

*"Keeping  
the Community  
informed"*

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

# Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 16 NO. 3 DECEMBER 2020

## Happy Christmas to everyone

### End of Lockdown

As we go to press, and subject to parliamentary approval, Boris Johnson has announced the end of the lockdown, and a return to an amended 3-tier structure from December 2nd. Information about which tier each area is in will follow.

And the government will allow a time-limited change to social restrictions over the Christmas period so that families can be reunited across the UK.


This has inevitably generated headlines such as *'Tis the season to be jolly careful'* and *'Vaccine cheers - but first the tiers'*.

And it seems that in our corner of Suffolk folk intend to celebrate this Christmas in style whichever tier we find ourselves in, with some festive lights displays already up from mid-November. We'll have the usual tree at Pound Corner and the lights at the Community Centre, but unfortunately we can't go carolling as we usually do.

But hopefully we'll be able to visit the Angel and Plough again. If we're in Tier 1, they'll be open for table service only; if we're moved up to Tier 2, they'll operate as restaurants only.

### Wangford Vets Santa Paws Appeal

After a horrid year of cancelled fundraising events, please support the annual Santa Paws Appeal for local pet rescue homes which continues throughout December.



Donations of tinned and dry foods, treats, toys, towels and cosy beds can be left at Reception between 8.30am and 6.00pm Monday - Friday.

Please note that only two clients are allowed in at a time, and face coverings must be worn.

If you would like to donate cash, please visit [www.wangfordvetclinic.com](http://www.wangfordvetclinic.com)



### Own a House in Wangford - for just £1!

Wangford PCC is holding a unique Raffle of a lovely Dolls' House with a special local provenance.

The Georgian-style villa was made by Vicky Fisher and owned by Lady Penelope Gilbey. Lady P's family has donated the house to raise money for Wangford Church funds.

Lady Penelope, daughter of the 4th Earl of Stradbroke, was Patron of Wangford Church and a Churchwarden for over 30 years. She was responsible for fund-raising and setting up the floodlighting to the Church which continues to be enjoyed by all in the village and beyond.

Vicky was a designer and graphic artist, working in Fleet Street before converting the British Legion Hall in Wangford into her home and workshop. From here - in between her extensive travels and adventures - she set up a small business making perfectly-scaled miniature houses and furniture for the collectors' market. Her many projects and interests included producing a new edition of Wangford Church Guide and support of the Church Repair Fund.

LADY P's HOUSE will be on display in Wangford Farm Shop during December with tickets on sale at £1.00 each. Tickets are also available at Wangford Village Store, and from members of Wangford PCC. The Raffle will take place at Wangford Church Carol Service on 20th December.

Do support this fund-raising effort - and perhaps you will be the lucky winner of this special Wangford House.

Further information: Noelle Barlow 07816 755239.

# INFORMATION

## Wangford Village Store

Monday to Saturday  
8.00am - 6.00pm

Sunday 8.00am - 4.00pm

\* Face coverings must be worn.

\* Only 4 customers are allowed in the shop at any one time.

\* Please keep your distance from others, and observe the 2m rule and floor grid.

## Wangford Farm Shop

Monday - Saturday  
9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday CLOSED

Face coverings must be worn.

For those isolating or vulnerable the ordering service is still available.

Call 578246 or email  
rj.miller@btinternet.com

### NEW

The glasshouse is now open all year round. Call in to see Sharon for plants, bulbs, Christmas tubs and wreaths, and winter planters.

## Buses

First Bus 99 is now using Church St/High St. Border Bus 146 and 524 are still using Norfolk Road until further notice.

## Mobile Library

The library van will visit on Wednesday 23rd December.

10.10am at Millfields,  
10.35am at Wangford Church.

## WangfordHelp

We are still here to help you.

Email: wangfordhelp@gmail.com

Phone: 07941 156508 / 01502 578408

## Uggeshall Coronavirus Community Support

If you would like support, or would just like to discuss your worries please telephone Sarah Butt 578519 / 07979 770383



## Wangford Vets

01502 578999.

Our opening hours are:

Monday - Friday 0830 - 1800

Saturday Strictly emergencies only  
0830 - 1200

Sunday OUT OF HOURS ONLY

From December 2nd we are likely to return to our pre-lockdown service. Please visit our website [www.wangfordvetclinic.com](http://www.wangfordvetclinic.com) for up-to-date information.



