

SEPTEMBER 2021



CONTACT

**EAST HARLING - WEST HARLING - BRIDGHAM -
ROUDHAM - BRETtenham - LARLING**

VILLAGE NEWS AND EVENTS

CHURCH SERVICES & NEWS PAGES 3, 5 & 6

EVENTS SEE PAGE 9

GARDENING NOTES PAGE 10

MAKE YOUR OWN BIRD BATH OR FROGILO - PAGE 13

SETTLING IN - PAGE 14

NEWS FROM BRETtenham - SEE PAGE 18

PAUL'S LIGHT-BUB MOMENT SEE PAGE 19

CONTACT DIARY SEE PAGE 20



The electronic version of the magazine which we hope many of you can enjoy is now on
<https://bridghamparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/2020/10/09/contact-magazine/> for
Bridgham
<https://roudhamandlarling-pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/2020/08/17/contact-magazine/> for
Roudham and Larling and
on the Harling Council website <https://www.harlingpc.info/> under the News page.

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HARLING BENEFICE



Priest in charge: Benefice in vacancy

Ministry team: Rev'd Caryll Brown
Rev'd Varlie Sheldrake

01953 717451
01953 717404

Both members of our Ministry team are now officially retired and work on a voluntary and part time basis; they both hold the Bishop's Permission to Officiate at Services within this Diocese.

East with West Harling, Bridgham with Roudham, Larling and Brettenham

With the removal of restrictions we are now able to open up our church buildings for more services and events and we were so happy welcome our 'regulars' plus some 'newcomers' to a Community Café Coffee Morning in Harling Church in August. As we 'open up' and enjoy more freedom the advice we are following is

SLOWLY ~ STEADILY ~ SAFELY

We ask those who attend our services and events to respect their fellow worshippers by
~ using the hand sanitiser provided~ observing social distancing
~ and by wearing a face covering whilst indoors and during hymn singing.

~ Welcome to our Services in September 2021 ~

Date	East Harling	Bridgham	Larling	Brettenham
SUNDAY 5th September	9.45am Holy Communion 6.00pm Soul Café	10.30am Holy Communion		
SUNDAY 12th September	9.45am Holy Communion			
SUNDAY 19th September	10.30am Harvest Festival with Family Holy Communion 6.30pm Harling Praise (in Methodist Church)	10.30am Service of the Word		
FRIDAY 24th September				6.00pm Harvest Festival
SUNDAY 26th September	9.45am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Soul Café		3.00pm Harvest Festival	

Weddings and Baptisms (Christenings) All enquiries should be made to Rev'd Caryll Brown (01953 717451)
Funerals The undertaker or minister concerned will advise regarding the regulations in force at the time you book.

For the time being, all the Church buildings in the Benefice will remain closed apart from the provisions listed below:

East Harling Church will be opened for private, individual prayer each Monday and Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm
and **Larling Church** will be open for private, individual prayer every day 10.00am to 4.00pm

Church Wardens' contact numbers:

East Harling 01953 717128 or 07890102392

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ZOOM meetings:

for **Morning Prayer on Monday at 10.00am** and **Evening Prayer on Friday at 5.00pm**. These sessions have been suspended for the summer months. The situation will be reviewed in the autumn.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Group is suspended during August further news next month or from Stuart 01953 714900

METHODIST CHAPEL, WHITE HART STREET

SERVICES IN September

5th Mrs Jane Mottram	6.30pm
12th Harvest Festival	6.30pm
19th Harling Praise at Methodist Church	6.30pm
26th Rev David Ely (communion service)	6.30pm

(Covid regulations cont

QUIDENHAM CARMELITE MONASTERY CHAPEL (ROMAN CATHOLIC) PUBLIC WORSHIP

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Sunday Mass	10.30am
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For further information contact: David & Gerda Bailey (01953) 717639	

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Welcomed into God's Family:

Alexanda Joseph SPURLING who was baptised at East Harling Church on 8th August 2021.

FLOODLIGHTING OF EAST HARLING CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2021

No sponsors this month



Why not sponsor the floodlighting to mark a special anniversary, event or in memory of a loved one? Or just because the building looks so beautiful at night when lit up for all around to see!

