

November 2026
Issue 459

Quartet

The Parish Magazine

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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STRATFORD ST MARY
PRESENTS

AN EVENING WITH
THE REVEREND MANETTE CROSSMAN



The Resistance in the Netherlands
"Saving persecuted Jews" as told through family stories
(Het verzet in Nederland over het "Redden van vervolgde Joden"
verteld aan de hand van familie verhalen)

At The Parish Room, Upper Street,
Stratford St Mary,
Friday 13th November 7pm

Ticket Price: £15 (including wine and refreshments)

For tickets please contact : Christine Cousins (0779 164 8806) or Sandy Ranson (0770 660 2749)
All profits to go to Stratford St. Mary Parish Church



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. We will contact them and see if they would like a **free listing** in the Quartet

SHOP LOCAL

Small Ads Pin Board

No charge for non-commercial ads placed for one month only, space permitting. Email 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!**

November

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

4 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social Club
SSM School Open Day

6 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Bonfire Night
FFOTMLC - Holton

7 Green Gym, Holton
Bonfire Night, Raydon

9 SSM Parish Council Meeting, Village Institute

10 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton
SSM Village Life Meeting

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

13 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
SSM Evening with Rev'd Manette

16 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton

17 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social Club

19 Slow Stitch Holton
Higham Parish Meeting

20 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club

21 SSM Quartet Villages Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

24 Higham PCC meeting
Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton

25 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social Club

26 R&DGC Meeting

27 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
SSM Village Life Wreath Making

28 SSM Church Night At The Movies

December

1 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton

2 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social Club

4 SSM Youth Clubs
FFOTMLC - Holton

5 Green Gym, Holton
Phoenix Brass Band, Raydon
Christmas Shopping, HSM

8 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton

9 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social

Editors Corner

Christmas fast approaches and I'm pleased to say many of our village organisations are well on the ball and we have lots of events advertised in this edition. It's impossible for us to highlight some of them here, as they are all so different and valuable in their own way, so we hope you will read through the pages and find a thing or two you feel you can join in with over the Christmas period. I'm sure there will be lots more to come in the December edition!

Don't forget to catch up with the Raydon Traveller on page 16 this month, Episode two is now available!

One last reminder about the December edition - deadline for articles and adverts is again the 19th November, but please get things to us as soon as possible as it's always a squeeze to get everybody acommodated in the pages. We suggest you make sure posters are readable at a quarter page size as it's unlikely we will have room for anyone to make a 'big splash'. We do appreciate you all using the magazine, and hope you as readers find it entertaining and informative.

Wishing you all happy reading once again and hope you don't get too stressed with all the Christmas preparations!

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:
19th November 2026

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Church Writes

The Church Bells of Stratford St. Mary and Higham

Our two parishes are blessed with beautiful Churches, both with significant towers which house clocks and bells. The present appearance of both Churches was completed in the late 1800s.
Both Churches have a set of six bells. Higham's bronze bells were re-cast and re-hung on a steel frame in 1913. Higham's clock which strikes the hours, was installed at the same time.
Stratford's bells were re-hung on an oak frame in 1878 during the restoration of the Church and tower. Three of Stratford's bronze bells are original. One was cast in the late 15th Century, one cast in Colchester in the early 16th Century. Historic records indicate that one of the bells is dedicated to a man named John. We believe that is bell number 4 in the belfry and a 15th Century bell. We reckon that St Mary's Church Stratford has had ring-able Church bells for over 500 years.
The ringing chambers in both Churches are up narrow spiral staircases, both have a number of interesting initials carved into the stonework. Today we would call it vandalism, now, after a hundred years or so, it is part of their history. The bells are housed in the belfry on the floor above the ringing chambers. The heaviest bell at Stratford ("the Tenor") weighs about 840kg (3/4 of a ton in old money). The Tenor at Higham weighs about 300kg (1/3 of a ton in old money).
We have a combined band of ringers and have been fortunate over the years to have known many good friends and excellent ringers. One such talented ringer and teacher was Charlie Ablitt, our tower captain for many years. He taught me and many others, to ring the bells. Another was Brian Such, who sadly died earlier this year. We are very grateful to them, and miss them both.
Our regular ringers come from both of our villages and from further afield. We ring bells for Church services, weddings, other festivals and have been known to ring in the New Year, (not recently, it depends on the sobriety of the available band on the night!).
Bell ringing originated in ancient China. It was introduced to Christian Churches in about 400AD and monks brought the skill with them to Britain in about 680AD. Monasteries rang bells every 3 hours as a call to prayer, local villages used the ringing to judge the time, and in those rougher dangerous times, as a community alert system.
Bell ringing as we know it today "change ringing", developed in the 16th Century with full circle ringing which gives the ringer the ability to control the bell and hold it upright, enabling a bell to change places with another and to ring the changes in a tidy fashion. "Methods" of pre-ordained sequences then developed.

We welcome new recruits, we are a friendly group. If you are interested in finding out what it is like please contact me in Higham on 07768 012588.

