

*"Keeping
the Community
informed"*

WANGFORD UGGESHALL SOTHERTON

Messenger

PARISH MAGAZINE

EDITOR: SUE TAYLOR

VOLUME 17 NO. 3 DECEMBER 2021

SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR READERS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. Peter and St. Paul, Wangford

Join us at 11.15 am on Sunday 19th 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 4.00 pm on Sunday 19th 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. Edmunds, Southwold.

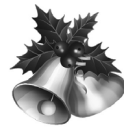
SANTA PAWS



The annual Wangford Vets Santa Paws collection for local pet rescue homes continues through December. The items most needed are tinned and dry foods, toys to stimulate play, towels, food and water bowls, and cosy beds. Treats for cats and dogs are welcome, as well as collars and leads and warm coats. Donations can be left at Reception.

A new initiative this year is the Animal Aid auction of pet-themed new and nearly-new items. Go online at <https://www.wangfordvetclinic.com/Auctions> to see what's on offer. All money raised will go to the Santa Paws Appeal.

CAROL CONCERT



Wangford Community Council's
Carol Concert
Friday 17th December at 7.00pm
Wangford Community Centre

Do join us for our short informal celebration of words and music for the festive season by and for members of the community.

Admission is free, and refreshments will be served at the end. There will be a retiring collection for charity.

Please wear a face-covering when moving around the Centre.

TRAFFIC CHAOS

Councillors in Reydon and Wangford are urging residents to make representations to Suffolk Highways, County Councillors, and MP Therese Coffey (therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk) about the ongoing heavy traffic in the villages caused by the closure of the B1127 due to damage caused by extensive tidal flooding at Potters Bridge. Repairs must be complete to both the drainage valves and the road before the closure can be removed, but neither Suffolk County Council nor the Environment Agency have given a timescale for this.



The diversion route via the B1126 is having a significant impact, especially at Wangford, where the bottleneck at Norfolk Road sees queues of traffic at peak periods and a great deal of bad driving and impatience; there have already been two accidents at the dangerous A12 junction.



Wangford Post Office

Tuesdays
from 10.00am - 12 noon
Thursdays
from 1.00 - 3.00pm
at the
Community Centre.
Please continue to observe
social distancing and
mask wearing.

Wangford Village Store

Monday to Saturday
8.00am - 6.00pm
Sunday 8.00am - 4.00pm
For now, we ask you to
wear face coverings in the
store. Please keep your
distance from others.

Wangford Farm Shop

Monday - Saturday
9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday - CLOSED

Wangford 100 Club 2021

Winners in the November
Draw were
1. Beryl Meldrum
2. James Woolnough
3. Pete Hart



Ginny the giant Schnauzer wearing her poppy with pride at the Wangford Act of Remembrance

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Wangford Parent and Toddler Group

Mondays 9.30 - 11.30am Community Centre

Body Conditioning

Tuesdays from 9.30 - 10.30am Community Centre

Blythburgh Bowls

Tuesdays at 7.00pm Community Centre

Wangford Art Group

Thursdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm Community Centre

Knitting Group

Thursday 2nd December 2.30pm N.B. in Wangford Church

Book Club

Thursday 2nd December 8.00pm Community Centre

Wangford Community Council

Tuesday 7th December 7.45pm Community Centre

Afternoon Tea

Thursday 9th December 2.30pm Community Centre

Uggeshall Cinema

Thursday 9th December 7.00pm Old School Hall

The Arts Society

Tuesday 14th December 2.00pm via Zoom

Wrentham Chapel 'Caedmon at Christmas'

Tuesday 14th December 7.00pm Wrentham Chapel

Wangford with Henham Parish Council

Tuesday 14th December 8.00pm Community Centre

Carol Concert

Friday 17th December 7.00pm Community Centre

Blyth Valley Labour

Monday 20th December 7.30pm Community Centre

Wangford Church Coffee Morning

Tuesday 21st December 10.30am N.B. in Wangford Church

Mobile Library

Wednesday 22nd December
1010 - 1030 Community Centre
1035 - 1045 Wangford Church

Kathleen Helen Boon RIP

Sadly, one of Wangford's oldest residents, Miss Kathleen Boon, passed away peacefully at home in Millfields on October 10th, aged 98 years. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Donations in Kath's memory may be made to the Sole Bay Care Fund. Saturday 6th November at 12 noon. in

Food Bank

Please continue to donate to the Lowestoft Food Bank. This can be done by leaving dry goods with John and Jan Collins, 19 Lakeside Park Drive, Reydon or phoning 01502 725731.

