The Benefice of Badwell & Walsham

Rector: Rev'd Catriona Brinkley

07525920307

revcatrionabrinkley@outlook.com

Reverend Jill Walker

jill.walker@me.com

Reverend Jay Price 07752 867388 jsgprice@aol.com

Benefice Reader: Ian Jackson 07971007147

Benefice Elder: Marion Bell 01449 782072

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Tracey Gorzelak 01359 258529

The Benefice of Badwell & Walsham



Hexagon
December 2024 - January 2025

HEXAGON

Please send your articles, jokes, fundraising event reports, puzzles, recipes and Church announcements for inclusion in this magazine to the Editor: Debbie on 01359 259686 or debbielicata33@gmail.com

COPY DEADLINE Last date for items for inclusion in the next issue is Friday **10th January 2025**

The Hexagon is delivered to nearly 1800 households in the villages of Badwell Ash, Finningham, Langham, Wattisfield, Walsham le Willows and Westhorpe.

We have not raised our prices since 2015, but regretfully have had to make a small increase this year.

Advertising Rates

FULL PAGE	single issue £33	3 issues £66	6 issues £127
HALF PAGE	single issue £22	3 issues £44	6 issues £83
QUARTER PAGE	single issue £17	3 issues £34	6 issues £55

Contact Judith on 01359 258251 or judithharlow@outlook.com

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the production of the Hexagon throughout the year. From the people who submit items, those who print over 1780 copies, the collators and everyone who delivers a copy to every house in the benefice. The magazine would not exist without you.

We are always in need of volunteers especially collators on the last Thursday of the following months:- March, May, July, September, November & January.

Seasons Greeting from the Editor

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The Journey from Advent to Epiphany: Following the Star

As the days shorten and we find ourselves hurrying through the bustling month of December, life can feel busier than ever. Shops are aglow with twinkling lights and calendars are filled with festive plans. This year as we journey together through Advent, we are focusing on following the star towards Christmas and beyond. The star that shows us the way to the light that brings us all together: the light of Christ, born to be the hope of the world.

Just like the shepherds who left their fields and hurried towards the manger in Bethlehem we, too, are on a journey - one that leads us toward celebration, communion, and the beginning of a new year. The journey toward Christmas can feel overwhelming, but it is also interspersed with moments of hope, peace, and togetherness. There is deep joy in gathering with loved ones, in sharing time with friends and family, and in coming together as a community.

We start our journey with our Stir Up Service making Christmas puddings together; throughout the month our carol services offer a chance to lift our voices in song. The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols take us from ancient words of prophecy to the radiant joy of the Nativity, unfolding the story that has changed the world forever.

For families and young hearts, our Crib Service is a special moment to witness the story of Jesus' birth with awe and wonder. On Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, we prepare our hearts with the quiet, sacred moments of Christmas Communion, reflecting on the miracle that God came to dwell among us as a humble child. All of our services are listed in this month's edition, we would love for you to join us, everyone is welcome across the benefice.

Even as we gather around our tables and share Christmas feasts, the journey does not end. As we enter January, the season of Epiphany arrives, shining with the arrival of the wise men, who followed the star to worship Jesus and bring gifts fit for a King. We are delighted to be once again joined by the Epiphany Singers, whose music will help us mark this extraordinary time of celebration.

<cont.

The journey into 2025 may bring its own challenges and demands, yet we carry with us the light we have encountered. Let us follow the star beyond the familiar celebrations and into our daily lives, holding fast to the promise that Jesus brings us together, unites us in love, and shines as our everlasting light.

May this season be one of joy, peace, for you and all those you hold dear. As we walk toward the heart of Christmas and beyond, may we each be blessed with the hope and love that only Christ can give.

