December '20-January '21 online edition



The Grapevine

your community news

Colton, Easton & Marlingford

The	Parishes	of Easton.	Colton.	Marlingford	8±	Bawburgh

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	inclusion should reach the Editor by the 15 th of the previous m or printing by Clare Howard and printed by Grapevine's Printing			
Treasurer	Carol Chiles, 7 Juniper Close, Cringleford, Norwich carolachiles@gmail.com	01603 502201		
To Advertise	Sally Neale, Heronsbridge, Bawburgh Rd, Marlingford NR9 5AG	01603 882110		
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Rates for a year	(950 circulation, 10 times a year): Advertisements are accept	ed in		
	standard image format (jpeg, png, tif, bmp). Inside pages: $^{1/8}$ 170, Back page $^{1/8}$ £120, $^{1/8}$ £170.	£35, ¼ £60, ½		
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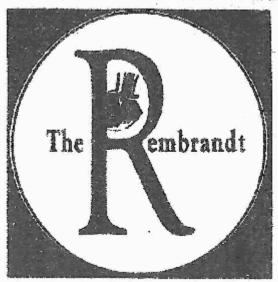
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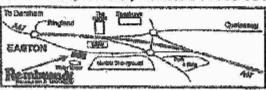


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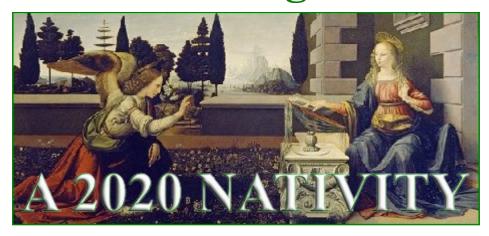
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The Rambling Vine



ary was sitting in her garden with a cup of tea and a slice of homemade banana bread. She had finished her lockdown chores and had even squeezed in a quick Joe Wicks PE session so she had a little bit of free time before her Microsoft Teams meeting at 11am.

As she sat, suddenly there was an angel standing 2 metres away (he didn't have a mask on but that was okay, as they were outside). The angel told her she was to have a baby. He would be God's son, a light for all the people of the world, and she was to call him Jesus. Mary was a little confused at first, but then everything is a bit confusing at the moment. She wondered if this was fake news, but with a bit of Googling and a lot of praying, she realised that this really was God's plan. And so she said 'Yes'. She had to tell her fiancé, Joseph, though, and he was not best pleased – at least not until the angel paid him a visit too. "Don't worry" Joseph said to Mary. "We can bring the wedding forward – after all, the banns have already been read. We'll need to cut down the guest list – but we can livestream the service to everyone else on Facebook".

A few months went by, lockdown was eased a little and then tightened again, and it was almost time for the baby to be born. The Prime Minister said that Mary and Joseph needed to go to Bethlehem to be counted (even though, last week, the PM had also said they shouldn't make unnecessary journeys, which confused them a little). They wondered and wondered and wondered what to do – but they knew that if they didn't get counted, they wouldn't be able to get Universal Credit, and with the carpentry business struggling, they really needed the help. So they agreed, reluctantly, to go – even though Bethlehem was in a higher tier than Nazareth.

They decided they would be safer if they avoided public transport, so they went by donkey instead. If anyone stopped them, they would say they were doing their daily allotted exercise.

When they got to Bethlehem, it was busier than they expected for a little town in lockdown. No wonder the R number was so much higher here than at home! They tried to find somewhere to stay, but it was hopeless. The first inn they came to had closed, and all the staff had been furloughed. The second inn was open, but only for takeaways,



which needed to be pre-booked online and collected from the car park at a set time. They were really tired as they approached the final inn in town. 'We are open' said the innkeeper 'but we're full of keyworkers who are away from their families'. Mary was close to tears she was so tired, and the innkeeper noticed her eyes filling up. 'But I can see how tired you are' he continued. 'How about the garage round the back? It'll be quiet, and you'll be safe for the night'.

