

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE BENEFICE



*The  
Yoxmere  
Fisherman*

April 2026

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2026

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### Thursday 2nd April ~ Maundy Thursday

6.30pm Darsham Holy Communion

### Friday 3rd April ~ Good Friday

2.00pm Yoxford Stations of the Cross

### Sunday 5th April ~ Easter Sunday

6.00am Dunwich Sunrise Service on Dunwich Beach

9.30am Theberton Holy Communion

9.30am Westleton Holy Communion with Dunwich

9.30am Yoxford Holy Communion

11.00am Middleton Holy Communion

11.00am Peasenhall Holy Communion with Sibton

3.00pm Darsham Holy Communion

### Sunday 12th April ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter

9.30am Theberton Taizé

10.00am Yoxford Benefice Holy Communion

### Sunday 19th April ~ 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.30am Theberton Morning Praise

9.30am Westleton Holy Communion

9.30am Yoxford family@church

11.00am Darsham Holy Communion

11.00am Peasenhall Holy Communion (BCP)

6.00pm Sibton Holy Communion

### Sunday 26th April ~ 4th Sunday of Easter

9.30am Theberton Holy Communion

9.30am Westleton Informal Worship

9.30am Yoxford Informal Worship

11.00am Dunwich Morning Prayer

11.00am Middleton Holy Communion

11.00am Peasenhall Morning Worship  
with the Methodist Chapel

6.00pm Darsham Evensong

### Sunday 3rd May ~ 5th Sunday of Easter

10.00am Sibton Benefice Holy Communion

## LECTIONARY

*5th April, White*

Acts 10.34-43

Colossians 3.1-4

Matthew 28.1-10

*12 April, White*

Acts 2.14a,22-32

1 Peter 1.3-9

John 20.19-31

*19th April, White*

Acts 2.14a,36-41

1 Peter 1.17-23

Luke 24.13-35

*26th April, White*

Acts 2.42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2.19-25

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Cover: Good Friday 2025, St Michael's, Peasenhall. Photo courtesy of Lisa Eveleigh.

## RECTOR'S RAMBLE

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There is an enormously rich tradition of sacred music: some of it is for any time of year, some is specifically for Christmas or Easter. A few years ago, we had a wonderful performance of Haydn's *Seven Last Words of our Saviour from the Cross* on Good Friday in Westleton church. Other Holy Week music will include the Bach Passions. But I have a rarer tradition. I always try to listen to the last act of Richard Wagner's opera *Parsifal* on Good Friday. Within that last act is a section he designates as 'Good Friday music', and Wagner claimed it was inspired by a sunny Good Friday in 1857.

Wagner is perhaps not the most auspicious composer to be enjoying on such a holy day. He was a racist, an adulterer and an egotist. He was Hitler's favourite composer — not only for his music but for his ideology. Oh dear! And yet *Parsifal*, his last work, strikes a different tone. Its subject matter is the Grail legend, a story overlaid with Christian symbolism of new life and abundance. *Parsifal's* successful quest leads not only to the restoration of the wounded king Amfortas, but to a more general healing and redemption of the land. And so, in the Good Friday music, Wagner's music softens from the sometimes jagged and harmonically complex (especially in Act 2) into more peaceful textures that evoke spring flowers, growth and new life. It's a beautiful moment.

We need to be clear: *Parsifal* is not a 'Christian' opera, but it is the work of a man who (despite rejecting religion) remains fascinated and confused by redemption.

Wagner has understood Good Friday and Easter pretty well. The violence of Good Friday is of human doing; Jesus' return to life from death is God's, and with this unique, quietly stunning moment in history God does not suddenly force 'regime change' on humanity, but invites us into new life, in a new relationship with God. Jesus does not hunt down Pontius Pilate, nor anyone else, but forgives. God forgives. Understood correctly, Christian faith is wholly and uniquely about grace — God's love when we don't deserve it. That grace shows itself in renewal of life, which we appropriately celebrate in spring and Wagner celebrates in his music.

Amidst the chaos and violence we see in the world let us pray this Easter for healing, grace and restoration the world over.

*Easter blessings, Tim.*

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **Funerals**

Barbara Florence Caines, aged 102 years, on Thursday 5th March, at St Peter's Westleton.

Judith Egerton Shearme (Judy), aged 96 years, on Tuesday 10th March, at St Peter's, Westleton.

Daphne Joan Mower, aged 76 years, on Wednesday 11th March, at St Michael and All Angels, Peasenhall.

### **Interment of Ashes**

Dorothy Ena Kemp, aged 93 years, on Wednesday 11th March, at St Michael and All Angels, Peasenhall.

Robert William Songer (Bob), aged 89 years, on Monday 30th March, at All Saints' Darsham.

### **Baptism**

Oskar Edward Gee on Sunday 22nd March, at St James, Dunwich.

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## **DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE STILL NEEDED BY HAAD - HELP AND AID DIRECT**

First of all, we have been overwhelmed by your support for the Ukraine appeal. (Local WI members, you know who you are!) You have all been so very kind and generous and we fully appreciate the efforts you have made to help those suffering the deprivations of war right now. Thank you!

The war continues, the need for aid continues, so if you are able to continue to help, this is the most up-to-date list I have been given:

Sorry, NO MORE ADULT CLOTHING - HAAD have been overwhelmed with clothing, and storage space is currently limited.

