The Reeve's Tale Magazine

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Dec-Jan 26/27

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AUTUMN/WINTER PROGRAMME

Saturday 12th December

12A

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2

Starring: Meryl Streep, Ann Hathaway, Stanley Tucci

Andy Sachs, now an award-winning reporter, becomes a casualty of cutbacks at her publication. At the same time, Miranda Priestley is accidentally caught up in a sweatshop scandal through a story she commissioned for *Runway*, so her erstwhile assistant is recruited to rescue the magazine's editorial reputation. Upon arrival, Andy discovers that budgets have dwindled, words like "engagement" and "digital" dominate meeting rooms, and perhaps worst of all, Miranda must pander to advertisers including scorned former assistant Emily, who now holds a senior role at Dior.

Saturday 9th January 2027

TBA

Awaiting film list from Moviola

BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL

Cinema:- Doors, Bar/Cafe open 6.30pm, Film starts at 7.30pm
Adults £5, Under 18 £3, Family (2A+2C) £15 + £2 each extra child
Tickets on sale in Reception. There will be the opportunity to pay by cash and card.
Tel: 01362 688887 or 01362 688944.
Email: jporterbvh@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/BawdeswellVillageCinema/
https://twitter.com/BawdeswellFilm1

BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL

WELCOME

Seasonal greetings and a very Happy Christmas to you all!
A warm and heartfelt thank you to all of you who have supported the Reeves Tale magazine throughout 2026. Whether you are a regular or occasional reader, a resident of Bawdeswell or Foxley, a visitor to the area, a business or individual who has advertised with us during the year, or a contributor, you are all very valued and appreciated.
Especially a great big thank you to all those of you,who each month, whatever the weather, deliver our magazine. You are all stars!
We hope everyone has a happy and peaceful Christmas and send our good wishes for 2027!
We'll be back in February.
With best wishes,
Anne and the Team.

Next copy deadline

15th January 2027

Please email
reevestale.magazine@gmail.com

Send your stories, letters and ideas to
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or call us on 01362 685308.

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Front image:
Sunrise in Bawdeswell
Robin Taylor

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FOXLEY

VILLAGE HALL

TO BOOK

Please Contact

Helen Mears

Tel: 01362 688251

Email : helenmears@pobroadband.co.uk

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WHAT'S ON

December/January Events

Event	Date	Location/Time
Café Philosophique	Tues 1st Dec	Bawdeswell Village Hall 7.30pm
Christmas Wreath Fair	Sat 5th Dec	Bawdeswell Church 10am-1pm
Candlelit Advent Service	Sun 6th Dec	Foxley Church 3pm
Mobile Library	Tues 8th Dec	Bawdeswell from 11.10am @ village hall onwards, see page 40 for details
Foxley Christmas Coffee Morning	Weds 9th Dec	Foxley Village Hall 10am
Book Group	Thurs 10th Dec	Bawdeswell Village Hall 7.30pm
Bawdeswell Village Cinema	Sat 12th Dec	Bawdeswell Village Hall 6.30 for 7.30pm
Foxley Carol Service	Sun 13th Dec	Foxley Village Hall 3pm
Bawdeswell Parish Council Meeting	Thurs 17th Dec	Bawdeswell Village Hall 7pm
Bawdeswell Carol Service	Sun 20th Dec	Bawdeswell Church 4pm
Mobile Library	Tues 5th Jan	Bawdeswell from 11.10am @ village hall onwards, see page 40 for details
Café Philosophique	Tues 5th Jan	Bawdeswell Village Hall 7.30pm
Foxley Coffee Morning	Weds 6th Jan	Foxley Village Hall 10am
Bawdeswell Village Cinema	Sat 9th Jan	Bawdeswell Village Hall 6.30 for 7.30pm
Knit and Natter	Thurs 14th Jan	Bawdeswell Village Hall 2-4pm
Book Group	Thurs 14th Jan	Bawdeswell Village Hall 7.30pm
Foxley Parish Council Meeting	Thurs 14th Jan	Foxley Village Hall 7pm
Matinee – Miss Saigon	Mon 18th Jan	Bawdeswell Village Hall 2pm see page 22 for details
Soup n Pud	Thurs 28th Jan	Bawdeswell Village Hall 12-2pm

