

# VILLAGE VOICE

BRINKLEY.....BURROUGH GREEN.....CARLTON  
WESTLEY WATERLESS



DECEMBER 2021

**COME & SING CAROLS IN CARLTON CHURCH**  
on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 4.30pm.

An opportunity to choose your favourite carol & have a good sing! Light refreshments will be served.

Donations are welcome in aid of Carlton Church Fabric Fund.



**BRINKLEY CHRISTMAS CARD**  
2021

IT'S NOT TOO LATE - DEADLINE 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER.

One aim of the Christmas card is as a fundraiser, partly for the church, and partly for the chosen charity. This year, that charity is Young Minds, which focuses on supporting young people with mental health issues. It was our late vicar's charity. You can choose to donate to one charity, or to both.



Once you have 'signed up,' your name is printed inside the card. The card is delivered to everyone in our village.

Ros

Don't get left out!

For further details, please contact Ros on 01638 507240, or 07860 128270

**CHRISTMAS TREES**

R. D. JAGGARD



This year we are not selling from the yard in Burrough Green.

Instead we are taking orders for delivery. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

07766 566226

rdjaggardandson@btinternet.com

01638 507330

**SCRABBLE and MAHJONG**

Come and play Scrabble or Mahjong in the Community Room at Sheriff's Court. We meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of every month at 7.30pm. Only once in December though on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Do come and join us in a game. Beginners welcome. £2 includes refreshments

**CANDLELIT SERVICE**  
OF  
**CAROLS & READINGS**



St Augustine's Church, Burrough Green  
Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 6 pm



All welcome to stay for mulled wine and mince pies following the service

**COMMUNITY HUB BUS**

East Cambridgeshire District Council's new Community Hub Bus - is visiting Westley Waterless Village Hall once a month, our next visit will be:



Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 10am-12pm

If you need any support or advice with: Housing, Rent arrears, debt and money advice, Energy and utility bills, Employment, family, Welfare Benefits, consumer rights and many more. Come and see us!

**BURROUGH GREEN READING ROOM**

Join us from the 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Open every morning 8.45 to 11.00am

Serving free coffee

Everyone is welcome



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December

We will be serving a full English Breakfast

from 9 - 11am

£7.00 Adults £3.00 Children

A glass of prosecco is included



Join us for breakfast on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
from 9-11 am

Cost £7.00 for adults £3.00 for children

Call us on 01638 508888 to make your booking

**PLEASE SUPPORT US**

**WESTLEY WATERLESS PARISH AGM**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.00pm

Westley Waterless Village Hall

[westleywaterlessparish@gmail.com](mailto:westleywaterlessparish@gmail.com)

**BURROUGH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS AUCTION OF PROMISES**  
Crafts, hampers, vouchers & experiences  
Sort out your Christmas while supporting our school!

[www.peoplesfundraising.com/bgauktion](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/bgauktion)



Bidding online from 26<sup>th</sup> November to 10pm  
5<sup>th</sup> December

**THANK YOU**

Thank you so much to all who supported the Burrough Green Christmas Fayre on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

It was a very successful event with plenty of conversation and meeting of neighbours, friends and relatives over a light snack.

The table holders and the Reading Room committee members (who managed the catering) were happy with their takings and I will be sending £100 to Macmillan Nurses and £40 to Haverhill Stroke Support Group  
*Kathie Butcher of Burrough Green*

**MATHS TUTOR required**

Looking for Maths Tutor to help with progress towards Maths Olympiad  
The student is in Year 6.

Please contact me by email or phone.

[Olenaleech@gmail.com](mailto:Olenaleech@gmail.com)

07784 920927

**RECYCLING**

**Carlton & Willingham Green - Mondays :**

Black bin - 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Blue & Green - 6<sup>th</sup> December

**Brinkley, Burrough Green, Westley Waterless -**

**Thursdays :**

Black sacks weekly. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, **Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fri 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Blue Lid - 9<sup>th</sup>, **Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Green Lid - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, **Fri 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Ink Cartridges** The Opportunity Group which meets at the Ellesmere Centre would be very grateful for your old ink cartridges to help with fund raising. Please drop them in the box on the gate at White Hart Cottage, High Street Brinkley or in the box at the Ellesmere Centre. Thank you.

