

the norton messenger

January 2024



EDITORIAL

Best wishes to you all for the New Year.

I chose the photo above as we seem to be having a rather wet winter, but would prefer to use photos that you send me of Norton and the surrounding countryside, so send some in for January – floods or otherwise!

Please keep sending any other contributions for the Messenger to the address below by the 15th of the previous month.

Best wishes, Diana

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MID SUFFOLK

Refuse and Recycling

Collection Schedule 2024

December 2023

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

January 2024

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

February 2024

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

March 2024

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

April 2024

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

May 2024

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

June 2024

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

July 2024

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

August 2024

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

September 2024

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

October 2024

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

November 2024

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

- REFUSE (general rubbish) collection week
- RECYCLING collection week
- Refer to the MID SUFFOLK Christmas and New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2023-24
- Collections following a bank holiday will be a day later than usual for the rest of the week



Please put your bin out by 6.30am

To check for delays and report a missed collection, please visit www.midsuffolk.gov.uk
Alternatively, phone 0300 1234 000 (option 4)

REGULAR VILLAGE EVENTS



CARPET BOWLS

In the Baptist Church Hall every Tuesday at 14.00hrs

Come and try it out, free first session - all for enjoyment not competition.

If interested please call Ronnie Emmins on 01359 232096

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

November was extremely wet and December is shaping up to be almost as bad. However, the Village Hall has got its hat on; the scaffolders were able to complete this by working whenever there was a short lull between the storms. Now, we wait for the specialists to come to remove the asbestos roofing so that it can be replaced with grey steel sheets that are heavily insulated. Unlike the current roofing, the new material can be attached so that it is bird-proof (the old roofing allowed birds to get in to nest and to roost, we almost had our own aviary). Once the new roof material is installed, frames will be bolted to the outside so that photovoltaic panels can be attached to both sides of the roof. However, as a precaution against mishaps, the panels will not be installed until the 'top hat' has been removed; this will happen in early January, after the Christmas break.

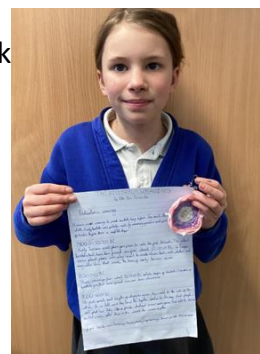


While all the roof work is being done, contractors have been removing topsoil and laying hardcore in preparation for making some extra car parking spaces. These will remain in place after all the hall refurbishment has finished.

There will be a holiday for the builders over the Christmas period so there may be little progress to report by the time the February edition of the Messenger goes to press, in which case I will write again in the March edition.



Norton CEVC Primary School
School Close Norton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3LZ
Headteacher Mrs Lisa Sparkes
office@norton.suffolk.sch.uk 01359 230520 www.norton.suffolk.sch.uk



I write this article with just a few days of the Autumn term remaining.

During November we celebrated Anti bullying week with our Anti Bullying Ambassadors leading a fantastic assembly on the importance of respect, how to treat others and what to do if you see someone behaving in an unkind way. The children also provided a clear explanation to the children of the term 'bullying' and when it should be used. We also celebrate everyone being unique, different and special by coming to school in odd socks.

Key Stage 1 and Early Years did a fantastic job of retelling the Christmas Story as they presented 'A Miracle in Town' to the older children, family and friends. There is always something very special about children singing, they do so with such joy and fun. It also amazes me every year how brave and courageous our younger pupils are to perform to such a large audience.

Many of the classes have experience a Design and Technology week. In Year 6, the children had to design and make a handheld electrical toy. The sense of achievement experienced by the children when they got their toy to light up or move was certainly a sight to enjoy. In Year 5 they have been looking at structures, working together to form bridges out of newspaper which can not only free stand but hold a significant weight too! Year 4 have not only had fun designing and making a pop up book linked to 'The Lion and the Witch and the Wardrobe' but they have also tasted, designed, made and decorated Christmas biscuits. In Year 3, the children designed and made photo frames ready for a Christmas Present whilst Year 2 made their own felt pouches. Our Christian Value of Perseverance was certainly displayed as the children threaded needles and learnt to stitch. In Year 1 the children have been looking at books with sliding parts and leavers and then using this information to have a go at creating their own book with moving parts.

As part of our enrichment programme for PE, all the children enjoyed an ice hockey session. Unfortunately we were unable to accommodate an ice rink or skates but the children had great fun with a hockey stick and puck. On Thursday 7 December the hall was full of children and parents enjoying our Home Exhibition. Each term the children are provided with a range of tasks they can complete and I am always surprised to see the quality and range of pieces the children produced.