If you have stuck with this through to the end, well done and thank you.

With every Blessing,

Martyn Carr
Tower Captain

Quartet Villages Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who has shown interest in the Quartet Villages Neighourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Raydon, Higham, Holton St Mary & Stratford St Mary.

Join us to find out more

Saturday, November 21st
10.30am-12.30pm
at Stratford St Mary Institute Hall
Higham Road, CO7 6LJ

Everyone will have the opportunity to ask their questions, find out what a NDP involves, discuss concerns and generally look at what a Plan might mean for each & every one of us.

NDPs give residents the power to influence decisions about housing; plus have our say about village amenity, sustainability, biodiversity or the natural world, greenspaces, kids play areas, transport, historical assets, farmland and more...

Please send any questions, suggestions or offers of help to your village contact:

Higham - Helena Gurney **highamparishmeeting@gmail.com** **NEXT PARISH MEETING** – Thursday, 19 November at 7.30pm in Higham Church	**Raydon -** Chris Chambers **clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk** **cllr.christopherchambers@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk** **NEXT PC MEETING –** Tuesday, 3 November at 7.30pm in the pavilion
Holton St Mary - Claire Rowan **clerk@holtonstmary-pc.gov.uk** **NEXT PC MEETING -** Wednesday, 11 November at 8pm in the village hall	**Stratford St Mary -** Roger Barrell **parishcouncil@stratfordstmary.org.uk** **NEXT PC MEETING -** Monday, 9 November at 7.30pm in the Parish Room

Care about your village?
We look forward to seeing you in Stratford St Mary on November 21st!

Alexander Painting and Decorating - 07729178182

Kevin. Pet and House Sitting services 07753 539393

Bright Stars Nursery - 07498 185916

Effie Burrell, Executive Coach - effie@synergea.co.uk

Nikki Davis - Play Therapy and Creative Supervision - 07970 626499



POPPY DAY APPEAL – 2026

British Legion Poppies will be available at the following locations in Stratford St Mary for 2 weeks prior to Remembrance Day.

Hall Farm Shop and Restaurant
Swan Public House/Restaurant
Anchor Public House/Restaurant
Garage/Village Shop/PO
Primary School
Rosebank, Lower Street

Hopefully you will support this worthy cause in respect of injured servicemen and women who need your continuing help and support.

Thank you, David Isaac

In Stratford

SHOP LOCAL

Hall Farm Shop Cafe and Restaurant www.hallfarmshop.com

Anchor Inn www.stratford.pub 01206 322143

The mobile pizza co - 07982 427483

Kate Baines, Virtual Assistant - 07799 391343

Andy Smith Roofing - 07754 368693

Jackson Plumbing and Heating - 01206 322063

Nigel Bruce Electrician - 01206 322751 or 07711 225653

John Burrell Bespoke Bedrooms - 07734700507

Print, Marketing, Design - gill@nexuscpp.co.uk

tim germain - furniture designer-maker. www.germain.co.uk

Gary Moye, plasterer - 07807 314911

Pampered Village Paws - Tel 07747482313

KSB Home Improvements - Tel 07736 944 474

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

PARISH ROOM WHAT'S ON

EVERY MONDAY 10.00AM	MOBILITY FITNESS CLASS £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 maddykaye1@protonmail.com
EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY 2.00PM	CARPET BOWLS £2.00 Eileen Platford 01206 323463
EVERY 1ST FRIDAY 12.30PM	LUNCH CLUB £10 Christine Cousins cousinsc303@gmail.com
EVERY TUESDAY 6.00PM	YOGA new! Emma Bloom hello@thelotusbloomyoga company.co.uk
TUESDAY 10TH 7.30PM	SUMMER FETE 2027 MEETUP ALL WELCOME Gill Robinson gkrobinson@mac.com
FRIDAY 27TH 7.30PM	CHRISTMAS WREATHMAKING & FLOWER ARRANGING BRING & SHARE Julie Alexander julie@jj-associates.co.uk
FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER 7.30PM	CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT £5 davepooley53 @googlemail.com

TO HIRE contact Paul Ranson
email: ssmparishroom.bookings@gmail.com

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 or contact Paul Ranson on 01206 322156 or 07870 388184

12th November 2026
6.30pm -9.30 pm In the Parish Room

Festive Lino Cutting Workshop - £30

Contact Sue Bedford - sdbedford@icloud.com

We've made a start!

We have a broad outline for the day, and now we need more volunteers to help bring it together.

No experience needed.
No huge commitment.
Just ideas, enthusiasm & a willingness to help.

HELP US MAKE SUMMER FETE 2027 HAPPEN

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING
Tuesday 10th November 2026: 7.30pm
Parish Room, Stratford St Mary

Come along, hear what's planned, share your ideas, choose something that interests you and give the time you can.

SUMMER FETE 17th July 2027
A village event, planned by the village.
Interested? We'd love to see you there.