God bless, Revd Catriona

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Margaux Amelia Jane Taylor	26/10/24	Badwell Ash
Henry George Spink	26/10/24	Langham

FUNERALS

Ruth Elizabeth Frost	15/10/24	Walsham	Burial of Ashes
Jenny Blackburn	18/10/24	Walsham	Burial
Jill Newell	28/10/24	Walsham	Memorial
Pauline Argles	02/11/24	Finningham	Burial



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Evenings (up to 11.00pm)	£35.00	£25.00
All Day	£90.00	
Hourly	£10.00	

WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

YOGA Monday (weekly) 10:45am-12:15

Contact: Juliet Wright. Tel: 07503 212670 jujuyoga39@gmail.com

ART CLUB Monday (fortnightly) 2:00-4:30pm.

Contact: Paul Weston. Tel: 07860 376592. paulwestonarchitect@gmail.com

LINE DANCING Monday (weekly) 12.45-1.45pm

Contact: alisonweston25@hotmail.com Tel: 07972 415205

CARPET BOWLS Monday 7.30-9.00pm

Contact: Jeff Moore Tel: 07850 716968 jeffmoore297@hotmail.com

John Gladders 01449 780365 dijongladders@gmail.com

CRAFT CLUB Tuesday (fortnightly) 10:00am-12:00

Contact: Lynda Cotgrove. Tel: 01449 780142 / Rosemary Mees. Tel: 01449

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SINGING FOR PLEASURE Wednesday (three weekly) 10:00am-12:00

Contact: alisonweston25@hotmail.com Tel: 07972 415205

PILATES Wednesday 12.15-1.15pm

Contact: Becky Tel: 07734 414151 beckycruickshank@btinternet.com

GENTLE FITNESS Friday 10.00 - 10.45am

Contact: Becky Tel: 07734 414151 beckycruickshank@btinternet.com

Please check the village website at <u>westhorpe.onesuffolk.net</u> for details, or contact Alison Weston on 07972 415205 or <u>wvhbooking@hotmail.com</u>

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

With the darker nights, please ensure that your vehicle lights are in good working order and that number plates are clean.

To homeowners, please lock all doors and windows including out buildings, when leaving the property unattended.

On behalf of Safer Neighbourhood we wish you a safe and prosperous New Year.





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Previously we have helped with funeral costs, books for students, travel expenses and heating costs.

If you or someone you know needs help, do please get in touch with the Trustees who will consider your application in absolute confidence.

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If you need help please contact me for further details on: 07983648702 Website: emdrandcbtservices.co.uk



Far We Go

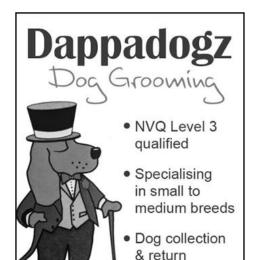
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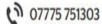
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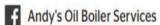


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WALSHAM - LE - WILLOWS MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL

Walsham le Willows Memorial Village Hall is available for hire contact Sarah Cousins email sarah@octopusadmin.co.uk or tel 01359 259698 There are also a variety of activities happening at the hall:

Sosa (Start of Something Amazing!) Monday 9.30-10.30 am Contact: Sam on 07410. 978335 / samfitz@hotmail.co.uk

Community Lunch 12.45 pm (second Monday of each month)

Contact: Shirley White tel 01359 258532

Self Defence Class Tuesday 6.30pm Contact: Andy at info@rbmdymamics.com

Pilates Wednesday 9am -10am, 10.15am-11.15am & Friday 2pm-3pm

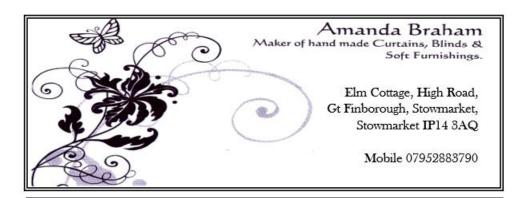
Contact: Lara at contact@larapepper.com

Coffee shop Thursday (weekly) 10.30am - 12.30pm Home-made cakes and savouries, teas, coffee and cold drinks. All welcome

