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September 2026
Issue 457

Quartet

The Parish Magazine

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

A Night at the Movies

Save the Date...

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 — an atmospheric evening of much-loved music from some of your favourite movies.

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

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

Details and booking information to follow.

Make a note in your diary — this is one evening you won't want to miss.

Notice of consultation by Babergh District Council on the 'Quartet Villages Neighbourhood Plan' area designation proposal

On behalf of our communities, the Quartet Villages have decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan (or Neighbourhood Plan for short). It is intended that this plan will set out a shared vision for our parishes, including guidance on where new homes may be built, and offer protection for our important local green spaces, etc.

To start the process, we have submitted an application to Babergh District Council. This asks that the combined parishes be designated as our 'plan area'. Before the District Council can make a decision on this, they must first consult on the proposal. This exercise will run from Tuesday 1st September until Friday 16th October. At this stage, the Council are only interested in receiving comments on whether our proposed plan area is geographically appropriate or not. They will not be inviting comments on any other planning related matters. More information, including a copy of our application, and a map of the proposed plan area will be published on a webpage created by Babergh District Council. The page also explains how and where to submit comments. Go to ... <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/quartet-villages-neighbourhood-plan>



We will also be putting up copies of their Consultation Notice in appropriate places around our four villages.

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



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!**

September

- 1 Raydon Parish Council Meeting
Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton
- 2 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social Club
- 4 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
FFOTMLC - Holton
- 5 Summer Cafe - Holton
HSM Green Gym
- 6 Raydon Afternoon Tea
- 8 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton
- 9 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social Club
HSM Parish Council Meeting
- 11 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
- 12 Suffolk Churches Trust Ride and
Stride
- 14 SSM Parish Council Meeting, Village
Institute
- 15 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton

- 16 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social Club
- 17 HSM Slow Stitch
- 18 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
- 22 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton
- 23 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social Club
- 24 R&GDC Meeting Night
- 25 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
- 27 Apple Day HSM Community Garden
- 29 Chapel Coffee morning - SSM
Community Garden Holton
- 30 SSM Mums and Tots
Stitch Sewcial SSM
Raydon Social Club

October

- 2 SSM Youth Clubs
Holton Social Club
- 6 Raydon Parish Council Meeting
- 12 SSM Parish Council Meeting, Parish
Room

November

- 3 Raydon Parish Council Meeting

Editors Corner

Last year's Apple Day on the Well Piece is in full swing on the front of the Quartet this month. We all had a great time crushing and pressing apples, and made between 30 to 40 litres of juice. The weather has been so warm this year, the apples are likely to be ready early. I hope they can wait until the 26th September! (See page 17 for more details)

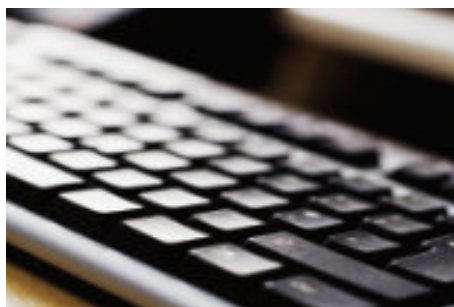
You will also notice a new page at the beginning of the magazine this month (page 6) as the four Quartet parishes join forces via their Parish Councils to prepare a joint Neighbourhood Plan. This is an important document that helps to shape future development within our parishes and will be a regular feature in the Quartet over the coming months. A related article also appears on the Small Ads page - this is notification of the Babergh consultation with residents, making sure you are all happy with the designation of the four parishes as a 'plan area'. This has to be done before the Neighbourhood plan can commence, so please use the QR code to submit your comments to Babergh on this.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to your autumn.

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:
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Church Writes

"For everything its season, and for every activity under heaven its time"
Ecclesiastes 3 verse 1.

It's been many years (1990's) now since the current Benefice of Higham, Holton, Raydon & Stratford St Mary came to existence and known collectively as "The Four Mary's" and of course we have had long enough to work together, ensuring we offer a good ministry team for all. Over these years we have faced a few periods of interregnum / vacancy (or in other words no current priest) as we find ourselves once again. It seems important therefore that we should collectively take stock of this current situation to establish where we are, where we want to be, what we believe God wants the Church in this Benefice to be, and how we might address ourselves in the immediate future to attain those objectives as Churchwardens to which we all feel it is right we should aspire.