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07941086603

WHAT'S ON

Regular Events	Time/Date	Location
Zumba Fitness	Mon 10 – 11am	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	Mon 2 – 4pm	Foxley Village Hall
Hub Cafe	Tues 10 – 12pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Dance Classes	Tues 7 – 10pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Keep Active	Wed 10 – 11am	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Keep Active	Wed 11.30 – 12.30pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
FitSteps	Thurs 7 – 8pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Keep Active	Fri 10 – 11am	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Bridge Club	Fri 1.30pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	Fri 2 – 4pm	Foxley Village Hall
Hatha Yoga	Sat 8.45 – 9.45am	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Games Afternoon	Sat 1.30 – 4.30pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall

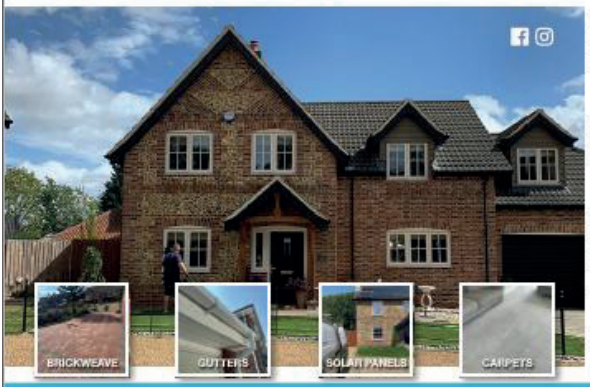
OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

Event	Date	Location/Time
Reepham Lions Bingo Night	Weds 2nd Dec	7.45pm Stimpson's Piece Hall, Reepham, see page 13 for details
Christmas Tree Festival	Weds 2nd – Sun 6th Dec	10am-4.30pm St Mary's Church, Reepham see page 14 for details
Christmas in Reepham	Sat 5th Dec	4-8pm Reepham Market Place, see page 13 for details
Reepham Gardening Club	Tues 8th Dec	7pm Reepham Town Hall, see page 11 for details
Reepham WI Meeting	Thurs 10th Dec	7.30pm St Michaels Church Hall, Reepham see page 11 for details
Gala Christmas Concert & Light Supper	Thurs 10th Dec	7pm, Bylaugh Hall, see page 50 for details
Reepham WI Meeting	Thurs 21st Jan	7.30pm St Michaels Church Hall, Reepham see page 11 for details

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EVENTS INFORMATION

REEPHAM GARDENING CLUB

Tuesday 8th December 7pm

It's Christmas Party Time

Member only event, a relaxed seasonal get together with some snacks, mulled wine and a spot of quizzing!

No meeting in January

Meetings held at Town Hall, Church St, Reepham NR10 4JW
New members and visitors always welcome.
Members: £2.00, non-members: £5.00 (inc. tea/coffee and cake).
Please contact Jeff Johnson for more information on 01362 680066 or visit our website: www.Reephamgardenclub.org.uk or email jeffandcaroljohnson@yahoo.co.uk.

REEPHAM WI

Thursday 10th December, 7.30pm

FESTIVE FAIRTRADE WINE TASTING EVENING!

A little change to our usual routine! We're meeting **one week earlier than our usual** third Thursday of the month so we can enjoy a festive evening together.
Come and join us for a fun and festive Fairtrade wine tasting evening!
Have you ever wondered what's behind the label? Where does your wine come from? What are its region, history and journey from vineyard to glass?
We'll be discovering, learning and, of course, tasting a selection of Fairtrade wines along the way! A big thank you to The Co-op, who have kindly sponsored our evening.

Thursday 21st January 2027, 7.30 pm

Resolutions Meeting

But what exactly is a WI resolutions meeting? Each year, the WI puts forward four resolutions for members to consider. At our meeting, we'll discuss them and decide which one we would like to adopt for the year ahead. The chosen resolution will become a cause we campaign for, raising awareness and lobbying for change at the highest levels. It's a wonderful opportunity for WI members to have their voices heard and help make a difference!
And it's not all about resolutions – there'll also be a short, fun quiz to add a little light-hearted entertainment to the evening.
We're a friendly, modern group of ladies who enjoy good company, laughter, community activities and having fun.
Curious? Come along as a visitor – you never know, you might like us! Find out more on our Facebook page and website.

Meetings held at St Michael's Church Hall, Reepham. Email:reephamwi@gmail.com

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EVENTS INFORMATION

REEPHAM LIONS CHRISTMAS BINGO

Wednesday 2nd December, 7.15 for 7.45pm at Stimpson's Piece Hall, Reepham.

Cash prizes based on the money raised on the night for the winners of lines and cards, including the special 'flyer' round. We'll be giving cash prizes for our raffle too, awarding half the amount raised on the raffle to the lucky winners, plus extra 'Christmas prizes'

You are welcome to bring your own refreshments to enjoy at your table, including alcohol if you wish. We will have teas and coffees on sale for those who would like a hot drink.

