Signs of spring at St Andrew, Fersfield
A little of your time could make a big difference...

Age UK Norfolk is a local charity, helping local people. Each year we provide support to thousands of older people in Norfolk and have been doing so for over 65 years. Our free Information, Advice and Advocacy Service offers support on a wide range of issues, including benefits and entitlements, advocacy, bereavement advice, money matters, housing and care options and much more!

Age UK Norfolk also offers, dementia support services, telephone befriending, day support clubs and respite care.

Could you help?

The services and support Age UK Norfolk offers would not exist without our volunteers and we are currently in urgent need of new volunteers!

Volunteering for Age UK Norfolk is an opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and work within a friendly, professional organisation and have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a real difference to people’s lives.

Something for everyone!

However you would like to get involved, we offer a wide variety of volunteering opportunities throughout Norfolk.

Just a selection of volunteering roles at Age UK Norfolk:

- Telephone befriender
- Administrative assistant
- Information and advice assistant
- Trustee
- Advocacy assistant
- Day support volunteer
- Fundraising assistant
- Benefits outreach advisor
- Money Matters assistant

Pick up the phone to find out what Age UK Norfolk can offer you!

Please call our volunteer recruitment line on 01603 785241, or check out our website www.ageuknorfolk.org.uk to find out more.
**Christ before the High Priest**

Matthew 26:57–66

Before training for the ministry in 1975, I was a solicitor’s conveyancing clerk to Withers of 20, Essex Street, The Strand, London WC2. Today they are called ‘Withers World Wide’ and have offices throughout the world.

One of the joys that I had at the time was the occasional visit to the National Gallery.

There is one painting that affects me more than any other. It is ‘Christ before the High Priest’ by Gerrit Van Honthorst, painted in Rome between 1610 & 1620. Conveniently there is a bench to sit on, opposite the painting. The main focus of attention is the burning candle in the centre of the picture; seated in the shadow to the left is Caiaphas, the High Priest, and by the side of him there is a book containing all the due punishments prescribed in the Mosaic Law. To the right of the candle, in partial light, Christ is standing with his hands bound in front of him, facing the High Priest. The false accusers surround the High Priest in the shadows. Christ is brought before the High Priest by the Roman Guard, on the instructions of Pontus Pilate. Pilate is seeking a way to avoid trouble with the Romans and is hoping that the High priest can deal with the situation. Under Jewish Law the High Priest cannot demand that Christ be crucified; so he releases Christ back to the Roman authorities, for them to carry out the Crucifixion.

The image of Christ standing quietly, patiently, fearlessly against the false accusations by the crowd, by the religious leaders and government of the day is so powerfully and wondrously portrayed. Knowing that He voluntarily accepted the unjust, cruel death on the cross is outstanding. Deliberately substituting Himself for our sakes at the cross, the benefits of which are truly ‘World Wide’.

Rev David F Mills
Rector of the Winfarthing Group

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**St Mary’s Luncheon Club**

This club is for retired folk from Burston and the surrounding villages. Members meet in the Church on the fourth Thursday of every month. Any enquiries to Sybil Peck on 01379 741410

**Youth Café**

Every Thursday during term time the Youth Café is in full swing. If you are aged 11-14, come and join us for games, free pizza and milkshake from 3.45–5.15 in the Church.

**Burston Chapel**

Services: Sunday 11am and 6.30pm
Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays 8pm (call 741816 for details)
Jamie’s Gang (school age club): Wednesdays 5pm–6.30pm, in term time only

**Information Please**

To inform the village of a special event or item of local interest please contact Liz McEniff on 01379 742583.

**Parish Council News**

Parish and town council elections are held every four years. The most recent elections were held on Thursday, 5 May 2011. and the next planned election will be on the 7 May 2015. The nomination period for this will commence at 9am on the day indicated on the Notice of Election which has yet to be published by South Norfolk Council.

All prospective candidates who want to stand for election must formally submit their nomination between the hours of 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) until 4pm on 9 April 2015. Please note that the nomination form and consent to nomination must be submitted by hand and cannot be submitted by post, fax, email or other electronic means.

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**Winfarthing Group Rector writes…**

**Christ before the High Priest**

Matthew 26:57–66

We had a great Christmas in 2014. It was lovely to welcome children and staff from Burston Primary School into church for our annual Christingle service, near the start of December, and we enjoyed the children’s singing very much. Perhaps the highlight of the season was the Christmas concert which the Friends of Burston Church arranged – this year we were very fortunate to be entertained by the Shelfanger Singers. They came into the church, singing along the path, with lanterns swinging, and I’m sure that many people present got a glimpse of what it might have been like to have celebrated Christmas in that place one or more centuries ago. Thanks go to all who provided mince pies and mulled wine, and to the singers themselves, of course, led by Pam Ross.

The main event the Friends are looking forward to in 2015 is Open Village. Traditionally we hold this every two years, to raise money for the upkeep of the church. Many villagers open their gardens so that members of the public can walk round and enjoy them (for a small charge). We hold other events and have refreshments throughout the day in the church. At the time of writing we are starting to think about what we might include this year – if you have a good idea for Open Village (or, indeed, any other social/fund-raising activity) do please get in touch.

Rachel Hobson Tel: 741033

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**Rev David F Mills**
Rector of the Winfarthing Group

**St Mary’s Church**

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In our RE lessons, the children will be learning about how stories are used to teach religious messages. We will focus on the story of Noah’s Ark and the Creation Story.

Class 2: In Literacy we are going to begin by talking about the nonsense poem and limericks created by Edward Lear. The children will have the opportunity to write some limericks of their own and will appreciate reciting some famous poems, such as ‘The Owl and the Pussycat’. Then we will move onto postcards and letters and finally traditional stories from other cultures. In maths we will continue to have daily mental maths sessions which will culminate each Friday with our ‘Big Maths’ challenges. There will be a primary focus on number work.

Class 3: In Literacy we are going to be beginning the year looking at non-chronological reports and journalistic writing.

Along with daily maths lessons, the children will be continuing their Big Maths every Friday morning, where they have challenge against the clock as well as themselves.