(The Opportunity Group provides one to one care for children with special needs and their siblings, also provides respite for their parents/guardians.)

**MARSH MAIL - News from Linton Village College**

LVC students have been involved in a range of enriching extra-curricular opportunities in the Arts this term.

We've had a Year 11 trip to Cambridge to watch 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' and also have a group of students visiting Ipswich in December to watch the Jasmin Vardimon Company production of 'Pinocchio'. The unique and quirky choreography and physical theatre which examines the idea of what it means to be human will no doubt inspire our students. DanceEast, the theatre venue, has also been involved in delivering professional dance opportunities for LVC students. A team of their associate artists visited the College earlier this term to lead workshops for our GCSE students. The Hofesh Shechter Dance Company spent a day with us on their educational tour of the East of England. Our students benefited from learning about Shechter's unique movement style and choreography. Students from all year groups have also been involved in musical theatre workshops delivered by LVC alumni Richard Woodford who has performed in West End Shows including Starlight Express. Seeing him roller skating through the school common rooms as he treated classes to performances from this musical and others was a treat.

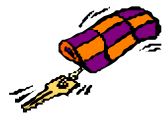
Rehearsals for our annual school production have begun. Carol Ann Duffy's collection of 'Grimm Tales' are the inspiration for the sketches that key stage 3 and 4 will be performing in the spring. These adaptations of traditional fairy tales give a dark and humorous twist to familiar stories.

*Helena Marsh*

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to the person who found my key and kindly left in where I could easily see it and recover it.

*A relieved Sheriff's court resident.*



**St. Peter's Church Stetchworth  
Christmas Tree Festival**



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
2.00 - 5.00 pm

Musical entertainment at 3.00 pm  
by Kettlefields School Choir

Come and see the Christmas Trees  
that have been decorated by Community Groups

Refreshments available

**Raffle and Christmas Goodies**

## ELLESMERE GARDEN CLUB

Well, the year seems to have whizzed past and now we are finalising plans for talks and visits in 2022!

To perk everyone up after the Christmas festivities have been and gone - at least we all hope they really will have happened this year! - we are planning to have a speaker come to talk to us about 'Snowdrops and Hellebores' in January. The date of the meeting will be 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the second Wednesday in the month, which is our regular day. Speaker yet to be confirmed but look out for an update in the Ellesmere Centre news on Facebook.

What is definite is our AGM on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February which will include wine and a quiz or beetle drive for your entertainment. Please make a note as we need members to attend to vote for committee members and to endorse their plans for the coming year. More information at a later date, but if you or someone you know would like to join the committee, we'd be more than pleased to welcome you! Just get in touch with our Secretary Judith, phone 508336.

In the meantime, in anticipation that you are reading this before Christmas, Seasons Greetings from the Garden Club committee.

## **BRINKLEY MEMORIAL HALL HOST IT IN THE HALL**

Hire the Hall for any function big or small. Birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, or any excuse to entertain. Fundraising events, coffee mornings, quizzes, bingo, clothes sales etc.

The charges to hire the Memorial Hall are £10 per hour for VV cluster and £12 per hour for outside. The Hall can cater for 80 people, has a fully equipped kitchen and very comfy seating.

**Contact: Susie Shuter on 01638 508729  
07836 656643**

## MOBILE LIBRARY



The Mobile Library will be at BRINKLEY Memorial Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month between 3.00 - 4.00pm; **7<sup>th</sup> December.**



BURROUGH GREEN by the BUS STOP on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 3.50 - 4.10pm **22<sup>nd</sup> December.**

They stock a great selection of books for all ages, plus NHS hearing aid batteries. They can even check and replace the ferrules on walking sticks.

Make use of this wonderful resource.

## VILLAGE WEBSITES

[www.burroughgreenparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.burroughgreenparishcouncil.org.uk)

[www.brinkleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.brinkleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

Information on the facilities of each village and also back issues of Village Voice newsletter and the adverts.

## **WHAT'S ON AT THE RED LION BRINKLEY**



**Coffee Morning** - Wed 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30.

**Family Meal** - Sun 28<sup>th</sup> November and Sun 12<sup>th</sup> December. 5:00 for 5:30. Both fully booked but please do not let that stop you calling and asking if we maybe have a cancellation.

