

*"Keeping
the Community
informed"*

FREE ISSUE

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 15 NO. 3 DECEMBER 2019



Season's Greetings to all our readers



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. Peter and St. Paul, Wangford

Join us at 11.15 am on Sunday 22nd December for our Carol Service, and at 11.15 am on Christmas Day for our Family Communion Service.

St. Andrew, Sotherton

Everybody is invited to our Carol Service at 3.00 pm on Sunday 22nd December in our beautiful candlelit church.

St. Mary, Uggeshall

We invite you all to join us on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm for the traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Eve Midnight Eucharists

will be celebrated at 11.00 pm at St Margaret, Reydon and at 11.30 pm at Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, and St. Edmund, Southwold.

East Suffolk Council Facebook (19/11)
Helen, one of our Environmental Health Officers, carried out an unannounced food safety inspection of the Wangford & District Lunch Club this morning. The club is run entirely by volunteers who cook and serve a hot meal for over 35 elderly people. The kitchen was spotlessly clean and their food safety practices were faultless!



Wangford Carols

Carolling round the Village
Join our traditional carolling party on Wednesday 18th December, leaving the Village Store at 6.00 pm. We collect for the Children's Society.



Carol Concert

This year our quirky mix of readings, music and carols is on Thursday 19th December at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Admission is free, with a retiring collection for charity.

News from Wangford Vets

Santa Paws

Our annual Santa Paws collection for local pet rescue homes continues through December. Gifts of tinned and dry foods, treats, toys, towels and cosy beds can be left at Reception.



Wangford 100 Club 2019

Winners in the November Draw were

1. Val Beckett
2. Dan Smith
3. Emmaline Forbes

First Thursday Knitting Group

Many thanks for those who have donated Shoeboxes. This year we shall be sending 12 boxes. Fewer than previous years but we know they will be much appreciated by the recipients.

Our Christmas meeting with seasonal refreshments will be held on Thursday, 5th December 2.30 at the Community Centre. All welcome.

Valerie Beckett 578987

Wangford Men's Breakfast Group

There is no meeting this month.

The Arts Society, Southwold

The 2019 series of lectures continues on Tuesday 10th December when Anthea Streeter will speak on 'The Bauhaus'.

Lectures commence at 2.00 pm in Southwold Arts Centre (St. Edmund's Hall), Southwold.

Visitors and members' guests are welcome. A small donation will be appreciated.

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Wangford Parent and Toddler Group
Mondays from 9.30 - 11.30am Community Centre

Wangford Art Group
Thursdays from 9.30 am Community Centre

Knitting Group
Thursday 5th December 2.30 pm Community Centre

Wangford Christmas Coffee Morning
Tuesday 10th December 11.00 am Community Centre

The Arts Society
Tuesday 10th December 2.00 pm Southwold Arts Centre

Wangford Wingers Singing Group
Wednesday 11th December 10.00 am Community Centre

Uggeshall Christmas Lunch
Thursday 12th December (pre-booked)

Wangford Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 17th December 1.00 pm Community Centre

Carolling round Wangford
Wednesday 18th December 6.00pm from The Village Store

Whist Drive
Wednesday 18th December 7.00 pm Community Centre

Uggeshall Cinema
Thursday 19th December 7.15pm The Old School Hall

Carol Concert
Thursday 19th December 7.30 pm Community Centre

Mobile Library at Wangford
No visit in December

Wangford Church Coffee Morning

The Christmas Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 10th December in Wangford Community Centre at 11.00 am.

Do join us for home-made cakes and scones, freshly-made coffee and a good old natter, plus a Bric-a-Brac/ Bring and Buy stall, Raffle, and Christmas goodies.

WRENTHAM FILM NIGHT

There is no film this month.

Wangford Community Council

Xmas Bazaar

The Community Centre was full of stalls for the Bazaar on November 16th. There were plenty of customers too, and trading was brisk, with all stalls doing well. Thanks as always to all who came, helped or donated, especially Carolyn, who, as well as running her Santa Paws cake stall also books in other stalls.

The Community Council itself raised £170.00 for funds, which brought the total from this year's three sales to £559.80.

Council Meeting

The Community Council next meets on Tuesday 3rd December at 7.45 pm in the Community Centre.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Malcolm Woolnough

Lady Penelope Gilbey RIP

The funeral service for Lady P, who died on 17th November, will take place at St Peter and St Paul, Wangford on Monday 9th December at 2.00 pm.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who kindly gave me a donation for 'Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis' in lieu of birthday presents. I was able to send £200 to the Society which will go towards research.

