

For more information about church life, please contact Rev'd Sue Nutt who lives in the village: 01842 890409, suenutt@hotmail.co.uk or Rev'd Karen Burton: 07546491388, blackbourneteam@gmail.com. Information can also be found on the Blackbourne Team website: www.blackbourneteam.btck.co.uk

Baking through Lent for families - Hello! St Gregory's are not giving something up for Lent - we're taking up baking! Each weekend running up to Easter we will cook at home, then meet up on Zoom on Sundays at 5pm to share and eat our bakes (no matter how they turned out....), chat and hear a story. Approx. 30mins. Come as often as you like! If you would like the recipes and the link to join in please email Vicar Karen at: revkarenburton@outlook.com.

Join us for a short course on zoom - We are holding an evening course over 6 weeks, started on 15th February, learning about our faith together on zoom. A chat, a video and some discussion together. No pressure, no such thing as a silly question, just friendly exploring and learning together. If you would like to join in, please email Tony: tony@theredmans.co.uk to let him know.

Team Lent course "Here and There" – Reflecting on Mark's journey to the Cross. Wednesday – 2pm and repeated at 7pm. Please email Vicar Karen revkarenburton@outlook.com if you would like to take part. This is a Team course on Zoom giving an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and changes to everyday life we have experienced during the pandemic. Six scenes take us through Mark's account of Jesus' journey to the cross (chapters 14 and 15). Each scene makes a connection between 'here', our world today, and 'there', the world of the Passion narrative. The connecting points are brought to life through voices talking about experiences

Mothering Sunday Service - 9.30am Barnham with flowers for Mums

Easter Services – 4th April. It will be wonderful to have all our churches open for Easter services. Of course social distancing and mask wearing will be necessary but we shall be able to celebrate together:

Barnham - 9.30 Parish Communion *

Fakenham - 8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Euston - 11am BCP Holy Communion with Easter trail in the churchyard for families

*There will be an opportunity for the children to take part in the annual Easter Egg hunt during the service

Easter Lilies – Please let Mark know if you would like to order an Easter lily in memory of a loved one - the lilies will be arranged in Barnham Church and usually cost around £2.50 each. Mark needs an envelope with £2.50 (for each lily) and the name of your loved one(s) by Friday, 20th March. Mark Hirst - The Old Bakery, Water Lane, Barnham. Tel: 07748854635

Phone in Service – Thursdays, 11am Common Worship. We have worked out a way to do a service using telephone conferencing and will be using it for a shortened Communion service on Thursday at 11am. To join phone this number: 0333 0164 757. Listen to the instructions and when prompted to enter your room number.

Barnham Thursday House Group – every week on Thursdays using zoom 9.30am. Contact Sue for an invite: suenutt@hotmail.co.uk

Barnham church kitchen - You will all be delighted to know that the beautiful church kitchen is being installed as this goes to press! This will be a wonderful asset to the church hospitality and we do hope to use it sooner rather than later.

Church yard tidy up - Towards the end of February we will tidy the Christmas wreaths from Barnham graves where people have not been able to visit the churchyard. The Spring daffodils, aconites and snowdrops are coming out and a group of socially distanced parishioners are clearing ivy and generally tidying some of the very old graves. Thank you to them and to others who cut grass regularly.

Services continue on Blackbourne Team Ministry facebook page. Should you not wish to subscribe to facebook please enter Blackbourne Team Ministry in your browser, then enter Services and the link to the facebook page is at the bottom of the page. You will not need to subscribe to facebook in order to view. Any enquires to our Team Rector Revd Karen Burton on 07546 491388 or Revd Sue Nutt at Barnham on 07818670124/01842 890409.

THANK YOUs:

... to Nigel and Sue Crawley for tidying, providing materials and shelving out the Phone Box for the book library. Well done!

... Mrs Vera Summers would like to say a sincere thank you to all her friends for the cards and presents for her 90th birthday. Congratulations Vera - you are a very special lady

... A huge thank you to everyone who has responded to the appeal for IT equipment and funding so that all the children who are home learning have been able to have good equipment. It has made a great difference to those children. We all applaud the dedication and professionalism of all the Staff at Barnham School and all that each and every one of them are doing to support not only the children but also their families at this difficult time.

Barnham Village Hall – Sadly, due to Corona virus restrictions the Village Hall remains closed. We will continue to take provisional bookings in the hope that the situation will improve. If you have any enquiries about booking the hall please contact Judy on 01842 890291 (and not Amanda Kingsnorth on 890037 as before). The village hall has a website: www.barnhamvillagehall.org and a Facebook page.

