

PARISH MAGAZINE

Redgrave cum Botesdale with the Rickinghalls

February 2022



Produced by the Parish of Redgrave cum Botesdale with the Rickinghalls, for the local community.

Also available at <http://stmarysrickinghallinferior.onesuffolk.net/parish-magazine/>

Parish Website:
rbrchurch.org.uk
St Mary's Rickinghall Inferior
www.stmarysrickinghallinferior.onesuffolk.net
Instagram:
[@rbrchurch](https://www.instagram.com/rbrchurch)
Email: revchris@rbrchurch.org.uk

Foreword from
Reverend Chris Norburn
Rector of
Redgrave cum Botesdale
with the Rickinghalls
The Rectory, Bury Road,
Rickinghall, Diss. IP22 1HA
Tel: 01379 898685



What to do when we don't know what is going on around us, when we don't understand what God is doing?

How many times have you felt that you have got things in your life under control only to have to face a googly? Do you cry out, "God, what is going on?" Maybe you are like me and have felt like this frequently over the last two years! We're getting a handle on Covid and then another variant comes along – what to do?!

Who'd have thought that since March 2020 we would have started out on a journey filled with so many potholes. Do you feel as if your life has been going nowhere, rather than the direction you had hoped and planned for? It appears that our enthusiasm can wane so easily, that before we know it our confidence takes a tumble, our hopes sink leaving us feeling helpless and stuck. Doubts can then slip into our life and we start to question our plans. Even if we have felt that we were on the right path, doing the right thing, we ask ourselves, "Where are you God?"

Over the last few months I have wondered what is going on, often asking, "God what is happening? Can you show what you are doing?" In waiting for God's reply I haven't had any flashes of lighting illuminating God's brilliant plan. I've heard no thundering voice explaining His mysterious ways. Instead, when I have given God space to speak and I have given Him time so I can listen to Him I have had a quiet thought impressed upon my tattered heart.

"Do you want a God you can fully explain or a God you can extol?" In other words, am I going to wax lyrically about Him, praise Him enthusiastically or try harder at trying to figure out what He is doing? As I thought on this I recognised an uncomfortable truth: A God of infinite majesty can't be measured. A God who unleashes miracles can't be contained. A God whose love is eternal can't be fully explained.

Digging into scripture I found a couple of verses from the Old Testament,

"As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things." (Ecclesiastes 11:5).

"Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?" (Job 11:7)

What I was beginning to see again more clearly was that God sees more than we can see. He knows more than we know. He works in ways beyond our comprehension. (*Isaiah 55:8-11*) And if we agree to follow Him only when we understand what He's doing, we'll always stop short of experiencing to a fuller extent His inexplicable wonders. Despite the questions I have, I have a choice, do I let the mystery of God bolster my doubt or buoy my wonder?

Digging deeper into the Bible I was reminded of the accounts of people doing the latter...

Abraham praised God beneath the stars — even though he didn't understand how he'd ever become the father of nations. (*Genesis 15:1-6*)

David praised God in the wilderness — even though he didn't understand why he was running for his life instead of sitting on the throne. (*1 Samuel 23:14-29, Psalm 63*)

The Israelites praised God with a mighty shout — even though they didn't understand Jericho's wall would fall without a fight. (*Joshua 5:13-6:20*)

Now I know, I am to praise God too, because what I do know about Him is far more important than what I don't:

I know God loves me, and He'll never leave me. (*John 3:16; Hebrews 13:5*)

I know He is for me and not against me. (*Romans 8:31*)

I know God's Word is true, and His heart is kind. (*Psalm 33:4; Acts 14:17*)

He is calling all to lift their head from despair and offer praises to heaven. As I do this gradually I see my disappointments shrivel in the shadow of my swelling wonder and growing hope. It's like witnessing a beautiful sunset. I don't fully know how God makes a sunset, and I don't know how praise shifts a perspective for the better, but it does. Praise buoys my wonder, and I see the beauty of the Lord around me. He is a wondrous God, worthy of our praise, despite the difficult times we go through.

With every blessing for the coming year.

Chris Norburn.



The latest version of the **Local Services Directory** is available online at <http://stmarysrickinghallinferior.onesuffolk.net/local-information/>



Please note that the latest *Local Services Directory*, containing contacts for local organisations and services, will be printed in this magazine next month. Although continuously updated online during the year, we encourage our readers to check it before the annual printed version is published - to get it as right as possible. Please let events@rbrparishmag.com know of any changes.

Message from the Team

Not much space this month so We will just wish everyone a happy new year and hope life continues to improve. Thanks to everybody who has been organising events in this difficult time. Thanks as always to our advertisers and contributors .

Charles Murray

For all editorial content: editor@rbrparishmag.com
 For all commercial adverts: adverts@rbrparishmag.com
 To advertise events: events@rbrparishmag.com

Alternatively, please **write** to: *The Parish Magazine, The Rectory, Bury Road, Rickinghall, Diss, Suffolk, IP22 1HA* or call **The Editor** 01379 890382

Please note that **the copy date for the forthcoming issues is as follows:**

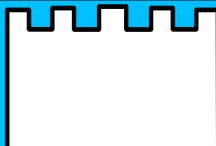
STUFFING MEETINGS

- **Feb issue 10 Jan (Mon)** Come and help stuff the magazine @ All Saint's, Redgrave—3.15pm on **21 Jan (Fri)**
- **Mar issue 14 Feb (Mon)** Come and help stuff the magazine @ All Saint's, Redgrave—3.15pm on **25 Feb (Fri)**
- **Apr issue 14 Mar (Mon)** Come and help stuff the magazine @ All Saint's, Redgrave—3.15pm on **25 Mar (Fri)**

We accept items for submission in any of the following formats: MS Word, e-mail, .jpg, .bmp, .pub, .png Notices from voluntary organisations within the Benefice are printed free of charge. We try to help similar organisations from outside the Benefice wishing to place a notice in our magazine; this is subject to space being available and we also make a small charge.

Best wishes The Parish Magazine Volunteers

The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team.



WELCOME

Welcome to new residents in our villages. If you have recently moved into one of our villages the churches wish you a warm welcome. If you would like someone from the church to visit you, or perhaps you would like your house blessed, then please do get in touch with the Rector on 01379 898685. May your life in these communities be peaceful, prosperous and a blessing to your neighbours.



Printed by:



THE WEDDING WAS SO BEAUTIFUL..... EVEN THE CAKE WAS IN TIERS

Redgrave Community Shop

We are still open every day, however please note the temporary timings, until further notice.

CURRENT OPENING HOURS

Mon – Sat 8:30 - 1:00pm
Sun 9:00 - 11:00am

Telephone: 01379 898848

Email: www.redgravecommunityshop@gmail.com

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Mick

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February!

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Church Road, Redgrave IP22 1RJ
01379 890586



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A Community Owned Free House

	Opening	Food Served
MONDAY	5 - 9.30	
TUESDAY	Temporarily Closed	
WEDNESDAY	Temporarily Closed	
THURSDAY	12 - 10	12 - 2.30 & 5 - 8.30
FRIDAY	12 - 10	12 - 2.30 & 5 - 8.30
SATURDAY	12 - 10	12 - 8.30
SUNDAY	12 - 6	12 - 3

Future Events:

Sat 29th Jan : *WORLD WITHOUT END - live music*
from 8.30pm
Fri 11th Feb : *THAI Evening* from 5.30pm
Sat 26th Feb: *WALKWAY - live music* from 8pm

PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Takeaways available Fridays and Sundays

Contact us:

Cross Keys, The Street, Redgrave, Diss IP22 1RW
gm@redgravecommunitysociety.com

01379 779822

Please check the website and social media for all the latest updates
www.crosskeysredgrave.co.uk / Facebook @crosskeyspubredgrave
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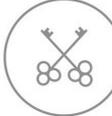


February What's On



**THE CROSS KEYS
REDGRAVE**

a Community Owned Free House



February 26th : Walkway will be playing from 8:00pm

www.crosskeysredgrave.co.uk
gm@redgravecommunitysociety.com / Tel : 01379 779822



On 23rd February 7:30pm
at Rickinghall Village Hall,
the Heritage Circle presents
**a talk by Geoffrey Robinson on
The Worlingworth Feast Painting –
the painting which commemorated the
Golden Jubilee of George III**

New members & guests welcome
Visit onesuffolk.co.uk/HeritageCircle



Closure of the

RICKINGHALL COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB



Keith and Kathy regret to announce that the *Rickinghall Country Music (dance) club* has been forced to close due to the diminishing number of attendees.
No further dances are planned.

A BIG THANKYOU

to all who have come to dance over the years.

