



No 598

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

**BRANCASTER, BRANCASTER STAITHE, BURNHAM DEEPPDALE, TITCHWELL, CHOSELEY**

**THE RECTOR: Interregnum**

**ASSISTANT PRIEST HUNSTANTON & SAXON SHORE BENEFICE:**

**The Rev'd James Monro Tel 01485 518342**

**RETIRED CLERGY: The Rev'd Phil Unsworth Tel 01485 532436**

**The Rev'd Sandra Ellison Tel 01485 298852**

**The Rev'd Steve Wood Tel 07704 922 984**

Just 25 days to Christmas (from 1st December) and for the first 24 we can continue to buy those things that for us 'make' Christmas - presents, food, decorations to name a few. Or maybe you finished your buying months ago! Either way preparations can be exhausting but also exciting and the day itself brings fun, joy and laughter.

Or maybe it is a difficult time. The thought of spending time with certain family members is difficult. Celebrating is difficult because of the absence of loved ones, perhaps you are alone. Maybe you are concerned how money spent will be repaid after Christmas. Perhaps news of wars and natural disasters make celebrating difficult.

Can we reconcile these two very different ways of spending Christmas? We can if we remind ourselves that it is the birth of Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas.

Jesus was born into a world of division. He was born homeless, in a stable amongst the animals to poor parents. His father was a carpenter. Because this involved making coffins and tending to the deceased, carpenters were despised as outcasts and unclean. Almost as soon as Jesus was born shepherds visited the stable. Shepherds were poor men doing a job that others didn't want. Many people regarded them as 'the lowest of the low'. And yet these 'undesirables' were the first to be told of the birth of Jesus. Next to visit were three wise men or magi. They were wealthy, powerful, intellectual men who were not of the Jewish faith. They had spent years studying astrology hoping to find a king who would save the world. Despite the unexpected circumstances of the birth of Jesus, they returned to their own country proclaiming the good news. Jesus was born to welcome and reconcile all people, rich and poor, of all different cultures and nationalities. Throughout his life he continued to show that God's love was for all people.

It is good to celebrate, to share love with others. A small gift given with love is a million times better than an expensive one which leaves worry and concern about debt. For those who really do not need another pair of socks, many charity shops sell presents that help the poor, homeless and third world. With a little thought to the real meaning of Christmas - the love we see in Jesus, the love that can reconcile all people - then Christmas Day can be celebrated by all. And not just Christmas Day, for the love we find in the birth of Jesus lasts forever.

May the love of Jesus be with you all this Christmas and New Year.

Sandra Ellison, priest assisting during the vacancy

## **DECEMBER & JANUARY SERVICES IN THE HUNSTANTON & SAXON SHORE BENEFICE**

CW = Common Worship. BCP = Book of Common Prayer. HC = Holy Communion.

MP = Service of Morning Prayer (no bread and wine).

Family service = Shorter service with lighting of candles (no bread and wine).

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

9.00 am	Holme-next-the-Sea
9.00 am	Ringstead
10.30 am	Titchwell
10.45 am	Brancaster
10.45 am	Old Hunstanton
10.45 am	Hunstanton

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

8.30 am	Titchwell
10.30 am	“
9.00 am	Burnham Deepdale
9.00 am	Thornham
9.00 am	Ringstead
10.45 am	Old Hunstanton
10.45 am	Hunstanton

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am	Ringstead
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### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am	Holme-next-the-Sea
9.00 am	Ringstead
10.15 am	Burnham Deepdale
10.30 am	Titchwell
10.45 am	Old Hunstanton
10.45 am	Hunstanton
4.00 pm	Brancaster

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

2.00 pm	Brancaster
6.30 pm	Old Hunstanton

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>**

3.00 pm	Old Hunstanton
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### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

8.30 am	Titchwell
10.30 am	“
9.00 am	Burnham Deepdale
9.00 am	Ringstead
9.15 am	Thornham
10.45 am	Old Hunstanton
10.45 am	Hunstanton
4.00 pm	Titchwell
6.00 pm	Holme-next-the-Sea

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

3.30 pm	Titchwell
4.00 pm	Hunstanton
10.00 pm	Burnham Deepdale
11.15 pm	Hunstanton

### **First Sunday of Advent**

Holy Communion	BCP
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion (said)	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Morning Prayer	CW

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

Holy Communion	BCP
Holy Communion for Families	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Carols	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW

Midweek Holy Communion

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Family Christmas	CW
Holy Communion for Families	CW
Morning Prayer	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Carols	

Carols

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Holy Communion	BCP
Morning Prayer	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Christingle and Carols	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Carols followed by mince pies	CW
Carols	

