

CLENCHWARTON

Your Village News

SEPTEMBER 2025





ST MARGARET'S
CHURCH AFTER-
NOON STRAW-
BERRY/CREAM
TEA



FRONT PAGE PHOTO CREDITS: ROBIN by Ian McGowan (winner in the 18+ age group in the recent photo competition); FROGS by Debra McGowan (highly commended in the 18+ age group in the recent photo competition).

Welcome to your Magazine

This is a monthly magazine and contains adverts from local businesses near you, village and church news and “what’s on in the village” as well as articles from our parishioners and the community. We hope it is a valuable resource for newcomers to the village as well as our long-standing residents.

St Margaret’s Church Clenchwarton (OPEN 10am – 4pm every day)

**Rector: Reverend Barbara Burton
01945 781228**

Churchwardens:

Debra McGowan – 01553 773467
warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk
Andy Taylor – 07939 055031

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Jan Taylor – 07725 940453

Please contact Debra McGowan for Baptisms, Marriages, etc.

**St Margaret's Parish Church, Church Road, Clenchwarton,
Kings Lynn, PE34 4EA**

<https://clenchwarton-church.org.uk>

Contact your magazine

Editor: Grahame Sampson: 01553 769819
grahamesampson@btinternet.com
or drop off at 18 Margaretta Close, Clenchwarton.

All other enquiries and advertising enquires:
Debra McGowan: 01553 773467
warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk

The advertising and magazine subscriptions help keep the magazine in print and provides some funds towards church projects. If you can help with the magazine please let either Debra or Grahame know.

**We need your articles in by 14th SEPTEMBER for the
OCTOBER edition**

CLENCHWARTON

Your Village News

From the editors:

We are determined to make this magazine an inclusive voice for our entire community.

We welcome all contributions, however modest, on the understanding that we will not publish any offensive material, and may have to edit articles for reasons of space.

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors.

GS; DM; AJT; JT

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF YOUR VILLAGE NEWS.

What a wonderful summer we have had even if it has meant endless watering of the plants in the garden. And what about the fruit! My own fruit trees have gone mad and I have given away barrow loads of apples, and have made at least 80 jars of jam (mostly plum!) which can be bought at the church Winter Craft Fair. This has made me realise how very hard all our farmers work - sometimes right through the night. It has also been a joy to see the local wildlife including some hares in the fields.

In this edition there is reflection on school life, gardening tips for autumn, information about many forthcoming events, reports of the re-opening of the West Lynn ferry and much more.

Jan

FROM THE EDITORS

We have been made aware of a serious dispute between Clenchwarton Football Club and Clenchwarton Parish Council over the use of public facilities in the village.

We have received representations, letters, comments and requests to publish items in support of both sides.

We remain fiercely impartial, and feel that whatever we publish in this magazine might be misconstrued as favouring one party or another. We have therefore taken the decision not to publish anything in respect of this dispute to ensure our impartiality is not compromised.

Social media sites and websites are available for anyone who wishes to look further into this dispute.

We will continue to do our best to report on public meetings in our normal unbiased way.

Grahame Sampson, Andy Taylor
Debra McGowan, Jan Taylor



**Coffee Morning
at St Margaret's Church
Every Thursday between 10-12 noon**

Do come along for a drink and a friendly chat.
Come and meet a wonderful group of Ladies and
Gentlemen joining us every Thursday.

Please contact Debra (01553 773467) if you require
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St Margaret's Church Services in SEPTEMBER



- Sunday 7th Sept** 10am Holy Communion service led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- Sunday 14th Sept** 10am Morning Prayer with hymns, led by a Churchwarden
- Sunday 14th SEPT** 4pm **PET BLESSING SERVICE** (*see more on page 23*)
- Sunday 21st Sept** 10am Holy Communion service led by Revd. Barbara Burton
- Sunday 28th Sept** 10am Morning Prayer with hymns, led by a Churchwarden

Please note the times of all services. ALL VERY WELCOME

Methodist Chapel Services in SEPTEMBER



- Sunday 7th Sept** 10.30am Revd Jackie Goddard (Holy Communion)
- Sunday 14th Sept** 10.30am Café service
- Sunday 21st Sept** 10.30am Service led by the Worship Team
- Sunday 28th Sept** 10.30am Join the service at Terrington St Clement Methodist Church.

All of the above services are open to everybody. In addition the Chapel is open every Tuesday between 9.00 and 10.00am for prayers either privately or with the Rev Jackie Goddard.



Walking Group - Saturday September 13th

The next walk starts at 9.30am from the village school on Saturday September 13th. Anyone can join us. There is no cost.

