

The Coastal Group of Parishes

Bacton, Happisburgh, Hempstead with Eccles and Lessingham,
Ridlington, Sea Palling with Waxham, Walcott, Witton And Hickling

www.coastalgroup.org.uk

News Sheet 575

May 2025



The Darling Buds of May

This well known phrase first appeared in print in Shakespeare's sonnet, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" It is also better known from the adaptation of the H E Bates novel of the same name as a well loved television series.

As I write this in early April the countryside around us is a blaze of yellow. Primroses, daffodils, forsythia, gorse, celandines.

Since the effect of climate change has become visible our spring flowers have been appearing earlier in the year and it is likely in Shakespeares's day the show appeared later in May.

Earlier in the year we had a talk on Eco churches. Our churchyards, sometimes known as God's Little Acre, are now a refuge for a variety of wildlife, not just plants but birds, insects and other living creatures. Apologies to those of you who have resident moles or bats! Should you see what appears to be a neglected unmown area in a churchyard it is likely to be part of this scheme. It also fits in with the celebration of Creationtide later in the year.

Let us, whatever time of the year, thank God for the wonderful countryside around us of which we are the Guardians for the future.

*All things bright and beautiful
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

On May 18th there is a service at Happisburgh Church to thank Elwyn Bowler for the many years he has provided the Benefice with his wonderful music. Music is an important element of a Christian service and Elwyn's incredible talent has given us much pleasure. Thank you Elwyn.

Sing to the Lord a joyful song,

Best wishes to you all,

Margaret

Margaret Henderson - Authorised Worship Assistant

SERVICES FOR MAY

Sun 4th May <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30	Holy Communion	Walcott
	10.00	Holy Communion	Sea Palling
	10.00	Morning Worship	Bacton
	11.00	Morning Worship	Happisburgh
	11.15	Holy Communion	Hickling
	15.00	Afternoon Service	Ridlington
Sun 11th May <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.00	Holy Communion	Lessingham
	10.00	Morning Worship	Bacton
	11.00	Morning Worship	Hickling with Sea Palling
	11.30	BCP Holy Communion	Witton
Sun 18th May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	11.00	Benefice Service - thank you to Elwyn	Happisburgh
Sun 25th May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.00	Morning Worship	Hempstead
	10.00	Holy Communion	Bacton
	10.00	Morning Worship	Walcott
	11.00	Morning Worship	Sea Palling
	11.00	Morning Worship	Hickling
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Witton

Baptism

13th April- Barnaby Simpson - Witton

Mobile Library Dates for May

Hempstead/Eccles/Lessingham/Sea Palling/Waxham: Weds 28th

Hickling: Tuesday 13th

Happisburgh/Walcott/Bacton/Ridlington/Witton: Tuesday 6th

Coastal Group Prayer Chain

If you would like to be prayed for or know of someone who would like to be prayed for (with their permission) please contact John Prince: 01692 581841.

Advance Notice: on Tuesday 3rd June, from 10.30am-12.30pm we shall hold a meeting for Prayer-through-Art in Holy Trinity Church, Ingham, NR12 9SD. You are invited to join us in this quiet space to draw on the images and architecture to inspire creativity. This is not a class: it is an opportunity to look at the familiar in more focus. The PCC is kindly providing Coffee, Tea and Nibbles. Pencils, felt pens etc will be available. Simply bring paper or board. No paint, please. I ask you to consider a donation as a thank-you for the hospitality. *Zephney Kennedy 01692 598179.*

DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWS SHEET:

Please send your contributions for the June news sheet to Emma at eclawrence@btinternet.com no later than May 15th. Thank you.

WITTON St. Margaret's

Now that the church has warmed up a little, the bats, flies and queen wasps are awakening from their winter slumbers, outnumbering the congregation!

At the time of writing this, Easter will have passed. Our grateful thanks go to organist Paul Downes and Rev. Charles Read for taking the service, also thanks to all those who cleaned and decorated the church.

The May services are on the Sunday 11th at 11.30 am BCP Holy Communion and Sunday 25th 11.30am Morning Prayer.

On Bank Holiday Monday 5th May there will be the annual "Bluebell Tea" at Witton Hall with stalls etc, in aid of St Margaret's 12noon to 4pm, no charge for admission or parking. Everyone welcome.

