

50p

Colton, Easton & Marlingford

Your Community:

** Stories * News * Information **



Grapevine

May 2022

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Useful Contacts

St. Peter's VC Primary School, Easton 01603 880553

Easton College 01603 731200

Easton College Tennis Centre 01603 731302, easton.tennis@ccn.ac.uk

Colton Village Hall Vicky Green, vicky@mgarchery.co.uk 01603 881336

Colton Carpet Bowls Club Dennis Mickleburgh, Avalon, The Street, Colton
01603 880391

Easton Bowls Club Secretary Mrs. Cossey, 28 Woodview Rd, Easton
01603 880789

Easton Crafters Club Mrs Janet Morris 01603 471144

Easton Football Club Michael Cossey, 73 Marlingford Way, Easton
01603 880143

Easton Good Companions Pamela Hooker 01603 880867

Easton Gym Club enquiries@eastongymnasticsclub.com 01603 960511

Easton Judo Club Coach Chris Abel, 29 Goulburn Rd, Norwich
chris@eastonjudoclub.co.uk 0845 388 6895

Easton Junior Football Gavin Tipple
gtipple@easton-college.ac.uk 01603 731585

Easton Sports Centre 01603 731263

Easton Post Office Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-2pm 01603 880007

Easton Village Hall Mrs Cossey, 28 Woodview Rd., Easton 01603 880789

Easton W.I. Sec Mrs Cossey, 28 Woodview Rd., Easton 01603 880789

Little Owls Colton VH Katie Kemp 07790276499 / Penny Nixon 07714255024

Marlingford Village Hall Bookings Pauline Baker 01603 881268
John Bailey, jaydebailey@gmail.com 01603 880266

Doctors (Surgeries):

Costessey, Roundwell 01603 744014

Beechcroft 01603 746683

Hethersett 01603 811323

Mattishall 01362 850227

Police Non urgent 101 Emergency 999

Hospitals

Norfolk & Norwich, incl. West Norwich 01603 286286

Julian & Hellesdon 01603 421421

Dereham, Northgate 01362 692391

Kelling 01263 713333

Community Car Scheme Jean & Dave Ditton 01603 880857

Citizens' Advice Bureau Wymondham 03444 111444

Relate 01603 625333

Samaritans 01603 611311

Parish Council Clerks

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Easton | Gina Lopes clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk | 07879 379181 |
| Marlingford & Colton | Maria Hutson marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com | 07759 534885 |

Councillor: South Norfolk District & Norfolk County

Mrs. Margaret Dewsbury, 6 Park Avenue, Barford NR9 4BA 01603 759693

The Grapevine

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| Editor/Designer | Annette Hudson annettegh57@gmail.com | 01603 749383 |
| Assistant Editor | Felicity Maton f.maton@btinternet.com | 01603 880846 |
| <i>please see Page 12 for the next deadline for submissions</i> | | |
| Treasurer | Carol Chiles carolachiles@gmail.com | 01508 578352 |

Grapevine Advertising

Sally Neale,
Heronsbridge, Bawburgh Rd,
Marlingford NR9 5AG
heronsbridge20@btinternet.com 01603 882110

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Full page £170,

Back page $\frac{1}{4}$ £120, $\frac{1}{2}$ £170.

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Logos can be submitted as jpeg, tif, eps or pdf files.

The Parishes of Easton, Colton, Marlingford & Bawburgh

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Benefice Rector | Revd Laura Montgomery eastonbeneficeoffice@gmail.com 172 Fairways, Queen's Hills, Costessey, NR8 5GB | 01603 744551 |
| Associate Priest | Revd Penny Goodman garry.goodman@btinternet.com | 01603 279393 |
| Reader | Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton | 01603 880255 |

St Peter's Church, Easton

| | | |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Churchwardens | Peter Pease, 19 Woodview Road, Easton Margaret Seely, 8 Kennedy Close, Easton | 01603 880255 01603 880888 |
| PCC Secretary | Anthony Perry, 7 Pegg Close, Easton | 01603 882265 |
| Treasurer | Dave Batchelor, 9 Cleves Way, Old Costessey davejbatchelor@sky.com | 01603 322987 |