And so Mary and Joseph (and, of course, the donkey) settled down for the night. And, in the middle of the night, the baby was born – which meant that Joseph could be there, which was

good. He couldn't have been there, could he, on a maternity ward? And at least the garage was Covid-secure. They called the baby 'Jesus' just as the angel had said, and they placed him in a wooden crate, wrapped in a blanket.

There were some shepherds in the fields nearby, watching their sheep (after all, they couldn't work from home, could they?). They'd been in a bubble since the second lockdown began and were watching "I'm a Celebrity" on their phones with a wry smile – they knew just how cold hillsides could get at night at this time of year. All of a sudden, a heavenly host appeared, singing. Well, not quite a host – more a heavenly trio, standing 1 metre plus (with mitigations). And not quite singing, either – more of a muted

humming behind their visors. The shepherds were used to hearing things from across the fields, though, so they had no problem making out what the angels were 'singing'. A baby had been born – he would be their King - and they could 'meet' him on Zoom. After a bit of a tussle with their rural broadband, they managed to connect.



They could see the baby king, but they couldn't hear anything - and they weren't sure whether you could tell a King's mum that she was on mute!! It was soon all sorted out, and they were able to sing to the new baby (because you can still sing on Zoom). How amazing was that! Then they Zoom-waved goodbye (for quite a long time) and left the meeting.

Quite a long way away – not part of the travel corridor – there were three kings. A star had told them about the king (the angels would have had to spend too long in quarantine if they'd gone there). They made the journey to Bethlehem, too, walking at a safe distance from one another, only stopping for the occasional Greggs' vegan sausage roll. They didn't want to travel by camel (camels had been superspreaders of MERS virus a few years ago, and so the kings thought they'd better be safe than sorry). Llamas were a pretty cool replacement, though - everyone loves llamas!

When they got to Bethlehem, they found the garage. They sanitised, scanned the test & trace QI code on their apps and – one at a time – were able to go and meet the new baby, Jesus, who was safely tucked up behind a perspex screen. They texted Joseph the Hermes tracking code for their gifts (these were due to arrive in a couple of days, and would need to be left for 72 hours before opening). Finally they bowed down



before Jesus and said goodbye. Then they each whipped out a handy pack of antibacterial wipes to make the garage door handle safe for the next visitor.

And the baby? He smiled, yawned and went straight back to sleep. Because that's what babies do.

Rev Rachel Dale (shared with permission)

I saw this story and thought it was too good not to share! Of course, some of the details would be different if Jesus was born this Christmas, not in the 1st Century. But the truth of Christmas, the importance of Christmas, is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow: A heavenly king: born into our earthly mess. A shepherd king: for kings and for shepherds. An eternal king: promising eternal life for each of us.

May the peace of the Christ child be yours, this Christmas and always.

Rev Laura Montgomery



Church News

Online Advent Course: called 'Unsettled Advent', this will start on Monday 30th November at 7.30pm.

Compline: Every week night of Advent at 10pm Rev Laura will be leading Compline (Night prayer): a very short reflective online service.

December 6 & 13 Colton Church, 10am Communion.

Zoom Agape service 6pm.

December 20 Colton Church 10am Scratch Nativity/

Communion

Zoom Agape service 6pm

December 27 (tbc) 10am either Zoom Agape or Holy

Communion at Colton

January (tbc): Colton Church, 10am Communion

6pm Zoom Agape.

(If we need to go into lockdown again then this will change to 10am Zoom Agape.)

Christmas Services Online

Our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCBtEd22wvcFkWEGRXb4V 4Pw

This year our DIY Christingle and Crib service, and Community Christmas Service will be online on our YouTube channel (link above). Both services will premiere on 20 December but be available at any point after that.

