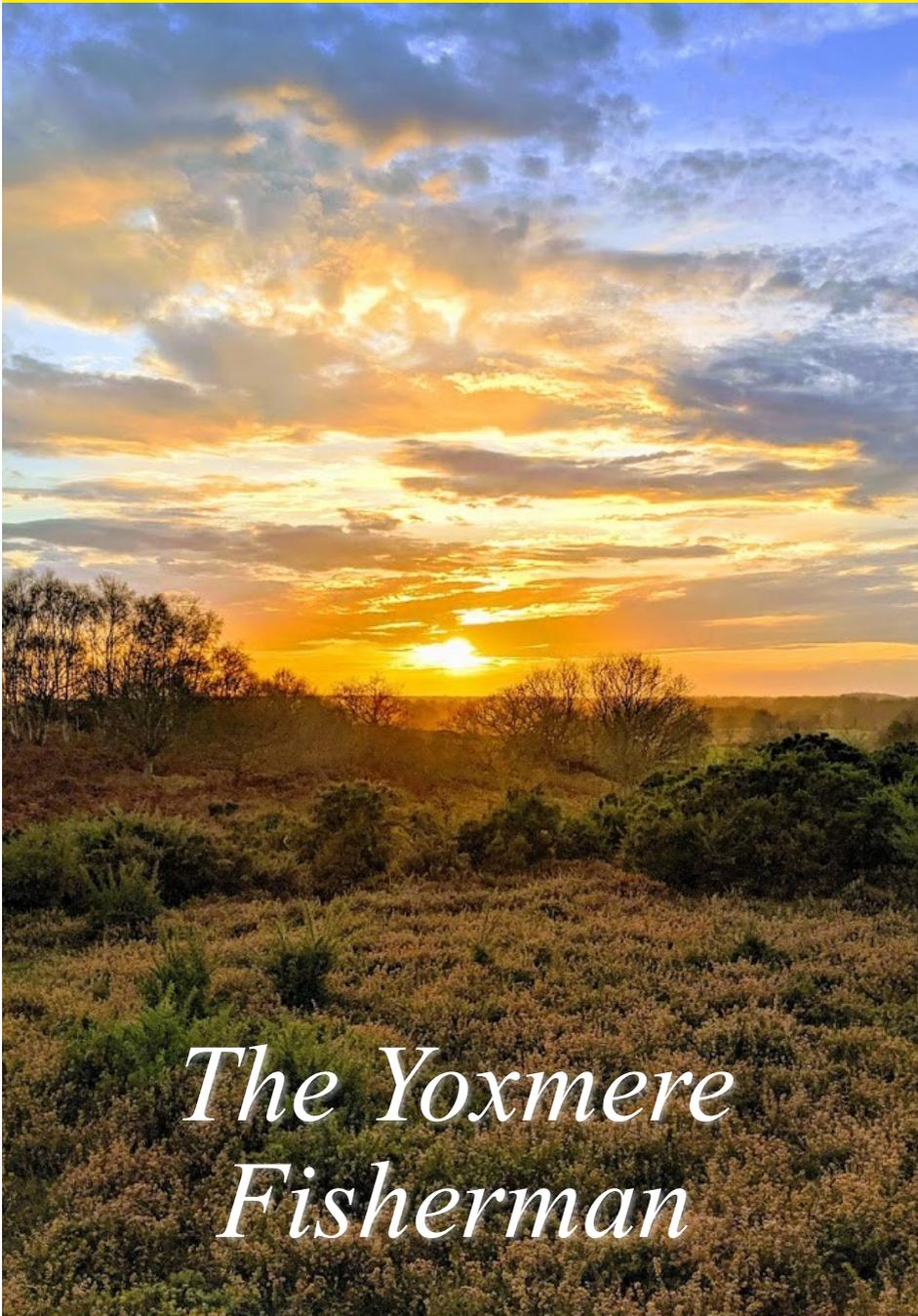


NEWS FROM ACROSS THE BENEFICE

A landscape photograph capturing a sunset over a field of wildflowers and trees. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the foreground. The sky is filled with scattered clouds, some of which are illuminated by the setting sun, creating a dramatic and colorful scene. The foreground is dominated by a dense field of wildflowers, likely oxeye daisies, in various stages of bloom. In the background, a line of trees is silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

*The Yoxmere  
Fisherman*

**July 2020**

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### **Richard Ginn**

Shortly before this magazine went online, we heard the very sad news that Canon Richard Ginn died on Wednesday 1st July. Richard and his family lived in Westleton until his retirement in 2015, and he had a ministry of twenty-eight years in this area, firstly as vicar of Westleton, Dunwich and Darsham, and later as rector of the Yoxmere Benefice. He was, of course, the founder and first editor of the *Yoxmere Fisherman* and an appreciation of Richard's life and work will be included in the next edition. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Linda, Sarah, David, Andrew and all Richard's family.