Barnham Parish Council - Details about the parish council (including the latest draft minutes) can be found on the notice board at the village hall and on the parish council website: www.barnham.onesuffolk.net.

The parish council continues to meet bi-monthly using “zoom”. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 9th March 2021 at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend – the link for the zoom meeting will be included in the agenda (on the website or notice board by the village hall). Any queries, please contact the clerk, Caroline Dowson: 01842 890355/email: barnhampc@btinternet.com.

Update on the proposed quarry site: The expected planning application from Elveden Farms for the North Farm Quarry Site in Barnham is now under consultation until Saturday, 6th March 2021. Details are available on the Suffolk County Council website, planning reference: SCC/0095/20SE. The parish council has already objected to this site during the original Suffolk County Council Minerals and Waste Extraction consultation. There are now further concerns. The “location plan HGV route” now proposes to use the C633 (road from Elveden to Barnham) for HGV quarry traffic. The parish council is already campaigning about the dangerous state of this road for safety and maintenance reasons. This quarry application will have additional implications regarding noise for residents close to the A134. At the planning meeting held on 15th February it was unanimously agreed to object to this planning application. This is based on original concerns about the condition of the C633 (not fit for purpose for large volumes of HGV traffic) and environmental issues regarding flooding, and the area’s SSSI status. In addition, the new proposal for heavy HGV traffic to travel close to residents in Barnham (along the C134) is a cause for concern.

Please can we encourage all residents to take a look at the application and respond with any comments or concerns to Mr. Graham Gunby, Development Manager: planning@suffolk.gov.uk by 6th March 2020. Details can be found: <http://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC/0095/20SE>.

Barnham Speed Watch – can you help? We are looking for some more volunteers to help with the group which, it is hoped, will be up and running again shortly after lockdown. We are hoping that a VAS sign (a vehicle activated speed control sign) will be set up in the village soon. It’s been a long process, but we’re just waiting the final permission from Suffolk County Council. Please contact John Bauer for more details on 01842 890093/john.bauer@btinternet.com.

Fakenham Magna Parish Council meets bi-monthly. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th March, 2021 via Zoom (contact Clerk for link to join in) commencing at 7:30pm. Public and Press welcome to attend. For further information on dates and times please see the Notice Board or visit the website at www.fakenhammagna.onesuffolk.net

Census 21 takes place this year in March - What is the census and why does it matter? The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The census is unique. There's simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in. It tells us what our needs are now, and what they're likely to be in the future. It also gives a snapshot of how we live, for future generations to look back on. Knowing what our community needs helps organisations like councils plan and fund public services in our area and information you give informs those doing research, like university students and people looking into their family history. Without people in our community telling us about their household and home it would be much more difficult to do this. That's why it's so important everyone takes part.

As this will be mostly digital this year (online) if anybody feels they will need some extra help please, contact the Fakenham Magna Clerk on 07930 532 158 or email fakenhammagnapc@live.co.uk – or the Barnham Parish Council Clerk on 01842 890355 or email barnhampc@btinternet.com

FREE: Our pig food arrives in heavy duty poly sacks. If you need sacks for rubble, garden waste, sand, stone, etc. Call Ken Jordan 890291 to arrange collection. Up to 50 available.

ALLOTMENT PLOTS - Allotment plots are available to rent in Barnham @ £25 p.a. To register initial interest please contact Deborah Baker at dbaker@euston-estate.co.uk or 01842 766366 Opt. 4 Mon/Tues/Fri.

Barnham and District W.I. - Hopefully you and your families are keeping safe and well. The lockdown has been difficult, lonely and stressful for a lot of people, but now with the vaccine being widely administered, it appears that there is going to be a pathway out of it.

Although the process might be slow, we can start to look forward to a brighter future, plan our monthly meetings, and once again enjoy social interaction. We would also extend a very warm welcome to anyone else who would like to come and join us. Please contact Ruth Benbow, President, for more details: 01842 630247.