### **Christmas Eve**

Christingle followed by refreshments	CW
Crib	CW

### **Christmas Eve - Midnight Mass**

Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>**

8.30 am	Titchwell
9.00 am	Holme-next-the-Sea
9.00 am	Hunstanton
9.00 am	Ringstead
10.00 am	Old Hunstanton
10.30 am	Brancaster

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00 am	Holme-next-the-Sea
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**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

9.00 am	Holme-next-the-Sea
9.00 am	Ringstead
10.30 am	Titchwell
10.45 am	Brancaster
10.45 am	Old Hunstanton
10.45 am	Hunstanton

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am	Ringstead
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**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**

8.30 am	Titchwell
10.30 am	“
9.00 am	Burnham Deepdale
9.00 am	Thornham
9.00 am	Ringstead
10.45 am	Old Hunstanton
10.45 am	Hunstanton

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am	Holme-next-the-Sea
9.00 am	Ringstead
10.15 am	Burnham Deepdale
10.30 am	Titchwell
10.45 am	Old Hunstanton
10.45 am	Hunstanton
4.00 pm	Brancaster

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

10.00 am	Ringstead
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**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**

8.30 am	Titchwell
10.30 am	“
9.00 am	Burnham Deepdale
9.00 am	Thornham
9.00 am	Ringstead
10.45 am	Old Hunstanton
10.45 am	Hunstanton

**Christmas Day**

Holy Communion	BCP
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion for Families	CW
Holy Communion	CW

**First Sunday of Christmas**

Benefice	CW
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**Epiphany**

Holy Communion	BCP
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion for Families	CW
Holy Communion (said)	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Morning Prayer	CW

**Midweek Holy Communion****First Sunday of Epiphany**

Holy Communion	BCP
Holy Communion for Families	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Morning Prayer	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW

**Second Sunday of Epiphany**

Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Family Service	CW
Holy Communion for Families	CW
Morning Prayer	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Evening Prayer	

**Midweek Holy Communion****Third Sunday of Epiphany**

Holy Communion	BCP
Holy Communion for Families	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Morning Prayer	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW

**MAKING SPACE CAFÉ**, supported by the Norfolk Community Foundation **Wednesdays** each week, 10 am-12 noon, at St Edmund's Church hall, Hunstanton. An official 'Warm Space'. The next Hot Spot lunch at Brancaster is on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – see page 7.

**A FEW HOUSEKEEPING REGULATIONS DURING THE INTERREGNUM**

Whilst we are without a rector our Rural Dean, Peter Cook, takes over that responsibility.

Please contact Peter in the first instance **for all enquiries with regard to weddings, funerals and baptisms**. Peter's phone number is 01485 517157.

**The Diocesan Registrar is responsible for all memorials in a churchyard - headstones and plaques.** During a vacancy all requests for these must go through the Registrar. The person/stone mason making the request should contact the Registrar directly: see website [www.norwichdiocesanregistry.co.uk](http://www.norwichdiocesanregistry.co.uk). Church wardens and priests assisting during the interregnum cannot give permission for these.

**ST HENRY WALPOLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, BURNHAM MARKET**

**Mass times:** Sundays 9.30 am, Fridays 9.30 am. Holy Days of Obligation: see notice board in Church porch. Further information: [catholicparishofwalsingham.org](http://catholicparishofwalsingham.org).

**NEWS FROM ST MARY'S, BURNHAM DEEPPDALE**

**A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Plant Stall and the Books in the Porch** throughout the year. We received some extra money for plants since the November issue went to press, resulting in a total of £1368.31. The books did very well too with a total of £491.17. Both stalls are now closed till next year.

As we look forward to Christmas, we invite you to join us at one or both of our Christmas services:

**Christmas Family Service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** at 10.15 am with an Advent / Christmassy feel. There will be carols and candles, our Advent wreath and mince pies with refreshments after the service.

**Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at 10 pm** will be our Christmas celebration in worship. Please note the time 10 pm is midnight in Bethlehem (more or less!).

For all other services, please see the rotas on pages 2 and 3.

**ST MARY'S, TITCHWELL**

As some of you may have noticed, I enjoy exploring the origin of words. Our New Testament was originally written in Greek, the *lingua franca* of the eastern end of the Roman Empire, so I find it particularly moving to find phrases preserved in Aramaic, the original language that Jesus and his fellow countrymen spoke. My favourite is his phrase that he spoke to a little girl whom he raised from the dead, "*Talitha cumi*", which translates as, "*Little lamb, get up*".