Charles and Gillian Owles 01692 650223

HAPPISBURGH ORGAN FESTIVAL 2025

By the time you are reading this we will only be a few days before the launch of this year's Organ Festival concerts. We are so fortunate to have our great friend and supporter David Dunnett, the Organist at Norwich Cathedral, signed up for the first recital on Saturday 3rd May commencing at 7pm. David is retiring from the cathedral this year and this may well be the last time he plays for us. It would be great to give him a rousing welcome and send-off. Please come if you can. On 7th June Matthew Bond makes a welcome return as does Timothy Patient on 5th July. David Berwick will be playing at our final concert this year on 2nd August and celebrating his 60th anniversary as an organist.

The Organ Festival Committee renews its thanks to all last year's supporters and would love to see you again this year. All concerts are FREE. Donations for the Organ Fund will be very gratefully received. Refreshments at 8.10pm. If you have yet to attend a recital, please give us a try. You are guaranteed a warm welcome and a relaxing evening. More information at www.organrecitals.uk. *David Berwick*

HICKLING

The Greyhound Bible Discussion Group will meet at the Greyhound Inn, Hickling NR12 0YA, at 3pm on Tuesdays, on the 13th and 27th May. We welcome visitors and those who might join us. We are still making our way through The Psalms, as well as exploring the life of Moses.

The Julian Meeting for Silent Prayer will meet at St Mary's Church, Hickling NR12 0BQ, at 10.30am on Tuesday 13th May. Everyone is very welcome to join us for a cuppa and tranquil silent Christian prayer.

On Tuesday 20th May we shall once again do our outdoor Prayer Walk around the NWT Hickling Reserve starting at 10.30am. Please bring your proof of Hickling address or NWT membership (or pay for parking) and meet in the Visitors' Centre. Should the weather be unfavourable, we shall meet at the Visitors' Centre, and together go elsewhere sheltered.

Should anyone wish to find out more, do contact me, Zephney Kennedy, at 01692 598179.

World War Two Exhibition Saturday 3rd May, 10.30am - 3pm and Sunday 4th May, 1pm - 4pm at St Mary's Church Hickling. A large display of photographs, maps and information sheets put together by Bob Henderson. Refreshments will be available.

HAPPISBURGH

St Mary's Church Tower will be open from 1pm - 4pm on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th May, weather permitting. Minimum height 4ft 7inches. An interesting climb up through a medieval tower and a 360° view at the top.

Happisburgh Acorns

We are a parent-led stay & play group for under 5s, held on Mondays and Wednesdays during term time from 9am-11am. £1 per session. Refreshments for the grown ups and a snack for the little ones. Find us at Happisburgh Primary School Hall - we would love to see you!

Coffee Morning in Happisburgh Church Rooms on Thursday May 29th from 10.30am to 12.30. Please come and support our local lifeboats, Happisburgh and Sea Palling.

Annual Parish Meeting

Every year the village has an Annual Parish Meeting, which is a village meeting. This will take place on Monday 12th May at 7pm in the Wenn Evans Centre. It will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council as well as the Playing Field meeting and the Wenn Evans Centre meeting. Do please come along. Clerk: happisburghparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council meetings generally take place in the Wenn Evans Centre on the second Monday of every month at 7.30pm.

Happisburgh Community Hub at the Wenn Evans Centre

Every Wednesday from 11.30am till 1.30pm. Homemade light lunches, cakes, teas and coffees (donations towards providing this always appreciated). Community library open. Occasional guest Speakers. Everyone welcome. If help with transport is needed please call Malcolm on 07831 204346.

Happisburgh Knitters and Stitchers

Our next meetings are on Monday 12th May 1-4pm - COFFEE and CAKE afternoon - all proceeds to Norfolk and Waveney 'MIND' and Monday 26th May 2-4pm, in the Pavilion (next to the Wenn Evans Centre). Thanks to your support of meetings and events we have been able to donate £200 to both Cancer Research and MIND this year.

Wenn Evans Centre, Happisburgh, What's On When

Mondays: Seated Zumba with Nicola 2pm till 3pm
Pilates with Sonya 4.30pm till 5.20pm

Tuesday: Short Mat Bowls 10am till 12pm
Table Tennis 2pm till 4pm

Wednesday: Fitness Yoga with Sonya 4.30pm till 5.30pm
Judo with Paul 6pm-9pm

Friday: Short Mat Bowls 2pm till 4pm

For details of how to book, email Wennevans@gmail.com

Pot of Gold Shanty Crew Saturday 31st May, 7.30pm

Tickets £12 each, bring your own drinks & nibbles.

if you are unable to book via ticket source please email Wennevans@gmail.com or ring Julie on 07904 379391.