**Fridays 7.30 pm at
St Botolph's & District Bowls Club
Fen Lane, Rickinghall,
Diss IP22 1DP**

2022 : 4th Feb, 4th Mar, 1st Apr



Angles Way Filling Station





**Friday 11 February 2022
7.30pm
with Kevin Moore
'The Fire of God'**

Garboldisham Village Hall IP22 2SE

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PHYLLIS LOGAN

"AN UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCE FROM TIMOTHY SPALL"

FROM JOHN O'GROATS TO LANDS END... TOM IS ABOUT TO MAKE THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME... ONE BUS AT A TIME



THE LAST BUS

Friday 25th February - 7.30pm



EYE COMMUNITY CENTRE, Magdalen Street.
Tickets: £5 available at Eye Pharmacy, The Handyman or pay on the door.
More information at: cinema-at-eye.org.uk

Botesdale Methodist Church

"Coffee down the Lane"

Tuesday 22nd February 10.00am - 12.00pm



theWI RICKINGHALL
INSPIRING WOMEN

At Rickinghall Village Hall

February 10th 7:30 pm

- Lucy Lewis talking about 'Life in the Army'
- Competition : 'Something Heart Shaped'

February 18th 12:30

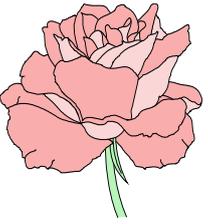
Soup and Natter - Social Meeting

New members always welcome - just come along and meet us, a friendly welcome will await you.

Redgrave & District Ladies Club

Tuesday 8th February 7.30pm

The Ancient Art of using Gold Thread and Wire in Embroidery
with Jean Wright



Everyone is welcome to come along
Redgrave Activities Centre

Free to every household thanks to the local businesses that advertise here. Please support local businesses.

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- Cod, Haddock, Skate, Rock and Chips
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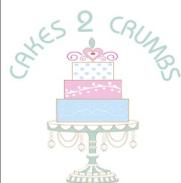
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 Rickinghall**

books are available from:

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 (only books about Redgrave)
Jean Sheehan (01379 890237)
Di Maywhort (01379 898785)

full details of all books and
 our events are available at:

www.quatrefoil.org.uk

February/March What's On



**FAMILY
BREAKFAST
CHURCH**

Botesdale Village Hall
9:30-10:30

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)



**CHEESE & WINE EVENING
and Annual Review**

Thursday, 17th March, Redgrave Amenities Centre
7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets £6 from Paddy Richards (01379 788010)
or committee members

Draw, Speaker, Wine, Nibbles, News

Do come along to this friendly evening of fun & chat,
to learn about RAHOF plans for 2020

Fundraising in aid of St Nicholas Hospice Care



W.A.R.T.S.
Presents

When We Are Married
J. B. Priestley's candid comedy about
matrimonial relations and social standing in
Edwardian Yorkshire
Performances: 10th, 11th and 12th March
at Botesdale Village Hall
Doors open 7pm, curtain up 7.30pm
Adults £9 and under 16's £5
Box office 01379 831153
Tickets also available from Wortham Post Office and
Redgrave Community Shop



"Coffee On the Corner"
Parkview Chapel Botesdale
9:00am Tuesday February 8th

Contact Sue Allen at brookview@clara.co.uk / 01379 890423




Redgrave & Lopham Fen

Regular Events	Wild Tots Every Friday, 10.30am-12noon
	Wild Babies Alternate Mondays & Fridays
	Weekend Wildlife Club 6-11 year olds, second Saturday of the month, 10.30am-12.30pm
	Young Naturalists For 11-16 year olds Second Saturday of the month, 1.30pm-3.30pm
	Go wild in the week Activity day for home-educated children aged 6-11 years Fourth Tuesday of the month, 10am-2pm
February	Guided walk 4 th Monday of the month, 10am-12noon. A sociable stroll for adults looking at seasonal wildlife
	Time to paint Creative & social session for adults. Last Friday of the month, 10am-2pm £5 donation. No need to book
February	Talk : Caught in the act - otters in Suffolk Tuesday 22 Feb, 7.30pm £3 (under 25s free) including refreshments

**Booking essential for all activities unless otherwise stated.
For further details and to book, visit www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org or
call 01473 890089**

Rickinghall Farmers' Market



We are delighted
to be back up and
running after the
Christmas break :)

IP22 1HD 09.00 am to 12.30 pm

Saturday 12 February

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LOTTERY FUNDED

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Children are collected daily from St Botolph's Primary School. We also provide a drop off & collection service

for the following schools:
Wortham Primary School, Gislingham Primary School and Palgrave Primary School. Transport costs apply for this service.

Our fees are as follows;

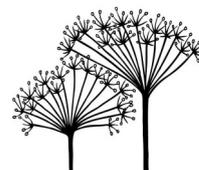
Breakfast Club Mon-Fri
From 7.45am £5.50

After School Club Mon-Fri
3.25pm – 6pm £7.50 for the hour (£6.50 for siblings)
3.30pm – 5.30pm £12.50 for 2 hours (£11.50 for siblings)
3.30pm – 6.00pm £15.00 per session (£14.00 for siblings)

Subscription 2021/2022 £20.00

Please contact Paula 07952 961285
botesdaleoutofhours@gmail.com

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<http://lilaccottagestudio.com/courses.html>

Or contact us on lilaccottagestudio@gmail.com

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What's On? A Summary

- Entries are listed in alphabetical order - if you spot any errors or omissions, let us know!
- The first table lists *regular* events that occur *weekly, monthly* or *throughout the year*
- The second table lists *one-off* or *occasional* events
- The *Local Services Directory (LSD)* provides *contact details* for event organisers
 - the LSD is printed in this magazine in March, and is online at www.stmarysrickinghallinferior.onesuffolk.net/local-information/

Weekly/Monthly or Year-long Activities					
Organiser / Event Name	When?			Location	
	Day	From	To		
Angles Way Filling Station	2nd	Friday	7:30pm	-	Garboldisham Village Hall
Botesdale & Rickinghall Runners	Every	Thursday	7:00pm	-	Rickinghall Village Hall
Botesdale After School Club	Monday - Thursday during term 3:25pm - 6:00pm				
Botesdale Breakfast Club	Monday - Thursday during term from 7:45am or earlier if required				
Botesdale Methodist Church Friendship Group	1st	Tuesday	2:30pm	4:00pm	Botesdale Methodist Church
Botesdale Parish Council	1st	Monday	7:00pm	-	Botesdale Village Hall
Brownies (<i>term-time only</i>)	Every	Tuesday	5:30pm	7:00pm	St Botolph's School
Chapel of Ease, Botesdale open	Every	Wednesday	9:30am	3:30pm	-
Coffee down the Lane	4th	Tuesday	10:00am	12:00pm	Botesdale Methodist Church
Coffee on a Sunday	See the inner back cover				Parkview Chapel
Coffee on the Corner	2nd	Tuesday	9:00am	12:00pm	Parkview Chapel
Dance Classes	Every	Friday	8:00pm	-	Botesdale Village Hall
Dance Fitsteps	Every	Thursday	6:00pm	7:00pm	Rickinghall Village Hall
Day Centre	Every	Wednesday	10:00am	-	Rickinghall Village Hall
Family Breakfast Church (<i>excluding holidays</i>)	4th	Sunday	9:30am	10:30am	Botesdale Village Hall
Heritage Circle	4th	Wednesday	7:30pm	-	Rickinghall Village Hall
Methodist Wives Club (<i>not Jan/Aug</i>)	3rd	Wednesday	See <i>Church Notices</i> on inside back cover		
Mobile Library	See the Redgrave Parish Council page				
Mobile Post Office	Every	Friday	2:45pm	3:45pm	Parkview Chapel Car Park
Pilates (<i>term-time only</i>)	Every	Tuesday	11:15am	12:15pm	Rickinghall Village Hall
Places of Worship	See the inner/outer back cover for the denominations' activities				
Positive Steps	Every	Friday	10:00am	11:00am	Parkview Chapel
RABBATS (<i>term-time only</i>)	Every	Thursday	9:30am	11:30am	Rickinghall Village Hall
Redgrave & District Ladies Club (<i>Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec</i>)	2nd	Tuesday	7:30pm	-	Redgrave Activities Centre
Redgrave Parish Council	1st	Wednesday	7:30pm	-	Redgrave Activities Centre
Rickinghall Farmers' Mkt (+Autojumble & Car Boot sale <i>Apr-Sep</i>)	2nd	Saturday	9:00am	12:30pm	Rickinghall Village Hall
Rickinghall Parish Council	1st	Thursday	7:00pm	-	Rickinghall Village Hall
Rickinghall Women's Institute	2nd	Thursday	7:30pm	-	Rickinghall Village Hall
Slimming World	Every	Monday	5:30pm	-	Rickinghall Village Hall
St Mary's Church open	Every	Saturday	9:30am	3:30pm	St Mary's Rickinghall Inferior
St Mary's Church open <i>Apr-Oct inclusive</i>	1st	Saturday	10:00am	-	Redgrave St Mary's
St Nicholas Hospice Drop-in	1st	Thursday	10:30am	-	Botesdale Health Centre
Suffolk Wildlife Trust/Redgrave & Lopham Fen	Events for children/adults; www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/redgrave/01473890089				
The Cross Keys Redgrave	See www.crosskeysredgrave.co.uk and in this magazine				
U3A Writers' Group	1st	Friday	10:30am	12:30pm	21 Farnish House
Whist Drive (<i>October to April</i>)	1st	Friday	7:30pm	-	St Botolph's & District Bowls Club
Yoga and Relaxation	Every	Tuesday	7:15pm	-	Botesdale Village Hall

February One-off or Occasional Events (check for more details in the *What's On* pages)

Organiser	What? When? Where?
Redgrave & Lopham Fen	See breakdown of regular and one-off events elsewhere in this magazine
Rickinghall Ramblers	<i>Walking</i> on Feb 7 th , 18 th , 28 th 9:15am; Rickinghall Village Hall

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Botesdale Parish Council



Leeann Jackson-Eve

Reports for Botesdale PC Meetings - December 2021 and January 2022

Public Forum: At the December meeting, several residents voiced their concerns about the difficulty exiting drives onto The Street due to poor visibility and speeding. They called for a 20mph zone within the village. The Chairman reported that discussions on the topic at area meetings of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils indicated that they are extremely difficult to enforce, there are significant legal hurdles and they are expensive to install. The general consensus among parishes who have implemented a 20mph zone is that they are not worth the effort. However, it is hoped that a new speed indicator device at the site near Bridewell Lane will slow speeding in the centre of the village.