Our topic for this half term will be Crime and Punishment. The children will be focusing on how it has changed through the ages. During this project we will also be looking at how modern advances have enabled us to track down criminals, looking at fingerprints and how they are individual to each person and also trying their hand at creating e-fits based on a description given by another child.

In Science, the children are going to be working on electricity.

RE is every Monday morning. This half term we are going to be learning about pilgrimage and its important part in all the world religions, focusing on Hajj, Lourdes and the Bodhi tree as well as the significance of Jerusalem in a range of religions.
members of the Friends for checking out the crypt (there really are things that are all done by mirrors!) which seems to indicate that there is no standing water down there, which helps eliminate one possible cause for the vestry wall problems.

This research will be collated by the PCC and form the HLF bid due to be submitted in February.

During the autumn the Friends received a much appreciated donation towards our aim of bringing a water supply into the church – many thanks to Muriel Cullum and her family and friends for this.

Also, a ramp to help with better access to the church (again supported by a generous donation from Janice Pitcher, her family and friends) is being constructed and we hope will soon be installed.

We had a good turn-out for ‘ringing in’ of 2015 on New Year’s Eve in the church. Warmth was provided by the rings of and course some necessary and by now traditional supplies of whisky to keep out the cold!! Well done all you brave souls!

The Friends also launched a membership renewal campaign helping us to update the membership register and importantly updating any agreements made for Gift Aid, which have to be renewed each year. Many thanks to all those members who have contacted Denise Scoggins about this already but if you have not yet completed your renewal form then please let Denise have this soon. If you are new to the village and considering you might like to join the Friends, then we would love to hear from you.

For further information on any aspects of the work of the Friends, contact Fiona Turton, FOGC Chair, at fionaturton@btinternet.com or Ed Scoggins, FOGC Secretary at eddie.scoggins@live.co.uk

Heart of Gissing

Exciting news! Heart of Gissing (Land & Buildings) has been successful in getting through to Stage 3 of their Big Lottery Reaching Communities Bid to provide new and improve facilities at the Old School. Visit www.heartofgissing.org.uk for up to date information. And you can google ‘Gissing Village Life’ and find us, and ‘like’ us on Facebook.

A plea – the village receives financial benefit from bottle banks, so we would urge people to continue to use the bottle banks provided rather than putting bottles in their green wheelie bin.

Easter Egg Hunt

Good Friday 3rd April, 10.30am–1.30pm
Start and finish at the Children’s Centre Gissing
£2 per child, includes end of trail egg
2 walks, one for older children and one for younger
Other activities and refreshments
Contact/booking:
admin@heartofgissing.org.uk
tel 01379 677790 or 674511

Groups running at present include:
South Norfolk Time & Place a series of talks at the Village Hall. For information, call Kate Heath 01379 677504 or email. admin@heartofgissing.org.uk.
Heart of Gissing Crafter’s Cafe meets on the second Tuesday of every month 10–1pm. Any one interested is invited to join this popular get-together in the Village Hall. The session costs £3 and includes materials and refreshments. Phone Anne Reynolds on 01379 674272 or Kate Heath on 01379 677504.
Gissing Children’s Centre (Pre-School and Play Scheme) Contact Linda Nash on 01379 677300 (9am to 3pm during term) or 07796 204367 out of hours or email – email=samiwatt@rocketmail.com
Gissing Community Arts Group: a new group with exciting plans to run initiatives involving visual arts, music, dance and drama at the Old School including provision for young adults with disabilities or learning difficulties. Any queries regarding this group can be directed to Rose Eddington on 01379 677790 or email at rose@roseeddington.co.uk.
Gissing Youth Club: anyone interested in running this group, please contact Bernie on 07796 549929 or 01379 677254 or email berniecalton@live.co.uk
Gissing Reading Group now meets on the second Monday of each month at 8pm at the Old School. For further information about the group, please contact Jim Phillip on 01379 677352 or just come along.
Gissing Gardening Group generally meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month at the Old School. For enquiries about the group, contact Joe Cromley on 01379 677817.
Gissing Singers meet every Monday at 7.30pm in Gissing Village Hall. Further information available from Andrew Piersonen@01379 674518.
Pilates every Wednesday evening from 6.30pm at the Children’s Centre (the Old School). Call Sharon Calton on 07970 411644 or email sharon@scalton.orangemail.co.uk for further details.
Performing Arts East offers ballet, tap, and contemporary dance classes to children (3 years of age) and adults and runs from both the Children’s Centre (the Old School) and from Gissing village hall. For further details, contact Sam on 07825 325100 by email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com
Musical theatre classes every Wednesday from 5pm at Gissing Village Hall for anyone over 7 years of age. The class includes singing, dancing and acting, working on scripts from popular musicals. The group will then do recitals for family at the end of term. For details, please contact Sam as above.
Gissing Community Gardens: generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Old School. Call Sharon on 01379 677790 or email at sharon@scalton.orangemail.co.uk
Gissing Singers: the local theatre group puts on performances from time to time. Anyone interested in treading the boards, please contact Sam on 07825 325100 or email at samiwatt@rocketmail.com
Friends of Gissing Church: contact Fiona Turton 01379 677811 or email fionaturton@btinternet.com.
Gissing Carpet Bowls: Derek Dewey on 01379 677162.

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Stage HOGers: this local theatre group puts on performances from time to time. Anyone interested in
**SHELFANGER NEWS**

**All Saints’ Church**

As this is the first issue of the New Year, the Shelfanger Cock Crow team of writers, illustrator, and distributors send you all their very best wishes for 2015.

What a wonderful and busy Christmas! Your church was again beautifully decorated for Advent and Christmas. Real thanks to the flower ladies, to Marian for the Advent candle display and to the Friday Team for the Christmas tree. Sadly, the delightful white snowflake lights were not part of the decorations this year.

The village Carol Service taken by the Rector saw a packed church listen to the Christmas Story told in traditional Christmas readings, poetry and prose. Seasonal music included a lovely rendition of ‘Little Donkey’ by children from All Saints’ School.