St Andrew's Church – Colton

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
| Churchwarden | Sarah Smith Bickerston Cottage, Church Lane, Colton | 01603 757865 |
| PCC Secretary | Liz Plater Church Cottages, Church Lane, Colton | 01603 880556 |
| Treasurer | Judy Scrivener, The Old Post Office, Norwich Rd, Colton, NR9 5BZ | 01603 881540 |

St Mary's Church – Marlingford

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|
| Churchwardens | Felicity Maton West Cottage, Barford Rd, Marlingford | 01603 880846 |
| PCC Secretary | Felicity Maton West Cottage, Barford Rd, Marlingford | 01603 880846 |
| Treasurer | Carol Chiles carolachiles@gmail.com | 01508 578352 |

St Mary & St Walstan's Church – Bawburgh

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Churchwarden | Susan Knight | 07876 717487 |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|

Bus Services

Nortrax Bus Services: Colton, Easton and Marlingford

This service is free to use.

Please phone Nortrax for further information 01603 508137.

For Norwich: use the service on Mondays and Wednesdays to connect to the Excel service at Easton.

Monday and Wednesday

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Bawburgh, Church St | 9.40am | Longwater, Link Rd Shelter | 12.40pm |
| Marlingford, Bell | 9.45am | Longwater William Frost Way | 12.57pm |
| Colton, Village Hall | 9.50am | Easton, Bawburgh Rd | 13.04pm |
| Easton, Chez Denis | 9.57am | <i>Excel departs Norwich at</i> | <i>12.40pm</i> |
| <i>Excel departs for Easton at</i> | <i>10.05am</i> | <i>Excel arrives Easton at</i> | <i>13.00pm</i> |
| <i>Excel arrives in Norwich at</i> | <i>10.25am</i> | Easton, Chez Denis | 13.05pm |
| Easton, opp Bawburgh Rd | 9.58am | Colton, Village Hall | 13.11pm |
| Longwater William Frost Way | 10.06am | Marlingford, Bell | 13.15pm |
| Longwater, Link Rd Shelter | 10.08am | Bawburgh, Church St | 13.19pm |

Tuesday and Thursday

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Colton, Village Hall | 10.30am | Longwater, Link Rd Shelter | 12.30pm |
| Marlingford, opp Bell | 10.35am | Longwater William Frost Way | 12.32pm |
| Easton, opp school | 10.40am | Easton, opp Bawburgh Rd | 12.38pm |
| Easton, Chez Denis | 10.41am | Easton, Chez Denis | 12.39pm |
| Easton, opp Bawburgh Rd | 10.42am | Colton, Village Hall | 12.40pm |
| Longwater William Frost Way | 10.48am | Marlingford, Bell | 12.45pm |
| Longwater, Link Rd Shelter | 10.50am | Bawburgh, Church St | 12.50pm |

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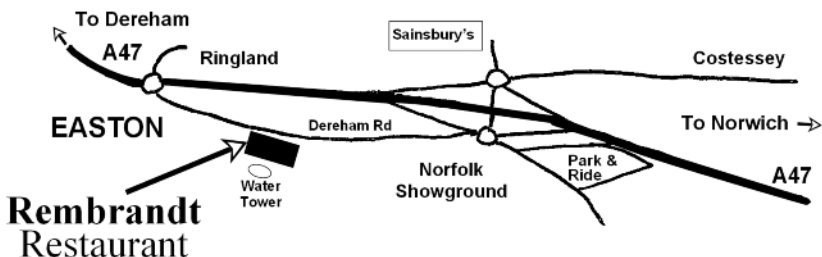
Friday 4pm - 8pm

Saturday 4pm - 8pm

*for latest information
please see the website or phone*

01603 880010

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Mobile Library

For all enquiries relating to mobile libraries, call 01603 222303 or email the team at central.mobiles.lib@norfolk.gov.uk. Please note this information is subject to change.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Colton | Route No CEN 319. | Wednesday |
| <i>Stop no.</i> | | 15 June 2022 |
| 38 | 17:00 - 17:15 Ex Post Office, NR9 5DB | |

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Easton | Route No CEN 419. | Thursday |
| <i>Stop no</i> | | 12 May, 19 June 2022 |