Requests to should be posted/delivered to:
The Rev'd Varlie Sheldrake,

12 Kemps Barns, East Harling. NR16 2TS

Please do not send requests by email.

Include the date and add your name and contact number in case of any queries. Donation of minimum £5/night should be enclosed.

Thank you to all who sponsor the floodlighting of East Harling Church

FOOD BANK

Please Remember!



Items for delivery to Thetford Food Bank can be left in the hamper at the rear of the pews in East Harling Parish Church.

Tinned and non-perishable dry goods (eg sugar, cereals) and toiletries welcome.

No fresh fruit or vegs please.

All items must be 'in date'.

Your gifts will be collected regularly.

Thank You!

FROM 'BIG C' to NORTH SEA

18 months after an operation for **bowel cancer**, PAT MOTTRAM will walk the 46 miles of the PEDDARS WAY during early September 2021. He will confirm when this has been achieved.



He is asking for sponsors to raise money towards providing a new and improved **kitchen** for **East Harling Methodist Church** (There is currently a shortfall of at least £8,000). Better facilities will benefit not only the congregation, but various other local user groups too.

Would you be willing to sponsor Pat? If so, **please send donations to the address below.** If you're a taxpayer,

please include a completed Gift Aid Form (available by phoning 01953-714629). Please

make cheques payable to 'East Harling Methodist Church', and write *Peddars Walk* on the rear of your cheque.



Alternatively, look on Facebook for details of his JustGiving page*but we can't get Gift Aid from this. Thank you for your support.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bigctonorthsea>

Cheques to: The Treasurer, East Harling Methodist Church, 51a White Hart Street, East Harling, NORWICH NR16 2NE

Minister's Musings..... 'Diversity & Change.'

As I write this, it's late August and I've just returned from a lovely short break in the Isle of Wight. Looking back it seems incredible that we managed to cram so much into just a few days. We visited Carisbrooke Castle and took part in a Medieval Day-young and old alike were fascinated as the years were rolled back and we were transported to the days of jousting knights in shining armour and court jesters who were also fire eaters. We learned about spinning and weaving; cooking over open fires and a host of other crafts.



We visited Osborne House, the much-loved home of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their family. The love that filled that beautiful house still lingers today – evidence of the creativity of both the Queen and her consort is everywhere; in the house and in the amazing gardens and Swiss Cottage which was built for the royal children to play in, to learn to grow vegetables and to cook. as well as other household skills. We visited so many lovely places – Shanklin, Ryde, Cowes, Ventnor, Godshell and of course the famous Needles and Alum Bay where we took a breath-taking ride on a High-speed Rib boat. It was from the boat that I got a chance to really take in the diversity of the colours in the sandstone cliffs of Alum Bay. Queen Victoria was apparently mesmerised by the 21 shades of sand more than 180 years ago; so much so that she took away a glass jar filled with the various layers. The fascination lives on and today's visitors still take little glass jars layered with the various colours. So much variety in such a short space of time was exhilarating and exciting. The IoW certainly has a lot to offer for a small island – hopefully we will return.



Travelling home and reflecting on the **diversity** of the sands in my small container, I realise that it is that very thing – diversity - which makes our world so exciting... The Olympic Games had us all enthralled with the huge variety of sports represented including six new categories: skateboarding, karate, sport climbing and surf boarding among them – something for everyone. So many different challenges faced by such a variety of human beings. More recently we have seen the amazing dedication of over 4,350 entrants in the Paralympics, from 160 countries taking part in 22 different sports. These events have drawn us together as a nation and lifted our spirits after the last difficult months. We've been given a change of focus in a variety of ways. It is said that **'a change is as good as a rest'**!

More change is on the horizon... schools are back and some of us are facing new beginnings; different schools; college or university; new jobs.... new people to meet. Summer will soon give way to Autumn... Life never stays the same for long. Although we often fear them, **diversity** and **change** are essential if we are to grow as individuals and, also, as communities. None of us knows what the future will hold. Those of us who have lived a while realise that as one door closes, another opens.

The Bible tells us that God opens doors for us - ***"See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut."*** Revelation 3:8. Sometimes this diverse and ever changing world overwhelms us, but it's good to remember that God not only opens doors for us; he walks with us through them too. ***"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you;"*** Isaiah 41:10

I pray that the changes ahead of you and the diversity you may encounter will be both exciting and fulfilling.