Where are we ? A most important question currently for all who need to know.

We have arranged to hold one Holy Communion service per month in each Church (with help of visiting retired priest's). Additional services IE: Morning prayer is also an option to be considered, and of course Evensong especially in summer months before the dark nights descend before the end of autumn, these could be led by Churchwardens if no priest available (but will always endeavour to get one) So far the good news is we have achieved to have all HC services covered by a priest up to Christmas period. Information in yellow centre pages of Quartet and on Church notice boards. If in doubt, contact Churchwardens.

Each Church has a full complement of Parochial Church Council members (PCC) and are supporting and helping and using their expertise, knowledge, and skills with regards to buildings, finance, worship, prayer, care of churchyards and much more. Of course, parishioners can help also in many different ways, and your support is always most welcome.

Another question: Is the level of pastoral care within our communities acceptable? Do we need to do more especially in the absence of a resident priest? Should we all consider how to support those in need, by perhaps visiting the elderly, those who are sick, those who are bereaved, or even newly married or those newly baptised, should we encourage a wider involvement other than Churchwardens or PCC members? We can all share in the joys of ministry. At the heart of a Christian community is prayer, We pray together at our services, we are also aware of and experience perhaps the benefits of private prayer, but here is another question, How do we promote the growth of prayer in our parishes? Is it relevant in today's world? I think the answer is "Yes" especially in what seems to be an increasingly troubled world. The questions flow easily but the answers will I suspect take a little longer.

On behalf of all the Churchwardens, Church Elders, & PCCs members of this 4 Mary's Benefice we thank you for your continued support at services and other connected social events which should reflect favourably on us, in our quest to achieve a new resident priest to lead our continued ministry as soon as possible.

Geoff Horrex. Churchwarden Raydon.

Quartet Villages Neighbourhood Plan

Are you interested in planning positively for the future of our communities?

The Quartet parishes of Higham, Holton St Mary, Raydon and Stratford St Mary are exploring how to work together to create a joint Neighbourhood Development Plan that could help protect our villages. If your concerns are housing development and where it will go, village amenity, greenspaces, kids play areas, transport, historical assets, farmland, sustainability, biodiversity or the natural world, these areas and more can be prioritised in the context of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

If you are interested in finding out more or being involved, we look forward to hearing from you:

Higham - Helena Gurney highamparishmeeting@gmail.com	Raydon - Chris Chambers clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk cllr.christopherchambers@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Holton St Mary - Claire Rowan clairerowan@holtonstmary-pc.gov.uk clerk@holtonstmary-pc.gov.uk	Stratford St Mary - Roger Barrell parishcouncil@stratfordstmary.org.uk

Or come along to find out more:

Parish Council meeting - Raydon
Tuesday, September 3rd at 7.30pm
 King George's Field Pavilion

Parish Council meeting - Holton St Mary
Wednesday, September 9th at 8pm
 Holton St Mary Village Hall

Parish Council meeting - Stratford St Mary
Monday, September 14th at 7.30pm
 Village Institute

The **Suffolk Preservation Society** are also doing a very helpful online workshop about Neighbourhood Development plans on:

Saturday, September 19th at 10am-12pm

Find out more and book via: <https://www.suffolksociety.org/upcoming-events/>

Stratford St Mary

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

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

In Stratford



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 - 01206 322882

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

Katrina Wade, Physiotherapist 07968 964826

Pampered Village Paws - Tel 07747482313

KSB Home Improvements - Tel 07736 944 474

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to friends and neighbours in the village for your overwhelming support and kind words following the sad loss of John. The turnout at the service, held at Stratford St Mary Church, was truly heart-warming, and the afternoon tea at the Parish Room afterwards provided a fitting and comforting celebration of his life. Your kindness has been a great solace to all of us during this difficult time.

