

All Saints News



DECEMBER 2023

Including news from the village of Eyke and surrounding area.

(Website www.eyke.onesuffolk.net)

Clergy:

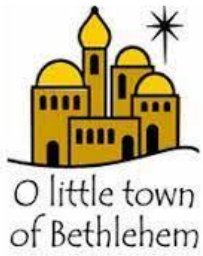
Rev. Mandy Reynolds 01394 420129

Church Wardens:

Mr. Michael Fisher 01394 460494

Mrs Gillian Nicholls 01394 461244

Vicars Voice – December 2023



*O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by*

The words to one of the most popular and well known Christmas Carols, written in 1865 by Lewis Rednar and Philip Brooks, 3 years after a visit to the town of Bethlehem in 1865, and inspired by being in the birthplace of Jesus.

Sadly, no one would be inspired this Christmas as we see the homeland of Jesus at war with Gaza. When we sing our Carols and watch the children in their nativity plays, we think of the journey undertaken by a heavily pregnant Mary and her husband Joseph, we hear about the heavenly hosts appearing to the shepherds in the nearby fields, the guiding light of the star which stops over the

barn and manger where a small baby sleeps, and it all seems like a grand fairy tale when we watch our televisions and see the devastation caused by war.

It would be easy to close our eyes to what is happening, and write our Christmas cards to friends and family, wrap the presents or choose which vouchers to give to the grandchildren, buy the turkey and mince pies, and plan which side of the family we go to this year....

.....after all, what can we do in our small corner of the world to stop this war, and the almost forgotten war in Ukraine, and other acts of oppression and occupation around the world, from happening? What about caring for the homeless here on our own streets, or the families who will struggle to afford Christmas because of the cost of living crisis? There are so many charities out there asking for our help, which ones do we give too, if we are able to give to any?

It all seems rather bleak doesn't it?

But, the whole point of Advent and Christmas, is that there is HOPE!!

Hope for the world to come together and see that war is never the answer.

That with peace and hope and love, we could all achieve so much more.

Jesus came into the world to experience the world as it is was, and as it is.

Through our prayers offered in faith, and concern for others, in whatever way we show it, whether it's donating to charity, or helping at a food

bank or top up shop, or asking a lonely neighbour to join with a family dinner, we offer love and hope.

Each time we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate a renewed and refreshed hope. Hope that things can, and will, change.

May this Christmas be the continuing of a refreshed hope for peace in the world.

After all, we have to start some where, and each time we offer a handshake, a hug or a kiss, whether to friend or stranger, it's a good start!!



I would also take this opportunity to say that Christmas and New Year is a time to remember those who are no longer with us. At this time, we remember Monica Brown and Peggy Henley, two faithful and long serving members of our congregations who have taken their place in that eternal home we call heaven. Along with my beloved brother Mick who also recently died, we pray that light perpetual will shine upon them as they rest in peace. May we rejoice in the promise that they are now with the communion of our loved ones who have gone before.

With love and Christmas Blessing to you all, Rev Mandy Xx

Services in Bromeswell, Eyke, Rendlesham, & Wantisden Parish Churches in December

Sunday 3rd December (Advent Sunday – The Matriarchs & Patriarchs)

9.30am Eyke	Holy Communion	Rev. Mandy Reynolds
11.00am Bromeswell	Family Service	Greg & Charlotte
11.00am St Felix'	Holy Communion	Rev. Mandy Reynolds

Sunday 10th December (Advent 2 – The Prophets)

9.30am Bromeswell	Christingle	Greg Gooch
11.00am St Gregs	Memorial Service for Peggy Henley with Holy Communion	Rev. Mandy Reynolds
3.00pm Wantisden	Carols & Lessons	Rev. Mandy Reynolds

Friday 15th December

3.30pm Eyke	Service among the Trees	Rev. Mandy Reynolds
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Sunday 17th December (Advent 3 – John the Baptist)

9.30am Eyke	Morning Prayer	Rev. Mandy Reynolds
9.30am Bromeswell	Holy Communion	Rev Kevan McCormack
11.00am St Felix'	Carols & Children's Nativity	Rev. Mandy & Team
6.30pm St Gregs	Carols & Lessons by Candlelight (with Mulled Wine)	Rev. Mandy

Sunday 24th December (Advent 4 – Christmas Eve)

