



Village News

Produced by The Hempnall Group of Parishes



DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

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GROUP WALKS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2026

Sunday 8 February 2:00pm

A 3 mile walk from Hardwick church followed by tea at Hardwick church organised by Josephine Murgatroyd



Sunday 8 March at 2:00pm

A 3 mile walk from Topcroft church followed by tea in Topcroft church organised by Margaret and David Ferre.

Sunday 26 April at 2:00pm

A walk from Barsham church followed by tea in the Church organised by Cheryl Coutts.

Thursday 14 May 10:00am

A walk from Sheringham Park followed by lunch at Kelling Reading Rooms organised by Daphne and Margaret.

More details to follow in the New Year!

Thank you from Bedingham PCC

Bedingham PCC would like to thank those who attended the Autumn Fayre last Saturday. With the Garden Sale in September we raised £450.00.

Also thank you to the Friends who supports St Andrews through the year.

We wish you all a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

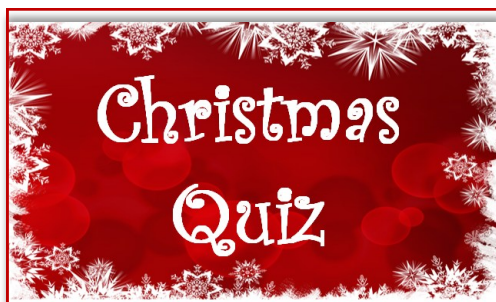
CHRISTMAS QUIZ

CHRISTMAS SONGS, ALPHABET, WORDS, NORFOLK PLACES

Pat Westley will be running her popular Christmas Quiz again this year, raising funds for EACH (The Nook) and St Margaret's Church, Hempnall.

Quiz sheets will be available from the

Group Office, in Hempnall (open Mon-Thu, 9:00am-12:30pm) and will also be available from the Hempnall Group website shortly (<https://hempnallgroup.co.uk/>). The cost to enter the quiz is £1.00 and there is a prize of £25.00 for the winner. All quiz sheets should be returned by the 10th January 2026.



CHRISTMAS



Topcroft Christmas Bingo Wednesday

10th December 2025

7:00pm for 7:30pm Start

at

Topcroft Pavilion

**The bar will be open and there
will be mince pies and great
prizes.**

Hardwick Village Hall Christmas Café Morning



Thursday 4th December

10am – Midday

*Start off the Christmas season with
friends and neighbours*

✱ Raffle and seasonal treats

Topcroft Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2026

All meetings are held in The Sports Pavilion, Topcroft Street, NR35 2BL

- Monday 19th January 2026 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 16th March 2026 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 18th May 2026 - 7.30 pm
Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Monday 20th July 2026 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 21st September 2026 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 16th November 2026 - 7.30 pm

*The agenda is displayed on village noticeboards and published on TPC's website
<https://topcroft-pc.gov.uk> three days prior to the meeting. Planning meetings are
scheduled as needed, and additional meetings may be arranged if necessary.*

~ Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings ~

*For further details contact the Clerk email:
clerk@topcroft-pc.gov.uk or Tel: 07774 734411*

- Door to door dial-a-ride service
- Weekly members outings throughout the year
- Group hires for not-for-profit organisations

Borderhoppa Outings for December 2025

Mon 1st	Cherry Lane Garden Centre, Pulham - £8.00
Thu 4th	Lunch at Wortham Tea Rooms - £8.00
Mon 8th	Thetford Town / Garden centre - £15.00
Thu 11th	Lunch at The White Horse, Stoke Ash - £8.00
Mon 15th	Highway Garden and Leisure - £15.00
Mon 22nd	Borderhoppa Christmas Lunch at The Jolly Farmers – Price TBC

Borderhoppa Outings for January 2026

Mon 5th	Cherry Lane Garden Centre, Pulham Market – Dial-a-Ride
Thu 8th	Bury St. Edmunds Town - £18.00
Mon 12th	Highway Garden & Leisure – £15.00
Thu 15th	The Four Horseshoes, Thornham – Dial-a-Ride
Mon 19th	Waitrose Café & Wymondham Garden Centre - £15.00
Thu 22nd	Notcutts Garden Centre, Norwich - £15.00
Mon 26th	Stoke Ash White Horse – Dial-a-Ride

To book or for more information please call 01379 854800
or visit our website www.borderhoppa.org



Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during these difficult times.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS: UHT Fruit Juice (not chilled), Tinned Meat, Biscuits, Jars of Pasta Sauce, Jars of Cooking Sauce, Tinned Vegetables, Pulses Dried or Tinned

Donating Food: Items for the food bank can be left at the back of St Margaret's Church, Hempnall, at the Group Office, Hempnall or in the porch at St Peter's Church, Brooke.