The Clenchwarton Talk - all talks start at 2.30pm

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sat September 20th | Teaching in Afghanistan by Gilian Piggott |
| Sat October 18th | "The Public Artworks of North-East England – there's more than the Angel of the North" by David Hutton |
| Sat November 15th 2.30pm | 'The Environment' by Michael De Whalley |

A while ago we had a talk on surnames and there will be another one, but plenty of research needs to be done before the talk can take place. If you would be interested in knowing what a particular surname means and from where it is most likely to originate, please write with details of the surname or names to 18 Margareta Close or email me at grahamesampson@btinternet.com. Thank you.

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**DIARY OF EVENTS in CLENCHWARTON and surrounding area for
SEPTEMBER**

Save
the
Date

EVERY THURSDAY 10am - 12 Noon
COFFEE MORNING at St MARGARET'S CHURCH
ALL WELCOME

- 2nd Sept 10.00am **Coffee Morning** at the Methodist Chapel
2nd Sept 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn
Sandwiches/cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
4th Sept 10am - 12pm **Coffee Morning** at St Margaret's Church
5th Sept 7pm **Quiz.** Methodist Chapel. Great fun - do come along and
join in. Free - donations welcome. Tea/coffee and biscuits
Provided
9th Sept 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn
Sandwiches/cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
11th Sept 10am - 12pm. **Coffee Morning** at St Margaret's Church
13th Sept 9.30am **Walking Group.** Starting from the school
15th Sept 6.30pm - 8.30pm. **Story Café** at the Methodist Chapel
16th Sept 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn
Sandwiches/cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
18th Sept 10am - 12pm **Coffee Morning** at St Margaret's Church.
23rd Sept 12.30pm **Free organ recital** at the Minster, Kings Lynn
Sandwiches/cakes/tea/coffee available from 10.30am
25th Sept 10am - 12pm **Coffee Morning** at St Margaret's Church

FOR FESTIVAL EVENTS IN LYNN DURING SEPTEMBER PLEASE SEE PAGE 24

NEWS FROM ST MARGARET'S - LOOKING BACK

In August we had a very successful Afternoon/Strawberry Cream Tea; so successful we had a lovely problem - we ran out of chairs, in spite of borrowing 40 from our friends at Walpole St Peter church. People were sitting on the Memorial Garden bench, picnicking on the grass and sitting with strangers who soon became friends. We bought the strawberries from the local fruit picking company at Walpole St Andrew, and the general consensus was that they were delicious. Our patrons came not only from Clenchwarton, but far and wide - West Winch, Upwell, West Lynn, Wisbech, Walpole St Peter and King's Lynn. People arrived - and stayed for the whole afternoon. It was so wonderful to hear the buzz of conversation and for people to say afterwards *"It was a lovely*

afternoon”; “ wonderful afternoon”; etc. The sun shone for us and the event made an amazing £541. Thanks must go to the amazing team who worked solidly all afternoon, preparing scones, and strawberries, making teas and coffees, selling raffle tickets, not forgetting the lovely people doing all the washing up.

Looking forward

Here is our diary of events for the rest of the year. Please note this also lists some special services at the church, to which all are welcome.

Sun 14th September 3pm PET BLESSING SERVICE (see page 23 for further details). **ALL PETS AND THEIR HUMANS ARE WELCOME**

Sun 5th October HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION 10am. All fresh produce welcome, which will be auctioned at the end of the service. Proceeds will go to the local farmers ‘Farming Community Network Charity’

Sat 25th October QUIZ NIGHT 6.30pm for 7pm start. £5 per person. 6 people max per team. In church. Coffee/tea and snacks available. Tickets on the door. Contact Jan 07725 940453

9th November REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE 10.45am in Church

Sat 15th November WINTER CRAFT FAIR 10am – 2pm in church
£5 per table. Free entry to the public. Refreshments available. Contact Debra 01553 773467

Sat 13th December 10am - 12 noon CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP 10 Places available. £10 per person. In church. Contact Vera 01553 774698

DETAILS OF OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wed 24th December 4pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Further details over the next couple of months

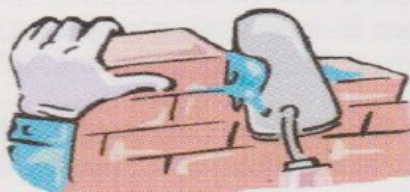


FUTURE EVENTS AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL

Coming up:

Craft Fair	8th November 10.00am—2.00pm. Amongst the exhibitors will be a good as new baby clothes stall so if you know an expectant or new mother please pass the word.
Wreath Making	28th November. Wreath Making at the Chapel There are limited numbers. Tel no for contact is Rhoda on 07917 652757
Christmas Concert	6th December
Christingle Making Workshop	Saturday 20th December – ideal for young folk.
Christingle Service	Sunday 21st December.

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Clenchwarton Art Club Open Day

Meeting fortnightly at Clenchwarton Methodist Chapel Hall, we are artists who paint for pleasure and company when we chat and help each other to grow our talents and styles. We use different mediums such as pastel, pencil, watercolour, acrylics and try out other mediums as well. Occasionally we take trips out to art galleries and weather permitting, we have been known to take our easels out to other venues for "open air" painting!