The children in Star Class are very excited at the moment because as I write this article I can hear the sound of a digger and see a skip being filled. For several years we have been planning to redesign our Early Years and it is now happening. We are looking to having a new canopy, track and climbing frame for the children to enjoy as well as many features. Hopefully in the next edition I will be able to share some pictures.

It is also a time of change for our school in relation to the Governing Body. In August we said goodbye to Mrs Helen Firth, who had been a Foundation Governor for 8 years and in January we will also be saying goodbye to Mr Brian Aket. Mr Aket has been part of the Governing Body for 20 years, representing the Local Authority he and has certainly seen many changes. As retired headteachers, both governors brought an understanding of education, challenge and wisdom to the school's Governing Body.

Mrs Sparkes





Norton Baptist Church

January 2024



Check the information below for our services throughout January and beyond



Happy New Year from all of us at Norton Baptist Church.

We would like to thank all of you for your support, time, gifts and energy over 2023 and we are looking forward with great anticipation for all the things that 2024 will bring.

January sees things going back to a more normal program for us but please check out the details below for everything that is happening this month. As usual, our doors open at 10am for all of our services when refreshments are available, and the service will start as close to 10:30am as possible! A light, continental style breakfast is served for Café Church.

Caroline is not available on Sunday the 14th so we have Gavin from BCY joining us for the morning service.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details of The Den for our young people and for all other notices of things that are coming up over the next few months.

	7 th Jan	14 th Jan	21 st Jan	28 th Jan
Praise & Worship	10am			
BCY		10am		
Praise & Worship			10am	
Café Church				10am

For all the up-to-date information please “like” our Facebook page. Scan this code to go straight to our page



You can email us on:
nortonbaptist@btinternet.com



Norton Salvation Army

Woolpit Road, Norton, IP31 3LU

What's on at the Army in January?

Sunday 7th	Breakfast Church/Covenant Sunday (Enjoy coffee/tea/pastries in a relaxed Worship setting) (Led by Maj. Doug & Glynis Askew)	10.45am
Sunday 14th	Morning Worship (Led by: Stuart Hendry Community Youth Engagement Worker)	11.00am
Sunday 21st	Evening Praise (Led by: Beverly Robilliard)	6.00pm
Wednesday 24 th	United Churches Prayers for Christian Unity (To be held at Salvation Army)	TBA
Sunday 28 th	United Churches Christian Unity Service (At Baptist Church)	4.00pm

Mondays (School Term Time)	Toddlesong (Children 0-4yrs £1 per family/session)	9.00am – 11.30am
Wednesday 3 rd	Friends Cafe (We are a dementia friendly group, free for all to attend for a chat & refreshments)	2.00pm – 4.00pm
Thursday 4 th & 18 th	Band Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.30pm
Monday 8 th	Jo's Fit4All	6.00pm – 8.00pm
Thursday 11 th & 25 th	Choir Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.30pm
Thursday 25 th	Cameo Lunches (3 Course Meal £6.00)	11.45am – 1.30pm
Friday 26 th	Youth Drop-in (Keep a look-out on Facebook for more details)	4.00pm – 6.00pm

Unwanted clothes & shoes: We have a new clothes bank in our car park which is *Hungry and waiting to be fed* with your discarded clothes & shoes. Available 24hrs. Please help us to help others.

The Norton Salvation Army would like to wish you all a Happy & Blessed New Year. If you haven't been to see us yet why not put us on your 2024 list of things to do.

If you would like to make contact with Norton Salvation Army please e-mail: Valerie.ling@salvationarmy.org.uk OR Peter.newson@salvationarmy.org.uk We will be pleased to help you where possible with any questions/queries

A Christian Church and Registered Charity No: 214779, and in Scotland SC09359
The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, 101, Newington Causeway, London, SE1 6BN

ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Our **November** talk by Gerry Barnes of the UEA, gave our bumper audience a fascinating insight into "*The Orchards of Eastern England*", based on his co-authored book of the same name. He is well placed to advise us that the eastern counties of Herts, Essex (Wilkins jams in Tiptree), Cambs (Chivers at Histon), Hunts, Beds, Norfolk (Gaymer's cider in Attleborough) and Suffolk have a tradition of fruit cultivation comparable in scale to that of the better-known west of England.

