

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

Church Services

19th December 4pm Christingle via zoom *
20th December Drive in Carol Service **
24th December 'Midnight Service' **10pm Barnham Church**
25th December - Christmas Day 8.30am Holy Communion Fakenham Magna
10.am Holy Communion Euston

Sunday, 16th January - Parish Communion **10am Barnham Church**

We continue to stream services on Facebook:

Every Sunday - 8am Holy Communion and 10am Parish Communion
Every week day - Morning Prayer 9am and Night Prayer 8pm

* **Christingle Service – 4pm on 19th December** – with the Rev. Karen Burton. With COVID precautions there will not be room in the church for all of us for this service. However, it will be good to see you on “zoom”. Do join in by letting Sue Nutt know if you can come (suenutt@hotmail.co.uk) and we will send you an invite via email and deliver a parcel to you beforehand with all the ingredients to make a Christingle during the service! Enquiries 07818 670124.



** **Drive in Carol Service.** A wonderful event is planned in Euston Park for Sunday, 20th December at 4pm with an opportunity to sing your hearts out while sitting in your car. With the current restrictions we do have to provide entry by tickets and invite you to contact Tash Deverell on 07773 398444 or email StGBarnhamchurch@gmail.com. **Entry will be by ticket only.**

Christmas competition

How about decorating a window or window sill in your house with Christmas decorations or a crib set and light a candle or a lamp to make a beautiful display throughout the Barnham area.? There will be a prize of £10 for the best decoration! Enquiries to Sue Nutt 07818 670124.

Christmas Carols



Sadly we are still not permitted to sing in a church or at school, but we can do so on our doorsteps. So do join in on Wednesday, 16th December from 6-7pm ... tune into Radio Suffolk 104.6 FM.

Singing may not be permitted in church, but it is still lovely to hear carols. On **Wednesday, 23rd December from 6 to 6.30pm** we will carol sing in Barnham church yard.

January Quiz

The annual church Quiz will be held using “Zoom” this year. Friday, 22nd January to begin at 7.30pm. If you would like to join in please pop £2 person through Sue Nutt’s door (Portelet, Blacksmith Lane, Barnham) with details of your email address and receive a sheet for your answers. So sorry that you will have to provide your own soup this time!

Free to a good home – used Bosch dishwasher and Zanussi washing machine, also HP deskjet 2050 printer. Contact 07818 670124.

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, 12th January 2020 at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend – please contact the clerk for an invitation to the zoom meeting whilst the village hall is closed: 01842 890355 or email: barnhampc@btinternet.com.

West Suffolk District Council – Local Plan Review Consultation

As you may know, West Suffolk District Council is preparing its Local Plan review and the public consultation ends on 22nd December. There is plenty of information on their website about the proposals with a virtual exhibition explaining the whole process: <https://westsuffolk.exhibition.app/>. There is an opportunity for members of the public to comment. Do please take a look and make your own comments.

Barnham is proposed as a category A village. The parish council met on 24th November to discuss its response to the consultation and it was unanimously agreed by all parish councillors to propose that the boundary be re-aligned to keep the village in good stead for the future. It was also agreed that more affordable housing is needed. Three possible development sites have been put forward for the District Council to consider. A copy of the parish council minutes from 24th November is posted on the notice board by the village hall or can be viewed on the parish council website.

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.

... and here’s some light-hearted food for thought - Does Christmas meet Health and Safety Regulations?

While Shepherds Watched, Their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around. The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided. Therefore, benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Please note, the angel of the Lord is reminded that: before shining his/her glory all around, she/he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road, Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load. The RSPCA have issued strict guidelines with regard to how heavy a load that a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry, also included in the guidelines is guidance regarding how often to feed the donkey and how many rest breaks are required over a four hour plodding period. The donkey has expressed his discomfort at being labelled “little” and would prefer just to be referred to as Mr. Donkey. To comment upon his height or lack thereof may be considered an infringement of his equine rights.