Quiz Night at The Wenn Evans Centre, 2nd Saturday of the month. 7pm. Book on 07904 379391. Bring own refreshments.

Prize Bingo at The Wenn Evans Centre, last Friday of the month. Eyes down 7.30pm, lots of prizes. £6 for 10 games.

Scarecrow Festival & Open Front Gardens

Sunday 3rd August 11am till 4pm. Would you like to be involved, make your own Scarecrow or open your garden to the public? Email wennevans@gmail.com to find out more.

SEA PALLING WITH WAXHAM

Sea Palling Community Hub will be open on Saturdays 10th & 24th May from 10-12 with good coffee/tea/chocolate + bacon butties in the Nissen Hut. Preloved clothes, books and bric a brac. All welcome. We would be grateful for donations of good quality bric a brac (no glassware please).

Sea Palling & Waxham Parish Council

Next Meeting - Tuesday 20th May at 6.30pm at Sea Palling Village Hall. All welcome. *Becky Furr, Parish Clerk,*
clerkseapallingpc@gmail.com 07588 398621

Sea Palling VE Day 80 Years Celebration - the Parish Council invite you to Beach Road on Sunday 11th May from 11am - food vendors, live music, crafts, children's entertainment, face painting. Dressing up in red, white and blue is encouraged!

SEA PALLING & WAXHAM VILLAGE HALL

PRIZE BINGO - on Friday 2nd May. Eyes down at 7.30pm. Refreshments and raffle. Everyone welcome.

VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS begin here at the Village Hall on Saturday 10th May 3pm. Join us for a "Street Party" style Afternoon Tea and singalong to songs of the era. Admission Free. Everyone welcome. Hope to see you there.

QUIZ AND SUPPER EVENING - Saturday 17th May. Booking essential. Please check for availability as spaces are limited or for more information call Margaret on 01692 598828.

COME ON IN - Join us on Wednesday 28th May 10.30am-12.30pm for a cuppa, chat and perhaps a game of cards or dominoes. This will be the last Come On In before our Summer Break, after which we will resume on 29th October. Everyone welcome, all free.

THE SEA PALLING TABLE TENNIS CLUB meets Wednesdays 2pm-4pm. All equipment provided. £3 per person. Everyone welcome.

ZUMBA CLASS - On Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm. For more information please call Tina on 07341360389 or find her on Facebook at "Zumba with Tina".

THE SEA PALLING CARPET BOWLS CLUB meets on Thursdays from 2pm - 4pm. Beginners welcome. For more information, please call John on 01692 598478 or Steve on 01692 598052.

YOGA - on Thursday mornings. See www.yogabreeze.co.uk for full details, or contact Clare 07557 353723

CRAFT FAIRS - at the village hall will be held on the last Sunday of every month up to October. Refreshments available.

SEA PALLING INDEPENDENT LIFEBOAT

Canon Portal, the primary lifeboat in our fleet, has successfully completed its scheduled winter maintenance and safety checks. The vessel underwent a comprehensive engine service along with a mandatory inspection conducted by MECAL, a leading certifying authority in the maritime industry. We are pleased to report that Canon Portal passed all checks with flying colours, reaffirming her readiness and reliability for the months ahead. The routine maintenance ensures the continued safety of crew and passengers, and reflects our ongoing commitment to high operational standards. With her clean bill of health, Canon Portal is once again fully operational and standing by for service.

Mark your calendars! Our annual Lifeboat Day will be on Sunday, August 10th. Following last year's success, we invite anyone interested in having a stall on the beach, sponsoring a stall or donating a raffle prize please contact rita@seapallinglifeboat.co.uk.

With warmer weather bringing more people to the beach, please remember to dial 999 and ask for the coastguard if you see anyone in difficulty in the water. Your safety is paramount; please do not put yourself at risk.

WALCOTT

Spring Fayre in Walcott Village Hall on Saturday 3rd May at 2.30 - 4pm. There will be games, stalls, raffle and refreshments. Come and join in. Proceeds to Walcott Church.

Christian Aid week is 11th to 17th May. There will be a small house to house collection in Walcott and envelopes in church. If you want an envelope please contact me. Please support this special Christian charity. Eiler 651393.