Euston Farm Update from Matthew Hawthorne (Farm Manager) - The relentless wet weather continues to hamper progress with farming at the moment. Sugarbeet harvest finished at the end of January, but deliveries still continue. The last of the Sugarbeet will be delivered next week to complete the campaign. Our target was 15,000 tons but we will end up around 13,000 tons. The reduction in yield is due to low sugar levels this year. The Sugarbeet had a very dry spring and summer which caused it stress and then with the rain that started at the end of September caused decrease in sugar %. Carrots have been planted under polythene to warm the soil quicker and firewood is selling fast. Now we look at soil preparation for this year's beet crop and also maize. Hopefully though it will dry up soon. Best wishes Euston Farms.

School News from Mrs. Amy Arnold (Head teacher) - Whilst the start of the new year has presented us with some challenges; we are exceptionally proud of all our parents and children who have shown incredible resilience and determination during this lockdown period.

We are very grateful to our community in Barnham for regularly dropping in cakes - these have really helped to keep staff morale up! Rev Karen Burton has kindly filmed a weekly collective worship which we all look forward to watching.

We have been overwhelmed with the support from our community with our campaign to ensure all pupils can access their learning at home. We have been able to distribute 26 laptops and 4 tablets (to date) to the doorsteps of our pupils. Not only do these allow them to access their learning but to meet daily and talk with their teacher and classmates, which is invaluable for their emotional and mental health. Without the support of our local and church community donating funds to our go fund me page along with laptops, this would not have been possible. We are exceptionally grateful and blessed and wish to pass on enormous thanks to everyone for their kind and generous donations.

We are focussing on brighter times ahead when the playground will be filled with laughter and singing ringing through the school again.

	3kg	15kg	20kg	25kg	High quality bird seed is now available to Barnham residents. All proceeds will go towards Barnham Primary School. Here are the prices and quantities, and delivery within the village will be free of charge. Please make your order by the last day of the month by emailing jezblackburn@sky.com . Payment can be made by BACS or contactless payment on delivery.
Sunflower Hearts	£4.00	n/a	£22.00	n/a	
Black Sunflower	£3.00	£12.00	n/a	n/a	
Mixed Seed	£2.00	n/a	£10.00	n/a	
Peanuts	£5.00	n/a	n/a	£35.00	
suet balls- 150 @ £20					

Quiz – quizzing seems to be all the rage during lock-down – perhaps you’d like to have a go at this one (Thanks to Graham Paflin for forwarding this) – more questions to come next time:

How well do you know East Anglia?

1. Which river flows between Barnham and Euston and marks the Norfolk / Suffolk boundary?
2. Where is the ‘Rowley Mile’?
3. It is well known that Thetford was frequently used for the TV sit-com ‘Dad’s Army’ but which fictional town did it represent?
4. Who was the famous 18th century portrait and landscape artist who was born in Sudbury?
5. The Norfolk Broads were formed by the flooding of medieval excavations - excavations of what?
6. Who have been the residents of Euston Hall for 350 years?
7. Can you name the village in Suffolk that has been described as ‘Britain’s Atlantis’ or ‘The Lost City of England’?
8. Where was the BBC television serial ‘Lovejoy’ filmed?
9. Which brewing family is associated with Elveden Hall?
10. Can you name the monarch whose treasure was lost in The Wash?

(answers at the foot of page 6)

Do keep in touch – *Movements are currently restricted so why not try your hand at some creative writing? Maybe you have a favourite hobby or pastime; recollections of village life as it used to be; maybe some poetry that you’ve written? If so, why not put pen to paper/finger to keyboard and get it put down in writing. We’d love to feature some of your articles in The LINK. Just email: barnham.link@gmail.com - or hand write something and we will type it up for you (just leave it with Ken Jordan, Prykes Cottage, Water Lane). Anything up to 1000 words maximum. So, what are you waiting for ... here are a couple of items received, both with a railway theme:*

Railway Sleepers

They are newly laid
They are machine made.
Railway sleepers lying
under rails of iron.
Worn by years of use
left by man, abused.
Left to the rain
to rust, til the next train.
Miles of rail across the nation
stretching station to station.
Waiting to be torn away
to be used in some other way.
Rusty, and covered in grass
for how long will they last
Before some other mode
of transport takes to the road.

Charles Merrifield (written when aged 16)

Last Train to Barnham (An abbreviated version of the article to be found on the Barham Parish Council website.)

In the early 1800's, the main seaport for Bury St Edmunds trade was Kings Lynn, reached by boat via the River Ouse and Lark Navigations. From 1846 the new Great Eastern Railway, (GER), between Bury and Ipswich provided an alternative port at reduced costs but gave the GER a monopoly for Bury trade.

