

the

Stetchworth & Dullingham Newsletter

September 2026



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

If you wish to book a baptism, wedding, or funeral, or if you need the services of a priest, please contact the Rev'd Virginia or one of the churchwardens, details below:

Rev'd Virginia Moggridge
Tel: 01638 383110 / 07963 515777
e-mail: Rector.raddesley@gmail.com

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

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

What a summer it has been. I hope and pray that by the time you read this it has finally rained. Whilst the warm sun is normally seen as a blessing, and so it generally is, the sometimes extreme temperatures and lack of rain these past weeks have been really challenging to our landscape, with fields and gardens reduced to dusty, parched blocks of brown.

The harvest came in very early, with farmers reporting low yields as a poor return for all their hard work over preceding months. It is especially hard for wildlife and nature; we have been placing bowls of water around the garden for our resident hedgehogs and field mice, and the chickens have dug the biggest dust bowls I have seen! So, yes, droughts can be tough, and we have to dig deep, sometimes literally, to manage the land and our own expectations. But drought can also bring unexpected opportunities: nature constantly surprises us. Perhaps some plants thrive when you least expect, new plants, better adapted, take the place of those we lose. In our cart barn, 2 pairs of swallows have raised 4 broods, and are now fledging healthily into clear blue skies. So it is with a spiritual drought.

For some, finding God in times when they feel most in need of his love and compassion can feel like a drought – not being able perhaps to find the words to pray, or not feeling his presence nearby, can be a time of aridity. But as with nature, so with God. If we wait patiently, and quietly, if we seek ways in which we might engage differently, perhaps by talking to a friend we have lost contact with, or walking amongst the early ripening blackberries and sloes, we might feel the comfort of is grace and know He is with us. The climate is changing, yes, and we must adapt with it, but God's love and compassion is changeless and will endure – we only have to welcome it in.

May you have a blessed and restorative last few weeks of summer.

With my prayers for you all

Reverend Virginia Moggridge
Rector.raddesley@gmail.com

01638 383110 / 07963 515777

A Note from the Editor

The next edition of the Newsletter will published in October. 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 September**. 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.—Harrison Ling, Editor

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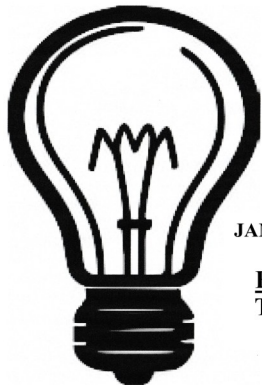
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andrew.spooner@hotmail.com



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

18 Sheriffs Court
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St. Peter's Church, Stetchworth

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026:

13th September 9.00am : Communion service

27th September 6.00pm : Evensong

Village Show: Thank you so much to all those who helped in any way with the church stalls at the village show – and to those who supported them by purchasing goods, or taking part in the competitions. We had a successful day and raised approximately £1,000, so a good result!

Quiz: Our next fundraising effort will be the Quiz on Saturday 24th October – see poster on page 7, This is usually an enjoyable evening – good food and company, why not make up a team and come and join us.

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

Ellesmere Garden Club

Doesn't time fly? Here we are in the middle of August as I write, and the weather has thankfully cooled down – for the moment – but we still await any significant rain.



However, moving on, we have a talk to look forward to on **Wednesday 9th September – Linda Gasgoine on Wildlife Gardening**. It will be good for all of us to get together again - at 7.30 pm in the Ellesmere Centre, just in case you need reminding. Then on **Wednesday 14th October Geoff Hodge** will

talk to us about 'The 12-month Garden'. Same time, same place. I'm sure both will be fascinating and well worth coming along to. Maybe a relief from worrying about the state of our gardens after this punishing summer. But in the meantime, do enjoy your gardens everyone – and make the most of whatever the weather throws at us, rain or shine!

For any general queries about the Garden Club call Sandie on 07903 584676.

Support our local Wildlife Trust reserve.

The Lower Wood (Weston Colville) working parties begin again on Saturday 26th September. It's a chance to volunteer and help maintain the ancient woodland, learn about local wildlife, get some exercise and meet likeminded people. Come along on the last Saturday of the month at 10am between September and February (Christmas/New Year date may vary). You'll find us along the main path in the middle of the wood (what3words location: saved.shape.guess).