Donating Money: Regular giving is a great way to support the Food Bank
For further details please check out this website: <https://waveney.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>



Mobile Library Timetable

Village	Stop Name	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Postcode
Hempnall	Old Market Way (Bainard Rise)	14:10	14:30	NR15 2LZ
Hempnall Green	Three Horseshoes	14:35	14:55	NR15 2NN
Topcroft	The Old Chapel	15:00	15:15	NR35 2BL
Topcroft	Church Road	15:20	15:35	NR35 2BH
Hempnall	Road Green Farm	15:40	15:55	NR15 2NQ
Hempnall	Millfields	16:00	16:15	NR15 2NE
Hempnall	Roland Drive	16:20	16:35	NR15 2RB
Fritton	Village Green (post box and bench)	16:40	17:05	NR15 2QS

• 22 December 2025

• 19th January 2026

• 16 February 2026

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis. For all enquires about this route please call 01603 222303

Topcroft Remembrance

Councillors and parishioners gathered at Topcroft's village sign on Remembrance Day 11th November at 11am. Councillor Potter laid the wreath and read *We Shall Not Forget Them*, followed by a period of silent reflection to honour the sacrifice made by so many.



HEMPNALL WI

We had our Annual Meeting on the 5th November when Mrs Freeman was re-elected President. The officers and committee agreed to continue, no new members were elected to the committee. The secretary reviewed the happenings over the last year and outlined the programme for next year which looks very interesting. Excellent refreshments were provided by Mrs Wilkinson helped by Elizabeth Allen. Our next meeting on 3rd December at The Mill will be our Christmas meeting at 7.30pm. We will be entertained by Joan Hocking with 'Christmas Songs'. We start next year on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7.30pm at The Mill with a talk entitled Five O'clock Tea with Elizabeth Fry.

If you wish to join us or need any details, please contact Cindy Brookes 01508 398521 or email cindylbrookes@icloud.com

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR PARISHIONERS

The Foundation is keen to support all Hempnall residents (adults and children), regardless of financial circumstances, to take advantage of a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities. Consequently, if you would like to discuss any aspect of a claim you may be planning to make, including how it may be funded, we would be happy to talk with you informally. Please contact Ian (see below).

The next meeting of the Hempnall Town Estate Educational Foundation is during January 2026. Completed applications for grants by 07 January 2026 to Ian Nelson, Clerk to the Trustees, Karinya, Bungay Rd, Hempnall, NR15 2NG. or email to hteef.clerk@gmail.com

Application forms are available online at <https://hempnalltrust.org.uk/https-hempnalltrust-org-uk-town-estate-educational-foundation/> and in Hempnall Village Hall, Hempnall Church, The Mill Centre, Hempnall Surgery or by email.

Any queries or requests for forms to Ian Nelson - hteef.clerk@gmail.com Tel : 01508 498467.

PLEASE NOTE - WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT COMPLETED APPLICATIONS BY EMAIL. VALID RECEIPTS/PROOF OF PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED. INVOICES ALONE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS PROOF OF PAYMENT MADE.

Hempnall Cinema at the Village Hall

Our first film The Ballard of Wallis Island was enjoyed by an audience of 40, the 2nd is in progress as I write this and will be Mr Burton. Our third film is a National Theatre Live production of Mrs Warren's Profession.

Five-time Olivier Award winner Imelda Staunton (The Crown) joins forces with her real-life daughter Bessie Carter (Bridgerton) for the very first time, playing mother and daughter in Bernard Shaw's incendiary moral classic.

Vivie Warren is a woman ahead of her time. Her mother, however, is a product of that old patriarchal order. Exploiting it has earned Mrs. Warren a fortune – but at what cost?

Filmed live from the West End, this new production reunites Staunton with director Dominic Cooke (Follies, Good), exploring the clash between morality and independence, traditions and progress.

We will be keeping the price at £5. Refreshments available. Please email hempnall.cinema@gmail.com to reserve a seat and then pay on the night in cash.