#### **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 about our parishes at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

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

Or by post to **The Editor, Cottage on the Common, Bakers Lane, Westleton, IP17 3AZ.**

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

## **IMPORTANT: DIRECTIVES ABOUT CHURCHES RE-OPENING**

The Government has announced that from 4th July public worship may resume in church buildings, though with suitable restrictions. The PCCs have deliberated this situation carefully together with Revd Tim, and have each decided what course of action they are able to take in the light of the risks and the work needed to counteract these. Rather than giving individual details here, it has been decided to direct parishioners to consult notices outside their own churches to see what each parish is doing. You can also contact your churchwardens for information.

These general directions should be followed if you go into a church building for private prayer or worship:

- Bring your own prayer book or Bible and take these home with you afterwards.
- Keep to the areas of the church designated for use.
- Touch surfaces as little as possible and use the sanitiser provided.
- Toilets may not be available for use.

### **From the Editor**

Welcome to the fourth "Virtual Fisherman". This is coming out at a time of mixed emotions as Rev Tim Rogers has now properly embarked on his ministry here, following the joy and promise of his licensing service – albeit perhaps one of the strangest ever, conducted on Zoom. Then only a week later, it was announced that Tim's father-in-law and our former rector Richard had passed away, having lived with cancer for a long time. Meanwhile this is all in the context of the uneasy times we are living in, with new freedoms opening up, but in a world that is still far from safe or normal.

The relaxation of rules does mean that we are hoping to print the *Fisherman* again for the August edition. The deadline for that will be July 14th – very soon – so please keep your contributions coming in.

This is the time of the big renewal of advertisements in the magazine. Our advertising manager Tanya does a heroic job at this time. She has sent out invitations to the existing advertisers for renewal, and the response has been heart-warmingly positive. Many are keen to take out adverts again despite the fact that businesses have been hit hard by the COVID crisis. So – a big thank-you to our advertisers!

This is a good point at which to commend an animation for our present time called "Beatitudes for a Global Pandemic", by *Church Times* cartoonist Dave Walker. Worth a click. See it [here](#).

Enjoy the summer and take care.

**Philippa Dent**

# Rector's Ramblings

---



## **Firstly, Thank you!**

Sarah, the family and I would like to thank you all so much for the gifts, the cards, the appropriately distanced knocks at the door and general welcome that we have received — both in the run up to moving, and since arriving in Darsham at the beginning of June. We're very grateful to be so warmly welcomed, and really look forward to settling in to the Yoxmere community.

With COVID precautions still in place it's an unusual way to begin ministry and the "getting to know you" stuff will have to be different too. So, please don't be shy to phone me — 07887352564; or email me — [rector.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com](mailto:rector.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com), or knock on the door of the Rectory to introduce yourself. I'm looking forward to it!

## **What's the point of church?**

Now, imagine bouncing a basketball. Take your hand away, and the ball keeps going for a bit, slowly comes to a stop. You need deliberately, rhythmically to put energy into it to keep it moving...

As I write, three months of lockdown have passed, during which the church buildings have all been closed, because we cannot gather, nor be seen to gather, in church — services included.

Going to church is closely wrapped up in Christian identity. "I'm a churchgoer" tells us a lot about who someone is, and what they believe. But at the moment none of us are churchgoers. What are we now? We are still Christian. In fact, nationally, there has been increased interest in faith recently with video, zoom, and Facebook live church attracting amazing numbers of people.

Which makes me ask, "What is the point of going to church?"

Some go to church because they enjoy the teaching. Some like the music, be it cathedral choir, amateur organist or perhaps a loud electric band. Some people love the feel of a church service. Some people are all about the social side. All of these people are, more importantly, about meeting God somehow, through the teaching, the readings, the music, the prayers and the social.

Spirituality is about a sense of connecting with something much larger than ourselves. Christian faith is specifically about connecting with God. Prayer is the obvious, everyday way to connect with God, but all the other things we do in church — the Bible reading, singing, communion, preaching — are also about renewing and building that sense of connection.

We often find that connection much easier in company. My faith is encouraged by yours, and yours by mine. My personal prayer life is enriched by hearing your intercessions, and yours by mine. And then, together, and inspired by God’s love, we find ourselves very slowly transformed into kinder people, who think of ourselves a little less, and others a little more. That’s the plan.

With church buildings closed we are reminded that the building is not "the church", but only a church building. Church is *us*. So while church buildings have been closed, church has been alive and well. We’ve been "churching" in our living rooms and back gardens. We’ve been "churching" on zoom and youtube. We’ve been churching on the telephone.

Going to church doesn’t make people Christians, but it does help to keep that faith — that connection with God — alive, and vibrant, just like that deliberate, rhythmic push on the basketball keeps it moving and alive.

I can’t wait to church with people again, together. I want to meet people and make connections, to encourage others in their faith and be encouraged by them. Because in the end, being church is about connecting with God and connecting with each other. And that’s a fair summary of what life is all about.