The first Christians were of course Jewish and one of their short prayers in Aramaic is preserved in St Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, "*Marana 'tha*", meaning in English "*O Lord, come*". This is a particularly appropriate as a prayer, or as a mantra, for us as we move through Advent, that English word meaning coming or even arrival.

During Advent, which this year begins appropriately on December 1<sup>st</sup>, we of course prepare ourselves to celebrate on Christmas Day Jesus Christ's first coming, as the new-born infant of Bethlehem. But the child grew up, and in Advent we should also prepare ourselves for, and look forward to, his return at the end of time. With this in mind, why not use the simple *Marana 'tha* word-prayer during this season of preparation to invite him into your heart?

We will be exploring what Advent means at Stillness on **Friday afternoons** at 4 pm in Titchwell Church during the run up to Christmas. We also have our annual service of Lessons and Carols at 4 pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and the Christingle service at 3.30 pm on Christmas Eve. Both will be followed by seasonal refreshments.

With my prayers and best wishes for you all - for Advent, Christmas and 2025.

James Monro (Assistant Priest, Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice).

**FLOWERS IN BRANCASTER CHURCH**

It would be lovely to see flowers in the church to welcome visitors and for services. I am new to this so I would appreciate any offers of help, hopefully on a regular basis. We could make a rota or would you like to do an arrangement to mark a special date for any reason? If you have any other ideas for how to make our church a welcoming place, do share them with me.

Sandra Thompson 07557 133041 [sandrathompson51@gmail.com](mailto:sandrathompson51@gmail.com)

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### **BRANCASTER COMMUNITY (HOT SPOT) LUNCHES**

Our final lunch for this year is on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** from 12 noon to 3 pm with hot soup, selection of sandwiches, cold buffet, dessert, coffee/tea and biscuits. We ask for a suggested donation of £5 per person please, cash only. We look forward to welcoming you to Brancaster Village Hall whether on your own or with others. Please can you book by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** by ringing Babs Wade on 01485 522273 or email [hotspotlunches@gmail.com](mailto:hotspotlunches@gmail.com). The next lunch will be on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.

If you would like transport, please contact Mary Gardiner on 01485 210442.

### **BRANCASTER PARISH COUNCIL**

Obviously, the news of the proposed **School closure** has been a major focus for the whole Parish in the last month. Council has objected to this in the strongest terms. Though we hear that this will not now happen until Easter, this has, at the time of writing, not been officially confirmed to us. We will continue to press for the School to remain fully open, and the idea of closing mid-year is completely unacceptable.

We continue to wait for information on when the Public Consultation on the subject of the yellow lines in the Parish will commence. You will have been aware of a large number of **roadworks** in the area in recent months – we do publish these on our Facebook page when received (you do not have to be a Facebook subscriber to access this) - <https://www.facebook.com/BrancasterPC>.

Last month we mentioned the way to access the **Freebridge** housing; we have now had some more information on how the Borough prioritise this – this is available on our website:

<https://www.brancaster-pc.gov.uk/info-and-events/housing/>.

We have had a request to publish information on **volunteering**: “Visit Voluntary Norfolk at <https://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk/> to explore roles that, with your time and energy, will make a real difference.”

At our most recent meeting we approved a **grant** of around £700 for the Baby and Toddler Group, confirming our support for the young people of the Parish. We also agreed to keep the old website open as a resource for **local history** – this has been collated in preparation for various events over the last few years, and we wish to keep it available. If you might be interested in helping to maintain this, please get in touch. Planning continues for events next year relating to **VE/VJ Day** commemorations.

We are working on the draft **budget** for 2025/26, and will be agreeing this, and the precept, at the January meeting. A **Clerk Designate** to take over on Simon’s retirement has been appointed and we hope to introduce him soon.

It may also interest you that the rough sleeper who has caused such concern this year was recently convicted of assault against the Chairman and Clerk. The whole situation is unsatisfactory, but we have, as you will know, been working with many other agencies to try and keep things in hand.

Our next meetings are on **Tuesdays: 10<sup>th</sup> December** in BVH and **14<sup>th</sup> January** at BSBDVH, at 6.30 pm. The agendas will be posted in advance online and on the noticeboards. Details for the Parish Council: [www.brancaster-pc.gov.uk](http://www.brancaster-pc.gov.uk); email [clerk@brancaster-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brancaster-pc.gov.uk).

Finally, Council wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

**CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP** with Gary Bocking, **Friday 29<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November** at Heligan House, Mill Hill, Brancaster, 2 - 4 pm.

The fee of £35 per person will include all the necessary ingredients for you to craft a hand-made wreath, plus mince pies and mulled wine/fruit punch. Places are limited, so please book as soon as possible at [bocking554@btinternet.com](mailto:bocking554@btinternet.com).