BUT - YES to ANYTHING for CHILDREN - clothes, toys, games, school-type equipment, etc.

YES - to FOOD - tinned, dried, flavourings, but NO pasta or rice, they are given this in bulk.

TOILETRIES

HOUSEHOLD and KITCHEN ITEMS - washing powder, tea towels, sponges, J-Cloths, scourers etc.

TOWELS

BEDDING AND BLANKETS

SHOES, all ages

UNDERWEAR - as before, new pants but bras in good used condition - or new, of course!

MEDICAL, SANITARY and HYGIENE ITEMS.

If anyone can collect large banana boxes, eg Fyffes, from local supermarkets, eg Tesco at Saxmundham, Halesworth Co-op, but not Waitrose as they flatten theirs, we should be very grateful as these boxes are used for packing the donated items. Thank you!

*Esther Paige*

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### HELP TO KEEP THE FISHERMAN AFLOAT


The *Yoxmere Fisherman* is non-profit-making and delivered free to every home in the benefice. It is still operating with limited financial resources and we are very grateful for donations we have received. If you would like to support the magazine, you can donate by one of these methods:

- By bank transfer to: Yoxmere Administrators, sort code 30 99 50, account number 79464368.
- By sending a cheque made out to: The Yoxmere Administrators at 1 Fordley Hall Cottages, Fordley Road, Middleton, Saxmundham, IP17 3LT.
- By following the link in the QR code shown here.





**family@church**

**Sunday 19th April**  
**Yoxford Church 9.30am**



**The Road to Emmaus**

YOXMERE  
 **An informal family-friendly service for the young and the not so young**

mothers union  Christian care for families worldwide

**Thursday 16th April, 2.30pm**  
**Westleton Church**

**NICKY'S FOUNDATION**  
**Challenges of Political Unrest in Cameroon**

**Nicky Smith**

**All Welcome**  
**For further information please phone**  
**Sue Norrington 07913 488670**  
**or Jennifer Clough 01728 648597**



### **Pacifism**

I didn't mean to be prophetic last month — writing about just war theory days before the US attacked Iran. That was just bad luck!

While Just War theory has been the majority ethic for Christians for most of history, Christianity began resolutely pacifist, and this stance has remained a persistent notable minority view since. Pacifism particularly resurfaced during the Reformation, and those churches that remain close to

their reformation roots — such as Quakers — remain pacifist in outlook.

Non-violence starts with the example of Jesus himself. In the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5) Jesus teaches: 'Do not resist an evil person; if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.' He also preaches: 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' Furthermore, Jesus practised what he preached: he submitted to the Cross rather than descend to violence himself.

Following his pattern, after Jesus' resurrection and ascension the prominent evangelists (e.g. Peter and Paul) all preferred to be martyred for their faith than to fight their persecution. This preference to suffer violence rather than to use violence is one of the reasons, ironically, that the Christian faith spread so quickly: the apostles' unwavering faith — even though conversion to Christianity might lead to persecution — was a persuasive testimony that the Jesus they preached was more than 'a good man'.

But: why let aggression go unchecked? Who would not fight back if war was waged against you? We go back to Jesus': 'Turn the other cheek.' Jesus is not suggesting just to be a doormat, but to show dignity without violence. A slap on the right cheek was a backhanded slap — the slap of someone asserting their superiority. Turning the cheek offers a correction — 'Slap the other, but slap me as if we were equal.' Such an action does not escalate violence, but rather claims both personal equality and the moral high ground.

If this is possible on an individual basis, is it possible in larger-scale conflict? What if pacifism were so normal that to wage war became quite unthinkable? And what if nations *really* sought a diplomatic end to conflict — because they refused the alternative?

Pacifism might increase the loss of innocent lives in the immediate future, but ultimately *decrease* the loss of life, through a process of civilising the world. In

this light, the argument is much the same as abolishing the death sentence: if it is obvious to us now that the state should not kill, is it not obvious that it should not wage war either?

Pacifism may appear impractical, but it remains highly influential — and represents that peace we all wish to fight for anyway.

*Blessings, Tim.*

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## **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

The next meetings will be on Mondays 30th March and 11th May (avoiding Bank Holidays) at 2pm in Westleton Village Hall Foyer. This is a safe space for those who have been bereaved to be as open as you wish about your experiences, both emotional and practical, following loss. Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied and no charge. More information from the Revd Tim Rogers, or feel free to just turn up.

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## **Pisces Swimming Club for Disabled People**

Our aim is to provide a friendly and safe environment where our members, together with their families and carers, can swim in comfort and privacy.

The Pisces Swimming Club was set up in 1992 specifically to benefit people with any type of disability where being in water helps with mobility, or an invisible disability such as Mental Health issues – where it has been proved that water calms the mind.

We have all the equipment to assist people with physical disabilities. The Club pays a weekly fee to Leiston Leisure Centre for the hire of the pool, and the pool is just for our members and is not open to the public during our session.

Currently we meet on Saturday afternoons 2.30pm to 3.30pm so come along and join us. We charge £2.00 a session and £1.00 for carers.