Our **December** meeting saw the welcome return of renowned local actor, Bryan Thurlow, for his talk/performance entitled "*Music Hall Memories*", which gave us an excellent light-hearted potted history of British Music Hall with historic songs and monologues.

Traditional Winter Ghost Stories - Our most revered festive traditions rarely go back that far: after all, the Christmas tree only arrived with Prince Albert in the 1840s. Yet one tradition that seems genuinely ancient was the telling of ghost stories on the shortest days (and longest nights) of the year.

For our **11th January** meeting, **7.30pm at the Wesley**, we will be hosting a Members' Evening which will feature three short talks of our members' own researches, the topics of which will be "*The Hidden History of Ickworth House*", "*Suffolk Workhouses & Stow Lodge*", and "*The Fens*". Do join us then for what promises to be an interesting and varied evening of talks.

For further information about our History Group, please visit our website – www.elmswell-history.org.uk – or contact our Secretary, on 01359-242601

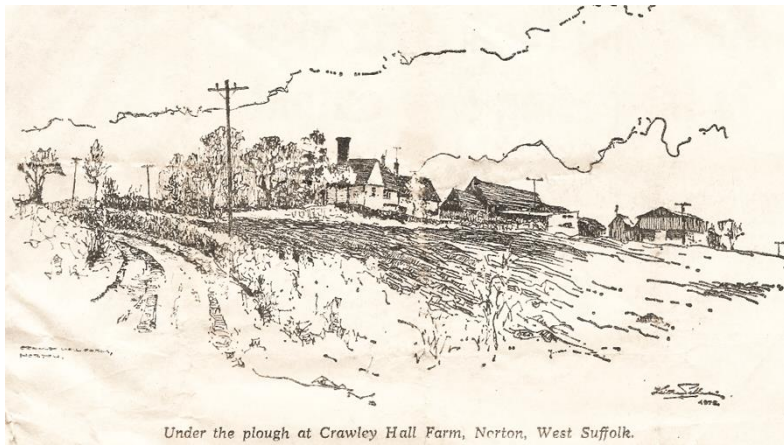
DOWN OUR STREET

I thought that I would start this year by sharing some of the latest photos of Norton which I have been sent by Mr Kevin Elvin. Some have recently been posted on the 'Norton Suffolk History and Photos' Facebook pages, but I know that many readers don't use this site.

The village shop (now Heathercroft) by the Dog crossroad was run by Mr Henry Potter and his wife Emily. Henry was a saddler, bicycle agent, draper and grocer. As far as I know, the saddlery workshop used to be at the rear of the building.



The shop with the old garage and petrol pump next door. The garage was eventually run by their son, Edgar Potter who was a cycle mechanic. Many older residents remember him, as he used to charge accumulators for their radios. This stood in front of where Mahala was built (There was another similar petrol pump and shop at the other end of the village at White Rose Cottage on Stanton Street, run by Mrs Ada Wordley who was Olive Wordley's mother-in-law. She eventually bought the shop and garage from the Potters. Ada's mother's first name was Mahala).



Under the plough at Crawley Hall Farm, Nerton, West Suffolk.

Sketch of Crawley Hall by Keith Pilling, from an old copy of the Bury Free Press.



Heavy horses ploughing and men hoeing sugar beet at Crawley Hall Farm.



Norton School 1953/54. I know the names of the children bottom right. Can you help name the others please?

Ted Hunt, Michael Meekings and Doreen Miller have been suggested, but I don't know which they may be.

Any ideas please email me at

bg55599@hotmail.com



Can anyone help me identify any more of Norton's Salvation Army Songsters?

Back row 2nd from left David Cobbold. Front row to right of banner Beryl Seeley. 2nd from right Faith Seeley.



On 29th August 2008 this railway carriage was hoisted from a garden behind Heath Road onto a truck and taken to the Mid Suffolk Light Railway workshops for restoration.



First photo is an old view of The Salix in Heath Road. The second photo is of the house which stood on the corner of Heath Road and Hawes Lane. It was demolished by Charlie Seeley and Len Robinson and the plot was used to build Bradbrook End, Chareth and Charlesfield.



The lean to greenhouse was Heath Road side.

View in Hawes Lane with 'Little Brand' in the distance. Almost gone

Are you able to let me copy old house documents/deeds or photos to add to the record of Norton?

A happy 2024 to everyone. Without your help and generosity in lending personal family photos and sharing memories, 'Down Our Street' and the Norton Archive could never have been produced.

Thanks, from David Burt.