Love & Blessings. .. Caryl

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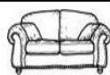
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Monday Craft Café'

10am-12noon on the
1st and 3rd Mondays of the month

Next on 6th and 20th September
In the Hall behind East Harling Methodist Church
White Hart Street



Bring along any craft you would like to, have a chat,
and coffee/tea and cake will be available!
Subject to Covid restrictions!



Some ideas of what your church is planning to help us all come together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year.

A four-day Bank Holiday from 2-5 June 2022 will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and we see this as an amazing opportunity to bring our communities together for the celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.

Our local Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes! Your local church is planning some celebrations, and we want to give you advance notice of one Special Event

Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**SS Peter & Paul Church
East Harling
Will be hosting a
'Derby Day' Themed Afternoon Tea
On Saturday 4th June 2022**

More details to follow nearer the time.

Calling all residents and readers of the magazine Please write a piece for publication

As we now have much more freedom and many of you have managed to get away for a staycation holiday it would be great if some of you could write and share some of your pandemic experiences. Short notes of around 50 words or so to let us know how Covid-19 has affected your lives:

Has the pandemic prevented you from doing something special?

Did the lockdown enable you to take time out to do something you would not otherwise have been able to do?

It might be fun for our readers to have the chance to share what Covid-19 has done to you or for you! Please email the Editor at the usual CONTACT address sue.wall@uwclub.net.

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The Garden in September

Harvest, Harvest Harvest!

This is where the harvesting of your produce steps up a gear and you discover that all of your neighbours have gone off courgettes.

Lawns: Keep mowing. If you have any bare patches now is a good time to sow seed when the ground is still warm and the temperatures are unlikely to reach extremes in either direction. It is also a good time to sow whole new lawns – get them as flat as possible and firm by walking on a plank (or using a roller if you or a neighbour have one, rake and sow the new seed. Keep moist and give a cut towards the middle of October with the blades of your lawnmower set high.

Pruning: Prune Buddleia hard when it finishes flowering.

Cuttings: Take semi hard cuttings of evergreen shrubs and trees, and shrub roses

Plant: Plant or move evergreen shrubs, trees and hedging later in the month. Keep watered if necessary.

Perennials: Keep dead-headed (unless you are leaving seed for the birds) and cut down any dead stems

Dahlias: Keep dead headed. Water if necessary and check your supports – we can get some strong winds in September.

Annuals: Hardy annuals can be sown in a greenhouse or cold frame over the next couple of months ready to plant out from March. Prick out when large enough to handle.

Biennials: such as foxglove, hollyhock and forget me nots can be planted out so that they get a good start next year

Bulbs: Plant daffodils. Pot up bulbs for indoor flowering

Vegetables: You can still sow radishes and winter spinach. Plant out spring cabbage plants towards the end of the month.. Harvest whatever is ready.

Pots and Tubs

Keep well watered. Plant some bulbs in small pots which can then be planted on into tubs when you clear the summer bedding out. Daffodils and tulips can be planted remarkably deep in a tub leaving plenty of space at the top for planting for spring colour, (primroses,

pansies, bellis all do well) It is too early to plant tulips in the ground.

Good Gardening
Kevin

Encouraging wildlife into your garden (RHS)

As nights become colder, birds and other wildlife can be seen preparing for the winter to come.

Most of our summer visitors, such as the warblers and swallows, have left to begin their migration south. Resident birds become quieter and no longer fight over territories, returning to warm roosts each evening.

Although this is a time when gardeners traditionally start to clear up, if you want to encourage wildlife, you could adopt a more natural approach. For so many people, as the petals drop, it is the signal to get in there with the secateurs thinking that the show is now over. What that ignores is that nature actually has something of an encore, quieter and with less razzamatazz, but beautiful in its own way. Under the crispy frosting of winter mornings, seed heads can be an absolute joy. They carry, too, a bonus for birds and other wildlife at a time of year when pickings are thin. Birds will eke out the seeds, while hiding in the stems and seed heads are likely to be a myriad of insects and their eggs and larvae.

