

the

Stetchworth & Dullingham Newsletter

May 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

Since my last letter, we have not only seen the arrival of Spring in all its glory here in the villages, but we have also celebrated the joy of the Risen Christ in our Holy Week and Easter services. We had a wonderful Palm Sunday service and waved our palm crosses, there were reflective services in Holy Week and a final, joyous and packed service on Easter Day – we even had the bells ringing out in Brinkley! The churches all looked beautiful after the bareness of Lent, and huge thanks go to all those who decorated them with such love and care – the wonderful work which goes on quietly in our amazing buildings never ceases to astonish and delight me.

I wonder what Easter held for you? Easter Egg hunts and lots of chocolates maybe! Perhaps you spent time with family and friends, perhaps like me you were working, or perhaps you are among the many who spent time alone. Holiday periods can be difficult; despite the longer days and better weather isolation can feel more acute when it seems as though everyone else is having a good time. The Easter season reminds us that Christ came among us in human form: he cared for all, the sad and the lonely as well as the joyful and flourishing. He gave his life on the Cross for our salvation, and rose again, for all, so that we might live life in all its fullness.

As we look around the world and see so much darkness in so many places, we can give thanks for the light of Christ which shines so brightly, and be especially thankful for our communities. So perhaps it is a good time to remind ourselves that we could help those around us to live their lives in fullness; why not pop in to see a neighbour living alone, say hello to someone at a bus stop or in a queue? Kindness and compassion are always in season, and a few minutes of our time might be a small act which makes a big difference.

As the season unfurls, and we begin to spend more time outside, may I wish you all a joyful Easter season, and hope to meet more of you as I continue to familiarise myself with this lovely corner of the world in which we are lucky enough to live. The peace of the Risen Christ be with 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 be published in June. 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 May**. 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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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 MAY 2026:

10th May – 9.00 am : Communion service

24th May — 6.00 pm : Evensong

May is quite a busy month this year. On 9th May the Ellesmere Centre Garden Club have their Plant Sale at the Ellesmere Centre from 10.00am—12 noon. We will be serving coffee and cakes. Then on the following day, 10th May, we will be serving tea, coffee, and cake in the churchyard (in church if wet) on the occasion of the Open Gardens Sunday. The following weekend on the 16th May I will be singing with the Balsham singers at their concert in Balsham church. At the end of the month, on the 30th May, the Kitchen Choir is in concert in Dullingham Taylor Hall.

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



Ellesmere Garden Club

Now Spring is well under way please keep the weekend of 9th and 10th May free for our first two events. The **Plant Sale on Saturday 9th May** is a very popular event and our most successful fundraiser. It will be held in the **Ellesmere Centre from 10am until noon**. You can help by donating plants from your own gardens, taking a turn on one of the stalls, or just coming along to buy, with your friends and family too. Come early for the best choices!

New gardens will be amongst those open in Dullingham and Stetchworth on **Sunday 10th May** under the **NGS Open Gardens scheme**. This is your chance to enjoy the beauty of our local surroundings and raise funds for the charities the NGS supports. Open between 1:30am and 6pm, with teas at St. Peter's Church, Stetchworth. Full details can be found in the yellow booklet "Gardens open for charity Cambridgeshire 2026" available at the Ellesmere Centre or by visiting ngs.org.uk.

Looking ahead , on **10th June**, we have a visit to **Columbine Hall Gardens at Stowupland**. Meet at the Ellesmere Centre at 6pm to share lifts.

Then on the **18th June** our coach trip this year is to **Gardeners World Live at the NEC, Birmingham**. The coach will leave the Ellesmere Centre at 9:30am and return leaving the NEC at 4pm. The cost of this is £60pp (which includes entry ticket). Please book ASAP as tickets are selling fast—to book and for full details please call Pat on 078104 20804.

Any general questions about the Garden Club call Sandie on 07903 584676.

Stetchworth and Cheveley United Reformed Church

Services and Events

Sunday 3rd May, 11.00 am: Mrs Wendy Roe

Sunday 10th May, 11.00 am: Mrs Pat Stevens

Sunday 17th May, 11.00 am: Service led by the members

Sunday 24th May, 11.00 am: Revd Chris Baker (includes Holy Communion)

Sunday 31st May, 11.00 am: Revd Elizabeth Caswell



Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 9th May 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.

Ellesmere Garden Club

Plant Sale

Saturday 9th May

10am-12pm

Quiz Night

Friday 22nd May

Teams of up to 6, Tickets £8pp to include a shared grazing platter

Doors open at 7pm / First Question at 7:30pm

Licensed Bar

Digital Champion

Does the online world feel scary to you? Would you like to be able to access essential services but don't know where to start?

We now have a Digital Champion at the centre who can help you with getting the confidence to engage in the online world. We can offer direct support working one-on-one or in small group training sessions. We can give you the confidence to access services such as online banking, healthcare apps, contacting family members and help with online shopping.