It was lovely to have them with us on this occasion. The congregation had an opportunity to join in some traditional carols as well as listening to some individual pieces performed by church members; all this set amidst the sparkle and twinkle of candlelight. It was a lovely and non-commercial start to the festive period. Thank you to all.

**Fund Raising Events**

A huge and heartfelt ‘thank you’ to the Parish of Shelfanger for donating the magnificent sum of £1,800 at this year’s Gift Day. What a result! This Gift Day was followed on Saturday 29th November by the Christmas Fayre organised by Anne Lord and Marian Paines. Stalls providing Christmas gifts, cakes, nearly new clothes, and a large choice of books were supported by tombola and a raffle. Strengthening soup and rolls was provided over the lunchtime period. The event was attended by a large and cheerful number of buyers and consumers who jointly raised just over £600. Again, thank to Anne, Marian and their hardworking team for this very successful event. These events and a series of generous collections taken at services has meant that your church has for the year just ended fully ‘paid its way’. fulfilled all its dues and demands, provided real support for a number of local welfare organisations and finished ‘in the black’.

The first steps toward a grant application for major repairs at All Saints’ Church are now being taken. Some serious problems with the chancel arch and chancel roof have developed over several years and now need attention. It is hoped to combine this work with some other modernisation and refurbishment. We must not get our hopes up too high, for this will be our third grant application in eight years but we should be in with a chance. The PCC has slowly built up a fabric fund reserve and this should provide the basis for a ‘pump primer’. More on this story in future issues.

**Village Hall and Social Club**

Under the leadership of the new slim-line Tig Ross, the New Year’s Eve bring-and-share party at the Social Club was revived. A sizeable group of members gathered to see the New Year in linking arms at midnight for the traditional Auld Lang Syne’. So with 2015 underway, is this a good moment to mention that as the sun sets later and rises earlier, thoughts are turning to this year’s Village Fete? Probably not!

On 9th January, Derek Lord restarted the Shelfanger Thrift Club collections. The Social Club thanks him for this valuable service which has now run for over 15 years. Why not come to the club on a Friday night and start saving for next Christmas?

The Social Club has a new upgraded flat screen TV set organised by Tig and installed by Robbie Trudgill and Ivan, our chairman. On Saturday 2nd January members viewed an archive film of 1950s Diss which created much interest. Members were engaged by both changes and similarities between Diss of then and now.

**Village News**

A number of small gifts were distributed in Shelfanger on behalf of the village ‘Dade Charities’. Pam Ross and Marilyn and Ron Hurst also visited David Lond in the Depperhaugh Nursing Home, Hoxne, taking gifts and good wishes from the charity and the village.

David was also able to benefit from the replaced Social Club television as his own room TV had gone ‘on the blink’. The old club TV and digibox were fitted for David by Ivan Cotton and Roger.

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**Parish Council**

A quick reminder from the Parish Council to keep your eye on the village website www.shelfanger.com – it is constantly being updated and revised. If you have any events or news you would like to share with the village please contact Brian or Paul on brian@shelfanger.com or paul@shelfanger.com

**Shelfanger Stitchers**

Meets on alternate Thursday afternoons at The Walnuts is forging ahead. As well as pursuing personal projects and knitting specialist articles for local care charities, a number of highly original pieces are being produced. If you are interested in joining, please contact Helen on 01379 632190.

**RBL Poppy Appeal**

Peter Harries has the final figure for the 2014 collection made in Shelfanger and this amounted to £347.55. Thanks to all who contributed and to Peter and Tig Ross for doing the door to door collection.

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**Plant Sale**

**Lopham & Redgrave Fen**

**Sunday 19 April, 10am–3pm**

Over 20 award-winning and specialist nurseries selling perennials, shrubs, fruit bushes, herbs, hostas, alpines and lots more! Plus second-hand tools and donated plants.

Adults £1.50, children free

Hot & cold refreshments available

Dogs on leads welcome

01379 688333

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**A special plea**

A number of residents have requested this magazine to remind dog-walkers of the requirement to clear up dog faeces. This is not always easy and sometimes it should contact Colin Mobbs on 01379 644859
**TIVETSHALL NEWS**

St Margaret and St Mary

**Christmas at St Margaret’s**
A big thank you to all those that helped make the church look so inviting and beautiful for Christmas. The cleaners, flower arrangers and those that lit the church with candles all did an amazing job.

The Carol Service by candlelight was well attended and £87.72 was taken in the collection which has been sent to the Salvation Army.

**Chalices of St Mary’s and St Margaret’s**
Last year Peter Rowan obtained permission from Norwich Cathedral (where the chalice of St Mary’s church is kept) to photograph both chalices together: presumably this is a first. Paul Playford has kindly printed some post cards which are now available in St Margaret’s church.

**Flower Festival**
This year we shall be holding our biennial Flower Festival (date yet to be arranged). If anyone is interested in any capacity please contact Maggie Rowan on 01379 674116.

**Village Hall**
The Village Hall Management Committee would like to wish you all a happy new year and hope that we may see you attending the hall during 2015 (even if it is just to vote in the forthcoming election).

Many people do regularly use the hall for various clubs, functions and entertainment and I would like to thank members of the committee for their efforts and continued support in the day-to-day running of the building during 2014. Just like a home it needs occasional maintenance, heating oil topped up, bills paid on time, cleaning and of course someone to organise the bookings. This all takes place behind the scenes with a small group of volunteers who keep the whole thing running so the village can enjoy a large modern facility that belongs to us all.

Anyone who thinks they may have over indulged during the festive season and needs a little motivation to exercise may wish to join in with one of the regular clubs, whether it’s gentle Pilates, or Yoga, energetic dance or slightly more relaxed but competitive indoor Bowls, information on many of the groups can be found on our website www.tivetshall-villagehall.org.uk

**Tivetshall Primary School**
We began the new half term with a Guy Fawkes party after school. Despite the wet weather the campfire burned brightly and lots of food was cooked and eaten and everyone had a great, if rather muddy, time.