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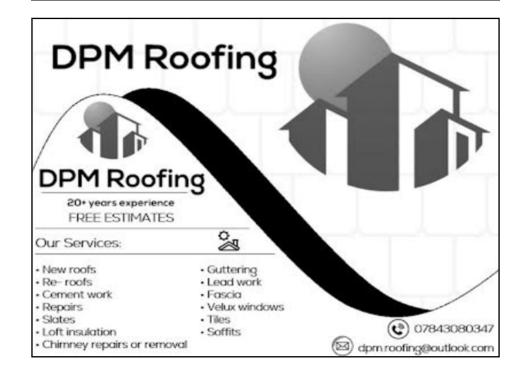
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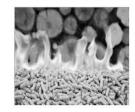




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Until lockdown I was teaching guitar in Guildhall Feoffment Primary School in Bury St Edmunds. I also run Phoenix Children's Folk Group based in Bury St Edmunds. Members learn to play and sing plugged in to our sound system for charities, festivals and various concerts.

In Folk Guitar children learn songs to sing accompanied by a variety of plucks and strums on guitar to enable them to perform solo or in a group. My Phoenix group performed all the music for Langham Church Carol Service last Christmas on 12th December 2021.

If you know a child who would like to learn to play guitar and sing so they can perform, please email me for further details. I can give private lessons in your home or if there are 6 or more wishing to learn I can use Westhorpe village hall at a suitable time after school which would be much cheaper than individual private lessons. I am DBS checked to teach guitar and run the Phoenix group. Parents are always welcome to stay and watch.

JIGSAW SALE IN AID OF THE MS SOCIETY

We raised an amazing £720 at the Jigsaw sale on 12 October 24 which was donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Thank you to everyone who donated jigsaws (there were over 200). Walsham le Willows Memorial Hall Committee who contributed the money raised from the toy sale and assisted with the setting /clearing up. To those who made such delicious food for the refreshments and my gallant band of helpers on the day.

A very grateful Debbie Licata



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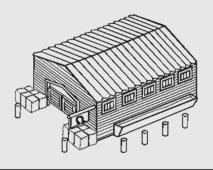
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UK CARE SECTOR

Question – I have heard on the media that many older people are entitled to but are not claiming Pension Credit. How do I find out about it?

Answer – The simplest way is to Google 'Pension Credit – How to Claim' which will give you all the information around eligibility and claiming. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234 and they can fill in the application for you over the phone (lines are open Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm).

Question – A friend has mentioned that I may be able to claim a Carers Allowance as I look after my elderly mum who has health problems. Where can I find out details and how much. is the weekly benefit?

Answer - The simplest way is to visit the Gov.UK website and search for Carer's Allowance. Eligibility details and how to claim plus further information can be found there. You could receive £81.90 a week if you care for at least 35 hours a week and your mum is in receipt of certain benefits.

Question – I think I could benefit from a wheelchair. Can I get one on the NHS? Do I have to pay for maintenance and if it needs repairing? How long does it take to get one and how do I find out if I am eligible?

Answer – Wheelchairs from the NHS are free and maintained and repaired by the NHS at no charge. They do however, remain the property of the NHS so cannot be handed on.

The eligibility is that an individual must, as a result of a permanent disability or medical condition, have a mobility problem that persists for more than six months or require palliative care. A wheelchair should be required for regular use (at least three days per week). The user must be functionally unable to walk and need to use a wheelchair for independent mobility.

The first step to see if you can get a prescription for a wheelchair is to visit your GP and explain your needs. The waiting time can vary from a few weeks to three-four months.

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We continue to fund raise for a new bus. Donations of clothing, shoes, belts, jewellery, handbags and bric-a-brac can be left at:

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Walsham le Willows and District WI



November: Sue Ryder. Talk by Barbara McElroy

This month's talk was fascinating. The life of Sue Ryder was full and eventful. Her father was a partner of the Tetley brewery business and Sue was the youngest of nine children. She lied about her age at the start of the Second World War as she had to be 17 years old to volunteer, so she added a year to her age. She spent the war years volunteering with the Red Cross Yeomanry and the SOE; working up from North Africa through Italy driving across snowy mountains at night, and helping send off agents on their missions.

