

the

Stetchworth & Dullingham Newsletter

February 2026



St. Peter's Church, Stetchworth and St. Mary's Church, Dullingham

If you wish to book a baptism, wedding, or funeral, or have any other queries please contact one of the churchwardens initially:

STETCHWORTH CHURCHWARDENS:

Mrs Lily Whymer
Tel: 01638 507576
e-mail: lilywhymer@gmail.com

Mr Alastair France
Tel: 01638 508335
e-mail: afrance@jdpw.com

DULLINGHAM CHURCHWARDENS:

Anthea Kenna
Tel: 01638 508173
e-mail: antheakenna@gmail.com
(preferred)

Dulce Threlfall
Tel: 01638 508470 / 07810 140412
e-mail: thedulcethrelfall@gmail.com

RURAL DEAN:

Rev'd Dr. Eleanor Williams
Tel: 01638 741262
e-mail: vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

For information about the Benefice, please see our website www.raddesley.com

As a new year begins, many of us take stock of our lives. Whilst we may set resolutions, identify habits we want to change, we should also pause with gratitude for the blessings of the past months and look forward with hope to what the coming months might hold.

February is the month where the days are beginning to feel a little lighter and longer and the first signs of spring are beginning to break forth.

In the Christian church, February is primarily associated with purification, with observances dating back to ancient Roman traditions and key events in the life of the Holy Family. Early in February we celebrate Candlemas (February 2). This significant feast day, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord or the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, falls 40 days after Christmas. It commemorates the day Mary and Joseph presented the infant Jesus in the Temple, where he was recognized as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles". This year February also marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday (18th), preceded by Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday, 17th). Many of you may also be looking forward to the more secular celebration of Valentines Day (14th).

However, in our Benefice, February 2026 marks a very personal celebration for our churches and communities. Following interviews and due procedures, The Reverend Virginia Moggridge, has been appointed to serve as our Rector. She is currently Assistant Curate in training, Burwell with Reach Benefice. Bishop Dagmar will institute Virginia on 3 February 2026 at St Mary's, Dullingham. As Virginia prepares to join us, please include her in your prayers. We wish her great joy as she shares her ministry with us all.

May our prayer be one of love shared generously, peace nurtured faithfully, and joy discovered in both the ordinary and extraordinary moments of parish life. Let us continue to celebrate the traditions that root us, while embracing new opportunities to grow and serve.

Anthea Kenna
Churchwarden, St Mary's, Dullingham

A Note from the Editor

The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in March. If you would like to share any items of interest, news, or information please e-mail me at stetchworthnews@gmail.com. The deadline for articles is **20th February**. Note, I cannot guarantee that content received after this date will be included in the next issue.

Newsletter content does not reflect the editor's views.

Catherine Hartness, Editor

Editor Wanted

A new editor is required
for this newsletter.

For more details, please
contact Catherine at
stetchworthnews@gmail.com

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The Boot is a friendly, local village pub that offers a wide variety of popular lagers, real ales, spirits and wines, and lunchtime food which includes several pub classics.

We frequently have food vans for the community to enjoy!

We also have several events throughout the year which includes beer festivals and live music events where people can come and enjoy a warm and friendly atmosphere!

Our Hours:

Monday: 5pm - 11pm

Tuesday: 12pm - 2.30pm/5pm - 11pm

Wednesday: 12pm - 11pm

(Fish and Chips available every Wednesday 5pm - 7.30pm)

Thursday: 12pm - 2.30pm/5pm - 11pm

Friday & Saturday: 12pm - 11pm

Sunday: 12pm - 6pm

Lunchtime food offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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paulnicholson418@gmail.com

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St. Peter's Church, Stetchworth

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY:

8th February – 9.00 am : Communion service – The Ven. Alex Hughes

Only one service at Stetchworth this month but a variety in the other churches.