Two days later the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 went to Diss High School to enjoy an afternoon of multi-skills. The Reception children coped extremely well with a new experience which was very noisy and crowded with a great many children.

The following week was busier still. The whole school took part in a Science Day with an animal theme. This was a great opportunity to learn a lot outside the constraints of the day-to-day timetable.

We walked down to the ruined church for the annual Remembrance Service. As usual this was a moving experience and the behaviour of the children was outstanding. We had not been back long when years 5 and 6 were on a coach to Diss to play in a tag rugby tournament. They tried very hard and persevered well against much larger schools with one of the teams finishing seventh.

Years 4, 5 and 6 had a very exciting day (and a very early start!) when we went to the NEC in Birmingham. We left school at 5.30am but some children were here at 5.50am! We were there for The Skills Show, an inspirational exhibition of different careers and colleges and universities. Behaviour was so good that Mrs Green sent home a special letter of congratulations to every child.

Another busy week began when a visitor came to speak to us about the work of The Dogs’ Trust and teach the children both how to care for dogs and stay safe around them. This was shortly followed by a sport-packed day for KS2 with a morning at Sportshall Athletics in Long Stratton followed by lunch and a quick change at school and an afternoon of swimming. Lots of people were sore and tired the next day but not too tired to enjoy the Class 2 Literacy Café which was well attended and great fun.

Christmas activities began in earnest with the annual play. The children did a fantastic job, showing us yet again how well they sing – even when technology failed and they just kept going. Well done!

We thank the kind gentleman in the large silver car leaving Thwaite’s Oak Close who stopped for us on the morning of 17th December as we walked the children across to the hall to practise. We were not quite so fortunate on our return as a woman in a small grey car driving past the school towards Thwaite’s Oak Close at lunchtime failed to stop at all. Fortunately the senior teacher and two other members of staff, who were standing in the road wearing hi-viz jackets, managed to jump out of the way. The children were not in the road and were never in any danger. This was most unexpected as the drivers of Tivetshall are usually so careful and kind when we are out walking.

We ‘Skyped’ Santa. Amazingly, he knew everything that we wanted for Christmas and had obviously read our letters. We must say that we thought that his elf was quite naughty! We saw Santa again in person at the end of term party. Many thanks to The Friends for organising and running it.

Sandra Potter, Senior Teacher

**WINFARTHING NEWS**

**Whist Drives**
Tom and Joyce Blake send their thanks to all the people who have supported them over the past year. With all this support and the prizes for the Christmas Whist Drive, we have raised £630 for the Village Church and the Village Hall Fund.

**Walking**
The Winfarthing Walkers are now well into their eleventh year of walks which take place every third Wednesday of the month. They start from a different place each month and are usually about 5 to 6 miles long. If you would like to join us please contact Di 01379 642125 or Marion 01953 860535.

**All Saints Primary School**
2015 began with a trip to the Pantomime to see Peter Pan. This was partly funded by Home School Association and was a huge success. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It gave them inspiration in their English reading and writing.

Last term the Home School Association organised a festive Christmas Fair which raised £600. Children made Christmas cocktails and enjoyed hot dogs, adults could purchase Turkey rolls. Classes had worked hard to create a range of games including bean bag Santa, Guess the coins and Lucky Dip. Following the fair, the whole school worked hard to create a phenomenal production of ‘A Magical Christmas Jigsaw. The school were proud to be able to perform the production in their own school hall. Well done to all the pupils and staff who assisted.

The end of term finished with an end of term service in St Mary’s Church. Winfarthing. Thank you to Miss Wood and the choir for also taking part in the carol services in Shelanger and Winfarthing.

For further information about All Saints Primary or to bring your child to visit, please contact the school on 01379 643767 or by e-mail head@allsaints-diss.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

Louise Norgate, Executive Head Teacher for All Saints, Hatton and St Andrew’s Federation
COCK CROW IS THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF THE WINFARTHING GROUPS OF CHURCHES AND THE UPPER WAVENEY BENEFICE

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Jennie Vere, Southlands, Church Corner, North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk. 01379 687679 jennyvere@btinternet.com

TREASURER
Cheque payable to ‘Cock Crow Committee’ please Mrs Alison Bannon, 4 Millway Avenue, Roydon, Diss IP22 2AZ 01379 688291 dianajb@btinternet.com

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR
Lynda Sullivan, Rosario Cottage, Rectory Road, Tivetshall St Mary NR15 2AL 01379 676713 copyforcrow@keme.co.uk Further details page 16

CORRESPONDENTS
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THE COCK CROW TEAM & CORRESPONDENTS

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GISSING Richard Hewitt, The Cottage, The Common, Gissing IP22 2BP 01379 687355, rjhewitt@hotmail.co.uk

SHELFANGER GISSING Joe Cromley, The Chequers, Upper Street, Gissing, IP22 2TF 01379 677817

TIVETSHALL NORTH LOPHAM Mrs Jennie Vere, Southlands, Church Corner, North Lopham, IP22 4QL 01379 687679

WINFARTHING SOUTH LOPHAM Jacky Brown, Bottie Cottage, Redgrave Rd, St Lopham IP22 2HL 01379 687260 jackiebrown@btinternet.com

WINFARTHING CORRESPONDENT NEEDED: please apply via Winfaring PCC

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WINFARTHING CORRESPONDENT NEEDED: please apply via Winfaring PCC

The four parishes and Roydon are now considered members of the Diss Team Ministry of all SIX parishes, led by the Rev’d Canon Tony Billett, Rector of Diss and also Rural Dean with Revd Wendy Evans as Team Vicar. To arrange Weddings or Baptisms, contact: Diss Parish Office 01379 643783. For other pastoral matters requiring a priest, contact one of the churchwardens, who will put you in touch with the appropriate individual.