**Christmas Eve** - Our annual Taco night that we didn't get to do last year. Food starts at 5:00pm.

**Christmas Day** - bar for drinks at 12:00 and the restaurant for our Xmas Day menu at 1:00. We have a few tables still available for food right now so please call for more information on what we are doing if this is of interest to you.

**New Year's Eve** We will be open on Hogmanay at 5:00, and when we are empty, we will close.

**Sunday Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>** We will be open for Brunch/Lunch.

**We will be closed on** Boxing Day, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Day. Football, day off, football, football!

**Unknown right now while we send this for press:**

We might be able to do a Quiz on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December - please call when you read this and ask - we will know by then.

We do have some Christmas Parties so please call to book tables for food on weeknights in December.

We have two different sizes of some jams and jellies we have made from our fairly poor summer harvest that are ready now. Grand Marnier cranberry sauce, pear & vanilla butter, rose hip jelly, spiced plum chutney and brandied plum preserves. We may also decide to sell some of the flavoured gin and vodka we made a few years ago.

We will also have a good amount of knitted goods and other fun things Gwyn made during lockdown this year. Come and see what we have if you would like something different for yourself, or a gift for a friend this Christmas.

We will have our usual takeaway menu available every day we are open in December, but we may also have some festive food things we can offer too - so please call and ask.

*We hope to see many of you before the end of the year. We hope you all have a fabulous festive season this year.*

Gwyn & Morris.

**01638 508707**

## **FOR SALE**

**DOG PUSHCHAIR - BLUE - AS NEW  
£50**

Phone 07512 427374 anytime  
Westley Waterless

**THE BULL BURROUGH GREEN**



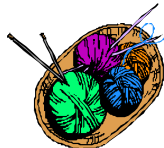
Please check on Facebook for events in December

**Rob and I look forward to welcoming you  
01638 508333**

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**KNIT & NATTER**

**Every Monday from 1:30 to 3.30pm**

In the Community Room at Sheriff's Court Burrough Green. All knitters or potential knitters are welcome,



Bring your own knitting or we can teach you to make squares for the local neonatal unit or knit for other charities. We have odd bits of wool, patterns and needles etc. There will be a small charge for refreshments.

Any donations of wool would be greatly appreciated.

**ALL WELCOME**

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**NEWS FROM THE ELLESMERE CENTRE**

**Sports Promotions**

**Squash Court**



Our court has now been refurbished and we are welcoming new players. Throughout the month of December, it will be just £2 for an hour's Squash, so book a slot quickly and come and give it a try. There will be a board outside the court for users to leave a card if they would like to meet new players.

**Football**



We have several spaces on the Astro for new teams. The cost is £25 for an hour, and this includes the floodlights. Through January we can offer a free trial session to any team wanting to give it a try. For either booking please contact the office (See below for details).

**The Staff and Trustees of The  
Ellesmere Centre**

**would like to thank you for all  
your support during this difficult  
year and wish you all a  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**



*The staff ensure that regular sanitising takes place and we do our utmost to keep you all safe. At present masks are still required in the shop and post office. Thank you.*

**Email: [office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk](mailto:office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk)  
Alternatively call us on 01638 508212**

You are invited to  
**DULLINGHAM FLOWER CLUB**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
**8pm**

The Taylor Hall, Dullingham  
CB8 9XE

Come & join us for festive fun with a demonstration

**By Stephanie Laing  
entitled**

**'Tis the season to be jolly'**

Admission £6 to include refreshments

Raffle

Please contact Lesley Bird

Tel: 01638 507658 or 07786 817154

**DATES FOR DIARY - Future Meetings**

**January - No Meeting**

**Resume - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

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**2523 LINTON AIR CADETS.**

At time of writing, we are finishing preparations for the annual Remembrance Day parades and services that we will take part in fully at both Castle Camps and in Linton. After sending just two representatives last year we are very much looking forward to a full parade with the Union flag and Squadron standard on display. The squadron will be at full strength now all cadets are back from camp.