Jenny Symons and Family

WHAT'S ON

INSTITUTE HALL

WHEN	ALL WELCOME
every MONDAY 2.00pm	SILVER SWANS ADULT BALLET £9.00 ltschoolofdance23@gmail.com
*TUESDAY 6.00pm	DANCE MOVEMENT £8.00 barefootrascalmovement@gmail.com
TUESDAY 10.00-11.30am	*NEW* LINE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS £6 lineydanceevents@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
WEDNESDAY 7.30pm	DANCE TO 50'S/60S MUSIC £7.00 esthersewing@gmail.com
*THURSDAY 7.15pm	HYGGE COMMUNITY CHOIR £6.00 jaquie.choir@btinternet.com
FRIDAY 19th 7.00pm	PAINT 'N SIP £30 info@sunflowerartistry.co.uk 07468 522463

Classes marked * operate term time only
TO HIRE email: ssminstitute.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



Brian Such

As many people will already be aware, Brian died on 9th July after a long illness. His funeral took place at Seven Hills Crematorium on 11th August attended by close family.

On 22nd September there will be a Thanksgiving/Celebration of his Life at Stratford St Mary Church commencing at 12 noon and then at The Swan. If you knew Brian during the 31 years we have lived in the village, please come to celebrate a life well lived.

I would like to thank everyone who has been so kind to me over the past few, difficult years. Thank you too for all the lovely messages, flowers and hugs I have received. This is a very special place to live.

Brenda



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 TUESDAY 6.00PM	YOGA MIXED ABILITY £7.50 Sarah Brazington 07891290193
EVERY 1ST FRIDAY 12.30PM	LUNCH CLUB £10 Christine Cousins cousinssc303@gmail.com

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

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)

Got ideas? Good at organising?
Happy to lend a hand?
We're putting together a team to plan
Stratford St Mary Summer Fete 2027
and we'd love more local people to get involved.

HELP US MAKE SUMMER FETE 2027 HAPPEN

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

COME AND FIND OUT MORE
Tuesday 6 October 2026: 7.30pm
Parish Room, Stratford St Mary
Come along, meet the team
and see how you could get involved.

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



SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST (SHCT) CYCLE RIDE/STRIDE/WALK SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

12 Sep - a date for your diaries.

SHCT, in its normal format, will take place
09:00-17:00 hours on 12 Sep 26. You can
walk or cycle, to raise money for the fabric
of the church/chapel of your choice.

When I receive sponsorship forms, I will
pass them to those who have taken part in
previous years. If you would like to take
part, you can contact me on 01206-322259
and I will deliver a sponsorship form to you,
you can visit Rosebank, Lower Street, or
you can collect a form from the Post Office.

David Isaac



Stratford St Mary Parish Council

Future meeting dates:

Monday 12th October 2026 - Parish Room
Monday 9th Nov 2026 - Village Institute

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



Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch

We warmly invite you to join us for our
Harvest Festival at 11.00am on
Sunday 4th October at Stratford
Church.

The service will be a wonderful
opportunity to celebrate the harvest
and give thanks for the abundance of
food and blessings we enjoy. We
would be delighted to receive
donations of non-perishable food and
other suitable produce, which will be
donated to Colchester Foodbank to
support local people and families in
need.

Following the service, please join us
for a delicious Harvest Lunch at
1.00pm in the Parish Rooms. Come
along and enjoy good food, friendship
and fellowship as we celebrate this
special time of year together.

We will also be collecting donations for
The Farming Community Network
(FCN). FCN is a voluntary
organisation and registered charity
that supports farmers, farming families
and people living in rural communities
through difficult times and periods of
change. Founded on Christian
principles, FCN offers support to
people of all faiths and none.

We look forward to welcoming you to
what promises to be a very special
celebration of harvest, community and
giving.

To book your place for lunch please
contact Christine Cousins on
0791648806.

Raydon



In Raydon

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

RIDE+STRIDES



Suffolk Historic Churches Trust September 12th 2026

I do hope some more people will join in this healthy and enjoyable event, either walking, cycling or driving your vintage car. Churches all over Suffolk are open to welcome you and sign your sponsorship form, many offer refreshments, a loo stop and a friendly chat.

I will be driving to Hadleigh with a friend and then walk to all the Churches there, I have room for three more people in the car, so please give it a try.

Those with cycles can really challenge themselves, and see how many Churches they can visit during the time of 9am-5pm. Cars have a set route ending with a rally.

Half of the money raised in Raydon comes to St Mary's Church, the other half goes to Suffolk Historic Churches Trust who give grants to help with the cost of repairs etc within the Church.

