The RSSC's annual "Thank You" event is always appreciated by our Members and this again proved to be very successful evening.

Our last quiz in 2025 went down a storm and back by popular demand we are holding our first Quiz of 2026 on 28th March. Mick, our ever popular quiz master will again be at the helm. He is already busy gathering new trivia and questions – he has been heard to say recently "Oh is that right – that's a good one for the Quiz". We are changing the format of the evening by reducing the cost of tickets to £5.00 per head and asking those who attend to bring their own choice of snacks and nibbles to be enjoyed with a beer or two in addition to our usual bar list. There will be a big welcome to all residents of our community.

To assist in organisation this will be a ticketed event which will be available in the Pavilion or by emailing us at Raydonssc@gmail.com.

As for future plans, a Bingo night is on the horizon. These nights have a proven track record providing an easy and fun event and believe the residents of our community will add to that record. So watch this space for details.

Before moving on at such a pace to future events I think we should take a moment to appreciate the valuable asset we have in the Pavilion. As so many pubs and hospitality businesses are facing extremely difficult choices as increasing costs begin to bite, we are in the favourable position of having our faithful volunteers who tend the bar to serve drinks at very competitive prices and our RSSC committee members to organise events for the Raydon community to enjoy. We are currently planning future social events – even December 2026!! These will be posted on our Facebook page and of course in the Quartet.

On a different note I am also keen to increase the range of social events that can be held at the Pavilion, which would appeal to a larger group within our community. The "Paint & Plonk" event which was held in the Pavilion proved very popular and was a sell out. I am now exploring whether an on-going and hands on floristry course would be feasible and of interest to you. So please watch this space for updates and be ready to learn the art of floristry.

Enjoy March, Janet Campbell

# Holton St Mary

 In Holton

Ann Mason Care - 01206 233372  
Therapy Gyms Ltd - 01206 692524  
Hazelton Plumbing and Heating -  
07448152693  
Freshen up Decorating 07900 242 141

## Holton St Mary Millennium Green Trust

At a recent meeting of the Trustees the situation regarding the beacon was discussed at length. When it was installed in 2005 the nearby trees were not an issue but their growth since then has made lighting the beacon impossible. The beacon is set in a large amount of concrete and the Trustees propose cutting it off and building a timber support so that the basket is lower. If this is then set on wheels it can be moved into the middle of the Green away from trees when being lit. We would welcome any comments you may wish to make regarding this idea.

Marjorie Haste  
marjorie.haste@gmail.com  
07855 691674



The First Friday of the Month Lunch runs in the Village Hall of Holton St Mary on the first Friday of every month from 12:30 until 2ish.

It is a community light lunch for £5 and is all about getting together, having a chat with others in our community, over a tasty lunch, prepared by a variety of wonderful volunteer cooks and supporters. .

So we break even and don't over or under cater, please let Sally or Frances know if you would like to attend. And if you have to pull out at the last minute we can often bring you a takeaway meal that will beat any ready-meal!

Sal Thurlow 07721 625313 or messenger via FB, WhatsApp or email [salthurlow@gmail.com](mailto:salthurlow@gmail.com)  
Frances Torrington - via FB or email [familytorrington@btinternet.com](mailto:familytorrington@btinternet.com)

## Green Gym

Our next session is on March 7th and we meet in Church Square. We work from 10.30 to 12.00 on the first Saturday of each month. Do come along and join if you would like to. Thank you.

## Holton St Mary Parish Council

The date for the next meetings are:  
11th March 2026 at 8pm  
8th April 2026 - Annual Parish Meeting  
6th May 2026 - Annual General Meeting

## Join Us for the Holton St Mary Social Club Quiz Night!

 **Date:** Thursday, 11th April 2026  
 **Time:** Doors open at 7:00 PM, quiz starts at 7:30 PM  
 **Price:** £15 per person

 **Book Your Spot:** Email Owen McNamee at [HOLTONSMSC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HOLTONSMSC@GMAIL.COM)

 **Quiz Master:** The one and only Tony Howard!

### What's Included:

- A fun-filled quiz night
- Exciting prizes to be won
- Delicious chippy dinner 🍷
- Table service for your convenience

### Don't Miss Out!

These events are always a hit, so gather your dream team (up to 6 people with maximum of 13 teams) and secure your spot now! Spaces are limited and it's first come, first served.