RADDESLEY BENEFICE: As Anthea has mentioned in her letter, we are very pleased and delighted that a new vicar has been appointed to our group of Churches. Though Rev'd Virginia Moggridge will be instituted at Dullingham on 3rd February, she then has some re-settlement leave and her first Sunday with us will be on 1st March. However, as will you see from the list of services on the back, she will be taking an Ash Wednesday service at Carlton at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18th February.

Lily Whymer – Tel: 01638 507576 / lilywhymer@gmail.com



Ellesmere Garden Club

We were fortunate to have such an entertaining talk on “Dahlias” by Kim O'Brien in January, which certainly helped to lift the seasonal blues!

Next is our **AGM** which takes place on **Wednesday 11th February at 7.30 pm**, followed this year by a talk. We are very pleased that **Simon Crisp**, who lives locally, has agreed to give us the benefit of his wisdom on “**Small Garden Designs**”. Please come and let your opinions about the club be known and help to shape future meetings with your suggestions. Anyone who would like to join the committee please contact Sandie beforehand.

Then in March we have a talk by **Fiona Rose** on “**William Morris in the Garden**”. Please note the change of date of this meeting to **Wednesday 4th March** because of room availability in the Ellesmere Centre.

There will be the usual raffle and refreshments at the meetings, and any prizes for future raffles would be very welcome please – bring them along.

Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you soon. Any queries about the Garden Club call Sandie on 07903 584676 or speak to someone at a meeting.

Stetchworth and Cheveley United Reformed Church

Services and Events

Sunday 1st February, 11.00 am: Revd Dr Janet Tollington

Sunday 8th February, 11.00 am: Mrs Wendy Roe

Sunday 15th February, 11.00 am: Revd Chris Baker

Sunday 22nd February, 11.00 am: Revd Elizabeth Caswell

Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 14th February 10.30 - 12.00. All welcome. This will include a Jigsaw Swap - bring a jigsaw you have finished with and take a different one home.



News...

THE POST OFFICE UPDATE

Sally Mann has sadly resigned due to ill health.

We are currently looking into our options going forward.

THE ELLESMERE CENTRE COMMUNITY SHOP

In the meantime, the shop remains open as usual Monday to Friday from 9.00am until 12 noon.

Fresh bread, pastries and delicious sausage rolls delivered Tuesdays and Thursdays. Newspapers can be reserved and a good range of groceries and sundries stocked all served by our friendly volunteer staff.

Why not start the year with a new exercise class, play a sport or maybe join a club to meet new people?

We have:

Pilates, Yoga, Fitsteps, Tai Chi, Chair Based Exercise or Chair Based Yoga, Walking Netball, Carpet Bowls, Squash, Badminton, Football, Tennis, Table Tennis (over 55's), Dog Training, Garden Club, Kitchen Choir, Healthy Walks or W.I.

For children:

Roller Skating, Irish Dancing, Ballet, Acro, Judo, Kick Boxing, Karate.

Preschool:

Tots of Fun, Moo Music, Ballet.

What's On at The Ellesmere?

Please visit our new website for all up to date details of our Adult and children's classes along with upcoming events

www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk

Website: www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
e-mail: office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk
or alternatively call us on 01638 508212

Mobile Library

The mobile library visits on the third Thursday of every month, and is at Jubilee Court, Stetchworth from 2.25pm - 3.00pm, and at Kettlefields School, Dullingham from 3.10pm - 3.40pm.

Fiction, non-fiction, large print and children's books available, and hearing aid batteries too!

Dullingham Community Lunch

Every first Tuesday of the month, 12 - 2pm, at the Taylor Hall, Dullingham.

This is a free lunch, although we do ask for donations.

Come along and meet your neighbours.

If you have any allergies or want any further information, or would like to volunteer contact Ann Johnson 01638 507736

Cambridgeshire County Council Report

As we progress through winter, many will be navigating the cost of living as their fuel bills increase - *please refer back to my previous articles for advice and support*. This is also the worst time of the year for our roads as weather conditions add to existing road quality. There have understandably been many news programmes on this, as well as a new government rating system placing Cambridgeshire along with most areas as 'amber'.