We are using Creative Arts East to help us <https://www.creativeartseast.co.uk> they offer a wide range of films and live performances so please look on their website and let us know if there is anything you fancy. We are looking at an Egyptian Dance Workshop at present.



Autumn 2025 Newsletter

East Pye Solar – MP failure to oppose

Hempnall parish council has asked the South Norfolk MP, Ben Goldsborough, to be consistent in his approach to mega solar applications and therefore oppose the East Pye scheme in the same way as he opposes the Tasway solar development.

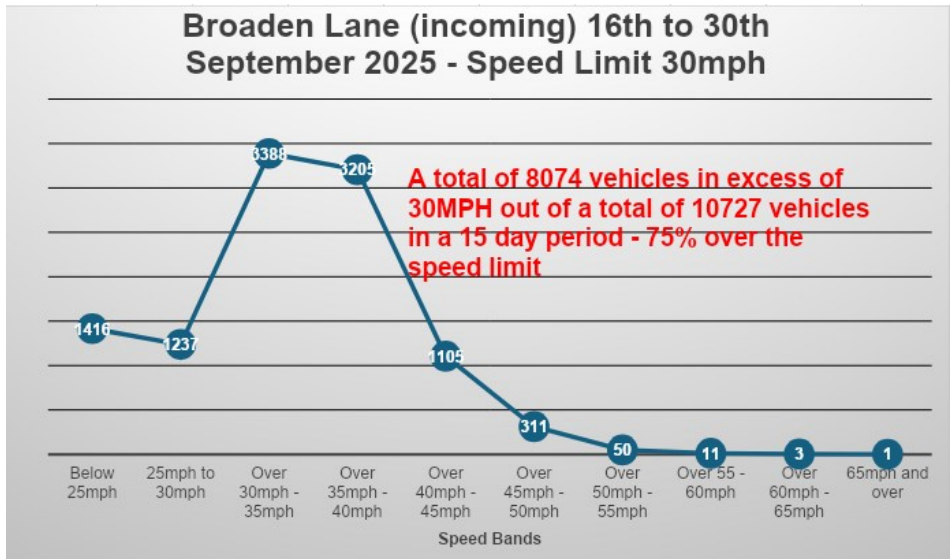


We have also written to him on a number of occasions asking if he would accompany some councillors on a walk along footpaths through countryside that would be severely industrialised by the East Pye proposals in order that we could explain the damage which would occur if the scheme was permitted. In a response Mr Goldsborough said he: “does not feel that the walk will be the best use of his time.”.

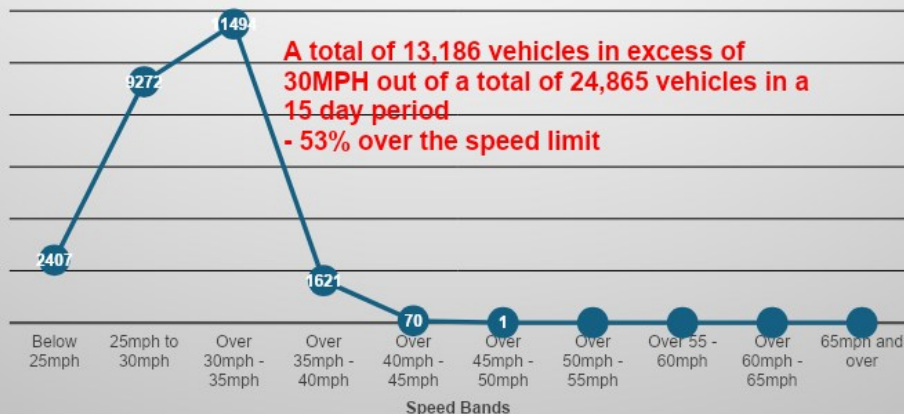
The parish council is extremely disappointed by this comment and his failure to support us and many residents in their opposition to the scheme.

Speeding in the village – SAM2 data

Hempnall SAM2 units record speeds of traffic in one direction, and we pass this information on to the police. The two representative graphs demonstrate the problem.