**THE BRANCASTER COMMUNITY CHOIR** If you enjoy singing you are very welcome to join our Community Choir. We shall be singing at the Brancaster Winter Fair at Brancaster Village Hall (BVH) on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November** at 2 pm, followed by Carols in BVH on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** at 6 pm. Last Rehearsal 5.30 - 7 pm in BVH on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. All welcome. Enquiries [lucinda.mackworth.young@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda.mackworth.young@gmail.com).

## **DEEPDALE AND DALEGATE MARKET**

**Christmas Shopping - November & December** Avoid those city crowds, support local businesses, and enjoy the beautiful North Norfolk Coast, by doing your Christmas shopping at Dalegate Market in Burnham Deepdale this festive season.

[www.dalegatemarket.co.uk/christmas-shopping/](http://www.dalegatemarket.co.uk/christmas-shopping/)

**A Christmas Carol - Theatre in the Barn Saturday 7th December.** 7 pm. The critically-acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company return for a Christmas visit to Deepdale, with their hilarious adaptation of Charles Dickens' fantastical festive fable.

[www.deepdalecamping.co.uk/theatre/](http://www.deepdalecamping.co.uk/theatre/)

**Christmas Pompom Wreath Workshop Saturday 7th December.** 10 am - 2.30 pm. Our favourite artist, Rachael Barns, returns to Deepdale to craft Christmas. This time to create Christmas pompom wreaths with anyone who'd like to join her crafting workshop.

[www.deepdalecamping.co.uk/christmas/](http://www.deepdalecamping.co.uk/christmas/)

**3 for 2 Accommodation Special Offer Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.** If you have friends or family visiting, and need extra accommodation, either in one of our private ensuite rooms or on our campsite, then you can take advantage of our 3 for 2 accommodation offer at Deepdale Camping & Rooms.

[www.deepdalecamping.co.uk/offers/](http://www.deepdalecamping.co.uk/offers/)

## **SCOTTISH DANCING AT BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL**

6 - 8 pm on **Tuesdays** (one per month). Next: **17<sup>th</sup> December, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 25<sup>th</sup> February.** £2.50 per person per evening, Bar '71 is open in the interval. All welcome. Enquiries [lucinda.mackworth.young@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda.mackworth.young@gmail.com).

## **BRANCASTER STAITHE & BURNHAM DEEPDALE SHORT CARPET BOWLS CLUB**

**Come and join us!** We are a small friendly non-competitive group of carpet bowls players who meet for 2 hours of fun and gentle exercise on **Monday afternoons** at Brancaster Staithe & Burnham Deepdale Village Hall. We would love to see you.

We hope to continue up to and including 16<sup>th</sup> December and restart on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Details from Sue Till 01485 210013.

## **DEEPDALE AND BRANCASTER STAITHE TENNIS CLUB**

Just a reminder that our courts are available for play throughout the year. If it is icy, you must make your own judgement about whether it is safe to play. To gain access you need to book a court through our website [www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/DBSTennisClub](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/DBSTennisClub) (or just Google Burnham Deepdale Tennis Club). Visitors can play as well as members for up to an hour and a half per day. The court fee for visitors is £10 per hour payable online. You will receive a confirmatory email with the code for entry. If this does not appear in your Inbox, please check your junk folder.

## **NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL**

Obviously our biggest news is the reaction to the devastating news of our potential merger with Docking. We have always tried to put ourselves at the heart of the community and have always been humbled by the generosity of everyone in the locality, supporting us in many different ways. We are touched and grateful for the way that in our hour of need you have all leapt into action and are fighting all the way on our behalf. We have also forged new links with different groups – we are currently in discussion with Brancaster Baby and Toddler Group for example. So, whatever happens, our current pupils are certainly getting the best that can be offered at the moment. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



As always we have been very busy. Thrift Class have been studying the book “A Walk in London”. We have really enjoyed learning about London and then we took some village walks and learnt about our own history. We are now applying what we have learnt, to write “A Walk in Brancaster” which we hope we can distribute within the village as soon as it is finished.

During Anti-Bullying Week in November we had all sorts of activities arranged to help us learn more about this topic. We also held our Remembrance Day Service and supported Children in Need.

Christmas is coming up soon and our calendar is looking very full. Janet Marshall (Journeys for Learning) is coming to do two sessions with us about the Christmas story. We are also going to the panto (oh yes, we are!).

We are having a Christingle Service at Titchwell, a trip to Holkham to see the Christmas Decorations and meet Father Christmas, a space workshop (KS2) and, on December 18<sup>th</sup> we have our Nativity in Brancaster Church at 2 pm, followed by our Christmas Fayre. All are welcome to this and we would love to have donations of cakes and raffle or tombola prizes.