We would like more members and welcome anyone who would like to join us and "have a go". Our current fee is £10 a session which is from *10.30am -2.30pm on Tuesdays. This year we are breaking for the summer and will be meeting again on Tuesday 7th October starting with a free Open Day session for anyone who would like to find out more and then fortnightly thereafter.

***Please note amended session time.**

If you are interested and would like more information please ring:

Stephanie 07792 677891

Daphne 07786 672269

Elsbeth 07882 934553

We would love to hear from you.

West Lynn Ferry by Jan Taylor

It was with great relief that we learnt that the Ferry was to be re-opened again on Monday 11th August starting at 7am. My husband and I and our guests set our alarms early and arrived at the Ferry terminal in West Lynn to find a lot of others had all done the same, to wish our ferryman Ben well. We were all joined by The Mayor Andy Bullen, and Deputy Mayor Steve Bearshaw of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council; Alexandra Kemp, County Councillor for Clenchwarton and Kings Lynn South; and Revd Canon Adrian Ling, Rector of South and West Lynn, who blessed the ferry before its first crossing of the river. It felt as if we were on a big ship going on a long voyage as we set off to great cheers and waves from the crowd on the side. There were 50 free cakes and later on 50 Priors sausage rolls for those who wanted them. I am pleased to report that Ben (who never stopped smiling) was kept busy all day. Please - if you value the ferry service - remember to use it to get into town. *Photos on page 39*



From the Little Yellow Smart Car

Revd. Jackie Goddard

j.goddard@methodist.org.uk (07881 952098)
(Clenchwarton & Terrington St Clement Methodist Churches)



I came across a picture showing different animals racing along a running track. As you would expect, the cheetah came in first – able to reach speeds of up to 80mph. In last place came the turtle at about 0.15mph. The point is made. The cheetah is the fastest land animal and, for the 10-12 years of its life has superior speed to all its competitors. Only that point doesn't look beyond the obvious. The cheetah can swim but it doesn't like it, and it avoids deep water. The turtle, on the other hand, swims faster and deeper – up to 35mph, as deep as 1000 metres, and lives up to 100 years. The quote goes "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." The better point to make is one which does not compare but instead values these two beautiful species and recognises the threats they face and our responsibility to protect them.

Each of us is running in the race of life. We have different abilities and different experiences. The world can be quick to decide how we are doing and whether we are succeeding. Jesus went to people who were judged to be failing and helped them see their own worth. He went to those in the wrong place and invited them to live differently. He taught those who had been written off that they could learn and discover.

The cheetah and the turtle may come from different environments, but they have something in common – they are both incredibly graceful. St Paul wrote 'In God we live and move and have our being.' God is our natural environment. So, if you ever feel like a turtle on a racetrack, or like a cheetah trying to avoid deep water, perhaps it's time to try God's way for you and live in grace.

Every blessing
Revd Jackie Goddard

A new place where stories can be listened to, told and learnt.

Story Café

Have you seen my father's donkeys?

Sunday 14th September

at CMC (Clenchwarton Methodist Church).

6.30 – 8.30pm, with refreshments.

No cost, but donations are welcome.

Story telling is a good way to make friends

in by Ylabyrith, with CMC

PASTORAL LETTER

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



The Bible contains the Book of Ruth. It is a story of Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, who were both widows. They had to fend for themselves. Ruth gathered gleanings (the remains of the crops that wasn't picked up in the first harvest), ground them into flour and made bread. Ruth and Naomi would have starved to death if the farmer had insisted on his workers going back a second time to collect the gleanings. It was because of the good nature of the farmers that many people survived.

Harvest is a time of year not just to thank the farmers for their hard work and to thank God for what he provides, but also to think about how we use the harvest for the good of others. Are we sharing our resources wisely? Are we treating our animals with the respect they deserve? What about our land and our gardens? As Christians it is our responsibility to look after the land and all of God's creatures which, in turn, means better food for everyone.

Ruth and Naomi had to rely on the charity of the farmers. There are some people who will be relying on us, at one of the bleakest times in their lives, for food or some sort of help. Most of us are extremely lucky that we can buy what we need, and probably more than we need. Harvest is a time to think of where our food and provisions come from and how, in turn, we use them and enable others to share in what we have.

Please join us at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 5th October at 10am for our traditional Harvest Festival Service. All fresh produce will be auctioned after the service and all money raised will be sent to The Farming Community Network Charity



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Dear Clenchwarton Parishioners

The Memorial Hall Management Committee would like to update you on what we have been doing over the past few months. As you have probably heard or read, our longstanding chair Sheila James resigned at the last AGM after many years of service.

Our new Committee consists of the following Trustees:

Chair: Annette Watts

Treasurer: Kevin Puddephatt

Secretary: Birgit Gipp

Sheila James, Angie and David Dickinson and Millie Harrod, also representing pre-school.

