



No 601

APRIL 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

April, a lovely month full of new beginnings. With Easter being almost as late as it can be this year - Easter Sunday is 20th April - school holidays begin early April. With the holidays, our beautiful area of West Norfolk will again ring with the delightful sounds of young children. A few brave folk may venture into the sea. Picnics, fun and games on the beach, fairground, arcades, parks and so much more all 'come alive' as the weather warms. Yes, there may be a few April showers but they don't stop the young from enjoying themselves - jumping in muddy puddles is always a delight. Our local shops need the boost to their business that this first main holiday of the year brings. The shops have certainly been planning for Easter for some months - the first hot cross buns I saw in a local supermarket were on Boxing Day! Easter eggs were on display almost as soon!

New beginnings don't just happen. Bulbs, flowers and other plants have been nurturing in the ground for some weeks or even months. They need soil, nutrients and water to survive. They also need bees and other insects to pollinate them. Some animals have nurtured young in their wombs and others have spent many hours incubating eggs. The mothers have been cared for by farmers or other owners or by the male bird feeding the nesting bird. For us new beginnings can take many months or even years following difficult times.

The second Sunday in April is Palm Sunday when Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowds cheered with anticipation that at last the one who would free them had arrived. How quickly this faded into shock, anger and despair as it became obvious that Jesus was not going to raise an army. His continuous teachings against the traditions of the leaders soon led to his downfall and the crowds deserted him. The brilliance and joy of Palm Sunday turned to the anger and darkness of Good Friday. Even his closest friends deserted him. What had seemed like a new beginning had faded into a disaster. However just three days later a new beginning came about, a brighter and more loving beginning than anyone could have thought possible. With his resurrection Jesus had conquered death, darkness was replaced with light, not just for Jesus but for all people. At times we all face darkness, just as Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane and it can seem that new beginnings are just impossible to contemplate. Jesus was able to continue to trust in a loving God. A love that held him through the dark times to the light of being with God. Easter is about being held in love and experiencing new loving beginnings for ourselves, our family and friends, communities and the wider world. A warm welcome awaits you at our services on Easter Sunday. A very happy and joyful Easter to you all.

With love and blessings, Sandra Ellison, priest assisting during the vacancy

APRIL 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 6th April

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

Thursday 10th

10.00 am	Ringstead
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Sunday 13th

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 17th

10.00 am	Ringstead
7.00 pm	Hunstanton

Friday 18th

10.00 am	Ringstead
2.00 pm	Hunstanton
3.00 pm	Titchwell
6.00 pm	Holme-next-the-Sea

Sunday 20th

8.30 am	Titchwell
9.00 am	Holme-next-the-Sea
9.00 am	Ringstead
9.00 am	Thornham
9.00 am	Burnham Deepdale
10.45 am	Old Hunstanton
10.45 am	Hunstanton
11.00 am	Brancaster
	(joint service with Titchwell)

Thursday 24th

10.00 am	Ringstead
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Sunday 27th

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

Passion Sunday

Holy Communion	BCP
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW
Morning Prayer	CW

Midweek Holy Communion

Palm Sunday

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

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion	CW
Holy Communion	CW

Good Friday

Meditation	
Meditation (Contemplative service)	
Meditation	

Easter Sunday

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

Second Sunday of Easter

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'.

BRANCASTER COMMUNITY (HOT SPOT) LUNCHESES

Our next lunch will be on **Friday 25th April** from 12 noon to 3 pm with hot soup, a 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 18th April** by ringing Babs Wade on 01485 522273 or email hotspotlunches@gmail.com.

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/stonemason making the request should contact the Registrar directly: see website www.norwichdiocesanregistry.co.uk.

Church wardens and priests assisting during the interregnum cannot give permission for these.

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Mass times: Sundays 9.30 am, Fridays 9.30 am. Holy Days of Obligation: see notice board in Church porch. Further information: catholicparishofwalsingham.org.

NEWS FROM BURNHAM DEEPPDALE CHURCH

Lent Lunches There is one more Lent Lunch on **Wednesday 2nd April** at Deepdale Farmhouse, Burnham Deepdale. Would you like to come and join us at a friendly gathering over a simple lunch and raise money for a good cause? There will be one sitting for up to 14 people at 12.30 pm. The menu will be home-made soup, bread and cheese, fruit, with coffee or tea afterwards. £5 minimum donation per person which will go to **The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House**. Because space is limited, **we ask you please to book your place** for lunch by phoning or emailing: Verily on 01485 210267, verily@deepdalefarm.co.uk.