The 1860's was the time of 'Railway Mania' when every town wanted its own railway. Bury businessmen believed the town needed an alternative outlet to reduce dependence upon the GER and obtained an Act of Parliament for the building of a new railway. In 1865, they set up the Bury and Thetford Railway, but others were less enthusiastic, and it took another 9 years to raise the required £100,000.

Between the main stations at Bury and Thetford, the plan included intermediate stations at Ingham, Seven Hills Halt, Barnham and Thetford Bridge, (in the east of the town). Trains to Kings Lynn would then proceed for a short distance via the Breckland Line and thence the Thetford and Watton Railway, (T&WR), through Swaffham and onward to Kings Lynn. An agreement was reached whereby the B&TR would, in effect, be operated by the T&WR and predominantly use their locomotives and rolling stock on the new line.

The railway finally opened on 1st March 1876 to much fanfare with Town Bands and various activities at each of the stations providing a holiday atmosphere. However, the 11 year delay between planning and opening of the line was to have a serious and detrimental effect on its prosperity. In 1875, a year before the opening, an agricultural depression hit the country and would last throughout the 1880's and 1890's with the Breckland around Thetford being one of the worst hit areas. Only two years after the opening, the new Railway Company and its line were sold to the Great Eastern Railway for only half of what it had cost to build.

Let us take a ride along the line, taking a moment here and there to see what happened over the years at the various places through which the line passed and relate the route to the geography of today. Leaving Bury St Edmunds station heading east on the GER line, after 300yds and on the southern edge of what is now Tesco's car park, the line split into three. The main line continued towards Ipswich, the southern branch headed towards Sudbury whilst the Bury and Thetford Railway, (B&TR), swung north around the south-eastern corner of what is now the 'Sugar Beet' roundabout on the A14.

The long sweeping curve of the 'new' A143, Compiegne Way, crosses the old line about 350 yds before the A143/A134 roundabout. The line continued north through a cutting and crossed Barton Hill via an underpass just west of what is now Oak Grove. From this point until leaving Ingham, the route of the line is much more discernible today. It crossed the route of the new A134 dual carriageway, Fornham St Martin bypass, close to the new overbridge which carries 'The Drift' – formerly, 'Farm Drift'. Continuing north via a series of cuttings and embankments, it next passed under the B1106, Barton Bottom – this humpbacked bridge for road traffic is still there as I am sure you know! The line then paralleled the A134 with an overbridge at Timworth – whilst the bridge span here is long gone, the brick abutments remain.

Following the eastern edge of Ingham village, the line passed under the Ampton / Great Livermere road and immediately entered Ingham Station. Ingham station building still exists behind the Woodside Business Park industrial estate and can just be seen from the by-road but is private property.

Continuing on its way, the line again crossed the A134 in the dip just north of the village – at this point there was a sharp 'S' bend in the road to enable it to pass under the railway bridge but following closure of the line the bridge was demolished and the road straightened. The route from here has now been mostly returned to agriculture but, 1¾ miles north and 500yds along the track next to 'The Parsonage', there remains some evidence of the location of Seven Hills Halt and sidings which was presumably intended for agricultural goods traffic although, during the First World War, there was also a secret tank testing and training area here – but that's a tale for another time. Passengers wishing to alight at Seven Hills had to travel in a specific carriage as the platform was very short and it was a long drop to the ground if you were in the wrong one!

..... *Part two will follow next time!*

WALKING – do you like walking? John Harris (the author) has asked us to help publicise “Walking in Suffolk”, which has lots of walks available for free download and printing. As it’s got lots of local walks, we thought we share it with you. More details on www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk

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www.rglandscapes.co.uk.

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Third age support service. I’m a former sheltered housing warden who has a great deal of experience in supporting older people and looking out for their welfare. I am happy to discuss your needs in a free no obligations visit. Based in Barnham, DBS checked and references available. Call Liz on 07956 797455.

To advertise/submit articles please contact Caroline on 01842 890355 or email Barnham.link@gmail.com

Our thanks to Barnham and Fakenham Magna Parish Councils and Euston Parish Meeting

for helping with the cost of this Newsletter.

East Anglia Quiz Answers

1.Little Ouse 2.Newmarket Racecourse 3.Walmington-on-Sea 4.Thomas Gainsborough 5.Peat which was burnt as a fuel 6.The Duke(s) of Grafton 7.Dunwich 8.Long Melford 9.The Guinness brewing family 10.King John