For the DIY Christingle you will need:

- An orange (or other round fruit, apple, grapefruit etc) for each person in your family taking part
- Cocktail sticks (try the supermarket 'party' aisle)
- Sweets and/or raisins (you may wish to preload them onto the cocktail sticks for little ones)
- *Red ribbon and a way of fixing it (e.g sellotape or glue)
- * A birthday candle and holder for each person
- * A box of matches or lighter

Christmas Services in Church

(Subject to further government restrictions or announcements)

We will be holding two services in Church buildings in the Benefice this Christmas:

Christmas Eve 6pm Holy Communion, BawburghChristmas Day 11am Holy Communion, Marlingford

Due to current restrictions, please be aware that we are not permitted to sing Christmas Carols (though we will be listening to some), so these will be quieter, more reflective services, and there are limited numbers of worshippers that can fit into our Church buildings so, sadly, places will be on a first come first served basis.

If the government announce there will be another lockdown, alternative services will take place at the same times as above but online via Zoom. In this event, if you would like to take part please contact Rev Laura who will send you the links.

For Zoom links or more information please email Rev Laura Montgomery eastonbeneficeoffice@gmail.com. You can also request a weekly email with links, notices and up to date details.

Remembrance Sunday 2020



Lest we forget! Not forgotten, but this year because of Covid 19 restrictions – different. On a beautiful sunny morning a short Service of Remembrance was held for the Benefice at the War Memorial in Bawburgh Churchyard. There was a representative of each of our Parishes who read out the names of the fallen in the two World Wars. We

held in our prayers all who lost their lives in wars. Also present were those who had connections with the Services. A wreath and crosses were laid at the Memorial.

Felicity Maton, Churchwarden, Marlingford

Prayer Poem by Beverley

When life's locked down and I don't feel free
No one to talk to 'cause there's only me
When storm clouds gather and the light grows dim
I've only two choices; sink or swim

Then a spark or a sound breaks through the gloom A seed of hope begins to bloom I hear that still small voice of calm Urging me to carry on

As love and joy come back to me I know what it is to really be free There's certain things that I can't control But I trust the Lord to protect my soul

Silently I listen for a reassuring word Confident my Saviour, every word of mine has heard Loneliness and sadness are not in His will In His presence I shall just be still

These reassuring words come directly from the throne Confirming deep inside me I shall never be alone:
I made you and I mould you and forever it will be
That I enfold you in my loving arms for all eternity



This beautiful poem was created as members of the Easton Prayer Group met on Zoom recently. It began by Rev Penny telling us she had a wonderful dream of Rev Laura singing joyfully in a church – but at present, when allowed to hold services in church we mustn't sing. We always pray for people experiencing pain, stress and loneliness. We reacted by suggesting words that could be helpful and Beverley felt the inspiration to write this poem. Some of us have tried singing it (at home) – to the tune of 'Lord of the Dance'.

Felicity Maton

Can Colton Walk/Run 100 Miles?



We are facing a Christmas like never before, with few opportunities to get together. We have all struggled at times this year but there are many sleeping rough who now face a much more challenging winter. At our Carol Service we always give our collection to Norwich Night Shelter (St Martin's Housing Trust) and we wondered if we could have a village 'event', within current guidelines, to have a bit of fun and raise money.

Our suggestion is that over the weekend of 19th and 20th December all who would like to could walk, dog-walk, run, cycle or toddle a bit further than your usual distance, wearing tinsel or a Christmas hat so that we know you are involved! Please take photos and (only if you are happy for them to be used publicly) send a picture to us saying how far you travelled. We will keep a tally to see if Colton can reach 100 miles+ (indeed if there are lots of cyclists we may hit the infamous 500!). As we receive the information and photos we will display them on our 'miles' tally.



Weather permitting, if you choose to 'do your bit' on Sunday 20th at 11am there will be chocolate brownies and refreshments outside Church House, Church Lane and all are welcome to stop for a socially distanced chat.