Contact us via email or call **07403384561** for more information.  
Email: [\*\*pisces.disabledswimclub@yahoo.com\*\*](mailto:pisces.disabledswimclub@yahoo.com)

## **THE YOXMERE FISHERMAN** - Guidelines for contributors

The *Yoxmere Fisherman* is published for the Yoxmere Benefice, which comprises the Church of England parishes of Darsham, Dunwich, Middleton, Peasenhall, Sibton, Theberton, Westleton and Yoxford.

Visitors may find more information at [www.achurchnearlyou.com](http://www.achurchnearlyou.com)

**SUBMISSIONS** should be sent by the 14th of the preceeding month, and preferably by email to [yoxmerefisherman@gmail.com](mailto:yoxmerefisherman@gmail.com)

For details of advertising please email: [yoxmereadvertisers@gmail.com](mailto:yoxmereadvertisers@gmail.com)

### **VIRTUAL FISHERMAN**

The current edition and a few months of previous issues can be found at <https://www.westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk/church/yoxmere-fisherman/>

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*Yoxford Rd: we take cards*  
*Th-Sun 11-5 07456 609790*

## **Chapel Books**

*opposite P.O.: we take cards too*  
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## DARSHAM

### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Thursday 2nd April, 6.30pm, Maundy Thursday Communion and Washing of Feet

Saturday 4th April, 2.00pm, Easter Egg Hunt and Crafts

Sunday 10th May, 12.00noon, All Saints Spring Lunch in village hall

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### DARSHAM VILLAGE HALL FILM NIGHT

Saturday 11th April *The Choral*. This film starring Ralph Fiennes and Roger Allam is a collaboration between Nicholas Hytner and Alan Bennet (*The Lady in the Van* and *The History Boys*) and is set in the fictional West Riding Town of Ramsden in 1916. The majority of the ambitious Choral Society have volunteered for the front and so the driven Dr Guthrie recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls.

Tickets are £5 and will be available at the village Coffee Morning or on the door.

Doors open at 6.45pm and film starts at 7.00. We will have a bar and snacks and look forward to seeing our regulars and newcomers alike.

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### WHAT'S ON AT DARSHAM VILLAGE HALL – APRIL 2026

#### Classes and Clubs

Sequence Dancing – every Tues. from 1.00pm (Carol 01986 784642)

Pilates – every Thurs. 9.30am to 10.30am (Maria 07999 848655)

Seated Exercise – every Thurs. 11.00am to 12.00pm (Maria 07999 848655)

Yoga – every Fri. 10.30 to 11.30am (Debbie - [lifeforceyoga.co.uk](http://lifeforceyoga.co.uk))

Table Tennis – every Thurs. 7.00pm to 9.00pm (Alan Holland 01728 668451)

Carpet Bowls – Every Fri. 2.30pm (Chris Fox 07725 725008)

Baby Sensory Group – Every Tue. 9.30-10.30 and 11.00-12.00 (Megan Mayes 07521 318146) **(Not 7th)**

Crafty Club – Mon. 6th - 9.30am (Heather Ballantine 07860 278955)

Home Education Group – Wed. 9.00am (Rebecca Coe) **(not 11th)**

Dash Astro – Sun. 5th Observing 19th; Meeting (Chris Mead - 07736 160577)

#### Events and Meetings

Textile Temptations – Wed. 8th at 10.00am (Sally Goodacre 07900 522577)

Coffee Morning – Sat. 11th at 10.00am hosted by Carpet Bowls

Film Night – Sat. 11th at 7.00pm (see above)

Parish Council Meeting – Tue. 14th, 7.00pm

Watercolour Classes – Mon. 20th, 9.30am - 12.30pm (Colin on 07528 515214)

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### 100 CLUB RESULTS MARCH 2026

£100 Graham Sapsed, £50 Marion Diamond, £25 Roger Bulkeley

## FUND RAISING

Darsham Village Hall is now registered with Easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use Easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find the link at the whats on page on the Darsham Village Hall website.

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## DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At the monthly meeting on 10th March Cllr Paul Ashton explained that all plans for the reorganisation of local government were proceeding and that county council elections would now be held in May 2026 to elect a council for the following two years.

Cllr Richard Smith offered his apologies but will be attending our April meeting which will be his last meeting before retiring.

Traffic entering the village from the A12 via the Street was 15,578 in January 2026 and 16,685 in February 2026. This was an increase of approximately 25% over the same period in 2025.

Richard Knight from SZC is hoping to attend our April meeting to discuss the Northern Park and Ride, precise timing will be confirmed nearer the date and publicised on the village website and notice boards.

A big thank you to all those who helped with the village litter pick. There were some interesting finds!

The next PC meeting will be held on the 14th April in the village hall, timings to be confirmed.

*Jasmine Backhouse, Chair Darsham PC*

## DUNWICH

### Dunwich Museum & Community Heritage Centre

The museum is open daily, 11.30am-4.30pm from 1st April.

We are looking for volunteers! We have a few projects in the upcoming year with a variety of different volunteering opportunities. If you have an interest in local heritage and the environment, enjoy sharing the stories of our history or caring for collections, or if you enjoy a bit of admin, drop us a line at [admin@dunwichmuseum.org.uk](mailto:admin@dunwichmuseum.org.uk) or call us at 01728 648796.