We can have up to 12 Trustees. As you might appreciate, the Hall doesn't run itself and a lot of work has been done recently to bring it up to date. Help is desperately needed to share the load out a bit more.

So should anyone feel they would like to join us and make a contribution to the running of YOUR Memorial Hall you would be more than welcome. Please contact us on: contactcmh5523@gmail.com.

In January the Hall was decorated and is now looking very fresh inside. We have seen some comments on FB asking for refurbishment of the toilets. We agree, they are looking a bit dated but are still perfectly functionable and clean. We therefore feel at the moment that is not a priority. We have initiated the process of gaining Charity Status with the Charity Commission. This will enable us to apply for much bigger grants than we can at the moment, so hopefully once that is achieved we can contemplate refurbishing the toilets.

Our biggest worry at the moment is the roof. After the leak in February we were told it does need upgrading in the near future so we will concentrate on that. However, we have managed to secure grants from the Parish Council as well as from the Borough Council which have covered the refurbishment of the Hall floor. A big thank you to both. This was done in the summer holidays and is looking very nice.

Since going live with our website and online booking system we have certainly seen an improvement in bookings. We now have a Yoga class every Thursday and Puppy training taking place on a Wednesday as well as pre-school Monday to Friday. Several parties and Bingo sessions have also taken place. 2 wedding receptions are booked.

Book YOUR hall for YOUR functions to help keep it going.

Our website is still under construction. If anybody out there is willing to help us with that, please contact us. We are also working on updating policies, putting new ones in place and doing all training necessary. We would also like to welcome our new cleaner Nicola who started in May and is doing a grand job and is very committed to the hall as she has proven with the clean up needed after the floor refurbishment. We hope she will stay with us for many years. So you can see, quite a lot is going on but any help would be much appreciated.

Your Memorial Hall Management Committee

County Councillor's Report - Alexandra Kemp

West Lynn Ferry Reopens After 7 Months

Monday 11 August was a day of great rejoicing in the Borough. Our vital transport service, King's Lynn's 800 year old Ferry, re-opened at 7am in Ferry Square West Lynn, with a crowd of passengers queuing up to cross the Ouse for the first time in 7 months. The West Lynn Ferry is King's Lynn. It's in our DNA. The message to everyone is, come back to the Ferry, leave your car at home. As County and Borough Councillor for West Lynn, I have fought tooth and nail for the Ferry repairs. The repairs are a short-term fix, so we continue to fight for the permanent wholesale replacement of the landing stages to put the Ferry on a firm footing for the long term. I would like to thank Borough and County officers for their joint working to repair the Ferry. The Borough has appointed a firm to do another feasibility study for the new landing stage. *(see photos on page 39)*

The Local Transport Plan (KLATS)

As County Councillor, my responsibilities include input into, and shaping the County Council's Local Transport Plan, before it goes out to public consultation in the Autumn. Clenchwarton Cycle Path and the Pullover Flyover feature in the new Plan; improving the Ferry Infrastructure and parking provision; more buses to the Hardwick Industrial Estate; walking routes along the riverbank; West Winch Bypass; upgrading the Ely Junction will unlock the prospect of new local railway stations, by cutting journey times on the network.

The policies are:

Policy 1: Supporting Growth and New Development, with transport measures, including sustainable transport options.

Policy 2: Strategic Connections. Improve strategic connections between King's Lynn, the port, surrounding villages, Norwich, Norfolk, the wider region, A47, A149 and key roundabouts, the A17/A47 Pullover junction, the town centre gyratory, rail and bus connections.

Policy 3: Parking. Promotion of public transport and active travel. NCC Electric Vehicles Strategy and EV parking.

Policy 4: Bus Services. Support bus operators for quicker, reliable, integrated, convenient and accessible journeys.

Policy 5: Rail Improvements to King's Lynn Railway Station in Norfolk Rail Prospectus. Improvements to the line for passengers and freight, for more reliable, accessible, integrated, faster, more frequent journeys.

Policy 6: Active Travel. Promote the use and benefits of active and sustainable modes of travel, support schemes in King's Lynn Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans to reduce dependency on cars.

Policy 7: Climate Change Resilience. Transport network zero emission by 2050.

Policy 8: Improved Air Quality. Reduce emissions from vehicles to improve air quality. Work with schools to introduce measures to improve Local Air Quality around school premises. Reduce Emissions from vehicles around schools. Improve local air quality in general for health.

Policy 9: Road Traffic Harm Reduction. Norfolk County Council will reduce road traffic collisions and casualty numbers through the safe systems approach. Improvement schemes to address the fear of road traffic affecting vulnerable road users.

Policy 10: Supporting Culture, Heritage and Tourism. Protect existing green infrastructure and enhance the public realm.

Targets

1. Growth
2. Connectivity
3. Public transport: Grow annual bus and rail patronage
4. Active travel: Increase walking, wheeling and cycling as monitored in King's Lynn Local Cycling and Walking Plan
5. Environment: Reduce the current number of, and ensure no new, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)
6. Safety: Reduce collision numbers from current levels
7. Culture and heritage.