Easter Day We are looking forward very much to celebrating Easter with a **Family Holy Communion** service at 9 am. There will be an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard afterwards for the younger members of the congregation. We look forward to welcoming you.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the church at 10.15 am after the service on **Sunday 27th April**.

A Churchyard Spring Work-party will take place on **Saturday 26th April**. Can you spare a couple of hours or so between **9 am and 12 noon** to lend a hand and keep your churchyard looking pretty and tidy? Bring gardening gloves and your own preferred tools – rakes, shears, clippers, secateurs. We will find a job for you and reward you with coffee/tea and biscuits.

The Plant Stall at Deepdale Farmhouse gate will be set up again on **Maundy Thursday, 17th April**. If you have any plants you might have potted up over the winter/early spring, we'd love to have them. Please drop them off in Deepdale Farmhouse yard any time from **Tuesday 15th** onwards. Thank you. Also, do come by and have a look at what we have for sale.

The Books in the Porch will be set up again after Easter Day. We would welcome any paperback books, but please no hardback cookery or gardening books as these just do not sell. Thank you. All proceeds from both the books and the plants will go to Deepdale Church Building Maintenance Fund.

Table Top Sale We are thinking of holding a table-top sale at Brancaster Staithe Village Hall some time in late June-early July. Would you be interested in renting a table for the morning? If you are, please contact Verily Borthwick (verily@deepdalefarm.co.uk) to let us know. If there is enough interest we will go ahead with the plan.

THE FRIENDS OF BRANCASTER CHURCH In 1993 the charity was set up with the sole purpose to establish an ongoing fund to finance the maintenance and repairs to the fabric of St Mary's. Over the years families and individuals have helped us raise £225,000 which has enabled us to finance some major works and repairs from the re-slatting of the roof/repairs to windows/ tower staircase and much more. In 2024 in excess of £5,000 was spent on roof repairs/damage to the organ and a much needed upgrade of the microphone system, as well as completion of the work on automating and restoring the clock. None of the foregoing was planned!

If you are able to help by an annual/monthly or one-off donation please use the form on the back page. Electronic readers can obtain a form by emailing law973@btinternet.com.

Many thanks in advance, Anthony Law (Chair of the Trustees)

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRANCASTER

New Church Electoral Roll forms are now available in the church. Please collect one if you are renewing your membership or are thinking of joining us. JEL

Easter Flowers Help is needed! Any arrangement large or small would be much appreciated. The church will be open on **Saturday 19th April** from 9 am to 5 pm. Many thanks in anticipation. Call Virginia on 01485 210902.

TITCHWELL CHURCH

See the services on page 2, note Good Friday 18th April at 3 pm Contemplative service and Easter Sunday 20th April at 11 am at **Brancaster**, a joint Titchwell-Brancaster service.

If you would like an Easter lily placed on the altar in Titchwell Church in memory of a loved one, please contact Susan Campbell at susanbradshaw47@gmail.com. A donation of £5 would be much appreciated.

MUSIC IN THE BURNHAMS RETURNS TO BRANCASTER

We are delighted to welcome Peter Hewitt, a renowned pianist, who loves his Beethoven and will be playing 4 of his sonatas: Pathétique, Tempest, Moonlight and Appassionata at St Mary's Church for the first of 6 concerts during late spring and summer. The concert is on **Saturday 26th April** at 7.30 pm. Tickets are on sale at £20 and can be bought in advance by calling 07989 177 079 or at www.musicintheburnhams.com, alternatively on the door. We look forward to welcoming you with a glass of wine or refreshments!

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL We had a Valentine's Day tea and our parents came. We made invitations and decorations and food. Thank you to Mrs Robinson who did so much even though she wasn't well. And a big thank you to Sam, Miss Winterbourne, Miss Able, Toni-Lea's mum and Eddie, Stanley and Martha's Mum who also helped lots.

We had Safer Internet Day about "Too Good to be True". We learnt about scams and how to protect ourselves and keep private information safe and not share it.

Last week Doobie the Dog came from the Blue Cross to teach us about dog safety. We LOVED Doobie and we know more about being safe with dogs now. All year groups have just done tests and Mrs Bocking is really pleased with how Thrift have done. Year 2s are already reaching expected standards in most subjects and there are still two more months to go before SATS.