We run events and activities throughout the year, so keep an eye out for our events and check our website for updates at [www.dunwichmuseum.org.uk/events](http://www.dunwichmuseum.org.uk/events).

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## Fast Cars and MI5 - A New Exhibition

Our new exhibition will be up and running for Easter! “Fast Cars and MI5” explores the story of local legend Jock Horsfall, iconic racing driver and the man behind the wheel in 1943 for MI5’s Operation Mincemeat. Discover the amazing story of this Dunwich man, his legendary racing career, his ties with MI5, and how he likely inspired Ian Flemming’s 007.



*Jock Horsfall in the 1948 Spa 24-Hour Endurance Race, in which he took first place.  
This race has been held at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps  
in Stavelot, Belgium since 1924.*

Enjoy an evening at the museum and join us for the launch of the exhibition on **Saturday May 23rd at 6pm**, which will include a talk by Cliff Nicholson.

**Dunwich Coffee Morning - Thursdays April 2nd, 16th, and 30th, 10.30am - 12pm**

The Coffee Morning will be continuing in March, every other Thursday in the Dunwich Reading Room. Everyone is welcome, so drop in and join us for hot drink and nibbles. Donations keep the coffee mornings alive.

**Easter Drop-in Activities – Wednesday April 1st and 8th, 12.00 - 4pm**

Join us in the Reading Room for our Easter holiday activities! Get crafty, decorate biscuits, and more. Free to all ages, donations welcome.

### Museum Talks

Following our first talk, “Fast Cars and MI5”, Dunwich museum is planning a programme of online and in-person talks for the coming year on a wide range of topics. Keep an eye on our website for more details and/or join our mailing list to keep up to date with our upcoming events.

Email [chronicles@dunwichmuseum.org.uk](mailto:chronicles@dunwichmuseum.org.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

## MIDDLETON

### POETRY IN THE PORCH – A LENTEN PRACTICE

*the heart's time*

A poem a day for Lent and Easter

By Janet Morley

‘To keep Lent is to turn aside from the ordinary routines of our life in order to reflect; to notice what is going on, to detect what is really significant...’ Janet Morley

Continuing to use poetry here to provide us with reason to pause, a poem from Janet Morley’s book *the heart's time* will be posted on the notice board in the Holy Trinity Middleton church porch each weekday during Lent. Sadly, they are not accompanied by pastries(!) but we hope they still give us food for thought...

If you would like the poem sent to your inbox each weekday morning, please drop a line to [ajt.opom@gmail.com](mailto:ajt.opom@gmail.com) or you might consider purchasing the book yourself.

**And, as we continue our journey through Lent together, mindful of all that is broken in our world, we remember that Easter is nearly with us and would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone across the Benefice a Joyful Eastertide - may it be so.**



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### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Holy Trinity Church, Middleton APCM  
will be held on Thursday 14 May at 2.30pm in the church.  
Everyone is welcome.

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## Date for your diary

# MIDDLETON OPEN GARDENS

## 6th and 7th June 2026

(11 am - 5pm)

*Looking forward to welcoming new and returning visitors to our annual open gardens  
This year we have approximately 18 gardens open, formal and informal, well  
established as well as newly planted gardens  
There will be an arts/craft/vintage and plants sale in the Pub barn  
and family wildlife activities in one of the gardens.*

Serving refreshments at the pavilion all day

*Raising funds for the Holy Trinity Church, Middleton, also supporting the East Anglian Air  
Ambulance and Project40seven (IP17)*

## PEASENHALL

### KEEP MOVING IN PEASENHALL

The village has secured some funding for a subsidised chair-based exercise class for all ages. However, it will be aimed at over 60s! This will be held in the Assembly Hall, probably on a Tuesday during the day and will hopefully start mid-April. The cost will be about £3.00 including refreshments. For more information or to book a place please contact Zoe Horlock 07709 746167 or email [z.horlock14@gmail.com](mailto:z.horlock14@gmail.com). East Suffolk Council Community Partnership has kindly provided the funding.

### WALKING FOOTBALL

Each Wednesday morning on Peasenhall and Sibton playing field. Everyone is welcome to join in this non-contact, gentler version of the game. Contact David on 07766 244989 for further details.

### SAVE THE DATE

Peasenhall Open Gardens 20th & 21st June



### PEASENHALL ASSEMBLY HALL - WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

#### Pop-up Café – Wednesday 1st April 10am – 12pm

This is hosted by the wonderful Weavers Team of Sara and Beth. There will be tea, coffee and cake along with lots of chat and a very warm welcome.

#### Coffee Morning – Easter Saturday, 4th April 10am – 12pm

Come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake. Treat yourself it's Easter!

We would like to take this opportunity to show off our newly refurbished toilet facilities too.

All proceeds will be for the upkeep of the hall.

#### Craft club – The 1st and 3rd Monday of the month 2pm – 4pm

Everyone welcome

#### Clubercise – Tuesdays 6pm – 7pm

If you would like to book or need more information, please contact Eileen on 07813 854255 or email [Zumba-eileen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Zumba-eileen@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Pilates Class - Thursdays 9.15-10.45am

The class is suitable for all abilities. To book, or for more information, please contact Emma on 07914 535448 or email [pilatesbodyharmony@aol.com](mailto:pilatesbodyharmony@aol.com)

## **Peasenhall Picture Palace Friday 10th April**

*Downton Abbey, The Grand Finale* (2025) – 3rd time lucky! This follows the Crawley family into the 1930s as Lady Mary faces scandal from her divorce, threatening the family's reputation amidst financial woes, leading Robert to cede control to Mary, who embraces leadership, saves Downton from a conman, and secures its future with support from her family and staff. Ending with a fond farewell to past generations and a new era for the estate under Mary's guidance.

