

the

Stetchworth & Dullingham Newsletter

March 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
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DULLINGHAM CHURCHWARDENS:

Anthea Kenna
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Dulce Threlfall
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For information about the Benefice, please see our website www.raddesley.com

I am really delighted to be writing this for the first time as your newly minted Rector. Apart from introducing myself it gives me the opportunity to express my deepest thanks for the warmth, support, and encouragement shown to me as I have arrived amongst these communities. It has been a joy, both for me and for my husband Peter, to be made so very welcome. In particular I want to thank those who worked so hard to make my Institution service in Dullingham earlier in February such a wonderful evening – it was truly amazing! I was overwhelmed by the numbers who came, and I do not underestimate the amount of effort which goes into such an occasion; it ran like clockwork, and everyone present had a terrific time. So, heartfelt thanks to all, whatever part you played – it was a wonderful start to my ministry amongst you, and I look forward to many more times together whether in church, school, at a community event or just out and about.

I have already had the privilege of talking to a number of you as I have begun to move around the villages, and it seems to me that these different communities are bound together in a strong sense of fellowship, of neighbourliness, of sharing our skills and gifts in order to care for one another in concrete, practical ways. These characteristics also of course reflect the love of God for his people, wherever and whoever they are – that is the fundamental Christian message, which guides us all.

As we enter the season of Lent, traditionally a time of reflection and prayer, it is good to bear in mind that it is also a time of looking forward, to the light and joy not only of longer days and brighter skies (much in need this winter!) but to the Easter wonder of the resurrected Christ. There will be much to witness, and celebrate, and as we move through this season together for the first time, I look forward to meeting and getting to know you, and to sharing the love of God in all we say and do, together.

Please do get in touch, my contact details are below, and I would be delighted to meet you for coffee/tea, a chat, or a walk (with one of our Labradors!)

Thank you again, and my prayers for you all as the year unfolds.

Reverend Virginia Moggridge
Rector.raddesley@gmail.com
01638 383110 / 07963 515777

A Note from the Editor

The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in April. 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 March**. 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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SERVICES FOR MARCH AND EASTER:

22nd March – 3.00 pm : Evensong

this will be followed, at 4.00 pm, by the Annual Vestry Meeting, Annual Parochial Church Council meeting and a standard PCC meeting

3rd April – 7.00 pm : Good Friday ecumenical service

Only one service at Stetchworth this month but a variety in the other churches. In order for Carlton to have some morning services, each of the larger parishes is foregoing a morning service which will take place at Carlton. Therefore, in March the 9.00 am service on 8th March which would usually be at Stetchworth will be at Carlton.

RADESLEY BENEFICE: As mentioned in our last newsletter, the institution service was held on 3rd February and was a lovely occasion with a full church and many people attending to support Rev'd Virginia. We had a good Ash Wednesday service on 18th February with Rev'd Virginia taking a day out from her leave to take the service. Her first Sunday services with us will be on Sunday 1st March.

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



Ellesmere Garden Club

Our next talk is by **Fiona Rose on "William Morris in the Garden"**. Please note the change of date of this meeting to **Wednesday 4th March at 7.30 pm** because of room availability in the Ellesmere Centre.

Back to our regular schedule for April we welcome **Greg Veness on Wednesday 15th April** to talk about **"Delphiniums"**. Greg comes from his Front Gardens Nursery at Glemsford and will be bringing plants for sale with him – so be sure to bring your wallets!

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.

From then on until September our talks are paused whilst we enjoy our spring and summer events. Firstly, the **Plant Sale on Saturday 9th May** and the **NGS Open Gardens** in Stetchworth and Dullingham on **Sunday 10th**. Keep that weekend free and look out for more news next month!

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 March, 11.00 am: Mr Richard Lewney

Sunday 8th March, 11.00 am: Mrs Wendy Roe

Sunday 15th March, 11.00 am: Mrs Pat Stevens

Sunday 22nd March, 11.00 am: Revd Dr Janet Tollington

Sunday 29th March, 11.00 am: Revd Simon Bailey

Good Friday, 3rd April, 7.00 pm: Joint service with the Parish Church

Easter Sunday, 5th April, 11.00 am: Mrs Wendy Roe



Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 14th March 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.

SAVE OUR POST OFFICE

Please sign our petition to stop the closure of our village Post Office!

This is an important step in protecting a service that matters to all of us, both now and for future generations.