Another resident queried whether any improvements have been made to the Bennett Homes application for development on Diss Road. The Chairman reported that several discussions have been held with the developer to address the application's shortcomings resulting in significant improvements. The PC is grateful to the MSDC Planning Committee for delaying a decision in order to allow a review of the application.

Cllr Fleming reported in December that measures to protect poultry from avian influenza came into force across the UK on 29 November 2021 and, as of the January meeting, these are still in effect. All bird keepers across the UK are required to keep their birds indoors, or where this is not practical, to take steps to separate them from wild birds. She also reported that a proposed County Council budget will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on 1 February 2022 and the final budget will be discussed at Full Council on 17 February 2022. The Council might need to raise Council Tax by 2% and the Adult Social Care Precept by 2%, but there are unusual challenges due to COVID-19, global supply chain issues and climate change.

Planning: There was one planning application at the December meeting for repair work to the listed building Botesdale Kitchen, The Street. There was no objection to this.

Recreation Ground Project: We are pleased to say that the planning application for the proposed scheme, and particularly the provision of disabled parking facilities at the main entrance, was approved by Mid Suffolk District Council. The approved application includes compliance with Highways requirements regarding access and visibility. The Tenders for the construction of the Project were received in late December 2021 and work continues to evaluate the submissions. We are working with the designers towards awarding a contract for the construction works in early February 2022 with an intention of site work commencing as soon as possible. We currently anticipate that the Construction work will be complete by the end of June 2022. With respect to the construction works you may already have noticed that a quantity of topsoil, kindly provided by Burgess Homes from the Back Hills development, has been delivered to site. Finally, the youth shelter has now been removed in accordance with the recommendations of the Safety & Security Review.

Street Lighting: A member of the public wrote in December with

concerns about the level of street lighting in the new development at Back Hills, querying whether it would be permanent. The developer, the Parish Council and the District Councillor had all requested minimum fixed lighting to support the dark skies concept. However, SCC Highways had specified that street lighting was required. Since then, MSDC has passed a motion to recognise that light pollution is increasing and that it causes harm to wildlife and insects and could increase health risks in people. MSDC therefore seeks to ensure that where new lighting is installed, it meets the lowest possible level of intensity and visual intrusion. As a planning authority, it is hoped that MSDC might in future affect developments such as this, but it is likely to take some time to implement. At present the lighting at the Back Hills development stays on all night but could be timed to align with the rest of the lighting within the village, which is on part-night lighting. The Parish Council is also in the process of replacing some of its lights and will be making enquiries about a less intrusive level of LED lighting.

Budget: The PC agreed to set a budget of £44,430 for the year 2022-23 and to retain earmarked funds of £70,203. This will require a precept of £44,100 from the District Council resulting in an overall 16% rise on the amount received in 2019-20, adding approximately £20 per annum (£1.67 per month) to the Council tax of a band D property. A significant proportion of the earmarked funds and budget will go to the regeneration of the recreation ground which will take place this year.

Annual Parish Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Monday, 4 April prior to the regular meeting of the Parish Council.

Litter Pick: We've set a date for 23 April and would love to see some more volunteers this year! More info closer to the date.

Christmas 2021: We had a particularly attractive tree this year and the PC extends its thanks to Chris Burnard from the Greyhound for all his help.

Finally, Happy New Year from the Parish Council!

THE NEXT BOTESDALE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON

MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY

at 7.00 pm

at Botesdale Village Hall

All residents welcome

www.botesdale.suffolk.gov.uk

**Your Clerk is: Mrs Leeann Jackson-Eve,
Wayside Cottage, Cherry Tree Lane,
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Redgrave Parish Council



Redgrave December 2021 / January 2022 Report

Seven councillors attended the December meeting with apologies accepted from Jason Walker. After the meeting Councillors were pleased to confirm that Tina Newby had been offered the post of Parish Clerk and that she had accepted. **Councillor's Note:** Councillors wished to express their deep appreciation to the departing Parish Clerk, Leeann Jackson-Eve, for her exceptional efforts on behalf of the Council during her period in post. Councillors wanted to wish her all best wishes for her future.

Public Forum: Members/associates of the Redgrave Amenities Trust (RAT) reiterated their proposal that the Local Green Space (LGS) designation of the Recreation Ground should be removed from the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan and that the Parish Council (PC) negotiates a development solution with Llanover based on their earlier proposal in 2017.

The Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPG) stated that they had consulted extensively with the community and had found a general dislike of any building on the Recreation Ground, although there was a separate desire expressed for some affordable housing. The NPG explained why it was impracticable to stop the progress of the Plan to remove the LGS at this stage; it stated that the agreement reached with the Mid-Suffolk District Council (MSDC) was to put the Plan to Referendum as it stands and to reconsider it immediately thereafter to reflect any agreement reached with Llanover.

Councillors confirmed that full discussions with Llanover were planned and that these would take in to account villagers' concerns about the extent of building planned on the site, the stress on already overloaded infrastructure and the potential loss of valuable recreational resources. Councillors also confirmed that it would seek to reach understanding with the RAT and the NPG before the negotiations with Llanover.

Planning: There were no planning applications.

Activities Centre Site (Redgrave Recreation Ground): Members of the PC had held a meeting with the NPG and the MSDC to seek advice on the way forward for the Neighbourhood Plan in light of the concerns over the LGS designation of the site. It was agreed that the best option was to take the Plan forward to Referendum as planned; but it was also recommended that the PC should initiate an immediate review of the Plan after the Referendum to incorporate any agreement that might be reached with Llanover regarding the use of its land holding. The review would include as full a consultation with residents as undertaken with the existing Plan. The PC agreed that this was the best way forward and would continue discussions with Llanover along these lines. Members of the PC have since held a meeting with members of the RAT and reached general understanding of respective positions and the PC's general negotiating position with Llanover. We are now awaiting a more detailed proposal which is expected from Llanover by 14 Dec 22; a meeting with Llanover to discuss the way forward is then expected during the week commencing 17 Dec 22.

If you have any thoughts or proposals on this topic, drop us an email or come to the next meeting.

Lorry Route Review: The Lorry Count was held on 15 November and was

unfortunately affected by roadworks on the A1066. However, it has produced some helpful information about the type of traffic on the B1113, noting that the percentage of lorries driving straight through the village from the direction of Botesdale directly to the A1066 at South Lopham is 31%. The percentage of lorries using the village as a 'rat run' from the direction of South Lopham is 36%. An additional late-night count revealed 2-3 lorries going through post-midnight and 7-9 lorries going through the village from 4:30am-8am. This information has been added to the response to the Suffolk County Council review. The next step for the local campaign is to investigate damage to Listed Buildings on The Street. The PC thanks the volunteers who participated in the Lorry Count and particularly thanks Mike Hall for all his work leading the campaign.

Old School Playing Field: The group formed to review the future use of the field had presented two preferred options – a broadleaf woodland or a community orchard – at the November PC meeting. Since the last meeting, they had met the Sicon Foundation who had agreed in principle to supply and plant trees free of cost on the site in Autumn 2022. Sicon had advised that some preparatory work was needed, and advice would be taken on how to achieve this. The group would also be asking for village volunteers to get involved during the planting. More work had been done to establish the boundaries of the site and it was agreed to delineate this through hedging this year if possible. (Since the meeting work to plant hedging to delineate the area of the field has been completed). MSDC had advised that the site was within a Special Landscape Area and they would consult with their Tree Officer about the work. Finally, there were plans to meet Suffolk Wildlife Trust on site for further advice, and this was successfully completed on 5 Jan 22. Further work is now planned to define the planting plan for the area.

Old Allotments: The Sicon Foundation had also visited this site and provisionally said yes to providing trees. The boundaries needed to be set out, possibly with hedging, as it was in the middle of another field.

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON

WEDNESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

at 7.30 pm

Redgrave Amenities Centre

All Parishioners are cordially invited to attend

**Your Clerk is: Mrs Leeann Jackson-Eve,
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Rickinghall :	Rectory Hill	10.40 – 10.55
Rickinghall :	Hinderclay Road	11.00 – 11.15
Rickinghall :	Village Hall	11.20 – 11.35
Botesdale :	Farnish House	11.40 – 11.55

Botesdale :	Village Hall	12.00 – 12.15
Botesdale :	Backhills	12.20 – 12.35
Redgrave :	The Knoll	12.45 – 1.05

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Rickinghall Parish Council



Parish Council Report December 2021 by Cllr Sally Smith

The final Parish Council meeting of 2021 was held on 2 December with apologies from Cllr Stephen Pattenden.