Cpl Vellacott was at RAF Leeming for a week long camp and had a great time:

"Going on camp to RAF Leeming was a valuable insight into life in the Royal Air Force. I met friends for life and we were an excellent team. Activities included visiting the Hawk T1s at 100 Sqn, fieldcraft with 609 Auxiliary and a drill competition with the station Warrant Officer. Perhaps the highlight was talking with Air Vice-Marshal Richard Maddison, who commands training in the RAF."

And Cpl Newell was on the recent adventure training camp:

"2021 Windermere Adventure Training Camp was the best camp I've ever been on with the RAF Air Cadets. The camp showed me parts of the country that I never thought I'd see. The activities ranged from mountain biking to Ghyll Scrambling and was perfectly planned and executed. The camp pushed everyone to do their best at all the activities."

We still have space on the squadron for new joiners. If you are minimum aged 12 and in year 8, now is the perfect time to join our squadron.

*Bradley Wright Pilot Officer RAFAC  
training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk  
07943 873272*



**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

*EAST CAMBS - Bottisham Ward*

*Charlotte Cane & John Trapp*

**TRANSPORT**

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has launched two public consultations on proposals for transport links in and around Cambridge. Some of these proposals have significant implications for our routes into Cambridge, especially along the Newmarket Road.

The Making Connections consultation closes on 20 December and more information can be found at [www.greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021)

The Cambridge Eastern Access consultation closes on 22 December and more information can be found at [www.greatercambridge.org.uk/NewmarketRd2021](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/NewmarketRd2021)

They will be hosting events online throughout the consultation period, and these will be advertised on the consultation links above.

As you may be aware, there is a local group, the AtoB 1102, who are looking at the implications of these proposals for our area. To find out more about them, register your views and see their campaigns, please see their website at <https://atob1102.org/>. The proposed changes are significant for our area. For some reason, East Cambs is not part of the GCP - so we need to make our voices heard by responding directly to the GCP consultations and working with the AtoB 1102 group.

The Combined Authority is also seeking views on transport and connectivity. You can give them your views at <https://yourltcp.co.uk/>

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

An electric bicycle ride took place in October to mark the works currently ongoing to install the flagship heat network in Swaffham Prior to get the community off oil and onto renewable energy. The event included a tour of the site where the energy centre is being built for the project. The media took interviews which reached as far as Japan.

**SUNICA SOLAR FARM PLANS**

Last month the Chair of the County Council's Environment and Green Investment Committee was taken on a tour round part of the area proposed by Sunnica for their colossal (and controversial) commercial solar farm and battery storage stretching for miles across the East Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk countryside east of Burwell. Cambridgeshire County Council has already expressed its concern to the Secretary of State about the scale of what is proposed. The tour began at The Ark Church in Isleham, then took in Freckenham, Red Lodge, Kennett, La Hogue, and Chippenham—and that was just part of this massive proposal. They saw some of the fantastic views, working farms, stud farms and other parts of this wonderful area which will be hugely affected if the Planning Inspectorate approves the

plans. Council officers are expecting that Sunnica will submit their planning application to the Secretary of State on Friday 12 November. The application will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate, not by the District or County Council. You can follow the progress of the application and register your interest at - <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sunnica-energy-farm/> Meanwhile, applications for more solar farms continue to come forward in our area and yet there is still no strategic overview for alternative energy sites in East Cambs - each application is considered in isolation with no thought for the cumulative impact or the necessary infrastructure. We will continue to call for this strategic overview so that we get the right balance between green electricity generation, farming and open space.

We do hope that you will get a good break this Christmas and the chance to meet with family and friends.

[Charlotte.Cane@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Cane@eastcambs.gov.uk)

[John.Trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:John.Trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk)

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**NEWS FROM LUCY FRASER**

As 2021 draws to an end I wanted to let you know a few things that I have been doing since the summer.

I have been proud to recognise those in our communities that have gone above and beyond to help others throughout the pandemic: collecting medication and groceries, to looking out for elderly neighbours or volunteering for local causes. I am pleased to have recognised this hard work through the Cambridgeshire COVID Community Champions Awards that I have organised, spotlighting these stories of selfless acts. I will shortly be announcing the winners and holding a special event in Parliament to recognise the hard work of nominees. Their stories will be shared on my website and social media as well as with the local community.