Term finishes on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** and we start again on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Happy Christmas from us all!

### **BRANCASTER CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

If you wish to support the petition being organised against the proposed closure please scan the QR code on the right, email [arobinson1812@gmail.com](mailto:arobinson1812@gmail.com) or use the link below:

[www.change.org/p/save-brancaster-cofe-primary-school](http://www.change.org/p/save-brancaster-cofe-primary-school)



### **NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)**

It has been another very successful month for BVH, with lots of activities and community events. However, the proposal that Brancaster Primary School is to merge with Docking School has cast a shadow over the village community. The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust which manages the school gave a three-week consultation period to respond to this proposal, which has resulted in widespread opposition. There has been a school in Brancaster since the late 16<sup>th</sup> century; if this proposal goes ahead, it will mean that children from Brancaster and neighbouring coastal villages will have to be transported to Docking (or to Hunstanton or Burnham Market) on a daily basis. Public meetings have been held involving the MP and local Councillors, and many objections registered: we await the outcome.

On a brighter note, the Brancaster Baby and Toddler Group had a hugely successful Hallowe'en Party in BVH with an equally enjoyable and well-attended Hallowe'en event held by BVH.

Measures are now in hand to investigate the installation of solar panels and to extend the car park at BVH.

#### **Forthcoming Events:**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** The Brancaster Winter Fair will be held at BVH, 10 am – 3 pm with lots of stalls and a performance by the Community Choir at 2 pm.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December:** Children's Disco and Karaoke.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December:** Open Darts Competition.

**New Year's Eve:** Live music from Sidewalk.

Regular groups will continue as usual: full details of these and other activities can be found on our website at [brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk](http://brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk) or on Facebook and Instagram. For enquiries, please contact us at [bvhsetup@gmail.com](mailto:bvhsetup@gmail.com)

***The Parish News Committee would like to send Good Wishes to all our readers for Christmas and the New Year, with a special thank you to all (30+) of our voluntary helpers – printers, staplers, deliverers – without whose generous time and cheerful help monthly production of the Parish News would not be possible.***

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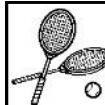
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## **BEWARE!**

**High Tides occur on the following dates in December** when Beach Road, Brancaster is liable to flooding and unsuitable for traffic. Pedestrian access available via the bank. 30<sup>th</sup> November – 5<sup>th</sup> December; 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December ... for January dates please see RWN Golf Club website (details on page 13.)

## **DEEPDALE FARM**

**Conservation volunteering** Sessions run fortnightly on **Thursdays** 9.30 am - 12.30 pm. We'll be working on hedges, woodland, dykes and more. Email us if you'd like more details or to get involved – [enquiries@deepdalefarm.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@deepdalefarm.co.uk).

Check our website [www.deepdalefarm.co.uk](http://www.deepdalefarm.co.uk) for full details of our activities or follow us on social media @deepdalefarm.

## **DEEPDALE AND BRANCASTER HOUSING SOCIETY**

### **One-Bedroom Bungalow Available to Rent**

One of our one-bedroom properties at Dale End, Brancaster Staithe has become available to rent. There is a sitting room, bedroom, kitchen, toilet/shower room and garden area. The bungalow is particularly suitable for a single person or couple over 60. When letting this property, the Housing Society will follow the Section 106 criteria which gives priority to people who have a local connection to the Parish (live/work in, have family living in the villages, etc).

In order to be considered for the property all prospective applicants will need to fill in and return an application form by **Monday 16th December 2024**.

Application forms can be obtained by emailing Mrs D Bamber, DBHS Hon Secretary [bamber344@btinternet.com](mailto:bamber344@btinternet.com) (preferred method of communication) or write to Cider Cottage, Bircham Road, Stanhoe, PE31 8PT.

## **BRANCASTER BABY AND TODDLER GROUP (BB&TG) HALLOWE'EN PARTY**

The BB&TG held a Hallowe'en Party in Brancaster Village Hall on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, which was attended by thirty-eight children, along with their parents/carers. A great deal of fun was had, with a Hallowe'en bouncy castle, an air ball juggler unit, spooky soft play, Hallowe'en arts and crafts, face-painting and a Hallowe'en snack. It was a joy to see so many happy and excited faces – many of them painted – and children having so much fun and mixing so well together: parents/carers were also joining in enthusiastically. Much of the credit for this splendid occasion must go to Annie, the organiser who arranges and oversees the BB&TG on a weekly basis. Grateful thanks also to the Parish News, who generously provided funds for this event.

