

the norton messenger

September 2026



EDITORIAL

Thank you for the photos this month – have included some nice ones of the eclipse and some eclipse watchers.

As always send in anything you would like to see in the messenger to the address below by the 15th of the previous month,

Diana

CONTENTS

Village classes	2
Norton WI	2
Eclipse photos	2
St Andrew's Church	3
Elmswell History Group	4
Elmswell Garden Club	4
Down our Street	5-7
Twinning news	8
Baptist Church	9
Salvation Army	9
Local Business Adverts	9-12



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VILLAGE NOTICES

For the latest information please visit our website nortonvillagehall.com where you can take a virtual tour of the hall, see the calendar, hire prices, news and more.

To make a booking, please use the booking request form on the website or contact:
bookings@nortonvillagehall.com
 We always welcome new members to help us run and improve this important village amenity. If you are interested in getting involved, please email committee@nortonvillagehall.com.

VILLAGE HALL CLASSES

Activities at Norton Village Hall		
For the latest information, please see our website, nortonvillagehall.com , where you can take a virtual tour of the hall, see the calendar, hire prices, activities, news and more.		
Monday	9:00 - 10:00am Main Hall 6:00 - 6:45pm Main Hall 7:00 - 7:45pm Main Hall	Pilates with Paula Paracise Jo's Fit4All
Tuesday	9:30 - 10:30am Main Hall 10:45 - 11:45am Main Hall 7:15 - 9:15pm Main Hall	Serenity Yoga Silver Swans Song Circle
Wednesday	9:15 - 10:15am Main Hall 10:30 - 11:30am Main Hall 6:30 - 7:30pm Main Hall	Power Pilates Hula with Abs Zumba
Thursday	9:00 - 10:00am Main Hall 7:00 - 8:00pm Main Hall	Pilates with Paula Rockfit with Bliss
Friday	9:15 - 10:15am Main Hall 10:45 - 11:45am Main Hall	Zumba Yvonne's Keep Fit Class
Saturday	9:00 - 12:00pm Field (football season only)	Stowmarket Youth FC U9s
Sunday	9:00 - 12:00pm Field (football season only)	Stowmarket Youth FC U12s

NORTON WI

There was no meeting August, but the September meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday, 14th September, and the Speaker is Derek Wilding, who will give us an overview on the work of SARS.
 New members are always welcome and for further details contact nortonwisuff@gmail.com.



THE ECLIPSE COMES TO NORTON



Watching with friends
and a beer!

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (Part of the Benefice of Pakenham, Norton & Tostock, with Great Ashfield, Hunston & Stowlangtoft)

Rector: Revd Katherine Valentine Tel 01359 235095 Email: kavalentine677@gmail.com

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com Benefice Church magazine www.vcnews.org.uk

September 2026 Church Services

Open daily for visitors and private prayer. St Andrew's Norton services are highlighted below.

6 th	14 th Sunday after Trinity	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Family@Church Back to School	Norton Pakenham
13 th	15 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Harvest Festival 11am Family Communion 3pm Harvest Festival	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham Stowlangtoft
20 th	16 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Family Communion 3.30pm Harvest Songs of Praise 6pm Evening Prayer	Pakenham Great Ashfield Norton Tostock
27 th	17 th Sunday After Trinity	9.30am TOAST 11am Harvest Festival 11am Family Communion 3pm Harvest Festival	Great Ashfield Tostock Norton Hunston

HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE

Sunday 20th September 3.30pm St Andrew's Norton

Come and sing your favourite Harvest hymns and give thanks for all God's gifts to us in creation. You are invited to bring gifts of produce - imperishable please! - which will be offered up during the service and will go to the Bury Women's Aid centre with our love. All are welcome to stay for a Harvest Tea after the service



ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

FROM THE ARCHIVE – 27th September 1867. A formal civic farewell was given at the Crown & Anchor Pub (*now sadly closed*) to mark Henry Footman's departure to Cambridge. Henry worked for his father's firm – the draper's Footman, Pretty & Nicholson in Westgate Street (*later becoming Debenhams*) – but he was also a well-known public figure. He taught at the Mechanics' Institute (*opened 1824, moved to Tavern Street in 1834, still exists there today as the Ipswich Institute*) and was a co-founder of a Working Man's College in a room at Ipswich Town Hall. He was a Liberal town councillor and helped set up the Ipswich Penny Bank, but was leaving Ipswich to become an Anglican clergyman. Nearly 20 years later, he was still in touch with Ipswich life, when he heard that 250 'navvies' had arrived in the town to work on the docks and dig the sewers. Most public figures threw their hands up at the thought of this influx of reputedly hard-living labourers, but Footman wrote to encourage Ipswich churches to set up a mission for them because, after all, he argued that they would leave some good work in the town. (*Ref: Ipswich Journal*)

The first meeting of our new season, 2026-7, will be on Thursday **10th September**, 7.30pm in the Wesley Hall (School Rd, IP30 9EE), when our annual subscriptions will be due for payment. Our annual subs and monthly fees remain as previously - to join us as a member (or renew your membership), it is £12pp subs plus £4 per meeting attended (£16pp payable at your first meeting) or £6pp per meeting to attend as a visitor. As we cannot take credit/debit cards, we'd appreciate exact cash or a cheque (payable to "Elmswell History Group"); also for attendees to arrive a little earlier than usual (doors open at 6.45pm) to give us all time for this essential annual administrative procedure, before our prompt start of 7.30pm.

On 10th September, we look forward to welcoming Darren Dordoy for his talk on *Stowmarket's 1871 Gun Cotton Explosion*. As Stowmarket's Mayor and Chairman of Stowmarket History Group, Darren is extremely well placed to give us detailed information on this catastrophic event in the town's Victorian history, so do join us then to find out much more.