PRESENT in the Chair: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. J Bolus, Mrs. T. Long, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. G. Walton, Mr. N. Winstanley, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk) (LGA 1972 s12 para 40), County Councillor A. Mellen, District Councillor D. Bradbury, Three members of the public
APOLOGIES: Prof. K. Jaggard, Mr. R. Lenko. The Council consented to accept the apology and reasons, which will be recorded in the attendance register.

District Councillor A. Davies.

The following minutes have been abbreviated for the Messenger – please see the website for the full version

1.	Welcome and protocol reminder	
2.	Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests - Mr. Winstanley declared a pecuniary interest in item 7.2	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM Member of the public – questions and concerns from those in attendance. Concern expressed by members of the public about problems crossing the A1088 from Heath Road, particularly at school times, which have been exacerbated by the work on the A14. Request made for a road crossing or a lollipop person. Councillor Mellen explained the investigation that had taken place concerning a road crossing and the problems around the various options at or near the crossroad junction i.e that the road did not have pathway either side of the road, the road was not wide enough to take mid-road refuge and could not be widened. He commented on the condition of the Suffolk House development to provide a road crossing. This crossing would be located further along the road near the playing field entrance, but would have no path on one side of the road to access it from Heath Road. Although the cost would be around £120,000 the main problem is the road width itself. He was unsure of the criteria for a lollipop person and will approach the Team responsible. Crossing problems also involve the senior children trying to access the bus stop for the Upper School. Mrs. Hill felt the initial investigation should be the lollipop person and ask Councillor Mellen to undertake this with the utmost urgency. Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email Report of incident at War memorial. The Clerk had contacted the Insurance Company with photos, and car details, and had sought quotes for the work to repair.	Councillor Mellen Clerk
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information only - Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen. Councillor Mellen confirmed that Highways had been out regarding flooding in Norton Little Green, and agreed to clear gullies and jet to the outfall. Mrs. Hill thanked Councillor Mellen for chasing the ANPR cameras for speedwatch, With regard to the Bridge repair, the preferred diversion being the A14. The work will take around 4 months. The Clerk stated she had written to National Highways requesting 20mph, 30mph signs - Report from District Councillors Austin Davies and David Bradbury The Clerk commented on the locality budget submitted by the Hall for the solar panels on the Hall and Councillor Bradbury agreed to check this had been actioned.	Councillor Bradbury
5.	MINUTES	
	5.1 To note and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd October 2023. Mrs. Long proposed, Mr. Winstanley seconded, with all in agreement	
6.	MATTERS ARISING	
	6.1 UK Power Network update. The Clerk outlined that the proposal required advertising. As the land is Open Space it cannot be dispersed without advertising. The solicitor had quoted £800-1200 for this work. Mr. Aket proposed asking the solicitor to do the work, but Mr. Walton felt he should go back to UKPN	Clerk Mr. Walton
	6.2 Playing Field Path and Hedge. Thanks to Mr. Bolus and Mr. Morgan for clearing back the path and cutting back the front hedge. Mr. Morgan has skirted back the path along the A1088 at the play area.	
	6.3 Wildflowers Scheme. Mr. Winstanley had met with Mr. Parmee. Nothing more can be done to the area until next Spring when it will show what is growing	
	6.4 Footpath walk leaflet. This has been printed and available on line.	

