



The Benefice of Acle and Bure to Yare

Acle : Beighton with Moulton : Freethorpe : Halvergate with  
Tunstall: Limpenhoe, Southwood and Cantley : Reedham :  
Wickhampton

JANUARY  
2026  
50P



Reedham Carol Service with the Reedham Ringers  
Handbell Band.

Photo: Kati Cowen

OUTLOOK

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## New Year Notes from a Nun

3.

Firstly, Happy New Year to you.

I wonder what you were given for Christmas. Something nice, I hope. I wonder if you received something you know you're never ever going to use. A pair of the wrong size socks perhaps? A chocolate tea pot? An inflatable dartboard? I wonder what Joseph and Mary did with the gifts given to them by the three Kings.

We remember the Kings' visit to the manger on 6th January, The Feast of the Epiphany. The Kings brought Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold was associated with wealth and symbolised Jesus' kingship; He is the King of Kings. Frankincense is a resin and was used in the temple during worship; this symbolised Jesus' divine nature and His role as High Priest, the Priest of Priests if you like. Myrrh is a resin that was used for anointing and embalming; this pointed toward Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. These three gifts were unusual and may have left Mary and Joseph pondering over why they had been given to their baby. They were expensive too; some say the gold was sold to fund the family's travels.

On 11th January we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. I wonder if you were baptised. Although I was baptised as an adult many of us will have been baptised as babies or young children. This rite symbolises a spiritual rebirth, a new start, a special union with Jesus. It too can be seen as a gift. What did we do with this gift? We may not have been old enough to understand we had received anything but perhaps we may wish to reflect on it a little now.

18th January sees the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity when Christians from different Churches - Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and others - meet, eat and worship together. Can we see those from other Churches as gifts too, each bringing their own offerings to the bigger Christian picture? Or we may choose to disregard them.

What of your own gifts? We all have them, there's not one of us who doesn't. Are you a gifted gardener? Perhaps you can sing? You may be a good listener. Whatever you're gifted at, use it; please don't disregard it. It's your special offering.

So, in this New Year, may we celebrate the gifts we already had before Christmas, as well as those we were given this time round, even if it included a 2026 calendar of 'Inspirational Car Parks of the United Kingdom' (someone else may really appreciate being given that...).

Lots of love, Sister Elizabeth Pio, Sisters of Bethany

January brings the usual variations to our services as we join with our Methodist sisters and brothers for their New Year Covenant Services: no services at Freethorpe All Saints, Halvergate or Reedham on Sunday 4th (11.00am at Freethorpe Methodist Church) or at Acle St. Edmund on Sunday 18th (11.00am at Acle Methodist Church).

The latter Sunday is also the first day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: that will be marked at the service at Swallowtail Place, Acle at 10.30am on Tuesday 20th (in the Games Room; visitors welcome).

On Sunday 11th we gather at Wickhampton for the annual Blessing of the Plough: dress warmly and, if you wish, bring along a garden tool or seeds to be blessed!

We are likely to be simplifying our pattern of services at Beighton, Freethorpe and Reedham: details will appear in February Outlook. For now, just note that there is no service at Freethorpe All Saints during January, but there will be Holy Communion on February 1st.

## **Parish Registers**

### **Funerals**

We commit to God's keeping:-

Clifford Alan Curtis, aged 93, on 24<sup>th</sup> November at St Edmund's, Acle

Brenda Ann Tovell, aged 89, on 8<sup>th</sup> December at St Edmund's, Acle

### **Reedham Belles (W.I.)**

We had a very enjoyable evening at the Pier Hotel in Gorleston for our Christmas meal in December and finally completed our treasure hunt in Cambridge. Book club met as usual in the Ship and several members took part in the carol singing around the splendid tree by the river. We were lucky with a beautiful sunny day for a guided walk around Great Yarmouth, taking in many of the interesting sights there, including a visit to the archive section of the newly located library.

Our January meeting will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 7 for 7.30pm in Reedham Village Hall where we will be holding our traditional gift amnesty auction and looking forward to planning another year of action in the company of a group of formidable, yet very friendly ladies! Why not join us? New members are always welcome.