Sponsorship forms will be available soon, but for more information contact Wendy Mumford 07703 498508

Raydon and District Garden Club

September is normally know as a mellow month, however with our record-breaking temperatures and the most unusual number of days with no recorded rainfall who knows how it will turn out. We last recorded rain in our rain gauge in the garden back in middle of June. Grass may appear dead but no panic its root system is very resilient and as soon as we get a reasonable amount of rain it will soon recover to that wonderful green colour we are all so used to. Even heavier dews or as we say in Suffolk (A bit of a dag) in the mornings will all help to contribute to the greening process. Once this happens and growth starts again it will be out with the lawnmower if you can remember where it is in the shed. Checked mine yesterday and it's covered in spider webs. So the swallows, house martins, swifts & cuckoo have departed once again but it won't be long before the autumn migration brings in the winter thrushes, i.e. redwing, field fares etc. Just a thought If you don't seem to have many birds in the garden at present it's because they hide up due to unable to fly as fast due to summer mounting, which would make them easier to catch for the birds of prey always on the lookout for a meal.

Thank you all who were able to put entries into our traditional summer show on 15th August. I must admit I was concerned as what the outcome might be. Whilst 97 entries down on previous shows due mostly by the conditions endured over many weeks / months. The flower and vegetable sections were of course hardest hit, but we still put on a good show and the judges most complimentary as some shows had been cancelled. All the other classes excelled in number and quality, with the children's sections improving year on year by both numbers and the fantastic content and imagination used to create these wonderful displays, well done all you boys & girls and thank you mums and

grandparents for encouraging them to take part. That's probably how we all started, who knows.

Prize giving was conducted by our president Mrs Diana Hunt with her usual professional approach and giving a great speech at the end. Your committee wishes to thank all exhibitors, all who came in the afternoon giving your support, to all who gave generously raffle prizes, made refreshments, and as a special consideration due to the hot weather the staff of KGF who opened the bar to supply cold liquid refreshments. Shows of course don't just happen so thank you all who helped in any way, including committee members who worked so hard on set up duties on the Friday, then again, a long day on show day. I think we can all say another successful show was enjoyed by all.

September Thursday 24th will be our next meeting night with guest speaker Jim Paine with a subject that perhaps we all fail to appreciate enough, called "The Empire Beneath our Feet" (A closer look at SOIL) Not the most glamorous of talks you think, but as we all know the most important, and it could become even more important as we grapple with climate change.

As always, your committee looks forward to meeting all you gardening members and guests at our monthly meeting nights.

Geoff Horrex.
07810086143



Raydon Sports and Social Club

September has arrived already!

The run up to September has been extremely busy for the volunteers of RSSC and KGF whilst we have been working to organise the Raydon Wheels Classic and Vintage Car Event held on 23rd August. All outside events are held at the mercy of the weather and whilst we all like the sun, the excessive heat was proving too much for most and of course we all wanted rain but not on the 23rd August!

As many of our volunteers, including myself, have never organised a large event before, it is truly eye opening how much organisation is necessary to manage a successful event, from the very important bar stocking to how many burgers, sausages and onions we cook - the list really does go on! But all this work is worthwhile when an event is successful and our communities have enjoyed a good day.

When it comes to writing the October edition (I can't believe I typed that word) I would like nothing better than to tell you all what a great success the Raydon Wheels event was but Mystic Meg is otherwise engaged!

New events are being planned for the autumn which will be indoor events and these will be advertised as usual. We are currently planning our Quiz night and discussing whether to provide supper, but full details will be made available. I am trying not to think about Bonfire night yet! If you do not use Facebook you can send your email address to raydonssc@gmail.com and you will be kept up to date with news from RSSC.

So now it's back to the drawing board and speaking on behalf of all our volunteers - we would like nothing better than to meet more members of our community in the Pavilion.



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



Raydon & District Garden Club

The Empire Beneath our Feet

A Closer Look at Soil by Jim Paine

Thursday Sept 24th ~7.30 p.m.~

KGV Pavilion Raydon

New Members Always Welcome

Raffle & Refreshments

RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Keith Lovering
Councillors: Jayne Tann, Lorraine May, Chris Chambers, John Smith

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, or contact the Parish Clerk.

Raydon Council needs you.

Raydon 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 Parish clerk, Stacey Lowe on Clerk@raydonparishcouncil.gov.uk or phone on 07944968011
Or phone the chair 07939 075143 or email 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.

Remaining Raydon Parish Council Meeting Dates of 2026:

Meetings take place at 7.30pm in the KGF Pavilion. 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November.