We'll be coppicing the hazel to improve biodiversity and the health of the woodland. All ages welcome, although children should be accompanied by an adult. Wear clothing and boots appropriate for the weather and remember you'll warm up as you work. You just need to bring a pair of gardening/DIY gloves. Tools and light refreshments are provided. Most stay until around 1pm but you are welcome to work on after a BYO lunch. Looking forward to seeing you there! For more information please contact

Lower.Wood@wildlifebcn.org

Lower Wood work party (10am) 26/9/26.

Lower Wood work party (10am) 31/10/26.

Lower Wood work party (10am) 28/11/26.

Stetchworth and Cheveley United Reformed Church

Services and Events

Sunday 6th September, 11.00 am: Mrs Wendy Roe

Sunday 13th September 11.00am: Sunday Fellowship

Sunday 20th September, 11.00am: Mrs Pat Stevens

Sunday 27th September, 11.00am: Revd Elizabeth Caswell (includes Holy Communion)



Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 12th September 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.

The Ellesmere Centre AGM

Tuesday 15th September

7pm

Please come along and show your support

Line Dancing Classes

Starting Mid-September

All ages and abilities welcome

(Low impact to start with)

Over 65's will be subsidised by Active Ageing

If interested, please contact the centre

Pickleball is now available at the Ellesmere

Court hire is £9 per hour £7 concession.

Call today to book

01638 508212

Adult and Children's Classes

For an up-to-date list please see our website or email the office and we will send you a copy

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

CLEANER WANTED

To join the team at the Ellesmere Centre

Weekdays 7-9am

Applications to:- julie@ellesmerecentre.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE

Kettlefields School PTFA

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT @ Kettlefields School, Dullingham

Thursday 5th November (weather-permitting)

Sponsorship packages available, for more info email
ptfakettlefields@gmail.com

Dullingham Community Lunch

Every first Tuesday of the month, 12 - 1:30pm,
at the Taylor Hall, Dullingham.

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

**Drivers needed for community lunch, on the
first Tuesday of every month, for details
contact Ann Johnson 01638 507736 or email
panda41@btinternet.com**

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!**

Cambridgeshire County Council Report

What a summer it has been. I hope you have been staying cool, your gardens have scraped through with the hosepipe ban and you are staying vigilant with the ongoing fire risks. At the time of writing, I think we are all waiting for a break in the weather with some rain, but it really does remind us of the times we live in and the climate risks we all need to be more mindful of every day and in all future thinking. Over recent weeks many young people will have received results from the courses that will move them onto their next stage in life. Well done regardless of the grades you received, opportunity is there for you even if you chose to change direction at any point in the future. Good luck with your next steps.

Local Government Reorganisation

On the last day of Parliament before its summer holiday, the [then] Secretary of State for local government announced delaying a decision on new councils for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. He said a decision would be made 'by October'. He is no longer Secretary of State, so Angela Rayner will be handling this when parliament returns after the summer. Before the delay was announced, it had been rumoured that the Government would announce an option splitting Huntingdonshire down the middle and putting East Cambridgeshire with Fenland and the south of Huntingdonshire. It was clear from the leaks those proposals were not going to be popular, but the Government has said no further information is required from the existing councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough before it makes its decision and expects local elections to the new councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to go ahead in May 2027, regardless of the delay. This will put a lot of pressure on preparations for the new authorities and on all councils being

ready to deliver the elections once we have an outcome. I have been working with our parish councils and other councillors to restate our local concerns and a need for us to be aligned with Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

HIGHWAYS

In recent months, the existing Highways contract with M Group has been renegotiated for a further 3 years delivery. The amended contract focuses on timeliness and quality. Where the contractors are not meeting requirements, they will receive fines. They will also be required to photograph all work carried out so the council are able to check and intervene on poor quality sooner. It is hoped this will force improvement in standards and gives M Group a short period of time to prove themselves before the new authorities negotiate future contracts with whom they chose. In addition, the Highways and Transport Committee that I sit on agreed a £5m investment targeted at winter readiness. Of the record £78m allocated to highways in 2026/27, only £31.3m of the budget comes from the government; the rest is funded by the council itself. This is an attempt to bridge the significant historical deficit of £800m required to tackle highways issues across the county. Frequent checks indicate we are still on track to receive new surface treatment to the B1061 between the King's Head and Eagle Lane in the early autumn. I will share exact dates and details as soon as they are confirmed.