**Tim Rogers**

**Bible Readings for July** (if you wish to use these at home)

5th	TRINITY 4	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-end	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end
12th	TRINITY 5	Genesis 25:19-end	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
19th	TRINITY 6	Genesis 28:10-19a	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
26th	TRINITY 7	Genesis 29:15-28	Romans 8:26-end	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## THE LICENSING OF REVEREND TIM

It should have been a splendid occasion, a very special occasion. A church full of people, pews chock-a-block, representatives of parish councils and other organisations; representatives from other denominations; magnificent voluntaries pouring from the organ; churchwardens in their Sunday best standing in protective rows, armed with their staves of office, to ensure the safe arrival of the ceremonial party.

And then the grand entrance of the procession of clergy. From bishop to curate and all stops in between. Glorious sounds of well sung hymns should have been echoing across the adjoining fields as we all raised our voices to praise God for the safe arrival of Reverend Tim for his licensing as rector of our Yoxmere Benefice.

But then there was COVID 19 preventing such gatherings from happening. Although Tim had been offered the post of rector of the benefice and had accepted that offer, under church law he could not actually start his work until he was properly licensed by the bishop.

And so, at 10.00am on the 24th of June, Zoom sprang into action. My computer screen was filled with little windows containing a bishop, a curate, a fine array of various clergy, churchwardens (though not in their Sunday best), many members of PCCs and congregations from around the benefice, and even some interested parties from outside the benefice. We were all virtually there or perhaps we were all there virtually! And, of course, Tim was in one of those windows, sitting outside a house, with the birds singing in the background – no Covid restrictions for their singing.

As it turned out Tim was not sitting in the rectory garden. BT Openreach had not yet reached far enough to provide him with a telephone line and therefore no internet connection and, as a result, he was located across the road in John Millward's garden. Could this be the first time in Church of England history that a rector has been licensed in somebody else's garden? With everyone safely connected, Bishop Mike explained what was about to happen and why it was happening in the way that it was happening and began with two questions to Tim.

Have you a Bible with you? The answer was "Yes". You would have heard the sigh of relief from all those of us virtually assembled, had it not been for the fact that Bishop Mike had wisely muted us.

"Do you love chocolate?"

The answer was again "Yes". We all virtually and silently concurred.

Bishop Mike then gave us his reflections concerning the love of chocolate, which did not take too long before the object of love was no longer chocolate but us and God: us being loved by God and God being loved by us, and the Christian love which we have for each other.

He based those reflections on the fourth chapter of Saint John's first letter, beginning at verse 7, which was read for us by John Millward – from inside his house as his garden was occupied.

The passage begins "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God", and it speaks for itself. It is a blueprint for us and for Tim as we enter into what we pray will be a loving and beneficial relationship for us all.

Bishop Mike then licensed Tim as the rector of the Yoxmere Benefice, which is why Tim needed a Bible with him, and then held the licence in front of his computer camera for us all to see.

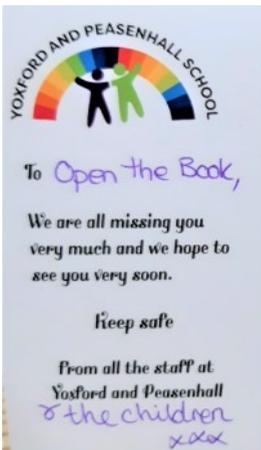
A representative of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, one of the benefice patrons, led us in prayer.

Bishop Mike pronounced the blessing.

Tim is now our rector. And it was a very special occasion. There will doubtless be an opportunity in the future for another occasion when we can come together in celebration really rather than virtually.

But for now - welcome to Yoxmere, Tim. We all pray that God will bless you and your ministry here with us.

**Mick Trovell**



---

## OPEN THE BOOK

The "Open the Book" group has been going into our two village schools and enacting Bible stories for the children for several years, but this had to stop with the lockdown. We cannot consider going into the schools again until the autumn, of course, but I have been liaising through email with the teachers during lockdown and they very sweetly sent us a postcard from the children and staff a few weeks ago.

**Sue Trovell**

## Life is Now!



In the present lockdown, you sometimes hear it said that life is “on hold”. But life is not on hold any more than it’s a rehearsal. Life is as it is and what it is, here and now. Sometimes people talk of wanting “closure”, especially after they have become victims of a crime, of some other injustice, or a period of waiting in uncertainty. This is understandable. But before that closure, life is still happening. It hasn’t stopped. Thus to speak of getting on with one’s life or even of getting back to normal is misleading.

Whatever the circumstances, we are always inevitably “getting on with” our lives! Moreover, we can never return to normal or anything else. Time goes only one way. You can’t step in the same river twice. Yes, we can step in the Orwell today and again tomorrow, but it won’t be the same water and *in that sense*, it won’t be the same river. Life is like that. We need to learn to live where we actually are; learn to live as fully as we can where we actually are!

We can start with our body. Rowan Williams once told my students, “Learn to occupy your body.” Be physically where you are. I am reminded of those folk who, when they come to see you, sit on the edge of their chair as if they are perpetually about to get up and take their leave. Of course, there may be various personal reasons for this; but somehow they don’t seem to be fully present. It’s the same with those of us who fidget. (Although I can keep perfectly still on occasion, my wife tells me that I fidget!). Fidgeting can only mean that we are not relaxed and fully where we are. We need to learn to occupy our body.