Collection point

There is also a basket for your donations at the foot of the font in Wangford Church.

WangfordHelp

We are still here for you.
Email:
wangfordhelp@gmail.com
Phone: 07941 156508 /
01502 578408

Uggeshall Community Support

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

Mobile Library

The next visit is on
Wednesday 22 December
10.10am at Millfields
10.35am at
Wangford Church.

Can you help?

John Scholes is repairing the Wangford Church notice board. The rotted cork tiles, no doubt put there to get a drawing pin in more easily, need to be replaced. Has anyone got 5 or 6 foot-square cork tiles kicking about in their shed which they would care to donate to the Church so he can finish the board and replace on display? Contact John on 01502 578661 or at johnscholes@hotmail.com



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Stuart &
Mark

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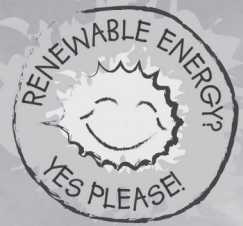
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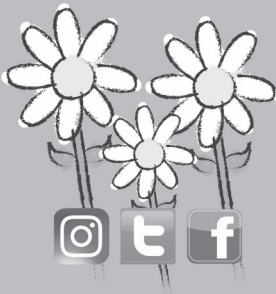
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DECEMBER'S TEAM LETTER

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Isaiah Chapter 9

This well known verse from the 9th chapter of the prophet Isaiah came to my mind while watching the efforts of world leaders to reach consensus at the recent COP26 summit in Glasgow. Many Christians globally supported that conference in prayer, interceding with God that his Holy Spirit would guide decision makers into the ways of justice and responsibility. By the end of the conference there were signs of hope, new light shining in the darkness. There were promises to reduce the use of coal, to cut carbon emissions, and to halt deforestation.

Last year Christmas was impacted by Coronavirus, a darkness that has still not gone away, so we are all hoping for light to shine and for the darkness to be lifted. Anxiety about these things is very real for many people because the threat of climate change renders the future uncertain, and coronavirus remains a blight on people's health, education and businesses. "What will tomorrow bring?" is a common cry on all our hearts, not just in respect of global matters, but also personal and family matters. The angel Gabriel comforts Mary with the reassurance not to be afraid. "How can this be?" she protests.

Some things do indeed seem too difficult, too challenging, to cope with or overcome. We need to hear the strength of the angel's confidence in the God who has sent him; "The Holy Spirit will come upon you", "for nothing is impossible with God."

This does not mean that the future will be easy for Mary. The prophet Simeon forewarns her of the sword that will pierce her heart, the grief of standing at the foot of the cross on Good Friday. The angel tells Mary that her child will be holy, the son of God, and this she finally understands to be true on that first Easter morning when the light of the risen Christ shatters the darkness forever, and makes all things new.

We walk with Mary on the same journey of faith and love and joy. She trusted in God, even in the most unlikely, unpromising and hardest of circumstances. She followed her Son Jesus Christ in discipleship. Her journey gave her reasons to laugh with joy and to cry with sorrow, to befriend, serve and welcome others. Sometimes the going seemed easy, at other times very hard. She believed and trusted in God and ultimately her confidence was not misplaced. At the promise of her baby Mary sang the Magnificat, Luke Chapter 1 verses 46 to 55. It is a song of hope, liberation and joy. It is a good song to read while praying for the future of our global family and for the right actions by governments. It is a song by a single young woman ready to play her part in God's redeeming works. It is a song by a young woman who knows in her heart that a loving God can indeed work through his faithful people to make all things new. It is a song to make our own, as we like Mary prepare to welcome the Christ child and commit ourselves to walk in his ways as children of light.