The Public Forum was attended by Martin Last and Ben Ray from Last and Ticker, architects for the Greenacres residential site. A very constructive conversation was held discussing a number of points from the latest planning application including ensuring all properties are sustainable, the possible provision of a play area, an increase to the initial density of the hedging provided and the treatment of the footpath bordering the site and the rear gardens of houses in Ryders Way. In addition, they confirmed a construction management schedule would be in place to ensure loading and unloading of materials and construction traffic would be managed correctly and interference to existing residents on Garden House Lane would be kept to a minimum. It was agreed the architects would discuss with their client and we received a positive response to the various points the following week.

Cllr Jessica Fleming was also in attendance and commented that the Public Rights of Way team were also concerned that the treatment of the footpath should be considered carefully in order to ensure plenty of light and air accessed the path.

Planning Applications: There was no objection to an application to reduce the height of 2 trees at 7 St George's Drive.

General:

- It was agreed that hedge cutting at Wherry Land would take place twice a year (at the correct time to avoid nesting birds) rather than just once as this would ultimately be cheaper and easier to carry out.
- The street lighting replacement programme is likely to start March 2022.
- Extended street lighting hours over the Christmas and New Year period was agreed.
- A funding request from the Allotments Committee had been received and it was agreed that £860 would be contributed towards wood preserver for the shed, 4,000 litre rain water collection and storage, and acquisition of a battery powered hedge cutter and strimmer.
- The street speeding signs are currently being fixed as they had altered themselves to km/hour rather than miles/hour and hence a few confused messages were being given out!

Parish Council Report January 2022 by Cllr Geoff Short

Our January meeting brought two rows of public into the hall, a sure sign there was something important on the agenda. This was the proposal to construct a "photovoltaic solar array, battery storage and ancillary infrastructure" on land to the south of Suggenhall Farm, Church Lane. This is 12 hectares, that partly abuts the Sunnyside Farm shop. The Chairman told the meeting that in the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, and government targets for energy provision mean that more and more schemes of this type will be approved. There is currently a very large scheme of 74 hectares being looked at in Parham, and one closer to home in Palgrave.

Various members of the public spoke with their concerns, particularly the proximity of the development to Sunnyside and residential properties to the north of the site. People expressed concerns about the effect on nature, and whilst this may be so in the short term, in the long term nature tends to intervene and adapt, with other species inhabiting the new environment.

The solar farm is a long-term installation, however, with the farmer leasing the land to the electricity company for forty years. Once

grassland is established, the land between the panels is grazed by sheep, and then it reverts back to agricultural. A survey of the land deemed it to be of moderate agricultural quality.

The councillors did not feel the project is quite in the right place as proposed. Whilst not wanting to say 'not in my back yard' and realising these projects will become more necessary, the impact on two premises in particular was not good. In addition, the land does not have any public footpaths across it, but it would impact on two walks in the Rickinghall and Botesdale walks leaflet prepared by the councils, and we felt that the social and economic benefits, as detailed in the Neighbourhood plan, were not sufficiently proven. We would therefore object to the proposal.

Other planning matters quickly resulted in 'no objection' to a chimney rebuild on a listed building, and two tree applications. On a District level, Cllr Fleming told us the Planning Inspector had rejected the housing strategy on the Joint Local Plan, where they thought there was too much emphasis on large sites adjacent to trunk roads, and they wanted more smaller developments in villages.

Moving on, we agreed to reinstate the dog bin in Garden House Lane and install a new one in Rectory Hill. We set a date for the Annual Parish Meeting of 7 April, and 23 April for our annual litter pick. Volunteers very welcome! The skate park refurbishment is still scheduled to start in March, and we agreed our budget for the next financial year, which will only result in a very small increase in our share of the Council Tax, about 11p per month for a Band D property.

Finally, thinking about the litter pick, I was sent a photo of the bottle bank bins at the Co-op in early January, with literally hundreds of bags and bottles strewn on the ground. The clerk arranged for it to be cleared but it is obvious that the bins will be full after Christmas and New Year, so delay taking your bottles down rather than dumping them on the ground. Alternatively, the Snape Hill site had room to spare, and is no longer an intimidating area after the old roadway was blocked. Proceeds from this go to the village hall, so please use the facility.

So, we hope 2022 will see the back of Covid regulations, and the Parish Council wishes you a Happy New Year. Places are still available if you would like to join us.

RICKINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING IS ON

THURSDAY 3rd FEBRUARY

at 7.00 pm

AT RICKINGHALL VILLAGE HALL

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Your Clerk is :

Mrs Leeann Jackson-Eve
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Village Green

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Village News

OIL SYNDICATE



The next Oil Syndicate Order will be the late winter/ spring one at the end of February.

Final order day will be the 26th of February. Deliveries should be complete by March 15, although this will be subject to weather conditions.

As always, e-mail is preferred:

botesdaleoil@gmail.com,

If e-mail is not available call me on: 01379 890952.

Leave a message if nobody answers.

I will return all messages within 48 hours, if I haven't done so try again or use a different method.

The following purchase will be the Summer one at the end of July. David Sloan

A matter for concern

Some local residents have approached the Parish Magazine to express their concern that reportedly plans are in the pipeline to put large numbers of solar panels on farmland around Finningham Road and West Street areas. Not only would this be a criminal waste of farmland, the purpose of which is to provide food, but it would devalue nearby properties and damage local businesses. We want all residents to be aware of this so that they can make their views known to the relevant authorities.

Margaret Stebbings thanks all her kind friends for their Christmas cards and presents.

God bless you all

Thank you

I would like to thank the residents of Redgrave and surrounding villages who visited Thelnetham windmill during 2021 and for their positive feedback about the total visitor experience —including the cream teas!!

Why not visit this year, if covid restrictions allow, and have a guided tour of the windmill, see the restored Ruston Hornsby engine operate and watch the video of the actual restoration of the mill OR just come along and enjoy freshly made scones with cream and jam and sit and watch the sails turn which is very therapeutic.

For the 2022 opening dates visit www.thelnethamwindmill.org.uk and I look forward to seeing you there.

This will be the one and only acknowledgement!

Both I and my family would like to thank everyone who sent messages, cards and visited after the sad loss of Mervyn, after an emergency operation.

I/We would also like to thank everyone who attended the funeral on December 17th.

If you would still like to donate to the British Heart Foundation or Macmillan Cancer research, both close to Mervyn's heart please, contact Susan Whymark Funeral Services.

Wishing you all a happy New Year and God Bless.
Pat Cater and family.

Notes from the Redgrave Tree Group

We have recently formed a small group of locals keen to improve the natural beauty and diversity of the village, in particular by planting native tree species in unused or fallow areas of land. The possibility of planting up the Old School Playing Field in Redgrave to create a Jubilee Wood for the use of village residents is a project we have in mind. Another possibility is the Old Allotments site outside the village off Fen Street.

We are looking for other sites that could also benefit from a tree planting project or hedge restoration work. If you have land or hedgerows that would benefit from tree planting then we would be pleased to hear from you. In addition, if you are interested in volunteering your services to help with these important projects then we would also like to hear from you.

If you have any young or seedling trees (oak, beech, hawthorn, hornbeam, poplar and willow in particular) to donate to the cause we would be most grateful.

Finally, we intend to go on to look at the creation of important habitats for wildlife more generally; for example, small pockets of land might be really valuable as scrub or wild flower meadow. In addition, many of the ponds around the village are either dry or in a woeful state and we might consider a pond restoration scheme to improve these. If you have such pockets of land or ponds that you would like us to consider, please get in touch.

Please contact Andy Warnes (by email awarnes@btinternet.com) or by phone on 07478 337331) for more details.

Club News



The Festival of Britain 1951 - Geoffrey Kay

The speaker at the November Heritage Circle meeting was Geoffrey Kay, his Talk entitled 'The Festival of Britain'.

The festival was the idea of newspaper editor Gerald Barry, who wrote to Stafford Cripps with his idea, suggesting it would be a good thing. Britain was on its knees after the war with the need to re-build industry and provide housing. The Festival was intended to start Britain thinking about the future, with the slogan "Britain can make it," to get British industry going again.

Herbert Morrison for the Labour Party thought it a good idea and "a tonic for the nation" but Churchill was against it. However, work started in the autumn of 1950 with Lord Ismay heading the project with architect Hugh Casson.

The Festival was opened by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in spring 1951, and was hugely popular with the public.

The architecture was sensational, and unlike anything ever seen before. The Dome of Discovery was one of the highlights, together with the Skylon, which was a sphere which appeared to hover and be lit from the inside. There were also large coloured spheres on poles on the buildings. The Festival Hall was also a large feature of the Festival, and is the only remaining building of the Festival.

The Festival was a great success, with thousands flocking to it from all over the country. Smaller festivals were held in towns and cities all over the country, and maybe it did help to lift the spirit of the country after the war?

