

The Coastal Group of Parishes

Bacton, Happisburgh, Hempstead with Eccles and Lessingham,
Ridlington, Sea Palling with Waxham, Walcott and Witton

www.coastalgroup.org.uk

News Sheet No 516

December/January 2020



December, the darkest month of the year, but not the dullest. It is filled with the light of Christmas.

December is the month that embraces Christmas. It gives us the right to plan, to party, to decorate, get excited, have fun and to celebrate.

December holds the reason for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, God's son, the Messiah, born to live among the people.

Christmas is probably the most widely celebrated of any festival, by all with faith and none. It is not just observed by Christians - and everyone enjoys a holiday!

To help us focus on the "Big Day", in church we have four weeks of Advent this month. A chance to prepare and think about what it all means.

Then come the services. First, Christingle, followed by a whole range of special services and plenty of carols - all part of the celebration leading to Christmas Day - so, there is something for everyone.

After all the experience of December, January and a new year. A new calendar - a new diary - a fresh start; a clean page.

January, less dark and a time to look forward to the year ahead - perhaps make new year resolutions. What do we aim for - to be a better person, more disciplined when it comes to chocolate! To achieve an aim? Whatever we do the opportunity is there in the new year.

May I wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas followed by a happy and healthy new year.

Eiler.

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SERVICES IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY 1st	9.00	Holy Communion	Hempstead
<i>Advent 1</i>	10.30	Church Family Service	Bacton
	10.30	Church Family Service	Happisburgh
	10.30	Holy Communion	Sea Palling
	3.00pm	Church Family Service	Walcott
	3.30pm	Carol Service	Ridlington
SATURDAY 7th	4pm	Tree Carol Service	Bacton
SUNDAY 8th	10.30	All Age Worship	Bacton
<i>Advent 2</i>	10.30	Church Family Service	Lessingham
	10.30	Holy Communion	Walcott
	3pm	Carol Service	Waxham
	5pm	Christingle	Happisburgh
WEDNESDAY 11th	7pm	Carols at Lighthouse Inn	Walcott
SATURDAY 14th	6pm	Carols at The Hill House	Happisburgh
SUNDAY 15th	10.30	Carol Service	Bacton
<i>Advent 3</i>	10.30	Holy Communion	Happisburgh
	10.30	Carol Service	Walcott
	11.30	Carol Service	Witton
	12pm	Lifeboat Carols	Sea Palling Lifeboat
	2.30	Carol Service	Hempstead
TUESDAY 17th	2.30	Village Carol Service with School	Happisburgh
FRIDAY 20th	6pm	Carol Service	Sea Palling
SATURDAY 21st	2pm	Carols and Cakes	Lessingham V.H
SUNDAY 22nd	10.30	United Holy Communion	Bacton
<i>Advent 4</i>			
TUESDAY 24th	3pm	Crib Service	Ridlington
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	3pm	Crib Service	Walcott
	4pm	Crib Service	Bacton
	5pm	Crib Service	Happisburgh
	7pm	Christmas Communion	Sea Palling
	11.30	Midnight Communion	Happisburgh
WEDNESDAY 25th	10.30	Church Family Service	Happisburgh
<i>Christmas Day</i>	10.30	Church Family Service	Sea Palling
	10.30	Holy Communion	Walcott
	11.30	Church Family Service	Witton
SUNDAY 29th	10.30	United Holy Communion	Lessingham
<i>1st Sun. after Christmas</i>			