The Mill (incoming) 16th to 30th September 2025 - Speed Limit 30mph



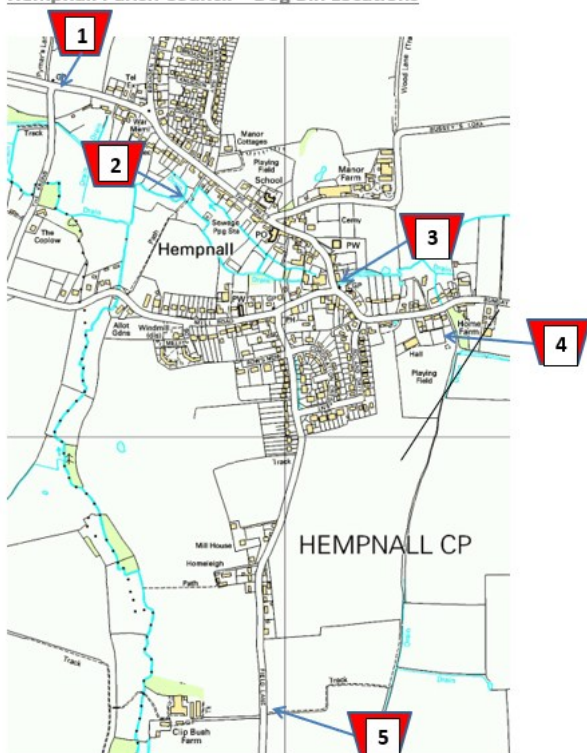
Please volunteer to join the Speedwatch team and help tackle this problem. If you would like to join, or find out more, please contact the Clerk clerk@hempnallpc.org 01508 498467

Dog fouling in the churchyard

Unfortunately, dog fouling occurs regularly in Hempnall Churchyard. Dog owners who allow this to happen and do not clear up after their pets are not respecting the churchyard.

The parish council has provided 5 dog bins around the village (see map) and encourages dog owners to use them. If you witness dog fouling not being cleared up, please report the person to South Norfolk Dog Warden using the following link: <https://forms.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/pub/StreetCleaning.ofml>

Hempnall Parish Council – Dog Bin Locations



(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Councillor/Clerk	Telephone No.	Email address
David Hook – Chairman – Tree Warden	01508 498187	hookd74@yahoo.com
Phil Bates – Footpath Officer, Data Protection Committee	07957 803120	phil.bates@hempnallpc.org
Joan Cann	01508 498743	joan.cann1944cann@btinternet.com
Richard Delf -Vice Chairman - Playing Field Liaison	01508 499788	richard@delfsgarage.co.uk
Robert Elliot – Norfolk ALC rep	07887 768478	robertelliott1692@btinternet.com
Hamish Rose	01508 498486	hamishandgeorgina@btinternet.com
Mike Turner- Tree Warden - SAM2 Officer - Highways Liaison	01508 499423	mike.turner45@btinternet.com
Peter Workman - Playing field Liaison	01508 830266	pworkman@hempnallpc.org
Ian Nelson - Clerk	01508 498467	theclerk@hempnallpc.org

HPC now available *"virtually"* all the time at www.hempnallpc.org

Write to the Clerk at Karinya, Bungay Rd, Hempnall, Norwich, NR15 2NG. theclerk@hempnallpc.org

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER
HEMPNALL CHURCH
2:30PM

SHERINGHAM TO SHANGHAI

ROBERT GLOVER OBE



*Come and hear Robert tell
his extraordinary story!*

Coffee & cake to follow!

HOSTED BY
LifeSpring

Business Awards return to celebrate success

Businesses based in the two districts are invited to nominate themselves in any of the ten categories for the chance to win a prestigious award.

- Business Growth
- Business Innovation
- Employer of the Year
- Environmental Impact
- Food and Drink Producer of the Year
- Insurance, Financial or Professional Services
- Manufacturing and Engineering Business of the Year
- New Business
- Small Business of the Year
- Tourism Business of the Year

Residents can also vote for their favourite Retailer of the Year and Pub of the Year. By voting, they'll be in with a chance of winning £100 of shopping and pub vouchers – with four lucky winners, two from each district.

Nominations close on Friday 12 December and winners will be announced on 18 March 2026 at a special awards ceremony at Norwich City Football Club.

To nominate your business or vote for your favourite retailer and pub, visit

www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/businessawards



QUIZ & CHIPS

SATURDAY 7TH OF FEBRUARY
HEMPNALL VILLAGE HALL
6.30PM
FUNDRAISER FOR BLOCK EAST PYE SOLAR



RAFFLE AND BAR

ONLY £15!