Afternoon Teas

@ St Mary's Church Raydon

Home made Cakes and Savouries, freshly made coffee and assorted teas

Sunday 6th September

3pm to 5pm




Holton St Mary



In Holton

Hazelton Plumbing and Heating -
07448152693

Freshen up Decorating 07900 242 141

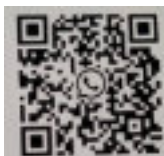


We've had a brilliant summer with lots going on at the Well Piece. The Cafe mornings on Saturday have been lovely friendly events with all ages catered for. We have one last event on 5th September before we begin to think about autumn.

We've decided to move Apple Day into September this year, as everything is so early, so bring along your windfalls and get them juiced, rather than watching them rot on the ground.

Why not get involved, or find out what's happening, by joining the Whatsapp group here:

(Scan with the camera in Whatsapp)



Green Gym

See you all in Church Square at 10.30 on 5th September for another chance to keep our village tidy and well kept. New volunteers always welcome



The First Friday of the Month Lunch Club looks forward to seeing you all again on 4th September.

Normally running 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. 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. 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
Frances Torrington - via FB or email familytorrington@btinternet.com



Apple Day

**Is going to be on Saturday
26th September**

Do you have an apple tree in your garden? You're welcome to bring along as many apples as you can and we'll juice them for you. You can either take the juice away, or add them to the cider jars to make Well Piece cider!

The Cafe will be open from around 10am so come down and see what's going on, meet your friends and have a coffee. We'll keep the fire pit roaring and be open all morning.

Hope to see you there!
Children welcome - there's lots to do



SLOW STITCH

Slow Stitch group will be meeting as usual on the third Thursday of the month, from 2-4pm, in Well Piece Community Garden cabin.

Newcomers and beginners are always welcome.

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Annual Ride and Stride

Saturday 12 September 2026, 9am – 5pm

If you enjoy cycling or walking in our beautiful Suffolk countryside, why not take part in our Annual Ride and Stride and raise money for the maintenance of our church in Holton St Mary?

There will be almost 500 churches in Suffolk open throughout the day and you will be able to raise money for your local church by inviting your friends to sponsor you to visit as many churches as possible.

All are welcome to take part in the event – riders and striders, volunteers to welcome riders and striders on the day – there is no age limit, toddlers to OAPs!

Also, if you have a classic car, you are welcome to take part.

If you would like to take part in this year's Ride and Stride, please contact

Caroline Favell

email: martinfavell99@gmail.com
tel: 01473 310268
07885 497044



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 Parish Council

The date for the next meetings are:

Parish Council Meetings - 9th September, 11th November, 13th January 2027, 10th March 2027

Holton St Mary Parish Council still has 1 vacancy for a Councillor - if anyone is interested then please contact the Clerk for more information clerk@holtonstmary-pc.gov.uk.

If anyone is interested in joining the Parish Council's communications list please email the Clerk.

The minutes of the meeting can be found on the Parish Councils website - <https://holtonstmary-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/>

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
website: stmarksparish.org.uk

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

Ipswich Eucharistic Congress 6th-13th September 2026

The Eucharistic Congress will take place in Ipswich with a week of prayer, teaching, and worship hosted by parishes across Ipswich between 6th –13th September 2026. Advance booking for the Principal Mass on Sunday 13th is essential. There will be a healing service at 7pm on Friday at St. Mark's and the Carlo Acutis

exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles will be at St. Mary's, Woodbridge Road on Saturday 12th September. For details of all services throughout the week, and to book your place online for the Sunday mass, go to this website: eucharisticcongressipswich.org

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 (except 13th Sep).

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.

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

Organ Recital

Saturday, 3rd October 2026, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Dedham



An organ recital to be given by the Organist, Christopher Moore.

Christopher is a highly accomplished organist based in Suffolk, who has enjoyed an extensive local and international career. The recital will last approximately 1 hour.

*Free admission, retiring collection in aid of the Organ Fund.
Refreshments will be available afterwards.*



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Manningtree & District Photographic Society



Over the Summer members were challenged to take four photographs using four different photographic techniques. We will be sharing these images at our first September club meet up. There have also been some additional workshops in relation to these photographic techniques.