Village Life

WHAT'S ON THE INSTITUTE HALL

WHEN	ALL WELCOME
SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER	SAMHAIN GATHERING £38.00 To mark the end of harvest with cacao, breath work & soundbath joe@amatteroficeandbreath.co.uk
*TUESDAY 6.00pm	DANCE MOVEMENT £8.00 barefootrascalmovement @gmail.com
every MONDAY 2.00pm	SILVER SWANS ADULT BALLET £9.00 ltsschoolofdance23@gmail.com
*TUESDAY 8.00pm	BODY BALANCE £10.00 becky@bcalm.co.uk
every WEDNESDAY 10.30am	STITCH SEWCIAL MINDFUL CRAFTING £2.00 stitchsewcial@gmail.com
*THURSDAY 7.15pm	HYGGE CHOIR ALL WELCOME jaquie.choir@btinternet.com

Classes marked * operate term time only
TO HIRE
email ssminstitute.bookings@gmail.com
WWW.THESTRATFORD INSTITUTE.ORG

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

General Enquiries: Margaret Chapman (01473 311436 or stratfordstmarychapel@gmail.com)

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

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust
Annual Ride and Stride 2026

Money from sponsors has now been collected and the total achieved by bikers and donations this year so far was £1070.00. Half of that sum will go to St Mary's Church and the other half will be held in a central fund, from which the church can bid for help with projects and repairs.

Bill D visited 31 churches, covering 84 miles in the allotted time.

Thank you to all who took part and who did a duty watch at the church.

David Isaac

A Night at the Movies

Step into the enchanting world of the silver screen for a very special evening at Stratford St Mary Church.

On Saturday 28th November at 7.30pm, join us for a Night at the Movies with Martin O Brian, Trudi Bishop and The Hygge Choir. Enjoy an atmospheric evening of much-loved music from some of your favourite films.

Sit back, relax and let the music transport you through some of cinemas most memorable moments, performed by candlelight within the beautiful setting of our historic Church.

Guests will be welcomed with sparkling wine and elegant canapes making this a truly special evening to share with friends and loved ones,

Tickets are £20, available from Christine Cousins 07791648806.



The JRSOs continue to promote road safety to the pupils of Stratford St Mary Primary School and the local community.

At the beginning of term, a letter was sent to all parents with a few gentle reminders when dropping off and collecting their child from school.

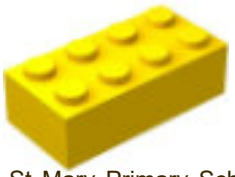
The children and parents have participated in Cycle to School Week – Monday 5th – Friday 9th October 2026 and the children took part in a 'design a bike competition'.

The children have taken part in a road safety workshop run by the Road Safety Education Team.

The JRSO's are planning to take part in 'Road Safety Week' which will take place during the week of Monday 16th to Friday 20th November 2026. This year's theme is 'Safe People on the Move'.

The JRSOs would love to hear from the community if you have any ideas or concerns about road safety in Stratford St Mary.

Miss Jones and the JRSOs



Stratford St Mary Primary School will be collecting the LEGO® Education Tokens which will appear in the Ipswich Star and East Anglian Daily Times, from Monday 28th September to Monday 30th November 2026. If you have any tokens, please drop them off at the School Office. Thank you for your support.

Stratford St Mary Church

From the church registers – June – September 2026

Weddings:

· 17th July George Bateman & Isabelle Baker
· 25th July Matthew Linscott & Layna Bennett
· 8th August Samuel Bower & Harriet Baker

Funerals / Interment of ashes:

· 2nd June Interment of Ashes – Helen Gregory
· 2nd July Funeral Service – John Symons
· 10th July Interment of Ashes - Gill Sherifi
· 18th Sept. Funeral Service and burial in the churchyard – Douglas Wright
· 22nd Sept. Thanksgiving Service for Brian Such

Christmas Wreath Making
&
Flower Arranging

27th November 2026

SSMParish Room

7pm

Bring & Share

Foliage / Decorations *(Base and Wires provided)*

Drinks / Snacks

Free Village Life Event

Please register your interest with Julie Alexander

julie@jj-associates.co.uk or 07989639583

Please find below some information from the Stratford St Mary Parish Council meeting held on the 12th of October 2026:

· All Expenditure was agreed and signed off .

· Neighbourhood Development Plan – the PC are looking at creating a joint Neighbourhood Development Plan with the surrounding villages of Holton St Mary, Raydon and Higham. Babergh have given a grant of £8,000 towards a NDP and have commenced a Quartet villages NDP consultation. A public meeting has been arranged at the Village Institute in Stratford St Mary on Saturday the 21st of November at 10:30hrs. Residents are invited to attend to find out more information and give their views.

· A memorial plaque for the appreciation of Brian Such who was a former Parish Councillor for many years will be placed on the village sign.

· Refurbishment of the 2 brick bus shelters in the village – District Cllr Ward has kindly offered £500 from his locality grant towards the refurbishment and quotes are being obtained for the work to be carried out.