Some months ago, the BBC ran a series of programmes entitled *Meditation*. In each one, we followed a monastic community throughout a day. The Offices (i.e. corporate prayers), which punctuate the day, were greatly abridged; but the daily tasks of some of the monks was shown in more detail. What came across was the stillness – even in the midst of chopping wood. Whether it was the latter, painting an icon, or any other activity, this is what they were doing and they gave their whole attention to it. There never was any sense of fitting the job in or getting the job over and done with – just this sense of concentration – being where they were –

and stillness. The contrast with the daily life of so many of us was startling: so much rushing about, the “hurly-burly”, fitting things in, always looking over our shoulder at the next task or a time of leisure – always somewhere else!

God is found in the here and now, and only there! To be aware of his presence and open to it, we have to be fully where we are *here* and *now*. This is of the essence of prayer. Where are we when we pray? It may well be in the next job we have to do. It might be thinking of getting this duty of prayer over with asap! We can't pray properly if we are looking over our shoulder at the clock. “Be still and know.....” says the Psalmist. Stillness and quiet in the heart are essential if we are to allow God to be fully present to us. And how difficult that is! Remember those perceptive verses of Robert Frost's:

**I turned to speak to God  
About the world's despair;  
But to make bad matters worse  
I found God wasn't there.**

**God turned to speak to me  
(Don't anybody laugh)  
God found I wasn't there –  
At least not over half.**

I often feel that church liturgies are too wordy. We could do with fewer words and with periods of silence to be recollected and still within. Some years ago, my wife and I were on holiday on the tip of the Peloponnese in Greece. On the Sunday morning, our last day, we dropped into Mass in the Roman Catholic church in the town square. After the congregation had received communion, the priest and his server sat down and there was complete silence for all of five minutes! Of course, what was going on in people's minds was known only to themselves and God, but no one was fidgeting and the stillness was palpable. It was very moving. *Be still and know*. However, whatever we are doing, whatever we are experiencing, let us remember that life is always here and now. **John Kemp**

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## **From the registers**

### **Funeral**

John Bell on Wednesday 3rd June at Seven Hills Crematorium

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## The Leprosy Mission, 2020

As many of you may know, because the Dunwich church has a ruined medieval leper chapel in the churchyard, which was part of a leper hospital, our church chose to support present day leprosy victims as our main overseas mission, through the Leprosy Mission (TLM).

Once again I stress that many people believe that leprosy is a disease of biblical days, but no longer around today. Nothing can be further from the truth – the latest statistics show a big problem in third world and war-torn counties, with



**Aadil was diagnosed with leprosy aged 3. Now 8, he is symptom free.**

around 300,000 new cases diagnosed each year. And provided the leprosy is treated early enough, it can be cured in a month on the Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT). Sadly there is still a huge stigma attached to the disease and people would rather hide away than present themselves at the hospital for the free treatment. If left untreated the deadened nerve endings cause anaesthetised limbs, and burning hot saucepan handles and sharp stones underfoot cause ulcers, which then become infected to the point where the loss of fingers and toes, or their inability to blink, causes pitiful handicaps, and shunned by neighbours, friends and family their only means of survival is begging.

This year's World Leprosy Sunday was promoting many unsung "Hospital Heroes" in places like Myanmar, India and Bangladesh, Nepal, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan, Mozambique and Sri Lanka. This promotion is reminiscent of our own NHS Heroes during the coronavirus pandemic. In your church, the little prayer diaries from TLM have many instances of their unsung heroes around the world of leprosy. I don't need to remind you that the disabled are doubly at risk and vulnerable during the present pandemic.

I have recently renewed and completed my qualifications as a voluntary speaker for TLM, and as and when we can all resume our normal gatherings, I will be happy to speak to any church, school, WI, Rotary Club or similar, within 25 miles of Dunwich.

**Joan Godfrey**



**Distributing food to people with leprosy during the COVID 19 lockdown**



### **Mothers' Union: more than just a monthly meeting.**

If you had to describe Mothers' Union how would you start? Perhaps you know the MU as the group of ladies who make the tea, or that they meet once a month.

Mothers' Union is a movement of over four million Christians in eighty-four countries round the world. Its members volunteer in local communities, putting their faith into action by acts great and small, giving individuals a helping hand and enabling communities of all faiths and none to have the confidence and skills to transform their lives in a sustainable way.

The Mothers' Union members are not all mothers or even all women. Married or single, male or female, young or old there is a place for everyone in Mothers' Union. Liverpool diocese even has a group called Mini Mums, who are all school children who wanted to have their own group within Mothers' Union.

The main aim of Mothers' Union is to support marriage and family life, especially through times of adversity. In Suffolk the branches run parenting programmes; these are very popular and offer parents of teenagers, as well as of young children, the opportunity to explore and reflect on issues such as active listening, so that parents can develop and maintain positive relationships with their children

MU members make drain bags for the oncology unit, memory bags for the neonatal units, hats for seafarers, fiddle muffs for people with dementia. You will find us collecting toiletry items for the Ipswich night shelter and Women's refuge or for emergency wash bags for the local hospitals.