The next meeting of the Heritage Circle will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23 February when Geoffrey Robinson will be speaking about the Worlingworth Feast Painting which commemorated the Golden Jubilee of George III. New members and visitors are very welcome. Further information is available at www.heritagecircle.onsuffolk.net

Angela Bigley

Coffee On



The Corner

How great to see so many familiar faces this morning! Whilst there are still many folks who have yet to return to Coffee on the Corner, the January coffee shop was the first time we have been busy all morning. Judging by the fact that some of those who come stay for most of the time we are open, we

can only assume they are enjoying the experience! All the sausage rolls, all the cheese scones and a fair few pieces of cake disappeared too ... so if you wish to come next time and are partial to a sausage roll or a cheese scone, you may need to come fairly promptly!

To update you, we supported Crisis at Christmas in December and the sum of £62.36 was kindly donated by our visitors and that was sent to the charity for their use. I am quite sure that the money was appreciated and that the recipients will be grateful for what was on offer. Whilst we ourselves may not be able to run these amazing charities, they are always in need of funds and that is where I am so grateful to our kind visitors - your money really does make a difference. Although the children from St Botolph's School were not able to join us, we were entertained by a delightful group of very young children from Orchard Childcare - they may not have sung quite so loudly as the primary school children, but their efforts were really appreciated ... and I noticed quite a few of our visitors smiling and singing along. How fortunate we are to be able to meet up again and enjoy such important moments - thanks to Lisa, Laura and all the children!

Our January coffee shop, better attended, raised the sum of £117.70 and this will be given to Centrepont, a charity based initially in London, but now in other places across the country, who help people off the streets and supports their return to a better, safer life.

As my posters for the January coffee shop asked "Have you visited us yet?" If the answer is No, then do please come along to our next opening, which will be on **Tuesday 8th February**, when we shall be supporting another very worthwhile charity with the donations that our visitors kindly make. **Why not come along?** If you are unsure, or have any questions, PLEASE don't hesitate to call and ask me .. details below. I look forward to making the acquaintance of more of our local residents - we run this coffee shop for you - so do come along and enjoy the company and refreshments!

Wishing you all the very best,

Sue Allen

If you feel you would like to know more about our coffee shop or any of the happenings at Parkview Chapel, or you want help with shopping or prescriptions, do please call me on 01379 890423.

BOTESDALE HEALTH CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) COVID CLINICS

The PPG has been asked to inform Health Centre Patients that very small Covid Vaccination Clinics will continue to run throughout February & March 2022. However PPG volunteers will not be required to assist at these Clinics as numbers of Patients attending are expected to be low.

Should you be interested in joining the group of volunteers who assist the Health Centre at varying times please let us know by calling 07787 148947 or emailing botesdaleppg@gmail.com. You will be very welcome.

BOTESDALE HEALTH CENTRE EXTERNAL NOTICEBOARD

A new external notice board adjacent the Health Centre entrance has been funded by the PPG to help with the communication of Health Centre and wider health matters.

HEALTH WALKS

The PPG in conjunction with our Social Prescriber Jo Burnett plus the Charity, Community Action, are to commence a regular Health Walk local to Botesdale and surrounding area.

The Walks will be around 1/2 to 3/4 of an hour and are for people trying to build a healthier lifestyle or assist their recovery from recent illness.

The Walks will finish with a tea/coffee.

Please contact the PPG on 07787 148947 if you require further information regarding the Walks or if you would like to assist as a volunteer. There is a list of dates for walks on the Botesdale Health Centre External Noticeboard.

SELF REFERRAL

At this time when it is more difficult to get appointments for some conditions, please ensure that everyone you speak with who is a Patient at Botesdale Health Centre is made aware that as a patient of Botesdale Practice you can self-refer to Allied Health Professionals - Physiotherapists for muscular skeletal issues i.e. back pain.

This service is free to Patients and does not require a GP referral.

Phone 0330 433966 or if you have access to a computer email centraladmin@nhs.net They are based at Hartismere Hospital Eye. Their response to queries is very efficient.

PPG

The Botesdale Patient Participation Group (PPG) brief is to - 'Make stronger the relationship between patients and their

practices, which is critical to the provision of modern, high quality general practice'

If you would like to join our Committee (all age groups are very welcome) or find out more about Botesdale PPG, please contact:

Botesdale PPG at botesdaleppg@gmail.com or Janet Russell Mobile 07787 148947



Rickingham Farmers Market farewells

The last Farmers Market of 2021 was the final one for Geoffrey Mayhew of Sunnyside Farm, Finningham Road, Rickingham, who has run the fruit and vegetable stall at the Market ever since it started back in October 2000.

Those 21 years have seen a lot of changes at the Market and in the villages, but Geoffrey has always represented exactly what a Farmers Market is all about. He is a proper farmer, and properly local, so really has always represented local food sold direct to the consumer by the grower or producer. He will continue working at his Sunnyside Farm and Shop.

To mark his years at the Market, Geoffrey was presented with a specially engraved clock by Market Manager Bob Clark, for whom this was a last Market too. He was standing down from this role as well as from that of Village Hall Chairman, albeit after a more modest 13 years!

Times of change, but with the Market back in February, John Foulger as the new Market Manager, and no doubt some new stalls to complement those regulars already offering the best of local quality and taste, the Market's future looks bright, hopefully for the next 21 years at least...





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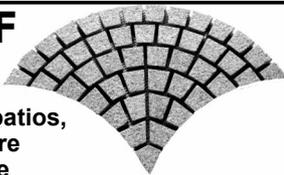
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Club News

Community Woodland

Another year - and this one will be celebrating our Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a unique event. The Woodland Trust proposed some time ago that people plant trees right across the country, in particular from the coast of Lancashire to the coast of Yorkshire, in her honour; that will not be the only part of the UK where native tree planting is in people's minds and the WT has nurseries full of whips for the purpose.

Indeed, there have already been some initiatives to plant new woods in our parishes.

John Preston, tree warden for Redgrave, organised the planting of a new wood on Fen Road, and of course we have our own Northfield Wood on Mill Lane, Ricknghall, which now has about 300 trees, most of which are native trees and include Waveney valley fruit trees for the benefit of local residents.

More recently, Ann Topham arranged with David Appleton, Wortham tree warden, for 900 whips to be planted in Redgrave Park, which will in due course provide a wonderful habitat for wildlife. The Park already had magnificent old trees but some had died or been felled and the new planting will do more than just replace them.

A new hedge was planted there a few years ago, which reminds me that hedges are good habitats too. Our parishes do have some lovely old hedges (they were surveyed in detail a few years ago) but some have been grubbed up and this makes it difficult for wildlife to move safely and to find new habitats and fresh blood. So, landowners, please consider planting hedges if there are gaps on your land. We know some volunteers who might help! In Northfield Wood, which is a much smaller site of course, we have a number of trees and the first to be planted are a respectable size now. They are almost all native trees; a few are gifts and others may be self-sown. They include nine apple trees of varieties grown in the Waveney valley for years but now rather scarce; these were a gift from Paul Read of Thrandeston, who is an expert on apples.

The funding that we applied for regarding Miller's Orchard has come through, which is very helpful; we can go forward with the safety measures planned.

The next work party will be on Sunday 6th

February, in Northfield Wood, typically from 10.30am to 12.30 but it's worth checking, just in case something else requires attention.

Rosemary Jones,
Botesdale and Rickingham Community Woodland
7th January 2022
01379 890238



December saw our W.I. ladies getting in the festive spirit. We could hold our Christmas party again and everyone was determined to have a good time. We had a 'bring a plate' buffet, 2 fun quizzes by our excellent quiz-mistress Jean Wright – we now know there are 364 gifts in the 12 Days of Christmas! A Guess the Baby Competition, with the teams of 4 trying to guess who was who, some proving easier than others. We had a secret santa Christmas bauble, with each member taking home a wrapped bauble, and finished the evening off with some Christmas songs, including the 12 Days of Christmas, with Lesley Farrer conducting everyone – see picture below.



We also had a Christmas lunch at the Cross Keys in Redgrave which was a jolly occasion with much fun, laughter and plenty of eating.

The Cross Keys excelled themselves with their festive food and excellent service, so again a great time was had by everyone who came – see picture below.

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Exploring the Past

Jean Sheehan, 01379 890237

Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

This year the Queen is celebrating her platinum jubilee following the death of her father King George VI who died on 6th February 1952 and I can clearly remember the day. I was at school in South London and the whole school was assembled in the hall to hear the head mistress announce the King had died and now Princess Elizabeth was Queen.

The Queen was told that her father had died, by her husband, Prince Philip, as they were staying at Tree Tops on a royal tour of Kenya which she was making in place of her father as he was not fit enough to travel himself. Her majesty is now the longest reigning monarch in the world.

The coronation was held the following year on 2nd June 1953. Many of the population did not have a television, including my parents and grandparents. My grandmother's 9 children bought her a television so that she could watch the coronation. There was a boom in the sale of televisions as everyone wanted to see the coronation. This was the first time a coronation service had been filmed from inside Westminster Abbey. My brother and I were excited as we lived in walking distance of my grandparents' house and we had been invited to watch the coronation. Unfortunately, my grandmother died a few days before the coronation and my aunt moved into the house to look after my grandfather. In those days it was customary to keep the body of the deceased person in the coffin in the house and the curtains were kept drawn until the funeral. My aunts also decided it was not right to watch television until after the funeral. At the last minute we were allowed to watch the coronation.