£15 ENTRY FEE INCLUDES
A CHOICE OF FISH AND CHIPS, SAUSAGE AND CHIPS
OR VEG SPRING ROLL AND CHIPS
TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE
TO BOOK CONTACT:
GILL@GILLY-MARKLEW.CO.UK
01508 499070
WITH YOUR TEAM NAME, TEAM NUMBERS
AND CHOICE OF MENU

December 2025 and January 2026...

December 2025

Monday 1st December 2025

**The Mill @ Hempnall Coffee
Stop**

9:30am-12:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP [p.15]

Thursday 4th December 2025

Christmas Café Morning

10:00am-Midday

Hardwick Village Hall, NR15

2AB [p.4]

Tuesday 2nd December to

Saturday 6th December 2025

**Saxlingham Players Present
Cinderella**

2nd Dec - 7:00pm, 3rd Dec -

4:30pm, 4th Dec - 7:00pm, 5th

Dec - 7:00pm, 6th Dec - 2:30pm

& 7:00pm

Saxlingham Nethergate Village
Hall, NR15 1AJ [p.14]

Friday 5th December 2025

Killer Darts

from 7:30pm

The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Food Truck - Wild Thing

from 6:00pm

The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Saturday 6th December 2025

An Evening of Christmas Music

7:30pm

St Peter's Church, Brooke, NR15

1JX [p.]

Sunday 7th December 2025

Sheringham to Shanghai

Robert Glover OBE

2:30pm

Hempnall Church, NR15 2AD

[p.10]

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Topcroft Christmas Bingo

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

Topcroft Pavilion, NR35 2BL [p.4]

Thursday 11st December 2025

Christmas Pop-Up Dog Café

9:30am-12 noon

Hardwick Church, NR15 2AB

[p.13]

Friday 12th December 2025

Food Truck - Peaky Pizzas

from 6:00pm

The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Sunday 14th December 2025

Celebration of Christmas

3:00pm

St Peter's Church, Brooke, 1JX

[p.14]

Friday 19th December 2025

Food Truck - Churros & Chorizo

from 6:00pm

The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Monday 22nd December 2025

Mobile Library

[details on page 6]

January 2026

Wednesday 7th January 2026

WI Meeting

7:30pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP [p.6]

Monday 19th January 2026

Topcroft Parish Council

Meeting

7:30pm

The Sports Pavilion, NR35 2BL

[p.4]

Mobile Library

[details on page 6]



Come in again!

Christmas Pop-Up

Dog Café

Hardwick Church

Thursday 11th

December

9:30am to 12 noon

Drop in with your dog – or

come without one –

Christmas pupcakes

(highly recommended by

Hardwick dogs)...

special dog-themed

Tombola...coffee...and more

Contact for further information:

liampilgrim@btinternet.com

Framingham Earls Singers
AN EVENING OF
CHRISTMAS MUSIC

AILE NG - CELLO
MARTIN ADAMS - ACCOMPANIST
ROB GOODRICH - DIRECTOR

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025
7.30PM

ST. PETERS CHURCH, BROOKE
THE STREET, BROOKE, NR15 1JX

A CONCERT IN MEMORY OF REV LYNN CHAPMAN
SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

TICKETS £10 UNDER 16 FREE
AVAILABLE FROM WWW.FRAMINGHAMEARLSINGERS.CO.UK
OR CASH ON THE DOOR

Celebration of Christmas **East of England COOP Band**

One of East Anglia's premier brass bands plays a selection of Christmas Classics and Festive Fun!



Tickets: £10 includes mulled wine & mince pie (age 16 and under free)

Call: 01508 558324

Sunday 14th December 3pm
St. Peter's Church, Brooke. NR15 1JU

The Saxlingham Players Proudly present
CINDERELLA
A PANTOMIME
by NORMAN ROBBINS
by agreement with Concord Theatricals

2ND DEC 7PM
3RD DEC 4.30PM
4TH DEC 7PM
5TH DEC 7PM
6TH DEC 2.30PM & 7PM



SAXLINGHAM NETHERGATE VILLAGE HALL

ADULTS £10, UNDER 16s £7
BOOKING ADVISABLE AT
SAXLINGHAMPLAYERS.ORG.UK
OR 07515112357, OR SCAN THE QR



The Hempnall Trust



Hempnall Trust

I'd like to thank all The Trustees, volunteers (Bar, Coffee Club & lunch club), staff (secretary, chef, hostess, cleaner & caretaker) for all your hard work & support this year.