This week we made pancakes and we chose different toppings like chocolate sauce. They were really good. We learnt it was to use up all the nice food before Lent in the old days and it was a day to say sorry for what we did wrong and get forgiven.

We've just had World Book Day and we dressed in book costumes or pyjamas and had a whole day about the book "Leaf". As well as Literacy we did art and had a lovely day.

The Baby and Toddler group are revisiting soon and we are going to help them make Easter nests and Easter art. We are also writing our church Mothers Day Service ready for **Friday 28th March** 2 pm.

We are planning an Easter Egg Hunt for the end of term, making Easter Gardens for Titchwell Church, having an end of term Disco and an Easter Bingo, so lots to look forward to and we are chitting potatoes ready to plant because this makes them grow better.

Term finishes on **Friday 4th April** and restarts on **Wednesday 23rd April**.

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to all our
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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Dear Residents

We hope this update finds you well. The Parish Council continues to work on a range of projects to enhance our community, from improving local amenities to addressing important safety concerns. We appreciate the involvement and support of parishioners in helping to shape the future of Brancaster, Brancaster Staithe, and Burnham Deepdale.

New Clerk We are also pleased to welcome our new Parish Clerk, Philip Stone. Philip brings valuable experience to the role, and we look forward to working with him to serve the needs of our community. If you see him around the parish, do say hello!

Brancaster Beach Car Park Passes Please see the Parish Council website for details of the Car Park Scheme: www.brancaster-pc.gov.uk/council-services/beach-car-park/

Brancaster Bus Shelter The Council is improving the Brancaster Bus Shelter with some incredible, local art work - keep your eyes peeled!

Flood Warning Signs A positive meeting with Highways has resulted in agreement on locations and a possible programmable format for new flood warning signs. The design process is now underway, and installation dates will be confirmed in due course.

Brancaster Village Hall Car Park Work is also progressing on the proposed extension to the car park at the Village Hall which will ensure safe additional parking and access for visitors.

Village Green Improvements A Councillor working group has been set up to progress ideas for restoring the Green. A plan will be prepared for discussion with the National Trust and the Sailing Club to ensure all views are considered before work begins.

VE & VJ Day Preparations are under way with a wonderful range of activities and events for both, led by Cllr Briony Bax. We can't wait to commemorate these special occasions with you. For those wishing to help or assist, or for further details please email cllr.briony.bax@brancaster-pc.gov.uk.

Restorative Justice/Community Payback You may in the weeks to come see groups of people carrying out maintenance and restoration works to village assets; they will be the Community Payback team, a group that are working with the Parish Council to improve the built environment for both parishioners and visitors.

Church Grass Cutting at Brancaster & Burnham Deepdale The council has granted funding to enable the grass at each Church to be maintained for the 2025 season.

Local Planning and Development The local plan for Brancaster, Brancaster Staithe and Burnham Deepdale is available online for residents to view. Those interested can access it at: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/downloads/download/71/brancaster_neighbourhood_plan.

Housing Champion Cllr Val Carpenter has been appointed as the Council's housing champion.

Freebridge Housing at Brancaster Staithe Brancaster Parish Council is committed to ensuring as many local people as possible are able to access the new social housing in Staithe which is coming on-line for applicants to apply for who are registered with Home Choice in April/May. If you are interested in making an application for these particular homes and have a local connection please contact Cllr Val Carpenter who will work with you to present the best possible statement to support your application.

Do contact her without delay on 0752-188-7470 or email cllr.val.carpenter@brancaster-pc.gov.uk. If you don't apply, you won't stand a chance. If you do apply, you do stand a chance!

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th April at Brancaster Village Hall. There is time for public comments and questions. It's always lovely to see you there! It is most handy, if you have a trickier question, to email in advance to the clerk so that the answer can be researched.

Useful contacts For any questions or concerns relating to the Parish or the Parish Council, you are encouraged to get in touch with the Parish Clerk clerk@brancaster-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07519 163 895.

If you have concerns regarding verges, potholes or anything that is highways related, please report them direct to highways: www.norfolk.gov.uk/38796 Tel: 0344 800 8020.

BEWARE! Predicted High Tides on the following dates in April when Beach Road, Brancaster is liable to flooding and unsuitable for traffic. Pedestrian access is always available via the bank. 1st - 3rd, 11th-16th, 25th-30th. Full details on RWN Golf Club website (see page 14).

NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

It is pleasing to report three proactive events at BVH. The recently installed solar panels have reduced electricity costs by about a third – and this during winter weather. We look forward to the summer, and further savings. The return of the Coffee Mornings is very welcome; please come along on Wednesday mornings to enjoy good conversation and refreshments. The Open Studio, with artists Lillian and AJ, has extended its stay at BVH and visitors will be enthralled by the original and unique art on display. A visit will be well worthwhile, and you will be warmly welcomed.

The regular groups will continue, as will a full programme of activities at Bar 71, including Darts, Pool, Skittles and Quiz Nights. The following events are also scheduled:

Saturday 29th March at 7.30 pm: Authentic Thai Cuisine (contact bvhsetup@gmail.com)

Monday 21st April at 2.30 pm: Burger and Boogie, with music by Ready Steady Go

Monday 26th May at 4 pm: The Spud Bar and Solar Scoops Ice Cream, music by FOBs

Further information about these and other activities can be found on our website at brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk or on Facebook and Instagram. For enquiries, please contact us at bvhsetup@gmail.com.

THE WHITE HORSE

Mother's Day Roast, Sunday 30th March Always a special day; treat Mum to a traditional roast, served from 12 noon to 6 pm, choice of meats, with all the trimmings and a treat for Mum - limited space so book now 01485 210262.

Marshside is Back! Sunday 30th March, weather permitting. Time marches on! Clocks go forward bringing brighter evenings, perfect time to swing the proverbial doors open to the most unique food and drink spot on the north Norfolk coast, we can't wait to welcome you.

Norfolk Lobster Charity Supper, Wednesday 2nd April, 7 pm.

Enjoy Fran's 5-course lobster inspired supper, £60 per person plus £25 with paired wine. Hosted by Romané Basset, Gérard Basset Foundation, and Andy Malcolm will tell us all about The Fishermen's Mission. Call us now to book 01485 210262.

Easter is 'Golden' There's a Golden Egg Hunt, keep your eyes peeled on our social posts for more information.

New Menu Online Look out for Fran's new menu online, it couldn't taste more delicious.

We look forward to welcoming you. **Rob, Fran, Rosie, Kinga & The White Horse Team**

THE JOLLY SAILORS

Women's Guinness Six Nations 2025, watch with us.

All matches shown on our big screens, from **Saturday 22nd March to Saturday 26th April**, and lots of Guinness. We look forward to seeing you.

Shanty Mondays at 7 pm. Join in and sing-along as Nelson's Shantymen rehearse their repertoire.

Charity Quiz Tuesday 1st April, 8 pm when there's a £100 ACI token in the pot for the winning team. Proceeds to Big C Norfolk Charity and with your help we raised the grand sum of £420 in 2024.

Easter Fun Weekend Friday 18th April to Monday 21st April - live music Friday and Saturday evening and kids' activities in the garden.

Jolly Steak House Fridays 28th March and 25th April, 12 noon to 9 pm. Enjoy the best cuts of steak served with your choice of sides. Book now 01485 210314.

2 for 1 PIZZA Thursdays served 12 noon to 9 pm. Eat in or Takeaway. Enjoy your favourite 'stone baked' to perfection Pizza, combo choice with the cheaper Pizza free (not available school holidays).

Simon, Nick, Mollie, Matt & The Jolly Sailors Team

BRANCASTER CAMERA CLUB

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 15th April** at 7 pm in Brancaster Staithe Village Hall when the topic will be 'Spring towards Summer'. Visitors are most welcome. Entrance is £5 to include refreshments.

For more details contact Sue Till on 01485 210013 or Wendy Calow on 01553 674725.

DEEPPDALE FARM

Willow Weaving 2 half-day sessions on **Sunday 18th May**. Both will create a decorative dragonfly.

Introduction to Green Woodworking 1-day course: **Saturday 7th June**

Gift vouchers available and private groups possible.

Open Farm Sunday 1st June - FREE

This coincides with the last Sunday of half term, so whether you live locally, or you're holidaying on the North Norfolk Coast, come and visit our working farm.