After seeing the horrors of Bergen-Belsen aged just 21, she decided to help the young men who had been released from the camps but had nowhere to go as their homes had been destroyed and Europe was chaotic; she opened several homes in many countries, and later in life was made Baroness Ryder of Warsaw as the Polish nation were so grateful to her. Sue married Leonard Cheshire in 1959 and together they founded the Ryder Cheshire Foundation.

The next meetings are:

11 Dec 24 Craft Workshop & 13 Jan 25 Birthday Party

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME to come along and visit.

Ladies are able to attend 2 meetings free of charge before joining

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WALSHAM LE WILLOWS SPORTS CLUB

Walsham Sports Club in Summer Road is a thriving local community facility offering sporting/exercise opportunities to everyone.

Regular Weekly Activities

Walking Netball Tuesday 10 – 11am & Thursday 6 - 7pm Senior Football (over 40's) Monday 8 – 9 pm Walking Football (over 65's) Tuesday & Thursday 1 - 2pm Senior Football (over 50's) Tuesday 2 - 3pm Otago (chair based exercise) Wednesdays 11.30 -12.30 Pétanque Thursday 2pm Walking Football Thursdays 2-3pm Yoga Thursday 1.15- 2.15pm Cardio Tennis Friday 12 – 1pm



Social Events

Sunday night Bingo starts 7pm on 1st & 15th December, 5th & 17th January 15th December will be Christmas Bingo Special

> Walking Sports Christmas Party Friday 6th December 7 for 7.30pm Tickets £27.50 each

For further information and to check for any at/time changes for events please visit our website https://walshamsportsclub.co.uk or contact Gordon 07790564674.

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Ring 01449 673518 (Gill) to find out more.

Find us on Facebook Haughley Hoofers official page

DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

The UK's telephone networks are changing from analogue landlines to digital connections. Find out what this means for you.

What is the digital switchover?

The digital switchover was a decision made by the telecoms industry in 2017, due to the existing landline networks being outdated and difficult to maintain. The original completion date was set to be 2025, but this has now been pushed back to January 2027 due to concerns about supporting vulnerable people.

What does this mean for me?

For most people this transition between old and new will be straightforward. Your network provider (e.g. the company that provides your telephone line such as Virgin, Sky or BT) is responsible for the work, and for supporting you. They will contact you to arrange the work, or discuss options with you if you have any concerns.

What if I have a service that relies on a landline?

Certain services need a landline to operate. These could include:

- Telecare services such as pendant alarms for falls
- Fire alarms that link to services
- Burglar alarms.

New digital versions of these are available, and if you are worried about something you have, you should speak to your network provider in the first instance. You may also wish to speak to the provider of your service (e.g. your telecare provider). They will be able to support you to understand your options and their plans for the transition to a digital service.

What if I am worried about a vulnerable individual?

Ofcom, the independent regulator for telecoms, has worked with network providers to make sure that vulnerable people are not put at risk due to this change.

Ofcom says that providers need to take steps to identify people at risk and ensure they are protected throughout the upgrade process.

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Network providers agreed a charter with Ofcom in which they have committed not to switch people to a digital network unless they are protected.

For telecare users, they have also committed to:

- Additional checks to make sure that people who rely on telecare have not been switched and put at risk
- Not to change people to digital unless they have confirmed a digital telecare solution is in place.

If you believe you or someone you know is vulnerable or depends on a landline, you should notify the network provider so that they can support you.

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WEDNESDAYS 9.15AM & 10.15AM, THURSDAYS- 7.10PM
WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL-WEDNESDAYS 12.15PM

TOTAL FITNESS (45 mins)
GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL-THURSDAYS 6.15PM

GENTLE FITNESS (45 mins)
WESTHORPE VILLAGE HALL-FRIDAYS 10AM

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For more info about classes or personal training please contact Becky on 07734 414151 / beckycruickshank@btinternet.com

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

Hello again, normally December and January are months where gardening jobs are put on the back burner, but recently winters have been a lot warmer. Last year I was digging up the allotment over these months, although it is not a good idea to dig when the soil is frozen. A nice crisp sunny day is a good time to tidy up your plots, when you have finished for the winter clean off any soil from your tools and any wooden handled tools will benefit from a good rub of a cloth with either Danish or teak oil this will help them to last longer.