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



ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

Our speaker this month was Paula Joyer, a local flower farmer at Fox House Flowers in Stanningfield. Paula had been considering growing flowers commercially for some time but made the leap three years ago and has not looked back. She is still learning what grows well on her exposed plot, adapting plants to suit the increasingly warmer and drier weather. Whilst annuals really work well as cut flowers these are proving trickier to grow, with shorter stems and shorter flowering periods. Growing more perennials could be the answer. Paula's growing favourites are roses, peonies, sweet peas, dahlias and lupins.

Passionate about locally grown flowers (just 14% of flowers sold in the UK are grown in this country) Paula sells direct at local markets and provides flowers for weddings. As the growing season is relatively short, she dries her flowers and sells these too and runs Christmas wreath-making courses. She has also cultivated her business by making fruit-infused apple cider vinegars and marshmallows. She is one busy lady!

Our speaker for the September 15th meeting is Ruth Goudy 'How to Plan a Beautiful Border'. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel, School Road.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing our passion for gardening.

Wendy

For Information contact elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com or myself on 07748 442951.

DOWN OUR STREET



Photo above left shows Jannings' steam mill (off Stanton Street) which was built in 1854. This photo shows it in 1974 before it was converted into a house and the chimney was removed. Right, the old petrol pump at White Rose Cottage, Stanton Street.



The façade of Little Haugh Hall.



Left, the brick circle at Norton 'Petsenta' and right The Dalek, both built by Mr. King, the owner.



Street Farm, Woolpit Road before the animal sheds were removed and multiple houses were built.



The Old Norton School in The Street



View over the Old School. At the back was the toilet block and the wall dividing the boys from the girls is just visible. There was no mains water till mid-1950s and no sewer in the village till the mid-1960s, I can't be more specific as parts of the village were connected as-and-when.



View across Mill Hill (right) and Great Ashwarren and Woods Pightle (left of road) before the building of St Andrew's Place and Honeywood Grove.



Marquee in Prospect Road ready for celebrating the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in June 1953. ⁷

Our 40th year continues in great style, and as promised we have lots coming up for the last few months, so please make a note of the dates listed below.



ABBA Night: 17th October 2026:

This is our next event open to everyone! Tickets are available to purchase now, simply send us an email or speak to one of our committee members who will be able to assist. We will be joined by live singers who will deliver us with an evening of fantastic music, alongside a licensed bar which will be available.

Why not **Take A Chance** on us, be a **Super Trouper** get dressed up and bring along your **Dancing Queen!**



Looking forward...

As we approach the end of 2026, we look forward to the future and to ensuring our Association can continue with the same enthusiasm and success we have seen over the last 40 years. In order for us to do this it is becoming increasingly important that we welcome new members, so if you have ever wondered what we are about, please do get in touch and we would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have, or please come along to our AGM on 7th October, 7pm at the Village Hall



Dates for your diary:

- ❖ **5th September:** *Members only* Pork & Pimms!
- ❖ **7th October:** AGM, 7pm for 7.30pm start
- ❖ **17th October:** ABBA Night, tickets on sale NOW
- ❖ **25th November:** *Members only* Wreath making
- ❖ **27th November:** Bingo Night, tickets available soon



nortontwinning@gmail.com



Norton and District Twinning Association



Norton Baptist Church

September 2026

Check the information below for our services throughout September and beyond

We are sad to announce that Caroline Vallance is stepping down as our Minister from the beginning of September. We are very grateful for all she has done for Norton Baptist Church over the past 5 years. She will continue to be around and will carry on with Lighthouse Club, The Den and school assemblies.

In her place Pete Vallance will take on the role of our Minister. Peter has been leading the church on a Sunday Morning for a while now and will be taking on formal training to become a recognised minister with the Baptist Union. We will be organising a formal Induction Service for Pete in the coming weeks.

All our services start at 10:30am with our doors open for tea/coffee/refreshments from 10am. The first three Sundays in a month take on a more traditional style with prayers, songs and bible readings and we have Adventurers (our version of Sunday School!) for children. The fourth Sunday is Café Church – join us for a continental style breakfast and a family orientated service. We celebrate Communion on the third Sunday.

We will be holding our Harvest Service on September 27th

The Den will be starting up again on Friday the 18th September at 6:30pm and will be open to anyone in school years 4-7.



Norton Salvation Army

What's on at the Army in September?

Sunday 6 th	Breakfast Church	10.45am
(Enjoy coffee/tea/pastries in a relaxed Worship setting)		
Sunday 13 th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 20th	Harvest Festival Praise	6pm
Sunday 27 th	Morning Worship	11am
Weds 2 nd	Friends Cafe	2-4pm
(We are a dementia friendly group offering time out to include carers)		
Thursdays	Cameo Lunches	11.45am - 1.30pm
(3 Course Meal £6.00)		
Thurs 3 rd /17 th	Choir Rehearsal	8-9pm
Thursday 24 th	Band Rehearsal	8-9pm
Friday 19 th	Adult Craft	7-8pm
Saturday 12 th	Hall open for signing in	
(Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride)		

Harvest Festival: Following our Harvest Festival Service we will again be giving our harvest produce gifts to a local food bank. If you would like to donate any non perishable items which we can pass on to those who are in need we would love to see you. The Hall will be open for preparation late afternoon Saturday 19th when you could drop them off. On Sunday the 20th September the Hall will be open from 10.30 am to 4.00pm when you can come in at you leisure & view the Harvest displays. Teas/coffee will be available free of charge

Please feel free to come & join in with us at any time:
You would be very welcome

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THURSDAY
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