· The dead trees on Strickmere have been reported to Suffolk County Council.

· Slow down signs – the PC are going to run a competition again with the children of Stratford St Mary primary school to ask them to design slow down signs to be placed around the village.

The next meeting of Stratford St Mary Parish Council will be held on the 9th of November at the Village Institute

Faye Hall
Clerk to Stratford St Mary Parish Council

Higham

In Higham

SHOP LOCAL

Karl Chisnal - mower repairs.
07557771721

Brett Valley Installations
07896 054439



Higham Parish Meeting

Date/Time: 19th November 2026 @ 7.30pm

Where: St Marys Church, Higham, Higham Road.

Please join us for the Higham Parish meeting on Thursday 19th November at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Higham.

All Higham residents are invited and encouraged to join the Higham Parish Meeting. This meeting covers all matters relating to and impacting the village.

The meeting is a great opportunity for the local community to catch up, receive information and updates, make their views and comments known, provide feedback and input on current matters, as well as the opportunity to ask questions of the local councillors who join the meetings from Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council.

If you have any questions relating to this or would like to be added to the email distribution list to receive the agenda, minutes and updates from the meeting, please email: highamparishmeeting@gmail.com

Raydon

Ride, Drive and Stride.

The result here in Raydon.

As I said last month we were aiming high this year in the hope that we might top £1,000. Our walkers and Church recorders did a wonderful job in finding sponsors among their friends, family and neighbours and are extremely grateful to all who gave so generously.

We are delighted to say that we managed to raise £1016 but, added to our total is the car driver in the vintage car section who directed his sponsorship of £200 to St Mary's Raydon as well !! So a grand total of £1216

It is a fantastic result both for our Church and Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, we share this amount and the Trust uses this money to give grants towards costs of repairs and improvements to Suffolk Churches.

We had an enjoyable time, the weather was perfect and we hope to do it all again next year. Why don't you join us? Go anywhere in Suffolk, pick an area that interests you, take your sponsorship form and visit all the Churches.

The date to save is Saturday 11th September 2027

Contact Wendy Mumford for more information on 07703 498508

In Raydon

SHOP LOCAL

Blackwell Barn Holiday Let - 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

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

FOR HIRE

The Pavilion

King George's Playing Field,
Raydon IP7 5QQ

TO ENQUIRE FOR AVAILABILITY
Email: pavilionhire.kgf@gmail.com

Raydon and District Garden Club

So another month passes again rather quickly or so it seems and we are heading towards the back end of autumn. Writing these notes well in advance because of holiday next week I trust we don't get too much wind or frosts at night because that always causes the lovely leaves to fall sooner than later and we lose that wonderful display of the colours yellows, orange, red and brown mixes that always are a wonderful sight to enjoy before the darker days begin.

So far the autumn has been warm and although some much needed rain has fallen it's been very nice to be out in the garden. Our clay soils are now just becoming workable once again after the hot and dry summer so I will start digging parts of veggie plot but will experiment with leaving some un-dug but mulched on top during winter period and then see what it like in springtime. I have always dug as a form of weed control as well as drainage and relied on frost to help break up the clay soil ready for planting in springtime so it will be interesting to compare. The experts are telling us we should go down this route to help the environment, I don't think the amount of carbon release from my actions will cause too much of a problem if compared to all the earth works going on for Sizewell C , followed by National Grid update from Burstal to Twinstead (just go past Leavenheath to see) and of course the preparations for the pylons from Norwich to Tilbury. "I know we all need electricity" and of course Anglia Waters pipeline (now mostly finished).

Talking of water will the government ever consider water (the most essential item) for as an island we are surrounded by it and each year becomes more of a problem if it continues to get hotter and dryer then surely a de-salination plant as used in middle east should be built if only to enable farmers to have the necessary water to grow our much needed food production, We must not go down the road to importing all our food requirements. Or else we, as a country, will or could be held to ransom (like the oil crisis) or even worse. All they seem interested in is bricks and mortar, concrete and industrial estates !!!! and you can't eat that and begs the question Do we actually need more ???.

Garden centres (and we have several to choose from) are always a pull for gardeners to stock up on necessary garden products , bulbs, plants, shrubs and trees but from October onwards you have to fight your way through isles of Halloween products and of course Christmas which seems to take over earlier each year. It's all too over commercialised for me and the magical aspect of Christmas has been forgotten so best to avoid till February. Scrooge comes to mind and I wonder what he would think about it all. Ok so I will get off my high horse and return feet firmly on the ground. I know my place.