 **Payment:** Cash or card accepted on the night.

Get ready for a night of laughs, trivia, and tasty treats – we can't wait to see you there! 🗣️ 🍴 🎵



## The Village Hall

Holton St Mary Village Hall remains a valued facility in our Village and we are looking for more people to help us continue to run it as a charitable trust and to contribute to how we raise money to refurbish it. Without a viable committee our Village Hall could struggle to stay open.

If you have skills around fundraising or applying for grant funding, and a little bit of time and could help, we need you. If you wanted to contribute your time and skills only to the refurbishment, we could co-opt you on to that sub-committee. Meanwhile, our management committee meets twice a year, with representatives from our community, The Parish Council and the Social Club, and we have two vacancies on this group, either as Trustees or as management committee members.

Please consider volunteering to contribute in our community

Contact Sally Thurlow [salthurlow@gmail.com](mailto:salthurlow@gmail.com) or Jan Cheng [jan.cheng@gmail.com](mailto:jan.cheng@gmail.com)

## Holton St Mary Village Hall

**To book the Village Hall for your event or regular club or class, please contact. Tanya Kunz on 01473 311570**



Finally we are beginning to see a few more warmer days and it's been lovely to find the snowdrops reappearing under the apple trees again. The water butts are full, the trees pruned and Chris has been busy making things in the garage again. If you look carefully when you next come down to the Well Piece, see if you can spot 'Buggingham Pallets' it's fit for a king!



You can also get involved, or find out what's happening, by joining the Whatsapp group here:

(Scan with the camera in Whatsapp)



## vintage vibes village style

Are you interested in a local table top sale in the HSM village hall?

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April from approx. 12 pm. £5 per table.



SCAN this QR code to register interest or email [secretaryholtensmsec@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryholtensmsec@gmail.com)



## SLOW STITCH

Slow Stitch group will be meeting as usual on the third Thursday of the month, from 2-4pm, in the village hall.

Newcomers and beginners are always welcome.



## Manningtree & District Photographic Society

Last month club members enjoyed a field trip, a talk by Kevin Pigney on Seascapes, Landscapes and Long Exposure Photography, and an open colour print competition.

Our programme for March is as follows;

Saturday 7th March – Photography Marathon (5 hours to take 10 images on themes given on the day)

Thursday 12th March – Club workshop – Table Top

Thursday 26th March – PDI Competition - Abstract and/or Minimalism

Our club website has information about membership and activities together with competition results, photo albums and further club information. Our 2025/2026 programme is also on the website. Our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also features various club news and activities.

This month's featured image by Nigel Humphries was the winning image from our recent print competition – The Built Environment.

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



If you have an interest in photography, at whatever level, you would be most welcome at M&DPS. We meet at Mistley Village Hall, on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays of the month between September and May at 7.30pm.

For further information please contact our Secretary Pat Ainger on 01206 231242 or email: [madps@post.com](mailto:madps@post.com)

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

An older person becomes a fraud victim every 40 seconds in the UK and nearly 75 percent of attempted frauds against older adults are conducted via telephone, with 60 percent through voice calls and 11 percent via text messages

### Safety Advice – Pass it On

If you receive a suspicious call about your bank account or finances, hang up immediately and dial 159. This free service, now available to 27 UK banks and building societies covering over 99% of UK current accounts, connects you directly to your bank's fraud team, helping protect you from financial scams.

Fraudsters often create a sense of urgency, pressuring you to move money or share personal details quickly. Remember - your bank will never ask you to transfer money to a 'safe account' or pressure you into making immediate decisions.

If in doubt, always hang up and call 159 to verify whether the call was genuine. Since its launch in 2021, over one million calls have been made to 159 so taking a moment to check could save you from significant financial loss.

Posted by Able Community Care – Nationwide Live-in Care Provider. [www.ablecommunitycare.com](http://www.ablecommunitycare.com) for our information pack, please call 01603 764567



Fierce, emotional, reflective, beautiful, haunting...these are just some of the ways to describe the Requiem in B flat minor by Antonin Dvorak which will be performed by Hadleigh Choral Society on Saturday 28th March at St Mary's Church in Hadleigh.