Marion Small [reedhamwi@outlook.com](mailto:reedhamwi@outlook.com)

## **WICKHAMPTON NEWS**

### **Sunday 11 January 2026 at 10.30am: Plough Sunday Benefice Holy Communion at St Andrew's church**

Don't pack away your thermals after Christmas, because you'll need them again for Plough Sunday, when we'll celebrate once more the blessing of the plough and seed. Martin will also happily bless spades, forks, hoes and dibbers, and is keen to hear of any resulting bumper veggie crops following last January's blessings!

Refreshments to follow.

# Bathroom Installation

## Heating & Plumbing

5.

Full bathroom refurbishment

Wet rooms ● Shower rooms

Full heating systems ● Radiators replaced

General plumbing

Tiling Service ● Plastering ● Carpentry



Tel: 01603 858 367

or: 01493 700 162

Mob: 07909 814 719

E: [rjwservices2017@outlook.com](mailto:rjwservices2017@outlook.com)

ACLE PARISH HALL IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

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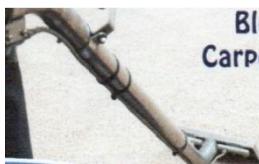
### Advertising Space Now Available

Half Page £51 per half year, £102 per year

Quarter page (this size) £27 per half year, £54 per year

1/8th page £15 per half year, £30 per year

To advertise in this magazine, please contact Jonathan Lonsdale  
(email [jlonsdale@me.com](mailto:jlonsdale@me.com)) for further rates and details.



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## Sisters of Bethany Morning or Afternoon Retreats

A time of retreat, even for an hour or two can help us feel restored.

We have now put together our programme of retreats for the first half of 2026

The retreats are a time of quiet reflection and there is no requirement to share anything with the group about your time of reflection. It is just a time to listen to addresses by the Sisters and have some quiet time.

### January 2026

**Wednesday 14th January** - 10am - 12.30pm - A Morning Retreat for Epiphany

**Saturday 17th January** - 1pm - 3pm - An Afternoon Retreat,

The House at Bethany

**Thursday 29th January** - 10am - 12.30pm - A Morning Retreat,

The Presentation of Christ through the eyes of Simeon and Anna.

### Lent Retreats

#### Praying with.....

This Lent we will be offering retreat sessions which will explore six different spiritualities where there will be an opportunity to learn about, reflect and pray in that particular style. The retreats will be led by the Sisters and refreshments will be available throughout the sessions.

The same retreat will be run twice each week. You can attend all six or just the ones you're interested in, as each one is a standalone retreat

#### **Praying with St Ignatius of Loyola**

Friday 20th February - 10am - 12.30pm Saturday 21st February - 1pm - 3.30pm

#### **Praying with St Francis of Assisi**

Wednesday 25th February - 10am - 12.30pm

Saturday 28th February - 1pm - 3.30pm

#### **Praying with Julian of Norwich**

Friday 6th March - 10am - 12.30pm Saturday 7th March - 1pm - 3.30pm

#### **Praying with St Teresa of Avila**

Wednesday 11th March - 10am - 12.30pm Saturday 14th March - 1pm - 3.30pm

#### **Praying with Mary & Martha of Bethany**

Friday 20th March - 10am - 12.30pm Saturday 21st March - 1pm - 3.30pm

#### **Praying with the Desert Mothers & Fathers**

Wednesday 25th March - 10am - 12.30pm Saturday 28th March - 1pm - 3.30pm

**For full details of these retreats and for the full programme please visit our website**

**[www.sistersofbethany.org.uk](http://www.sistersofbethany.org.uk)**

If you are interested in coming to one of the retreats please book in advance as numbers are limited to 6 people per session. No charges. Donations Accepted.

**Bookings can be made by;**

**Email: [guest.ssbnorfolk@gmail.com](mailto:guest.ssbnorfolk@gmail.com) Tel/Text: 07732 750702**

Sisters of Bethany, Grove Barns, Porters Road, Moulton St Mary, Norwich. NR13 3NR  
A Registered Charity in England (226582)

## The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025

7.

I am delighted to announce that the total raised in Acle & District for the Poppy Appeal 2025 is the fantastic amount of £13566.37. "Thank You" to everyone for your generous donations. This charity really can provide help that is life changing for our ex-servicemen, ex servicewomen and their families. My thanks to all the shops, businesses, schools, churches & parish councils for your support. A particular shout out to my wonderful team of helpers who carry out the door-to-door collections. It really does make a difference.