Doors open at 7pm. Bar and raffle.

Thank you to everyone who supports us and to the local businesses who provide very generous raffle prizes.

If you would like to hear about future films, please subscribe to our mailing list: [peasenhallpicturepalacefilmclub@gmail.com](mailto:peasenhallpicturepalacefilmclub@gmail.com)

As always, we couldn't host any of our events without the support of you the community and we thank you for your continued support. All proceeds from events go towards the upkeep and continued improvement of our community space. If you would like to book the hall for a family gathering or event, please telephone 01728 660010. A sound system, Wi-Fi and projector are all available.

For general enquiries or if you would like to join our friendly committee or perhaps volunteer at some of our events, please contact Frank Potter on 01728 660010 or email [theassemblyhall19@gmail.com](mailto:theassemblyhall19@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook – Peasenhall Assembly Hall. More information at :[www.peasenhall.onesuffolk.net/peasenhall-assembly-hall](http://www.peasenhall.onesuffolk.net/peasenhall-assembly-hall). We are a registered charity. No: 304808.

## **SIBTON**

### **ST PETER'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

The APCM will be held in Sibton church on April 29th at 11.00am. Everyone in the parish of Sibton is welcome to attend as we reach an important time in deciding how to manage the project to stabilise the church's beautifully carved medieval ceiling. Your help and advice are always welcome.

*Andrew Campbell*

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### **CONCERT**

There will be a concert in Sibton church by **Zephyr Baroque**, with music for recorders, baroque bassoon and harpsichord on **April 11th at 3.30pm** organised by the Friends of St Peter's Sibton. Tea follows the performance. Tickets at £15 are available from the Weavers Tearoom and Peasenhall General Store or on the door.

*Contd. /*



**Come down and enjoy our green space  
for a friendly game  
at Peasehall and Sibton Bowls Club**  
(behind the village hall)



It's the perfect way, for people of all ages and experience,  
to enjoy the outdoors and keep fit.

We have family BBQs through the season

All we would ask is that you wear soft soled flat shoes or trainers

For further information, please contact Ian 01986 872378 or Jan 01728 668509

## THEBERTON

### NEWS FROM THE THEBERTON LIONESSES

#### “Roaring Recipes”

Having enjoyed another successful couple of events in 2025, we are planning 2026. We are putting the finishing touches on our fundraising recipe book, *Roaring Recipes*. This will be an A5-sized, ring-bound recipe book with waterproof covers containing an estimated 180 pages. Recipes range from very basic, including a section on basic sauces and stocks plus some information about Agas, progressing to quite unusual dishes with tips to help any tricky areas, all gathered from friends and family. We have secured five local sponsors to help towards the production costs. The whole book will be produced by Southwold Press, who have been very enthusiastic and helpful with suggestions. Committee member, local artist Sandra Pond, is providing beautiful colour plates to introduce each of the seven sections plus the front cover. We plan to have this on sale soon after Easter at a cost of £10.00 per copy. All profits (of course!) go to EACH and the St Elizabeth Hospices.

#### Bring-Your-Bakes Competition

We are holding the competition again on May 16th, with Sesi and Lily judging. Entry forms are available from Suzi on 01728 635736 or email [thebertonlionesses@yahoo.com](mailto:thebertonlionesses@yahoo.com). Bakes need to be with us between 8.30 and 10.30 on the morning: small and large cakes, small and large breads plus children's entries please. Judging will be from 11am-1pm. We will open up the Jubilee Hall for viewing (Church Road, Theberton), and the gardens from 2pm when we will be serving afternoon teas: glamorous three-tiered sandwich/scones/cakes or a simple cuppa and a piece of cake. The auction of donated items will commence at 3pm, starting with the announcement of the winners and prize-giving, then auctioning off the prize-winning and donated items. Do join us or ring Suzi for more details.

## **Motown Disco**

In November we are holding a Tamla Motown disco at Darsham Village Hall on Saturday 21st November, from 6.30pm. The DJ will be Richard Durban from Theberton. We are providing a “retro” buffet with all the favourites from buffets in the 60s, 70s and 80s! Bar and raffle as ever. £20.00 per ticket - only 75 available and already selling fast. Prize for best dress: anything from the 60s to the 80s! It should be another fabulous evening. Ring Suzi for tickets. Lorraine will be asking for any DJ requests.

For information about any of these events do ring Suzi on 01728 635736.

## **WESTLETON**

### **WESTLETON GARDENERS – OPEN TO ALL**

Our last meeting of this season is on Tuesday 21st April in Westleton Village Hall at 7.30pm. This month’s talk is from Peter Skeggs Gooch from Thorncoft Nursery, and called ‘A Complete Guide to Clematis.’ He will be bringing plants to sell.

We will also be taking bookings and payment for the two Summer Garden Trips, so if you think you may want to participate, payment is preferably in cash.