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------------------------|
| 6 | 10:45 - 11:00 | Parkers Close, NR9 5EE |
| 8 | 11:05 - 11:25 | Marlingford Rd, NR9 5AD |
| 10 | 11:30 - 11:50 | Marlingford Way, NR9 5HB |
| 12 | 11:55 - 12:10 | Kennedy Close, NR9 5EY |
| 14 | 12:15 - 12:45 | St Peter's Drive, NR9 5HF |

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Marlingford | Route No CEN 317. | Wednesday |
| <i>Stop no.</i> | | 11 May, 8 June 2022 |
| 18 | 14:10 - 14:25 | Colton Rd, Nr Home Farm, NR9 5HU |
| 20 | 14:30 - 14:45 | Mill Rd, NR9 5HU |

**“Let us read,
and let us dance;
these two
amusements
will never do
any harm to
the world”
Voltaire**



Grapevine: *Your* Community News

News*Information*Observations*Memories*Activities

A Big Thank You to Our Editor, Clare

The Grapevine has been reaching our residents for many years, changing its presentation depending on technology and donations. Its purpose has always been to bring to the community our news and events. Those aims have been beautifully crafted by Clare, who is stepping down for other work and interests. Thank you Clare - you have skilfully managed both online and printed editions. We wish you every happiness and blessing. We welcome Annette Hudson as she becomes Clare's successor as Editor/Designer, and she introduces herself below.

Felicity Maton, Grapevine Committee Member

Hello readers. I'm just introducing myself as the next editor of the Grapevine. I want to continue making it the place to go for local news and community information so if you have anything that you think your friends and neighbours would be interested in, please let me know! I look forward to receiving your stories and ideas for future editions - there's a lot going on in the area - tell me about it!

- If you are sending a story, you can send it as a text document or write it in an email to me.
- If you want to send one of your own pictures, it must be high resolution (300dpi) and can be supplied separately in black and white or colour as a **jpeg** or **tif** file. If you are taking pictures with your phone, make sure it is set to medium or high resolution.
- **Logos:** These can be supplied as **jpeg**, **tif**, **eps** or **pdf** files.

Deadline: The next edition, covering June, will be digital only. The copy deadline is **20th May**. Please send your contributions to annettegh57@gmail.com.

Annette Hudson

Beat News

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team

- **Beat Manager Terry Ash** PC 36. Tel: 101 Ext: 4162
Email: terry.ash2@norfolk.police.uk
- **Community Engagement Officer Vicky Bailey** PC 1425.
Tel: 101 Ext: 1113 Email: victoria.bailey@norfolk.police.uk

Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner: plan for safety, policing and supporting people 2022-2024

This plan represents the Commissioner's commitment to Norfolk residents about how policing will be delivered as well as the provision of support for victims and crime prevention. In Norfolk, the Office of the PCC hosts the Community Safety Partnership, bringing together a network of local councils, policing, probation, youth offending, health and housing, all working together to improve safety in the county.

This is a plan for the people of Norfolk, developed with their input and designed to put safety and justice for all at the heart of everything the constabulary and its partners do. People want policing that tackles the crimes that really impact communities. They are concerned about drugs, they want more to be done about speeding and dangerous driving and they want perpetrators of sexual assaults and domestic abuse brought to justice. Violence against women and girls is a huge concern throughout the country and more must be done to tackle it, in convictions and prevention.



People want a police service they can see and that they can trust. Building those feelings of confidence in Norfolk's communities goes hand in hand with demonstrating that our county has a police force to be proud of.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/2022-24>

Donations towards the production of the Grapevine are always welcome. Our Bank Details are

Sort Code **20-99-08**

Account Number **20420956** **The Grapevine Magazine.**

Please put your name as the reference

Carol Chiles, Felicity Maton, Sally Neale: Grapevine Board

Please note: information in The Grapevine is provided in good faith. The publication and its Board cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies and any opinions expressed are the author's own.

Christian Aid Week 15-21st May

Is it really a week since the last one? And it has been a tough year - another one! Life is difficult and uncertain, in many ways, here in the UK. And money is short, for nearly everyone. But can you imagine how much worse Covid19 and its fall-out, is for someone living in Zimbabwe, at the sharp end of climate chaos as well? Will you imagine, for a minute, please?