I hope you all have a festive time with family & friends over the festive period.

Phil Bates

The Hempnall Trust, Chairman

The Hempnall Trust is a charity that was set up to help residents who are in need, hardship or distress and to support the community of Hempnall.

We can provide financial grants to those who need them. The Trust owns the Mill & Bar both of which are used to support the local community through lunch clubs, events & room hire in a listed building.

If you would like to find out more about any area of the Hempnall Trust please look at our website www.hempnalltrust.org.uk or email hempnalltrust@gmail.com

Events hosted by The Mill are updated on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/themillbarhempnall & there is a regular What's On email.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list of events, please email hempnallmillbar@gmail.com

If you'd like to get involved with the Trust, Bar or run your own events please get in touch.

All Profits go back into the Trust to benefit Hempnall residents.



The Mill @ Hempnall COFFEE STOP

Everyone welcome for coffee, cakes and more.

At Hempnall Mill Centre

9:30am-12:00pm

1st Monday of the month

1st December

All profits for The Hempnall Trust

As I write my final article for 2025, I want to sum up the year for the practice and reflect on what has been a challenging year in many ways. Change is inevitable and my motto is once we accept that, the journey to whatever change we need to undertake is half done and that sets the foundation for the rest of the journey.

One of our major challenges of the year has been the software system change that we undertook in the summer. I have written about it in a previous article. The change over was challenging and however much we had been prepared, the realisation of what we took on hit most of us only on the day it happened. To be honest, I squealed and cried for the first week (my colleague had forewarned me). The impressive aspect of this system change was the practice team effort that went into action from day one. People helping each other, asking for help when needed and ensuring positive energy flowed through the building. We came to work determined to make this work and that attitude continues.

The major change in the last few weeks has been the GP contract change. I wrote about one of the major changes in the contract in the last issue – GP practices having to offer a digital online tool to allow patients to request routine GP appointments. We started the process on the 6th of October and plan to hold a triage clinician meeting early December to assess the process so far and make changes where necessary. I would encourage you to use the online tool rather than call Reception for routine appointments as they have to enter all information into the digital online tool and a triage doctor then decides on the appointment. This is to ensure that there is fairness across the board. We have picked up some urgent appointment requests and that is the danger of this system. My plea to you is that you use the tool appropriately. At present we are managing the system fairly efficiently and that is due to the incredible effort of our triage clinicians.

We have had some staff changes in the past year and the practice has dealt with the changes in the best way possible. These are not easy changes and yet the wheel rolls on.

We wish you a warm Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year from all of us here at Long Stratton Medical Partnership.

~Mini Nelson~



**Brooke Benefice and
The Hempnall Group of Parishes**



~Carol Services~

Friday 19th December 2025

6:00pm Carol Service at Woodton Church

Sunday 21st December 2025

10:30am Carol Service at Seething Church

4:00pm Carol Service at Kirstead Church

4:00pm Carol Service by Candlelight at Fritton Church

6:00pm Carol Service by Candlelight at Hardwick

6:00pm Carol Service at Brooke Church

Monday 22nd December 2025

6:30pm Carol Service at Thwaite Church

~Christmas Service~

Wednesday 24th December 2025 Christmas Eve

4:00pm Crib Service at Brooke Church

4:00pm Christmas Celebration at Hempnall Church

4:00pm Christmas Children's Service at Topcroft Church

5:30pm Christmas Children's Service at Bedingham Church

9:00pm Christmas Eve Compline by Zoom Service

11:00pm Christmas Holy Communion at Hempnall Church

Thursday 25th December 2025 Christmas Day

9:00am Christmas Praise at Thwaite Church

9:15am Christmas Morning Praise at Hardwick Church

10:30am Christmas Day Holy Communion at Brooke Church

10:30am Christmas Day Holy Communion at Morningthorpe Church



Thought for December... and for January



Readers will recall that in our October issue of *Village News* we announced, with great pleasure, that The Revd Canon Susanna Gunner will be joining us as the part-time House for Duty Associate Priest in the Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group. She and her husband Ben will be based at the Hempnall Rectory.