By adding your name, you are helping to show how strongly people value this vital village asset and sending a clear message that it deserves to remain at the heart of our community for years to come

<https://c.org/LPGjMFwqNC>



Moo Music - New Sessions

Starting Wednesday 25th February

10.45-11.25 - Mixed Moo 11.40-12.15 - Baby Moo



Friday Sessions:

27th February, 6th March, 20th and 27th March Mixed Moo - 10.00-10.40

<https://www.facebook.com/moomusicely/>

LIVE MUSIC

with



Around Midnite (Pop, Rock, Tamla and Soul)

7th March - £8 per ticket



Doors Open 7.30pm

Licensed Bar & Raffle

INDOOR CAR BOOT SALE

22nd March

8am – 11am / Set up from 7am / £6 includes table

PLEASE BOOK WITH THE OFFICE BY 16TH MARCH

Village Hall Week 16th-20th March

Monday - Free Table Tennis and refreshments

Tuesday - Community Hub Cream Tea. Roller Disco

Wednesday - Hub Sports. Lunch Club

Thursday - free Badminton slots am. Tots of Fun free taster sessions. Tasters for Pilates low impact pm or try joining our Healthy Walk at 2pm

Friday-Community Hub with Homemade soup. Free taster for Chair Based Yoga

TBC – please check our website or contact us in the office for more details

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

Make sure you have your say on the future of Cambridgeshire

The government has launched a public consultation on how local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough should be reorganised - a decision that could shape our area for the next 50 years. Only **Option A** keeps us aligned with Cambridge; every other option places us under a Peterborough-facing authority. It's vital that local residents speak up to show why this would be the wrong fit for our communities. You can respond to the consultation here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough>

Leaders in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire support staying together, while East Cambridgeshire District Council's leader is advocating for us to be tied to Peterborough, Fenland and Huntingdon, which does not reflect the strong views residents in our area have already shared. Ultimately, ministers will decide - so this consultation is our opportunity to make our voices heard.

All 12 parish councils in the Woodditton division, along with neighbours in Burwell, have already written jointly to ministers. Now we need as many individuals as possible to respond and support the option that best reflects our communities' needs.

Cambridgeshire County Council has submitted the business case for Option A, the only proposal offering a cohesive approach for the whole region.

Option A may mean a modest council tax rise of around £17 a year for a Band D household and may revive long-standing development proposals, such as in Six Mile Bottom. But ensures we have a seat at the table to shape development in our own interests - something far less likely under a Peterborough-led authority, where we would be a small voice in a large, distant authority with limited influence. It would create a predominantly rural authority centred on Cambridge, giving our communities stronger influence and a structure that better reflects how we live. Please don't miss your opportunity to help shape out future as you believe it should be.

Ellesmere Post Office

Before taking a break with family, I heard the news of the notification received on the intended closure of our much needed and treasured Post Office, I immediately contacted Post Office Affairs to raise my concern, insisting they postpone their decision, giving our community the opportunity to make a case to save this service.

Since then, Charlotte Cane has also written to put on pressure requesting a meeting of key stakeholders and Cllr Alan Sharp as a trustee of the Ellesmere Centre has directly engaged the Post Office. At the time of writing, it appears the combined pressure has resulted in The Post Office giving members of the community, who have suggested they are willing, to take on the role that Sally Mann delivered so well for so many years. Let's us now hope this brings forward a fresh start we can all get behind.

HIGHWAYS

Kings Head to Eagle Lane update

Frustration over this road rightly remains high. The road continues to be monitored regularly, and work orders have been placed to improve the remainder of the current surface before the scheduled surface treatment in the spring. I know many feel things aren't moving quickly enough. There is a lot to do across Cambridgeshire, not helped by over a decade of underinvestment and the relentless rain and varied weather conditions that have been opening our roads across the country at an unprecedented rate. Since the New Year, Cambridgeshire already has twice as many crews working on road maintenance and are planning to increase this further.

The County Council have just agreed an additional £20m to be spent on our roads next year, meaning a total of £73m to move us slowly back to preventative rather than reactive maintenance. We need more funding from government to make a real difference. We also need a vastly improved contract with the highway's contractors, M-Group, which is being worked on.