Jerina was a farmer and was able to feed her family with the food she grew herself. But that has all changed with the climate emergency, and extensive drought in Zimbabwe. Hunger was a daily reality, when staple food crops could no longer be grown. Jerina had no other income. But then she got help from Christian Aid, to train as a grinder at a local welding workshop! Now she is all set to start her own business, soon! So life is busy and self-supporting again for Jerina. That is the difference a bit of money can make to people like her, who have talent and enthusiasm. And that bit of money came from you, supporters of Christian Aid.

I hope you want to make a difference this year. You can donate on-line at <http://caweek.org>, or call 08080 006 006, or ring me (880345) for more details and events.

Thank you very much - from Jerina and so many others.

Frances Middleton



On behalf of churches, chapels and meeting houses across the UK, we would like to thank Her Majesty The Queen for being the Royal Patron of the National Churches Trust and the Historic Churches Preservation Trust since 1953.

Churches are impressive, exciting, and surprising places.

Thank you, Your Majesty, for your support which helps us to keep churches open, thriving, and at the heart of local communities.



Yours for good.

nationalchurchestrust.org

Royal Support for UK Church Buildings

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, has been Patron of the National Churches Trust since 1953. In that time it has helped keep over 12,000 churches open, being used and in good repair, confident in the steadfast support of Queen Elizabeth. Challenges remain, but the Trust is determined to ensure that churches continue to be at the heart of communities throughout the UK and that their magnificent heritage is safeguarded for future generations.

(St Andrew's Church in Colton received a generous donation from The National Churches Trust when the PCC was raising money for the repair of the North side of the church roof.)

The Big Sale

Marlingford Village Hall, NR9 5HL

Saturday 14 May, 11am - 3pm

in aid of Marlingford Church Fabric Fund

Free Entry

Refreshments

- ★ Paper Craft Supplies
- ★ Christmas Decorations
- ★ Greetings Cards
- ★ Outdoor & indoor Lights
- ★ Cushions
- ★ Fabric
- ★ Stationery
- ★ Spray Paint
- ★ Bags & Purses
- ★ Photo Frames
- ★ Outdoor Games
- ★ Garden Items
- ★ Kitchen Bric-a-Brac
- ★ and more!

Marlingford Village Hall AGM

Monday May 9th, 19.15-19.45

All welcome, please do come along.

This is a chance to meet the members of Committee and to see how your Village Hall is cared for.

Marlingford Village Hall

Annual Report

As we move into a post-restriction era Marlingford Village Hall is gradually receiving more and more people and activities. As previously reported, during lockdown we took the opportunity to improve our facilities and make the area a more usable and pleasant space to be. This includes a new patio at the back of the hall with patio doors replacing one of the windows. This gives a large area across the entire rear of the hall with splendid views across the valley. As part of this work, we also added a new storage shed with a path between the shed and hall. This allows the tables and chairs to be stored outside the hall so that the whole of the internal space can be utilised.

The patio was officially opened when the hall hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning in September, raising over £300 for the charity. It was fantastic to see so many people at the hall enjoying tea, coffee, and cakes in the open air. Many thanks to all of those that helped and baked the sumptuous cakes and cookies. Having the patio was also very useful on November 5th when we held a bonfire party with a small number of fireworks. Everyone who came along really enjoyed seeing the remains of the old shed being lit on a cold November evening.

We now host three art groups on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays all of which are benefiting from the new facilities in the brighter, less drafty hall. It is always a pleasure seeing the artwork that is hung on the walls.

Marlingford Movies and Talks are slowly starting to happen as well although we are finding that our audiences are not as large as pre-pandemic. We think that people are more used to the large multi national streaming services so we are looking to see if we can add value to films by having themed evenings.

Unfortunately, we have also had to cancel a couple of events in the last few months due to Covid outbreaks and we hope that this will be a reducing trend.

The committee has a couple of new members, and we also have some new volunteers who are helping at events and general maintenance. We are now planning for more events during the summer and autumn, with a re-arranged Indian Night, the Queens' Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - see Mary's article below for more information - and a sale to raises funds for Marlingford Church - see page 17.

The committee is always grateful for the support received when holding events and the support that we get from the parish council and South Norfolk district council. If anyone would like to book the hall in advance for an event/party/group or get involved with the organising committee, please get in touch - contact John Bailey 01603 880266 jaydeebailey@gmail.com.