SERVICES IN JANUARY

SUNDAY 5th	9.00	Holy Communion	Hempstead
<i>Epiphany</i>	10.30	Church Family Service	Bacton
	10.30	Church Family Service	Happisburgh
	10.30	Holy Communion	Sea Palling
	10.30	Church Family Service	Walcott Village Hall
	3.00pm	Christingle	Ridlington
SUNDAY 12th	10.30	All Age Worship	Bacton Village Hall
<i>Baptism of Christ</i>	10.30	Church Family Service	Sea Palling
	10.30	Holy Communion	Walcott Village Hall
	11.00	Holy Communion	Lessingham Chapel
SUNDAY 19th	9.00	Holy Communion	Lessingham
<i>2nd Sun. of Epiphany</i>	10.30	Songs of Praise	Bacton Village Hall
	10.30	Holy Communion	Happisburgh
	10.30	Morning Prayer	Sea Palling
	10.30	Songs of Praise	Walcott Village Hall
SUNDAY 26th	10.30	Songs of Praise	Happisburgh
<i>3rd Sun. of Epiphany</i>	10.30	Songs of Praise	Sea Palling
	10.30	Holy Communion	Walcott/Bacton at Village Hall
	10.30	Holy Communion	Witton

WALCOTT**Christmas Craft Fayre** Sat Dec. 7th

1.30 - 4.30pm (all tables fully booked)

Café Chat every Tuesday in the village hall 2.30-4pm.**Walcott Christmas services****Carols at the Lighthouse Inn** Wed 11th at 7pm**Carol service** in church on Sunday 15th at 10.30**The Crib service** on 24th Dec at 3pm**Christmas Day** family service with holy communion at 10.30 am**Over 60s Lunch Club** every Tuesday at the Lighthouse Inn. 2 courses £6.50. Contact 651435 for more information.**Children's Society Boxes.** The total collection came to the excellent sum of £260.00. As always, our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed so generously.**All good wishes for Christmas & New Year** to the many friends in Walcott who visit me at home. Jean Skelton, Morning Mist. Walcott.**St Andrew's Bacton**St Andrew's Church have their Christmas tree Festival on Sat 7th Dec 10-30am to 4-30pm with a Carol Service around the trees at 3-30pm. Also, on Sunday 8th Dec 12 mid-day to 4-30pm. Refreshments available on both days. Come and celebrate the Lord's birth.**St. Margaret's, Witton****Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride** – many thanks for our generous sponsors which has enabled us to send £40, half of which will be returned to St. Margaret's.Despite the colder and wetter weather, our bats are still quite active although of course the maternity roosts have long gone. John P. recently attended a bat mess cleaning day at Braunston, Rutland and learned we would be provided with an extending pole to brush the walls, but unfortunately it will only be long enough to reach half way up the nave walls! This year's Christmas Carol Service will be held on Sun 15th Dec at 11.30am, to be followed by mulled wine and seasonal nibbles in the Church. Christmas Day service at 11.30am, again to be followed by seasonal refreshments. Only one service in January, on Sun 26th. Happy New Year to all!**Morning prayer:** 9am on Wednesdays across the Coastal Group.

It lasts about 20 minutes. All welcome.

4th Dec Happisburgh 11th Dec Walcott18th Dec Ridlington

No prayers on 25 Dec or 1 Jan

8th Jan Witton 15th Jan Bacton22nd Jan Waxham 29th Jan Sea Palling**Mobile Library Dates**Happisburgh/Walcott/Bacton/Witton/
Ridlington December 10th & Jan 7th
Sea Palling/Waxham Dec 30th & Jan 27th
Lessingham/Hempstead Dec 18th & January 15th**Funeral** 4th November Arthur Willey North Walsham

HAPPISBURGH

The Friends of Happisburgh Primary School and Early Years are hosting a 'Christmas Songs around the Tree' event, taking place on Friday, December 13 from 4.30pm at the school.

As well as singing some festive songs, there will be a chance to warm up inside with lots of refreshments including hot mince pies and jacket potatoes.

There will also be a host of stalls selling Christmas gifts, bric-a-brac and toys and a Name the Snowman competition. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Carol service in the Hillhouse pub Sat. 14th Dec. 6.00 pm. This will be followed by a three course meal at 7.00pm. For more information or to book for the meal please contact Jacquie 651429.