We Three Kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder Star. Whilst the gift of gold is still considered acceptable – as it may be redeemed at a later date through such organisations as “cash for gold” etc., gifts of frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to the potential risk of oils and fragrances causing allergic reactions. A suggested gift alternative would be to make a donation to a worthy cause in the recipient’s name or perhaps give a gift voucher. We would not advise that the traversing kings rely on navigation by stars in order to reach their destinations and suggest that use of a reputable route finder or satellite navigations, which will provide the quickest route and advice regarding fuel consumption.

Euston Farm Update from Matthew Hawthorne (Farm Manager) - Hi all and welcome to the farm news for December. Sugar beet harvesting is continuing as we write this report. The yield was very poor when we started in October but I'm glad to say things have improved slightly with the yield rising to 2 and a half articulated lorry loads per football field. Log sales are busy so we are currently cutting lots of firewood to meet the demand. The wood was harvested from then woodland in July 2018 and then is stored in big heaps out on the farm and then transported back to the farm to be processed. Processing involves putting it through a machine that cuts it to 10 inches long and splits it. The logs are then stored in a big Nissen hut until delivery is required. At the point of loading up for delivery the logs then go through a cleaner that shakes off any loose bark, dust and dirt before going into the transit van.

All the cereals get a spray before winter so this is being done and at the start of this month we started to pump the water from the river to the reservoirs for winter storage. See you all soon, *best wishes Matthew at Euston Farms.*

School News from Mrs. Amy Arnold (Head teacher) - Season's Greetings from Barnham Primary School! Whilst it is a December like no other, we have been counting our blessings in school and thinking about all of the things we are thankful for; with friends, family, school, health and homes coming in high on our lists. This year we are celebrating Christmas, with a twist! Ladies and Gentlemen...take your seats, we will be having a pantomime streamed straight into our classrooms, complete with boos and cheers, it will bring a little festive magic to Barnham Primary this year! A big thank you Barnham PTA for supporting this!

With grateful thanks to our community for your continued support throughout this challenging year.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

From the Chair of Barnham School PTA - I am excited to announce that the school have launched their very own fundraising school lottery and we'd be so grateful for any support from the local villages! Tickets cost £1 per week and each ticket will enter you in TWO draws:

A jackpot prize draw for £25,000.00

A local draw with a guaranteed prize for one of the supporters of our school. The size of the prize will depend on the number of tickets bought that week.

The lottery is a fun and effective way to raise money, but we need your help to make the lottery the best it can be, so please support the lottery if you can - and who knows maybe you'll be the next £25,000 winner! You can sign up via <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/barnham-cevc-primary-school>.

Many thanks, Laura Blackburn (Ptarnham@gmail.com)

LOCAL TRADES PEOPLE:

Edges to Eaves. Property Maintenance Services. Got a problem? Better call Paul! No job too small. No obligation – free quotes. Tel: 07576 617676/01842 898420.

R G Landscapes: We are a local company and cover all aspects of hard & soft landscaping, brickwork, groundworks, fencing and garden maintenance. 07557 347598 or 01842 890302 enquiries@rglandscapes.co.uk
www.rglandscapes.co.uk.

Clive Davey CD Automotive Ltd. Servicing, repairs, MOT's, tyres, exhausts, diagnostics, automotive and domestic locksmiths. All makes of cars and vans. Friendly and reliable. 01842 750216/07483 128392.

Hometyre mobile tyre fitting service. We bring the Tyre Centre to you at home or at work! New Tyres supplied and fitted, puncture repairs, vehicle tracking, locking wheel nut removal. Based locally 07854 599 897/ www.hometyre.co.uk for fast service.

The complete garden service. From trees and hedges, shrubs and lawns. Fences too. Big or small, we do it all. Tel: 01842 890075/07811 321262.

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 Parish Council and Euston Parish Meeting for helping with the cost of this Newsletter.

