

The Coastal Group of Parishes

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

www.coastalgroup.org.uk

News Sheet 571

December 2024/January 2025

As you read this, Christmas will be fast approaching. As the nights grow darker, one of the things I particularly enjoy are Christmas lights providing joy and hope in the darkness. At the first Christmas, the light came from a star shining over the stable where Jesus was born and which guided the wise men so they could worship Jesus, the new born King.



We are currently living in uncertain times with continuing economic hardship, political uncertainty in the United States, war in Europe and in the Holy Land. There are echoes of these challenges in the Christmas story. Mary and Joseph lived in an occupied land and had to travel to Bethlehem because the Roman ruler demanded to know who was living in his kingdom. This entailed a lengthy and tiring journey on foot for Joseph and a heavily pregnant Mary. When they arrived the city of Bethlehem was crowded and bustling. The young couple could find no spare guest room and ended up in the draughty stable of an inn where Jesus, God's son was born. Later the holy family fled as refugees to Egypt in fear of their lives. They became displaced people looking for a safe place to call home.

In our villages we will be celebrating the birth of God's Son at Christmas in a number of exciting ways. Jesus was born in the stable of an inn and we will be having two special Christmas services in our local pubs; on Friday 20th December at 7pm at The Lifeboat Tavern, Sea Palling and on Saturday 21st at 6pm at The Hill House, Happisburgh.

There will be many carol services in our village churches; details are elsewhere in this publication. I would like to particularly draw your attention to the Crib and Christingle Service in Happisburgh at 3pm on Christmas Eve. This is suitable for all the family. Children can dress up as a nativity character if they wish. I know there was disappointment that this service didn't happen last year, so please come and support it.

Probably my favourite service of the Christmas season is Midnight Mass. We will be holding this very special service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve in Sea Palling. We will be celebrating God coming to earth in Jesus' birth which is one of those moments where heaven and earth briefly touch.

On Christmas morning there will be further celebrations with 10am Christmas Holy Communion services at 10am in Walcott and in Hickling. Locals and visitors alike are warmly welcomed to all our Christmas services, many of which will conclude with seasonal refreshment.

I wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas. **Revd Coryn**

Advent Study

You are invited to participate in an Advent study group based around the book 'Women of the Nativity' by Paula Gooder. The book contains several stories of women in the biblical narratives linked to Advent and Christmas. There will be an opportunity to read some of the stories from the books, together with biblical study, fellowship and refreshments. The stories are based on women in the Bible but the study group is for men and women. It isn't necessary to buy a copy of the book but you may like to. Let me know if you would like me to get you a copy (it is priced around £10). The group will meet from 1.30-3pm in Happisburgh Church Room on Thursday 5th, 12th and 19th December. It isn't necessary to come to all the sessions- feel free to join in when you are free. Revd Coryn.

Rector: Revd Coryn Stanforth

email: revdcoryn@btinternet.com

Tel: 07436 992347

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Sun 1st Dec	9.30	Morning Worship	Walcott
<i>Advent Sunday</i>	10.00	Holy Communion	Sea Palling
	10.00	Morning Worship	Bacton
	11.00	Morning Worship	Happisburgh
	11.15	Holy Communion	Hickling
	15.00	Carol Service	Ridlington
Sun 8th Dec	10.00	Holy Communion	Lessingham
<i>Advent 2</i>	10.00	Morning Worship	Bacton
	15.00	Carol Service	Hickling
Sun 15th Dec	10.00	Morning Worship	Bacton
<i>Advent 3</i>	11.00	Morning Worship	Sea Palling with Hickling
	11.00	Holy Communion	Happisburgh
	11.30	Carol Service	Witton
	15.00	Carol Service	Walcott VH
Fri 20th Dec	19.00	Carols at The Lifeboat Tavern	Sea Palling
Sat 21st Dec	18.00	Carols at The Hill House	Happisburgh House
Sun 22nd Dec	10.00	Carol Service	Bacton
<i>Advent 4</i>	11.00	Morning Worship	Hickling
	14.00	Carol Service	Hempstead
Tues 24th Dec	15.00	Crib/Christingle	Happisburgh
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	16.00	Crib Service	Bacton
	16.30	Nativity Service	Ridlington
	23.30	Midnight Mass	Sea Palling
Weds 25th Dec	10.00	Christmas Day Communion	Walcott
<i>Christmas Day</i>	10.00	Christmas Day Communion	Hickling
Sun 29th Dec	10.30	Christmas Benefice Service	Walcott Village Hall
<i>Christmas 1</i>			

Funerals

14th November Margaret Leach - Walcott (Memorial service)
 19th November Rob Turner - Lessingham
 22nd November Mary Harvey - Waxham

Mobile Library Dates for December and January

Hempstead/Eccles/Lessingham/Sea Palling/Waxham:
 Wednesday 11th December, 8th January
 Hickling: No visit in December, Tuesday 21st January
 Happisburgh/Walcott/Bacton/Ridlington/Witton:
 Tues 3rd & 31st December, 28th January

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWS SHEET:

Please send your contributions for the February news sheet to Emma at eclawrence@btinternet.com no later than January 16th. Thank you.