The drive of the council administration is to move Cambridgeshire back to a preventative, rather than a reactive state and within the scoring system we are 'green' on the funding we are putting in to achieve this. The funding gap is though still considerable, so it will take a bit of time to move and we along with other areas continue to push government for better funding.

For those wanting a wider understanding on this, please refer to <https://substack.com/home/post/p-178301363>

What can I do?

Although we have a council officer inspecting our roads weekly, please don't assume they can identify every last pothole. If you see a concern on roads or pavements, please use the 'Report It' site to make sure it is not missed. This only takes a few minutes, but be sure to take a photo and capture the location.

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb>

Kingsway

A new targeted consultation is open until 4 February, which I will continue to engage with in support of our local environment and communities <https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/>

Public Health Strategic Plan

The plan for the next five years outlines how the council will help to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and ensure people receive the support they need; including offering the best start in life, making Cambridgeshire a healthy place to live and work, addressing complex needs, and prioritising the prevention of ill-health.

Some of the key areas of work led by Public Health will include:

1. Mobilising the Healthy Schools service to deliver health improvement education and interventions for school-aged children and young people.
2. Working with partners and planners to improve road safety, increase active travel, and improve access to services for rural communities.
3. Equipping professionals and the public with the skills and knowledge to prevent suicide and improve suicide bereavement support services.
4. Addressing barriers to employment and developing workplace programmes to engage employers and increase access to work across the county, targeting areas with high levels of low pay and low skilled jobs.
5. Developing an alcohol harm prevention strategy and strengthening prevention and early support.

Please do continue to message me with any issues you may need my help with.

Cllr Jonny Edge, 07974 348141 / jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



East Cambridgeshire District Council Report

This is the first report of the New Year, and I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

Highways

Further to my report at the end of November, the repairs to the B1061 on the hill coming out of Dullingham have been done.

As I said in November, this was not a full resurfacing but patching of the road to make it safer, with full resurfacing taking place in financial year 2026/2027, per the schedule agreed by Highways in March 2025, which I contested at the time, saying an earlier resolution was needed. However, some of the work undertaken is very poor, with large potholes on the side of the road and it is still dangerous and I have had residents contacting me about the continuing road surface.

I will continue to raise the issue with the County Council administration, as this is not the standard that residents deserve.

If there is any work that you believe requires work, please contact me and I will raise this with Highways and aim to get it done to address the neglect that has happened over the last 5 years.

Council Reorganisation

Submissions on each of the options have been submitted and we are currently awaiting the next move from Government on this subject, which we think will happen in the Spring.

I will update with more details, once they are known.

Kingsway Solar

The company submitting the application have sent out a targeted consultation, requiring a response by 4th February. The consultation appears to be aimed at those who have expressed concerns about the original submissions by the applicant.

There will be a lot more to run on this issue, and I will publish my comments on the latest consultation next month.

Buses

I am a member of the Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Transport Committee and there has been a lot of work undertaken over buses.

At the meeting on 14th January, a proposal was discussed around direct the current buses in the villages south of Newmarket, namely the 901/2/3/4, to merge several routes and form two new routes. Those two routes are proposed to include destinations such as Newmarket Tesco and Addenbrookes, but the detailed timetable has yet to be disclosed, so there is a lot of work to be done. An engagement with residents in the coming months will take place and I will keep residents informed and fight to get the best service possible for residents.

It would be good to get a better service into our villages.

Please contact me if there is any issue concerning you. I have not done surgeries previously, because I am able to visit residents or meet them, wherever is suitable for them, rather than making residents come to me. I am available to all.