KINGSWAY

The application for the Kingsway Solar Farm was withdrawn by the developers in June. Downing Renewable Developments have indicated they still intend to revise and resubmit the application. The main matters identified by government include the need for additional environmental information (relating to ecology and historic environment, including archaeology), pre-application consultation, as well as numerous errors in the documentation. Kingsway will be required to engage further with county and district council officers and likely consult publicly on any amendments before resubmitting.

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

Stetchworth WI

We have had a very sociable time in recent weeks. In July we hosted our Strawberry Afternoon Tea at the Ellesmere Centre. This was a very successful event. On a balmy summer afternoon, seventy people enjoyed tea, freshly made scones, strawberries and cream. Everyone was very generous in buying raffle tickets and the event raised £375.25. This will be donated to Riding for the Disabled. Following the afternoon tea, Stetchworth WI held a summer social for WI members and partners in August. This was a very convivial evening with members enjoying good conversation and a delicious buffet. The desserts were particularly popular with all guests.



The next WI meeting is on **Tuesday September 1st**. The speaker is **Sue Baker**. The presentation is **A musical journey through Egyptian and Middle Eastern dance – a talk and taster session**.

Competition: A dance related item // **Teas:** Linda Dicker. Karen Gray

If you are not a member of the WI, but would like to find out more, please join us at one of our sessions. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth. Guests are welcome (18+ years), £3 to include tea/coffee with biscuits. For more details check our website <https://stetchworthwi.weebly.com/>

East Cambridgeshire District Council Report

I hope that everyone had a good summer and managed to survive the heat. We are all now hoping for a wetter autumn to refresh the garden and replenish water reserves.

Waste Services

A thank you to all residents for the successful rollout of the new waste system. However, if there are any issues or queries, please contact the waste team on 01638 665555 or send me a message and I will try to resolve the issue.

Highways

If you believe there is a pothole or road defect that requires work, please contact me and I will raise this with highways. There was a serious collision on Wednesday 19th August at the Duchess Drive crossroads on the road from Stetchworth across to Cheveley. I raised the issue of funding two years ago when I was on the County Council for this sort of road junction and asked for more funding to be put into the budget to enable these vital road safety measures to be put in place. I was responsible for pushing through the staggered junction on the A1303, which took a lot of pushing and time, but it was finally completed and is now a safer junction. That design can be replicated in other locations, if the County Council put the funding in place, that I pushed for in 2025 and made an amendment to the County Council budget, which the ruling group voted down. I will continue to push for better use of YOUR money.

Council Reorganisation

Government announced on 16th July that the decision on the Local Government reorganisation for Cambridgeshire would be postponed until October. This is a very concerning situation, as it puts at risk the smooth transfer from existing councils to the new proposals, as the timescale is already very tight and any delay, without any indication of what the new format is likely to be, is totally unacceptable. The existing District and County Councils, who will no longer exist after March 2028, have to work with the new unitary councils, whatever form they will be, to enable a smooth transfer and this delay is not helpful to ensure that smooth transfer. Based on other counties, that have had their reorganisations announced, such as Norfolk and Suffolk, the new councils have favoured urban areas, but expanded out into rural areas, thus maximising the Government's local council electoral influence. This gives me grave concerns at an outcome, that could have East Cambridgeshire as the building site for an expanded Cambridge. I will continue to push for the best outcome for residents, but as you will be aware, the decision is that of Government, with a new Secretary of State in place, so we are at their mercy.

The Ellesmere Centre Post Office

Trustees continue to explore funding avenues to offset some of the costs involved in setting up a commercial arm to enable the Trustees to run the Post Office

Forest City

No new update on this.

Kingsway Solar

No further news on this, except we believe that the applicant will at some stage re-submit their application.