November of course is bringing our club towards its last meeting for 2026. We hold a social evening including a short half hour AGM to allow members to vote for the next committee for 2027, followed by a tabletop quiz (s), some wine and light refreshments. It's also time to renew your subscriptions for the new year ahead. Your current committee are already looking ahead to get guest speakers booked. If any of the members have a specialist subject they would like, please contact any committee member so we can include them in next year's programme, if possible,

Thank you all for your continued support over the last 46 years, and hopefully you will continue to take the club forward for many more years. Your committee looks forward to seeing you all at this last meeting for 2026 on 26th November. Geoff Horrex. 07810086143

Raydon & District Garden Club

1980 - 2026

AGM

& Social Evening

with

Free Refreshments & Quiz

Thursday 26th Nov

7.30 pm

KGV Pavilion, Raydon

Support your local club

New Members Welcome

RAYDON VILLAGE

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

10AM TUESDAY 15th December 2026
At The Pavilion

Join us and wish your neighbours a Happy Christmas

ANNUAL PHOENIX

BRASS BAND

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Comeand join us for an evening of entertainment

ST MARY'S CHURCH RAYDON

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2026

@ 6PM

£15 A TICKET

SUPPERANDWINE INCLUDED

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
MARGARET (07967 263268)
Sue (07757 883985)

Raydon Village,
King George's Playing Field

BONFIRE

Night

Saturday 7th November
Gates open at 7:00pm

FIREWORK DISPLAY
BONFIRE
BAR & BBQ

Donation buckets on entrance

The Raydon Traveller

Episode Two, Hungary

Hungary this week, in a small village, one hour outside Budapest. The landscape has rolling hills, then flat fields. Limited shops. No restaurants. Not an Englishman in sight. The locals sit outside their homes of an evening talking to their neighbours, drinking wine. Some are playing board games. Children play on the paths. Although the area seems quiet, and historic, there seems to be peace. I actually quite like it here, and that is very rare for me to say.

Budapest airport, great place. Before you know it you are boarding, then you land. I love the feeling of getting in the car, knowing you are heading home. Stansted to Braintree. Now towards Colchester, past Bypass Nurseries, love that place. Onto the A12.

As I come up past Colchester heading towards Ipswich, the A12 beauty comes alive with a classic road closure, or so it seems. With my local knowledge I dart off into the lanes. Ha, no one knows this way. I will be home in no time.

Another road closure. What's going on. I start to laugh. As I wiggle through the lanes using my Suffolk knowledge, I eventually start gaining distance. Through the small hills of Higham, and now the back lane to Raydon.

As I get closer to home, somewhere near Holton St Mary, I spot a bunch of local residents sitting on camping chairs in a circle beneath a tree. Having a good chinwag, a giggle and a laugh. I can see bread, cheese and wine. I slow down to admire the simplicity of it all. They look at me as I pass, probably wondering why I am staring. How wonderful it is. Community is so important.

Isn't it funny how only a couple of hours ago I was witnessing the same community effort.

As I reach my house and onto the drive, I look at the time to see if the girls are still awake. 10 minutes to go. They will be.

I creep upstairs to witness the bedtime story. I take over. As I sit there, one rascal each side of me, hugging them both, reading the 30th Julia Donaldson book we have, I take a second to reflect.

How wonderful this moment is.

Remember Remember the 5th of November – but in our case the 7th November!

Many may ask why we still commemorate this date. We have so many century old traditions and customs drawn from folklore, religious celebrations and other rural villages events. From Pancake day races in February (which we may try next year) to our forthcoming and well known Raydon Bonfire Night taking place on Saturday 7th. Without fail, Guy Fawkes will be up there again in one of our biggest fires yet to commemorate the failed attempt to blow up Parliament – I will not be taking any comments on this! Our volunteers are planning to build the bonfire on Sunday 1st November if you would like to offer your support.

As we now have darker and colder evenings, with curtains drawn and heating on you may not be inclined to go out but unfortunately not all of us have someone to share those moments with. But remember the Pavilion offers a warm environment and an opportunity either on Wednesday evening or Sunday lunch time to pop in to say hello, have a chinwag and a pint. It is quite alarming to read that so many landmark traditional pubs are

closing their shutters for good as they become economically unviable, which is why it is so important that we work together at keeping the Pavilion, our Village Hall thriving.

So moving on to events and planning, I am creating a regular Diary Events calendar so we can plan ahead and you don't miss any event which we are holding which will appear in the next edition of the Quartet.

As bonfire night takes an enormous amount of time and planning we are focusing upon the details to ensure nothing is missed. We will as usual have BBQ and Hot Dogs, our Gluwein offering to warm you up, a coffee truck and of course the Pavilion bar. Opening 6.30 for BBQ and Bar leading up to the Bonfire display between 1930 -1945.

On the following Saturday 14th November, Chelsea Wildheart, will be singing for us at the Pavilion. Bar opens 18.30 and yes it is our second night out in November, but it will certainly be a warm one.

If you find you have a spare few hours to volunteer or become one of our much needed Pint Pullers, please contact us at Raydonssc@gmail.com.

Look forward to seeing you. Enjoy.
Janet

PS I am working on the BBQ station again along with our other Volunteers, so come by and say hello!