MU members hold fund raising events to support the "Away from It All" project which provides a much needed break for families who are going through stressful times.

All our outreach work is supported through prayer. We stop to pray at midday each day, and in July each year we join a wave of prayer made up of Mothers' Union members across the world. This year we are producing a *Book of Comfort* which includes prayer, poems and reflections specifically for the COVID 19 pandemic.

There are thirty-six branches in our diocese and also a number of diocesan members who live in parishes where there is no branch nearby. Our website [www.mothersunionsuffolk.org](http://www.mothersunionsuffolk.org) has more information about our organisation and we also have a Facebook page. If you are interested in joining Mothers' Union, you will find branches in the Yoxmere Benefice, Halesworth and Southwold.

**Sue Norrington 01728 660280**

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Karen Finch RHAD FSHAA FRSA

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# Darsham

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## Friday Prayers

This continues every Friday at 9.30am. We pray in our homes but united in spirit. For details, a template is sent out by email, with prayers, a psalm, scripture readings and hymns and songs, along with the music to sing to. For further information contact Roger on 01728 667037 or [rsmith377@outlook.com](mailto:rsmith377@outlook.com) **Roger Coates-Smith**

---

## Darsham Parish Council

The planning application for twenty-six houses north of the street, opposite Fox Lane, has been given the go-ahead by the District Council, despite strenuous efforts by the PC to delay. However, the planning department is asking Hopkins & Moore to consult the Parish Council on the Construction Method Statement and it will be our aim to restrict all parking of vehicles and materials to on-site, thus avoiding the problems on the street that occurred during phase one of this development. So far the planning department have been very supportive in this aim as they are in respecting our Dark Skies policy.

Due to the lockdown, the April and May meetings were online without the public. But the July meeting will be held using Zoom on the 14th July at 6pm. If any member of the public wishes to attend this virtual meeting they should contact our Parish Clerk ([carolinecardwell@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinecardwell@hotmail.com)) for details of how to do this. **Robin Leggate**

---

The weather this year has produced some of the finest roses that we have seen for some time. I took the opportunity to photograph some of the blooms in Evelyn Wall's garden. She has some very beautiful and unusual roses that have provided much pleasure through the lockdown.

**John Millward**



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## Darsham (cont.)

More flowers from a Darsham garden



A carpet of  
bird's-foot  
trefoil  
in the  
orchard next  
to Darsham  
allotments



# Middleton

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A very big **THANK YOU** to all at Westleton Village Stores for the wonderful delivery service they have been giving to some of us in Middleton during these difficult times, also to our delivery "boys" Graham and Jonathan. This service has made such a huge difference during a difficult time. **THANK YOU.**     **Rita Pateman**

## **Middleton Open Gardens 2020**

It is with great sadness that the decision has been taken to cancel the Open Gardens weekend in Middleton this year. Hopefully it will come back even bigger and better at its usual time in early June 2021.     **Rob Piggott**

---

## **Middleton WI**

We are celebrating our centenary this year but not in the way we had originally planned; even six months ago not one of us could have imagined that a global pandemic would stop most of normal life. Our original plan was to have a big party in July up at the Middleton Playing Field with a marquee, hog roast, and music, but now, of course, with lockdown that can not happen. What to do instead? Over the past few years we have been supporting a local charity, the Lighthouse Women's Aid that does crucial work with abused women and children. These women often have to flee their homes with few or no belongings. To help them out the Lighthouse asked us to please make up personal hygiene packs (→ P.19)

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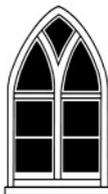
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## Middleton (cont.)



(soap, toothpaste, shampoo etc. in washbags) and kitchen utensil packs so they might have something of their own. We did that and also donated money from time to time. But this year with the media reports of the exponential rise in domestic abuse caused by the lockdown, our members thought it was a fitting legacy as part of the WI - which was founded to inspire, educate, and promote the welfare of

women - to give the Lighthouse Women's Aid a £1000 donation. We like to think, in this most unusual of times, that this is a good way of celebrating a centenary! **Lynne Venn**



A home from home for mothers and their children at the Refuge



Photos courtesy of the Lighthouse Women's Aid website

# Middleton (cont.)

## Middleton School

Both Yoxford and Peasenhall Primary School and Middleton Primary School are now open to some of our pupils and we have welcomed back approximately half of the pupils on roll. It is wonderful to hear the school corridors echoing with the sound of children, and they have all been fantastic with the new routines that are set out and remembering the social distancing that is expected of them, and adapting to learning in "bubbles".

For those children who are not able to return to school we have been providing online learning through Google Classroom, and supporting the children through Google Meets so they can keep in touch with their friends.



The children in the blue bubble have been planting some pretty flowers to brighten the outside area up, and also some bean plants.



In the green bubble they made some sweet kebabs using strawberries, banana, grapes marshmallows and topped with melted chocolate. mmmmmm yummy!!