Entry is £4 each inclusive of refreshments. Doors open at 7.15pm and there will be time to chat too.

*Marilyn Stephens*

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### **WESTLETON COMMON EVENTS**

Thanks to all who support our Common. The next **Working Party** is **Saturday 21st March** from 10.00 to about 12.30 and then **Saturday 19th September**.

Refreshments at half time. Everyone welcome; many hands make light work!

The next **Nature Walk** is on **Saturday 11th April** from 10.30 to about 12noon and then **Saturday 30th May**.

For these free events, please meet by the green storage container in the car park to the right at the top of Mill Street.

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### **100 CLUB MARCH WINNERS**

1st prize Roger Troke

2nd prize Martin Dilke-Wing

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### **WESTLETON WI**

At our March meeting we had Air Vice Marshall Mike Blackburn giving a talk entitled “Reflections on China”. Having served as Defence Attaché based in Beijing, Mike gave a fascinating account



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of the power structure in China today, the real men in power at the top, the way China is heading over the coming years, and the goals they are trying to achieve. Since Mike is a local resident, and knowing his talk would be interesting, we opened the event for everyone in the village, and a good turnout was rewarded with his insightful views on current day China.

The 7th April Meeting features Billie Bond demonstrating the clay slab method with intaglio decorative techniques.

*Gill Wood*

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## **WILD FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

This is to be held in conjunction with Westleton Wildflower Festival in July. Entry is free and there are two categories: Adult, and Children under 16 years. Prizes for both categories.



Start taking your pictures now (phone or camera) and look out for the posters with entry details later in the year, or email [c\\_homersham@btinternet.com](mailto:c_homersham@btinternet.com) for more information.

*Carole Homersham*

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## **WESTLETON VILLAGE HALL – APRIL 2026**

**Saturday 4th – Community Market** returns in the Foyer 10am -12pm – local produce and home-cooked food, bric-a-brac and small gifts.

**Saturday 4th - Film Night** with a showing of *The Penguin Lessons*, a 2024 comedy-drama starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce, and a penguin named Juan Salvador. Doors and the bar open at 7pm. Tickets still only £5, pay on the night.

**Saturday 18th – Pop-Up Jumble Sale.** This will run from 2 – 4.30pm in the hall with donations accepted from 9am – 12 midday on the **morning** of the event. Have a clear out, find a bargain and support our hall!

**Foyer:** please come and join us for coffee, tea, etc. and a chat. Open weekdays daily 10am – 12pm.

The **Tech Table** continues to operate on Tuesday mornings in the Foyer between 9.30 and 12.00 on a drop-in basis.

**Chess and Coffee Group.** This meets every Wednesday between 10am - 12pm in the Foyer and welcomes anyone wanting to play and anyone wishing to learn to play chess.

### **Practitioners:**

**Hairdresser** – Hannah from the Travelling Salon can visit the hall on Tuesdays 14th and 28th April. For appointments or to discuss your requirements, please contact her on 07856 517925 or email [travellingsalonsuffolk@gmail.com](mailto:travellingsalonsuffolk@gmail.com).

**Footcare with Susan** - will be back 30th April and 1st May. To book an appointment, email [susan@nobadfeet.co.uk](mailto:susan@nobadfeet.co.uk) or phone 01986 872067 or 07497 371073.

**Reflexology** – will be available on Saturday 25th April with Juliet Overton - 9.30am – 12.30pm. Phone 07930 341901 or [www.julietoverton.co.uk](http://www.julietoverton.co.uk).

We can also offer **pet and human registered physiotherapist** - Emma Strachan (variable days). Contact her direct to book on 07821 055404.

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## **WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL**

Although it's late in the day for introductions, I'll briefly introduce myself as the parish council's new clerk, having taken on the role in October 2025. I'll be looking after the monthly reports from the council going forwards. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at [clerk@westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk) if I can be of any assistance, and do feel free to read the comprehensive minutes of all Parish Council meetings on the parish website. In addition, the next **Parish Council Surgery** will take place on Monday 26 April in the foyer of the village hall from 10.30 to 11.30 for anyone who wishes to meet councillors to discuss any issues outside of a formal meeting.

Firstly, Westleton's new **allotment** site was formally launched on 2nd March. Huge thanks are due to Cllr Watson and Cllr Webber for their hard work in getting this project over the line. There are a just a couple of plots still available, with priority given to Westleton residents. If you are interested in taking on a plot, please email [allotments@westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Meanwhile at the **common**, the firebreaks and gorse have been cleared, and the acid grassland has been cut. Adders are now present and we advise dog walkers to be especially vigilant.

Turning to **Sizewell and other energy projects**, following the submission of a joint letter by Westleton Parish Council together with neighbouring parishes and district councillors, a meeting was held on 4th March with Sizewell C, the County Council, and Suffolk Police to discuss concerns about traffic volumes and speeds on the B1125, with Sizewell C committing to consider speed limit changes and further traffic calming measures.

The **LionLink** consultation closed on 10th March, with Westleton's comments available to view at [www.westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk/energy-projects](http://www.westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk/energy-projects), along with lots of other useful updates and information about the major energy infrastructure projects affecting Westleton. The Planning Inspectorate examination of Sea Link is ongoing and Cllr Turner has drafted several papers covering accommodation,

tourism, and transport concerns to complement several other papers submitted by the East Suffolk Communities Energy Partnership (ESCEP) Steering Group.