If you would like to find out more about BB&TG, please phone Annie on 07813 459049 or email her at [brancasterbabyandtoddlergroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brancasterbabyandtoddlergroup@yahoo.co.uk) – you will be assured of a warm welcome and lots of stimulation and fun for your child(ren).

## **NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER**

Although the autumn and winter are generally quieter periods for NCI Brancaster staff, there is still a need for constant vigilance by Watchkeepers. At the end of October, a potentially serious incident occurred, as Watchkeepers at the station observed five people on Scolt Head Island, standing at the edge of the channel as the tide was racing in. Two people made it across the channel to safety, but three were left stranded on the island, having had to turn back. HM Coastguard were informed by the Watchkeepers, and the RNLI hovercraft was deployed from Hunstanton, arriving within 35 minutes of the original call, and rescuing the three stranded people. This was an excellent example of the emergency services working as a team, but also of

the recurring dangers for the unwary of the tidal conditions off Brancaster beach. It also demonstrates the crucial importance of the NCI Brancaster station.

There has been one new recruit this month and NCI Brancaster is hoping to be present at Brancaster Winter Fair on 30<sup>th</sup> November to publicise and answer questions about the service, as well as to emphasise water safety issues.

The AGM of NCI Brancaster took place on 31<sup>st</sup> October and was attended by the majority of the Watchkeepers. The objectives for 2025 were agreed; these included the need to focus even more on the recruitment and retention of volunteers, the need to maintain financial security, to improve the training database and to set up a comprehensive guide on all aspects of the station operations. For further information about NCI Brancaster, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager and Watchkeeper on 07535 612777. You can also find details on Facebook, if you search NCI Brancaster.

### **BRANCASTER & STAITHE HOMEWATCH**

Some useful telephone numbers/email addresses: For information on Power Cuts dial 105, or see [www.powercut105.com](http://www.powercut105.com). If you have a suspicious call/email involving your bank, dial 159 to get through to your branch.

As always, if you spot something unusual, call the police on 101, providing as many details as possible, such as descriptions of people and cars, including number plates. But if you believe a crime is in progress, then always dial 999. If you do not wish to leave your details, you can call anonymously, or via Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111; your call is free and confidential.

### **BURNHAM MARKET AREA COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME (BMACCS)**

Volunteer drivers always wanted. Journeys can be local or long distance. Mileage expenses paid as per HMRC guidelines. Drivers choose to do from less than one journey a month to several trips a week. Passengers are primarily taken for medically related appointments. Please ring Linda on 07301 011 303 to book a driver or discuss joining the team.

### **BRANCASTER OIL COOPERATIVE**

I will be ordering oil next on **Thursdays**: 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> February. Maria Spink 01485 210155.

### **BRANCASTER STAITHE MOBILE POST OFFICE**

This service is discontinued for the time being, whilst the owner refurbishes his main shop in Great Massingham, which organises the PO vans which go out to the villages. Meanwhile full PO services are available at Brancaster Stores 9 am - 5 pm, Monday-Saturday.

### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

**Thursdays monthly**: next visit **12<sup>th</sup> December** at: **Brancaster** Village Hall 1.55 - 2.25 pm and Mill Road 2.30 - 2.40 pm; **Brancaster Staithe**, Old Posting House 2.50 - 3.05 pm and Dale End 3.10 - 3.25 pm; **Burnham Deepdale**, Layby 3.30 - 3.45 pm. This information may be subject to change or amendment. Enquiries: call 01603 222303.

### **BURNHAM MARKET AND NORTON VILLAGE HALL**

Cinema - both films showing at 2.30 pm:

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**: *The Holdovers* (2023) (15).

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**: *The Time of our Lives* (2017) (12a).

Tickets £5 on the door (the December performance to include mince pies and mulled wine), or please contact Diana Walker on 01328 738604.

More information on our website: [www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk).

The Bridge Club continues to meet at 11 am **each Friday**.

## **STANHOE AND BARWICK WI**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December:** 2 - 4 pm Gary Bocking will be demonstrating Christmas floral decorations. Sorry, this is for members only. But why not consider joining? Stanhoe Reading Room, Cross Lane PE31 8PS. Please see [Stanhoe.org/WI](http://Stanhoe.org/WI) for details.

## **THE ARTS SOCIETY, NORTHWEST NORFOLK**

Our next illustrated talk, presented by Margaret Watson on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2 pm, is entitled Harp and Holly. We hear of the history of the harp and enjoy some seasonal music on Margaret's harp. Come and join our friendly society. Membership has many benefits besides illustrated talks. For more information visit [www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk) or ring Gerald Pepper on 07831 586940.