I have recently been working with Burrough Green Parish Council to try and address concerns about speeding and road safety in Burrough Green and have organised meetings with both the police and the Local Highways Authority to discuss the issues. Following these meetings, the police visited Burrough Green to carry out speed checks, catching one vehicle travelling at 46mph in the 30mph zone, and have agreed to visit again in the near future. In addition, I have supported the Parish Council's bid for funding to reduce the speed limit on the Burrough End section of the B1052 from the current national speed limit to 30mph with a 40mph buffer zone.

If you have any questions or concerns, then please contact me on [lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk). I wish you best wishes for the rest of 2021.

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**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**Saturday 4th December, 10 am - 3 pm  
St Mary's Church, Weston Colville CB21 5PE**

New and exciting stalls, including:

Inside and Out

Polly's Textiles

Candy's Candles

Cambridge Soap Studio

FC Foods (Spanish meats and cheeses)

Presents \* Costume Jewellery \* Vintage

Christmas Fayre \* Decorations

Children's Craft Corner \* Refreshment

For information contact Gay Redman

[redman.tessa@gmail.com](mailto:redman.tessa@gmail.com)

**BURROUGH GREEN READING ROOM.**

We are licensed to cater for 100 people and are available on various days of the week.

The charges are £8.00 per hour for village and £10.00 for outside.

To hire the Reading Room,

Please contact Joanne Harrison on 01638 508888

**THE BEFRIENDING NETWORK**

**WE NEED YOU THIS WINTER**

Here at the Befriending Network we know that winter can be the hardest time of the year, especially for those less able to get out and about.

We support people aged 60 plus across West Suffolk who could benefit from companionship. This may be due to age, ill health, bereavement or other changes in circumstances.

The Befriending Network offers a consistent connection either through regular telephone calls or face to face visits and the aim is to develop a friendship which will enrich the lives of both parties. We receive many referrals from a variety of sources and are in need of new volunteers in all areas.

If you think you can offer support to someone in your local area then please do get in touch with Laura, our Befriending Coordinator on 01638 608048 or [laura@thevoluntarynetwork.org](mailto:laura@thevoluntarynetwork.org)

Similarly, if you or someone you know could benefit from the scheme, please do contact Laura on the above.

**RON & REG'S POTATO COMPANY**

Finest new potatoes, with thinner skins -

£1.20 kg

Small or large quantities delivered to your door by Ronnie & Reggie, 13 & 11yr olds from Brinkley.

07903 600192

E mail - [2323rh2323@gmail.com](mailto:2323rh2323@gmail.com)



**BALSHAM PICTURE HOUSE FILMS**

**Cool Runnings** on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December with Mulled wine and Mince pies etc before the film - All welcome. Doors open 7pm and film at 7.30

**The Second Best Exotic Hotel** on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January BUT please note the date change ie. not the first Saturday but the second one in the month and also all memberships will require renewing from January 2022

Doors open 7pm and film at 7.30

Membership is still a bargain at £12 /adult (over 16) for a year's membership which gets you free admission to all our screenings in the year. Children attend free but please note the film rating!

Guests can be entertained at any film for a temporary membership contribution of just £3.

Before each film wine, beer and soft drinks as well as nibbles are available for a small donation, so come along early.

Balsham Picture House is held in Balsham Church Institute, Church Lane, Balsham. CB21 4DS

**RADDESLEY BENEFICE WEBSITE**

On the website you can find out more about our churches, services, what's on and useful information about baptisms, funerals and weddings; [www.raddesley.com](http://www.raddesley.com)

**INTERIM PRIESTS:**

Rev'ds Rosemary and Andrew Rycraft  
19 Cardigan Street,  
Newmarket, CB8 8HZ  
01638 665421

**CHURCHWARDENS**

**Burrough Green:** Lucy Talbot Tel: 01638 507060, email: [peterandlucyt@btinternet.com](mailto:peterandlucyt@btinternet.com)

**Westley Waterless:** Ms. Deborah O'Riordan, Tel: 01638 507741, email [d.a.oriordan@btinternet.com](mailto:d.a.oriordan@btinternet.com) and Mrs Liz Gibson, Tel: 01638 508600, [lizgibson@me.com](mailto:lizgibson@me.com)

**Brinkley:** Ros Pates 01638 507240  
[rospates@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rospates@yahoo.co.uk)

**Carlton:** Stephen Roberts 01223 290372 or [Stephen.roberts28@btopenworld.com](mailto:Stephen.roberts28@btopenworld.com).