	6.5 Traffic Mirror opposite Hall entrance. A donation to the village hall and preschool should be forthcoming from the Contractor and then Mr. Walton will ask about a mirror replacement.	Mr. Walton
	6.6 Bus service update and emails received. Funding for Bus Network improvements. Mr. Winstanley had found the bus times during term time, but there was no Saturday service. Mr. Winstanley agreed to log in to the Bus forum meeting next week.	Mr. Winstanley
	6.6 Street Lights. The Clerk asked for details of any lights out or missing	Agenda
	6.8 Hedges. The hedge has now been cut and the 30 mph sign cleared, There are several hedges around the village that require cutting back from the road and path.	
	6.9 Road signs for repair. Mr. Walton agreed to send details to the Clerk	Mr. Walton
	6.10 Remembrance Day – review of service. All appears to be in hand.	
	6.11 Street Cleaner. The Clerk reported the street cleaner had been back	
	6.12 Flooding in Ashfield Road. Mr. Walton reported flooding along the Ashfield Road due to a pipe under the road being blocked. He agreed to report it on the flood website and the Clerk will report on the Highways portal.	Mr. Walton Clerk
	6.13 A1088 Stowlangtoft bridge liaison group – see Councillor Mellen’s report.	
7.	PLANNING	
	7.1 PLANNING APPLICATION AND LISTED BUILDINGS Manor Barn, Ashfield Road, Norton -DC/23/04959 Changes to landscaping and parking arrangements, erection of extension to house plant/domestic storage. Conversion of garage, form enclosed porch, installation of air source heat pump and wood burning stove with flue. Replacement/alteration of fenestration. The Council objected to the change of colour and it was felt it should remain in keeping with the area.	
	7.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION 4 Honeywood Grove, Norton, - DC/23/05013 Erection of a single storey side and single storey rear extensions. The Council approved this application.	
	7.3 APPROVED Springfield, Halls Lane, Norton. Proposed re-submission of application DC/23/00265 (Reduced scheme) Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension (Following demolition of existing rear extension and garage)	
	7.4 APPROVED Feld House, The Street, Norton DC/23/03864. Discharge of conditions	
	7.5 APPROVED 2 Old Forge Close, Norton, DC/23/03805 Householder Planning Application - Erection of single-storey detached double garage (Retention of).	
	7.6 APPROVED Norton Pre-school - DC/23/03866 Continued use of land for the siting of unit for pre-school for seven years and addition of Hardy Board style cladding and insulation.	
	7.7. LISTED BUILDING GRANTED Manor Barn, Ashfield Road, Norton DC/23/03177 Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of extension to house plant/domestic storage, conversion of garage, installation of air source heat pump wood burning stove with flue and internal works to include replacement/alteration of fenestration and changes to internal layout.	
	7.8 PLANNING APPEAL REF: APP/W3520/W/22/3312743 Land off A14, Elmswell for Development of petrol filling station, a drive-thru restaurant and coffee shop, with various infrastructure and landscaping works.	
	7.9 PLANNING REFUSED Manor Barn, Ashfield Road, Norton, DC/23/03176 Householder Application - Erection of detached cart lodge; Changes to landscaping and parking arrangements; Erection of extension to house plant/domestic storage; Conversion of garage and installation of air source heat pump, wood burning stove with flue; Replacement/alteration of fenestration	
	7.10 PLANNING PERMISSION REFUSED - DC/23/03899 Land West Of, Ixworth Road, Norton, Full Planning Application - Erection of 2No detached dwellings with garages.	10

	7.11 Mr. Aket commented on the advertisement for the houses behind Suffolk House which did not indicate self-build.	
8.	FINANCE	
	8.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment. Payments via online: Clerk's salary £416.00 & Expenses (Apr-Nov) £122.69 GA1972 s112 Street Cleaner £72.00 LGA1972 s112 TenHats, October & November, £690.00 LGA1972 s142 SALC, training, £144.00 LGA 1972 s112 Vertas, grounds maintenance, £332.03 Public Health Act 1875 s164 Tectonic,(Web site) £165.00 LGA1972 s142 HMRC £122.00 (Lloyds cheque 000011) LGA1972 s112 British Legion, Poppy wreath, £50 Lloyds cheque 000012 LGA 1972 s1388 M. S. Oakes stage payment for village hall work £37340.76 – Santander cheque no 522542 Local Government Act 1972 s133	
	8.2 The Clerk confirmed receipt of CIL £24,451.58 and recycling £570.62	
	8.3 To receive budget statement. Circulated and approved by the Council.	
	8.4 Coronation commemoration Woolpit will be asked about their footpath board.	Clerk
9.	SPEEDWATCH	
	9.1 Update on Speedwatch. There is a delay in obtaining the ANPR camera.	
	9.2 To consider small solar SID located at Heath Road - ongoing	
10.	VILLAGE HALL	
	10.1 Update on Project and monthly site meeting. There will be a roof tin hat put on while the roof is taken off and replaced. Full Fibre connection is being investigated.	
	10.2 Mr. Walton confirmed that the CIL payment from MSDC can now be paid to the Parish Council. MSDC will only pay 25% of the invoice with the rest expected to be paid from the Council Loan. This will allow the Council to reclaim VAT on paid invoice. The Clerk questioned when the next portion or all of the Loan should be claimed. This will be discussed at next month's meeting. The Clerk questioned the PC budget of £46000 allocated by the Council. Mr. Walton explained that in order for the Hall to access other funding it had to state what was being match funded by the Council, so this figure had been used as Council input into the project.	Budget Agenda.
11.	PLAY AREAS	
	11.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall. Mr. Millyard will re-do the bark	
	11.2 Play area Prospect Road. Mr. Walton stated the sign would be put up next week	
12.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	12.1 MSDC Review of Polling Districts - noted	
	12.2 SALC Conference 29 th November 2023 - noted	
	12.3 Bulletin Oct 2023 A14 Haughley to Tothill Reconstruction Scheme n - noted	
	12.4 PC dates for 2024.- received and confirmed as correct.	
	12.5 New operating model information Suffolk Constabulary - noted	
	12.6 Councillor training dates -noted	
	12.7 Reopening of Fitness Suite at Thurston Community College – noted.	
	12.8 Clerks & Councils Direct	
13.	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	13.1 Mr. Aket commented about the flooding of the Tostock Road after the bridge, and felt Tostock Council should be contacted. Mr. Walton commented the water is not coming off the field but off the SWT water meadows.	
	13.4 Mr.Aket commented on the adult play equipment near Tesco Express in Bury which could be investigated if the Council was considering items.	
14.	To confirm the date of next meeting: 4 th December 2023, 7.30pm	
15.	There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.45	11