## VOLUNTARY HELP CENTRE

Telephone: (01502) 724549

### Christmas Opening Hours

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December - 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December - 9.00am - 12.00 noon

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Closed

Christmas Day and Boxing Day - Closed

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December - Closed

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December - Office closed; phone answered  
10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December - Open 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December - Open 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

New Year's Day - Closed

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Back to normal 9.00 am - 1.00pm

Please note: we will only be dealing with medical appointments between Christmas and New Year to allow our volunteers some much deserved time off.

The office phone will be checked as stated above, but only urgent calls requesting transport for medical appointments will be responded to outside of the advertised Christmas office hours.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Barber

Stewart Sharman's next visit is on Wednesday 9th December from 2.00 - 4.00 pm.

Face coverings must be worn and hand sanitizer from the dispensers provided must be used on both entry and exit. Please maintain social distancing.

If you need a home visit, please ring Stewart on 01502 218838 to arrange for it on the same day. He is fully PPE compliant..

## Christmas Food Boxes

St Luke's Church, Beccles are making up Christmas Food Boxes again for the Trussell Trust Foodbanks.

Donations may be left in the foyer at St Luke's, or alternatively ring Linda Hill on 01502 578789 / 07483 226269 for collection.

Items needed are:

Christmas puddings  
Custard / Evaporated milk  
Sponge puddings  
Christmas biscuits  
Christmas chocolate for children  
Pickles / Chutney /  
Nibbles / Cheesy biscuits  
Squash / Non-alcoholic drinks (please, no alcohol)  
Children's games / dot-to-dot and pens  
Adult and children's socks (new) / Gloves / hats

## Wangford 100 Club 2020

Winners in the November Draw were

1. Karen Hale
2. D. Cheshire
3. George Sheppard



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## DECEMBER'S TEAM LETTER

*Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by  
thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
(Third Collect from Evening Prayer - Book of Common Prayer)*

As I am preparing this Christmas letter at the end of October the news today is that the number of infections of Coronavirus is increasing and another lockdown is a potential response to the pandemic. This has already happened in France and so the possibility of the same happening in the UK becomes ever more likely.

How do we respond to this? What hope can we find in God and each other this Christmas?

Jesus was born into a very dangerous and uncertain world like our own. He was born in poverty and laid in a manger in a cave designed for the keeping of animals. After Jesus was born, within a short period of time the Holy family fled into Egypt as refugees to escape the genocide of King Herod.

It is worth remembering that this was no ordinary birth, and that the Star of Bethlehem led the Shepherds and Wise Men to the manger where the Christ child was laid. In the darkness of that first Christmas night the light of a new star shone brightly transforming the darkness and marking the place where God became one of us, so that we would never feel lost and abandoned again.

This Christmas, the story of the birth of the Christ child should give us hope that the pandemic and the economic crisis that has ensued will not last forever and the truth of Immanuel, that 'God is really with us' is as true today as it was that first Christmas night.

As we look towards 2021, with most of us saying 'good riddance' to 2020 we should put our trust in God that He will deliver us and the nations of the world from the pandemic and that a fairer, greener, more just and more compassionate world will be realised for the benefit of every human being on Earth.

It was George VI, in his Christmas Day broadcast to the British Empire in 1939, just months after the Second World War had begun, who quoted the poem of Minnie Haskins (1875 - 1957) to offer hope and light at a time of world catastrophe. It is the same words of hope that I offer to you as we go into 2021.

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown";  
and he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than a light, and safer than a known way."*

*Reverend Alan Perry*

## News from Wangford Church

What a great day it was on November 1st when a large congregation was in church for the first service since lockdown and the completion of the roof repairs. It was lovely to all be able to worship together again albeit with no singing or organ music, but thanks must go to Sue for the fantastic piano music.

Sadly, the current lockdown means that services have had to be cancelled again for safety reasons (apart from a short outside service held on Remembrance Sunday), but we really hope to be back in Church again in December. We are making plans for Christmas Services (with fingers crossed regarding the easing of restrictions after December 2nd) and these include a Carol Service at 11.15 on 20 December and an 11.15 Holy Communion service on Christmas morning.

Also, with Christmas in mind, there will be a raffle for a lovely dolls house to raise money for church funds. It was made by the late village artist, Vicky Fisher, and owned by Lady Penelope. It will be displayed in the Farm Shop and tickets will be available from the Farm Shop and Village Store (further details elsewhere in this issue).