Leaving the dead plant heads standing also helps protect the soil beneath so that it is not pummelled by the elements. . Leaving seed heads, especially on plants such as teasels, thistles and sunflowers, and allowing vegetation to die back naturally, provides food and shelter for other creatures too.

Try to keep weeding to a minimum, but dig out pernicious weeds such as ground elder. Pull out any others by hand.

September is also a good time for planning and creating borders. The end of the month is a good time to plant herbaceous perennials. The soil is still warm to encourage good root growth and there is usually enough rain to ensure plants don't dry out.

Although container grown plants can be planted at any time, autumn gives them plenty of time to establish before winter.

Keep feeding the birds!

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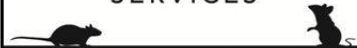
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At present the weather is not quite so good for outdoor activities during the summer holidays so now may be the time for all budding artists to prepare their entry for the "Christmas Card Competition" Under the theme "Hoping for Hugs at Christmas".

Further details, on our Facebook page- Friends of East Harling Church, Nextdoor Harling, posters around the village or via email; eastharlingchurchfriends@gmail.com

Make your own Bird Bath

Give birds a safe and reliable way to find fresh water – essential in both cold and hot weather. Watching your garden birds coming for a drink, or for a brush up can be quite a performance! So sit back and watch them having a good, splashy bath – who needs TV?

You'll often see blackbirds and flocks of starlings taking a dip, while woodpigeons may just sit in the water to cool off. Bathing helps birds keep their feathers in tip-top condition.

What you will need

- A ready-made bird bath if you're using one
- Or if you're making your own bath, a shallow, watertight bowl of some kind, such as an upturned dustbin lid or large circular plant tray
- Some stones or gravel
- Bricks to raise the bowl up if it doesn't have a plinth
- Rainwater or tap water
-

Step by step guide

The golden rules for birdbaths

Too many birdbaths are just not the shape that birds like.

It should: have very shallow sloping sides

Have a maximum depth of only 10cm or so

Be as wide as possible, ideally more than 30cm across.

1. Make your bird bath.

Lay out four bricks on a piece of open lawn or border, where the birds will have a good view all around but can dart into the cover of bushes or trees nearby if they need to. If you have cats visit your garden, make sure there is nowhere they can hide within pouncing distance.

Then put an upturned old, galvanised dustbin lid on top of the bricks. Make sure it is stable.

Is the bird bath slippery? Feel if the inside of the bird bath is too smooth. If it is, the birds might slip into the water. Put some pebbles or rocks in the water to give them a better grip.

Fill with water (tap water is fine) and watch! Birds most need water when the weather is very hot or very cold. You'll need to keep the bird bath well topped-up in summer and ice-free in winter.

In frosty weather, you should never use salt or de-icer. Pour in warm (not hot) water, or gently knock the ice out and replace with fresh water from the tap.

Blackbirds, robins, sparrows and starlings love a quick dip, while woodpigeons may just sit in the water to cool off!

You'll even see bumblebees coming for a drink!

Bathing helps birds keep their feathers in tip-top condition. If you see a bird having a bath in your creation and you have a camera to hand, take a picture and share it with us all.

Grateful thanks to the RSPB – Editor

Make Your Own Frogilo - RSPB

Create an underground den where frogs, toads and newts can find safe lodging through the winter's chill.

Amphibians like to hibernate in a cool (but not cold), dark and damp shelter, safely away from predators. Some frogs use the mud at the bottom of ponds, but many amphibians spend the winter on land. They do like to get a little way underground if they can, so give them a helping hand by creating their very own mansion, full of cavities galore. They'll be able to sleep through winter's worst excesses and emerge, refreshed and ready to go for a hectic spring of mating and spawning. Get out there on a warm, damp spring evening and you may see one of the inhabitants coming out and heading off to look for love.

What you will need

Cut-off twigs and branches
Logs
Old bricks or large stones
Optional: wildflower seed
Spade

Step-by-step guide

Choose your location. Basically you need somewhere where you can dig a hole in the ground about 30-45 cm (12inches – 18inches) deep where you can part-bury your collection of logs and stones. A shady or semi-shady spot is ideal. It doesn't necessarily have to be near a pond, but within a hop and a leap of one is no bad thing

Dig a round hole with a flat bottom. Pile the soil to one side as you go. Once big enough, fill it with your assorted rubble and logs. The idea is that the bricks and rocks are stable enough that they won't collapse and crush creatures within, but at the same time don't pack it all down. Imagine you are creating a higgledy-piggledy underground maze. There has got to be a myriad of hidden winding corridors ranging from a few millimetres wide through to a few centimetres, all leading deep into the pile.