When the frosts and the snow comes avoid walking on your lawn as this will damage your grass below. Christmas is a time for decorations, there are plenty to be found in your garden, collect brightly coloured stems such as the dogwood family, seedheads and ivy too. If you are lucky enough to have a holly bush in your garden prune a few stems of berried branches (before the birds eat them) its nice to bring parts of your garden into your house this time of the year.

The shorter days and longer nights gives us time to reflect on how the garden and allotment performed this last year, how somethings flourished, or did not, could you have done things differently to improve things, make notes as to what you can try next year. Put different plants in new places, it may or may not work, but it's fun trying. This is also the time to dust off your seed catalogues and garden reference books to plan ahead for your next year's plants, whilst doing so next to a warming fire and a glass of your favourite tipple it will help you choose well.

I hope you have a very happy Christmas and good new gardening year.

Till next time. Phillip Bennington

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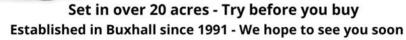


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The festive season can be a financially challenging time, and often borrowing money or using a credit card to fund Christmas can seem like your only option. But there are steps you can take to keep your spending under control and avoid falling into debt.

The first thing to do is make a budget and stick to it. Consider who you're buying gifts for, what other seasonal expenses you have, and how much you can realistically afford to spend. Always keep receipts, or ask for gift receipts, in case you overspend and need to return something. And remember that household bills may be higher during this period due to colder weather and spending more time indoors.

If you've built up debt, please don't ignore bills or letters. Speak to the organisation you owe money to, as they may let you pay smaller amounts.

Pay 'priority debts' first, like rent, mortgage arrears, council tax, and energy bills. For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary, but it's an important first step.

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, see what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

It's especially important to check if you're eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, which will now only be paid to those who receive Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits. If you make a claim for Pension Credit by 21 December, you might still receive the Winter Fuel Payment.

If you do find yourself struggling financially during or after the holidays, don't panic. Support is out there, and Citizens Advice can help you understand what's available. We're here to help you find a way forward.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am -3.30pm and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm.



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WALSHAM COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Food donations can continue to be placed in our benefice churches and these will then be collected and delivered to Stowmarket.

In future if you would like to make a monetary donation, you can make a one off or regular donation directly to Stowmarket foodbank - Barclays bank, Stowmarket. Sort Code: 20-82-75 - Account number: 33867331 Quoting ref: FOODBANK.



CHRISTMAS EVE FISH PIE WITH SOUFFLE TOPPING

<u>Ingredients</u>

50g/1¾ oz butter, plus extra for greasing, 1 leek thinly sliced 50g/1¾ oz flour, 600ml/20fl oz hot milk 2 tbsp chopped fresh dill, 2 tbsp lemon juice 350g/12oz fresh haddock, skinned and cut into evenly sized cubes 350g/12oz smoked haddock, skinned and cut into evenly sized cubes 3 hard boiled eggs cut into 4 or 8 wedges

Souffle Topping

1 small white loaf (400g/14oz) about 2-3 days old 50g/1¾ oz full fat cream cheese, 75g/2 ½oz butter, 75g/2 ½oz mature cheddar, grated 1 large egg white, salt and black pepper



Method

Grease a 1.5lt/2 ½ pt shallow wide based overproof dish with butter. To make fish pie, melt the butter in a saucepan, add the leeks and gently soften until tender but not coloured. Sprinkle in the flour and stir over a high heat for a minute. Gradually pour in the hot milk, stirring until the sauce is smooth, thick and comes to the boil. Remove from heat add the chopped dill, lemon juice, fish and season with salt and pepper. Cook for 2 minutes, remove from heat. Spoon into overproof dish, arrange the eggs on top of the sauce and press in gently. Set aside until cold, cover with cling film and chill in the fridge for about an hour until firm.