I will continue to keep pressure on the council to do more, quicker, proactively and with proper quality checks in place. The efforts of many local residents are also keeping the pressure on. It does appear in the short-term we will have to continue to make do with temporary repairs to the worst potholes. I will continue to check in with officers before the main work is undertaken on this stretch of road late spring, to be sure we receive a permanent solution that removes the historical issues in this location.

Railways

Greater Anglia have announced an additional Mon-Fri morning and evening service on the Ipswich to Cambridge line, commencing in May. This is the first stage in a series of priorities as we anticipate the eastern leg of East West Rail greatly improving our rail connectivity in both directions.

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

East Cambridgeshire District Council Report

Highways

The standard of some of the work that has been done is very poor. I was contacted by a resident, about Station Road Dullingham and the junctions with Balsham Lane and Eagle Lane. Resurfacing work was done there last year and already it is starting to wear away.

I know that junctions, with the changing of direction creates the largest amount of wear and tear on a road surface, but I would not expect the wear to be as bad as it is, after such a short passage of time. I have raised this issue with Highways and will continue to pursue this.

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

There is currently a Statutory Consultation being undertaken around the options submitted. The consultation runs until 26th March, so please make your comments about the reorganisation.

One of my major criticisms of the reorganisation is the lack of public consultation, so I would encourage everyone to participate.

The decision on what the Council area will look like, is expected in the summer.

Buses

I am still waiting for further details on the prospective bus services that I mentioned last month. I will update as soon as I have more details.

The Ellesmere Centre Post Office

Residents will be aware of the potential closure of the Post Office at the Ellesmere Centre, after Sally Mann, the current post mistress had to give up the post due to ill health.

The Post Office served notice that the branch was permanently closed, and all the equipment would be removed on 24th February.

As a trustee of the Centre, I could not accept that and have negotiated with the Post Office that because of the nature of the closure, due to Sally's ill health, we would be given the opportunity to get the Centre running with a new incumbent. Post Office management are currently sifting through the names of applicants that I have submitted to them.

The process of selection and training will take a considerable amount of time, and the Post Office will not be open during that time. A mobile unit with limited opening hours, will visit the Ellesmere during that time, to service resident's requirements. We have made a big step forward, but there are several hurdles to clear before the Post Office is back functioning in the village.

I will keep residents informed of the progress over the coming months.

In closing on this subject, I would like to thank Sally Mann for her service to Stetchworth and the surrounding villages over the last 30 years, which was previously recognised with the British Empire Medal.

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

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St. Mary's Church, Dullingham

SERVICES FOR MARCH AND EASTER:

8th March – 10.30 am : Morning Prayer

30th March – 7.00 pm : Compline

1st April – 7.00 pm : Compline

22nd March – 10.30 am : Holy Communion

31st March – 7.00 pm : Compline

2nd April – 7.00 pm : Maundy Thursday Service

FLOWERS:

Libby Burton

Rev'd Virginia's first service at St Mary's is Morning Prayer on Sunday 8th March at 10.30am. This is a short service and we invite you to join us to both meet and welcome Virginia. Light refreshments will be served in the church following the service.

Parish Councillor Vacancy: Dullingham

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

Dullingham Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a member of the public to become a Parish Councillor.

If you feel you would like to get involved in making decisions about your local community and make a significant contribution to Dullingham village, then this is the position for you!

We are a friendly team who meet once a month in the sports field pavilion on a Thursday evening.

You must be aged 18 years and over, eligible to vote and have lived or worked in the parish of Dullingham for 12 months or more.

The process to co-opt for the vacancy will be held at a Parish Council meeting.

For more information and an application form, please e-mail clerk@dullingham-pc.org.uk or, if you would like to chat to an existing Parish Councillor about our work first, please contact us via the same email address.

TAYLOR HALL HIRE

Church Close, Dullingham, CB8 9XE

Contact Sarah

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

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You are invited to

DULLINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

Thursday 12th March 2026

8.00pm

The Taylor Hall, Church Close,
Dullingham CB8 9XE

*Come and enjoy a fun evening
with a demonstration by
Debbie Bull
entitled*

'Remember When'

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 9th April

Join us to celebrate our 24th Anniversary

Demonstration by Brenda Tubb entitled
'Many Happy Returns'

ELLESMERE ARTS

presents

'ALLO 'ALLO 2

'The Camembert Caper'

at The Ellesmere Centre,
Stetchworth

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

7.30 pm

£12

Tickets will be on sale in the Ellesmere Centre
Village Shop

Report from Charlotte Cane MP

When I'm out and about across the constituency, two concerns come up time and again – police response times in our rural communities, and the future of Arthur Rank Hospice.