Watch out for the Consultation. Please have your say.

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

County Division: Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South

Leader of the Progressive Group, Borough Council

Deputy Leader of the Progressive Group, Norfolk County Council.

How change has occurred in local primary schools by Grahame Sampson

A new series will try to show how our local village primary schools at Clenchwarton and West Lynn have changed over time although many things remain the same. How fitting but to ask those who have attended the schools in the various eras. We start with a look at West Lynn and Clenchwarton schools with present day pupils aged 10 and 11 who give us a good account of the schools and their feelings about school life. I was most impressed with the teaching of Latin. In my day no languages were taught at Clenchwarton and Latin was only taught at very few secondary schools. If you attended either West Lynn or Clenchwarton I would be pleased to hear of what you remember about the school in your day. See page 30/31 for the pupils accounts.

Some Gardening tips for Autumn

For gardeners in the autumn, tasks include planting spring bulbs, enriching soil with compost, mulching, tidying borders, and protecting tender plants. Also, clean and maintain garden tools, feed your lawn and wildlife, and plant hardy trees and shrubs while the soil is still warm.

Plant for Spring Blooms:

Autumn is ideal for planting spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils, tulips, and crocuses, which will establish roots before winter.

Plant Hardy Specimens:

Plant trees, shrubs, roses, and fruit bushes while the ground is warm and moist, as this helps them establish strong root systems over winter.

Improve Soil Health:

Incorporate compost, manure, or leaf mold into flower beds to enhance soil structure and fertility for the next season.

Mulch Your Garden:

Spread a layer of mulch to insulate soil, retain moisture, suppress weeds, and protect plant roots from frost.

Clean Up Borders:

Tidy up herbaceous borders by removing dead plants, but leave some stems with seedheads to provide winter interest and food for wildlife.

Clear Weeds:

Tackle weeds in autumn to prevent them from establishing deep roots over winter, making next year's garden cleaner.

Prepare for Winter:

Move tender plants and potted plants to a frost-free location, like a greenhouse, or cover them with horticultural fleece.

Maintain Your Lawn:

Apply an autumn lawn feed to encourage a strong, healthy lawn and ensure the grass is mown for the final time.

Feed Wildlife:

Replenish bird feeders with seed, fat balls, and mealworms to support birds during the colder months.

Create Leaf Mold:

Rake up fallen leaves and pile them into a bin to create valuable leaf mold, a fantastic soil conditioner for the following year.

Maintain Tools:

Clean, sharpen, and oil your garden tools to keep them in good condition for the next growing season.

Add Autumn Colour:

Plant violas, cyclamen, and pansies in containers for bright, long-lasting colour.

Tidy Greenhouses:

Scrub away any shade paint from greenhouse windows and clean them thoroughly to let in maximum light.

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 3PM - PET BLESSING SERVICE ST MARGARET'S CHURCH CLENCHWARTON

A pet blessing service is a religious ceremony held to celebrate and seek God's blessing for pets. These services often coincide with the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals (this year on 4th October), and are a chance for pet owners to acknowledge the joy and companionship their pets bring. The service typically includes prayers, readings, and a blessing for each animal present.

We would love to see you and your pets - small, large, furry, feathered, slimy, scaly, long tailed, short tailed, long legs, short legs - and if you don't have a pet bring your teddy bear or doll!

All we ask is that all your pets are (as appropriate) on leads, in a crate, box or other methods of restraint!!

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You can visit our website at
<https://clenchwarton-church.org.uk>

An Attack on Charities by Grahame Sampson

Churches and Chapels are listed as charities but these are being treated most unfairly by the banks. Lloyds Bank has now written to all charities telling them that they will be installing charges for every transaction. For all small charities this is a disaster. They are being told they can change their account to another bank but it appears no other bank will accept new charity accounts.

The banks had to offer free banking and indeed interest to customers when they had to compete with some of the former Building Societies but they have now removed all their rivals and are acting like a cartel which is surely illegal.

WHAT'S ON IN KINGS LYNN IN SEPTEMBER

Heritage Open Day & Classic Car Day (Sunday, September 14):

A nationwide celebration of local history and architecture, this free event allows visitors to explore usually inaccessible buildings and tunnels in King's Lynn. The Classic Car Day will also be held on the same day, featuring over 200 classic vehicles in the Tuesday Market Place.

King's Lynn Literature Festival (September 26–28):

This "Small Festival with a Big Heart" will feature prominent writers and speakers at the historic Town Hall, offering various sessions and opportunities to meet authors.

Concerts & Shows:

Vivaldi's Four Seasons & The Lark Ascending (September 20): A performance at the King's Lynn Minster.

Jack Dee (September 6): The comedian performs at the Alive Corn Exchange Theatre.