*Chris Whiting
Chair, Marlingford Village Hall Committee*

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On Sunday June 5th at Marlingford Village Hall, the village will be taking part in the Big Jubilee Lunch, or possibly tea, a nationwide event to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years service to the nation.

We hope that folk will bring their own picnics and enjoy sharing friendship and fun, from 2.30. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and cake will be available, we will ask for a donation of £1 per adult.

A loyal toast is to be held at around 3.30pm, when we will be joined by the Marlingford Cricket Team who have a home game that day. The Cricket Club will be holding a BBQ after their match, weather permitting and if folk would like to wander over to partake of a reasonably priced burger and support the Club's bar they would be most welcome.

Mary Wyndham



Marlingford & Colton Parish Council

<https://marlingfordcolton.wixsite.com/mcpc>

Welcome to the Marlingford and Colton Parish Council news.

South Norfolk Community Awards Nominations

Nominations are now open for South Norfolk Council's Community Awards, celebrating the fantastic work and achievements of volunteers, community groups and businesses across the district. The winners in each category will receive £250 to put towards their chosen community group.

The categories for this year are:

- Inspiration of the Year - someone who strives to achieve their best at work, studies, sports, arts, or in the community
- Young Person of the Year - a young person who has made a remarkable and inspiring achievements in support of their community (Aged 18 and under)
- Volunteer of the Year - a person who has volunteered their time to make an outstanding contribution to their community
- Helping Hand Award - a friend, neighbour or carer who always goes the extra mile to help or support others
- Green at Heart Award - an individual, school, business or community group who has made an extra effort to have a positive impact on the environment.
- Business in the Community Award - a local business that has led or supported community initiatives and values
- Community Group of the Year - a group that has made a significant contribution to the residents of their local area
- Community Hero - a person who has made a positive impact on an individual or their community. Someone who deserves special recognition for their effort and commitment.

If you know of someone who is doing a great job, then please nominate them and help us spread the word about our awards. For more information and to nominate someone please visit

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/community-awards-2022>

If you need any further assistance or have any queries please contact the Communities Team on 01508 533914 or email communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Money Support Service

The Money Support Service is here for anyone who is a Norfolk County Council service user who needs help with budgeting. They can offer help and advice over the phone, or face-to-face support in your own home if needed.

There are many reasons why people struggle with money. It may be a loss of benefits or a job, a relationship breakdown, an increase in living costs or a lack of budgeting skills. If you have an illness or disability, money worries can lead to a vicious cycle of deteriorating health and difficulty managing household bills.



How they can support you:

- They offer budget training, to help work out your income and outgoings to give you a better understanding of your finances.
- Creating a budget is the first step towards taking control of your finances and getting your situation back on track.
- If you're struggling to keep track of your money, they can also provide the following help:
 - Money advice
 - Support to reduce high bills
 - Support with referral to debt management agencies
 - Support with Disability Related Expenses within financial assessments
 - Referrals to the Welfare Rights team to help with complex benefit issues where appropriate

Contact Details:

Telephone: 01603 223392 (option 4)

Email: MSS@norfolk.gov.uk

Website: www.norfolk.gov.uk/mss

Disability Energy Support

Scope offer free energy and water advice to disabled people, helping them to manage their energy and water needs.

The service is open to any disabled person or households where one or more disabled people live, and those households are in England or Wales. Demand for telephone appointments is high but new appointments are being released each week.



Contact Details:

Telephone: 0808 801 0828

Email: disability.energysupport@scope.org.uk

Website: <https://www.scope.org.uk/disability-energy-support>

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Tuesday 12th April at Colton Village Hall. Reports from the Parish Council and other local organisations can be found on the parish website

<https://marlingfordcolton.wixsite.com/mcpc/minutes-agendas>

Parish Council Meetings and Public Inclusion

Parish Council Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm (except August). Please note the May meeting will be held on the *third* Tuesday.

The next meetings will be held on;

- Tuesday 17th May at Marlingford Village Hall
- Tuesday 14th June at Colton Village Hall

Councillors look forward to welcoming residents to the next meeting.

Maria Hutson,
Clerk to Marlingford and Colton Parish Council,
telephone: 07759 534885
email: marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com
website: <https://marlingfordcolton.wixsite.com/mcpc>

Easton Parish Council

www.eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Welcome to news from Easton Parish Council.