A new **Community Engagement** working group has been established as a joint venture between Westleton Parish Council, Westleton Village Hall, and St Peter's Church. The initial aim of the group is to draft a comprehensive village survey to take place over the summer in order to understand the community's needs and wishes, and in turn guide the work of the three organisations in the years to come.

Finally, with the announcement that County Council elections are to take place on 7th May, the parish council wishes to extend its sincere thanks to Cllr Richard Smith, who has indicated that he is to step down. The parish council is grateful for his several years of work representing Westleton.

*Richard Green, Clerk to Westleton Parish Council*

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## **WESTLETON ALPINE SKIING SOCIETY**

The Westleton Alpine Skiing Society (with guests from outlying villages) had its inaugural outing in the first week of March, to Obergurgl in Austria. Importantly, all who departed returned essentially uninjured. The original party of twelve was reduced with one non-starter and one withdrawal part way; one further rider fell early leaving nine active skiers.

The vehicle transfer from Innsbruck was interesting, though we were well prepared given the excessive speeds on blind bends on our local roads! Sensibly, the party was split between two hotels, just in case one refused to continue to provide service. But, as the participants were well behaved, generally, no-one needed to be rehoused. We were very well looked after, with excellent accommodation and fabulous food seemingly constantly available. The weather was glorious – spring skiing at its best – the slopes were generous – mostly straightforward and not too busy – and the mountain restaurants very hospitable. Perhaps too hospitable after some reports of combining beer, ABBA and skiing back down the hill. The newbie skiers, well prepared with a couple of sessions at the dry slope in Norwich, performed fantastically. The return journey was uneventful – always good. The contrast between the sun-kissed slopes and dreary East Anglian skies on the drive back from Stansted reinforced the gloriousness of our adventure.

*Ian Webber*

## **YOXFORD**

### **ART AFFAIR - SATURDAY 2ND MAY 2026**

A celebration of local artists and makers at Yoxford Village Hall, 10.30am to 4.00pm. Refreshments available.

All proceeds to support Yoxford Village Hall.

## ST PETER'S CHURCH

### Services and Events for Easter

Friday 3rd April Good Friday, 2pm, Stations of the Cross

Sat 4th April 10.30am -12.00 noon, Easter coffee morning with hot cross buns, cake, raffle and book stall. Proceeds to the organ fund.

Easter Sunday, 9.30am, Holy Communion with Archdeacon Rich

Tues 14th April, 2.30 - 4.00pm, Social meet-up in the church. All are welcome for a cuppa, cake and chatter. (This is with a view to a regular home group!)

Sat 25th April 7.30pm Concert for Organ Fund with refreshments following (see below).

Wishing everyone a happy and blessed Easter.

*Lynne Putland, Churchwarden*

### An Evening of Music

#### Saturday 25th April, 7.30pm, St Peter's Church

The sound of the organ in Yoxford church has been enjoyed for many years, but its future as a playable instrument is uncertain unless we can raise at least £60,000.

To launch our fundraising for this project we are having an Evening of Music in the church, and we are delighted that the Sing Out Choir, conducted by Gretel Dowdeswell, and soloists Anna Noakes (Flute), Gary Kettel (Percussion), Katie Graham (Voice) and Alec Hone (Organ) have agreed to perform.

Please do come and support us as it will be an evening not to be missed!

Entry will be free, with all donations going to the Organ Fund.

### Spring Clean

A big **Thank You** to all of you who came out to do the spring clean at St Peter's. And thanks to Hazel for bringing cake! The church looked amazing by the end and even better with the sun shining.

There is a monthly rota if anybody would like to sign up.

*Julian Lock*

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### YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – MARCH/APRIL 2026

In March, the Parish Council was delighted to welcome Councillor Kara Cowie as a co-opted member. Kara has previously served on the council and brings a wealth of experience in youth social care, which the council hopes to tap into as it assesses youth provisions in the village.

Spearheaded by Cllr Haslam, the council is also seeking to enhance its external communications by expanding the use of the website as well as other channels such as newsletters and potentially social media. A new 'Planning' webpage has been established at [www.yoxfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning](http://www.yoxfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning) where the public

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can see a summary of live applications, as well as read the Parish Council's consultee responses and agendas and minutes of the council's regular Planning Sub-Committee meetings, which are also open to the public by way of a Public Forum at the start of each meeting.

Prior to its full meeting on 5th March, the council received a good deal of correspondence regarding **Yoxwood**, which was discussed at length during the meeting. It was agreed to place Yoxwood on the agenda for the council's next meeting on 2nd April to explore how the council can meet its obligations in a way that better involves the community in decision making. It is clear just how much Yoxwood means to people, and the council is grateful to all residents who took the time to share their thoughts, as well as to Cllr Allenby-Pratt for his continued hard work in managing this valued area.

Several residents have also raised concerns regarding road infrastructure works in Yoxford relating to Sizewell C. The Clerk has worked with residents to try to support them as much as possible, and to push Sizewell representatives for more regular and timely information about any works that overrun or are likely to prove disruptive at unsociable hours. It is hoped that this situation will ease once the new Yoxford roundabout comes online in April.