Jayne Smith  
Poppy Appeal Organiser  
Acle & District

## Acle & District Royal British Legion

The branch finished the year with an excellent well attended presentation on V2 Rockets in East Norfolk.

Our first meeting of the new year will take place on Wednesday 7 January in the Bure Room, Acle Recreation Centre starting at 7.15pm.

If anyone would like information about our meetings or joining the RBL, please call Jayne Smith on 07584 825749 or

email [jayne.smith15@btinternet.com](mailto:jayne.smith15@btinternet.com)

## Access for Acle – The Gospel Choir (see back cover)

This last event of the social and fundraising was a smash hit with a much larger attendance than was expected considering the bad weather conditions. Martin led the service with members of the church reading passages from the bible. John Froggatt from The Canal Ministry gave a powerful message for the Christmas season related to the 1968 Christmas message televised from the moon by the US astronauts who read the famous passage from Genesis. "In the beginning....."

Most of the attendees stayed for refreshments of mulled wine, mulled apple juice, mince pies, panettone and stollen.

We wish you all a very peaceful and joyous Christmas season from everyone at St. Edmund's church!!

## Cantley & District W.I.

Let us start by wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Our next meeting will be held in Cantley Village Hall on Wednesday January 21st at 7.30pm. The title of Phillip Mariners talk is' Have Camera, Will Travel'. For more information contact Barbara on 07789845050. New members always very welcome.

# **JANUARY CALENDAR**

8.

Reedham Charity: St Martin's Trust

## **Weekly**

Tuesdays 9.30am Ecumenical Morning Prayer – Acle Methodist Church (except 20<sup>th</sup> )

1.30pm Reedham Over Fifties Club – Reedham Village Hall (from 13<sup>th</sup>)

Saturdays 5.00pm Roman Catholic Mass – Acle Church

## **SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany**

9.30am Holy Communion – Limpenhoe

11.00am Morning Worship - Acle

11.00am Covenant Service – Freethorpe Methodist Church

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library Day – Halvergate, Reedham & Freethorpe

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Reedham Belles (W.I.) – Reedham Village Hall

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 7.15pm Acle & District R.B.L. – Acle Recreation Centre

## **SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Christ**

8.00am Holy Communion – Acle

10.30am Plough Sunday Service – Wickhampton

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Reedham Parish Council – Reedham Village Hall

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm Over Fifties opens again – Reedham Village Hall

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> OUTLOOK COPY DATE

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 9am – Noon Breakfast Café – Limpenhoe Village Hall

## **SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> of Epiphany**

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins**

9.30am Holy Communion – Halvergate

11.00am Covenant Service – Acle Methodist Church

11.00am Morning Prayer – Reedham

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Monthly Service at Swallowtail Place, Acle

(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm Cantley W.I. – Cantley Village Hall

## **SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> Conversion of St Paul**

8.00am Holy Communion – Acle

9.30am Matins – Halvergate

10.30am Morning Prayer – Beighton

11.00am Holy Communion – Reedham

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library Day – Brighton, Limpenhoe and Cantley  
 Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm ‘Mother Goose’ – Reedham Village Hall  
 Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> 2.30pm & 7.30pm ‘Mother Goose’ – Reedham Village Hall

Looking forward into February:-

**SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

9.30am Morning Prayer - Halvergate  
 11.00am Morning Worship - Acle  
 11.00am Holy Communion - Freethorpe  
 11.00am Morning Prayer – Reedham

*Breakfast cafe*

*Limpenhoe Village Hall*

*Saturday 17th January*

*Bookings:*  
*Time: 9 to 12* 

*Pat Bennett 07980 326347*  
*pb@falconhouse@hotmail.com*

*Bookings will be confirmed*

*Community Cafe in support of the Village Hall and Church*

**Answer to the Pathfinder Puzzle**

Away in a manger,  
 No crib for a bed,  
 The little Lord Jesus  
 Laid down his sweet head.  
 The stars in the bright sky  
 Looked down where he lay,  
 The little Lord Jesus  
 Asleep on the hay.

Lyndsay Fisher

Meeting held on Monday 1st December 2025 in the Village Hall

There were 6 Councillors present, the Clerk, District Councillor Nurden and 2 members of the public.

The Clerk gave an update to the Council:

The allotments reed bed has been cut.

A thank you card has been sent to Terry Snell for the planting around the War Memorials.