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
E-Mail: alan.sharp@eastcambs.gov.uk
Telephone: 07794292941



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SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER:

13th September—10.30am: Morning Prayer

27th September—10.30am: Holy Communion

CHURCH CLEANING:

Louise/Cicily Robertson

FLOWERS:

Dullingham Church needs cleaners and flower arrangers. This would only be for one month a year. If you are able to help, please contact Sally at sallypeyton65@gmail.com.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH STETCHWORTH

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 24th October 2026

Ellesmere Centre,
Stetchworth

Doors open 7.00 pm – first question 7.30 pm

Teams of up to six people

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course home-cooked meal

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or email lilywhymer@gmail.com

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SJP Approved 22/04/2026



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Saturday, 7th November

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From 15th September

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You are invited to

DULLINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

Thursday 10th September

8pm

The Taylor Hall, Church Close,
Dullingham CB8 9XE

*Come and enjoy a fun
evening
with a Demonstration
by*

*Rachel Borenkova
entitled 'Autumn
Offering'*

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 YOUR DIARY:

Next Meeting:

Thursday 8th October

Demonstration by

David Wright

Fighting for better NHS dentistry in Ely and East Cambridgeshire

As Parliament returns after the summer recess, I have been reflecting on a busy few months across Ely and East Cambridgeshire. I have met residents, businesses, community groups and local councils, while continuing to raise local concerns with ministers and press for action on the issues affecting our area.

One issue that has dominated the summer is the continuing uncertainty over local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. After months of consultation and planning, the Government announced in July that it still could not reach a decision and may delay an announcement until October. This is a major decision for the future of local services, yet councils, residents and businesses have been left in limbo.

I raised this directly with ministers in Parliament, asking what further consultation would take place and how electoral officers are expected to prepare for elections next May when they still do not know council boundaries, ward structures or councillor numbers. Those questions went unanswered.

I have since written again to ministers, pressing for clarity and urging them to put local people at the heart of any decision. If the Government cannot show that reorganisation will improve services and accountability, it should consider retaining the current arrangements rather than imposing a flawed solution with little public confidence.

Many conversations over the summer have also turned to the cost of heating homes as we approach autumn and winter. The new Burnham Government has announced the removal of VAT from domestic electricity bills from October, but that will save the average household only around £45 a year. For many families, that does not go far enough.

This is especially true locally, where many villages have large numbers of homes not connected to the gas grid. More than a quarter of households rely on heating oil or LPG and are often overlooked in national energy policy, despite facing sharp and unpredictable price rises.

The Liberal Democrats are proposing an Essential Energy Guarantee that would save the average household around £100 a year, with extra support for lower-income families, disabled people and households with children. We are also calling for stronger protections for households using heating oil and LPG.

With around 4,500 households in Ely and East Cambridgeshire experiencing fuel poverty, keeping people warm this winter must be a priority. I will continue pressing for certainty on local government and practical support with the cost of living.

If there is an issue or concern you would like to raise with me, please do get in touch. I am here to listen and to help wherever I can.

If there's ever anything I can help you with, please do get in touch via charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk or +44 20 7362 1601. You can also keep up to date with my work through my fortnightly newsletter — sign up here: www.bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte

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





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Raddesley Benefice Services for September~ All Welcome

Thursday 3rd September	10.00 am Brinkley	Mid week communion
Sunday 6th September 14th After Trinity (Green) Exodus 12: 1-14 Romans 13: 8-end Matthew 15: 18-20	9.00 Brinkley 10.30 am Burrough Green	Holy Communion Family Service
Sunday 13th September 15th after Trinity (Green) Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-35	9.00 am Stetchworth Canon Dr. Malcolm Brown 10.30 am Dullingham Canon Dr. Malcolm Brown	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
Sunday 20th September 16th After Trinity (Green) Exodus 16: 2-15 Philippians 1: 21-end Matthew 20: 1-16	9.00 am Burrough Green 10.30 am Carlton Stetchworth	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Baptism
Sunday 27th September 17th After Trinity (Green) Exodus 17: 1-7 Philippians 2: 1-13 Matthew 21: 23-32	10.30 am Dullingham 6.00 pm Stetchworth	Holy Communion Evensong

RADDESLEY BENEFICE— additional services:

We are introducing two new monthly services – a Communion service at 10.00 on the first Thursday of each month, moving round the six churches in turn, and a Compline service at 6.30 pm on the third Thursday of each month, also moving around the parishes. The Communion service will begin in September (on 3rd September at Brinkley) and the compline service will begin in October (on 15th October at Westley Waterless). The services will, of course, be included in the list of services published in each newsletter. If you have other commitments on Sundays, but would like to attend a service, these services might well suit you.



SATURDAY
12TH **SEPT.**
2026

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historic churches.**



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