# Peasehall and Sibton

---

## THE VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR HAS MOVED

This life-saving machine was recently moved from the wall of the village store to the old telephone box opposite. The telephone box was bought by the parish council recently as it was considered redundant by British Telecom. The work to move the defibrillator was carried out by Pearce & Kemp and they have very generously waived any charge for the work carried out.

Karl and Ellie at the village store have agreed to refurbish and maintain the telephone box which could in the future have other uses for the benefit of the village. They will be starting some fund raising soon to help pay for the refurbishment and the move of the defibrillator will now allow for other improvements at the shop to take place.

The rather sad condition of the telephone box and the fact that it no longer was needed by British Telecom has provided a significant opportunity for new ideas that have been put into action by the parish council, the owner of the village store, local contractors, and of course Karl and Ellie, giving it a very positive future in the village.

**Chris Norrington**

---

# Theberton

---

## Taizé Zoom Service

The next service will be held on Sunday 5th July at 10am. If you are interested in joining this, please email me at [tina.neal@sky.com](mailto:tina.neal@sky.com) **Tina Neal**

*Taizé is a religious community in France which has members from several different countries and from both protestant and Catholic traditions. People have travelled there in their thousands from all over the world for over fifty years. Taizé is known for its simple form of worship, emulated in services like Theberton's which takes place monthly, and a unique style of music based on very simple chants. During this lockdown period, some examples of its songs have been created virtually and - in keeping with Taizé's tradition - by contributors from many different countries. An example can be found here:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-hybuhxJq8>

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# Theberton (cont.)

## Animal Service

This is planned to take place in the churchyard on 2nd August 11am, led by Tim Rogers. It is important that everyone stays two metres apart. Sanitiser will be available. Please bring masks and gloves if you wish to wear them, and bring an umbrella just in case. Here are some photos from previous years.



Goat eating service sheet. Worth another look.



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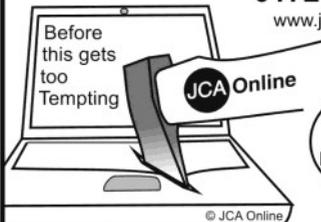
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# Westleton

---

**100 club** Winners Catriona Hopkins & Irene Bewes;  
Second prize Lady Jean Wood

---

The progress of families of ducks on Westleton pond is keenly (and anxiously) followed, especially by the village's younger residents. Angus comes daily to feed the ducklings, armed with meal worms (yummm!!), and soon has them eating out of his hand.



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# Yoxford

---

**BEWARE!** A gang of thieves is operating in the area, targeting village halls, sports club buildings, garden sheds, etc. They are taking garden machinery mostly & anything else that they find. They did at least four properties in Yoxford last week.

**Barrie Davis**

---

## Help needed

As we are looking forward to re-opening St Peter's church in the near future for both worship and bell-ringing, this is a gentle reminder that the PCC are all over 70 and therefore remain in the category more vulnerable to the virus!! We could really do with some help from younger members of our community in not only making the necessary arrangements required to open up, but also to help with the running and development of our village church. Any offers gratefully received. Please phone John on 07766 146883 or speak to others involved with the church.

**John Sutherell**

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## Yoxford (cont.)

---

### Michael Stennett

Michael, who sadly died on June 11th, lived in Yoxford for about forty years and in that time made a legion of new friends and admirers. “Always a gentleman and a nice person to have a chat with” and “ He leaves so much more than a gap -what a privilege to have had so gifted a man in our village” being examples of the many similarly warm tributes on our village WhatsApp. Michael’s long and distinguished career as a costume designer for some of the most high-profile stars and opera houses around the world is a matter of public record. His theatre work is represented in the Victoria and Albert



Photo courtesy of the *Suffolk Artists* website

museum theatre collections, his portraiture in the Royal Collection, and both his designs and portraits grace many private houses.

However, in addition to all this, Michael’s significant contribution to the life and well-being of Yoxford was a “project” dear to his heart. As a most private and modest man he would already be ticking me off for making a “song and dance” about his efforts on our behalf.

From 1994 Michael decided to withdraw from the rigours of the theatrical world, though his designs live on; as evidenced by the co-incidental screening, a few days after his death, of the 2018 revival of Rossini’s *Semiramide* from The Metropolitan Opera New York. From the early nineties he concentrated on portraiture, the magical garden he created when he arrived in Yoxford, his friends and his community.

Michael had the gift of communication and was widely respected and liked in our village. Each new venture, be it the Portrait Group, Flower Festival, Christmas angels, Guy Fawkes model, supporting young people, recording local faces with their unique characteristics, Village Hall, the Cockfield Chapel in our church.....the list is extensive .....was of paramount importance to him at the moment of production. There were no big stars or vast theatres involved but these localised projects meant much to Michael, cementing him into village life, and he brought to these efforts the same exacting standards he would have demanded when realising his gorgeous stage designs.

Michael also utilised his sense of magic and style to benefit various national and local charities, his contributions often centred on the exquisite and theatrical garden at his cottage, and through the garden he gave a number of young people the opportunity of working alongside him and benefiting from his interest in their progress.