All the proceeds of the evening will be used by Reepham Lions to support good causes, mostly in the local area.

The first bingo in 2027 will be on 3rd February.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Wednesday 2nd – Sunday 6th December in St Mary's Church

See poster on page 14 for opening times.

CHRISTMAS IN REEPHAM

Saturday 5th December, 4 – 7pm, in the market place and Town Hall.

Santa's grotto, stalls, music and more.





Reepham Lions Club

2025 Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Church, Reepham

Book the Dates!

Wednesday 2nd December

to

Sunday 6th December

Wednesday 2nd December	10am to 4.30pm
Thursday 3rd December	10am to 4.30pm
Friday 4th December	10am to 4.30pm
Saturday 5th December	10am to 7pm

(Christmas in Reepham in the Market Place 4pm to 8pm)

Sunday 6th December	12md to 5pm

FREE ENTRY but donations welcome and
all proceeds in aid of Reepham Lions and Reepham PCC

LETTERS

Community Charity Christmas Card

Once again, this year the PCC has arranged for there to be a Community Charity Christmas Card located in the Church during December for people to sign in lieu of sending each other cards.
Donations can be left in the wall safe by the door and these will be added to the collections over Christmas at the church and given to the St. Martins Housing Trust, caring for the homeless over the winter.
Thank You !
Please do still remember those that live in isolation and confinement who would very much appreciate receiving card at this time.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their kind gifts, flowers and good wishes given after my recent incapacity. It was lovely to get back into our community again. I am well on the mend!
Angy

Disabled Parking at the Village Hall

We are pleased to announce that we have increased our disabled parking spaces at the village hall.



Bawdeswell and Foxley Archive

In 2027, we will be re-organising and updating the Bawdeswell and Foxley archives. If you have anything that could be added to this we would be pleased to include it. If you have any photos or articles that we could see and would be willing for us to take a copy of please contact Anne on 01326 685308, or email the Reeves Tale at reevestale.magazine@gmail.com
The Archive Team





BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL
registered charity number 1188278



THE HUB LUNCH

From October to April

Soup ‘n’ Roll ‘n’ Pudding

Lunches on last Thursday of the month, (excluding December) 12 – 2pm





LETTERS

Fakenham Choral Society to perform John Rutter's 'When Icicles Hang' and Bob Chilcott's 'Christmas Night' at its Christmas Concert

Fakenham Choral Society will perform John Rutter's 'When Icicles Hang' and Bob Chilcott's 'Christmas Night' at its Christmas Concert on Saturday 12th December at 5.30 pm in Fakenham Parish Church. The concert will also include carols from the choir and some for audience participation.

Rosemary Dear, chair of the Society, said: 'The two short works were chosen as both are seasonal but contrasting in content and style. Bob Chilcott's, 'On Christmas Night', written in 2010, is very Christmassy, being a delightful compilation of well-known carols and will complement other carols the choir will perform.

John Rutter's 'When Icicles Hang', written in 1975, is a very seasonal but more secular work, reflecting winter themes rather than Christmas itself. Rutter has set to music a variety of poems from some 14th to 16th century poets, including Shakespeare, ('Icicles' and 'Blow, blow thou winter wind'), Campion ('Winter Nights') and several Anons, including 'Good Ale!'

Tickets are £10, with under 18s free (but do require tickets) and will be available here: www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/forthcoming-1


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VILLAGE VIEWS

Ermentrude and Sid

Sid was excited! No longer would he have to seek Ermentrude's help whilst using his tablet. There in front of him was his printed certificate (with merit), confirming he had completed the two week course 'How to make the Internet your Friend'. He would frame it and put it on the wall.

'Actions speak louder than words. I'll surprise Ermentrude, we will go away for Christmas this year. She's fed up with cooking turkey and we have sort of discussed it. She suggested something local, or maybe a Warners hotel with a tribute act. She did say, at a push Spain so we can fly from Norwich'.

Sid got to work, yes, that hotel looks okay. It says inclusive.

O.K, a Wellness holiday inclusive. Booked. He pressed pay. A bit on the pricey side, he thought, but it was Christmas and it was for Ermentrude.

Presenting his beloved with a be-ribboned package, Ermentrude opened it and shrieked, 'Costa Rica?' It's the other side of the world'.

'No, no,' said Sid soothingly, 'the Costas are all in Spain and they are bound to have a tribute band. They speak English, there'll be an Irish bar, fish and chips. It'll be like home. I thought you'd like it and we can fly from Norwich.'