Each street in London organised its own coronation tea and my street was also having a fancy dress parade and I was going as Britannia. Unfortunately, it rained in London on Coronation day but we had the tea in a local school instead. We were given coronation gifts from school and at the party and I still have a commemoration cup, saucer and plate, book and an empty toffee tin which I received. The tin has a well-known picture of the young queen astride a horse at the trooping of the colour.

A week or two after the coronation the Queen drove around London on set days. The whole of my school stood outside to watch her go by. At a later date the whole school went to the cinema at the Elephant and Castle to watch the film of the coronation. On the same day we also saw a film of Edmund Hilary climbing Mount Everest as the summit had been reached on the 29th May for the first time.

Queen Elizabeth II visited the school personally in 2003 when it celebrated its centenary. The girls' school was opened on 14th March 1903 by the Prince and Princess of Wales, who later became King George V and Queen Mary. The original school, St Saviours, had been given a charter in 1562 by Queen Elizabeth I, who also gave a charter to St Olaves in 1571. Both were schools for boys only and the two schools eventually merged and became St Olaves and St Saviours Grammar School for Boys. The Girls' school was named St Saviours and St Olaves Grammar School for Girls. Each year the girls walked to Southwark Cathedral, formerly St Saviours church, for an anniversary service. I think there were about 500 girls at the school by this time. We never met up with the boys' school.

(Sorry to deviate from local history but these are my recollections of life at the time of the coronation and my school when life was so different to life nowadays).

By the time of the Silver Jubilee in 1977 I had moved to Redgrave. The Community Council organised various competitions and a tea for the village but once again it was raining and about 200 people enjoyed the events in the village school.

Botesdale, Rickinghall and Hinderclay celebrated together and organised a four-day event including a

procession of floats through Botesdale and Rickinghall and a competition for the best decorated house. (1)

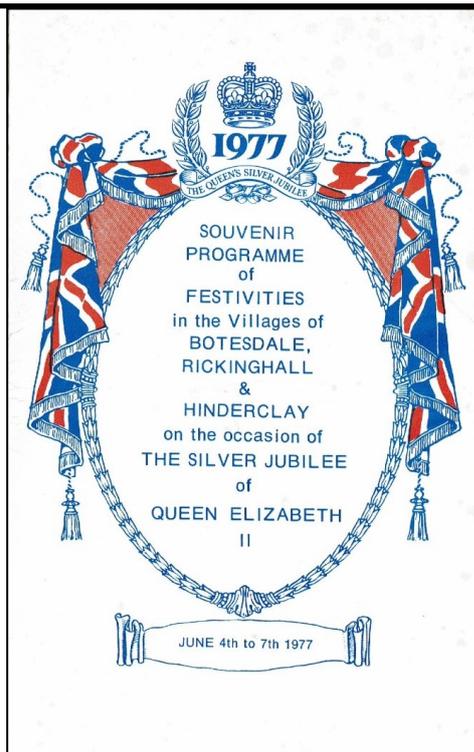
The weather was fine for the Golden Jubilee when over 50 Redgrave children sat down for a tea party on The Knoll, following races, fancy dress parade and a family village treasure hunt. More than 100 adults had tea in the Mission Room and had a barbeque in the evening on The Knoll. A local group played at the Cross Keys during the early evening followed by a disco and fireworks.

Rickinghall Church had a fete at Rickinghall Village Hall and Playing Field on Saturday and Rabbats organised a Golden Jubilee Fun Day at the same place on Monday which included a bouncy castle, disco and treasure hunt amongst other things.

The diamond Jubilee was another rainy day in London. I went to watch the flotilla of boats sailing down the Thames, and although I had a good position at the front on Blackfriars Bridge, I was soaked by the time the Queen sailed through.

Redgrave had a Fun in the Park Afternoon for the children at the Amenities Park and then retired to the Cross Keys for a tea party and fun dog show. This was followed in the evening with a disco and karaoke. Rickinghall and Botesdale celebrated together at Rickinghall Village Hall and playing field. At least seven hundred people attended and, despite the rain in the morning, the day brightened up. Residents brought classic cars and there were games, races and stalls, and displays of memorabilia and photographs. A DVD of the coronation was continually shown throughout the day. Cakes were provided by the WI. Jordan Newport and Sarah Raynham made a beautiful three-tiered cake in the shape of a crown and The Bell provided hot food. A team from Rickinghall Parish Council organised the event.

(1) See photos in Portraits of Village Life published by Quatrefoil.





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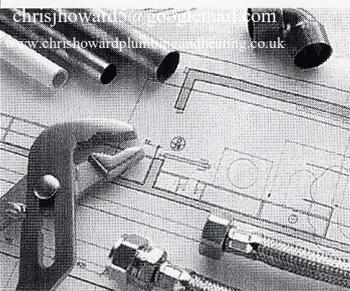
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Memories of Schooldays in Rickingham continued.

Here are two more memories of Rickingham School sent to Mrs Margaret Chapman after a request was put in the local Newspapers in 1988.

Memories from Margaret Brown

Dear Mrs Chapman,

I attended Rickingham School between 1946 - 1956. In those days you attended between the ages of 5 – 15. There were 4 classes, the infant teacher being Mrs Phillips, then Mrs Stuart, Mr Compton and the headmaster Mr Reynolds who lived in School House (now playschool.) Mr Compton still lives in Rickingham.

We did similar lessons to which you do now, except that Maths was known as Arithmetic and we had to recite our tables daily. Each morning after registration we had Assembly when we sang hymns, had prayers and a reading was given by an older pupil. On Ascension day, after registration, we all went to a Service in Rickingham Church after which the rest of the day was a holiday. I don't think this is done now.

At age 11 we took an important examination called 'the eleven plus' which, if you passed, meant you transferred to a Grammar School, either in Bury or Eye depending on which part of the village you lived in.

In my time there were no School Buses; most children walked or cycled to school. (there was a cycle shed at school then). Older children usually accompanied the younger children to school.

We had very nice School Dinners, Mince, Fish, Chocolate Crunch, Stew, Cauliflower Cheese, Semolina, Rice etc. and the older girls helped the cooks serve and clear away the meal. We also had a small bottle of milk provided each morning and the older boys would help bring in the milk crates.

On Tuesday after registration 4 of the senior girls would leave school and walk to 'Stanwell House', then the home of Miss Carpenter. (This is now the Signwriters, next to Smiths Electrical Shop) for a day of cookery instruction and household duties. Under Miss Carpenter's thorough instruction we would learn cookery, and had to prepare and serve the midday meal in her Dining Room, we also cleaned the house, made beds properly, etc. Each term four different girls did this. Miss Carpenter is still alive and lives at Albert Close, Rickingham.

The older boys also spent some time each week working in the School Gardens, which were near Rickingham Post Office.

We played netball, skool-ball, hockey and the boys played football. We played matches against other local schools. At playtimes we played with skipping ropes, balls and marbles.

In Summer, in the dinner-time playtime, a Mr Marshall from the corner shop would call at the school on his trade- bike and from this we would buy ice-creams and ice-lollies.

We had very few outings but we did have a nice party at Christmas.

My husband also went to Rickingham School in the 1930's -1940's. In his days they were joined by evacuees from London.

My father and his ten brothers and sisters went to Rickingham School in the early 1900's and my own two children have also been pupils in later years, so there is quite a family connection.

Margaret Brown (née Cotton).

The following letter wasn't signed. It appears it was about being at the school in the 1920s. If anyone knows who wrote it please contact me.

Dear Children

Your teacher Mrs Chapman has asked me to relate some of my School day capers to help you to write your essays.

When I went to school there were about 190 to over 200 children attending School. There were no school meals. The children who attended from West Street and Allwood Green would arrive at school soaked through when it

rained. The Master Mr Palmer used to bring dry clothes belonging to his son and daughter for them to wear until their clothes were dried around the fire.



School playing fields in the 1950s. (Thanks to Tony Miller)

We had no playing field to play on, only the playground - one for girls and one for boys. We were not allowed in each other's playground - if caught, we were punished. The School was very cold and not very clean.

We all had to work very hard. The work we did was reading, writing, drawing, composition, arithmetic. The rules were very strict; no talking or turning around. If caught, we were punished. We worked in complete silence. We had 15 minutes play morning and afternoon with longer play on Fridays.

There was a Belfry on the roof of the school and a bell which was rung mornings and afternoons. One boy was instructed to ring it for a week at 5 minutes to 9 till 9 o'clock and again at 1pm when we were expected to be in the Play ground when it stopped. We were afraid to be late.

Just after the first World War aeroplanes were driven by propellers and were small and slow and many were lost and landed in fields around the village. Some managed to take off again but others were stuck in the mud or in hedges and ditches and we were very pleased if this happened as a RAF lorry would come to school and ask the master for 12 or more big boys and we would go and help to pull them out. We were very pleased if it took a long time to pull out so we did not go back to school for a long time.

We had very good and fair teachers and very many children obtained good jobs as Teachers and Policemen. All my sisters obtained good jobs. The elder ones worked for the Royal Family as House Keepers.

We had a good sports team. We had to march up to Barley Birch at Botesdale where there was a cricket and football pitch. Our master was very pleased with us when we won.

We had very good concerts and parties at Xmas time with a big Xmas tree and every child was given a present and oranges. We were all very frightened once when Mr Potter was giving presents from the tree which was decorated with candles and lanterns when his Father Xmas robe caught alight, he was burned but not much and continued to give out the gifts.