I.P.F. is an incurable lung disease with no known cause and no cure. Scientists are working hard to find medication that will halt the progression of the disease. It is urgently needed. So thank you.

Jean Burns



Karen Finch RHAD FSHAA FRSA



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DECEMBER'S TEAM LETTER

Dear Friends,

I was watching the start of the Rugby world cup a few days ago. One of the commentators said that it would be a real boost for our country to win because we have had such a difficult year. And then we lost.

2019 does feel to have been a difficult year. Paralysis over Brexit, growing awareness and concern about climate change, woes on the nation's high streets and continued violence in Syria are all features that have troubled us. But we did win the cricket world cup!

As 2019 draws to a close we will be hoping and praying that the General Election opens the door to a brighter 2020, but only if there is a fundamental change in the way we treat each other, and if we learn to disagree well.

A troubled outlook for the nation and a hope for a brighter future were features that loomed large in the public consciousness when Jesus was born in Bethlehem 2000+ years ago. The people of Israel felt lost in their own land because of the Roman occupation. The poor struggled with low incomes and punitive taxes. There was religious tension between peoples of different faiths and a fear that God was absent.

Into this very human melting pot of hopes and fears the Christ child was born. He did not come as a new powerful force either in politics or in military terms. He did not make promises that could not be kept. He did not come in a big display of self importance. Instead Jesus was born unnoticed, in poverty, as a vulnerable baby. God offered himself to those who might love him, and took the risk of not being loved at all. Embraced first by his mother, then by Joseph, then by his disciples and friends, the love of God began to bring new hope, new life, one heart at a time.

In our generation that invitation is renewed. St Paul describes love in 1 Corinthians Chapter 13. Love is patient, kind, truthful, hopeful. Love is not envious, boastful, arrogant, rude, irritable or resentful. Winning the world cup would not have changed us much in the long term. Love might, because it has the power to inspire us. As we celebrate his birth may the love of Christ bless you this Christmas. May we walk together in the light of his love and share together in a bright new year.

Yours in Christ

Simon

FOODBANKS

The local Foodbanks are asking for extra volunteers. If you are interested please send your name, address, e-mail and phone number to Pam Bayliss on her e-mail

becclesfoodbank2017@gmail.com

News from Wangford Church

December is a busy and lovely time in Church. During the service on 15th December there will be a baptism, always a joyful occasion. On Wednesday 18th the Church will be entertaining the Carol Singers with mulled wine and mince pies when they have been round the village singing carols and collecting money for the Children's Society.

Our Carol Service is on Sunday, 22nd December at 11.15 am, to which everyone is very welcome, and we will of course enjoy our usual Christmas Morning celebration at 11.15 am. Please do come and join in. If you are on holiday here or new residents we shall be especially pleased to welcome you. Children - we'd be glad if you could bring a favourite present to show us.

Meanwhile, efforts to raise money for the Raise the Roof project continue. We are very grateful for the proceeds of the very successful Fundraisers' Quiz night in November, which made £531.90 which will be a great help.

The Christmas Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday, 10th December at 11.00 am. This will be a special seasonal occasion with bring and buy stall, raffle and Christmas goodies.

There is no service at Wangford on Sunday, 29th December but there will be a Team Service at Southwold at 11 am.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas, good health, peace and goodwill from the PCC of St. Peter and St. Paul, Wangford.

Valerie Beckett, Churchwarden 578987



Frostenden Coffee Mornings



Do join us on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall from 10.30 am for coffee, cakes and conversation.

Admission £1.50; proceeds to support the Village Hall.

Wangford Fundraisers

There was a lively atmosphere with much good hearted banter at the recent Quiz night in the Community centre. As a result of this successful and much enjoyed event we were delighted to be able to send £531.90 to Wangford Church Restoration fund



News from Uggeshall

Christmas Lunch

There will be no coffee morning at Uggeshall School Hall on December 12th. Instead we will be having Christmas Lunch at The Wangford Plough. We would like to thank everybody for pre-ordering their meal and look forward to seeing all our regulars at 12 noon. If anyone has any questions or queries please feel free to contact Hilary on 01502 578218.

Hilary, Gwen and Pat

Uggeshall Cinema

This month's film, Rocketman, will be shown on Thursday 19th December. Doors open at 7.00 for 7.15 pm.

To the Uggeshall Community - Thank you!!

I was so very pleased to receive all the generous donations to the Foodbank from you via Linda today. We are very busy at this time of the year, and were so pleased to receive all your gifts for Christmas and day to day needs. There are a lot of needs in our communities and I know that your help will make this time of year so much easier for them. So thank you I am really grateful to you.