All are invited to attend this concert which promises to be an incredible experience. Joining the choir will be the Colchester Symphony Orchestra along with professional soloists, and Christopher Phelps will conduct the evening which will start at 7:30pm.

Tickets are £18 or free for those in full time education, and are available online, at The Idler bookshop in Hadleigh, or through choir members.

For more information visit [www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk).

## Stour Valley U3A

We have over 40 interest groups including walking (from strollers to 5+ milers), theatre trips, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, international dining, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel ..... there's something for everyone. If we don't have a group you are interested in, you are welcome to start one up. Membership costs only £15 a year.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, Gaston Street, East Bergholt. Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join.

Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt, CO7 6TP. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

Please take a look at our website [www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley) for more information and contact details.

## St. Mark's Roman Catholic Parish

**St. Mark's, Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ**  
**Holy Family Church, Ipswich Road, Brantham CO11 1TB**

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Luke Goymour  
 The Presbytery, 180 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ  
 Tel: 01473 684963 [revgoymour@gmail.com](mailto:revgoymour@gmail.com)  
**website:** [stmarksparish.org.uk](http://stmarksparish.org.uk)

**Father Luke's Sunday sermons are available at [anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour](http://anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour)**

### Keeping calm in the storms of life

The story of Jesus calming the storm in Mark's Gospel (4 v 35-41) is a powerful reminder of faith in the midst of chaos. When the disciples were terrified by the fierce winds and waves, Jesus simply spoke and brought peace to the storm. This passage encourages us to trust in Jesus when life feels overwhelming, knowing that even in our most anxious moments, he is present and able to bring calm. It invites us to deepen our faith and to remember that no storm is too great for him to handle.

### Weekday and Sunday Masses and devotions

Please consult noticeboards and the parish website in case of weekday mass changes:

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

**Sunday Holy Family, Brantham 8am and St. Mark's, Ipswich 11.15am.**

**Tuesday Holy Family** 10.00 mass, with Stations of the Cross at 9.15

**Wednesday St. Mark's** 09.30 mass

**Thursday Holy Family** during Lent 9.20 Adoration followed by Rosary at 9.50

**Friday St. Mark's** 12.15 mass, with Stations of the Cross at 11.40.

### The Sick & Housebound

Please let Fr Luke know of anyone who is ill at home, housebound or in hospital, so that they may receive appropriate pastoral care, he can be contacted on 01473 684963. If you or a family member is in hospital you can also contact the Catholic Lay Chaplain to Ipswich hospital: [hospitalchaplain@stmarksparish.org.uk](mailto:hospitalchaplain@stmarksparish.org.uk)



## BERGHOLT BRIDGE CLUB

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No need to bring a playing partner we can provide you with one!

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 Gaston Street  
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Monday evening at 7pm.

Want to know more?  
 Call Jayne : 07887767478.



## CAN YOU SAVE A LIFE? FREE CPR SESSION

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**Session will start @ 2:30pm**



This informal session is open to everyone including teenage children and it will last for about 90 minutes, where you will learn or practise life-saving skills including how to use a defibrillator

**For more information please contact Carol Moss on [ecarol.moss@gmail.com](mailto:ecarol.moss@gmail.com)**

# Bin collections

March 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

 Refuse Week  
 Recycling week

Changes to waste collections from June 2026  
 From June 2026, nationwide changes to waste collections will give households more opportunities to recycle. Weekly food waste collections will be introduced, making it easier to dispose of unusable or expired food items. Expanded recycling services will allow more items to be included in your recycling collection. These changes mean a new collection schedule is required. Full details, including your updated collection calendar, will be sent to all households nearer the time.