In Holton

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The Well Piece Community Garden

Christmas is coming and its going to be lovely down on the Well Piece! We have a Carol singalong with mulled wine and mince pies all organised with the Social Club for 18th December, so we've decided to do something special. We're appealing for folk to buy us a set of solar lights (Amazon do some lovley ones that look like flowers). We will 'plant' all the ones we get to make the Well Piece super special over the festive period. Please let Anne or Bill know if you would like to donate some lights.

In the meantime, you're always welcome on the Well Piece every Tuesday morning for coffee and a chat. We look forward to seeing you there!

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





Holton St Mary Millennium Green Trust

Recent Century Club Winners are:

July: £35 No103 Martin Ellingham, £20, No18 David Maddison, £10, No33 Mark Anderson

August: £35, No27 Joe Adams, £20, No10 Chashah Nicholas, £10, No128 Babelle Duvoisin

September: £35, 50 Jacqui Lester, £20 No80 Jayne Brown, £10, No93 Tanya Kunz

Marjorie Haste, Secretary

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.

SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER IS

CHURCHYARD CLEAN UP DAY

IN HOLTON ST MARY

FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.00 NOON

Are you able to help?

(For as little or as long as you like.)

If yes please contact Frances Torrington on

familytorrington@btinternet.com

Please bring your own tools!

Tree of Good Wishes

Would you like to send your friends in the Quartet parishes some Christmas Greetings here, as a way of helping your local church?

Email familytorrington@btinternet.com by 14th November
With your short greeting and we will publish it on the Holton St Mary Tree of Good Wishes page.

You can donate via the wall safe in the church, or ask Frances for BACS details

Xmas Wreath Making Workshop

12th December @2pm, Holton St Mary Village Hall.

Join in a fun afternoon to learn to make a fresh Xmas wreath. All you need to bring is your fresh foliage, secateurs and any adornments you wish to use.

The frame, moss, wires and ribbons will all be supplied along with all the help you need to leave with a beautiful fresh bio-friendly wreath for your door.

Cost will be £18 per person and includes a glass of mimosa cocktail and mince pies.

Places can be booked via email to jan.cheng52@gmail.com. Cash preferred - drop it into my post box at Elm Lodge with your name clearly marked and your email address. Or if you see me about the village. I will acknowledge receipt.

Proceeds will be shared between our Church and village hall refurbishment fund.

Jan Cheng.

Holton St Mary Social Club

Upcoming events

Jingle and Mingle
An afternoon of festive music with Lee Rose
Sunday 13th December from 12.30pm

Carols and Mulled Wine and fire pit on the Well Piece
Friday 18th December from 6.30pm

Green Gym

See you all in Church Square at 10.30 on 7th November for another chance to keep our village tidy and well kept. We still have bulbs to plant! New volunteers always welcome



The First Friday of the Month Lunch Club.

Is in the Village Hall 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. Any profit made on the lunch will be split between the Church and the Village Hall Refurbishment fund. So we don't over or under cater, please let Sally or Frances know if you would like to attend.
Sal Thurlow 07721 625313 or messenger via FB, WhatsApp or email salthurlow@gmail.com
Frances Torrington - via FB or email familytorrington@btinternet.com



Buses

During various elections we hear about transport for rural areas and that no village or community should be isolated, We also heard that there was £24 million available for new bus routes.

Raydon, Holton St Mary and Layham are totally isolated so where are the buses that are talked about? There are all sorts of routes from East Bergholt, Capel St Mary and Hadleigh, and all sorts of small buses and new routes, for example a service from Hadleigh to Stowmarket six times a day, to Bury St Edmunds once a week, others to Colchester, Ipswich, Sudbury and more.

We are hardly 3 miles from all of these buses but no way of connecting to any of them.

It's about time we did something about it, start by contacting your parish council and MP, if enough of us do it we might get some action. The local news stations both TV and Radio are another good option.

Raydon Parish Council 07939075143

Holton St Mary Parish council contact clerk@holtonstmary-pc

Manningtree & District Photographic Society

Last month members enjoyed a talk by Derek Howes about his work in Central and South America, a field Trip to Pin Mill, a print competition and a talk by Stephen Harper on Mach Loop and Photographing Lynx in Spain.

November sessions are as follows;
12th November – PDI Competition, Open Colour

15th November - Field Trip to Woodbridge

26th November – Club Workshop

Our club website has information about membership and activities together with competition results, photo albums and further club information. Our full 2026/2027 programme can be found on the Website. Our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also features various club news and activities.

This month's featured image by Pat Ainger was the winner of the Summer Facebook Challenge – The Best of Summer .

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

A bee on a flower



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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 **website:** stmarksparish.org.uk

Father Luke's Sunday sermons are available at anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour

How can we love our neighbour as Jesus loved us?

In John's Gospel (13:34-35) Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another, just as He loved us: "This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples: if you love one another." What a challenge and where do we begin? Mother Teresa famously said "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." St. Paul advises the Philippians not to be jealous or proud, but to be humble and consider others more important than themselves. He also encourages the Colossians to "clothe themselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." For us as 21st century Christians those principles are great objectives – and also a life's work! And some final advice from Mother Teresa "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." Amen to that!