Continue to pile material up above ground level – it is really useful to continue to build the pile into a low mound.

To cap it off. If you've got some, put some builders ballast over the rubble and logs, followed by the soil back over the top. What you don't want to do is close up all of the entrances - you still need to be able to see lots of gaps around the edges. You can pile the soil over the back half of the abode so that the front entrances are all clear of soil.

Finishing touches. If you like, sprinkle a little wildflower seed over the soil on top of and around the edges of your mansion – amphibians will love their garden path being damp and sheltered. Or you could just add some branches and twigs for camouflage. Over time, rain and gravity will push some of the soil back down into the holes, so after several years you may need to create another home. But this one should last for a few seasons.

Settling In

During the three weeks we have been living in our house, quite a bit has happened. Some things were to be expected in that you are living in a brand new house, so teething problems do occur. Like waiting for a telephone line to be installed, more of that later.

I think it was on the third day in our new house, I was upstairs trying to make space for a visit from Mike's brother and his wife, and Mike was arguing with stuff in the shed. There was a loud banging first on the front door and then on the back. It was our next door neighbours in Shephall, saying their toilet was blocked and what could we do about it! Mike took a crowbar to the drain outside to have a look, not only did the drain lid come up but with it the metal frame-work and... it was full up ugh!

Max had fortunately got a drain rod and started to try to clear it, then lost the end. It wasn't doing any good, so he went off to phone the builder. The builder helpfully said "we cleared all that before we left" suggesting we had been responsible! Eventually a professional drain person turned up and set about it with a set of drain rods, then when that did not work donned shoulder length gloves and started to pull muck out of the drain, which was full of mud, and bits of concrete from the top. It was finally cleared, and he did a report to head office stating that the drains were not fixed down properly. The following day the proper drains man turned up and re-laid the drain covers all round the house, as they were all not fixed firmly in place, anyone could have slipped and fallen in! In the process we learnt about the drains and how to empty the storm drains once a year, very useful.

Mike's brother and his wife arrived and we made huge inroads into the boxes, unpacking lots and clearing the kitchen. In the process we discovered that the removals men had not been too careful in some instances in how they packed up stuff. I found one box into which had been tipped the content of the two drawers in the larder cabinet, wrapped carefully with this was a collection of paper, plastic bags and empty tins which had been put on one side to go in the rubbish bin. Another box from the back hall contained a lot of shoes and stuffed on top were my best winter wool coat and my anorak both creased beyond belief. I had to have them both dry cleaned.

Some boxes from upstairs had been labelled "paperwork" and contained bundles of newspapers and magazines put out for the recycle bin, and toiletries from the bathroom, with towels and pillows on top! On the other hand all the glassware was

packed really carefully, and we did not have one breakage.

We were fortunate that Mike's family were there to help, so it became a sort of a competition to see who could identify the most inappropriate labels! Over a period of three days together we did an enormous amount. They were such suckers for punishment that they returned the following week to have another go.

In the meantime, Sue had made a great friend (not) of the Utility Warehouse team, who were supposed to be arranging the installation of our telephone line. Our first appointment on the 1st of July was a bust. On the 22nd July they were certainly going to come and fix it. Openreach turned up put a rod down the cable duct in front of the house, said that is not going anywhere, so we cannot do anything. At least we thought they now realised what was needed was a telephone line from the junction to the house. The third appointment for the 2nd August arrived and went, no Openreach. I spent about 30min on the mobile, got an advisor who understood the problem but did not have any up-to-date information. Then there was the confusion over the address so Utility Warehouse had given Openreach the wrong address and so they had not kept the 3rd appointment!