The Christmas Mardle: As usual, this is held on the second Monday, 9th December and is tickets only. Most of you will have reserved your tickets at the November mardle or by phone already. But check with Joan 01692 650728 for spare tickets.

The January Mardle: We look forward to seeing you all on 6th January as usual. Thank you for supporting the Mardle and the Church Room Maintenance fund throughout 2019 from all the Mardle team.

Happisburgh and Ridlington walking group

We are meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in (10th December). We will meet at 9.30 am in the car park of Ridlington Church. We aim to walk for approx 90 mins and will be incorporating a coffee and cake (yum yum) stop at Sugar and Spice in Bacton. All welcome, friendly dogs on leads, please. In January we will be back to meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the new time of 9.30.

Contact Margaret 01692 651519

Coach trip to Springfield Outlet Spalding

Friday 6th December £12 pp leaving the village at 8.00am Contact Jan to book 01692 652188

A Christmas Concert of Verse and organ music

To be given by Joyce and Elwyn Bowler on Thursday 5th December at 2.30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. This will be followed by a glass of mulled wine and mince pies. Retiring Collection.

The Organ Festival at St. Mary's in 2020 will run on the following dates: 1st, 15th & 29th June; 13th & 27th July and 10th August. All recitals are on Mondays and start at 7.30pm. David. (01603) 612206.

New Year's day is hot soup day

at St. Mary's Church Room, 12.30 to 15.00 followed maybe by a visit to St. Mary's Tower, for the brilliant views. (subject to weather)

Coffee morning for Big C. on Saturday 18th January at Happisburgh Lifeboat station from 10am to 3pm.

RNLI

We have had a number of callouts this year to people in trouble on the beach between Happisburgh and Walcott, mainly due to the erosion. You should be aware that the cliffs are very unstable so keep away from both the top and bottom of cliffs.

When walking on the beach you may get cut off by the tide so watch out for this; check the tide times and if you are cut off don't try and climb the unstable cliffs. Call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. There is also sharp metalwork coming through the sand so please be aware of this; it's not always visible when the tide is coming in. For tide times and more safety advice go to our website rnlihappisburgh.org.uk.

We are looking for good quality pre-loved or unwanted gifts that we can use to raise money for the RNLI. If you can help please contact the Station shop on 01692 584864 or call at the shop between 11am and 3pm; we may be able to help with collection if needed.

Date for your diary: the RNLI Dinner Dance will be on Saturday 29th February 2020 - venue will be confirmed soon.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the Volunteers at Happisburgh Lifeboat Station **Happisburgh Primary School.**

The children in Silver Birch are studying the Great Fire of London and have been making bread to appreciate how the fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane. Also, they sat around a real fire in order to generate ideas and think of exciting words and phrases to help them write poems.

Horse Chestnut children have been investigating the Stone Age. We have been making cross curricular links so that the children are truly taking a journey through their learning.

We have made Flintstone cars to investigate forces, Stone Age necklaces using shells and clay, Stone Age shelters and more recently flatbreads which we baked on the fire pit outside, just as Stone Age hunter gatherers would have.

We have studied a collection of fossils and discussed the early footprints found on Happisburgh beach and are excited that the British Museum are visiting us to deepen our knowledge of fossils.

As you can see, there is always something interesting to learn at Happisburgh and the staff work hard to make sure that learning is fun and perhaps not always conventional!

SEA PALLING/WAXHAM

Line Dancing Lessons

Wednesday Evenings 6.30pm-9pm

Friday Mornings 10.30am-12.30

Beginners 9.30 – 10.30 Friday Mornings.

Please book to attend beginners' class

Details Phone 07765 465809

First Wednesday Lunch on Dec 4th in the Church room at 12 noon. Bookings only for the Christmas meal. Limited numbers! Ring Mary/ Pam 598729/598408. Donations toward expenses and building upkeep appreciated.

No lunch in January – resumes Feb 5th 2020.