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 Adoration from 9.20

Wednesday St. Mark's 09.30 mass
Friday St. Mark's 12.15 mass, with Adoration from 11.40.

<u>The Sick & Housebound</u>

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

Bin collections

From June 2026, you will be able to put the following additional items into the blue-lidded recycling bin:

glass bottles and jars
cartons (Tetra Pak), such as milk and drink cartons
plastic carrier bags
plastic wrappings, including those used around multipacks
plastic films, for example those found on the top of fruit punnets and meat trays
food bags, such as ones used for cereal, pasta, mixed salad, frozen chips and frozen peas
bubble wrap

Scan QR code for more information

Week comencing:



Green Blue Black Green Blue

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

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

Do you want a recommendation?

Sam Pritchard sam@samselectrics.co.uk 07940031776 - Sam can certify safety for insurance and landlord work too. Anyway, he's great.
Chef Neil Does the best takeaways ever. Once a month from Brantham Leisure Centre. 07584 573474. Also does catering for events.
The Crown at Manningtree had breakfast there, could not fault anything. They are dog friendly as well.
Capel Garden centre tearoom lovely cakes. Also **Fields farm shop** edge of East Bergholt also lovely food. Both dog friendly and child friendly.
Cake and Crumbs Cake Shed
35 Snowcroft, Capel St Mary.
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Stratford St Mary - *Route 11*
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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

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

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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

County Councillor: Darius Laws
Email: Darius.laws@suffolk.gov.uk
Phone: 07786 007560
Both have correspondence addresses at Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road Ipswich IP1 2BX.

Local Directory

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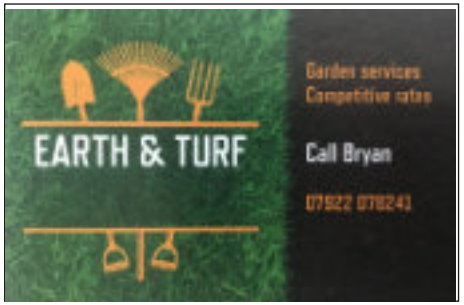
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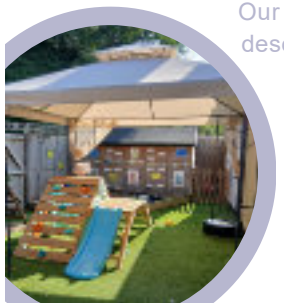

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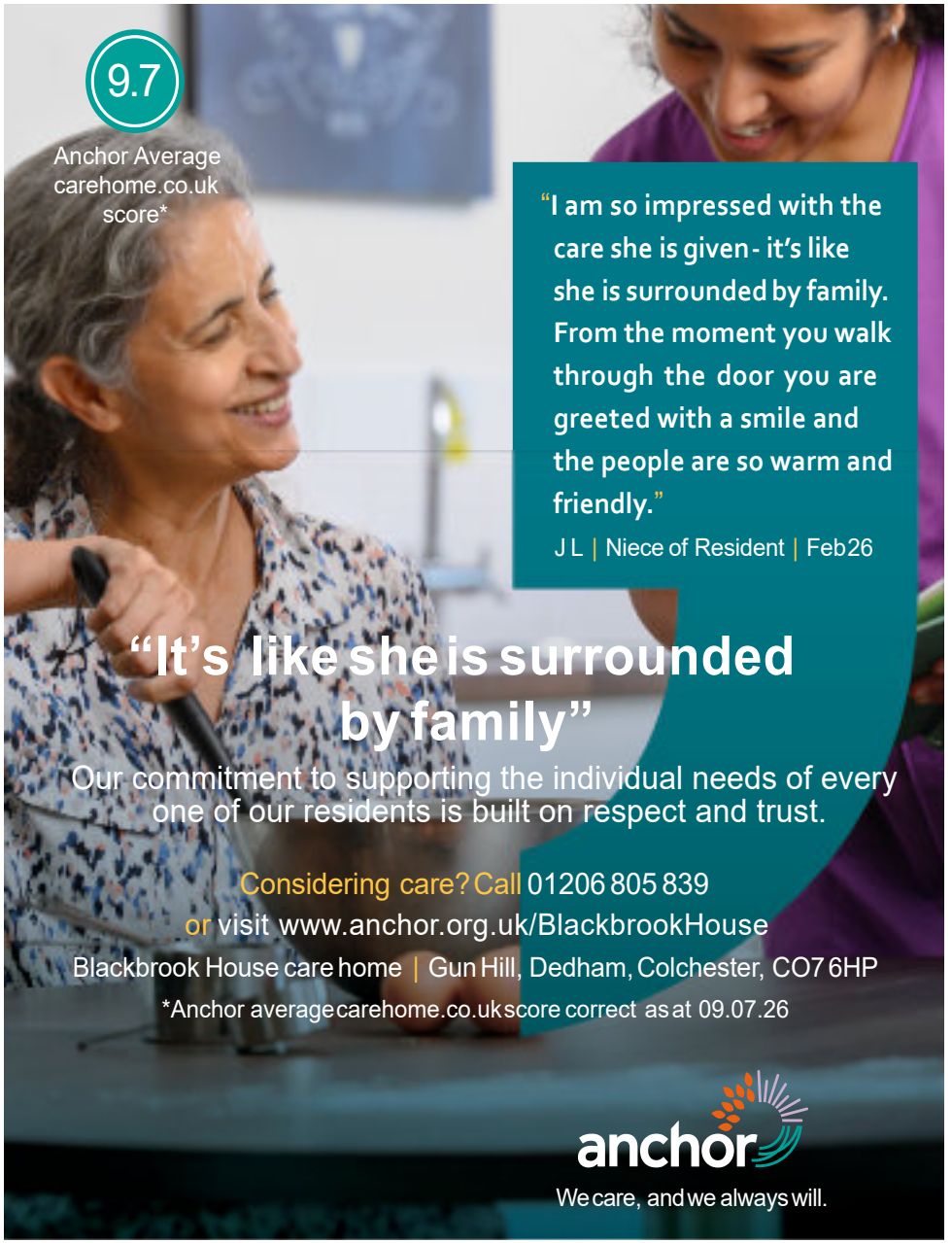
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BENEFICE CONTACTS, SERVICES AND EVENTS