The church APCM was held on October 23rd and elected as PCC members for the coming year were Beryl Meldrum, Bernard Meldrum, Valerie Beckett, Jackie Casement, Mark Notton, Karen Hale, Noelle Barlow, Sylvia Bezant and Derek Child.

We would like to wish everybody a very merry Christmas after what has been a very difficult 2020 for many of us, and best wishes for a more positive 2021.

*Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)*

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please note that face coverings must be worn, and social distancing observed, at all services in church.

## TICKETED SERVICES

To comply with the COVID guidance, attendance at the following services will be by pre-booked ticket ONLY. When you book, please give the name and contact details for all who wish to attend, and say if they are in the same household.

### Sunday 20th December

3.00 pm St. Andrew, Sotherton - Crib Service  
Tickets must be booked in advance from Karen Flaxman  
01986 873123 or by email: [d.flaxman@btconnect.com](mailto:d.flaxman@btconnect.com)

### Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm St. Margaret, Reydon - Crib Service  
Tickets must be booked in advance before December 22nd by either  
texting Jan Collins on 07899 820651 or emailing  
[jan.john.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:jan.john.collins@btinternet.com) or texting Barbara Herman on  
07791 401163 or by email to: [bherman54@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bherman54@hotmail.co.uk)

6.00pm St. Mary, Uggeshall - Crib Service  
Tickets must be booked in advance from Denise Baker  
01502 578190 or email: [dbaker47@hotmail.com](mailto:dbaker47@hotmail.com) by December 10th

11.00pm St. Margaret, Reydon - Midnight Mass  
Tickets must be booked in advance from Jan Collins or Barbara  
Herman - see contact details above.

11.30pm St Edmund, Southwold - Midnight Mass  
Tickets must be booked in advance.  
For more information please email [assistvicar@aol.com](mailto:assistvicar@aol.com)

11.30pm Holy Trinity, Blythburgh - Midnight Mass  
Tickets must be booked in advance from Jenny Allen  
01502 478314 or email to: [jennyanddick@aol.com](mailto:jennyanddick@aol.com)

## ZOOM SERVICES

### Tuesday 8th December

6.30pm Blue Christmas - a service of comfort and support  
ID 824 6366 8956 Passcode 380483

### Sunday 20th December

4.00pm St. Margaret, Reydon - Carol Service  
ID 854 1269 6892 Passcode 702508

## OPEN SERVICES

The following services are open to everyone, although numbers will be carefully monitored to ensure COVID security compliance.

### Sunday 20th December

11.15am St. Peter and St. Paul, Wangford - Carol Service

### Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.30am St. Margaret, Reydon - Holy Communion  
11.15am Sts. Peter and Paul, Wangford - Holy Communion

### Sunday 27th December

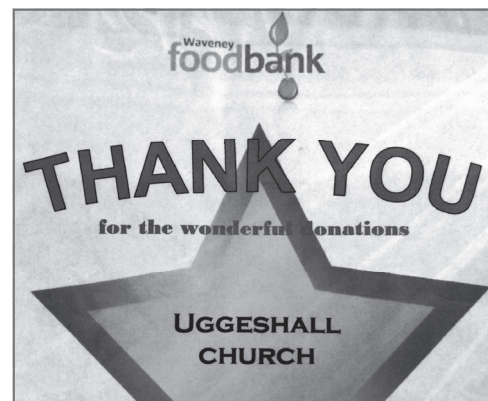
9.30am St. Margaret, Reydon - Holy Communion  
9.30am St. Edmund, Southwold - Holy Communion

## News from Uggeshall

ST MARYS CHURCH, UGGESHALL

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
24th DECEMBER 2020 - 6pm

You are invited to our Crib Service on Christmas Eve. This will be a PRE-BOOKED service to follow the social distancing requirements. Tickets will be limited to approx 60 in total dependant on numbers of family bubbles (5 family members to fill a pew), smaller groups and individuals, and will be allocated to make the best use of the seating available. If you wish to attend please contact Denise on 01502 578190 or email [dbaker47@hotmail.com](mailto:dbaker47@hotmail.com) by 10th December. Please indicate how many will be attending and the type of grouping - family bubbles, couples, individuals.