Enjoy your Christmas too, knowing that you have reached out to help others.

With our best wishes

Pam Bayliss on behalf of Halesworth Foodbank

Uggeshall Church

Don't miss our traditional service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm.

News from Sotherton

Carol Service

Do join us for our candle-lit Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December at 3.00 pm.

There is no service on Sunday 15th December.

Karen Flaxman



Toddlers

Wangford Toddlers had a lovely morning raising money for Children in Need. After eating cakes and a raffle we raised £50. Well done to everyone who participated.

Sara Campbell.



DixieMix at Southwold December 13th

DixieMix bring their entertaining brand of jazz and humour to Southwold Sports Pavilion on Friday December 13th.

This has become a regular gig for the band each December, and the limited tickets sell fast. The show begins at 7.30 pm. There's a bar, and food available (not included in the ticket price). There is ample parking.

Book Club

At our November meeting we discussed Anne Tyler's 'Vinegar Girl' which was a re-working of Shakespeare's 'The Taming Of The Shrew'. Some members had seen the musical 'Kiss me Kate' which also used Shakespeare's work. Many of us had read Anne Tyler's novels and felt this was rather light in content and message. We wondered if it was credible in a modern age.

The story was centred around Kate, in her late 20s, who kept house for her father and much younger sister. The professor father wanted Kate to marry his Polish assistant to keep him in the USA so their work could be finished. There were many humorous moments but lacked punch and sometimes was in danger of turning into slapstick comedy. This was a modern take on arranged marriages but it was very light in tone. We did think that Kate was not 'vinegary' enough and it lacked the fire of Shakespeare's play. Kate and Pyotr did marry and the epilogue was placed several years in the future and looked back on a happy ever after life of success for all. We found Kate difficult to relate to and the lack of social awareness at odds with the modern setting but we did agree it was a light and enjoyable book.

We will not be having a meeting in December; our next meeting will be on Thursday, 9 January 2020 at 8 pm in the Community Centre to discuss Karen Fossum's 'Hellfire'.

Gill Smith 578620

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Stuart & Mark

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ABRAHAM

I heard a little radio programme recently, narrated by a school sixth former, which dealt with Akenfield then and now. Akenfield was an amalgamation of Suffolk villages, but primarily Charsfield, set in the early 20th Century, and dealt with rural life. Generally considered to be a minor masterpiece, it was made into a film by a good old Suffolk boy, Sir Peter Hall, at weekends and with local folk playing the parts, including the author himself, Ronald Blythe, as the vicar. Mr Blythe, now 96 years old, featured in the radio programme, as did the voices of the departed Peggy Cole and Peter Hall. After discussing the immense changes since that time, Mr Blythe and a local opined wistfully that some things were doubtless lost and gone, never to return. I expect they were referring to the community spirit engendered by the closeness of the villagers and the necessity to cleave together in times of immense hardship and grinding poverty. Life seemed to be simpler and more innocent then, before the perceived iniquities of the latter part of the century intruded. Would they wish these times to return? Of course not. What they wish is that the best of yesteryear be mingled with the best of today, which, as we all know, is not easy. I did not live through particularly harsh days, but in the late forties and early fifties I did witness in my village remnants of the so-called 'good old days', such as appalling housing conditions, food rationing, the tied cottage system (a school chum and his family were given one week to vacate their house when their farm labourer father suddenly died), dirt floors, lack of sanitation (bucket and chuck it), minimal heating, low wages, scarce holidays - need I go on? But do read Akenfield. A historian remarked that if you want to learn about rural life then, forget the history books, just read Akenfield.

I have given a little thought to a suitable collective noun for 'Marks'. Two of my chums suggested a 'murmur' (boring) or a 'magnificence' (pompous). I had a brainwave. What do good old boys do when they stand at the bar with their pints handy? They spout drivel. Not for us the state of the nation, climate change, rainforests and all ecological points north. We leave all that to the intellectuals of Wangford. No, for us it's non-stop tripe. Bearing that in mind, I thought perhaps a 'mumbling' or a 'muttering'. Then I pondered again. We are, after all, in dear old Suffolk, so what else could it be but that grand old word 'mardle'? Cracked it.

We now have a female Club Captain at Southwold Golf Club. And they are, as we speak, creating a women's changing room in the 'holy of holies', the Royal and Ancient clubhouse at St Andrews. And there are now female Morris dancers. What- ever next? Voting? Driving cars? A female Prime Minister? Being served in public bars? I tell you, lads, we're doomed!

