



The Mallard

Issue 407

February 2026

WISHING ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The service to induct our New Priest, Reverend Josh Whitnall, took place at St Botolph's Church on Sunday 11th January. It was well attended by people from all churches in our Benefice and also representatives and priests from our neighbouring parishes. The pictures below give you a taste of the formal nature of the service during which the priest declares his faith and swears obedience to the Bishop of Norwich and allegiance to the King.

*You can read this month's message from Rev'd Josh on page 8.
On behalf of everyone in our two Massingham villages
we extend a huge welcome to him and his family.*



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**Closing Date
for next issue
17th February**

This Parish magazine is published every month for residents of Great and Little Massingham with the support of the Great Massingham Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and Great Massingham Village Hall Trustees.

PLEASE NOTE REGARDING THIS ISSUE

This month's issue, with twelve pages, is smaller than usual as the current editor is unwell. It has been edited, at short notice, by Bev Randall, our previous editor. Apologies to any of you who sent items via the current editor that have not appeared here. We will do our very best to rectify this next issue.

Items for the March newsletter should be sent in the usual way, as follows:

Editor:

Sarah Harvey

Address:

Byanoak, Leicester Road,
South Creak, NR21 9PW

Telephone:

01328 823391

E Mail:

themallardeditor@gmail.com

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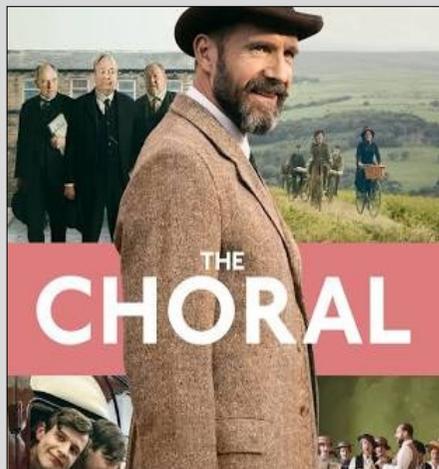
To discuss your dogs individual needs and to arrange a free meet and greet, call, message or email Ruth on:

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Wrendogwalkingservices@gmail.com



Date	Time	Service	Location
Sunday 1 st February Candelmas	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Family Service	Roydon Harpley Grimston Gt Massingham
Wed. 4 th February	9.00am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Sunday 8 th February 2nd Sunday before lent	10.30 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Gayton
Sunday 15 th February Sunday next before Lent	9.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist Morning Praise Songs of Praise	Harpley Grimston Gt. Massingham
Wednesday 18 th February Ash Wednesday	9.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion with Ashing	Grimston Gt. Massingham
Sunday 22 nd February First Sunday in Lent	8.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Celtic Service	East Walton Gayton Little Massingham Gayton Thorpe
Sunday 1 st March Second Sunday in Lent	8.30am 9.30am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Family Service	Roydon Harpley Grimston Gt. Massingham
Wednesday 4 th March	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Harpley
Please check the website for any alterations to services. www.ggmbenefice.uk			



Film Night

19th February at 7.30pm

Great Massingham Village Hall

The film being shown is **'The Choral'**.

It is a 2025 British historical drama film co-produced & directed by Nicholas Hytner and written by Alan Bennett.

Set in 1916, during World War I, in the fictional town of Ramsden, Yorkshire, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenage boys and girls for a performance of Edward Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius.

It stars Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy, Alun Armstrong, Robert Emms, and Simon Russell Beale.

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CHRISTINGLE AT ST. MARY'S GREAT MASSINGHAM

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Children's Society collection at this year's Christingle service on Christmas Eve. An amazing **£298** was collected, all of which has been sent off to this charity.



Once again, St. Mary's church was bursting with children and adults all celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It was truly a joyous service and one in which we remembered the amazing promise: Immanuel – God with us. Kim Frazer, AWA, (Authorised Worship Assistant) and Rhiannon Foster co-led the service, which included what has now become a Great Massingham tradition, the congregation singing Rev Julian Thomson's chorus: J-O-Y.