D. Cllr Nurden advised that applications for the Future for Nature Fund close on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

The Clerk had a meeting with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) at the Woodland Walk and received the additional information necessary to complete the Future for Nature Fund grant application.

Cllr George reported that the Christmas tree is now in place, the lights are working, and the school decorations will be put on the tree shortly. Sponsorship money is continuing to come in, with one payment not yet identified. Event planning is almost completed. Cllr Pittam has agreed to attend the Christmas events as the first aider.

Cllr Hale thanked Cllr George and the working group for all their efforts in bringing the Christmas tree project together.

Jerome Mayhew MP visited Reedham on Friday 14 th November and met with councillors to assess local views on the mooring charges at Reedham Quay. Currently there is very little opposition to the charges, however Jerome Mayhew said he is happy to support any action the Council wish to take.

The proposal to organise a village petition regarding the mooring charges at Reedham Quay was not seconded, no vote was taken.

The Village Hall defibrillator has been recalled by the East of England Ambulance service as it has reached the end of its life. A quote of £850 has been received from Heart2Heart for a replacement, which was the lowest price when compared with other suppliers. It was also noted that the Riverside defibrillator, purchased in 2011, may need replacing soon as spare batteries are no longer available.

The Public Spaces Protection Order regarding dog fouling has been extended and the Council have been supplied with two signs to put up in the area. One sign to be situated at the top of Middle Hill, and a suitable post near the playing field to be identified for the other sign.

In November the speed sensor was located on Mill Road, facing North, near the junction with Church View Close, collecting data from traffic coming towards the school. The speed limit here is 30mph.

The 85th percentile was 27.3 mph; the average speed was 19.4 mph. The average vehicles per day was 617.

### **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall lounge. Further details will be published on the website, Facebook page and notice board by the Surgery nearer the time. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Nomads Theatre Company Presents

# Mother Goose

A Traditional Pantomime  
written by Andy Gribben, directed by Tony Noon

At

Reedham Village Hall

on

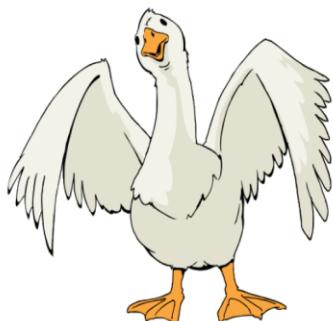
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

@ 7.30pm

and

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026

@ 2.30 pm and 7.30pm



## OVER FIFTIES CLUB AND LOTTERY

We have had a very busy month. At the end of November, we had our Christmas party at the village hall with our grand Christmas Raffle. We had 61 prizes, with a giant hamper for first prize; the hamper was donated to the club by Jane Ryan and it was won by Dennis Ewles. The buffet was prepared by Wendy Gitsham, Sally Cory and the committee. Thank you to all the members that donated to our Xmas food kitty. We invited some residents from the Old Rectory Care Home at Acle; they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and members were all pleased to see Violet Sparks, who used to be a member of our club.

On December 3rd members attended Acle Bridge for their Christmas lunch, Vanessa, Phil and their staff provided a wonderful lunch and we cannot thank them enough for once again looking after us so well.

We are now closed until January 13th when we re-open\*, so if you are thinking of joining us, please just turn up at Reedham Village Hall at 1.30pm. Our yearly membership is £7.00 and weekly subscriptions are £3.00. Refreshments are provided free. Every month we have a buffet for members with birthdays, we have a Christmas party and a Christmas lunch which are free to members. Club calendars are available free to members that request one. We have a free raffle every week, and once a month we have a cash raffle to raise funds. I run a lottery for £1.00 per week which is available to members and non-members to raise funds. We have been very fortunate this year winners of our lottery have given the club a donation, and some members have donated to our food kitty. These donations all help towards our club buffets etc. We thank members who bring us raffle prizes and bingo prizes. We play a bingo flyer at the club which is free to members and the cash prize increases every week.

So if you would like to join us come along January 13th 2026. We are open to all surrounding villages, if you do not have transport give me a ring and if we have someone in your area we will try to help you.

### LOTTERY NEWS

At the time of going to print the lottery is still running so someone could be in for a nice win before Christmas.

May I take this opportunity to wish all members a happy Christmas and a healthy 2026 and we look forward to meeting new members who want to join the Over 50's family.