The girls used to wear white pinafores and us boys had hard collars and great big hobnailed boots.

The children who brought their lunches with them used to put them in a big trunk on the porch. One day some bad person stole most of them so the master's wife had to give them some food. After that the box was kept in the school for safety.

We learned good manners, the boys expected to touch their hats to the ladies of the village. The Rector would come to school twice a week and we would have to stand up instantly when he came in the school.

Things are very much better in Schools today, they are clean and warm and much shorter hours. I was allowed to leave school when I was 13 as I had reached the top class.

With many thanks to Mrs Margaret Chapman for lending Quatrefoil these letters to transcribe for our records.

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I welcome feedback, do get in touch. Nyall Davies 01379 897 067

I recently unpacked what is probably the best known verse of the Bible amongst Christians and that was, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." That comes from John's Gospel. It talks about Jesus and the need to believe in him. There is another very well-known verse which puts it somewhat differently. That is, "By grace you have been saved through faith ... it is the gift of God." That was written by Paul.

Instead of speaking of perishing and eternal life it uses the word saved which automatically begs the question, 'Saved from what?' The answer from the previous verse would, of course be 'perishing.'

We have not always pleased God and, with the result that we are excluded from his presence. Arriving at the gates of heaven would be like arriving on the doorstep of your recently cleaned house with very muddy boots on. It's 'You can't come in here like that.' Heaven is free from any guilt and wrong doing. If you are carrying that it's 'You can't come in here like that', you are left outside to perish.

You can be saved from that. It is a gift of God. That makes it very easy. Like any true gift you only have to accept.

We often have qualifications for giving a gift. Many of us will have recently sent a Christmas card that was only sent because we received one. We give gifts to people who give gifts to us. These are not true gifts. The recipient has paid a price. God's gift is a true one and to emphasize the point our text tells us that we are saved by grace. That means that it is free and we don't deserve it.

I remember someone complaining that he had bought a car and the transaction was completed on a Saturday morning quite early and the DVLA informed of the change of ownership. With no more ado the man drove back home, just a couple of miles.

Unfortunately he passed a camera and soon after received a fine for driving with no tax. The reply to his complaint was, 'There is no grace.'

We are meant to live good lives. We fail. If we were dealing with the tax authorities there would be no grace. With God there is grace in abundance. It comes as a gift and only has to be accepted. We are saved by grace through faith.

If on being offered a gift we say, "I don't believe it. I'm not having that," we have rejected the gift. In the same way if we say, "I don't believe this stuff about Jesus. I don't believe in a God that offers a forgiveness or I don't believe I need someone to pay my entrance fee," we are putting our own conditions on what gift we will accept and it isn't the one being offered.

Belief or faith is our bit. It is the way of acceptance.

The two verses say the same thing in different ways. One says, "Believe and receive eternal life and you won't perish." The other says, "You can be saved, it comes as a free gift, in faith accept it."

*"We are made right by his grace as a gift,
through the redemption that is in Christ
Jesus."*

Romans Ch 3 v.24



Conservation & Community

*'I know him, February's thrush,
And loud at eve he valentines
on sprays that paw the naked bush
Where soon will sprout the thorns and bines.*

George Meredith (1828-1909)

While February may still feel like the depths of winter there should be some signs of the stirrings of Spring.

Song thrushes will be starting to sing and many species of birds will start pairing up and prospecting for nest sites. Redcaps may appear at your feeders and, if you're lucky (as we were last year), you may also spot bramblings feeding. Flocks of siskins may still be around and woodpeckers will have started drumming. Hazel catkins and pussy willow will start to appear and, if we're fortunate enough to have a warm day, you might be lucky enough to spot the first butterfly. If you have a pond keep an eye out for the first of the frogspawn. We will be checking the ponds and scrapes on the LOHP sites.

In December, we took the sad decision to move our AGM on line due to the Omicron surge, and can't wait to host a face to face one again this year. However, our winter walk DID take place, and a merry band of twenty five or so enjoyed a sunny ramble over some of the sites, ably led by Dr Rowena Langston.

The eagle eyed among you may have noticed that our logo is a special one, commemorating our 20th year! From humble beginnings we now look after over 190 acres in conservation spreading over 4 parishes. There's lots of work needed to keep these wonderful areas in good condition, so if you fancy doing a bit of volunteering we hold work parties every Wednesday and Thursday and on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

See our website for details: www.lohp.org.uk

There is often CAKE!!!! We also hope to run more events throughout the year to celebrate our 20th birthday, so keep an eye on the website and social media for details.

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Until the end of January at least the club is on hold: the present Covid situation being the main reason as all members and helpers are in the vulnerable age bracket. We do not wish to close for good as for some of our members it is the only opportunity they have to get out and socialise.

Our regular volunteers are much appreciated and are willing to prepare vegetables, serve refreshments, lunches, wash up and help with activities such as raffles and quizzes. We do, however, need one or two people on the catering side, maybe on a rota system once or twice a month, cooking the main and dessert course for up to 20 people.



We will gladly help anyone interested to gain their food safety certificate which, we gather, can be achieved on line.

We are also hoping someone would be willing to help with the organisation and administration side of running the club.

If anyone feels they can help to support this vital service please contact Caroline Panter (01379 890994). Thank you.

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Mid Suffolk

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A lot of people will be asking themselves this question right now. The good news is there are lots of things you can do to be more in control of your money and better prepared for the future.

Firstly, find out exactly what money you have coming in and going out each month. Be realistic about what you need for essentials like food and travel. Then you can set yourself a budget that you can stick to - take a look at the budgeting tool on the National Citizens Advice website to help you do this. This can be found at citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting.

If any of your bills do go up in the coming year, you can go back to our budgeting tool anytime to create a new plan and stay in control. The website also has tips on how to reduce your regular living costs which may be helpful if you find you have more money going out than coming in at any point.

If you've been using credit cards, your overdraft or store cards for your spending, it's understandable if these debts are causing you worry. It's important to prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax. Not paying these has the most serious consequences.

If you need further support on this, our advisors can explain which bills you need to prioritise and the support available for paying these and other bills. We can also make sure you're getting all the income you're entitled to, such as benefits or government grants.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this or any other issue, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. For more information and our opening hours go to midsuffolkcab.org.uk.



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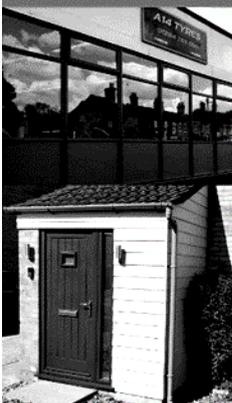
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SCAM ALERTS

*Attempts to defraud us via phone, emails etc. continue to flourish and here are some of the latest notified to Trading Standards. As always, **FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED!***

Lottery prize winner

Be cautious of text messages and phone calls claiming you have won a lottery prize where the caller requests an advance 'fee' in order to transfer your winnings.

You are usually asked to pay these advance fees by purchasing gift cards and relaying their individual codes to the caller. In some reported instances, victims have been asked for personal and financial information including their bank details in order to obtain their 'winnings'.

In reality, this information has then be used by the fraudsters to steal their victims' money.

NEVER PAY FEES OR FINES USING GIFT CARDS OR VOUCHERS. LEGITIMATE ORGANISATIONS NEVER ASK YOU TO DO THIS.

The National Lottery offers advice on how to avoid lottery scams.

(<https://www.national-lottery.co.uk/Security>)

Money Transfers

Trading Standards have reported a number of local residents have received telephone calls that claim several hundred pounds has just been removed from their bank account.

The message then gives press button options, or a number to urgently call to 'prevent further transactions'

If you receive a similar recorded message, You are being targetted by fraudsters. Do not interact with the caller and **HANG UP.**

If you have any doubts about the security of your bank account or credit, card, contact you bank or credit card company using the Customer Service number printed on your bank /credit card or recent statement. **Do not use details provided by the caller.**

If you receive what you think is a fake message, forward the text message, including the phone number and company name to **7726** All phone operators now use this number as the short code to report spam texts. This service is free of charge and means your phone provider can investigate the sender of the spam calls.

Fake NHS Covid pass

E mail Messages are currently circulating claiming to be from the NHS stating you are eligible for a Covid Pass proving you have been vaccinated against Covid -19. To apply please click the link below.

If you do click the link you will be taken to a fake version of the NHS website which will request personal information and financial details for you to obtain your Covid Pass. This is a scam designed to harvest your financial information.

The NHS will never ask for your bank details. Never ask for payment for Covid vaccines. THE VACCINES ARE FREE. Or ask for payment for Covid Testing, these can be requested free by dialling 119.

Loft Insulation 'surveyors'

Trading Standards are warning residents to be aware of a spate of telephone cold calls regarding loft insulation with a range of claims including that 'old loft insulation' is likely to be causing condensation and mould and insulation surveyors are going to be in your area and will be calling to inspect your current loft insulation. Also government grants may be available to upgrade your insulation. Their sole object is to gain access to your property and obtain confidential financial details so as to defraud you.