Community Library; Dec 4th 10.30 – 12 noon; Every Thursday afternoon 2- 3.30pm (with afternoon tea & cake). Except Dec 26th, Every Saturday 10.30 – 1pm, with optional Bacon Butties/ Sausage Rolls/ Soups – Except Dec 28th. Comfy seating – browse, borrow, or buy a book or just come for a break! All are welcome. Normal opening from January 2nd 2020.

St Margaret's; Dec 13th decorating for Christmas – all welcome. Sat Dec 14th 10.30am – children – come and set up the nativity crib!

Please see services for Christmas on Page 2 of magazine.

Xmas Crafts & Food Fayre in the Village Hall on Sunday 1st December 11-3pm. If you would like a stall at this village event, call Margaret on 598828

Christmas Bingo - on Friday 6th December and on the first Friday of every month at the village hall. Eyes down at 7.30pm. Refreshments and raffle. January bingo will be on Friday 3rd January

Quiz & Supper None in December. Next one is on Saturday 18th January 2020. Booking essential please by calling Margaret on 01692 598828.

The Chairman and committee of the village hall would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year and wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Shopper dates for December.

6th & 20th - both to Gt. Yarmouth (usual £5)

By general agreement our users decided to stay with Gt. Yarmouth for these two dates as they wanted to do any last-minute Christmas shopping in shops they were used to.

On the last trip of the year I always bake sausage rolls & mince pies to hand round on the coach. Something I started doing for May Miles a few years back. We all have a bit of a sing-song with "Carols" too.

Deadline for inclusion in February's edition is the 12th of January. Contact me at meurignedwards@yahoo.co.uk with your contributions. Please respect the deadline or risk your article not being included.

HEMPSTEAD / ECCLES AND LESSINGHAM

Methodist Church

Sunday worship 11am followed by refreshments.

Coffee morning Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 10 – 11.15am.

Young at Heart Scrabble Group 3rd Wednesday every month, 10.30am-12noon. Play for fun. Refreshments.

Forget Me Not Group every third Thursday and Lighthouse Lunches usually every fourth Thursday. Please contact the Lay Pastor for further details. 01692 or 405591 or ros.peedle@live.co.uk.

Christmas Tree Lights switch on Friday, 6th December at 5.30pm. Everyone welcome at this event which is followed by hot meat rolls and carol singing round the tree inside the Chapel.

Lessingham Village Hall is holding a quiz evening with a Christmas theme on Friday, 6th December and will be hosted by Shon – so good entertainment is assured. The hall will be open from 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm. Light refreshments will be served. Tables of up to 6 people. £5 per head. You can book a table on 01692 583029. Proceeds to Hall funds.

Lessingham Church has reopened following repairs to the roof and south wall.

Carol Service for all the parish at Hempstead Church Sunday December 15th 2.30pm. Followed by tea and mince pies.

Carols and Cakes. Saturday December 21st 2.00pm at Lessingham Village Hall. A pre-Christmas get together for all the parish. Free. Donations appreciated. If you would like to come and need transport please phone John 581 841.

United Service Sunday December 29th. 10.30am at Lessingham Church.

St Ridlington St Peter's

What a great piece John had written on the front of last month's Coastal News. We may read the gospel and attend church but even this may seem a little hollow at times. The words of St Francis of Assisi can inspire and enrich our faith.

Turnout for our Remembrance Service was a little disappointing, which was such a shame because it was such a nice service. We begin the Carol service season on the 1st December. Although the service is at 3pm, the church will be staffed from midday, with tea, coffee, mulled wine, cake and biscuits available. There will also be a raffle and bric a brac for sale as well as Christmas trees to admire. We also have a Crib Service on the 24th at 3pm, which I believe some of the local youngsters are keen to be involved in. On Sunday the 5th January at 3pm we have 'Christingle'(isn't time racing by?).

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and happy new year. Ray Allcoat 651609