Sun 5th Jan	9.30	Morning Worship	Walcott VH
<i>Epiphany</i>	10.00	Holy Communion	Sea Palling
	10.00	Morning Worship	Bacton
	11.00	Morning Worship	Happisburgh
	11.15	Holy Communion	Hickling
	15.00	Epiphany Communion	Ridlington
Sun 12th Jan	10.00	Holy Communion	Lessingham VH
<i>Baptism of Christ</i>	10.00	Morning Worship	Bacton
	11.00	Morning Worship	Hickling with Sea Palling
	11.30	Epiphany & Plough Sunday Service	Witton
Sun 19th Jan	9.30	Holy Communion	Walcott VH
<i>Epiphany 2</i>	10.00	Morning Worship	Bacton
	11.00	Morning Worship	Sea Palling with Hickling
	11.00	Holy Communion	Happisburgh
Sun 26th Jan	9.30	Morning Worship	Lessingham VH
<i>Epiphany 3</i>	10.00	Holy Communion	Bacton with Walcott
	11.00	Morning Worship	Sea Palling
	11.00	Morning Worship	Hickling

Coastal Group Prayer Chain

If you would like to be prayed for or know of someone who would like to be prayed for (with their permission) please contact John Prince: 01692 581841.

WITTON St. Margaret's

After what seemed like weeks of anticyclonic gloom, the sun finally came out for the Remembrance Service. Our thanks to John Sings for the splendid thought provoking banners commemorating the 10 fallen from Witton in the First World War. They are on either side of the Memorial and will be on display for a while now the bats have started their winter slumbers.

This year's Carol Service will be at 11.30am on Sunday 15th December, with refreshments in Church after the service. Unfortunately there will not be a service at St. Margaret's on Christmas Day this year. However, there will be a service on 12th January at 11.30am, celebrating both Epiphany and Plough Sunday. This will be followed by a Lunch at Park Farm, please phone 01692 650223 to book.

Please also note this year's free Gas Site calendars are available to collect from the Church.

Charles and Gillian Owles 01692 650223

BACTON

Come and celebrate Christ's birth at our popular Christmas services, particularly the crib service which is always well attended. St Andrew's is Bacton's village church where worshippers have been coming for 700 years. Be part of this continuing tradition of worship at your church. *Keith Bronze*

HAPPISBURGH

New Year's Day The church tower will be open in the late morning until early afternoon, depending on the weather, and there will be Soup & Rolls served in the church rooms too. *Joan 650728*

Memory Stars Our Christmas trees, and memory stars will be in church again. If you wish to remember a loved one, please bring your paper or cardboard star, with your message on, to place on the trees. *Joan 650728*

Happisburgh Community Hub at the Wenn Evans Centre Every Wednesday from 11.30am till 1.30pm. Homemade light lunches, cakes, teas and coffees (donations towards providing this always appreciated). Community library open.

Happisburgh Knitters and Stitches

We won't be meeting in December so our next meetings are on 13th and 27th January in the Pavilion (next to the Wenn Evans Centre) between 2 and 4 pm. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet do come along to one of our meetings.

Wenn Evans Centre, Happisburgh, What's On When

For details of how to book, email Wennevans@gmail.com

Mondays: Seated Zumba 2pm-3pm, Pilates 4.30pm-5.30pm

Tuesday: Short Mat Bowls 10am-12pm, Table Tennis 2pm-4pm

Wednesday: Happisburgh Community Hub 11.30am-1.30pm

Fitness Yoga 4.30pm-5.30pm, Judo 6pm-9pm

Friday: Short Mat Bowls 2pm-4pm

Prize Bingo last Friday of the month. Eyes down 7.30pm,

Quiz Night 2nd Saturday of the month. 6.45 for 7pm start. Max 6 per table, £4 each, call/WhatsApp 07904 379391 to book.

Table Top Sale Wenn Evans Centre 10am till 1pm, Sunday 15th December. Set up from 9am, entry to public from 10am. £5 per table if pre-booked, £6 on the day (limited availability). Call or text Mark on 07856 314317.

Happisburgh Parish Council

Glass recycling - PLEASE where possible try to recycle your glass in the glass recycling bins at the Wenn Evans Centre – the Parish Council receives the money for this, which will mean that the parish portion of the council tax will be lower.