We would love donations! There will be a pot in The Norfolk Lurcher and one in The Goat Shed and we have a Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Colton100.

We hope that lots of residents will want to be involved. Whether you walk a few metres or cycle many miles it is all for a very good cause. You don't need to tell us you plan to join in: a text of your tally (and possibly a photo) is all we need. Please text Sarah or myself if you need more information.

Liz Plater (07775 088190, Church House Church Lane) Sarah Smith (07769 976173)

Marlingford & Colton Parish Council

www.marlingfordandcoltonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk Welcome to the Marlingford and Colton Parish Council section of Grapevine.

Coronavirus Support and Information

If you are in need of support or cannot access essential items, or need to speak to someone immediately regarding Covid-19, please call 01508 533933. If you are a resident and need financial support please call 01508 533933, Monday to Friday 08:15 - 17:00.

Keeping in contact with your neighbours

At this time it is easy for people to become socially isolated as we are encouraged to stay at home where possible. Social groups and chances to meet are also being reduced. With not

all residents having access to social media or reliable internet, why not print out this copy of the Grapevine and pop it through a neighbour's door. Keeping up to date with what is going on locally might just be the tonic they need.



Marlingford and Colton Amenity Area

The Marlingford Conservation area is peaceful area for residents to enjoy throughout the year. The area opposite the village hall consists of a wild flower meadow leading to a wooded area. There is also a fenced children's play area. The area is owned by The Parish Council which pays for regular grass cutting and the recent trim of the hedge. The Parish Council have recently spent money on fixing the see-saw and replacing tyres on the swinging tyres. We are about to authorise some work cleaning and maintaining the existing equipment. However a lot of the work done in the area such as cutting back undergrowth and areas of hedging has been undertaken by local volunteers: thank

you to all those that have helped out to make this a lovely place for all to enjoy.

If you would like to find out more about the area or volunteer to

be part of a working group assisting with upkeep please contact the Clerk or Councilor Dr Paul Hammerton, paul.hammertonpc@gmail.com.

Colton Amenity Area will also be having a spring clean in the New Year. In the meantime we are replacing some of the signage at the play area. The fenced play



area provides a safe area for children to enjoy various play equipment as well as having a basketball hoop for older children and competitive adults!

Easton, Marlingford, Colton Community Car Scheme

The parish council continues to support the Community Car Scheme. The scheme was first started about 20 years ago with the purpose to provide transport to those aged over 65yrs old to the Doctors and Hospital. They rely on volunteer drivers who are able to give their time and in most cases are retired. Passengers are asked to pay half the fare with the other half being subsidised by ourselves, South Norfolk District Council and Easton Parish Council. Drivers are reimbursed for their travel expenses with these funds.

The car scheme currently has 5 volunteer drivers for Easton and 5 drivers from Marlingford and Colton. They hope to restart the scheme when it is safe to do so. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer drive or would like to know more about the scheme please contact the scheme co-ordinators, Jean and Dave Ditton 01603 880422.

Next Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Meeting are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm (except August) and are currently being held

virtually via Zoom. Members of the public who would like to attend can do so using the link or meeting ID and passcode below.

8th December: Meeting ID: 789 5885 8684; Passcode: 081220 https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78958858684?pwd=UDNtZ2tSSloyV1 pXSHVFbUU0MWx1UT09

12th January: Meeting ID: 782 1556 9452; Passcode: 1CSyZ5 https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78215569452?pwd=aUh6WTg2eUZFZW8vdTZYZCtkQjAvQT0

Maria Hutson, Clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council, telephone: 07759 534885

email: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com *website:* marlingfordandcoltonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Marlingford Church 50 Club

Winners of the draw for the quarter ending December 2020

	Number	Member	£
First	22	Sue Stubbs	50
Second	44	Hannah Ince	35
Third	42	Julian Mobbs	25
Bonus	50	Letty Broom	10

This is the last draw for 2020. Thank you to all our supporters and Simon Broom will contact you in the new year for the annual subscription of £20.