Angie Woolsey  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Mob: 07585504199

\*put back from 6<sup>th</sup> as Alan Curtis's funeral at Gorleston Crematorium is on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**TRUSTEE OPPORTUNITY – Walpole Almshouse Charity**

Do you have a few spare hours and would you like to give something back to your community? Would you like to volunteer and support an important and historic almshouse charity?

The Walpole Almshouse Charity provides low-cost community housing located in Freethorpe, that is held in trust for local people over 60 who are in housing need. We are particularly looking for a volunteer who would be able to deal with the paperwork, emails, take minutes etc.

Please contact us if you interested or would like further information, either: C Nicholls 07982 265 536 or A Moll [clerk@freethorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@freethorpe-pc.gov.uk)

**ART EXHIBITION & ART SALE**

Reedham Village Hall

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

1-4pm

Admission Free

Refreshments Available

Exhibitors Welcome

(There is no charge for exhibiting but you must book a space)

For more information contact Mr Woollards

01493 700690

[kinhaven34@gmail.com](mailto:kinhaven34@gmail.com)

This was a hugely successful event in 2025

Looking forward to seeing you in 2026.

**Reedham Village Hall Jumble Sale**  
**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
**11 – 1pm   Admission £1**

**Mid January you will receive a bag. If you can please fill this with unwanted items such as clothing, books, bric-a- brac, white elephant goods, shoes, bags, small household and garden goods.**

**This will be collected from your door/driveway on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February between 8am and 2pm. Or you can bring your donations to the Village Hall on the same day or on Saturday 21st in the morning between 8 and 10am.**

**Any other villages needing us to collect please contact the number below.**

**Come down and grab a bargain. All proceeds to the Village Hall. If you need help with lifting or have any other queries please call 01493-701685. You can drop off at 5a Church Road from the beginning of February.**

**Many thanks in advance for all your contributions. This is a wonderful event.**

Sunday 6th September

It would be fabulous to see you all there.

Categories include photography, cookery, handicrafts, flower arranging, vegetables, flowers, fruit and a children's section.

Entries for photography are:

**Photographic Section Classes 82-88**

**(Photographs must have been taken by the exhibitor and must not exceed 10 inches by 8 inches, 25cm x 20cm, including any mount. There is no time limit on when the photograph was taken. Any frame should be removed.)**

**82. People – portrait or group**

**83. Pets**

**84. Forever friends**

**85. Village Life**

**86. Street Photography:** Capture candid moments of life in public places.

**87. Sport**

**88. Nature e.g. Plants / Flowers / Wildlife**

**Nomads Theatre Company**

Our annual January pantomime is this month!

We are performing '**Mother Goose**' at Reedham Village Hall on **Friday 30th** (7:30pm) and **Saturday 31st January** (2:30pm & 7:30pm) at Reedham Village Hall. It's a very family friendly show.

Tickets are £7 adults and £5 students/concessions. Please either call Kerri-Anne on 07824468242 or message us on Facebook for ticket enquiries.

Please support our local am-dram group. We are continuing to run monthly fund-raising quizzes at The Ship in Reedham. They are on the second Sunday of every month starting at 7:30pm. Teams of up to six and it's £2 per person. Our next quiz is on Sunday 11th January.

Interested in finding out more about how to get involved for other shows? Rehearsals are usually Friday nights in Cantley or Reedham Village Hall and we welcome new members throughout the year. We are an inclusive group, with no experience required. If you'd like to be involved with helping behind the scenes or on the stage, please contact us via Facebook or contact our chairperson, Kerri-Anne, on 07824468242

**Outlook – Happy New Year!**

Thanks to all those who have renewed their subscriptions – I hope you are finding the envelope system convenient.

Apologies to those who have printed copies – I made a whoopsie in doing the cover and put the wrong price on. Unfortunately, it hasn't gone down in price from last year! And also for the late delivery last month, when the Carriers decided to take the covers on extensive tours of Norfolk and then back to the Depot each night. We got them eventually! Many thanks to Sara Stephenson who completed them as we were away.



Above: The Happy Day Gospel Choir leading a Christmas Service at St Edmund's, Acle



Left: Reedham Belles on a walking tour of Great Yarmouth.

Below: The Belles on a Treasure Hunt in Cambridge



Below: Reedham Over Fifties celebrate at their Christmas Party.