There are **allotments** available – please contact the Clerk if you would like to discuss renting an allotment from the Parish Council. Clerk: happisburghparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council meetings generally take place in the Wenn Evans Centre on the second Monday of every month at 7.30pm.

Happisburgh Acorns: We are a parent-led stay & play group for under 5's. Come along every Thursday morning during term time from 9am-11am. £1 per session. Refreshments for the grown ups and a snack for your little ones. Find us at Happisburgh Primary School - we would love to see you!

Save Happisburgh Campaign held a very successful fund-raising evening on 8th November with participants enjoying sipping glasses of wine, nibbling tasty snacks and chatting while painting stones which will be used for further fund-raising. A notice board has been presented by a kind donor for Save Happisburgh news and information. This is a few doors up from the village shop in Happisburgh. It will shortly be displaying a projected erosion pattern for the Beach Road area as well as details of future events.

SEA PALLING WITH WAXHAM

December 14th The Community Hub in the Nissan Hut will be open as usual from 10am with sale of preloved clothes, bric-brac, books and more, breakfast rolls and hot drinks until 12 noon. A special Christmas Raffle with lots of prizes - 50p per ticket - will be drawn at 12pm. Tickets may be bought on the day but are available every Saturday morning from the Hub or ring Rhena on 01692-597117. From 12pm - 3pm we shall be serving homemade soup + roll. Lots for everyone - all welcome.

Sea Palling with Waxham Community Trust: Why not grow your own veg/flowers - plots available in Sea Palling @ at £30 per year. Contact Sue on 01692 598524 for details.

SEA PALLING & WAXHAM VILLAGE HALL

XMAS BINGO - on Friday 6th December with seasonal refreshments and super raffle! Eyes Down at 7.30pm. Cash accumulator stands at £50! January Bingo will be on Friday 3rd.

QUIZ AND SUPPER EVENING - no Quiz in December but we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year on Saturday 18th Jan. Booking essential. Please check for availability as spaces are limited or for more information call Margaret on 01692 598828.

COME ON IN - no Come On In for December but hope to see you on Wednesday 29th January for a cuppa, chat and perhaps a game of cards or dominoes. Everyone welcome, all free.

THE SEA PALLING TABLE TENNIS CLUB meets on Wednesdays from 2pm - 4pm. All equipment provided. £2 per person. Everyone welcome.

ZUMBA CLASS - On Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm in the village hall. For more information please call Tina on 07341360389 or find her on Facebook at "Zumba with Tina".

THE SEA PALLING CARPET BOWLS CLUB meets on Thursdays from 2pm - 4pm. Beginners welcome. For more information, please call John on 01692 598478 or Steve on 01692 598052.

YOGA - on Thursday mornings. See www.yogabreeze.co.uk for full details, or contact Clare 07557 353723

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS - Join us on Tuesday 31st Dec with live music provided by Twisted Keys. Doors open at 8pm. Strictly by ticket only, £15 including buffet, from Margaret on 01692 598828 or e-mail seapallingvillagehall@gmail.com for more details or to check availability.

The village hall committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support this year and to wish you a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

SEA PALLING INDEPENDENT LIFEBOAT

The Crew attended the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 10th November at St Margaret's Church in Sea Palling. It is always an honour for our Crew to be able to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that lost their lives in the line of duty.

Don't forget Santa will be visiting Sea Palling beach on Sunday 15th December at around 10.00 before he departs on his journey to Lapland. The elves tell me he's very excited to see you all again.

The Lifeboat Inn, Sea Palling, will be holding a Christmas Carols evening on Friday 20th December at 7pm in conjunction with the St Margaret's Church. Donations will be split between the church and the Lifeboat. We hope to see you there.

On behalf of all the crew at Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat, I'd like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year and we look forward to your continued support in 2025.

WALCOTT

Shoe box charity: We have sent 5 shoe boxes this year. 'Precious gifts for those in need'. Thank you.

Special services during the Christmas period:

15th December Carol Service in Walcott Village Hall at 3 pm.

Christmas Day Holy Communion 10am in church.

29th December Benefice Holy Communion at 10.30 in Walcott Village Hall. A warm welcome awaits you at any of these services.

WALCOTT VILLAGE HALL

The booking clerk is Mr John Paul who can be contacted on 07791804872 or 'e' mail - bookwosvh@gmail.com. There are spaces available during the week at £8 per hour all inclusive.

Weekly groups:

Mondays 6.00pm Circuits

Tuesdays 10.30am Ballet Bums 7.15pm Zumba Gold

Thursdays 10.00am Seated Zumba 7-9pm "connect"

Saturdays 11.15am Zumba Gold

Warblers Christmas Show - all tickets sold out very quickly. Apologies for those who missed out on this year's show. The Walcott Warblers will be proud to present their spring show on April 25th & 26th 2025. Watch this space in the March 2025 edition for details.