Christingles were presented to the children and families and the circle of light that they provided, once lit, was an apt reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Thanks go, once again, to Mark Dobby at the Dabbling Duck who donated all the oranges and to Jo Foster and family who transformed the oranges into Christingles.

Stephen Hudson - Churchwarden

A warm welcome always awaits you at St Mary's.

For details of services at Great Massingham and surrounding villages please go to the Benefice website: "www.ggmbenefice.uk"

LENT COURSES

We will be holding Lent courses starting on Tuesday 24th February from 11 to 12.30 pm in Gt Massingham, venue for first couple of weeks yet to be confirmed.

However, from 10th March they will definitely be at the home of Alan and Kim Fraser at Cobwebs, Gt Massingham, and also, on Thursday 26th February at the home of Dickie and Rosemarie Bowers From 7 to 8.30pm Orchard House, Grimston.

*For more details, please contact
Rev Josh Whitnall 01485 750075*

Lambing Day at East Walton Sunday 15th February

Abbey Farm

are holding a Lambing Day
from 11am to 4pm
with talks at Midday and 2pm.

*Come along
and meet
the lambs*



THE LUNCH MUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday 17th February
Village Hall Bar

Arrive 12.30pm, eat at 1pm
Chicken curry, rice and poppadums
followed by lemon meringue pie
Menu £8.00

Come & meet friends for a chat.
The Bar will be open.

To book lunch please contact
Deborah Lambert on
07493 406501
by Friday 13th February

CREATIVE ARTS EAST

Wednesday
18th February at 1pm.

**Singing and Songwriting
with Kimberley Moore**



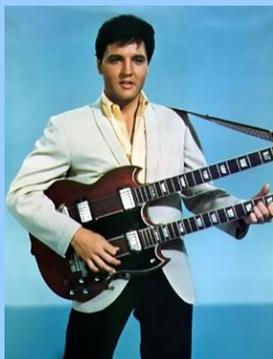
Friday 6th
February
Great Massingham
Village Hall
7pm doors open for
7.30 eyes down



THE TREFOIL GUILD

will be meeting at
Great Massingham Village Hall
on 12th February at 7pm.
All Welcome.

Andy Ottley performs ELVIS TRIBUTE ACT



Great Massingham Village Hall
27th February
8 pm
£10 tickets in advance
£12 on the door

**MASSINGHAM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
Friday February 20th
At 7.30pm
Village Hall

*Tim Baldwin is
giving a talk about*
**Massingham
Heath and
its History**

Come and hear about the
fascinating history of the heath
and see a related photo display.
Members Free, Guests £3
Bar open.

CHURCH NEWS Message from Our Reverend Joshua Whitnall

Dear Friends,
A very Happy New Year to you all as we enter both a new year on the calendar, and a new season in the life of the GGM Benefice. Bethany and I have been completely overwhelmed with the welcome we have received over the past few weeks, from fruitcakes to shepherds' pies, house plants to Congham's finest wine – you have all certainly looked after us, and we are so grateful! I arrived in the benefice in late December from the Harling and Guiltcross Benefice in the south of the county. I am married to Bethany, and we have two (at the time of writing, but hopefully three by printing) children. We are an agricultural family, enjoying rural life and keeping a number of native breed sheep, which hopefully you will see grazing a churchyard near you in the future. I am deeply passionate about the link between our wonderful historic churches and the communities they were designed to serve. Across our parishes, church towers still rise above fields and hedgerows, shaping the skyline of each village just as it has done for generations. Our churches stand not simply as old buildings, but as a quiet, faithful witness to the prayers, hopes and hard work of rural life — seen from tractor cabs, footpaths, and kitchen windows alike. In the Bible, Jesus tells his followers, "A city built on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14), and our churches speak in much the same way: visible, rooted, and reminding us that God's presence belongs at the heart of this place. Long before any of us arrived, and long after we are gone, the church will continue to shape both the landscape and the life of the parish, pointing heavenward while remaining firmly grounded in the soil of our shared story. I hope that 2026 is the year you might like to visit your local church, perhaps join us for a service or a coffee morning, perhaps pop in during the week to find a space of welcome and quiet, perhaps speak to me or a warden about the community there and how you might be a part of it. All are welcome, as you are, and I hope and pray you might find home.
God bless you all,
The Revd Joshua Whitnall, Rector
rectorggmbenefice@gmail.com 01485 750075