The whole family is welcome at our free event which will showcase our nature friendly farm. Our organic, arable farm balances food production with regeneration of soil and support of biodiversity. Climb up into a combine to imagine the view come harvest time. Unpick an owl pellet to discover what our resident barn owls feast on. Admire the views of Scolt Head Island as you tour the farm and learn about our farming practices. Have a go at green woodworking and see what you could create. More details still to be finalised.

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

Full details and further dates of our activities can be found on our website www.deepdalefarm.co.uk or follow us on social media @deepdalefarm.

BRANCASTER STAITHE AND DEEPPDALE VILLAGE HALL

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the village hall on **Monday 19th May** at 6.30 pm. All welcome.

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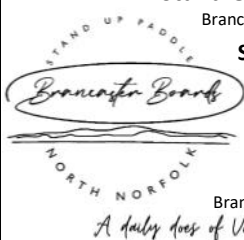
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DEEPDALE AND BRANCASTER STAITHE TENNIS CLUB

Our two lovely courts in the middle of the village are available for play by both members and visitors. Have a look at our website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/DBSTennisClub.

Our membership year starts on the **1st April**. If you have not yet renewed or applied for membership, now is the time to do it. New members are always welcome and we have a range of different membership categories. Please see the website for more information.

Junior Coaching

We are holding a Free Easter Holiday Coaching Camp with Becky Palmer, our LTA coach, on **Wednesdays 9th and 16th April**. Juniors, come along and join in to try tennis for the first time or brush up your skills after the winter. We would really love to see some new faces. Two sessions for different ages:

10.45 - 11.30 am for 4 - 7 year olds: 11.30 am - 12.30 for 8 - 11 year olds.

Numbers strictly limited to 12 children in each group. It is essential to book in with our Junior Tennis Co-ordinator, Carrie Hendry, by email to juniortennis@brancasterstaithe.co.uk.

Weekly tennis coaching sessions for our junior members are being arranged again this season on **Wednesday afternoons** in the summer term between 3.45 pm and 6 pm starting on **Wednesday 23rd April**:

4 - 7 years old, 3.45 - 4.15 pm, £5 for a 5-week course;

8 - 11 years old, 4.15 - 5 pm, £10 for a 5-week course;

12 - 15 years old, 5 - 6 pm, £15 for a 5-week course.

Course fees are payable by BACS in advance. It is essential to book in with our Junior Tennis Co-ordinator, Carrie Hendry, by email to juniortennis@brancasterstaithe.co.uk.

The parents of all children and young people taking part will need to sign a consent form before they can take part.

Coaching for Adult Beginners or Returners is available with Becky Palmer on **Monday mornings** from 9.30 - 10.30 am. These will be arranged in short courses of 4-weekly sessions at £20 per course to be booked direct with Becky in advance. Please contact her by email tennismadbex@gmail.com for further details.

Please note the course will only run with a minimum of 4 players.

Wednesday Ladies Tennis Mornings These continue every week when the weather allows from 9 - 10.30 am. We are a group of experienced players (not beginners) of a certain age and the emphasis is on fun. If you would like to join us please contact Verily Borthwick by email to DBSTennisClub@outlook.com. These sessions are for members but you are most welcome to come along and try us out for free for up to 3 occasions in the year.

DEEPDALE AND DALEGATE MARKET

Pop Up Shops at Dalegate Market

Thursdays to Tuesdays: Up to four artisans and producers join us each week in our beach hut pop up shops at Dalegate Market. Shop for 'not on the high street' crafts, products, food and drink. www.dalegatemarket.co.uk/pop-up-shops/.

Wood Fired Pizzas – Street Food

Fridays and Saturdays: Very tasty takeaway wood fired pizzas from The Wood Fired Food Co served up outside Deepdale Visitor Information Centre. www.deepdalecamping.co.uk/street-food/.

Wilswood Buoys – Live Music Gig

Saturday 26th April: A first visit for these Mersea Island gents. They are a young, new and exciting duo, who are fast becoming one of the most popular folk acts on the UK festival scene. www.deepdalemusic.co.uk.

JUST A REMINDER Do check the diary page as we always list events as soon as we are aware of them, so you can note the date and await fuller information nearer the time.

FRIENDS OF BURNHAM MARKET AREA COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME (BMACCS)

BMACCS has been running very successfully for over 20 years helping people to stay as independent as possible by taking them to medically related appointments. On occasions we have been unable to do this due to a lack of voluntary drivers. If you have some spare time and would like to help us continue, please contact Linda on 07301 011303. Mileage is paid by the Car Scheme and the passenger. Thanking you in anticipation.