Wild Touch always need newspapers, sheets, pillowcases and towels - please leave donations in the white wheelie bin at the end of the drive in Mill Common road. Dry biscuits and cans of cat food also appreciated for their winter hungry rescued birds and animals.

Book swap cupboard - is to the right of the hall entrance and can be accessed at any time.

Unwanted jewellery is still being collected whether damaged or not in the red bucket in the hall for Alzheimer's UK.

Used postage stamps - we are now again collecting used postage stamps in aid of the RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People). The collection point is in the hall and the book swop.

The Village Hall would like to wish a happy Christmas and thanks to everyone for their support during the year.

The Coastal Walking group

For our walk on December 3rd we will meet at Edingthorpe Church car park at 9-30am. Then on January 7th we will meet at the Wenn Evans at 9-30am for a cliff top walk to blow some of those festive cobwebs away. As usual everyone is welcome, dogs especially to bring their owners along. Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year. *Ray Allcoat 651609.*

HAPPISBURGH ORGAN FESTIVAL 2025

A reminder of the recital dates for your next year's diary. 3rd May, David Dunnett, (Organist, Norwich Cathedral); 7th June, Matthew Bond, (Organist, North Walsham Parish Church); 5th July, Timothy Patient, (Director of Music, Eye Parish Church, Suffolk); 2nd August, David Berwick, (Associate Organist, Happisburgh Parish Church & St. Helens, Norwich). All recitals start at 7pm next year. David Dunnett makes his fourth appearance at our festival, Matthew his second visit and Tim, who has played at every festival will make his sixth appearance. Those who heard Robbie Carroll play on 4th May this year will not be surprised to hear he has been promoted from Norwich Cathedral to Deputy Music Director and Sub Organist at Rochester Cathedral. I told him an appearance at Happisburgh often leads to higher things! We wish him well.

The Organ Committee renews its thanks to you for your support this year and would love to see you again in 2025. Visit www.organrecitals.uk for more information. *David Berwick*

RIDLINGTON St. Peter's

December - John Clare

White snow the window panes be-dim, the fire curls up a sunny charm, Where, creaming o'er the pitcher's rim, the flowering ale is set to warm; Mirth, full of joy as summer bees, Sits there, its pleasures to impart, And children, 'tween their parent's knees, Sing scraps of carols o'er by heart.

Our Remembrance Service on November 3rd was very well attended, a moving service with favourite hymns when we prayed for all lost in past wars and for those caught up in war today. When will we ever learn?

Our Carol Service will take place on December 1st at 3pm when traditional readings and carols will be followed by mulled wine and Christmas fayre. We look forward to welcoming everyone, and then - drum roll! - we shall hold a Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at 4.30 in the afternoon, followed by even more Christmas fayre. On January 5th we shall celebrate Epiphany with Holy Communion at 3pm. All will be welcome as always. *Barbara Penn 07858397628*

LESSINGHAM AND HEMPSTEAD WITH ECCLES

The Carol Service at Hempstead Church will be at 2 o'clock on Sunday December 22nd. It is a service of seven readings with carols followed by light refreshments. Parking is in the drive at the Old Rectory, a short walk from the church with limited disabled parking outside the church. A pleasant start to the festivities of Christmas week. All welcome.

The services for Hempstead and Lessingham in January will be in Lessingham Village Hall meeting room. *Margaret Henderson 581858.*

HICKLING

The Greyhound Bible Discussion Group will meet at the Greyhound, Hickling, NR12 OYA, at 3pm on Tuesday 10th December. We welcome new folk.

The Julian Meeting for Christian silent prayer will meet in St Mary's Church, Hickling, NR12 0BQ. Our meeting will be held at 10.30am on the 10th December.

Should you wish to know more about the Julian meetings for Silent Prayer, the organisation has a helpful website, <https://thejulianmeetings.wildapricot.org/> Anyone who would like to join us, simply come to St Mary's.

The Prayer Walk for silent prayer will include time for a bring-your-own picnic. We shall meet at the NWT Hickling Reserve Visitors' Centre at 11.15am on Tuesday 18th December. *Zephney Kennedy 01692 598179*

LESSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee mornings 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 10.30 - 12 noon.

Monthly hot lunches - not in December - on the third Thursday each month, cost £7.00. Booking for this is essential with Lay Pastor Ros Peedle 07976 720440/email ros.peedle@live.co.uk at least by the Monday of that week.

Sunday Worship at 11.00am every Sunday.

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at 5.30pm on Friday, 6th December, followed by Carol singing and hot meat rolls with warm punch inside the Chapel. All are welcome. Do come and join us as we begin our Christmas celebrations. On Christmas morning at 9.30am we have a short service for all ages, all welcome.