Whitney - Queen of the Night (September 19): A tribute to Whitney Houston at the Alive Corn Exchange.

More information:

King's Lynn Civic Society: The official organizers of Heritage Open Day events.

Kllitfests.com: For the full program and details of the Literature Festival.

Songkick and Stereoboard: For concerts and performances at the Alive Corn Exchange and other venues.

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In what seems like a world that is fracturing, and where acceptance and tolerance for difference is at an all time low, it seemed appropriate to publish Revd. Barbara Burton's sermon from Sunday 17th August here. It's worth a read.

So Jesus tells us that he's come to bring division to families. That's his good news for our fractured and divided world. Why should we bother if that's the message of Christ? In the world we live in we've managed to come up with enough division on our own, thank you very much. In fact, we're quite good at it.

How are we supposed to wring some good news out of Jesus' declaration that he comes to bring division to families? He didn't have that good a relationship with his family. At one point they thought he'd gone crazy and they were worried for his safety, to say nothing of the shame he was likely to bring down on them. On another occasion, his mother and brothers showed up at one of his jam-packed meetings, and when Jesus was told, he disowned them in public. He rejected his own family in front of a huge crowd and then went on to accept into his new family prostitutes, tax collectors and outcasts. It horrified polite society. He proclaimed that anyone who left their family for him would be blessed by God.

Is that good news? In a way, yes. Because Jesus here isn't teaching about family values as we understand them. Rather, Jesus is saying something radical about identity and who we understand ourselves to be. For people in Jesus time, identity was about your family and kin. The son of carpenter grew up to become a carpenter. The son of a field labourer grew up and became a field labourer. It's why, when people heard Jesus' teaching and witnessed his miracles, they were shocked and said, "Hang on, isn't that Joseph's boy from Nazareth?", because in their eyes, carpenter's sons were not saviours. They were carpenters.

For Jesus, our identity begins not with our earthly family but our divine one. Our earthly families can be riddled with problems and difficulties, but in the household of God, we are loved, fundamentally and without exception. That is our identity. It is what is proclaimed at our baptism when we become Christ's forever and loved eternally. The love of God is lavished on all, without regard to boundaries or the rules of polite society. It dares to believe that love transforms people more profoundly than punishment.

But this love, our gospel tells us, is likely to bring us stress and division rather than peace and harmony, because God's love is inclusive enough and wide enough to upset those who want to limit love to a chosen few. God's love is radical enough to threaten our own safety and security. It forces us to confront who we are, the bad things we have done, or those things we have left undone. It asks us to see our worth not in terms of wealth or in what we acquire, but in what we give away and in how much we love.

You are God's beloved, whoever you are, wherever you are, however you are. For some it seems so irresponsible. So opulent. So dangerous. But then, again love always is.

Will it cause division to stand with those society deems unworthy: the marginalized, the poor, the oppressed? Will it cause division to stand against injustice, racism, sexism and classism? Will it cause division to go out into the world and proclaim this unconditional love of God for all? Most certainly it will.

Martin Luther King was divisive. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was divisive. Mahatma Ghandi was divisive. So was Nelson Mandela, Octavia Hill, Emmeline Pankhurst, Helen Keller and so many more.

So, thanks be to God that his love causes division, because some things are worth fighting for. Thanks be to God that his love is so great that it will make us uncomfortable. Thanks be to God that his love is big enough not just to handle division but to spark it. Thanks be to God that we are God's beloved.



Memories of primary school by two junior school pupils

*West Lynn Primary School by Asia Grimes age 10
(almost 11), Year 5, (almost year 6)*

LESSONS

Maths & English every morning

PE

Music

World RE not just Christianity

Science

We used to learn French, but they changed it to Latin

Computing

History

Art

English Skills (handwriting, grammar and spellings)

Arithmetic

CLASSES

Reception, year 1, year 2, year 3, year 4, year 5 and year 6

Music:

Violin

Trombone

Glockenspiel

Trust:

Clenchwarton Primary

West Lynn Primary

Gaywood Primary

Walpole Cross Keys

Terrington St Clements High

Springwood High

Marshland

Smithdon

Headteacher:

The headteacher

(Mrs Borley) I think

is the same Head

teacher for

Clenchwarton

School Dinners

You get an app called MYCAS (my child at school), you then get to choose what you would like for lunch. You have to line up at school and get your food then you sit in the hall (for lunch, assemblies and PE sometimes).

TRIPS

Swimming, zoo, music trips, Hilltop (Year 6), museum. When you go to Hilltop you can get food from the place. When it's the end of year 6 you get to have a water fight!

DO I LIKE SCHOOL?

Yes, because I like learning and it is not boring at all, it is fun learning different types of lessons.

CLUBS

Gymnastics
Glow in the dark Dodgeball
Colouring club
Science Club
Choir

FRIENDS

I do have loads of friends but some people bully others.