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER

March passed quietly for Brancaster Coastwatch Station, with no new incidents to report. Two new volunteers have joined – Matthew and Paul – and we wish them well in their training. There has been one new Watchkeeper certification, Michael: congratulations to him. The Station is keen to recruit more volunteers by the summer season to bring numbers up to forty active members: there are currently twenty-nine certified Watchkeepers and five in training. There is a requirement of three to four hours a week commitment, with full training given: this covers VHF radio, optics, map/chart work, operating the weather station, keeping the official log and dealing with the emergency services.

If you would like more information on NCI Brancaster, or to find out more about becoming a volunteer, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager and Watchkeeper on 07535 612 777. You can also find us on Facebook if you search for NCI Brancaster.

DEEPDALE AND BRANCASTER HOUSING SOCIETY

Applying for Affordable Housing

Do you have local connections and want to be considered for any properties which may become available but don't understand the application and selection process?

Whether you are interested in a house or flat, tenancy or shared ownership, a guide with information for other Borough Council properties is available from Deepdale and Brancaster Housing Society. Email the Secretary, Diana Bamber at: bamber344@btinternet.com for further information, or call her on 01485 518029. Please note we do not hold a waiting list.

BRANCASTER & STAITHE HOMEWATCH

Scammers are getting more and more sophisticated. If you have been an unhappy victim don't be too embarrassed to report the incident – there's no shame in being deceived by these devious criminals - the easiest way is to contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

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.

BRANCASTER OIL COOPERATIVE I will be ordering oil next on **Thursdays: 17th April, 8th and 29th May.** Maria Spink 07787 570 093. **Please note my mobile number, as I no longer have a BT landline.**

BRANCASTER STAITHE MOBILE POST OFFICE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 4 - 4.30 pm; Wednesday: 2 - 2.30 pm, in The Drove opposite Dalegate Market.

MOBILE LIBRARY **Thursdays monthly:** Dates of next visits **3rd April, 1st and 29th May.**

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. Enquiries: call 01603 222303.

MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

Reminder: I have a light folding wheelchair, zimmer frame and shower stool for short-term loan/use by the local community. Please collect from Marsh Head opposite the Jolly Sailors, or I can usually deliver at short notice. Contact Christine 07900 342 962 or email ch81@btinternet.com.

BURNHAM MARKET AND NORTON VILLAGE HALL

The Community Cinema

Wednesday 2nd April: *Lee (2023)* (15), 2.30 pm in the Village Hall.
£5 on the door or contact Diana Walker on 01328 738604.

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

You can also view the information on www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk.

STANHOE AND BARWICK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

First Thursday of each month 2 pm at Stanhoe Reading Rooms

April 3rd Robert Smith - Wells Harbourmaster. Have you ever wondered what goes on at a modern WI? Whether you are into crafts, cookery or even campaigning, whether you're looking for friendship, fun or fascinating speakers, we have all that and so much more. We have a varied programme of speakers, so why not come along and see for yourself - visitors always welcome. Contact stanhoeandbarwickwi@gmail.com for more details.

PHOENIX LADIES The next meeting of Phoenix Ladies will take place in Burnham Market and Norton Village Hall on **Wednesday 9th April** starting at 2 pm, when Karen from Norfolk County Council will give a talk on "Tec Skills For Life", helping us to understand The Digital Changeover, our laptops, I pads, and phones – do have your questions ready. This will be another OPEN meeting so partners, neighbours and friends will be very welcome. There is a small charge for guests. There will not be a raffle at this meeting, but tea and cakes will be served after the talk. For more information contact Sue on 01328 730859 or email suisted@btinternet.com There is also a web site burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk. Hilda, Jenifer and Sue

THE ARTS SOCIETY, NORTHWEST NORFOLK

Our next illustrated talk, presented by Daniel Robbins on **Monday 14th April** at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2 pm, is entitled *The Studio-Houses of the Holland Park Circle*. Combining domestic accommodation with studio space, these houses show us the lives of London artists in the 1860s. Come and join our friendly society. Membership has many benefits besides illustrated talks. For more information visit www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk or ring Gerald Pepper on 07831 586 940.