Housing Developments

We are continuing to liaise with Persimmon and Orbit Homes over the details and delivery of their respective developments.

We are currently dealing with numerous significant breaches of planning conditions by Persimmon Homes on the first phase of their development. We are disappointed that South Norfolk District are unwilling to act and enforce over these serious breaches. We are considering our options to ensure the scheme is developed as stipulated by the planning conditions and complies with Planning Law.

We are also working with the developers and South Norfolk District Council over the implications of Natural England's updated Nutrient Neutrality guidance. This has the potential to delay further development while measures are agreed and put in place to mitigate against nitrate and phosphate pollutants entering the hydrological system.

Parish Council and Annual Parish Meetings

We have the next Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting on the afternoon of 23rd May. Details will be published on the website and the noticeboard soon.



*Ben Moyes, for
Gina Lopes, Acting Clerk, Easton Parish Council
Contact: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk
07879 379181*

Easton Pop-In

- Easton village hall.
- Every Tuesday morning
- 10am - 11.45am.

Come and meet your friends for coffee, tea and biscuits.

Brenda Daynes & Tony Perry



Easton Good Companions

Good Companions are off to a flying start with a lovely Anniversary party. Dave & Jean Ditton have asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone who helped them to enjoy their day. The cake was delicious and they had a job to find enough windowsill space to put all their cards out. They also thank friends for the lovely presents etc. So, all in all, we gave them a good celebration

On March 13th, Phyllida Scrivens gave us a talk about the Great Thorpe Railway Disaster in 1874 - a bit before my time I must admit. On April 21st we had afternoon tea at Green Acres in Mattishall, paid for by the Club, then on the 28th April a talk about our Charity of the year.

On **12th May** we will celebrate Ann & Ben's Golden Wedding anniversary. **23rd May** sees the horse racing...please bring your riding crops with you.

We meet in the Village Hall every two weeks on a Thursday afternoon 2pm - 4pm.

Anthony Perry

*"The month of May is the pleasant time; its face is beautiful;
the blackbird sings his full song, the living wood is his holding,
the cuckoos are singing and ever singing;
there is a welcome before
the brightness of the summer"*

Lady Gregory

Easton Women's Institute

Easton WI will be learning all about Laughter Yoga with Kevin d'Odemont at our meeting on Thursday 12th May at 7.30pm at Easton Village Hall. We are all looking forward to having a good laugh to counter all the very serious things we have been living through over the last few years!! Non members are welcome to come and join us.

At our June meeting Peter and Margot Markham will be coming to talk to us about the Wonder of Bees. We are always being told how important bees are in the production of our food crops and that they are under threat because of the way we live our lives so this is an important subject for us to know more about.



Our WI meets on the second Thursday of each month except for August and we are pleased to welcome visitors to up to three meetings in a year after which we hope they will become members. Before Covid came to disrupt our lives we used to go out to various places in addition to having our monthly meeting. We are slowly and cautiously getting back to doing that again.

We also used to hold two meetings a year with Barford, Bowthorpe, Hethersett and Mattishall WIs as part of the Barford and District Group of WIs. We are planning to hold a group meeting on Monday 11th July at Barford Village Hall to have lunch and a chat. We will also decide at that meeting how the Group functions in the future after the long, enforced break that we have been experiencing. This meeting is open to all members of the five group WIs and any of their friends who would like to come.

Mary Blathwayt

The Rambling Vine

I wonder if you are one of those people who have a tidy set of matching mugs or cups and saucers in your kitchen cupboard that are perfect for bringing out for visitors? I am **not** one of those people, although I often wish I was! Instead of a kitchen cupboard of matching mugs, mine is filled with a real eclectic mix of all sorts – shapes, sizes, colours and patterns. This makes it quite difficult to look as if I have an ordered kitchen in the Rectory, but it does have some advantages. This ‘hotchpotch’ of mugs is great for focusing my mind, reflecting, praying and storytelling during the day as I use them and they are often good conversation starters as I offer them to guests.

Each of my mugs points me towards perhaps something quite ordinary, but sometimes something quite profound. Sometimes I choose a mug that matches my mood and sometimes I choose one that reminds me that important truths can be found in the ordinary and the everyday.