Clenchwarton Primary School by Alice Johnson, Year 6

Clenchwarton Primary school has been a book: a book of growth, fun, opportunities and friendship. My time at this school has been more than fun, it's been like home to me and my peers. Our teachers have been our guide through life and our friends we can always talk to.

I'm sad to leave and I know its hard to say goodbye but when I started I was anxious and not ready but now I wish I could go back and live it one more time. Our education has always been at different levels and the emotions you feel when you accomplish the challenges is surreal. I appreciate everyone in that building who has helped me through my journey and I really can't express my gratitude.

Waking up on the first day of Clenchwarton School I remember I was filled with nerves and excitement. I was walking up the to the gates holding my mum's hand and walking with my brother and sister. I wasn't sure about going in but I lined up and saw people I soon became best friends with. My teachers were welcoming and supportive and I soon got used to the routine I miss already.

Soon then I'm in year 6 the last year of primary school. I walked into the gates becoming the royal family of the school. I felt like - 'no way it's been almost seven years of primary'. This was the year I learnt how to improve in life and how I can achieve the goals I set. I have teachers that supported me and friends that helped me along the journey. On our last day I visited everyone I know and appreciate. It made me realise school is more than a building of education, it's a place of improvement and a place where your mind is settled and focused and happy. Thank you.

History of Norfolk by Grahame Sampson

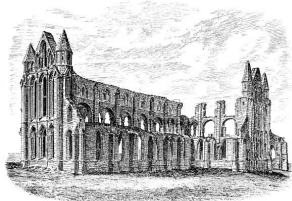
It was in the early Saxon period when the Christian religion first spread to these shores. Yes, there was Christianity during the Roman period but few locals were converted and the religion died away once the Romans left. The vast majority of the population was pagan.

In 595AD Pope Gregory sent St Augustine to England in an attempt to convert the people. He landed in Kent and met King Aethelbeht of Kent in his capital which was Canterbury. The reason he went to Kent was because Aethelbeht's wife Bertha had been a Frankish princess and was already a Christian. Although Aethelbeht remained a pagan he allowed Bertha to practise her religion unmolested which allowed others to also convert. The Pope realised that Aethelbeht was likely to be more sympathetic than most Saxon leaders who killed any Christians or banished them from their kingdoms. Indeed, Aethelbeht agreed to convert himself and allowed St Augustine land so he could build his headquarters and the first Church at Canterbury.

Other missionaries were encouraged to follow St Augustine's example so St Sampson preached all over the south west especially Cornwall and St Felix preached and set up churches in East Anglia.

The King of East Anglia in 640 was known as Anna and in 643 St Felix landed at Babingley in Norfolk and immediately set up a church there (the ruins of which can still be seen). He also set up other churches and a fine example can be seen at Houghton on the Hill south of Swaffham. Either Felix converted Anna or Anna had already converted and invited Felix to come over. Anna proved a strong adherent to the cause. He had three daughters and they set up the first Cathedral at Ely and the church at East Dereham. Anna's headquarters was at Eriswell in Suffolk which was not far from Ely.

These early Saxon churches were often attacked and destroyed by Pagan forces led by King Penda of Mercia but Norfolk was further away from Mercia so Norfolk churches were more likely to survive. Today, there are more Saxon churches in Norfolk than in every other county added together. Fine examples can be seen at East Lexham and West Lexham. The former is on private land but can be seen from the road. The method of construction of this round towered church can easily be ascertained and is far different to the construction of Norman churches.



Memories Part 3 by Debra McGowan

We have Dutch cousins and every year when we were kids, one of them would come over for the summer holidays. Our mum was marvellous; she would take the four of us everywhere in London, from the Tower of London to Madame Tussaud's and we did it all many times. My favourite was the chimpanzees tea party at London Zoo; yes back then you could actually join the chimpanzees for tea. I remember Dawn, Diane and I sitting around the table with the chimps and I have a picture of myself with two of the chimps drinking their tea. I was probably about eight at the time.

It is funny how times and attitudes change. Everyone I knew had a picture of their family and themselves at Trafalgar Square feeding the pigeons. My husband Ian and I even have pictures taken in the nineties with dozens of pigeons trying to sit on our heads and arms while we fed them. London Mayor Ken Livingstone banned feeding them back in 2003. Ironically Westminster Council had been paying pigeon feed sellers who had been working in the square for decades selling the seed made so famous in the film "Mary Poppins" when they were sold for 'tuppence a bag'. The pigeon sellers and animal rights groups who are notoriously clever at finding loopholes, were able to get round Ken's ban because it did not include the pedestrianised North Terrace, which falls under the jurisdiction of Westminster Council. The last pigeon feed seller was actually offered an out of court settlement to stop trading back in 2003. The case had got into a High Court battle and Mr Rayner (the seed seller) didn't disclose the amount of money that he had received in order to stop trading, but said "that he was a very happy man!".

Even more dramatic was the enlisting of Harris Hawks to regularly patrol the square (along with their handlers) and scare the birds away, at a cost of £60,000 a year. In 2007 Westminster Council finally secured a bye-law banning the feeding on the North Terrace too.