The Home Secretary has set out plans to reform policing, including a proposed target police response time of 20 minutes for rural areas. Many residents and local businesses tell me how frustrating it can be when help takes too long to arrive after a 999 call, and I fully agree – it should never have reached this point. Setting clear targets is a step in the right direction.



Photo: Charlotte on shift with Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) in the autumn

However, when I speak to our local police officers, they are very honest about the challenges they face. Covering a large rural area with limited staff and resources makes meeting these targets extremely difficult. If the Government is serious about improving response times, it must also provide the funding and resources to make this achievable. As these proposals are rolled out, I will be calling on Government to equip rural police forces like ours with the additional resources needed for faster response times.

I also want to update you on our ongoing campaign to protect Arthur Rank Hospice. Alongside fellow Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrat MPs Ian Sollom and Pippa Heylings, I recently met with Care Minister Stephen Kinnock and the CEO of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board Jan Thomas to press the case for restoring funding to hospice beds.

After funding was withdrawn last year, a powerful public campaign saw more than 16,000 people sign a petition to save the nine vital beds which are under threat. Thanks to incredible community support, enough money was raised to keep them open for another 12 months. This breathing space is invaluable, but it must now be used to secure a long-term solution.

We have urged the Minister and the ICB to take an evidence-based approach when assessing end-of-life care needs locally, as we firmly believe the case does not justify closing these beds. Arthur Rank must remain a cornerstone of compassionate care in our area, and we will be meeting the ICB again in two months to follow up.

Finally, I've now helped with over 12,000 individual constituent cases where residents have come to me for support, advice, or information - if there's ever an issue I can help you with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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

Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

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Raddesley Benefice Services for March and Easter ≈ All Welcome

<p>1st March 2nd Sunday of Lent (Purple) Genesis 12: 1-4a Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 John 3: 1-17</p>	<p>9.00 am Brinkley Rev'd Virginia Moggridge 10.30 am Burrough Green Rev'd Virginia Moggridge</p>	<p>Holy Communion Family Service (Liz)</p>
<p>8th March 3rd Sunday of Lent (Purple) Exodus 17: 1-7 Romans 5: 1-11 John 4: 5-42</p>	<p>9.00 am Carlton 10.30 am Dullingham</p>	<p>Holy Communion (Josephine) Morning Prayer (Josephine)</p>
<p>15th March 4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday (Purple) Exodus 2: 1-10 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 Luke 2: 33-35</p>	<p>9.00 am Burrough Green 10.30 am Brinkley</p>	<p>Holy Communion (Josephine) Morning Prayer (Josephine)</p>
<p>22nd March 5th Sunday of Lent (Purple) Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Romans 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45</p>	<p>10.30 am Dullingham 3.00 pm Stetchworth</p>	<p>Holy Communion (Liz) Evensong (Liz)</p>
<p>29th March Palm Sunday (Red) Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philippians 2: 5-11 Matt 26: 14-end of 27 OR Matt 27: 11-54</p>	<p>10.30 am Westley Waterless</p>	<p>Benefice Communion (Liz)</p>
<p>30th March</p>	<p>7.00 pm Dullingham</p>	<p>Compline</p>
<p>31st March Tuesday in Holy week</p>	<p>7.00 pm Dullingham</p>	<p>Compline</p>
<p>1st April Wednesday in Holy week</p>	<p>7.00 pm Dullingham</p>	<p>Compline</p>
<p>2nd April Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>7.00 pm Dullingham</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday Service</p>
<p>3rd April Good Friday (hangings removed)</p>	<p>7.00 pm Stetchworth</p>	<p>Ecumenical Good Friday service at St. Peter's Stetchworth</p>
<p>5th April Easter Sunday (Gold or White) Acts 10: 34-43 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-18</p>	<p>10.30 am Brinkley 10.30 am Burrough Green</p>	<p>Benefice Easter Communion service (Josephine) Lay led Family Easter service (Liz)</p>

Stetchworth WI

Our February meeting was our Annual Meeting, followed by a quiz.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March and the speakers will be the Suffolk Road Safe Team talking about Road Safety / Grand Driver.

The competition is: A picture of your first car.

Teas this month: Marian Harrington and Kath Mackrill.



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

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!