Please speak to the office if you would like some help.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Show—Sunday 5th July at 12 noon

Outdoor Live Music Event— Saturday 11th July 4-8pm

Pudding Club—September 26th

Christmas Market—Sunday 15th November

More details to follow in the coming months

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

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.

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

In a time of international concern, I want to start this month by concentrating on those needed additional help.

Help with oil and heating costs

The council has received £708,000 from the Government which is ring-fenced to support households struggling with the cost of domestic oil heating. The money has been added to the council's Crisis & Resilience Fund, and applications are being administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

Applications to the fund opened on Monday 30 March. The link to apply is at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/crisis-payment>. This fund is intended for Cambridgeshire households on low incomes who are reliant on heating oil and who need to top up their tanks as a matter of urgency. To receive this support, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Live in Cambridgeshire.
- Be reliant on heating oil to heat their home and/or water.
- Have 150 litres or less of oil remaining at the time of application.
- Be in receipt of or eligible for one of the following means-tested benefits:
- Universal Credit
- Pension Credit
- Income based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

If funding allows, the council hopes to expand the scheme later to households on incomes just above the threshold for means-tested benefits, or with exceptionally high energy needs. Eligible households can apply for up to £400 of support. The level of support awarded may fluctuate with the price of oil. The target for payment to be issued is 48 hours from the time that all required evidence is received.

For residents whose household income is above the level for means-tested benefits, other support is available. The council funds Citizens' Advice Rural Cambs to deliver an income maximisation service. <https://www.citizensadvicerruralcambs.org.uk/>

Holiday voucher values

Following the Government's withdrawal of the Household Support Fund, replaced by the Crisis & Resilience Fund with lower levels of funding, the council has agreed holiday voucher values as follows for the coming holidays.

The Crisis & Resilience Fund is expected to support all those facing 'financial shocks', not just children eligible for free school meals.

Highways

Maintenance Officers are breaking through the winter backlog on potholes. We should start to see a noticeable difference over the coming months. For anyone interested to find out more about this year's road conditions, Highways & Transport Committee chair Cllr Alex

Beckett has written a very informative article which is well worth a read at <https://notesfromalex.substack.com/p/why-are-the-roads-so-bad-rightnow>

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

East Cambridgeshire District Council Report

Waste Services

On 1st June, the way that waste is collected changes.

Black Bins replace black bags. Food waste will be collected weekly in separate food caddies.

This change has been previously communicated to residents last Autumn and the new bins will be delivered soon.

Highways

The poor workmanship of repairs continues.

The current administration at the County Council have been in control for 5 years and matters have got dramatically worse, wasting your Council Taxpayers money. The County Council needs to quickly improve this issue.

If you believe there is a pothole or road defect that 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

The Statutory Consultation ended on 26th March, so we now await the decision, probably in the summer.

The recent Government announcements of the council reorganisation for Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hampshire and Sussex have completely ignored the criteria laid down for the restructure, so it is impossible to predict the likely outcome.

The Ellesmere Centre Post Office

The likely outcome for the Post Office is one of a community Post Office. This requires a considerable amount of work for the working group of trustees of the Centre, who continue to work with the Post Office management to get the Ellesmere Post Office open for business.

As mentioned last month, this is going to take some time, as we must ensure that we are legally constituted to run the service, as well as meeting the Post Office requirements. I will continue to update accordingly.

Forest City

Further to my comments last month, the proposal that has been floated across social media of a new city of 400,000 houses between Newmarket and Haverhill continues to cause concern amongst some residents. The two individuals behind the proposal have recently published an 85-page document, which has many illogical plans within it. I will continue to oppose this opportunistic proposal and will update residents accordingly.

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@eastcambbs.gov.uk

Telephone: 07794292941

Alan Sharp, East Cambridgeshire District Councillor – Woodditton Ward

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SERVICES FOR MAY:

10th May: Open Gardens

24th May—10.00am: Communion

CHURCH CLEANING:

Sally Peyton
Julie Bampton

FLOWERS:

Maureen Baldwin
Susan Owen

Open Gardens—Come and look round six lovely Stetchworth and Dullingham gardens on May 10th (1:30pm to 6pm). The gardens are Reeves House, Aynsley House, The Dove House, 53 Strollers Way, 41 Mill Lane and Dullingham Station. They range from large to tiny, sunny to shady and there will be lots of ideas to take away for your own garden. Expect water lilies, alliums, sculptures, productive vegetable plots, colourful container planting—even an air raid shelter. Entry is £7 for all six gardens, children free. All proceeds go to charities supported by the National Garden Scheme. Teas at St. Peter's Church.

Concert: Saturday 30th May 2026

7.30pm, Taylor Hall, Dullingham

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You are invited to

DULLINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

Thursday 14th May 2026

8pm

The Taylor Hall, Church Close,
Dullingham CB8 9XE

*Come and enjoy a fun evening
with a Demonstration by
Wayne Bailey entitled 'Escape'*

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 11th June 2026

Demonstration by

Bernice Rhodes

ELLESMERE ARTS

presents

'ALLO 'ALLO 2

'The Camembert Caper'

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Stetchworth

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7.30 pm

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Report from Charlotte Cane MP

Many residents have contacted me recently about the rising cost of everyday life—particularly the price of getting around and heating their homes. From filling up the car to travelling to work and keeping warm, pressures are building fast for families and businesses across Ely and East Cambridgeshire. That’s why I’m calling for urgent action to help keep our area moving.