STANHOE VILLAGE SCREEN

Venue: Stanhoe Reading Room and Village Hall, Cross Lane, PE31 8PS. Tickets £5 (cash only) on the door to include a complimentary drink. Doors open 7 pm. For latest information visit the website: Stanhoe.org (or ring 01485 518191)

YOUNG FOOTBALL PLAYERS NEEDED We have a very enthusiastic group of young people from all over this area from Fakenham to Heacham, who are keen to get off their computers indoors and outside onto the football pitch. Although they have a core Team, they need enough players to allow for illness etc to enable them to play each week. As a few local teams have folded, we are hoping to scoop up those who are still wanting to play and recruit them to the Stanhoe Saints Team. Please contact Laura Pocock, Chairman, MEHM Trust, Stanhoe Village Hall & Playing Field, Mob: 07584 566 242 if interested.

BRANCASTER CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Don't forget to sign the petition if you haven't already:
www.change.org/p/save-brancaster-cofe-primary-school

Thank you, arobinson1812@gmail.com.



DIARY DATES 2025 – updated monthly

BSBDVH = Brancaster Staithe & Burnham Deepdale Village Hall

BVH = Brancaster Village Hall

Weekly:	Monday:	Indoor Carpet Bowls, 2 - 4 pm, BSBDVH
	“	Mobile Post Office, The Drove 4 - 4.30 pm
	“	Yoga, 6.30 - 8 pm, BVH
	Tuesday:	Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30 - 11.30 am, BVH
	“	Open Session Pickleball, 10 am, sports field BVH
	“	Mobile Post Office, The Drove, Brancaster Staithe 4 - 4.30 pm
	Wednesday:	Making Space Café, St Edmund's Hall, Hunstanton, Coffee 10 am - 12 noon
		Coffee Morning, BVH 10.30 - 11.30 am (see page 8)
	“	Mobile Post Office, The Drove, Brancaster Staithe 2 - 2.30 pm
	Thursday:	Beginners Pilates with Sarah, 12.30 - 1.30 pm, BVH
	“	Art Group, 2 - 4 pm, BSBDVH
	“	Mobile Post Office, The Drove, Brancaster Staithe 4 - 4.30 pm

Monthly: **Thursdays:** Mobile Library: See page 12 for details of times and stops.

APRIL

Wednesday	2 nd	Lent lunch, 12.30 pm, Deepdale Farm House (see page 3)
Tuesday	8 th	Parish Council Meeting, 6.15 pm, BVH
Tuesday	15 th	Brancaster Camera Club, 7 pm, BSBDVH (see page 9)
Friday	25 th	Hot Spot Lunch, 12 noon, BVH (see page 3)
Saturday	26 th	Burnham Deepdale Church work party, 9 am – 12 noon (see page 3)
“	26 th	Concert, Brancaster Church, 7.30 pm (see page 4)
Sunday	27 th	APCM 10:15 am Burnham Deepdale Church

MAY

Monday	19 th	AGM of Brancaster Staithe & Burnham Deepdale Village Hall, 6.30 pm
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JULY

Saturday	26 th	Summer Party with Bordoli's Pizzas and music by The King and I
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EDITOR'S NOTE Please submit any notices/articles for next month's Parish News by 4.30 pm on the **19th of the previous month**, 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; or ring Christine on 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.

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 3rd month.

COMMUNITY WEBSITES

brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk (note: don't use www.)	
www.west-norfolk.gov.uk	www.theburnhamssurgery.co.uk
www.saxonshorebenefice.co.uk	www.wellshospital.org.uk (redirects to coastal health...)
www.bssc.net (Sailing Club)	www.coastalhealthwellbeing.org.uk
www.brancasterstaithe.com	www.brancaster-pc.gov.uk (Parish Council)
www.brancasterstaithe.co.uk	www.stmaryfederation.co.uk/brancaster (School)
www.burnhamdeepdale.co.uk	www.bsbdvh.org.uk (Brancaster Staithe village hall)
www.norfolkrecycles.com	www.brancasterallotmentsociety.co.uk
www.titchwellvillage.org	www.rwngc.org/tide-times/ (Beach Road flooding)
what3words.com (Location system)	brancasterbabyandtoddlergroup@yahoo.co.uk (email or search Facebook)

CROCKERY FOR HIRE The Parish News has some place settings of crockery, glasses, cutlery and various other items available for hire locally. For more details please contact Josephine Luddington (01485 210306).