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

*Do you want a recommendation?* 

**The Layham Queen** take out service on Fridays & Sunday Roasts - Steve and Tannith are very community minded and give a very good service  
**Simply Thai** Manningtree - It was simply delicious! Freshly cooked, and arrived within the quoted time frame. 01206 396060. Delivers to Holton St Mary **Zaynab** and **Mother Indian** at Capel. Really good and highly recommend. They don't deliver, but it's made quickly.  
**Brantham Bull** 01473 328248  
**Lucca Enoteca** Manningtree 01206 390044  
**Oranges & Lemons** East Bergholt 01206 299000  
**the florist in East Bergholt** does lovely flowers:- [www.gayedrummond.com](http://www.gayedrummond.com)

**Sam Pritchard** [sam@samselectrics.co.uk](mailto:sam@samselectrics.co.uk)

# Local Services

## MOBILE LIBRARY

### Stratford St Mary - Route 11

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

March 11, April 8, May 6, June 3, July 1, July 29, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16

Tally Ho! Corner - 10.15 am - 10.30 am  
 Strickmere (School Lane end) - 10.35 am - 10.50 am

### Route 14

The bus stops every 4 weeks on Tuesdays

March 17, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Sep 29, Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 22

### Holton St Mary

Church Square - 9.30-9.45 a.m.

### Raydon

King George's Field car park - 9.50-10.30 a.m.

### Lower Raydon

Sulleys Hill - 11.30 - 11.45 a.m.

### Higham

The Green - 11.55 a.m. to 12.10 p.m.

The **customer service line 01473 283838** is staffed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday and can handle any library customer queries renewals and reservations to any general library queries. An answer phone is available outside of operating hours and people can also email [help@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:help@suffolklibraries.co.uk)

## The Constable Country Medical Practice

Heath Road, East Bergholt, Colchester CO7 6RT

### Surgery opening hours

8.00 a.m. – 6.30 p.m. Monday to Friday  
 Telephone 01206 298272

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

### Surgery opening hours

8.00am – 6.30pm Monday to Friday

Dispensary 8.30 a.m. – 6.15 p.m.  
 (closed between 1-2pm)  
 Telephone 01473 310203  
 Fax 01473 311722

## Crime prevention

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

PC 1347 Gilkes Pcco 3041 Cooper  
[babergheast@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:babergheast@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)  
 Telephone...101

## Your District and County Councillors

### District Councillor: John Ward

Leader, Babergh District Council  
 Phone: 07802 414981  
 Email: [john.ward@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:john.ward@babergh.gov.uk)

### County Councillor: Georgia Hall

Email: [georgia.hall@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:georgia.hall@suffolk.gov.uk)  
 Phone: 07955 434445  
 Both have correspondence addresses at Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road Ipswich IP1 2BX.

# Local Directory

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- Hedge Cutters
- Gas Jet Equipment
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Email - [kchisnall@bt.com](mailto:kchisnall@bt.com)

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<p>☎ 01206 580 780          🌐 <a href="http://www.susannewhitesolicitor.co.uk">www.susannewhitesolicitor.co.uk</a>          ✉ <a href="mailto:susannewhite@setfords.co.uk">susannewhite@setfords.co.uk</a></p>	

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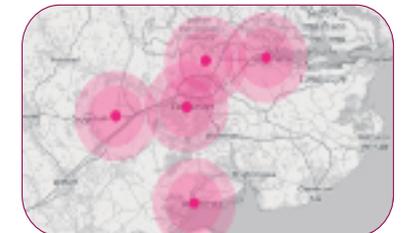
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## **BENEFACTIVE CONTACTS, SERVICES AND EVENTS**

**Rector:** Rev'd Manette Crossman: Tel. 07947 737789  
 Email: [revmccrossman@gmail.com](mailto:revmccrossman@gmail.com)

**Lay Elder:** Sandy Ranson 01206 322156 - Email: [sandyranson29@gmail.com](mailto:sandyranson29@gmail.com)

Your Parish Churches are here for you. If you have recently moved into one of the villages, do get in touch. We would love to meet you, and it doesn't matter whether you are a regular or occasional churchgoer or don't really attend church. If you live in the benefice or have links to one of the villages, we are here to help you with Weddings, Baptisms or Funerals. Please get in touch with Rev'd Manette or one of church wardens.

We have an active prayer ministry in our benefice. If you would like us to pray for you or for someone you know, or if you would like to add someone to our prayer list (do check with them first), please let Rev'd Manette know.

For Home Communion, please get in touch with Rev'd Manette who will be happy to arrange this for you.