Five days later, unheralded, Openreach turned up again, and began by digging out the other end of the cable duct in front of the house. Then they dug a hole into the pavement to make a connection into the main telephone line cables in the street. I came back to see how it was going only to be told, sorry we cannot do anything, the cables in the street are laid into metal pipes and we cannot break into them. You will have to have a separate line run from your property up the pavement to the junction box about 150 yards up the street. This means that the pavement will have to be dug up and we cannot do this. So very apologetically they filled in the hole and went away. By this time we were truly fed up. Back on the mobile again to Utility Warehouse to ask them to chase Openreach asap. We will apparently get an update on the 24th August, which we did, basically "sorry for the delay" and "we are trying to expedite matters". We are still waiting for the next update and we still do not have a phone line as of today 31st August.

With Mike's brother back unpacking proceeded at a rapid pace. So much so, we decided it was time to do a bit of shopping. ..Continued on page 16.

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Continued from page 14

We needed some internal fittings for the kitchen cupboards and a wall cupboard for the utility room. We went to look at kitchen interiors at Howdens in Diss. Unfortunately, the Diss showrooms was not the shop with the plan of our kitchen, which we discovered the builder had purchased from Lowestoft. However, a short phone call later and we had all the info we needed.

There was a debate outside the shop as to whether we should go straight to Lowestoft or go home first for a bite to eat. Fortunately lunch came first, because as we opened the front door we realised it was raining inside the house and the floor was covered about an inch deep in water. It had flooded inside the sitting room and it was raining down from the ceiling in the hall, the kitchen and under the stairs where we had stored most of our pictures. The cats were nowhere to be seen. We rushed about getting bowls, buckets and saucepans to catch the water, whilst Mike ran to turn the water off under the sink. Still it kept coming. .. Terry brought in the black wheelie bin emptied just that morning and we started to tip the water collected into it.

Meantime, George the electrician had turned up and set to with the mop and bucket. He was a godsend, turning off all the power and making sure the electrics were safe. He tested the mains sockets downstairs and said they were all right, but when we turned the lights on they just went out. So he turned off all the lights. The fridge and freezer were ok and the kettle was working all from an extension into the garage. We filled that wheelie bin and emptied it twice!

Everywhere was very damp, we had dragged all the rugs outside and draped them over the garden benches to dry out in the sunshine. The back garden began to look like an oriental bazaar!

We had rescued all the pictures and piled them upstairs. Most of the water was concentrated in the hall and the sitting room. Fortunately the bedrooms were o.k., but the passageway outside was absolutely soaked. Of course none of us had appreciated with the water turned off we had no toilet! We rang a very kind neighbour who let us all come and visit their facilities!

Meantime, George had contacted the plumbing firm in Norwich who turned up, and pretty quickly

found the problem was a burst main pipe joint from the mains supply to the shower. It must have been pouring out at full pressure for at least an hour before we turned it off. We rang the cattery and got the cats safely boarded.

The next day the plumber's mate turned up armed with a machine to suck up the excess water in the carpets and to put in de-humidifiers. We lived with these de-humidifiers for the following week. It was very noisy particularly at night and very hot which fortunately aided the drying out, but also made it very uncomfortable. The humidifiers are amazing machines sucking up large volumes of water. We were eventually pronounced dry with only stains on the ceiling to show that there had indeed been water flooding the whole ground floor of the house. All we had suffered was some water damaged furniture and two ruined oriental rugs. We were very, very lucky as it could have been very much worse.

It is now three weeks since the "leak" and although the plumbers have admitted they are responsible and we have given them the costs for the replacement items and repairs to the furniture, we have yet to see any payment. We hope this will be settled sometime soon. We are now starting to believe that it was an unfortunate once only occurrence, unlikely to happen again!

We may get somewhere with Openreach sometime soon too, and we will be re-connected to our telephone number and you will be able to call and get an answer!

I am never, ever, ever moving again!

We do hope to welcome our many friends to our very delayed house-warming very soon!

Editor

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FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

6.00pm

N.B: Please note the day, date & time



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My Light-Bulb Moment—Paul Clarkson

I never was deeply religious. I was Baptised in the Church of England as my father's family were CofE but I was brought up going to the Local Methodist Church as my mother's family were lay ministers there. When I joined the forces I used my religion to get out of being on the Church Parade as it was in the CofE church, but later in my life I became more interested in religion.

I moved to East Harling and Sue and I started to go to Church and found the people there very friendly so we decided to carry on going, we started to find peace and I became more active in the church.