May you know the joy of welcoming the light of Christ this Christmas, and of walking with him into a new year.

Simon

Update on Wangford Community Garden

The Parish Council would like to thank all of the volunteers for their hard work over the past year on this wonderful project. Despite the difficulties and restrictions of recent times people of Wangford have done an incredible job of transforming a barren piece of grass into a garden for all. Wild species have increased and the wide selection of planting has improved the site.

Recently we have planted almost 3000 bulbs and sown a special seed mix of British grown native wildflower species suited to our dry, poor nutrient soil. We are hoping for a colourful spring and summer brightened up by the Crocus, Daffodil, Allium and Tulip bulbs. The bees and other insects should love it. If you know anyone that can help record the wildlife species please let us know.

There will be no December work party but please keep an eye out for information on when we will start again. If you are on Facebook look at the new Wangford with Henham Parish Council page. We could not have done it without our increasing band of hard-working volunteers. Well done.

Geoff Pepper

News from Wangford Church

November 14th saw our Remembrance Sunday service in the church and it was nice to all come together and pay our respects after not being able to have a public service in 2020.

Now thoughts turn to Christmas and we all pray that there will be no change in the transmission levels of Covid which may affect families ability to celebrate together this year.

The Christmas raffle hamper (thanks to the generosity of people and businesses in the village, it's actually two hampers) is looking very nice indeed. Tickets are going very well and they remain on sale in the Farm Shop, the Village Store and the church each Sunday. This raffle will raise much needed funds for the church. The draw will take place after the service on Sunday December 19th, which is our Christmas Carol Service. Please do come along at the usual time of 11.15am for what is always a lovely service of carols and readings (with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards).

The Christmas Day service will be at 11.15 and we hope to see lots of people in church to celebrate Christmas with us. As Christmas day falls on a Saturday this year, there will be no service on Sunday December 26th.

Wishing everybody a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and looking forward to seeing everyone in church during 2022.

Mark Notton, Churchwarden (578691)

News from Uggeshall

Uggeshall Coffee Morning

There will be no coffee morning at the Old School Hall on the 9th December. Coffee mornings will resume on Thursday 13th January 2022.

Uggeshall Cinema

It was lovely to see so many of you for the November screening; it made for a great evening and a fitting tribute to Nick.

December's film is the 1960s black and white classic "The Apartment" on Thursday 9th December. As usual doors open at 7pm for a 7:15pm start. There may even be a mince pie or two..

I have pre-ordered a copy of the latest Bond film, so if it arrives in time that will be the film for January 2022.

Matt Grady

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve at 6.00pm sees the return of our traditional service of Lessons and Carols at St. Mary's. Do come along to join us!

News from Sotherton

Carol Service

Everyone will be welcome to join us for our candle-lit Carol Service on Sunday 19th December at 4.00pm.

Quiz

A convivial evening with friends raised £317 for church funds. Thanks to everyone involved.

Wangford Community Council

Fund-raising returns to the Community Centre!

After an enforced break of 2 years, we were able to resume our fundraising efforts on Saturday 13th November when we held our Xmas Bazaar. We had lots of stalls selling lovely things, plus Teresa with the tombola, Malcolm with lots of quality Xmas goods and the 'Bus Stop', the two Margarets with the raffle, and of course, Carolyn with her cake stall for Santa Paws.

It was lovely to see so many people after such a long break, and all donated freely to the good causes. In addition, the Community Council itself raised £165.95, much needed after two years of no fund-raising income.

Thanks to all who came, gave, and donated items, and to the Farm Shop and Village Store for raffle prizes. Our next fund-raiser will be on 19th March, 2022.

Malcolm Woolnough

St Lawrence, South Cove

You are warmly invited to our Christmas Carol Service of traditional carols accompanied by advent readings on Sunday 12th December at 3.00pm. The church will be decorated with holly and ivy and lit by candlelight., and afterwards there will be seasonal refreshments. The church has heated seating and parking. We look forward to seeing you.