Church News

We are very pleased to welcome Rev Josh Whitnall and his family to our benefice. Congratulations to the family on the birth of their son Reuben John on the 21st January!

The Food bank.

The foodbank is closed at the moment due to illness of Anna and family reasons with June. We thank them for their excellent work and hope things improve soon for them. Before we can consider opening the Food bank again we need someone to open the church every weekday and someone to close at dusk. If we can resolve this matter we can then make a decision about the Food Bank. If you are interested in helping in any way, please get in touch. I will be happy to talk to anyone who wants to know more about what is involved. Please give me a call.

Stephen Hudson, Churchwarden , 07949989977

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Useful Contacts

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Bell Ringing	Dale Gagen	520 024
Bowls Club	Malcolm Hipkin	520 393
Cartshed Tearoom	Jemma Whitmore	520 272 (Option 3)
Church Contacts	Stephen Hudson	07949 989 977
Community Car Scheme	Office	520 823
Coronation Club	Jill Whitmore	520 609
County Councillor	Stuart Graham Dark	07860 256 083
Craft & Chat	Sue Nash	520 476 & 07802 670 711
Dabbling Duck Pub	Mark Dobby	520 827
Doctors	Massingham Surgery	520 521
The Film Night	Arthur Allen	07810 042 816
Fishing Warden	Vacant	PC Clerk 01328 823391
French Conversation Group	Arthur Allen	07810 042 816
Trefoil Guild	Rita Gostling	520 730
Massingham Historical Society	Jeanne Robinson	520 455
Massingham Stores & Post Office	Mark Eldridge	520 272 (Options 1 & 2)
Neighbourhood Plan	Jess Cunningham	gmndplan@yahoo.com
Parish Council	Sarah Harvey (Clerk)	01328 823391
Pre-School	Pip Grange	07807 185 746
Police	Non-emergency	101
School	Hillary Myhill	520 362
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Village Hall (Hall & Bar)	Debs Lambert	07717 416 487

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**Great Massingham Village Hall
Bar
26th February
7.30 pm**

Entry fee £2 for social club members and £4 for non members. Teams can have up to six people and there's no need to book. Come with a team or join one on the night. Everyone is welcome. Half the entry fees go to the winning team with the other half supporting the Village Hall. If numbers allow we will also run a 50/50 draw.

We are always on the search for new quizmasters. Why not give it a go? Please get in touch if you would like to host an evening's quiz. You can follow whatever format and theme you wish.

If you would like to propose a charity or other organisation whom you think would benefit from one of the fundraising quizzes at the Dabbling Duck please get in touch.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, robertcharlestaylor@live.com, 07908 244421 for further information.

Some February 2026 'Dates at a Glance'

Date	Event	Time	Place
6 February	BINGO	7 for 7.30 pm	Village Hall
9 & 23 Feb.	Craft & Chat	2pm to 4pm	Village Hall Bar
12 February	Trefoil Guild	7pm	Village Hall
13 February	Mobile Library Visit	From 12.25	As Timetabled
16 February	Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	Village Hall
17 February	The Lunch Munch Bunch	12.30 for 1pm	Village Hall Bar
18 February	Creative Arts East	1 pm	Village Hall
19 February	Film Night	7 for 7.30 pm	Village Hall
20 February	Historical Society	7.30 pm	Village Hall
26 February	Quiz Night	7.30 pm	Village Hall Bar
27 February	Elvis Tribute Act	8 pm	Village Hall