I have never been a very out spoken person about my faith, I don't like to push my thoughts on to other people, and there had never been a so called light bulb moment in my life to spark my belief. Then in March 2019 I was taken ill during the night and I thought it would pass but at 08.30 in the morning I rang 999, the Ambulance came and it took some time before they loaded me onto the vehicle. After the fast response, they had to put me on a drip immediately and it took over an hour before I was stable enough to go to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. I was admitted to A & E where I was seen straight away. My family were advised the Doctors couldn't guarantee my recovery. I had a scan and then spent 6 hours in surgery. I was kept for three days in the High Dependency Unit where I was kept sedated and I found I was traveling back in time through my previous jobs. I was talking to my late wife, Sue, when a part of the church service came into my head. It is the place in the service that's called the "Gloria". I never really knew the words to it, but I could hear every word and the music it is sung to quite clearly. This lasted until I was moved out of H D U, I found my belief was stronger and I understood that there was something dragging me back to reality and I started to come back to the present day with my employment and Sue (my wife) started to fade from everyday conversation. This was my lightbulb moment and I started really questioning what the general population thinks the Church is and its reason for its existence.

I think that today most people believe that the church is a building and that it is where mostly old people go to pray to someone or something that can't be explained, in the belief that there is something that will happen to them after they have died. They also think that the buildings, like Christianity, are things of the past, they don't think it has anything to do with modern life.

People don't understand why 90% of Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen speak to a priest before going into battle, it's because they get peace of mind and a belief that it will help them in their time of need, they also tend to thank God after they get back from the action.

A lot of people like to have a priest conducting a funeral service for them whether in the Church or at the grave side or a crematorium. Also some couples like to have their marriage services conducted in a church and there is nothing more beautiful than a church when it is decorated for the service. Some people may not know that a church wedding could cost less than many other wedding venues.

We must not forget one of the most important dates in a child's life is their Baptism, which a lot of people believe is important for the child. To me I think along the lines of something I have read that Jesus said, "Where two or more people meet in my name That is a Church" and the Church is a community. Being part of the church community is now important to me in my life and it gives me strength to carry on. I know that someone is watching over me in sickness and in health. It also allows me to have peace of mind and a belief that when I pass away I will go to a better place which will allow me to keep in touch with the people who were once, and still are important to me.

DIARY DATES 2021

For fundraising events, outings etc. in the parishes in the Harling United Benefice. Full details appear in the magazine

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 1st OSH Coffee Morning 10-12 OSH
- 4th East Harling Church Community Café 10am-12noon
- 14th Gardening Club OSH 7.30pm
- 15th Bridgham Village Hall Wed Social 11-1pm
- 18th Yard Sale E. Harling village various venues 9am-2pm
- 24th Brettenham Church Harvest Thanksgiving 6pm
- 24th East Harling Parish Council OSH 7.30pm
- 25th Bridgham Church Coffee Morning 10am -12 noon
- 29th Bridgham Village Hall Wed Social 11-1pm

OCTOBER 2021

- 2nd Community Café East Harling Church 10-12 noon
- 5th Film Club OSH 7pm for 7.30pm
- 12th Gardening Club OSH 7.0pm
- 13th OSH Coffee Morning 10-12noon OSH
- 13th Bridgham Village Hall Wed Social 11-1pm
- 24th Bridgham Church Coffee Morning
- 26th East Harling Parish Council OSH 7.30pm
- 27th Bridgham Village Hall Wed Social 11am-1pm

NOVEMBER 2021

- 2nd Film Club OSH 7 for 7.30pm
- 6th Community Café East Harling Church 10-12 noon

DECEMBER 2021

8-10TH Christmas tree festival tree decoration
Christmas tree festival viewing dates nearer the time



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SATURDAY 4th September

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come and join us!

East Harling Church 10am-12.00 noon

Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be served all morning. You will find a warm welcome, the opportunity to chat with neighbours and friends, to sample some delicious home-made cakes and browse the second hand book stall.

Everyone Welcome!

Contact is published monthly by East Harling Parochial Church Council and. items for the October PAPER edition should be submitted to the editor by email by 12th September 2021 at the ABSOLUTE LATEST.

Please ensure that the sender's name and address or telephone number is included in all communications. Don't wait until the last day as we cannot guarantee last minute items will be printed.

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