Book Club

At our November meeting we discussed 'Black Berry and Wild Rose' by Sonia Welton. Most of us agreed that it was an easy read and well written, but there was quite a division as to whether or not it classified as a "good book". Several people enjoyed the narrative style where the two main characters (Esther and Sara) spoke from their own points of view, but others felt the characterisation lacked depth. We did all agree that the descriptions of silk weaving at Spitalfields in the 18th century were excellent, but although we were told a little about the Huguenot community in London, many felt this could have been extended so that we came to understand more fully their lifestyle and beliefs. One thing that did become apparent was that outsiders were unwelcome, as was anyone who did not adhere to the strict code of behaviour.

Esther was a Huguenot wife and her husband ran a silk business. Esther was desperate to design and weave her silk but being female she was not able to do this. Her desire to succeed led to momentous events. Sara was the complete opposite. When she arrived in London knowing very little she was taken in by Mrs Swann where she worked in a brothel until she could escape. Both women were prisoners of their time with little ability to decide their own futures and although this should have bought them ideologically closer, the decisions they made pushed them further away from each other.

Some readers felt the story lacked gravitas and the subject matter deserved so much more. We thought the power of the silk owners was apparent and the descriptions of the 'mob mentality' were well drawn. We did think the ending was a little too neat and there could have been so much more on the history of silk weaving, the struggle of journeymen, the start of 'combination' as a forerunner to unions and a greater depth to the life of the Huguenot community.

We next meet on Thursday 2nd December in the Community Centre at 8 pm to discuss Stef Penney's 'Under a Pole Star'.

Gill Smith 578620

Christmas Afternoon Tea

Thursday 9th December

2.30 - 4.30 pm

Wangford Community
Centre

Served from 3.15pm and costing just £2.50 a head.

If you weren't able to come last month but would like to join us this time, just phone Sue on 578408





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ABRAHAM

Idling my time away in a nearby hostelry waiting for Mrs Abe and noticing some friendly locals at one end with a collection of used glasses on the bar I wondered when the young man on duty would cleanse them and put them away. The young man went off, leaving the glasses. A lady whom I recognised of some years standing replaced him. I looked up five minutes later and the glasses had disappeared. Speaks volumes. - right?

Am I missing something? A University student tells us that she is under pressure because she contributes to Snapchat and Tik Tok. Hearken : "I don't know a single friend who hasn't sent nudes on Snapchat, and every girl has a story of how it went wrong. It happened so many times at school - someone's nudes would be screenshotted and shared around. If images of you naked are shared around then that can ruin your life." And she's surprised? Later on - "Two girls in my flat at uni (dread diminutive) had to delete their social media accounts because it was negatively impacting their mental health. When I take breaks I only last a week because of the constant fear of missing out on parties....If you delete Instagram, you don't get the message and then you become more depressed because you have nothing to go to". Seriously, is this what they think university is for? Not for academia and intellectual pursuit? And anyway, are there no student union bars and societies where one can meet friends, aside from the well patronised public houses? I expect I appeal to you too much Lord, but I do need strength.

Undergraduates at Aston University are advised not to use phrases such as Old Masters, mastercopy, founding fathers, one-man show, forefathers, seminal, manmade and masterful. The alternatives suggested are (that grammatical misuse of 'alternatives' is not mine) one-person show, ancestors, classical or formative, synthetic and domineering. Old masters should now be classic art/artists, mastercopy - top copy or original, founding fathers- founders. Other words such as 'civilised', 'civilisation', 'immigrants', 'native', 'non-white', 'third world' and 'tribe' are also said to have racist or colonial overtones. There you are, lads. We've been emasculated, made biologically and physically redundant and now some numpties are trying to expunge us from the dictionary. Seriously, is there any sane person in Christendom who gives a monkey's toss? Of course not. The lunatics may be trying to take over the asylum but mercifully, they are a long way from succeeding.