As another friend remarked, in everything he accomplished here, he brought people together.

He was a dear and generous friend, a demanding friend at times, but the privilege of sharing time with a creative spirit such as Michael's will never be forgotten by any of us lucky enough to be on his radar.

I would like to think that Michael will soon be re-designing cloud formations and angel costumes with his customary elegance; and may both his strikingly egalitarian spirit and creative influences live on amongst his friends in Yoxford for many years to come.

**Amanda Sutherell**



**Michael's creation of Adam and Eve for  
Yoxford Flower Festival in 2018**

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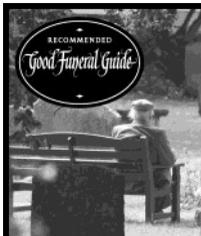
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## Update from Stop Sizewell C (aka TEAGS)

EDF's Sizewell C application has sadly progressed to the next stage of the planning process, which will run from 8 July to 30 September.

EDF has slightly delayed the start of the public consultation stage after a dozen groups - including the National Trust, RSPB, SWT, TASC and others - joined Stop Sizewell C in calling for a pause. See [www.stopsizewellc.org](http://www.stopsizewellc.org) and click "News" for our reaction and press coverage.

Thank you so much to everyone who wrote to the Planning Inspectorate. Whilst we did not prevent the application being accepted, the Joint Councils' statement on the adequacy of consultations was very robust, and referenced the concerns expressed by individuals and organisations.

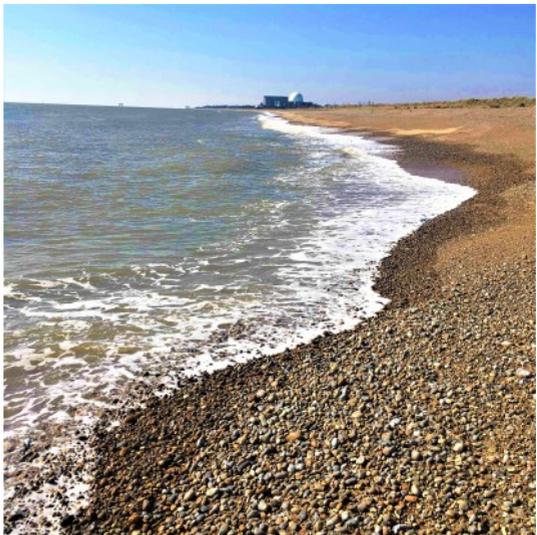
Our next task is to understand the proposals and - in September - to register as interested parties. A brief outline of the process, which will be updated with guidance on what to do, and when, is on our website at [www.stopsizewellc.org/key-dates](http://www.stopsizewellc.org/key-dates).

EDF's application is now online at [www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/](http://www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/) so we are beginning to assess the detail of what is proposed. If you want to join our volunteer team of application-readers, please contact us on [info@stopsizewellc.org](mailto:info@stopsizewellc.org) or ring Alison on 831099. EDF will also send a summary booklet to local residents.

On Thursday 2 July at 5pm we will hold another Facebook live broadcast to outline what's in EDF's proposals and update you on the process. [www.facebook.com/stopsizewellc](http://www.facebook.com/stopsizewellc). If you don't catch the live broadcast, the video will be on our Facebook page, and rest assured we will have plenty more such communications.

**Alison Downes**

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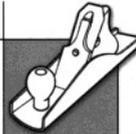
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## 2020 Alwyn Music Festival postponed to 7-9 October 2021

The 2020 Alwyn Music Festival was due to take place this October, featuring performances from the Meraki Duo, Gildas Quartet, tenor James Gilchrist, the Rossetti Ensemble, and Southwold-based pianist, and director of the festival, Nathan Williamson. As a result of the current uncertainty, the decision has been made to postpone the festival to October 2021. Although sad that it will not be taking place this year, the festival looks forward to welcoming audiences back in 2021.

The festival was established in 2011 by the William Alwyn Foundation and is an annual event taking place in early October, celebrating the music and legacy of William Alwyn, a distinguished composer and professor from the Royal Academy of Music who lived in Blythburgh for the last twenty-five years of his life. The festival aims to support music by living British



composers, as well as those contemporaneous with William Alwyn, and to continue Alwyn's legacy as an educator through the support and encouragement of artists at the outset of their careers. Events in 2021 will be held in Southwold and Blythburgh churches, the Red House in Aldeburgh and Southwold's Electric Picture Palace. To keep up to date and join our mailing list, visit [alwynmusicfestival.co.uk](http://alwynmusicfestival.co.uk)