## **PHOENIX LADIES**

After a fascinating talk on King's Lynn by Anne Guymer many of us are looking forward to our Christmas Lunch in a local restaurant on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January** in Burnham Market and Norton Village Hall starting at 2 pm when Catherine Farrell and Katie Harrowven will talk about and display their unusual work with textiles - the title of their talk "My soul is fed by needle and thread." Tea and cakes will be served after the talk.

For further information please contact Sue on 01328 730859 or email [suisted@btinternet.com](mailto:suisted@btinternet.com). There is also a web site [burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk](http://burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk).

Until then very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year - Hilda, Jenifer, Melinda and Sue.

## **STANHOE VILLAGE SCREEN**

For information on future films please visit [stanhoe.org](http://stanhoe.org) or ring 01485 518191.

## **MOBILITY EQUIPMENT**

I have a (new) folding wheelchair, zimmer frames and shower stool for short-term loan/use by the local community. Contact Christine 01485 210695 or 07900 342 962 or email [ch81@btinternet.com](mailto:ch81@btinternet.com). I can usually deliver at short notice if necessary.

I also have a Rascal 388S mobility scooter to sell. Good condition. Only used around the garden. Cost £1500. New batteries costing £130 just fitted. Any offer over this accepted.

## **CROCKERY**

The Parish News has a quantity of crockery, glasses cutlery etc for use by parishioners. Please contact Josephine Luddington 01485 210306.

## **COMMUNITY WEBSITES**

[brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk](http://brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk) (note: don't use www.)

[www.west-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk)

[www.theburnhamssurgery.co.uk](http://www.theburnhamssurgery.co.uk)

[www.saxonshorebenefice.co.uk](http://www.saxonshorebenefice.co.uk)

[www.wellshospital.org.uk](http://www.wellshospital.org.uk)

[www.bssc.net](http://www.bssc.net) (Sailing Club)

[www.brancaster-pc.gov.uk](http://www.brancaster-pc.gov.uk) (Parish Council)

[www.brancasterstaithe.co.uk](http://www.brancasterstaithe.co.uk)

[www.stmaryfederation.co.uk/brancaster](http://www.stmaryfederation.co.uk/brancaster) (School)

[www.burnhamdeepdale.co.uk](http://www.burnhamdeepdale.co.uk)

[www.bsbdvh.org.uk](http://www.bsbdvh.org.uk) (Brancaster Staithe village hall)

[www.norfolkrecycles.com](http://www.norfolkrecycles.com)

[www.brancasterallotmentsociety.co.uk](http://www.brancasterallotmentsociety.co.uk)

[what3words.com](http://what3words.com) (Location system)

[www.rwngc.org/tide-times/](http://www.rwngc.org/tide-times/) (Beach Road flooding)

[www.titchwellvillage.org](http://www.titchwellvillage.org)

[brancasterbabyandtoddlergroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brancasterbabyandtoddlergroup@yahoo.co.uk)

(email or search Facebook)

## DIARY DATES 2024/25 – updated monthly

**BSBDVH** = Brancaster Staithe & Burnham Deepdale Village Hall

**BVH** = Brancaster Village Hall

<b><u>Weekly:</u></b>	<b>Monday:</b>	Indoor Carpet Bowls, 2 - 4 pm, BSBDVH
	“	Yoga, 6.30 - 8 pm, BVH
	<b>Tuesday:</b>	Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30 - 11.30 am, BVH
	“	Open Session Pickleball, 10 am, sports field BVH
	<b>Wednesday:</b>	Making Space Café, St Edmund’s Hall, Hun’ston, Coffee 10 am - 12 noon
	“	Brancaster Wednesday Coffee Morning, 10.30 - 11.45 am, BVH
	<b>Thursday:</b>	Beginners Pilates with Sarah, 12.30 - 1.30 pm, BVH
	“	Art Group, 2 - 4 pm, BSBDVH
<b><u>Monthly:</u></b>	<b>Tuesday:</b>	Scottish Dancing, 6 - 8 pm, BVH, see page 8 and below
	<b>Thursdays:</b>	Mobile Library:- See page 12 for details of stops and dates

### **NOVEMBER**

Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Brancaster Winter Fair, 10 am - 3 pm, BVH
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Brancaster Community Choir, 2 pm singing during Winter Fair, BVH

### **DECEMBER**

Friday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Brancaster Community Hot Spot Lunch, 12 noon - 3 pm, BVH, see page 7
Tuesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, 6.30 pm, BVH
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library, see page 12
Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	Scottish Dancing, 6 - 8 pm, BVH, see page 8
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	School Nativity, 2 pm, Brancaster Church, see page 9 followed by School Christmas Fayre
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Carols, Brancaster Community Choir, 6 pm, BVH