Winter is upon us 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 ... hoping that you enjoy reading our first piece:

Christmas Music

Christmas is just round the corner and that means one thing – Christmas music, so let's have a light hearted look at Christmas music throughout the ages. If asked when Christmas music began I guess that many of us would say Christmas carols. Wrong!

Five hundred years or so before Christmas, country folk participated in wassailing. This tradition involved "wassailers" (merrymakers) going round the village, house to house, singing traditional songs. They carried the wassail bowl which needed to be topped up with cider, mead, etc., in order to keep the vocal cords lubricated. Wassailing tended to happen in early January. Don't forget, this was "BC" so Christmas hadn't even been invented (OK, so strictly speaking it isn't Christmas music).

Wassailing wasn't limited to mid-winter. Oh no, apple tree wassailing involved a similar routine during which wassailers would tour the orchards and fruit trees around the village singing and generally making merry. The idea was that this would awaken the trees and scare away any evil demons lurking within. Oh yes, any excuse for a p*** up methinks.

Did you know - Wassail is derived from the old English "waes hael" which translates as "good health"

It wasn't until the 14th century that Christmas carols really began to evolve from the pagan wassailer songs and to develop an identity of their own. However, it was the 19th century that saw the heyday of the Christmas carol. New carols were written and older ones were set to more uplifting music. Most of the carols that that are sung in modern day Christmas carol concerts date back this mid Victorian era.

Did you know - The word carol is derived from the Old French word carole, a circle dance accompanied by singers (in turn derived from the Latin choraula). **Did you know as well** - "I Saw Three Ships" has always seemed rather an innocent simple song, but originally it contained a verse which said that each of the three ships carried the skulls of the three wise men!

The growth of cinemas and gramophone records during the 1930's and 40's provided a mass market outlet for more commercially oriented Christmas music. One of the best known being "White Christmas" which was released on record in 1947, and then incorporated into the film of the same name 1954. Bing Crosby featuring on the record and in the film.

Did you know - Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" recording has sold over 50 million copies. When recordings by other artists are added, sales top 100 million

The commercial success of "White Christmas" prompted an annual outpouring of Christmas songs. Even Elvis Presley jumped on the band wagon with his "Elvis' Christmas Album" which was released in October 1957 – nice timing for the Christmas market. It took until 1988 for Cliff Richard to retaliate with "Mistletoe and Wine"

Notable examples of Christmas pop songs over the years include "Merry Xmas Everybody", by Slade, "Fairy Tale of New York", by the Pogues, and "All I want for Christmas (is you)" by Maria Carey. Also, let's not forget "Do they know it's Christmas" by Band Aid, which raised over £8million aid money towards famine relief in Ethiopia in 1984/85. Oh yes, no supermarket shopping trip in December would be complete without the accompaniment of these, and dozens like them. Whilst some of you may get just a little irritated after hearing it for the 20th time, from the songwriter/performing artists point of view, every Christmas is payday – from the royalties they receive whenever their song is played.

Did you know - Slade earn over £500,000 every year in royalties from "Merry Xmas Everybody". It was released 48 years ago – do the maths. As Noddy Holder (co-writer) said "That song is my pension"

Over the past 15 years or so, the Christmas pop song has been largely superseded by rush releases from the winners of X Factor, Britain's got Talent, etc. - the majority of these releases being forgotten by twelfth night.

Perhaps the epitome of Christmas Music is "Carols from Kings College Cambridge" (an annual event since 1918) or maybe the Crib Service at Barnham Church? And my favourite? Tough call but "O Come all Ye Faithfull" (or maybe the original Latin version, "Adeste Fidelis") has to be in contention or "Driving Home for Christmas", by Chris Rea. Likewise, "Away in a Manger" from any school/church nativity service. However, up there at No.1 has to be "Oh Holy Night" by Celtic Woman (this version is worth checking out if you are not familiar with it).

So, there we have it. 2500 years of Christmas music in less than 1000 words.

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" (and, of course, ladies). *Thanks for reading ... Ken Jordan*