One councillor vacancy remains available, as well as public seats on the council's Planning Sub-Committee. For more information on any of these roles, please contact the Clerk, Richard Green, at [clerk@yoxfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yoxfordparishcouncil.gov.uk).

As always, residents are very welcome to contact the Clerk at any time for information on any council matters, or to consult the meeting minutes, which can be found online at [www.yoxfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings-and-minutes](http://www.yoxfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings-and-minutes).

*Richard Green, Clerk to Yoxford Parish Council*

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### **YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL – WHAT'S ON**

Meet-Up Tuesday Group - Tuesdays – 11.00am – 12.00pm

Outreach Post Office Mobile Van - Wednesdays - 9.15am – 10.15am

Art Classes – Thursdays – 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Youth Club - Thursdays – 6.00pm to 8.00pm - 11-18 year olds

Parish Council meeting – first Thursday of the month - 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Community Film Nights Yoxflicks – monthly – dates published separately

Community Pub Night (licensed bar) – last Friday of the month 6.00pm – 11.00pm

Tennis Courts – to book, contact Laura Greenberg on 07867 521697

Hall and Marquee Hire – to book, contact Hazel Wheeler on 07748 784909

## SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Yoxford invites you to join in the return of the much-loved creative Yoxfayre. There will be cakes, tea, games, toy stalls, second-hand clothes, bric-a-brac stalls, plants to buy and more. Save the date and watch this space.

### YOXFORD TENNIS CLUB - JOIN US?

Here at Yoxford Village Hall, we have two all-weather courts which are a great way to keep fit and have fun with friends and family. The subscription rates for 2026-27 are:

Family Membership - £70.00. Single Adult Membership - £50.00

Pay and Play - £8.00 per game

For more information or for an application form, please contact:

Laura Greenberg [laurakg59@gmail.com](mailto:laurakg59@gmail.com) 07867 521697 / 01728 668053

or Trudy Charles [manager@yoxfordvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:manager@yoxfordvillagehall.co.uk) 07867 967981

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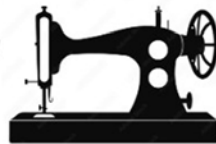
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# PROJECT UPDATE

APRIL 2026

Our work along the A12 to bring forward junction improvements is progressing well and we would like to thank you for your patience as this continues.

**A12 ROUNDABOUTS:** We are on schedule to open the roundabout at Friday Street to traffic on Monday 30 March. Whilst the works will not be fully complete, this will be a significant milestone and will improve the traffic flow in the area and the safety of the roads at this important junction. Once the full work on the road structure of the roundabouts is complete, the community will start to see a reduction of traffic management in the immediate areas and later in the year landscaping and planting of flora will begin.

The roundabout that is being constructed at Yoxford is also progressing well and will be operational to traffic Tuesday 31 March. As with Friday Street, the roundabout will not be fully complete at this time, with landscaping and planting to commence later in the year.

**PARK AND RIDES:** Both the Southern Park and Ride (Wickham Market) and Northern Park and Ride (Darsham) are now open. Work will continue to increase the capacity of both car parks through to late summer 2026.

**NORTHERN PARK AND RIDE (NPR):** The roundabout that links the A12 to the Darsham Park and Ride is also being linked to the A12 in phases. The western arm of the roundabout is now linked to the A12 for traffic, we expect the roundabout to be operational by the end of March. Traffic lights remain in place to pace the traffic flow.

We are now working to increase the capacity at the NPR to 280 spaces.

**AT THE SOUTHERN PARK AND RIDE (SPR)** the access road at Wickham Market is due to open at the end of March, which is timed with the completion of the Cadent gas works that are ongoing on the slip road and roundabout. This enables us to increase our bus fleet to transport workers to and from the Park and Rides. The prescribed routes for the buses are along the A12 and B1122. Road signs will be put up on the A12 during March.

The local road improvements at Yoxford have been completed. The works included the construction of a signalised crossing across the A12 and access improvements to the High Street and the A12. In early summer, further improvements on the A12 will commence at Marlesford and then Little Glemham; we will share further details on the Sizewell C Works Tracker.

**RAIL:** The improvements to the Saxmundham to Leiston rail line continue, with construction of the branch line to the Temporary Construction Area continuing at pace. Level crossing improvements and construction will require small road closures, which will be outlined via the Sizewell C Works Tracker: [www.szcworkstracker.co.uk](http://www.szcworkstracker.co.uk). Between 23 and 31 May Network Rail will be working on the rail line between Ipswich and Lowestoft. A bus replacement service will be in operation throughout.

Thank you for your patience as we work towards the completion of many of the road schemes and as always if you need to speak to us, please contact us via the **FREEPHONE 0800 197 6102\***.

## FORUM

## SCHEDULE



VISIT THE WORKS TRACKER

**Forum timings 2026 | 18:00 - 20:00 (Arrival from 17:45)**

|                                    |              |                                   |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Main Development Site Forum</b> | Wed 15 April | Leiston Town Athletic Association |
| <b>Northern Transport Forum</b>    | Wed 15 April | High Lodge Darsham                |

For more information and for more forum dates visit [sizewell.com/community/forums](http://sizewell.com/community/forums)

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