January 2024 Church Services

Our beautiful and ancient church is open every day for visitors and private prayer.

7th	Epiphany Sunday	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Family@Church 3 Wise Men	Norton Pakenham
14th	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham
21st	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion 6pm Evening Prayer and Praise	Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield Tostock
28th	4th Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am TOAST 9.30am Family Communion 11am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Morning Worship	Great Ashfield Norton Hunston Tostock

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2024 18TH - 25TH JANUARY



"Loving God and loving our neighbour".

This year all the churches in Norton will be gathering to celebrate and emphasise our prayers for Christians around the world of whatever denomination, and our prayers for each other here in Norton and this benefice.

You are warmly invited to join us for the following services:

- Wednesday 24th January 9am -Morning Prayer at the Salvation Army Hall
- Sunday 28th January at 4pm - United Service at Norton Baptist Church

YOUR PARISH CHURCH

St Andrew's Church has existed in our village for hundreds of years. For some of us it's a place of worship and prayer, for others it's a quiet place of contemplation and reflection, whilst for many it's a familiar landmark from which many happy walks with families, friends and dogs both begin and end. Maybe all 3! Over the next few months, we will have a few articles about the Church, the people that work there and what it can offer to our Norton community. This month, Katherine Valentine, our local Rector, gives some insight about her working week, which we all know is always busy on Sunday, but what about the rest of the week?

Not just Sundays! A week in the life of your Rector. One of the things I love about my work is that it is so varied - every week, every day is different, and much is unpredictable. Who knew that one day in June I would be meeting an archaeologist down at Norton church to talk about the planned excavations in the field next door, and that they would find a ceremonial burial of a Roman horse! Not every week is so exciting, but each week brings something new and different, and it is always a privilege. (cont. on next page)

This week I have attended the School Nativity and have 2 School Carol services coming up. I have helped a couple plan their wedding, written articles for the church magazine, chaired two village charity meetings, visited Stowlangtoft Nursing home to take a communion service for the residents, visited a Norton resident in another Nursing home, and taken a service for those at the sheltered housing in Tostock.

The children of Norton School are always a big part of my week. As well as attending a School Governor's meeting this week, I am part of the 'Open the Book' team which goes into school every week for Collective Worship and acts out Bible Stories for the children. This is always great fun, as is the Lighthouse after-school club, which again I help run with Caroline from the Baptist church. One of the great delights of my ministry in Norton is the number of projects in which all three churches can collaborate - truly being Churches Together in Norton. We are getting ready for the Village Carol service this week and it is St Andrew's turn to host.

In all this busyness it is lovely to have a few quieter moments, and during this last week I have found those when I have taken Holy Communion to people who struggle to get to church. It is always a welcome moment of peace, to pray with someone in their home. In my role as Rural Dean I also had a meeting a few days ago with the Bishop and folk from Badwell & Walsham as they prepare to advertise for a new priest.

Not every week is like this. Sometimes there are coffee mornings and afternoon teas to attend, which are great places to meet people - as well as have a coffee and piece of home-made cake! Some weeks are shaped by weddings and funerals - but more of that another time! In between all this activity there are all the usual administrative tasks that come with running 6 parishes, but there is always time to take that important call or meet with someone who simply needs to talk. Being there for those who need someone to listen is a key part and privilege of my job.

Most importantly, each day begins and ends with prayer - these days on an app! - a moment of reflection and thanksgiving, praying for the people of Norton and all our parishes, and asking for God's help for the day to come.

With every blessing for the New Year, Katherine.



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