## **LOCKDOWN, please come back!**

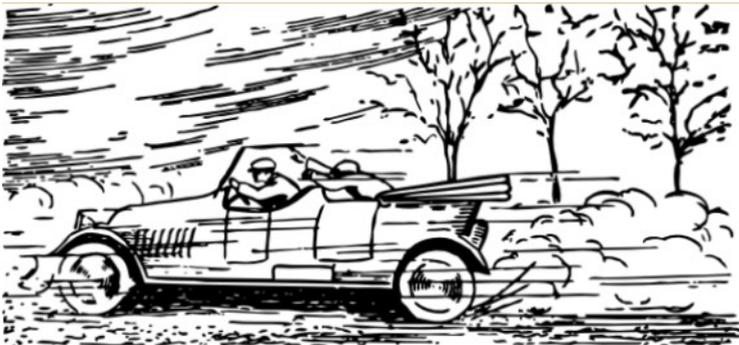
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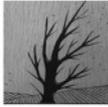
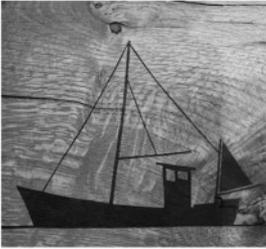
In lockdown our lives became precious  
We all stayed at home and had peace  
But now that the lockdown is easing  
The care for each other may cease

The drivers will race through our village  
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All the birds in our garden were tweeting  
Pollution a thing of the past  
But now, all the air is no sweet thing  
Because of traffic that travels too fast

All goodwill is lost to the stampede  
No one takes a few moments to think  
And they don't have a worry for our need  
They just speed up and cause lots of stink





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Yoxford

Suffolk Coastal Art

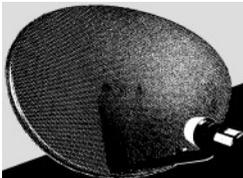
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### **Curate**

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### **Reader**

Richard Newnham 648877

### **Lay Elders**

Roger Coates-Smith 667037  
Lesley Davies 648144  
Carole Lee 07849 849191  
Michael Trovell 660218

### **Methodist Minister**

Revd Louise Morrissey  
01728 830733

### **Roman Catholic Priest**

Fr Tony Rogers 01728 452782  
Fr Richard Ireson 01986 875837

## **Churchwardens**

### **Darsham**

Shirley Field 668371  
John Millward 668712

### **Dunwich**

Christine Palmer 648890

### **Middleton**

Rita Pateman 648377  
Margaret Perrett 648141

### **Peasehall**

Michael Thickett 660549  
Michael Trovell 660218

### **Theberton**

Simon Ilett 833364  
Tina Neal 830237

### **Westleton**

Jeremy Branch 648140  
Sue Foster 649034

### **Yoxford**

John Sutherell 07766 146883

# Worship Services

Some churches are gradually opening up but full church services are unlikely to happen for a while yet. There are various options for joining in worship on radio, on TV and online. The Bible readings for each Sunday can be seen on Page 5.

## TV

Sundays BBC 1 Service at 10.45am

*Songs of Praise* 1.15pm - both available afterwards online

## Radio

Sundays Radio 4 at 8.10am *Sunday Worship*, available afterwards online

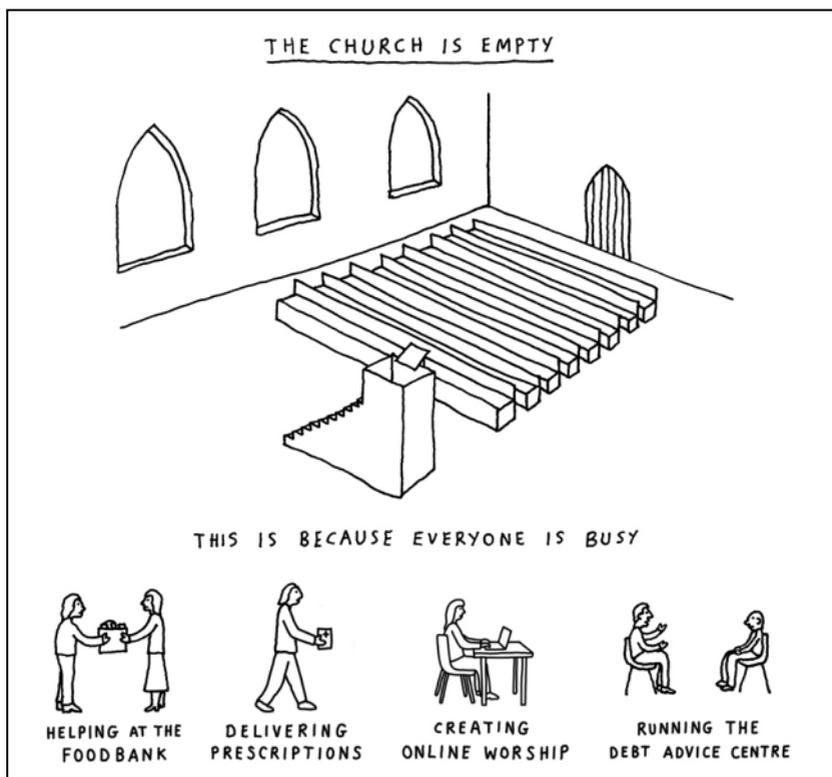
## Online

Daily prayer with our diocesan bishops on their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/BishopsCofEsuffolk/>

The website of the St Edmundsbury Diocese gives further details of daily services which will be live-streamed. <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/>.

Further information will be available on the Church of England website. This will be regularly updated. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>.



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