Alan Sharp, East Cambridgeshire District Councillor – Woodditton Ward
Telephone: 07794 292941 / alan.sharp@eastcambs.gov.uk

St. Mary's Church, Dullingham

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY:

8th February – 10.30 am : Morning Prayer

22nd February – 10.30 am : Holy Communion

CHURCH CLEANING:

Lesley Jones

FLOWERS:

Ann Beake - No Flowers in Lent

Is anyone available to do a few hours of cleaning in Dullingham Church, one month a year, please? This only entails cleaning the church twice, one month a year, before a service.

Also, if anyone is able to help by arranging flowers on the pedestal one month a year, we would be very grateful. You don't have to be a professional.

If you can help with either of these, please contact Sally on 01638 507543.

Advent and Christmas at St Mary's, Dullingham

The PCC wishes to thank all those who supported our Advent and Christmas events this year. The Advent Fayre was well attended with additional stalls and the lights in the churchyard have been a delight, as always. We appreciate the work that goes into building these and all those who make a donation in remembrance of a special person or event. Our Carol Service, once again, saw a packed church with readers representing many of our community groups. It is always a great joy to involve our younger members. May we wish you a Happy and Peaceful New Year and we look forward to seeing you soon.

VACANCY

DULLINGHAM PARISH CLERK

Dullingham Parish Council is seeking a motivated and enthusiastic person to take on the post of **Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**.

The clerk is responsible for ensuring the Council meets statutory duties, preparing agendas, taking minutes, dealing with correspondence, liaising with contractors and local government officials and organising audits among other duties.

Are you able to work flexible hours from home, currently for 5 hours a week, and attend the monthly Council meetings on Thursday evenings?

This is a paid position with salary in accordance with the NJC scales depending on experience and qualifications.

If you would like more information about the job or an informal chat, please get in touch with Councillor Rob Algar (Chairman)
cllr.algar@dullingham-pc.org.uk

CURRY & QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 13th February
Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Join us for a fun evening of
delicious curry and a lively quiz!

- Teams up to 6 people
- £15 per head
- 6.30pm for 7.00pm start

Quiz in aid of Dullingham and
Stetchworth Scouts

Licensed bar in aid of
The Ellesmere Centre

To register your team, contact:

Helen Baldwin

07813 068497

helenldonnelly@gmail.com

TAYLOR HALL HIRE

Church Close, Dullingham, CB8 9XE

Contact Sarah

Tel: 07780 864774 / email: sarahindull@aol.com

Report from Charlotte Cane MP

In early 2025 I set up a new network bringing together publicans and people working across our local hospitality sector. Ever since, I've been raising concerns about the pressures they face – and listening closely to what's really happening on the ground.

Pubs, cafés, restaurants and small venues aren't just businesses. In villages and market towns, they are community hubs: places where people meet, celebrate, and look out for one another. When a rural pub closes, something far bigger than a balance sheet is lost. Yet many are now operating on wafer-thin margins, hit by rising energy costs, staff shortages, falling footfall and a cost-of-living crisis that has priced too many people out of life's small joys. That's why I've been calling for urgent action to support hospitality and high streets. Together with colleagues, I've urged the Chancellor to cut VAT for pubs, restaurants, accommodation and attractions from 20% to 15%, helping businesses survive. We're also calling for the main levy on household energy bills to be removed and funded through a windfall tax on big banks. Together, this £12bn package would put around £270 back into families' pockets to spend locally.

While the Chancellor ignored these calls at the Budget, there are signs the Government may be preparing a climbdown on planned business rates rises specifically for pubs. From the unsustainable jobs tax to spiralling energy bills, too many local publicans hold shared their concerns that they could be facing closure if relief does not come soon.

Alongside this national campaigning, I'm proud of the enterprise and community-led initiatives in our constituency. It was a pleasure to attend the grand opening of the Wilburton Community Shop – a brilliant example of residents creating a vital local service. I've also enjoyed visiting Toppings Booksellers in Ely and hosting locally based Xampla in Parliament.



Christopher

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Do you run a local business – in hospitality or otherwise? I want to hear from you. Email me at charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk. Backing local businesses means tackling the cost of living, supporting innovation, and standing up for the places that hold our communities together.