Sunday 1st February
Epiphany 4
No Service
No Service
9.30am
11am
H C
FS

Sunday 8th February
Epiphany 5
9.30am
HC
9.30am
11am
MS
FS

Sunday 15th February
Transfiguration Sunday
9.30am
MP
No Service
11am
FS
HC

Sunday 22nd February
Lent 1
10.30am
At Methodists
9.30am
H C
FS

Sunday 1st March
Lent 2
No Service
No Service
9.30am
11am
H C
FS

Sunday 8th March
Lent 3
9.30am
HC
9.30am
11am
MS
FS

Sunday 15th March
Mothering Sunday
9.30am
MS
9.30am
11am
MS
FS

Sunday 22nd March
Passion Sunday
10.30am
At Methodists
9.30am
H C
FS

Sunday 29th March
Palm Sunday
10.30am – HC in St Mary’s, Diss, for 5th Sunday

Friday 3rd April

Sun 5th April
9.30am
Easter Sunday
Easter HC

2pm
Good Friday Service
Easter HC

Easter Sunday
9.30am
Easter HC

11am
Easter HC

11am
Easter HC

11am
Easter HC

11am
Easter HC

11am
Easter HC

11am
Easter HC


Morning Prayer: At present is at 8.30am on Monday and Tuesday at North Lopham and on Thursday at South Lopham in addition to the service held each weekday in St Mary’s, Diss at 8.30am.

Wednesday Communion: is at 10.45am in St Mary’s Church Diss.

Fellowship/Country Connect Group: Meets on some Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm; contact Jennie (01379 687679) for location.

Holy Bingo: Meets on the first Monday of each month in Lophams’ Village Hall at 2pm. It’s a fun event, not for serious bingo enthusiasts. Do come, for happy socialising.

Churchwardens

Bressingham D Burroughes 01379 688291
Fersfield J Sumpter 01379 687718

N Lopham A Briggs 01953 681989
S Lopham P Reeder 01379 687273
R Hewitt 01379 687355
R Vere 01379 687679
D Huggins 01379 687201
J Brundell
The Hand of Prayer

This is a prayer aid taught me many years ago by a retired Methodist minister.

Some may consider it to be rather simplistic, but I have found it useful and hope that others who have not come across it before will share my view. It uses the fingers on one hand to remind us of the concerns we wish to bring before Almighty God.

1 The thumb, which is closest to us, reminds us to thank God for those near and dear to us — our family and friends, and to ask for His blessing on them all.

2 The index finger, symbolising authority, prompts us to pray for our local councillors, our Members of Parliament and all those who represent us in local and national government. We can also pray that all leaders, throughout God’s world, will have the humility to ask for and accept His guidance and support to bring peace and justice to their people.

3 The end of the middle finger is furthest from us, so we pray for all those who live far from us — people we may never meet, but they are our brothers and sisters in God’s family here on earth, and we can pray particularly for those who suffer from natural disasters and manmade cruelty and intolerance.

4 The fourth and ‘weakest’ finger reminds us to pray for those made weak by illness, injury, bereavement, loneliness and anxiety and to ask for God’s healing touch on them all — those we know and those known only to him.

5 The smallest finger prompts us to pray for ourselves, and thank God for the gift of life and His love for us all. We can also ask for His help and guidance in becoming and remaining true disciples of His son, Jesus.

6 The palm of our hand can then symbolise the collection of all these prayers for sending to Father God through His Son, with support of the Holy Spirit.

David Summers, Reader (Emeritus)
The amount collected in Bressingham for the 2014 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal amounted to £852.82. This includes amounts collected at Bressingham Garden Centre, Bressingham Primary School and Bressingham Village Shop, and will go towards the over £50 million that the Legion spends every year providing a wide range of welfare assistance to the ex-Service Community. Many thanks to the door to door collectors, the centres mentioned above, and all those who gave so that those who have served in our defence can be helped.

Brian Pulfer

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

After opening the January meeting, Mrs De la Salle said that although bottles can now be re-cycled in your green bin, bottle banks will continue for the year.

Discussions had taken place with the Highways Department in an attempt to lower the speed limit on some roads in the Parish but Mr Spratt (Norfolk County Council) said that the Highways Authority would not agree so speed limits in Bressingham and Fersfield will remain as they are. Some roads which have been gritted previously are no longer included due to cuts in the budget. Pot holes and damaged verges are still a problem, although the County re-served in our defence can be helped.

We wish everyone a Very Happy New Year and look forward to a busy 2015. St Andrew’s now embarks on a period of restoration, when some very necessary work will be carried out on the south wall of the chancel. Temporarily, all services and meetings will continue as usual but without using the chancel. This has come as something of a shock (including the £20,000 bill!) but we will try to see it as something of an opportunity. There will be plenty more news where this is concerned – already preparations are under way for the new annual Plant Sale and an exciting summer concert.

Richard

St Andrew’s Primary School

2015 began with a trip to the Pantomime to see Peter Pan. This was partly funded by Friends of St Andrew’s School and was a huge success. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It gave them inspiration in their English reading and writing.

Last term Friends of St Andrew’s launched the festive season with a Christmas Shopping Night. Thank you to everyone who came – the evening was delightful and raised £380 for the school.

With the festive season well underway, the whole school worked hard to create a phenomenal production of A Magical Christmas Jigsaw. Feedback from the audience was it was the best Christmas Production they had seen the school put on! So well done to all the pupils, staff and parents who assisted.

The production was then followed by a traditional carol service at St Andrew’s Church, South Lopham. Children sang, read and provided musical interludes. Mince pies and mulled wine were served by Friends of St Andrew’s, from the back of the church. Finally the term finished with a Christmas breakfast, lunch, parties and visit from Father Christmas.

If you would like further information about St Andrew’s Primary, or wish to make an appointment to visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk We would love to hear from you!

Louise Norgate, Executive Headteacher

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of people who, all through the year, provide and arrange our wonderful flower displays and clean and care for the church and its surrounding grounds.

In addition to Canon Tony and the Ministry Team, and the PCC we enjoy very considerable support from village members and people from across the Diss Team area and beyond. We really do have to mention Jan (S), Blanche, Maureen, Jan (H), Penny, Jennie (our organist), Richard (V), Pam & John, Sue, Karl, Krys, Liz and Margaret and Graham who give such support with the Parish Website. Quite a list, I know, but what a team – and massive apologies for any omissions.