11.00am St Felix'	Holy Communion for Christmas	Rev Mandy Reynolds
5.00pm Eyke	Crib Service with Carols	Greg Gooch
5.00pm Bromeswell	Family Christmas Service	Rev. Mandy Reynolds
9.30pm	Midnight in Bethlehem	Rev. Mandy Reynolds

Monday 25th December (Christmas Day)

9.30am Eyke	Christmas Eucharist	Rev. Mandy Reynolds
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Sunday 31st December (New Year's Eve)

10.30am for 11.00am St Felix'	Café Church	Rev. Mandy Reynolds
“New Beginnings”		

Sunshine Club Jumble Sale

The Sunshine Club will be holding a Jumble Sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd December 2023 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

There will be all the usual stalls including Books, Nearly New and,, of course,, a Tombola. Refreshments will be available.

Entry Fee - 20p.

In aid of the Eyke Sunshine Club.

Eyke C of E Primary School

A request from the pupils of the Village School.

We collect batteries at school, count them and take them to the battery recycling centre. Last year we collected 9549.

So if you have any batteries and you have a child at the school please send them to school with them. If no child at school, there is a box at the school where they can be dropped off.

Please help us to do our bit about this waste by stopping batteries going into landfill sites.

If you would like further information about this project take a look at

www.bigbatteryhunt.co.uk

Walter Potter, Silas Waites and Joshua Woods.

Decorating the Church for Christmas

As with last year, there will be no official Christmas Tree Festival but trees would be most welcome to decorate the Church! They must have lights please and need to be in the Church by Friday 15th December, if not before, in time for the 3.30 Service among the Trees Many thanks, and for any queries please contact Gill on 01394 461 244

Drinks Reception

Friday 12th January 5-7pm

Our valued Parish Clerk is retiring after 44 years of dedication to our village . To mark the occasion and to extend our thanks the Parish Council will be hosting a drinks reception in the village Hall. Residents f the village are invited.

Please can you RSVP to Sue Clark

07919 158962

Or sue.clark@leemrisk.com

Parish Council

It was good to see the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 13th November so well attended. Discussed at some length was the need to have a policy moving forward for the care and maintenance of the rec, as it is in danger of being overrun with brambles. The options of buying a suitable machine and relying on volunteers, contracting the work out or a combination of the two were discussed, as well as how much should be cut, all of which will involve considerable expense. It was agreed that a first cut should be carried out imminently.

On a positive note, the copse on the rec is flourishing, and the tree warden reported that she had planted a dozen well grown saplings there, with more to come, all of which were donated.

The concrete bases for the memorial benches for Mervyn Whitmore should be completed very shortly and the benches in place before Christmas.

Work is continuing on the village hall, as far as funds allow. A great deal of work has gone into preparing bids for the lottery, and news of the outcome is still awaited. If successful, this will allow further necessary work on the roof and at the back of the hall to go ahead.

District Councillor, James Mallinder, reported his strenuous and continuing efforts to highlight with the authorities his particular concerns with road damage and flooding on the Peninsula, as well as planning matters.

No one has yet been appointed to fill the parish clerk vacancy from 1st January, but the council has secured the services of a Locum clerk who will attend the meetings and draft the minutes on a short term basis. Councillors will share the other tasks between them. This is obviously a short term solution, so anyone interested in the role would be warmly welcomed.

The next meeting will be on January 15th.

Since the meeting, notification has been received of a consultation regarding the Denbury Homes Application. This relates to the amendments discussed in August, and mostly concern the road and car park layout. The Parish Council will meet to discuss this on Monday, 27th November at 7pm in the hall, and the meeting will be advertised to the public in the usual way. The documents are all on the East Suffolk Planning website, and comments need to be made by 6th December.

Also since the meeting, reports of dog fouling on the rec and also inside the play area, where dogs are not allowed, have been reported, as well as on verges around the village. Please make sure you pick up after your dog and encourage others to do so: we have several doggy bins in the village, including on the rec.

Dates for the Diary

Every Monday	Craft Works	Village Hall	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Saturday 2nd December	Jumble Sale	Village Hall	2.00pm – 4.00pm
Friday 15 th December	last day to put a tree into Church for Christmas		
Sunday 31 st December	New Year's Eve Party	Village Hall	8.00pm – 12.15am