Preheat the over to 200c/180c Fan/ Gas 6

To make the souffle tipping, remove the crusts from the bread and discard, Cut into five slices then cut into small cubes. Add the cream cheese, butter and cheddar to a saucepan, melt over a low heat until runny. Set aside.

In a clean bowl, whisk the egg white until stiff peaks form, fold the egg whites into the cheese mixture. Season with salt and pepper and carefully stir. Mix in the bread cubes so that they are all coated in the mixture. Spoon onto the top of the chilled fish mixture.

Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes until golden-brown and bubbling. Leave to stand for 5 minutes.





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Benefice Services January - February

19th January

8.00am	Holy Communion	Walsham
11am	Joint Holy Communion with URC to reaffirm our covenant together	Wattisfield URC Chapel
3pm	Evensong	Westhorpe

26th January

9.30am	Holy Communion	Westhorpe
11.00am	Holy Communion	Finningham

2nd February

8.00am	Holy Communion	Walsham
11am	Candlemass Communion	Walsham



Wattisfield URC Services

Date	Time	Service details
December 1st	11am	Holy Communion
8 th	11am	Morning worship
15 th	11am	Carols & Christingles for Christmas followed by refreshments
22 nd	10.45am	United service at Diss URC no service at Wattisfield
25 th	10-10.45am	Short Christmas Day service everyone welcome!
29 th		No service
January 5 th	11am	Morning worship
12 th	11am	Morning worship
19 th	11am	Holy Communion – Service of Reaffirmation
26 th	11am	Morning worship
February 2 nd	11am	Holy Communion

Please contact Mrs Jo Patel our Local Leader (07808 487844) for more information

The PUDDLE DUCK CAFÉ is open on the 2nd Saturday of the month in December (14th) for a special Christmas Brunch from 10.30am-1.30pm with the Christmas Emporium, music, quizzes & food! Please let Mary (01359 898233) or Jo know if you would like to come.

In January we will be reverting to the usual 3^{rd} Saturday of the month, i.e. 18^{th} from 10.30am-12.30pm

Craftea Time & ScrabbleTea Time is from 1-3pm on 2^{nd} & 4^{th} Weds of the month

A WARM WELCOME TO ANY (OR ALL!) OF OUR ACTIVITIES

Benefice Services December

Benefice Services December - January

1st December			24 th December		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Walsham	3pm	Crib Service	Walsham
11.00am	Stir Up Sunday Benefice	Finningham	5pm	Carol Service	Badwell Ash
	Service		11:30pm	Midnight Mass	Walsham
8 th December					
8.00am	Holy Communion	Walsham	25 th December		
9:30am	Holy Communion	Badwell Ash	9:30am	Christmas Communion	Finningham
	•		11am	Christmas Communion	Walsham
9:30am	Holy Communion	Westhorpe			
11.00am	Songs of Praise	Walsham	29th December		
2pm	Carol Service	Langham	8.00am	Holy Communion	Walsham
15th D			9:30am	Holy Communion	Westhorpe
15 th December					
8.00am	Holy Communion	Walsham	4 th January		
3pm	Carol Service	Wattisfield	7.30pm	Epiphany Singers Concert	Walsham
3pm	Carol Service	Finningham	, v _F	_r.r,g	
3pm	Evensong	Westhorpe	5 th January		
18 th December			8.00am	Holy Communion	Walsham
	School Christmas Service	Walsham	11am	Epiphany Eucharist	Walsham
2pm	School Christmas Service	waisnam			
19 th December			12 th January		
	C 10 :	W 4	8.00am	Holy Communion	Walsham
6pm	Carol Service	Westhorpe	9.30am	Holy Communion	Badwell Ash
22 nd December			11am	Songs of Praise	Walsham
4pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	Walsham			