**ARTICLES FOR JANUARY 2022  
VILLAGE VOICE**

To  
[villagevoicenewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:villagevoicenewsletter@btinternet.com)  
01638 507495

**by 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021 please**

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**SERVICES - ALL WELCOME**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December Second Sunday of Advent**

9.00 am Holy Communion Brinkley  
Rev'd Rosemary Rycraft  
10.30 am Family Worship Burrough Green  
Rev'd Andrew Rycraft

*Malachi 3: 1-4 Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6*

3.00 pm Christingle service Dullingham  
Anthea Kenna

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday of Advent**

9.00 am Holy Communion Stetchworth  
Rev'd Dr. Colin McCarty  
10.30 am Morning Prayer Dullingham  
Rev'd Dr. Colin McCarty

*Zephaniah 3: 14-end Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18*

6.00 pm Carol Service Burrough Green

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9.00 am Holy Communion Burrough Green  
Rev'd Rosemary Rycraft  
10.30 am Morning Prayer Brinkley  
Rev'd Andrew Rycraft

*Micah 5: 2-5a Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)*

**FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE**

4.00 pm Carol Service Westley Waterless  
Rev'd Rosemary Rycraft  
6.00 pm Carol Service Dullingham  
Anthea Kenna  
6.00 pm Carol Service Stetchworth  
Alastair France

11.30 pm Midnight Mass Brinkley  
Rev'd Andrew Rycraft  
*Isaiah 9: 2-7 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)*

**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY**

10.30 am Benefice Christmas Communion  
Stetchworth  
Rev'd Rosemary Rycraft  
*Isaiah 62: 6-end Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20*

10.30 am Lay Led Christmas Service Burrough Green  
10.30 am Lay Led Christmas Service Carlton

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December Christmas 1**

10.30 Benefice Communion Dullingham  
Rev'ds Rosemary or Andrew Rycraft

*2 Chronicles 24: 20-22 Acts 7: 51-end Matthew 10: 17-22*

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We've had an incredible autumn for the colours of leaves and leaves staying on trees; one of the best that I can remember. The mild weather, as I understand, has contributed towards this; we have neither had the frosts nor the strong winds which would tend to strip the branches bare. Having said that - there still seem to be plenty of leaves on the ground - but still plenty on the trees. By the time you read this though this will all have changed.

My morning walk today took me along Devil's Dyke, between Woodditton and Stetchworth. There's one particular place where, on a clear day, you can see Ely Cathedral. Today, being beautifully clear (and also quite cold - maybe the leaf fall will start in earnest soon) that incredible and inspiring building was standing out on the horizon. For generations that building has provided inspiration to those living for miles around, signposting not only itself, but the way of the Cross.

As I write we are approaching the season of Advent, the time when we ask (both literally and metaphorically) whether we are ready for Christmas. Ready not only in the preparations for the feast, but ready in terms of the welcome that we are preparing for the Christ child. Yet my letter to you, being written for December and January covers not only the Church season of Advent (the "New Year" to the Church) and the Christmas season itself but also the festival of the Epiphany and the beginning of what we also call "Ordinary Time" between Epiphany and Lent.

Just as our beloved Cathedral signposts the way of the Cross, so do our Christian seasons. And although our changing seasons tell us time is passing (sometimes all too quickly) they too can remind us of the things that are important to us that remain constant.

Hopefully we will be able to celebrate Christmas in our Churches this year. The different services across our benefice are shown here in this newsletter and as always you will be very welcome to join.

On behalf of all involved with ministry here and all our PCCs I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and blessed 2022.

Alastair France

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**A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE  
DISTRIBUTORS OF VILLAGE VOICE FOR THEIR  
DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR FREE  
NEWSLETTER.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR  
ADVERTISERS FOR  
THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

**I THANK YOU ALL. - Trish**



*Happy Christmas*