Rector: The Benefice is currently in a vacancy - for any enquiries please contact the church wardens.

Lay Elder: Currently pending.

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 one of church wardens if you would like more information.

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 Sandy Ranson know.

For Home Communion, please get in touch with Christine Cousins 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

Contact numbers for Churchwardens:

Higham	Churchwarden Hugo Parker 01206 337234 Assistant warden Martyn Carr 07768 012588
Holton	Churchwarden Richard Noel 01206 298276 Churchwarden Paul Torrington 01473 312046
Raydon	Churchwarden Geoff Horrex 07810 086143 Assistant warden – currently vacant
Stratford	Churchwarden Sandy Ranson 01206 322156 Churchwarden Christine Cousins 07791648806

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Martin O'Brien Tel. 07964 543718 - Email: martinobrien@orwellpark.org

Church Services for November

Sunday, 1st November: 10am Stratford St Mary Parish Communion
(*All Saints Day)*

Sunday,8th November: 10.50am Remembrance Service at all four Churches
(Remembrance Sunday)

Sunday,15th November: 10am Holton St Mary Parish Communion
(2nd Sunday before Advent)

9.30am Stratford St Mary Café Church in the Parish Room

Sunday, 22nd November: 10am Raydon Parish Communion
(The Next Sunday before Advent)

Sunday, 29th November: 10am 5th Sunday Benefice Communion Service in Holton St Mary
(Advent Sunday)

Looking ahead to December

Christmas Services: Sunday 20th December 10am in Raydon with Carols
4.30pm in Higham Carol Service
6pm in Stratford St Mary 7 Lessons and Carols Service for the Benefice
Thursday 24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass Holton St Mary
Friday 25th December 10am Christmas Day Service Higham

All of 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 one of the Churchwardens – contact details in the Quartet and on the Benefice website.

Café Church every 3rd Sunday

Café Church meets in the Stratford St Mary Parish Room,
Next date November 15th

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. Even 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, 26th November, at 2.30pm.

These are the dates of subsequent meetings for your diaries:

Thursday 28th January 2027
There will not be a meeting in December

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:
1st Sunday: Stratford - 2nd Sunday: Higham
3rd Sunday: Holton - 4th Sunday: Raydon

5th Sunday services move around the benefice, the remaining dates for 2026 are as follows:

29th November in Holton St Mary

Prayer pointers for the Benefice

Please pray for our Churchwardens and PCCs as we continue through the vacancy in post, and seek to appoint a new minister for our benefice.

We pray for all those who are ill, among them Peter Snelling, Nicky Bull, Vivienne Wilkinson, Martin Favell and Simon Tennant and any others who need God's healing and wholeness at this time.

We remember all those who have recently died, may they rest in peace and rise in glory, and may those who mourn be held in God's love and comforted in their grief.

As we approach Armistice day we reßect on the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for freedom and peace.

Lord God, help us this day to remember the sacrifice of those caught up in war and the generations of men, women, and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace. Help us to remember those who still bear the physical and mental scars of their service. Help us to remember the widows, parents, and orphans who waited in vain for the return of a loved one. Make us a people zealous for peace, and hasten the day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation nor learn war anymore. Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen

Our Churches and Churchyards - 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. 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. If you bring dogs into the churchyard, please ensure they are kept on a lead at all times and please clear up any mess they may make; this has become an issue in some of our churchyards which is unfortunate. Your help would be appreciated in keeping our churchyards clean and tidy and places of quiet sanctuary for visitors.

If you would like to know more about burials, interments of ashes, grave reservations or permitted memorials, please contact one of the churchwardens.