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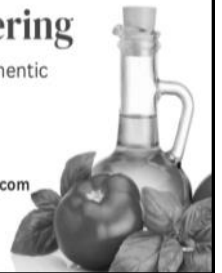


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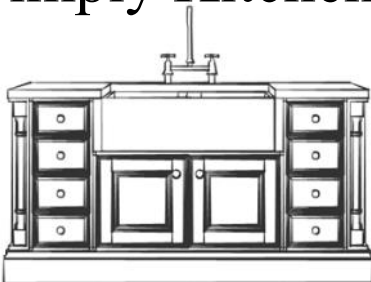
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Friends of Brancaster Church

(Registered Charity No. 1023364)

The charity was set up in 1993 with the recognition of the need to establish an ongoing fund to finance the maintenance and repairs to St Mary's Church (Grade I Listed Building).

Over the years many families and individuals have helped us raise some £225,000 to date and with their ongoing support The Friends has been able to help finance some major works as well as repairs to the fabric without which the building would not today be in as good a state of repair.

Works funded have been numerous and to name a few:

- Refurbishment of windows (1995)
- Tower staircase reconstruction (2004)
- North and South copings repair (2005)
- Cloakroom/disabled access ramp (2008)
- Rewiring (2008)
- Reroofing of chancel and nave roofs/new roof supports on south aisle (2014)
- South Porch glazed doors (2020)
- Roof alarm installation (2020)
- Clock and faces restoration/automation (completed 2024)

In 2024 the Friends paid for the repairs to the lead roof above the organ following water ingress in addition to the excess of the insurance claim on the organ. The sound system was also renewed.

We do hope that we will be able to continue to carry out this work and would like to thank all past, present and future donors for their kind donations without which this will not be possible.

Trustees of The Friends of Brancaster Church
(for further information email: law973@btinternet.com)

Option A. To become a Member:

For an annual or monthly subscription you can join this band of people whose common interest is the preservation of our heritage.

I would like to become a member of The Friends of Brancaster Church and I enclose an annual subscription of

£..... (£10 minimum)

(Please use the Standing Order form overleaf and remember the Gift Aid declaration)

Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Telephone

Option B. To make a one-off donation:

I enclose cheque/cash for £..... as a donation to help with the maintenance of Brancaster Church.

Please tick if you do **not** require a receipt ☐

Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Telephone

Remember the Gift Aid declaration.

Friends of Brancaster Church

(Registered Charity No. 1023364)

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I want this Charity to treat this donation and all donations I may make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.

I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax/Capital Gains Tax in a year than the amount on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Signature

Date

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel the declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income or capital gains.

STANDING ORDER

To: The Manager of the

Bank/Building Society

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

Please pay to the Account of

The Friends of Brancaster Church

Bank: Santander

Sort code: 09-01-52

Account number: 83919701

the sum of £..... on the

..... day of each month/year
(delete as appropriate) until further notice.

Account Name:

Sort code:

Account number:

Signature:

Date:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM (with any payment) to:

Hon. Treasurer, The Garden House, Main Road,

Brancaster, Norfolk PE31 8AA

Tel: 01485 210716

Brancaster Church

The Grade I listed Medieval Church of St. Mary the Virgin was built in the 14th century and, as archaeological discoveries of 1960 suggest, on a site of an earlier and smaller place of Christian worship.

Principal structures of this church are the typical 14th century arcading and the grandiose 15th century tower, which shows all the confidence of the Perpendicular Period when Norfolk was gaining wealth from the wool trade.

The tower housed four bells until 1790 when three were sold to pay for repairs. The remaining one was recast by Thomas Osborn of Downham Market. It also houses a clock which faces both east and west and was given by the parishioners in 1907 in memory of the then rector's wife, who died at the age of 34.

Among the treasures within the church are the medieval font with its carved wooden cover given to the church nearly 500 years ago, and the carving of an old man with his head at a strange angle. He is St. Matthew with the gospel in one hand and a money bag in the other. He originally stood on top of a wall post looking down the nave.

A brass plaque records the gift of the Edwardian pews given by the Royal West Norfolk Golf Club in 1904.

Set in the floor to the left of the Altar is a small brass plate commemorating Robert Smith who founded Brancaster School and Almshouses in 1596.

Friends of Brancaster Church

Reg. Charity No. 1023364

Patron

The Marquess of Cholmondeley



The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Brancaster in Norfolk