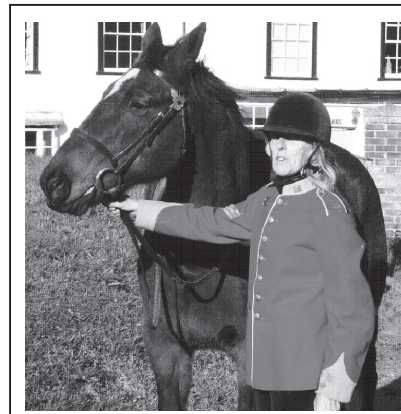


## News from Sotherton

You are warmly invited to our Crib Service at 3.00pm on Sunday 20th December. This will be a PRE-BOOKED service to follow the social distancing requirements. Tickets will be limited to approx 30 in total dependant on numbers of family bubbles (5 family members to fill a pew), smaller groups and individuals, and will be allocated to make the best use of the seating available.

If you wish to attend please contact Karen Flaxman on 01986 873123 or email [d.flaxman@btconnect.com](mailto:d.flaxman@btconnect.com)

Please indicate how many will be attending and the type of grouping - family bubbles, couples, individuals.



We report the loss of another Wangford character. Sadly, Basil, Marion Tilney's horse, who faithfully attended each Remembrance Sunday to pay his respects to the animals killed in war, has died at the age of 22. RIP, Basil.



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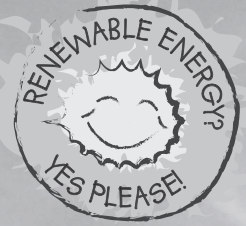
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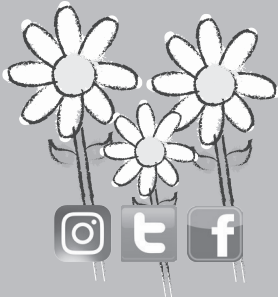
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# ABRAHAM

Earlier in the year the volunteers of The Red House in Aldeburgh were taken on a day trip to Gresham's School in Holt primarily for the reason that Benjamin Britten attended and a music centre and concert hall are named after him. I was reminded of this when I read that a previous headmaster had died. His name was Logie Bruce Lockhart (with that splendid name he just had to be Scottish) and he served there from 1955 to 1982, well-liked and respected. Also at the school at the time was James Dyson's father who taught as a classics master. James and his brother were pupils. While there the father died and it seems that Logie Bruce Lockhart was instrumental in ensuring that the boys' education should continue without the added pressure of worrying about the fees. James apparently didn't forget this kindness and in 2019 donated 18.75 million pounds for the construction of a new centre for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). (As an aside, former pupils, other than Britten, included Erskine Childers, Donald Maclean, Lord Reith, W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender, Olivia Colman and Jeremy Bamber). A fair old mixture. One might be cynical and moan that this is yet another example of perpetuating the great divide between the have and have-nots, the private elite and the public system; plus he can well afford it and why doesn't he give it to the under-resourced state schools? Nonsense. Yes, he can afford it but so can many others who do not pass their wealth on; and why should he prop up an ailing system? He's entitled to spend his money where he wishes. Me? I'm delighted that he remembers his old school with affection, not something I could ever claim for myself.

I note that, perish the thought, a non-alcohol version of Guinness has been produced. That won't go down well at any St Patrick's Day Parade. Hopefully, it won't go down at all.

One upon a time you could recognise instantly a small Suffolk town for being precisely that. Pick any one but let me mention one I have known for some fifty years - dear old Southwold. Back in the day (as my ex-publican chum John is wont to put it) you could tell a Suffolk worthy for being cussed, unconcerned with niceties of speech or clever dicks. A no-nonsense breed, with one foot in the sea and the other stuck in the fields, keeping their mouths shut in the winter in order to keep the east wind out. An island breed indeed, once chained to the past but alas, no more. The Reading Room will give a flavour of