In the obituary columns and in church funeral services it is right and proper to extol and pay tribute to the deceased, whether they be luminaries or ordinary folks. In the former case they have likely been the great and the good who have made lasting contributions to society and even world wide - scientists, academics, inventors, sportsmen/women, entertainers, religious reformers, etc. In the latter, normal, decent people who, by their very presence have illuminated their communities by unheralded works and goodness - just by being in our midst. Most of us are not blessed by being among the innovators or movers and shakers who have left behind lasting legacies but what we simple mortals do have in common is that we possess close relatives and dear friends whom we hold dear. It would be extremely pleasant and appropriate therefore, to express these feelings and thoughts to those precious individuals now, rather

than when they cannot hear and appreciate how much we revered them when still with us. That would make it a better world for everyone.

As always I wish all the good folk of Wangford and the villages, and those beyond, a very merry festive season and a Happy Guid New Year.

Abraham

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th December	2nd Sunday of Advent
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 12th December	3rd Sunday of Advent
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 19th December	4th Sunday of Advent
11.15 am Wangford	Carol Service
4.00 pm Sotherton	Carol Service
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Friday 24th December	Christmas Eve
6.00 pm Uggeshall	Lessons and Carols
Saturday 25th December	Christmas Day
11.15 am Wangford	Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 26th December	1st Sunday of Christmas
11.00 am Southwold	Team Communion
All services from St Margaret's, Reydon are live-streamed via YouTube.	

Beccles Choral Society

Faure: Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine

Fae Evelyn - Soprano

Tom Asher - Baritone

Widor: Andante Sostenuto and Marche Pontificale

Mark Blatchly - Organ

Conductor: Geoff Lavery

Saturday 11th December

at St Michael's Church

7.30 pm

(Conductor's Introduction at 7.15 pm)

Tickets £15 (under-16s free) available from

Cheryl Cou tts 01502 714655 or 07788 971211

cherylcou tts468@btinternet.com or Beccles Books

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 Team Vicar The Reverend Alan Perry 453624
 Team Admin Tania Birtwistle 724115

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 Sotherton Karen Flaxman 01986 873123

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Wangford Community Centre

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 Secretary Sue Taylor 578408

Uggheshall Old School Hall

Bookings Denise Baker 578190

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Henham Steam Rally

Chair Helen Walker 07557 784927

Wangford Surgery 578257

Sole Bay Health Centre 722326

Wangford Veterinary Clinic 578999

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DECEMBER 2021 CENTRE DIARY

2nd Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	6.30-7.30pm
	Book Club	Cttee Room	8.00 pm
6th Dec	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
7th Dec	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Blythburgh Bowls	Hall	7.00-9.30pm
	Community Council	Cttee Room	7.45pm
8th Dec	Salsa	Hall	7.15-9.00pm
9th Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Afternoon Tea	Hall	2.30-4.30pm
	Yoga	Hall	6.30-7.30pm
10th Dec	Private Hire	Hall	2.30-6.30pm
13th Dec	Toddlers	Hall	9.30-11.30am
14th Dec	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
	Parish Council	Cttee Room	8.00pm
16th Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	6.30-7.30pm
17th Dec	Carol Concert	Hall	7.00pm
20th Dec	Blyth Valley Labour	Hall	7.30-8.30pm
21st Dec	Body Conditioning	Hall	9.30-10.30am
	Post Office	Bar	10.00-12noon
23rd Dec	Wangford Art Group	Hall	9.30-12.30pm
	Post Office	Bar	1.00-3.00pm
	Yoga	Hall	6.30-7.30pm

The Arts Society, Southwold

The 2021 series continues on Tuesday 14th December

when Jacob Moss will speak on

'Treasures of the Fan Museum: an introduction to the world's first fan museum and its extraordinary contents'.

This lecture is via Zoom, commencing at 2.00pm.

Wrentham Chapel



is hosting "Caedmon at Christmas" on Tuesday December 14th at 7.00pm. This is a social evening with readings, poems, music and songs combined with seasonal food and drink to enjoy with plenty of chat.

You are invited, if so inclined, to bring an item for inclusion in the programme on the night. Contributions may be sacred or secular, sombre or silly.

There is no charge for admission, but there will be a retiring collection for Christian Aid.

Sue Hardy 01502 578994

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDITOR SUE TAYLOR:

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