My first mug of the day is one with a tiny butterfly on the handle. It's the mug I drink my morning coffee from once I've got the kids off to school, and always makes me think about how beautiful and awesome God's world is, but also how delicately balanced and precarious it is. How might I live during this day so as not to make that situation worse?

The other creatures that feature on several of my mugs are dogs, which remind me of the pleasure, enjoyment and companionship of our pets. Over the last couple of years when we have been somewhat isolated from human companionship, our dogs have often been the ones we talk to most. I give thanks for Jemimah and Toby, our two elderly canine companions in the Rectory.

I have a mug which proclaims 'Best Mum in the World!' on the side, bought for me by one of my sons for Mothering Sunday and

as I drink from it (often on days I feel least like that description!) I find myself quietly saying a prayer for those I love and asking for God's protection of them.

I also have mugs that make me smile. One, a gift from someone who knows me well, simply says 'Life is better with Chocolate!'. My eldest and I also are huge Harry Potter fans and having visited several Harry Potter shops we have a selection of Potter mugs (all Gryffindor House obviously!)— mine is shaped like a large black cauldron and holds at least two cups worth! But it reminds me of all those times we have spent reading those stories and watching the films together.

Perhaps the one that makes me smile the most is a mug which was a Christmas gift and says on the side '*Be careful or you will end up in my sermon*'. Please be assured if you visit the rectory that you probably won't – end up in my sermon that is - but it may act as a deterrent for those arriving with peculiar ideas!

My last drink of the day is always in a mug with pink hearts on it for my Hot Chocolate, I complete the tasks of the day and head for bed, it helps me to remember that whatever the day has held, I am loved by God – and that is enough.

I wonder, if you take a look in your kitchen cupboard what stories might unfold there that ground you in the world, in the relationships that sustain us and the tasks we are all called to do. As you journey through May, take time to be refreshed not just physically but spiritually too, as you drink and reflect on the blessings of the ordinary.

Rev Laura Montgomery

Easton Benefice Services May 2022

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------------|------------------|
| Sunday 1 st | 10am | Easton | |
| Sunday 8 th | 10am | Bawburgh | |
| Sunday 15 th | 10am | Marlingford | |
| Sunday 22 nd | 10am | Colton | |
| Sunday 29 th | 11am | Bawburgh | St Walstan's Day |

Farewell to Penny Goodman



On Easter Sunday the Benefice said 'goodbye' to Penny Goodman, our associate priest, who has been working with us for over four years.

It has been a joy to get to know Penny and Garry; they have added so much to the life of our churches and communities and we will miss them hugely.

Penny led the celebration of Easter in Marlingford. At the end of the service we were able to present flowers and gifts and Beverley wrote a poem that sums up our love and gratitude to Penny.

Happy retirement Penny and thank you for all you've done amongst us.

Liz Plater

Goodbye Seems Far Too Final

Goodbye seems far too final
So auf wiedersehen we'll say
It means until we meet again
We're sure we'll find a way

Although of course you've bees
and goats

A small holding to run
And family from Australia
Which will bring you endless fun

You've led and do continue to
Lead such a busy life
With children that you've
fostered

and delivered as mid-wife

We're pleased to hear that you
and Gary

Will be going on a cruise
Time for R and R we hope
And to appreciate those views

But we shall sorely miss you
Open the book will just not be
The same without your input
On that we all agree

We're so grateful that our Father
Did you to us send
Not only as our vicar
For you have become our friend

With our WhatsApp group, our
Tuesday prayers,
There's ways to keep in touch
And if you find the time for us
We'd like that very much

So we'd like to make it clear to
you

You've not finished with us yet
It's not goodbye or cheerio
But auf wiedersehen, my pet

Beverley Fitzgerald-Lombard

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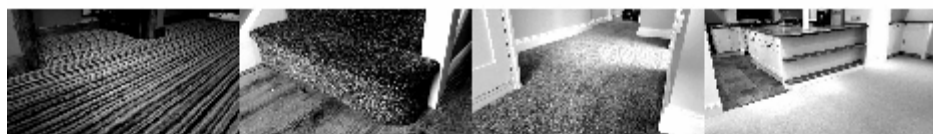
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