We introduced Susanna as currently having various ‘roving’ roles as Diocesan Public Preacher, an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral and an Honorary Chaplain to HM The King. She is well known to many of us through her former positions as Diocesan Lay Training Co-ordinator, then as Chaplain both to the previous and present Bishop of Norwich and more recently as the Diocesan Adviser in Spirituality and Discipleship until 2023. In the past she’s led assorted training sessions and Lent courses for us and she’s been of great assistance during our vacancies as a visiting priest. We very much look forward to her ministry with us.

Susanna’s licensing, both to the Brooke Benefice and to the Hempnall Group, will take place at a service at **St Peter’s Church, Brooke**, led by Bishop Ian of Thetford. on **Sunday 4th January 2026 at 2:30pm** and everyone is warmly invited to attend. Please hold her in prayer as she prepares for that.

Meanwhile, Susanna has provided a reflection for us as follows:

From The Rectory

This is the darkest time of the year. Short days: long, long nights. And when we are lonely or unwell, anxious or grieving, this can be a difficult season to navigate – our own darknesses feeling bleakest in the depths of the night. What’s more, the darkness of a sunless sky can also underline for us the darknesses of the wider world – the crises faced by those living in the throes of conflict, for instance, and the crisis faced by creation itself. Despair besieges us more readily when the light seems far away.

It is no accident that *this* is the time when the season of Advent makes its appearance. Beginning this year on 30 November, it will insistently sound a note of hope in the gloom, light in the darkness. ‘The dawn *will* come’, sings Advent, through its stirring hymns and ancient (but timeless) readings. ‘And it will come, unlikely as it seems, in the form of a newborn child. Use this dark and wintry time to prepare for him!’

And suddenly we realise that perhaps we need the dark in order to spot the light and walk towards it: stars are not visible during a bright sunny day, after all. With Advent's help, we see afresh that it is *in the dark* that new life so often begins. Whether it is a seed in the ground or a baby in the womb, it starts in the dark.

The weeks of Advent are weeks during which we acknowledge the world's darkness as well as our own personal darknesses whatever they might be. They are weeks during which we ready ourselves for the coming of God into those darknesses - into our lives, however frail and flawed they are. They are weeks when we glimpse the hope offered by the new life stirring in the womb of a 1st century Palestinian girl. And at Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of her child, we marvel afresh at the mystery of God's arrival among us. ...

However torn and despairing we feel – in fact, *especially* when we feel torn and despairing – this is the message of the hour and a great one to carry into 2026. The following lines taken from a poem by Penny Hewlett put it well. Her opening verses ask where God is when darkness of any sort overwhelms us. Near the end she offers this answer:

Not above the atmosphere, not unnamed, unknown, out there, but here...

Not elsewhere, but here, in the middle of it all, not watching from a place of safety. Here!

Beside us, vulnerable and young. Beside us, weak and strong.

In gladness, sorrow, joy. In hope, and where there is none.

Beside us in each minute of the day. Beside us in each turning of the year.

Immanuel. With us. Here.

Happy Advent! Happy Christmas! And a Happy New Year to you all!

Susanna



We'd like to echo Susanna's final greeting to all our Village News readers as we journey through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and onwards to new things in 2026...

All best wishes from

Liam Pilgrim and Jill Turner

(Co-Chairs, Joint Council of the Hempnall Group of Parishes)



CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2025...

7th December 2025 Advent 2	10:30am	Holy Communion	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Topcroft Church
	4:00pm	All Age Praise	Hempnall Church
14th December 2025 Advent 3	10:30am	Morning Worship	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Morning Prayer	Bedingham Church
Friday 19th December 2025	6:00pm	Carol Service	Woodton Church
21st December 2025 Advent 4	10:30am	Carol Service	Seething Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Hempnall Church
	4:00pm	Carol Service	Kirstead Church
	4:00pm	Carol Service by Candlelight	Fritton Church
	6:00pm	Carol Service by Candlelight	Hardwick Church
	6:00pm	Carol Service	Brooke Church
Monday 22nd December 2025	6:30pm	Carol Service	Thwaite Church
Wednesday 24th December 2025 Christmas Eve	4:00pm	Crib Service	Brooke Church
	4:00pm	Christmas Celebration	Hempnall Church
	4:00pm	Christmas Children's Service	Topcroft Church
	5:30pm	Christmas Children's Service	Bedingham Church
	9:00pm	Christmas Eve Compline	Zoom
	11:00pm	Christmas Holy Communion	Hempnall Church
Thursday 25th December 2025 Christmas Day	9:00am	Christmas Praise	Thwaite Church
	9:15am	Christmas Morning Praise	Hardwick Church
	10:30am	Christmas Day Holy Communion	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Christmas Day Holy Communion	Morningthorpe Church