My grand old oppo C asks if I would like to go and hear Neil Oliver (he of the tossing hair and cricked neck banging on about ancient times). I reckoned I could listen to him for about an hour. After all, how long does it take to rabbit on about the British Isles? So - off to Norwich. A nice bit of grub in a pub - four fine main meals, a bottle of wine and another drink for £40, and no, it wasn't a Wetherspoons. When we reached the venue and discovered that it was scheduled to start at 7.30 and finish at 10.30, C, bless his little heart, did say that if I got bores we could leave early. Not I, bracing my-

self for two and a half hours of 'The Story of the British Isles in 100 Places'. Once again, it proved what a fool I can be. He was terrific. Never a dull moment. I was enthralled. He managed to cover all four countries in splendid fashion. Orkney, inevitably, I suppose, got three mentions. Nearer to home, Orford featured, as did Aldeburgh - not for Benjamin Britten, but for the fact that Sir Fancis Drake's original Golden Hind was built in the shipyards there. He concluded by reminding us that, of all the countries he has explored, despite our woes, problems and issues, there is no better place to live than the UK. Amen to that. (I have to get this in. When he signed the book I happened to mention that my little girl was Custodian of St Magnus Cathedral, and he informed me that that was one of his most favourite places, and next time he is in the archipelago, he will seek her out).

In our postbox there was, below the newspaper, a cute little pottery pussy cat. The phantom moggie donor has returned. This may well be a one-off, but watch this space.

It has occurred to me that this issue of the Messenger will come out at the end of this month, and the next at the end of December. Therefore, to my half dozen or so loyal band of readers, an early very merry Christmas

Abraham

CHURCH SERVICES	Sunday 1st December	Advent Sunday
	11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
	6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	Sunday 8th December	2nd Sunday of Advent
	10.50 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
	6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	Sunday 15th December	3rd Sunday of Advent
	11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
	6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	Sunday 22nd December	4th Sunday of Advent
	11.15 am Wangford	Carol Service
	3.00 pm Sotherton	Carol Service
Tuesday 24th December	Christmas Eve	
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Lessons and Carols	
Wednesday 25th December	Christmas Day	
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion	
Sunday 29th December	1st Sunday of Christmas	
11.15 am Southwold	Team Service (CW)	
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)	

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Wangford Clubs

Book Club Gilliane Smith 578620

Parish Council Clerks

Wangford Jean Brown 675739
 Uggheshall Jean Brown 675739
 Sotherton Caroline Cardwell 01986 781349

Henham Steam Rally

Chair Helen Walker 07557 784927

Wangford Surgery 578257
 Sole Bay Health Centre 722326
 Wangford Veterinary Clinic 578999

Police Urgent 999 Non Urgent 101
 Crimestoppers 0800 555111

DECEMBER 2019 CENTRE DIARY

2nd Dec	Parent & Toddler	Hall	9.30am
	Salsa	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
3rd Dec	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	7.00-9.00pm
	Community Council	Cttee Room	7.45pm
4th Dec	Barber	Cttee Room	2.00-5.00pm
5th Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30am
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Knitting Group	Cttee Room	2.30-4.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	7.15-8.15pm
6th Dec	Yoga	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Salsa	Hall	7.30-10.30pm
7th Dec	Private Hire		10.00-3.00pm
9th Dec	Parent & Toddler	Hall	9.30am
10th Dec	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Coffee Morning	Hall	11.00-12.30
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	7.00-9.00pm
	Parish Council	Cttee Room	8.00pm
11th Dec	Wangford Wingers	Hall	10.00-12noon
	PS Glassfusion	Hall	
	GHSR	Cttee Room	8.00pm
12th Dec	General Election	Hall	
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
16th Dec	Blyth Valley Labour	Cttee Room	8.00pm
17th Dec	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.15-10.15am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Xmas Lunch Club	Hall	1.00pm
18th Dec	Whist Drive	Bar	7.00-10.00pm
19th Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30am
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Carol Cncert	Hall	7.30pm
24th Dec	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDITOR SUE TAYLOR:

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Messenger
 PARISH MAGAZINE



Wrentham Chapel



invites you to attend their 'Caedmon at Christmas' event at 7.00 pm on Friday December 20th. This will be another occasion of music, word and song, with light buffet and drinks and time to chat.

Those attending are invited, if so inclined, to bring along a contribution towards the evening's programme, which will be woven together on the night.

Enjoy an evening of seasonal entertainment in a truly festive atmosphere!

There will be a retiring collection for Christian Aid.

Sue Hardy 578994