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

**Benefice website: [www.4marys.org.uk](http://www.4marys.org.uk)**

### Churchwardens:

- Higham** Churchwarden Hugo Parker 01206 337234  
 Assistant warden Martyn Carr
- Holton** Churchwarden Richard Noel 01206 298276  
 Churchwarden Paul Torrington 01473 312046
- Raydon** Churchwarden Geoff Horrex 07810 086143  
 Assistant warden Simon Tennent 01473 310320
- Stratford** Churchwarden Sandy Ranson 01206 322156  
 Assistant warden Christine Cousins 01206 322530

### Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Martin O'Brien Tel. 07964 543718 - Email: [martinobrien@orwellpark.org](mailto:martinobrien@orwellpark.org)

## Church Services for March

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March:** 10am Stratford Morning Worship  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent*

**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March:** 10am Higham Parish Communion  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent*

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March:** 10am Holton Service for Mothering Sunday

9.30am Stratford St Mary Café Church (in the Parish Room)

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March:** 10am Raydon Parish Communion  
*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent* *Talk: Julian Crisp*

*Come and welcome Julian & Kristen as they share an update about their Mission 'Feeding Faith' in Guatemala*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March:** 10am Stratford Service for Palm Sunday

**Monday of Holy Week 30<sup>th</sup> March:** 7pm Compline Holton

**Tuesday of Holy Week 31<sup>st</sup> March:** 7pm Compline Higham

## Looking ahead to April

**Maundy Thursday Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 7pm in Stratford**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April:** 10am Raydon - Benefice Service for  
*Easter Day* **Easter Day & Farewell to Rev'd Manette**

*More information about service during Holy Week in the April edition of the Quartet.*

*All our services are followed by coffee & cake / biscuits. Do stay for fellowship and a chat. It's a good way to meet people if you are new to one of the villages.*

*If you have any questions, please get in touch with Rev'd Manette or one of the churchwardens.*

## Café Church every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Café Church will be meeting in the Parish Room on Mothering Sunday, **15<sup>th</sup> March 2026, beginning with breakfast at 9.30am.**

Join us for an informal breakfast of pastries, cafetière coffee / tea and orange juice, and sometimes we have cake as well!

Café Church is an informal friendly gathering for all generations. If you are on your own, come and enjoy breakfast in a family setting.

We look forward to seeing you!



## **Benefice Bible Study / House Group**

The next House Group session will be on **Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm.**

Date for your diaries: April meeting of the House Group on **23<sup>rd</sup> April**

Please get in touch with Judith, Sandy, Christine if you would like to know more.

## **Sunday Services in the Benefice**

Our regular Sunday service pattern usually looks as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Stratford - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Higham  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Holton - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Raydon

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday services move around the benefice, dates for 2026 are as follows:**

**29<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday with Communion in Stratford St Mary**  
**31<sup>st</sup> May Trinity Sunday in Raydon**  
**30<sup>th</sup> August 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity in Higham**  
**29<sup>th</sup> November Advent Sunday in Holton St Mary**

## **Prayer pointers for the Benefice**

Please pray for the couples who are preparing to get married in our churches this year.

We pray for all those who are ill, among them Peter Snelling, Nicky Bull, Amanda Berry, and Vivienne Wilkinson, and any others who need God's healing and wholeness.

We remember all those who have died. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We remember with gratitude Bill Woods-Ballard and Coleen Keeble. May all who mourn be held in God's love and comforted in their grief. And we bring before God all those who have had to come to terms with the loss of a young life cut short. May they know God's healing presence as they mourn.

### **A Prayer for Renewal for Lent**    *(Based on Psalm 51)*

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Heavenly Father, silence the noise in my soul. Empty me of cravings for things of this world that do not truly satisfy. Fill me with the bread of your presence and the living water of your mercy".

Amen.

### **A few housekeeping rules**

The four beautiful churches in our benefice are open for visiting every day during daylight hours.

If you are visiting our churches and churchyards, please treat these ancient places with respect. Children and dogs are very welcome, but children are the responsibility of their accompanying adults. Grave monuments belong to the families whose loved ones are buried there, don't allow your children to walk on graves or climb on gravestones.

This is dangerous and disrespectful and hurtful for the families involved.

And last but not least, we welcome dogs in our churches and some churchyards provide water bowls, too. But please clean up after your dogs and place any waste in the bins. Our volunteers work hard looking after our churches and churchyards, please help us to keep them tidy and in good condition. Thank you!