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Richard

Church News

We have certainly had a busy few months – from Harvest-time onwards there have not been many quiet moments, and events reached a crescendo during December. We had a very successful book club mid-month, and then the Annual Carol Service on 22 December – a special occasion in the village’s annual calendar. This year’s event was enjoyed by a congregation of over 180, including a large number of children and young people. Rector Tony welcomed all those present, from the village and beyond, including a very special visit by over fifty members of Discord, with Music Director Michael Dann. Discord presented three items of their own, in addition to swamping the singing of well-loved carols. A magical item was the Discord leading of ‘When a Child is Born’. Members of the community read the lessons and poems: one of which was ‘The Christmas Truce’ by our Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, to mark this one-hundredth anniversary year of the outbreak of the First World War. Charities benefitting from the collection will include ‘Shelter’ and the East Anglian Air Ambulance, a Discord-adopted charity for this year. After the service, refreshments, which included mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies, were served. Huge thanks are due to all who took part in the service or worked hard in so many ways to make the event possible and so enjoyable.

Lophams’ Society

Spring Quiz

Lophams’ Village Hall

27th March, 7pm for 7.30 start

Entry £6 per person

includes a ‘ploughman’s’ Pay Bar • Raffle

Teams of six maximum All welcome

The Christmas Family Service at St Andrew’s, for some years now a feature of this special morning, was attended by a congregation that filled the nave of the church. Favourite carols were accompanied by the reading of the Christmas Story, given by Olivia Sumpter, back from teaching abroad for Christmas in her home village, with partner Arran. Children played a major part in the service, and it was good to welcome many visitors, too.

Lophams News

Friends of St Andrew’s, from the back of the church. Finally the term finished with a Christmas breakfast, lunch, parties and visit from Father Christmas.

Last term Friends of St Andrew’s launched the festive season with a Christmas Shopping Night. Feedback from the audience was it was the best Christmas Production they had seen the school put on! So well done to all the pupils, staff and parents who assisted.

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St Andrew’s Primary School

We had a really special half term, getting ready for Christmas. We went to the church to read the story about Jesus being born, then had a lovely time watching the big school’s play in the last week. Our party was very exciting – with Santa’s visit!

We are all looking forward to the new term and seeing new shoots appear in our garden area.

Our sessions are now all day, ie 08.45–15.15, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays each week during school term time.

Any new residents with children approaching their 2nd birthday, or a bit older, are warmly welcomed.
invited to get in touch to arrange a visit, with a view to joining us. We offer your child a safe way to make friends with those they may then grow up alongside, and can also help them to get to know the ‘big’ school too. Do note that ALL 3 years olds are entitled to 15 hours free sessions each week.

Just drop in and meet our team. Please note our new contact number is 07854 091257.

PS We are running a mobile recycling initiative, so if you have an old mobile languishing in a drawer, let us take it off your hands and turn it into much needed pennies and pounds for the pre-school.

Lophams’ Ladies
The year ended with our Christmas lunch at Wortham Tea Rooms: we enjoyed a delicious meal together when they opened on a Tuesday just for us.

The winter meetings are in the afternoon, starting at 2pm, so that we can get home before dark. On 6th January, Frances Hart spoke about Canals and Waterways, the talk touched on History and Biography, Geography and Mechanics – all illustrated with beautiful slides. We were amazed to learn so much, so easily. In February, David Morton’s illustrated talk is about Buckingham Palace. There will be a Bring & Buy stall.

Meetings return to 7.30pm in March, on the first Tuesday of each month. The subject on 3rd is Chocolate – Julian Saunders has a wealth of stories to tell, and perhaps some samples...!

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome at our meetings; a nominal £2 charge includes refreshments. Just telephone Sarah on 01379 687337 for more details.

Lophams’ Garden Club
Meets at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

We enjoyed our Christmas Dinner on 3rd December. Once again, the catering staff at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre worked very hard to make us welcome and, as always, provided us with a delicious meal. We then took part in a light-hearted quiz, followed by the drawing of the winning raffle tickets. I think that all who attended would agree that it was a most festive and enjoyable evening.

Since we do not meet in January, our first meeting in 2015 will be on Wednesday 4th February when Claire Simm from the British Trust for Ornithology will talk about ‘Garden Birds’.

Looking further forward, we shall hold a short AGM on 4th March which will be followed by a talk by Alan Briggs about his smallholding. Contact 687835 for further information. Pat Young

Lophams’ Society

Christmas Drop-in – The Lophams’ Society held its free Christmas drop-in on the 12th December where once again the hall was transformed with Christmas lights, decorations and a Christmas tree. Candles adorned a table of festive food and the spicy aroma of mulled wine added to the atmosphere. Children from St Andrews School got things under way with a lively rendition of Christmas songs accompanied and directed by Jennie Vere. This year, thanks to a generous donation from the White Horse public house, we were able to invite children’s entertainer Magic Charlie to keep the children amused until the arrival of Father Christmas who handed out gifts towards the latter part of the evening.

Unfortunately it appeared that attendance was slightly down on previous years and it would have been nice to have had the company of a few more familiar faces amongst the guests as the drop-in is a free event for villagers of all ages. Thanks to all those who did attend and to the committee members for all their hard work on the night. Maureen Gaynor

Spring Quiz The Lophams Society Spring Quiz will take place at Lophams’ Village Hall on Friday 27th March 2015. Entry is £6 per person to include a cheese ‘ploughman’s’. There will also be a pay bar and raffle. Teams of six maximum. The Hall will open at 7pm for a prompt 7.30 start. All welcome.

Holy Bingo
Continues in the Village Hall on the first Monday each month at 2pm, when new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. The next two gatherings are on the 2nd of February and of March. Telephone 01379 687679 for help with transport.

Lophams’ Village Hall
The Sunday Christmas Market was a great way to end the year, with all the excitement of the Bonanza draw. Hope YOU were able to come along!

The Lottery
We are just starting the sixth year of the Lophams’ Village Hall lottery!