Remember you can report suspected scams to the Citizens Advice Consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 or to Action Fraud, the UK National Fraud Office on 0300 123 2040

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ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE IN 2022? WE NEED VOLUNTEERS ACROSS MID & WEST SUFFOLK

At Home-Start Mid & West Suffolk we offer families support through home visiting, family groups and specialist support groups. Our services and projects are dedicated to making a positive difference to the lives of children, and we simply couldn't do this without our fantastic volunteers.

HOME VISITING VOLUNTEERS all have parenting experience themselves, visit our families weekly at home and provide invaluable, non-judgemental support and advice. Our next training course takes place on Tuesdays over 7 consecutive weeks (excluding half term) from 10am to 2pm. Our next course will be starting on **1st February 2022** at the **New Bury Community Centre**.

GROUP VOLUNTEERS assist our coordinators with running our wide range of family play groups throughout Mid & West Suffolk. Parental experience is not necessary. Our next half-day online (Zoom) course will be held on **Tuesday March 1st, 9.30 to 11.30am**, followed by a safeguarding group session on **Tuesday 15th March, 10am to 2pm** at **New Bury Community Centre in Bury St. Edmunds**. If you aren't able to make the face to face safeguarding session, alternative arrangements can be made.

If you would like to find out how to become one of our valued volunteers, please contact **Alison on 07936 913929** for an informal chat, or email alison@homestartmidsuffolk.org.uk.

You can also follow Home-Start Mid & West Suffolk on Facebook or have a look at our website www.homestartmidwestsuffolk.org.uk.

Hexachordia Concert

The audience were delighted by the cheerful playing of Hexachordia in the candlelit Rickinghall Inferior Church at the end of November after a busy morning at the Advent Coffee Morning in the church. The trio played 16th and 17th century music on authentic copies of early instruments and sang beautifully including some well-known carols, punctuated with narrative. Some of the instruments were decorated with lights for certain numbers. This was a lovely relaxing hour for the start of the Christmas season.

Thank you to all the people who attended the concert. A profit of £90 was raised for the church fabric fund with an extra donation of £10.

If you missed the concert entitled 'In The Fields in Frost and Snow' it is possible to buy a CD or a licence to play the music in your own home. See www.hexachordia.com/virtualHEX.html.

Notes from another world: old Rickinghall Village Hall Committee Minutes

1953

There was difficulty in obtaining sufficient coke for the heating of the Village Hall, which was in reality a reclaimed Nissen hut, with a poorly designed heating system and many draughts.

Lots of sub-committees though – a Housekeeping sub-committee, a Cinema sub-committee, Sports sub-committees, and even a Coronation sub-committee!

The Village Hall 'cinema' was very important as a source of entertainment, since very few people had a television. Following the Queen's Coronation on 2nd June, a film of the event was shown on the 19th – hot off the press! There was also a special Friday night showing of the Conquest of Everest.

1954

February: there were two showings of popular films on a Saturday evening, on a trial basis, at 5.30pm and 8.15pm. No bargain nine old pence (3.75p!) seats were available for children at the later showing unless they were accompanied by their parents or guardians.

The Summer Fete was very much a local agriculture-based event for all the village. A highlight was 'Bowling for the Pig', with an actual pig donated by a local farmer. There was a Drawing Match with tractors and teams of horses loaned by local farmers, 'Kill the Rat', and 'Tossing the Bale', as well as regular fete events including a Treasure Hunt, Roll the Penny, and a drawing competition for children. Sounds like fun!

1955

April saw the first discussions as to whether the Nissen hut should be replaced with a new Hall..... but it was 1965 before this was completed, opening on 28th April 1965.

1965

The new Hall did not have an auspicious start. A fete was held on 31st July to raise funds, the Hall being barely solvent. Another pig was bowled for, there was a Baby Show and a Flower Show, and the whole day made a profit of £103.

It was decided at the November AGM that hire charges should go to five shillings per hour (25p), but at the 1966 and 1967 AGMs there was real concern because the Hall 'had not been used very much', and of financial trouble since 'no-one seemed to want to use it'. Maybe the 25p was too expensive!

1968

The Rickinghall Inferior and Superior Parish Councils were approached for financial aid, and each contributed £10 – which was much appreciated since it paid the £20 annual insurance cost.

By 1970 evening classes and other new bookings saw an improving situation, and the bank balance increased to a heady £90 from a low of twenty pounds, eighteen shillings and nine pence back in August 1967. Things were looking up....

This is all so long ago, just history now, but these years are well within the memory of many people in the village. Hopefully these snippets will raise a smile with some, and be of interest to others too young to remember those very different times.

Bob Clark







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February Church Notices



Message From Mel

 @rbrchurch
 mel@rbrchurch.org.uk
 01379 452702



Hello everyone, x

What a strange season we are still living in with COVID and life. If you are anxious about it, we (as a church and community) are still here for you and would love to pray/chat with you if you like.

This month, we still have Breakfast Church and a new small youth cell for those who want join in... but with COVID still in our lives, please keep your ear to the ground as things may change. We as a church also proudly support RABAT's (the baby and toddler group in Rickinghall Village Hall). If you have a small one, you are always welcome to come along each Thursday morning in term time at 9:30. Until next month, lots of love to you and your family and stay safe. God Bless Mel x

Short Note to Mums

New Year, New Day. New Time... time (in my opinion) is the most precious thing in the life of a mummy. There is a constant demand for your time. Time for the washing, time for the cooking&cleaning, time for sorting out the day to day bills and household admin, time for work, time for sleep, time playing and doing stuff with the kids, time for friends and family, time for your partner, time for... etc. Time is costly. Time is short and we never know when it will end. Once time is spent, it can never be gained back. There will never be a time like this ever again when your children are the age they are.

What we spend our time on, reflects its importance in our lives.

As I look into the next year, I need to choose to step back and think about my time, and remember to stop and enjoy the time I am in. Choose to enjoy the late nights and making lunch boxes etc, because it wont come again and I will miss it in the future. But, I also need to stop and make sure that time for myself is at the top of the priority list. This time is important for me to feel like myself again, so that I can fully function as Mel. Time is in God's hands and if you take time for yourself, I believe God will help you create time for all the other things that you need to do. God is always there and he will help you to fit it all in. You are an incredible mum. You are important. You are worthy of time for yourself. You are precious. In 2022, take time for you.

Parkview Chapel Sunday Services and Events

All services will be at Parkview Chapel (unless noted otherwise), will include Communion, and be live-streamed on the 'Parkview Chapel' Youtube channel. Refreshments will be served from 10.30am.

Please call Kev Gladwell on 01379 898924 for more details or check out www.parkviewchapel.co.uk

Sunday 6 th	Service at 11.00am	
Sunday 13 th	Service at 11.00am	
Sunday 20 th	"Coffee on a Sunday" service at 11:00am	
Sunday 27 th	Service at 11.00am	
Events	Coffee on the Corner	Tuesday 8 th 9:00am
	PARKVIEW Youth Junior Church	Sundays 11:00am - 12:00pm
	Junior Friday Club	Fridays 6:00pm - 7:00pm
	PYP	Sundays 7:00pm - 8:30pm
	Senior Friday Club	Fridays 7:30pm - 9:30pm

A warm welcome at Botesdale Methodist Church to anyone who wishes to join our services

Services (all at 10.30am) - for further information phone 01379 890898

Sunday 6 th	Rev David Ely. Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	Mrs Linda Spencer
Sunday 20 th	Mr David Freeman
Sunday 27 th	Mrs Jane Mottram
Events	
Tuesday 1 st	Afternoon meeting for tea, conversation and activity 2:30pm - 4:00pm at the Methodist Church Schoolroom. Open to all in these villages
Tuesday 22 nd	Coffee Down the Lane 10:00am-12:00pm. Everyone welcome.
Advance notice : March 4th	World Day of Prayer

Free to every household thanks to the local businesses that advertise here. Please support local businesses.

SUNDAY SERVICE PLAN

1st + 3rd

FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

COMMUNITY WORSHIP
AT ALL SAINTS, REDGRAVE

10:00-11:15 = Intergenerational Worship

11:15 = Coffee

11:30-12:00 = Communion

2nd

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

ALL TOGETHER COMMUNION
AT ST MARY'S, RICKINGHALL

10:30-11:45

Baby and toddler space

Child friendly

Refreshments served at the end

4th

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

FAMILY BREAKFAST CHURCH
AT BOTESDALE VILLAGE HALL

9:30-10:30

Breakfast, games and activities

15min God Spot

COMMON WORSHIP COMMUNION
AT THE CHAPEL OF EASE, BOTESDALE

11:00

5th

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

UNITED SERVICE WITH
PARKVIEW CHAPEL AND METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 / 11:00

Venue TBC as each church takes turns to host

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER HOLY COMMUNION

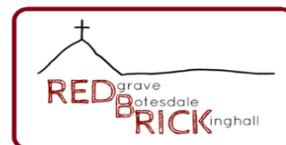
9:00-10:00

At the Chapel of Ease, Botesdale

This Sunday plan is subject to holidays and special events

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From the Registers

17.12.21	Funeral of Mr Mervyn Cater, buried Redgrave churchyard. Died 22.11.21, age 84
21.12.21	Funeral of Mr Stan Ball, West Suffolk Crematorium, Risby. Died 1.12.21, age 94
7.1.22	Interment of ashes Mr Michael Salt, Rickinghall churchyard. Died 5.1.21, age 82