In September we begin our 2026/27 programme. September sessions are as follows;

10th September – Chairman's welcome and Photo Technique competition
13th September- Field Trip – To be confirmed
25th September – PDI Competition – Animals (Mammals)

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

This month's featured image by Bob Adams was the winner of our Image of the Year Competition.

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

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



Hadleigh
Choral
Society

We're still humming the catchy tunes from our wonderful summer concert from June. ..but soon our attention will turn to our next term which will bring together autumnal and Christmas themes, featuring works by celebrated English composers Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gerald Finzi and Herbert Howells. Our Autumn term begins on Tuesday 8th September, and as always, we welcome new singers. Why not join us for our free singing exploration morning, Saturday 12th September from 9:15-12:15 at the Ansell Centre as we learn all about these glorious choral works and get a taste of what's to come over the next few months. There is no obligation on your part, and music and refreshments will be provided. A special offer is available for new choir members. For more information visit our website www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk

Bin collections

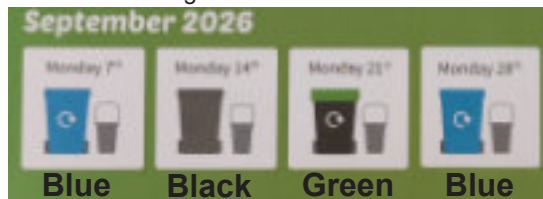
From June 2026, you will be able to put the following additional items into the blue-lidded recycling bin:

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 here for more information



Week comencing:



Green on Tuesday
1st September due
to August Bank
Holiday

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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 Branham 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.

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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.
Branham 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

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Stratford St Mary - Route 11

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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

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

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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.

A horizontal bar chart with a green bar and a black line. The green bar is positioned above the black line, and both extend across the width of the chart area.

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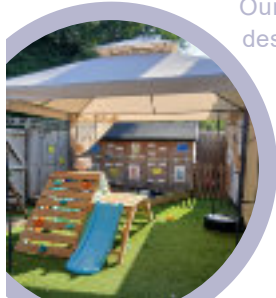
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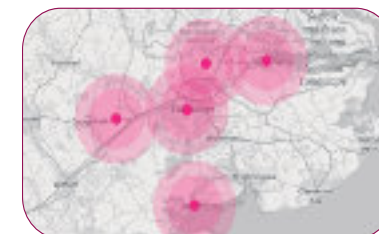
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BENEFICE CONTACTS, SERVICES AND EVENTS

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 September

Sunday, 5th September: 10am Stratford SM Parish Communion
(14th Sunday after Trinity)

Sunday, 12th September: 10am Higham Parish Communion
(15th Sunday after Trinity)

Sunday, 19th September: 10am Holton SM Parish Communion
(16th Sunday after Trinity)
9.30am Stratford SM Café Church in the Parish Room

Sunday, 26th September: 10am Raydon Parish Harvest
Festival with Communion
(17th Sunday after Trinity)

Looking ahead to October

Sunday, 4th October: 11am Stratford SM Parish Harvest
Festival with Communion
(18th Sunday after Trinity)

*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 will meet in the Parish Room,
Next date Sept 20th

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, 24th September, at 2.30pm.

These are the dates of subsequent meetings for your diaries:

Thursday 22nd October

Thursday 26th November

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

It has been a summer of four weddings in our benefice and with one more to come in October, please pray for the couples who are starting their married lives together and / or preparing to get married in our Benefice.

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

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.

A September Prayer

Dear God, as we step into September, we ask for Your guidance and blessing over new beginnings. Help us embrace change with faith and optimism. May Your presence lead us through every transition and challenge. Grant us the strength to pursue our goals and the wisdom to make the right decisions. Bless our efforts and help us to honour You in everything we do. Amen

The Annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, Ride & Stride

Do support this annual event if you can, by walking, cycling or driving to as many of our beautiful churches across Suffolk as you can. Our

local benefice organisers have been encouraging support on the parish pages of Quartet, and it is worth remembering that 50% of the monies raised by each individual through sponsorship, goes back to their nominated church. Our churches have benefited enormously from grants awarded by SHCT in the recent past e.g. to help with funding to replace the roof at Stratford St Mary, when the lead was stripped by thieves. Repair and maintenance of these historic buildings is only possible with the support of charities such as SHCT – do join in or sponsor someone taking an active part, if you can.

Thank you.