The principal purpose is to maintain the hall as an attractive venue for the use and benefit of local people, so the proceeds from the Lottery are designated entirely for this. There are still a few free slots if you’d like to join in (ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379) 687608 or any committee member. There are three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a Bonanza draw at Christmas. The Lottery winners for November were: first prize £182, J Doust; second prizes of £45.50, D Hammond and A Jacob. For December the 1st prize £184 was won by B Jilley and 2nd Prizes of £46 each were won by D Hammond & J Farrer-Bradley.

The 2014 Christmas Bonanza Draw prize of £272.75 was won by E Birchall.

Farmers’ Markets usually the 4th Saturday of each month, 9am–12.30pm, the next two are 28th of February & March. (Details Mike on 01379 687235)

In addition to the Lottery draw, there is a monthly raffle with one superb prize, which includes an item from every stall — a wonderful array of goodies for the larder.

Judo is on Mondays & Wednesdays, Details from Howard on 1379 688258

Dog Training is held most Tuesday evenings, trainer Elaine (07845 776110) will provide information.

Lophams Art Group: meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £15 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an ‘expert’ once each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

To book the hall for private functions, please contact 01379 687679. To find out more about the hall, visit the web-site at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk.
Parish Council Website: The new standalone NLPC website will be operating soon.

Biomass: It seems likely that NL will see a big increase in heavy horticultural traffic when the biomass plant begins operating. Enquiries are being made to see what steps may be taken to mitigate the effects.

School Signs: An advisory 20mph speed limit will operate between the existing flashing warning lights when they are on. New signs will be installed at a cost of £1,800.

Footpath: Norfolk Highways quoted £11,000 to install a footpath between the Old Bull and the Cherry Tree junction. Partnership funding not available now so no further action.

Clearing Primrose Lane: a quotation of £600 to be shared 50/50 with SL was accepted.

Phone box: can be adopted for £1, maintenance shared 50/50 with SL was accepted.

Path to Village Hall: no progress.

North Lopham Charities Trustees: 3 vacancies, M Cox re-elected; A Osler and D Hammond elected.

Precept: set at £3,500 for the next year.

Community Hub: meeting to discuss this with Village Hall committee is being arranged.

Vice-Chair: Councillor Tate resigned as Vice-Chair but will continue as a councillor. Her replacement will be elected at next meeting.

Village Sign: Mike Daley, who made the sign 30 years ago, will deal with this.

Grass Cutting: The contract has been reallocated at a much lower cost.

M Newby’s burial: due to particular circumstances notified to the PC, it was agreed to waive the normal burial fee.

Monthly meetings: because of increasing council workload, the number of meetings might be increased to 12 per year in line with most other local PCs. Referred to next meeting.

Next meeting 11th March 2015

Methodist Church
Methodist friends now hold an informal service and coffee morning in Church on the fourth Wednesday each month and would welcome anyone from the village to join them at 10.30am. Services for February and March will be on 25th.

Samaritan’s Purse: Shoebuy Appeal
Many many thanks to everybody who took part this Autumn – the best year ever!
Sixty four beautifully wrapped boxes went to disadvantaged children in Serbia, in very good time for distribution for Christmas. The organisers reported a 4% increase in the number of boxes overall, so send extra thanks to all ‘new’ participants.

The Kings Head Carols & Auction Event
Held on 21st December, followed the traditional format: brisk auctioning of a huge range of goods and services, interspersed with the singing of carols. Auctioneer and MC, Richard Vere, was ably assisted by volunteers Paul and Chris, while his runner was kept very busy collecting money from successful bidders. The main profits from the occasion will be used to help purchase a defibrillator to be mounted outside the pub, for the use of any local residents in the event of heart attack. It will be a real boon for the village, as we are over 20 miles from the nearest hospitals. Many thanks go to our hosts, Angie and George for their welcome (and the mince pies) and to everybody who donated goods, or came to bid for them. The raffle – a beautiful cake, made and decorated by Chrissie Callow – boosted the total raised so far to over £1,520!

St Nicholas’ Church

North Lopham Crib Festival
The Festival was a wonderful end to the church year. Over 120 Nativity sets, from large to minute, were on display and the range of styles and materials was bigger than ever. The first ever coach party visit, from Basildon in Essex, really put us on the map and may lead to others next year – all very exciting. We are very grateful to all those who loaned us display items or who helped with stewarding and refreshments – it was a real team effort. We didn’t set out to make money, so were thrilled to add £680 to our funds for improving the church and its amenities.

The Toy Service: parcels for deprived families in the Thetford area were delivered to the Action for Children offices. The staff were thrilled and astounded to receive such a large donation of gifts. (Ours were boosted by a similar load from Roydon Church). They have many needy folk to care for.

The Advent Carol Service included some of the most beautiful music and readings. Team Rector, Canon Tony Billett was able to join us for this.

At the Family Carol Service the children read the Nativity Story in a delightful modern version, before Team Vicar Revd Wendy gave us her message.

The Crib Service: on Christmas Eve was wonderfully well attended – over 100 people in total, with every age decade represented – from William at 6 weeks to one visitor aged 97 years! The children placed the figures in the crib scene, as the traditional version of the Nativity unfolded.

Christmas Sunday: A Christmas Communion on 28th December was led by the Revd Wendy. The Epiphany Carol Service ended the main season with the visit of the Wise Men with their gifts providing the inspiration for more wonderful readings and music.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 18th February, extra services and courses will be held in Diss.

Mothering Sunday is on 15th March. The 11am Family Service will be a celebration of the Family, and the special place of Mothers. It would be lovely to have extra folk worshipping with us.

The churchwardens and church council members thank village residents for their help and support throughout 2014, and wish all readers a Happy and Healthy 2015.

The Starters and Sweets Evening, the first Social event for this year, will be at the Village Hall – hopefully just before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Please watch for local posters.