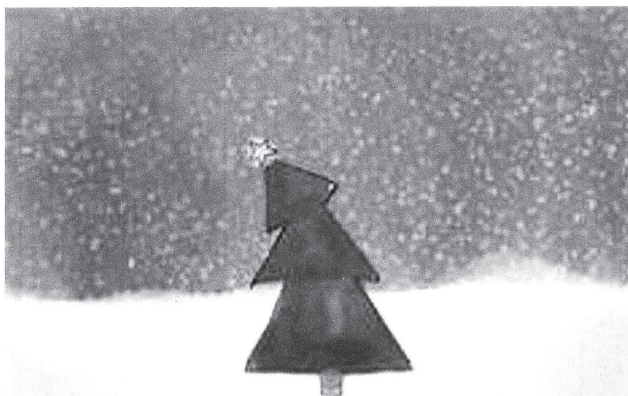
these olden times with photographs of the long-gone fishermen, most bearded with names like May, Upcraft, Craigie and Hurr. Mind you, be careful too of criticising a Doy, Palmer or Ladd - offend one and you offend half the population. Where now is the ancient burr, once barely intelligible to the stranger? Gone with the wind and gentrified, I expect, the better to make a living from the cosmopolitan influx, seemingly all the year round. I regret the passing of these times but I am not too much of a dinosaur not to admit that it is still a joy to wander around, preferably in winter. Southwold will always be with us, albeit with few local characters to entertain us. Floreat forever Southwold.

There seems to be a determined effort to get me back on the golf course. What with my taking a few lessons, Frances (you know the one, ensconced off the top of the land) sent me for my recent birthday, some practice balls and a mighty volume entitled *The Complete GOLF Manual*. Wonderful, frustrated yet again by another lock down. Before I go back I hope that old etiquette has returned. No longer at the moment the habit of, on the eighteenth, the removing of the cap and the shaking of hands, both splendid gestures. Instead, cap stuck on and the perfunctory touching of sticks. Ghastly.

Are Mrs Abe and I the only ones in Britain to watch the splendid police series 'The Brokenwood Mysteries'?

I seem to have acquired a habit of vexing about (to some people) trivial matters. So it is with these so-called Antique experts mispronouncing the word 'circa'. I remember so well being gently chided by my Latin teacher when I miscalled the great orator and statesman Cicero 'Sickero' and he reminded me that both 'c's should be hard, as in 'kikero'. I correctly maintain therefore that 'circa' should be pronounced 'kirka' instead of 'sirka'. However, I thought that I had better consult some sources. Chambers gives the pronunciation as 'surka' and, just to confuse the matter gives Cicero as both 'sisaro' and 'kikero'. And the Concise Oxford Dictionary gives 'serka'. In a state of near panic I googled and found that if one wishes to continue in the classical vein it ought indeed to be 'kirka'. So, a pedant I shall remain - 'kirka' forever more, and keep on vexing.

*Abraham*



## BLUE CHRISTMAS

Are you feeling blue and down in the dumps this Christmas?

You are invited to join our short service of comfort and support. Nothing will be asked of you in the service apart from you being given the opportunity to light a candle.

Tuesday 8 December  
at 6.30pm via Zoom.  
ID 824 6366 8956  
Passcode 380483  
ALL WELCOME!

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Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) is a voluntary emergency medical charity which has been operating in Suffolk for over 48 years. Our volunteer clinicians offer specialist assistance at serious or life threatening medical incidents. This service is offered on a voluntary basis and without charge. Since 1972, we have helped treat thousands of patients and saved countless lives. SARS are on course to respond to over 300 requests for critical care assistance across the region this year. Our charity receives no central government funding and relies on voluntary fundraising to maintain its activity.

Our wonderful clinicians give up their time and provide their skills without charge. This 'donation' of time equates to many hundreds-of-thousands of pounds each year, and the benefit that SARS clinicians can bring to a patient in terms of life-saving interventions, relief from pain and quicker recovery times is immeasurable. The fact that they continue to do this even in the midst of a pandemic is not only a testament to their bravery and commitment but also a recognition of the benefit they know they can offer these critically ill patients.

Please help support our work by signing up to the SARS 999 Lottery. For as little as £1 a week you could win up to £25,000 while helping save local lives.

To sign up please visit <https://www.sars999.org.uk/lottery/>



## BECOME A FRIEND

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**That's why we need your help this Christmas**

We appreciate all the different ways that people already support Waveney foodbank, from donating food to volunteering, holding fundraising events, and one-off gifts.

Another amazing way of supporting us is to commit to our 'Friends Club'. Your regular giving will provide emergency food and support local people in crisis.

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For more information or to download a friends form go to ...

[waveney.foodbank.org.uk/friend](http://waveney.foodbank.org.uk/friend)

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## Merry Christmas to all our supporters