Colton Fuel Allotment Charity

In light of the ongoing restrictions due to COVID, the trustees have made the difficult decision not to run the annual Village Hall Bingo in December this year, and not to distribute funds this year. The funds (typically £10-£20 per household per year) will be rolled forward to next year. If we continue to have restrictions, the trustees will consider an alternative way of distributing the funds.

The Grapevine: Your Community Newsletter

We are disappointed that, because of Covid 19 guidelines, we are not able to provide a printed Christmas/New Year edition for every home in Colton, Easton and Marlingford.

You have received this issue by email: please do forward it to others who would like to receive it. Also, if you are aware of someone nearby without email, could you print some or all of it and deliver it, please? You could be bringing a message of 'someone cares' to a lonely neighbour.

From the Grapevine Team, a special message for Christmas and the New Year: you are not alone! We will continue to bring you the Community News – and you can contact us with your news for inclusion in future editions. This year there are no brown envelopes asking for a donation: if you would like to help us to keep going, our Bank details are: account number 20420956, Sort code 20-99-08.

Clare Howard, Editor, clare@ragbagprojects.co.uk
Felicity Maton, Assistant Editor, West Cottage, Barford Road, Marlingford NR9 5HU
Sally Neale, Advertising Manager,

heronsbridge20@btinternet.com

Carol Chiles, Treasurer, carolachiles@gmail.com

From all of us: Blessings for a Happy Christmas and New Year. We will overcome the virus!

Deadline: 15th January for the next edition of Grapevine, to be circulated on 1st February. Please send your contributions to Clare Howard, clare@ragbagprojects.co.uk



Easton Parish Council

www.eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Welcome to news from Easton Parish Council.

Lockdowns and the Emergency Plan

As this is written we have a couple of weeks of the current lockdown to go and then hopefully an easing off before Christmas (fingers crossed!). The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and the South Norfolk Council's Help Hub's contact telephone number is 01508 533933. Please do use the parish website as a resource for useful information relating to new government guidance and latest changes impacting Easton.

Issues regarding St Peter's Primary School feeder school status for OVA

Communication received from the Ormiston Victory Academy acknowledges that until a new building extension is completed offering an additional 90 places to its feeder schools, (at the earliest for the Sep 2022 intake), oversubscription will continue. This will result in the NCC Education department's continued preferred choice for village students from St Peter's Primary being the City Academy School in Earlham. The indication is, therefore, that this will be the case for at least the Sep 2021 intake. This has previously been flagged by parishioners and the Parish Council as very unsatisfactory and not in the best interests of Easton pupils. The Parish Council has emphasized the fact that it does not have any powers when it comes to education matters, but that parents could act collectively to create an effective campaigning voice.

Issues arising at this month's Parish Meeting

Garden Waste: A point was raised at the Parish meeting on the dumping of garden waste, grass cuttings and wood onto Easton College land over the back from gardens of certain properties in Buxton Close and Woodview Road. Please can residents desist

from this activity. A site inspection has been undertaken by the College and the matter is now with their senior leadership team.

Persimmon Development: It was reported that revisions to the scheme should be reviewed by the SNC Planning Committee in Jan/Feb 2021, ahead of the November 21st 2021 deadline for the original planning approval. There is optimism that the final revisions will include the removal of shared roads, guaranteed garage sizes (minimum size of 6m x 3m), and removal of long drag distances for waste bins. Persimmon had made clear that they would not be going ahead with Phase 5 of the Scheme on the A47 side of the Dereham Road. After pressure from the Parish Council to raise awareness of their responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010, there is now more confidence that the District and County Councils will fulfil their obligations in respect of this, and future, housing development schemes.

Refurbishment of Village Sign: The entire post will need to be replaced due to rot. Total estimates for the work including painting are £1,800 excl. VAT. It is hoped the work will be completed early 2021.