I’m pressing the Chancellor for an immediate 10p cut in fuel duty, which would reduce prices at the pump by around 12p per litre. In a largely rural area like ours, where many people depend on their cars, this would make a real and immediate difference. Alongside this, I’m backing a wider package of measures to reduce transport costs, including cutting bus fares to £1, reducing rail fares by 10%, and lowering the cost of electric vehicle charging by cutting VAT and tackling unfair network charges. I’m calling for these measures to be introduced for an initial three month period, with the option to extend them if high prices persist. People need help now, not later.

I also continue to campaign for fairer support for off-grid households. Over a quarter of homes locally rely on heating oil or LPG rather than mains gas, leaving them especially exposed to volatile global prices. I’m therefore calling for an immediate three month VAT holiday on heating oil and LPG, and for the introduction of a proper price cap, similar to the one that already exists for gas, to protect rural households from extreme price spikes.

In the short term, I want residents to be aware that a £53 million Government support package for vulnerable households reliant on heating oil or LPG is now available. Applications opened on 1 April, and eligible households may be able to receive up to £400 in support. (More information here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/crisis-payment>). The fund is limited, so I

would urge anyone who may qualify to apply as soon as possible. I encourage those not eligible but in need of support to seek advice from Citizens Advice.

I know that for so many, this relief won't be enough, or it will be too little, too late. After the Council's funding allocation, I wrote to the Chancellor to urge her to reconsider the funding formula in light of skyrocketing prices, and offer more support for all. I will continue pressing the Government to go further and act decisively to support households across Ely and East Cambridgeshire during this challenging time. P.S. Have you signed my petition calling on Government to fund long-term fixes for our peat soil-affected roads? These roads are failing twice as fast and costing far more to maintain. Please take 30 seconds to add your name: <https://bit.ly/fixoursoilaffectedroads>

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 May ≈ All Welcome

<p>3rd May 5th Sunday of Easter (White) Acts 7:55—end 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14</p>	<p>9.00am Brinkley 10.30am Burrough Green</p>	<p>Communion Family Service (Liz)</p>
<p>10th May 6th Sunday of Easter (White) Acts 17:22 22-31 1 Peter 3: 13-end John 14: 15-21</p>	<p>9.00am Stetchworth 10.30am Carlton Open gardens Stetchworth and Dullingham</p>	<p>Communion (Josephine) Morning Prayer (Josephine)</p>
<p>17th May 7th Sunday of Easter (White) Acts 1: 6-14 1 Peter 4 12-14 5:6-11 John 17: 1-11</p>	<p>9.00am Burrough Green 10.30am Brinkley</p>	<p>Communion (Liz) Morning Prayer (Liz)</p>
<p>24th May Pentecost (Red) Acts 2:1—21 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13 John 20: 19-23</p>	<p>10.00am Dullingham please note earlier time 6.00pm Stetchworth</p>	<p>Communion (Liz) Evensong (Liz)</p>
<p>31st May Trinity Sunday (Gold or White) Isiah 40: 12-17 2 Corinthians 13: 11-end Matthew 28: 16-end</p>	<p>10.30am Westley Waterless</p>	<p>Benefice Communion (Liz)</p>

Stetchworth WI

April WI Meeting: Our April meeting was a talk on **Henna Art - Finger Painting from Pakistan by Azba Saeed**. Azba gave us a brief history of Henna Art which was first recognised in 1753 and originated in the Middle East and North Africa and then spread across Asia.

Henna was originally used for it's cooling properties in hot, desert climates. The Henna was made into a paste and painted on the palms of hands and the soles of feet – hence it is used at weddings not only to beautify a bride but to keep her cool, it also symbolises good health and prosperity. Henna Art is called Mahndi in Hindi and Urdu. Henna comes from a tall bush called Lawsonia and can be used as a dye for hair, nails, silk, wool and leather. It is made into a powder which is then mixed with lemon juice or tea and essential oils to make a paste. To do the Henna Art a cellophane cone is used and the beautiful and elaborate designs are painted mainly on the hands, arms and feet. The design can last 3-4 weeks.

There are different styles and designs from simple to elaborate. Arabic Henna style which is mainly bold lines, Indian Henna design know for coverage and narrative quality which can take up to 12 hours to complete, Moroccan design – geometric shapes, Indo Arabic which is mainly florals and birds, 3D designs and Freestyle. Azba then showed us some of her beautiful artwork and demonstrated on a couple of willing ladies.

The next meeting on **Tuesday 5th May** is **The Maggie Letters** - a fascinating insight into life in Victorian Times and the competition is 'A Victorian Postcard.'



Teas: Lane Groves and Alison Pascoe.

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