Warm wishes,
Charlotte

P.S. This is just a snippet – to keep up with everything I'm doing, sign up to my newsletter at bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte

Charlotte Cane, MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire /
charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk | 020 7362 1601

A date for your diaries

On May 10th (1.30 to 6pm) Stetchworth and Dullingham will be opening several gardens again, in aid of charities supported by the National Garden Scheme. This year we have gone for a spring date. The gardens opening will be The Dove House, Reeves House, 53 Strollers Way and 41 Mill Lane in Stetchworth, and Aynsley House and the station in Dullingham. Teas at St Peter's church.

We hope to see you there!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The next Ellesmere Arts production
will be

'ALLO 'ALLO 2

'The Camembert Caper'

at The Ellesmere Centre,
Stetchworth

on Thursday 14th, Friday 15th
and Saturday 16th May

Tickets will go on sale on 1st March



You are invited to

DULLINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

**Thursday 12th February 2026
8.00pm**

The Taylor Hall, Church Close,
Dullingham CB8 9XE

*Come and enjoy a fun evening
with a demonstration by
Lorraine Gagen
entitled
'Sweet Memories'*

Admission £8
(includes tea/coffee and biscuits)

Raffle
The raffle will include all the arrangements
that are made on the evening

PLEASE CONTACT LESLEY BIRD
Tel: 01638 507658 or 07786 817154

DATE FOR DIARY:
Next Meeting: Thursday 12th March
Demonstration by Debbie Bull entitled 'Remember When'

Stetchworth WI

Joanne Johnson - Gong Relaxation

Joanne gave us a very interesting talk and then a demonstration with her relaxation gongs -

Relaxation gongs, often used in gong baths and meditation, promote deep relaxation and healing through sound vibrations.

What is a Relaxation Gong?

A relaxation gong is a large disc shaped percussion instrument that produces rich, resonant sounds when struck with a mallet. These sounds create vibrations that can help induce a state of deep relaxation and meditation. The practice of using gongs for therapeutic purposes is rooted in ancient traditions and has gained popularity in modern wellness practices.

There was a mixed response from members, some found it very relaxing and actually fell asleep whereas others didn't feel any benefit at all.

Our February meeting is our Annual Meeting when we will be holding a quiz. Teas: Ruth Dennis and Liz Puddick.

Guests welcome (18+ years) - £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.



For any other information
contact Sue Durrant on 07740
591195 or visit our website
stetchworthwi.weebly.com

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SJP approved 20/04/2023

Raddesley Benefice Services for February ≈ All Welcome

1 st February (Gold or white) 4 th Sunday of Epiphany 1 Kings 17: 8-16 1 Corinthians 1 18-end John 2: 1-11	9.00 am Brinkley Canot Dr. Malcolm Brown 10.30 Burrough Green Canon Dr. Malcolm Brown	Holy Communion Family Service (Liz)
8 th February 2 nd Sunday before Lent (Green) Genesis 1: 1-23 Romans 8: 18-25 Matthew 6: 25-end	9.00 am Stetchworth TheVen Alex Hughes 10.30 am Dullingham TheVen Alex Hughes	Holy Communion (Liz) Morning Prayer (Liz)
15 th February Sunday next before Lent (Green) Exodus 24: 12-end 2 Peter 1: 16-end Matthew 17: 1-9	9.00 am Burrough Green Rev'd Keith Morrison 10.30 am Brinkley Rev'd Keith Morrison	Holy Communion (Josephine) Morning Prayer (Josephine)
18 th February Ash Wednesday	7.00 pm Carlton Rev'd Virginia Moggridge	Ash Wednesday service
22 nd February 1 st Sunday of Lent (Purple) Gen 2: 15-17; 3:1-7 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11	10.30 am Dullingham Rev'd Robert Van de Weyer No evensong this month	Holy Communion (Liz)



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