### **JANUARY**

Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, 6.30 pm, BSBDVH
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Scottish Dancing, 6 - 8 pm, BVH, see page 8

### **FEBRUARY**

Friday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Brancaster Community Hot Spot Lunch 12 noon - 3 pm, BVH
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Scottish Dancing, 6 - 8 pm, BVH, see page 8

### **MARCH**

Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Scottish Dancing, 6-8 pm, BVH
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### **EDITOR’S NOTE**

Please submit any notices/articles for the February 2025 Parish News by 4.30 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> January, either into my postbox at the gate of Marsh Head, Main Road (opposite The Jolly Sailors), Brancaster Staithe, PE31 8BJ; or by email to [ch81@btinternet.com](mailto:ch81@btinternet.com); or ring Christine on 01485 210695 or 07900 342 962.

For back page attachments please contact Christine.

For advertising queries/details, please contact Alan Wright on 01485 210394 or email Alan at [bg.pn@btinternet.com](mailto:bg.pn@btinternet.com).

Kindly note that contributors are asked to restrict their entries to not more than 300 words - about half a page - (500 for the front page), space is limited and longer articles may have to be cut. Entries in the Parish News generally cover 2 months plus the first week of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month.



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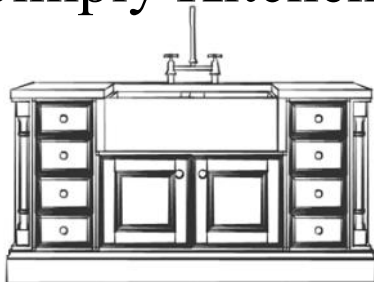
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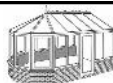


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# *Christmas & New Year 2024/25*

*Wishing You a Very Happy Festive Season*

*Friday 6th December 7pm*

*Party, Dine & Dance*

BOOKING NOW

*Friday 6th to Friday 20th December*

Enjoy a delicious Festive Menu. Pre booked only, minimum 4 people

*Friday 13th December, 9pm*

Nelson's Shantymen Singalong in the bar after their annual dinner  
All welcome to join in

*Monday 23rd December 5.30pm*

in The Courtyard - Annual Charity Raffle, Nelson's Shantymen Carol  
Sing-along in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support - Festive fun

*Tuesday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE*

Breakfast 9am to 10.30am

Bar 12noon to 10pm

Restaurant 12noon to 9pm

*Wednesday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY*

Bar Drinks only 11am to 1.45pm

Restaurant, pre-booked only

*Thursday 26th December BOXING DAY*

Bar 12noon to 10pm

Restaurant 12noon to 9pm

*Friday 27th to Monday 30th December*

Breakfast 9am to 10.30am

Bar 12noon to 10pm

Restaurant 12noon to 9pm

*Tuesday 31st December NEW YEAR'S EVE*

Breakfast 9am to 10.30am

Bar 12noon to 3.30pm

Lunch 12noon to 3.30pm

7pm New Year's Eve Party BOOKING NOW

*Wednesday 1st January 2025 NEW YEAR'S DAY*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bar 1pm to 10pm

Restaurant 1pm to 8pm

The White Horse, Brancaster Staithe, Norfolk, PE31 8BY | 01485 210262

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# THE JOLLY SAILORS

## Christmas & New Year 2024/25

'tis the Season to be JOLLY .....

Happy Festive Season to You All

Nelson's Shantymen will be entertaining us on Monday evenings throughout December.  
watch out for social posts

**Tuesday 3rd December**

8pm Charity Quiz in aid of Norfolk's BIG C

**Tuesday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE**

Bar 12noon to 10pm

All Day Menu 12noon to 9pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY We are closed**

**Thursday 26th December BOXING DAY**

Bar 12noon to 8pm

All Day Menu 12noon to 6pm

**Friday 27th to Monday 30th December**

Bar 12noon to 11pm

All Day Menu 12noon to 9pm

**Tuesday 31st December NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Bar 12noon to late

All Day Menu 12noon to 9pm

**9pm New Year's Eve Party & Countdown to New Year**

**Nelson's Shantymen 'ring' in the New Year 'Pirate Shanty Style'**

**With special guests Freddie's Barnett**

**Best dressed pirate wins a bottle of Rum**

**Wednesday 1st January 2025 NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Bar 12noon to 8pm

All Day Menu 12noon to 6pm

**EAT DRINK AND BE JOLLY**

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