Today according to the RSPB the London pigeon population has remained fairly stable since the ban, and no amount of legislation can get rid of the porky pigeons. It's not clear how many campaigners still make their way to the square to feed the birds out of hours, but pigeon fanciers are a feisty bunch so more than likely it still goes on.



NATURE WATCH by Paul Evans

EELS

The mere suggestion of jellied, fried, or smoked eels will undoubtedly result in one of two reactions, in my case, a knife and fork is in my hand quicker than you can imagine. For most, revulsion will mean that there is no chance that this wonderful fish will ever grace the food table. Food aside, there is little scientific doubt that in recent years there has been a massive collapse in eel numbers. Fen rivers that once sustained a very successful eel fishing industry are now sad shadows of the fisheries that once supplied London's population with its favourite fare. That said many a course fisherman will still find his day 'altered' by voracious eels quick to take the bait cast out for other less troublesome river fish such as roach, perch, and bream.

A surprise to most is that one of nature's single greatest journeys is undertaken by the European eel, (*Anguilla anguilla*). Born in the Sargasso Sea, which is situated in the central Atlantic, they hatch into transparent larvae that resemble leaves with miniature fish heads stuck on as an aside. On strong Atlantic currents, they drift for thousands of miles, in some cases 3700 miles (!) to eventually arrive on the shores of Europe where they transform into bootlace-sized young, known as glass eels or elvers. These Elvers undertake incredible journeys having to literally climb man-made barriers in order to progress upstream. Once in fresh water, they start to develop pigmentation and feed on creatures such as small crustaceans, worms, and insects. For 10- 14 years they will slowly mature, growing to a length of 60 to 80 cm. Incredibly, Eels can propel themselves over wet grass, an event I was once fortunate enough to witness, and dig through wet sand to reach upstream headwaters and ponds. During this stage they are called 'yellow eels' because of their golden pigmentation.

In July, some mature individuals migrate back towards the sea, sometimes crossing wet grasslands at night (often moonlit nights) to reach rivers that lead to the sea. Eel migrations out of their freshwater growth habitats from various parts of Europe, have been the basis of traditional fisheries, not least on the Fens and the Somerset Levels, with characteristic trapnets and willow griggs and hives. Silver eels are the final life stage and face the intrepid task of

retracing their paths from decades earlier, and swimming all the way back to the Sargasso Sea. It's only when they approach the spawning waters that males and females finally reach sexual maturity.

For years, the epic life cycle of European eels remained a mystery of unproven theories and legend. It was only in 2022 that scientists finally tracked silver eels to their spawning grounds, where the females release millions of eggs that are externally fertilised by the male eels. Worryingly, the number of glass eels arriving at European coasts has plummeted by more than 95 per cent leaving the species highly endangered. They face many problems, including dams blocking their migration routes and illegal trading of glass eels to rear in fish farms. Along with endangered fish species such as the Atlantic Salmon, fierce debate is raging regarding the action required to preserve desperately depleted populations.

Back in the late nineties I was fortunate to attend a delightful talk in Wisbech by quite a character, Peter Carter, the last licensed eel catcher as a fisherman. For many years, he had been trapping eels using the same methods that had been employed on the Fens for 3,000 years. His own family had traced its eel fishing connections back to at least 1475. Sadly in 2016 Peter decided to hang up his traps, ending a practice that has passed, largely unchanged, through countless generations of his family. At the time Peter commented that: 'It breaks my heart but I can't live on empty pockets. So, the last wicker eel hive and grigg have been lifted from the river, I shall not be making anymore.' On my conservatory wall hangs one of my proudest possessions, a willow eel grigg made for me by Ernie James of Welney. If you want to find out how they work, I can highly recommend a YouTube film by Anglia TV: 'Ernie James; The Last of the Fen Tigers'. Sadly, Ernie has now passed away and Peter no longer plies his trade. Between them they both for many years proudly represented

the days of yule when Fen rivers had a true magic about them on a moon lit night when legions of eels were on the move.





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St Annes Crescent 10.55-11.10

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Puzzle Page. (Answers on page 5)

Cryptic clues for countries of the world

- 1 Sounds like the time it takes for the line to be served.
- 2 They all sound mad about Kanga's child.
- 3 The porcelain.
- 4 Sounds like there is a hot meal for when it is quite cold.
- 5 You sound like you know what is coming.
- 6 Kanga's child gives his account.
- 7 He's not one to go slow it seems.
- 8 He does not like Christmas though he is popular then.
- 9 Is Mr Dare taken to court by the Mekons?
- 10 The country where it must rain a lot as it seems there is a lot of grass.



Good Luck!



Ben the ferryman at the helm of his boat, for the first time in over 6 months. His smile says it all!!



Being waved off from West Lynn. It felt very special as we had the first ferry ride in a long time.



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