St Andrew’s Church News

On Tuesday 16th December we welcomed St Andrew’s School Children for their Carol Service. The children gave readings and said prayers and some of the talented young instrumentalists performed at the end of the service. Canon Tony Billett gave the blessing which was then followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Carol singing at The White Horse. South Lopham on Wednesday 17th December was accompanied by Rona on her accordion and Keith on guitar. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and in particular the rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas brought out some fine vocals. Our thanks go to our hosts Nigel and Tracy for their hospitality and refreshments. The raffle made £70 for St Andrew’s Church.

We were pleased to welcome the Reverend Captain Michael Reeder back to his home Church to take the Holy Communion Service on Christmas Morning, which was very well attended.

The PCC were sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Irene Howard on New Year’s Eve. Irene’s dedication to serving St Andrew’s Church for so many years was invaluable.

South Lopham Parish Council

Meeting 8th January 2015 at Valley Farm
Present: six councillors with Roy Clark (Lophams’ Society) and Peter Coster (Little Ouse Headwater Project), with one apology.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that more could be heard about Neighbourhood Plans at the North Lopham Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm on 14th January 2015.

The Clerk gave a financial report and the budget for 2015/16 was approved after small adjustments to take into account the election contribution.

Planning. Mrs Martin reported that permission had been granted for the extension to Old School Cottage. Breckland had refused permission for redevelopment of the building at Low Common. Owners of Noddle Farm had given notification of redevelopment of a redundant farm building. Query concern-
Hello to you all – well these frosts are making early morning walks interesting aren’t they, my human says she knows it’s bad when even I slip over! I do love all the frost on the grass though, rolling in it makes your fur feel wonderful. We have had some lovely sunny rises as well, one was so intense that it seemed to turn everything pink.

We have still been seeing the deer, sometimes just one and then three together but from the hoof prints there are lots about. Occasionally a hare will run out of our way but the very worst is a pesky squirrel that scampers along a fence top as I pass underneath knowing that I can’t get at it!

Mostly it’s just us and the birds, we nearly walked onto an owl that was crouched on the verge just ahead of us whilst the Little Owl watches us passing below his tree. Solitary crows squawk at us and we watch the rooks streaming overhead to their breakfast fields. Now the leaves are thinner we can actually see Druids Lanes squabbling sparrows and we marvel at how close we get to blackbirds & robins before they take umbrage and fly off and love the jerking gait of a wagtail as he investigates the sugar beet remains.

Winter may be here but spring is on it’s way – walking along a sheltered hedgerow basking in the afternoon sun we spotted primrose leaves, enjoy your walks folks!!

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**Diss Library News**

**Regular Events**

**Baby Bounce & Rhyme**

Time takes a break for the half-term on Friday 20th February; these short sessions of rhymes and songs are for babies from birth to 3 and new faces are assured of a welcome.

Junior Book Group will be on Monday 2nd February and Monday 2nd March at 3.30pm for children aged 8+.

Young People’s Job Club can help with your CV, jobsearch, interview techniques, application forms and anything else to get you back to employment, education or training. Drop in on Tuesday afternoons between 1.30 – 3.30 for expert help.

We also run a Knit & Natter session on Wednesday afternoons and two library book groups for grown-ups including one for people with a visual impairment.

Do you know anyone who has trouble getting to the library? This may be a temporary or a permanent issue, but we can help. We have volunteers who will come out to your house, discuss your reading preferences, choose and deliver books to you. If you or someone you know could make use of this service, please call the library on 01379 642609.

We are running another computer ‘Surf’s Up’ course for absolute beginners in February on Tuesday afternoons from 3.30 – 5pm.

For library opening times and more information on all our events and services visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries, or call Diss library on 01379 642609. For mobile library dates and details call 01603 222267 or follow the links to mobile libraries on our website.

**Opening Hours**

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 9 – 5
Tuesday, Saturday: 9 – 1
Wednesday: 9 – 1, 2 – 7.30.

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**Events at Redgrave & Lopham Fen**

**Jam masterclass**

Sunday 8 February, 10am – 3pm

Join popular jam maker, Janet Peachey, to learn how quick and easy it is to make jam and conserves, and use a variety of fruits to create different flavours. £25/£21.50 + £7.50 on the day.

**Booking essential 01473 890089**

**Find out about volunteering**

Wednesday 11 February, 10am – 12noon

Come and find out about volunteering opportunities both at the Fen and at Knettishall Heath. Just drop in. No experience necessary.

**Skulls & skeletons activity day**

Tuesday 17 February, 10am – 2pm

Activities, games and crafts. For 6–10 year olds £6 each. Booking essential 01379 688333

**Bird box building family afternoon**

Wednesday 18 February, 2pm – 4pm

Make a nest box and bird feeder to take home. Plus trail and crafts. £5 per bird box

Booking essential 01379 688333

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**Murphy’s Rambles**

The wildlife & landscape history of the south Norfolk claylands’ a talk by Helen Baczkowska of Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm

Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group. £2 per person (includes refreshments)

All welcome, no need to book

**Botanical Illustration**

Saturday 28 March, 10am – 3pm

Join professional botanical artist, Christine Grey-Wilson, on this relaxing and supportive workshop looking at a range of illustration techniques. The emphasis will be on botanical accuracy and seasonal plant material such as spring flowers and bulbs. £25/£21.50. Booking essential 01473 890089

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**Regular Events**

**Guided fen walks**

Saturdays 7 Feb, 7 March 10.30am – 1pm

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill.

£3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

**Wildlife Watch Group**

Saturdays 14 Feb, 14 March 10.30am – 12.30pm.

A club for 6–12yr olds, £2. Contact 01379 688333

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**Friends of South Lopham Church**

The Friends will be holding their next meeting at Flint Farm, South Lopham on Tuesday 27th January at 7pm. The Friends work towards the maintenance of our beautiful church, please come along. For more information please ring Evelyn Logsdail on 01379 687281.
From the Registers

Winfarthing Group
FUNERALS
Gerald Eagling  13th January, Tivetshall
Rose Whymark  4th February, Burston

Bressingham Group
FUNERALS
Irene Howard  January 23rd South Lopham Church
Michael Newby  January 28th North Lopham Church