28th December 2025 Christmas 1	10:30am	Morning Worship	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Songs of Praise (New Year theme)	Topcroft Church
	6:00pm	Evening Service	Zoom
4th January 2026 Epiphany (for 6 th January)	10:30am	Holy Communion	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Woodton Church
	2:30pm	Licensing Service for Revd Canon Susanna Gunner	Brooke Church
11th January 2026 Epiphany 1	10:30am	Morning Worship	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Hempnall
	4:00pm	All Age Worship	Hempnall
18th January 2026 Epiphany 2	10:30am	Holy Communion	Brooke
	10:30am	Morning Prayer from Common Worship	Fritton
25th January 2026 Epiphany 3	10:30am	Morning Worship	Brooke
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Topcroft
	6:00pm	Evening Service	Zoom

Further details of all our church services and events can be found at the Hempnall Group Website <https://hempnallgroup.co.uk/> or the Brooke Benefice Website <https://brooke.churchnet.co/>

Happy Birthday....

December

Children

- 🕊 Siraya who will be 8
- 🕊 Neeve who will be 17

January

Children

- 🕊 Poppy who will be 14
- 🕊 Henry who will be 14
- 🕊 Stephanie who will be 16
- 🕊 Alexandra who will be 17
- 🕊 Jonathan who will be 17



From the Registers....

Funerals

- ✝ Monday 17th November 2025, Jill Butler, aged 89 years. Funeral at St Peter's Church, Brooke.
- ✝ Friday 21st November 2025, David Key, aged 73 years and Claire Key, aged 67 years. Funeral and Burial at St Margaret's Church, Hempnall.
- ✝ Thursday 27th November 2025, Eileen Workmaster, aged 88 years. Burial of Ashes at St Peter's Church, Brooke.



Need Help?

DARROW GREEN FARM

FREE-RANGE TURKEYS & GESE - LINCOLN RED BEEF - For the centrepiece of your Christmas meal! Place your order on our website www.darrowgreenfarm.co.uk or contact us direct. COLLECTION FROM FARM GATE. Darrow Green Road, Denton, Norfolk IP20 0AY. Tel: 01986 788252, Email: ewdarrowgreen@gmail.com

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Chimney Sweep

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FARM SHOPS

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Norwich Road, Woodton for the best Raw Milk in Norfolk - 07900 814252

FUNERAL SERVICES

R. B. Copping Funeral Services, Poringland

01508 494434

FUNERAL SERVICES ROSEDALE FUNERAL

HOME - Beccles, Bungay & Harleston, a family business with over 20 years experience- 01986 892790, 01502 714445 & 01379 853999 or visit our website www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk <http://www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk> for more information. We offer a 24hr service 365 days a year.

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S. W. Contractors

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HAIR & NAIL SALONS

Happy Feet

Corns, calluses, nail cutting & more, treated in you home - Wendy - 01379 676872

MUSICIANS

'JUST ROGER'

Keyboard/Vocals 30s,40s,50s,60s, Old Country, Tea Dances. 01508 830464 Mobile: 07884 142118

OSTEOPATH

Osteopath

Osteopathy for all-adults to babies, includes cranial. Joints, spine, nerves, headaches, accidents - 07818 747776 | 01953 789629 | reception@norfolkost.co.uk | www.norfolkost.co.uk

PIANO TUTION

Piano Lessons

Bedingham - All ages welcome - Marian Gibb ALCM (TD) DipLCM. 01508 482 746

PARISH COUNCILS

Hempnall Parish Council

Website Address www.hempnallpc.org

PEST CONTROL

Safe & Sound Hygiene

Pest Control & Garden Maintenance
01379 788865 or 07809 226109

PLANT HIRE

Peter Matthewson Plant Hire

Drainage & Groundworks - Please call for info. 01508 482655 or 07850 722094

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Contact us....

Frances Atherton
Group Administrator

The Hempnall Group of Parishes and
Brooke Benefice

Mon-Thu 9:00am-12:30pm

01508 498157

hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

Items for the next issue....

Items for the Village News should be
Delivered, Posted or Emailed to:
Group Office, The Rectory,
The Street, Hempnall, NR15 2AD
Email:

hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

BEFORE

15th JANUARY 2026

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