WALCOTT VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall - The booking clerk is John Paul and can be contacted on 07791804872 or 'e' mail - bookwosvh@gmail.com. All bookings will be confirmed by John with the individual concerned and it is requested not to use the calendar in the village hall until confirmed.

Weekly groups:

Mondays 6.00pm Yoga with Virginia 07413 199718 £6
Tuesdays 10.30am Ballet Bums with Carol 07748 825748
7.15pm Zumba Gold with Loraine 07748 985940
Thursdays 10.00am Seated Zumba with Nicola 07901 982414
Saturdays 11.15am Zumba Gold with Loraine 07748 985940

Plant sale – it's nearly here! Saturday May 10th doors open at 10am until 3pm. We have got loads of marigolds, tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, cabbage, leeks rhubarb, strawberries and lots more including some wonderful mature lavender plants as well as our infamous middle aisle where donated goods are sold – all proceeds going to support our local Community First Responders. It is not too late if you have any items we can sell on the middle aisle or plants to donate please contact George on 07918193341.

Wild Touch – Dry biscuits and cans of cat food are welcomed for their winter hungry rescued birds and animals. Also needed are dustpans, brushes and washing up sponges if anyone can help.

Book swap cupboard – The cupboard is to the right of the hall entrance and can be accessed at any time. Please only leave books if they can be placed in the cupboard due to the rain.

Keep an eye on our notice board & Facebook page: Walcott-on-sea Village Hall for detailed posters.

The Coastal Walking group

April's walk at Barton Turf, though poorly attended, proved to be a very pleasant walk so we thought we may give it another try in May. We will meet at Barton Turf church on Tuesday the 6th at the usual time of 9-30am. Everyone is welcome including dogs on leads. For more information I can be contacted on 01692 651609. *Ray Allcoat*

RIDLINGTON St. Peter's

The Bedfordshire May Carol

*I've been rambling all the night,
And the best part of the day;
And now I am returning back again,
I have brought you a sprig of May.
Go down to your dairy and bring me a cup,
A cup of your sweet cream,
And, if I should live to tarry in town,
I'll call on you again.*

On April 6th we celebrated Holy Communion followed by our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Our lovely old church that dates back to at least the 12th century, is in urgent need of a PCC Secretary. If anyone would like to help with this, please contact Rev. Coryn or a member of the PCC.

Our next service will be on May 6th at 3pm as usual. All welcome as always. Refreshments afterwards.

Barbara Penn 07564536262

LESSINGHAM AND HEMPSTEAD WITH ECCLES

The Lessingham graveyard is a member of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust scheme for churchyards to encourage flowers, insects, other invertebrates and birds. This means that not all of the churchyard will be cut throughout the summer. This does not affect those graves tended by family members.

Three members of the PCC, Brian Levy, Jacky Pestell and Margaret Henderson have studied or are about to undertake the Church of England safeguarding training. Details of the scheme and what to do if you think you have a problem are in both church porches. *Margaret Henderson 581858.*

LESSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

The Lighthouse Cafe will be open at the Chapel on the second and fourth Wednesday each month, beginning on 14th May, from 10.30am to 1.00pm where we shall be serving hot drinks and light lunches. There will be no charge but any donation would be very welcome.

The Lessingham Chapel **Jumble Sale** will be on Saturday 24th May from 11am to 1pm. Bacon rolls and hot drinks available.

There will be a joint **Celebration of Anglicans and Methodists Together** on the weekend of 9/10th August.

We shall eat together at lunchtime on the Saturday at the Chapel and worship together on Sunday in Hempstead Church. More details to follow.

The **Lessingham Chapel Quilt Show** will be held from 3rd to 6th September this year. A small number of Sales tables are available. Please book with Ros Peedle ros.peedle@live.co.uk as soon as possible. Further details of the Show will follow.

Norfolk and Waveney Mind's project **Sustain Coastal Mind** are collaborating with the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich and inviting members of the Happisburgh community to join us for a series of workshops co-facilitated by professional artist-facilitators from the region. If you love arts and crafts, have an interest in developing creative workshops, enjoy exploring the history and culture of our coastlines, or simply want to be part of a community-driven project looking at the future, we'd love to hear from you. Absolutely no prior artistic experience is required – just enthusiasm and ideas!

A number of events will be held in Happisburgh in May and June, with a launch happening on **April 29th**, 4 – 6pm at St Mary's Church Rooms. This is where we'll come together, share more about the project, and start collaborating. If you'd like to take part, please join us. We look forward to seeing you there! Please also look out for future dates.