Council meetings

Easton Parish Council will be holding virtual meetings on the first Monday of every month online via Zoom. The next meetings will be Monday December 7th and Monday January 4th, both at 7.30pm. For a Zoom meeting, please see the parish council website to obtain details for signing up before 3pm on the meeting day and the meeting ID and passcode will be sent out. Please contact the Council if you need any further help with this. We hope you can attend or watch online via Youtube.

Have a great Christmas and may the New Year bring some welcome relief.

Francis Woodcock, Easton Parish Clerk Flat 2 Kimberley Hall, Barnham Broom Road, Wymondham Email: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk Telephone: 07879 379181

Easton Community Land Trust www.easton.org

First New Board Meeting of Easton CLT took place by Zoom on 11th November. At the meeting it was agreed that board members would start looking at proposals to apply for funding to the Parish Council to purchase houses on the new Dereham Road housing development. News from the CLT will be posted on the website and its Facebook page, as well as placed on the Village noticeboard by the post office. It is hoped as many of you as possible will join the CLT (for £1), and support Easton residents to shape the future development of the village amenities and services. The form can be found on the website, through myself, or the CLT Secretary, Jan Hudson, at 1 Woodview Road.

Francis Woodcock, Easton Parish Clerk

Easton Crafters

Usually at this time of year I would be letting you know the amount of money we raised from our Autumn Fair. Over the years we have raised a considerable mount of money for various charities. We work hard all year to provide handmade crafts, cards, make and take for the children, cake stall etc, and it's lovely to see how all these things are appreciated by both young and old. We are only able to raise this money thanks to the terrific support we have from the people of the village and visitors from further afield.



Unfortunately due to Covid we were unable to hold the Autumn fair in the village hall this year, but I can assure you that we will all be working hard towards holding a Autumn fair next year. So a big THANK YOU to all those who have supported us over the years. We would like to wish you all A HAPPY and SAFE CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR.

Janice Barnston

Easton Women's Institute

Once again, I am sitting at my computer trying to think what to say here. The situation is becoming boringly familiar. We are locked down again and trying to keep safe from Covid while cases seem to be growing in number all around us. The WI can not meet and all our speakers for the year have been cancelled. Carol Amos is working hard to ensure that we have a programme ready to go for next year as soon as we can get up and running again so hopefully one of these months I shall be telling you about what we are going to be able to do and not just what we have had to cancel!!

As far as I am aware our members are all keeping safe and keeping in touch by any means possible and until we can meet it is very difficult for us to do anything more.

As this is a double issue of the Grapevine I am going to wish you all a very happy if somewhat quiet Christmas. Good wishes for the New Year are particularly significant this year as we really do need 2021 to be hugely different from 2020.



Let's hope that the promises that a vaccine for Covid will soon be realised and it will be as effective as we are being led to believe it will be and that the distribution of it is managed well and quickly in the next few months. I think our lives could be much improved once that happens. Families will be able to get together again and we can all go out without fear of contracting the virus.

Very sincere wishes for a Happy Christmas and a brilliant, Covid free new year to all our members and friends

Mary Blathwayt

Easton Good Companions

Well we still are not back to normal but with the latest news we may be early next year. The Committee have been contacting everybody having their meetings outside and trying to keep up to date. Some members have been unwell and been in hospital but all are OK as I write. We would all like to thank Pat Allman for all her hard work in doing



a newsletter and delivering it to us all. Carol wrote a lovely letter which I'm sure we all appreciated, so I haven't got any more to tell but we all wish each other a

VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Jean Ditton

Easton Pop-In

The Pop-In Team wish all our friends a HAPPY CHRISTMAS, and a healthier 2021



It has been a difficult year for all of us and I am sorry to say I can't tell you when our coffee mornings can start again, but watch this space. Let's hope it's not too long before we can get the water boiling, and the biscuits out.

Best wishes

Anne Dunbar

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