'You wally', she hissed, 'they fly to Alicante on the Costa Blanca, Costa Rica is South America!'.

Ermentrude took control. Ignoring the 16½ hour flight from Heathrow on Christmas Eve, stopping off in Houston where she icily informed Sid he could buy himself a Stetson and the return flight on New Year's Eve ('and you can check whether the trains will be running normally the next day to return us to Norwich'), she presented Sid with their itinerary.

Whilst she would experience a yoga retreat, beauty treatments and a trip to the rainforest, Sid would be white water rafting on a kayak, trying out a zip wire, going on a crocodile mangrove boat trip, a beach 'event' with 'fast track entry' and with each of his days starting with group meditation.

'And although it says 'inclusive', the small print specifies only breakfast', she informed Sid. 'There's just enough money left in the bank to pay full board for me, so you will need to make sure you secrete enough bread rolls at breakfast to last you all day. And maybe think about some New Year resolutions sweetie? How about GCSE geography at City College, talking to me before emptying the bank account and reading the small print before pressing anything.'

(Fortuitously their Premium Bonds came up in December, so it was full board for two).

Maide of Bawdeswelle

VILLAGE NEWS

Bawdeswell Village Hall – Chair's Report for Annual General Meeting 2026

Firstly, may I welcome everyone to our AGM.

This is my fourth annual report. I think the 'epigram' I used in my last year's report remains the same, '***We Love our Village Hall'*** except perhaps to add **ALL**. So this year I'm saying 'we **All** Love our Village Hall'. And I hope this report will prove it.

As in my other reports, there are lots of 'thank-yous' because everything that happens here is a team effort. And our teams are brilliant!

My first 'Big Thank You' goes to all our Trustees who have worked, and I do mean 'worked', as it takes enormous effort and dedication, to keep our Hall viable and looking inviting.

We are registered with the Charities Commission consequently we must live up to their standards as well as ensuring we fulfil our own Charity's constitution. This reminds us that our charity is here *'to provide for the inhabitants of Bawdeswell….(providing)facilities for recreation or other leisure activities …..in the interests of social welfare and improving the conditions of life of these inhabitants…'.*

In order to fulfil these ideals we need a lot of help and assistance.

Firstly, we have our valuable team of Trustees who oversee our finances to make sure that we are secure and viable, and that we ensure that our building is maintained in tip-top shape. It's worth keeping in mind how much this costs annually, around £27,000, on just day-to-day costs.

Secondly, we have our reliable and ever helpful Volunteers who support our hirers and help to look after our building. Feedback from our hirers tells us that it is this personal touch that makes all the difference to our hirers, and this is why they come back to us.

We have and we maintain a 'Beautiful' Hall for our community and we are pleased that so many different community groups come here to offer a variety of activities. Our building hosts opportunities for social gatherings as well as opportunities for crafting, learning and exercise. All of these really help to make Bawdeswell a 'good' place for us all to live. I'm delighted that we can offer our residents in Bawdeswell and our nearby communities, a vibrant community hall with a good variety of things to attend or be part of. So, my fourth big thank you goes to all these groups.

Over the last twelve months our Trustees have continued to work together and they continue to be a formidable team for 'getting things done'. Each Trustee leads and contributes to different aspects of keeping the Hall in good running order. Huge thanks are due to each of them: Lindsay as Treasurer, Chris as our Vice Chair, Jo as our ever-busy Bookings Manager, Ruth H who acts as the charity's Secretary. Ruthie W leads our Buildings Team, aided and abetted by Chris and Graham who provide valuable hands-on practical and technical support, Josie manages our food and drink service, Lin links with our Volunteer Co-ordinator bringing everyone together to help in running the building and events, Anne manages all our publicity supported by Chris who keeps our website attractive and up to date. This is vitally important as publicity is our shop window for bringing in new hirers and users. David S is our link with the Parish Council, which has the ultimate responsibility for the building and we continue to be grateful for his experience and knowledge.

VILLAGE NEWS

Bawdeswell Village Hall – Chair's Report for Annual General Meeting 2026 continued:

Communication between us all is vital and we continue to co-ordinate our activities via our WhatsApp group 'The Dream Team'.

As Trustees, we aim to be proactive, considering strategic plans that will meet our charity's objectives. Our Trustees came together in November '25 for our now annual, Extra-Ordinary Meeting. We use this meeting to look forward and consider our Hall's future. It's easy to get bogged down with day-to-day needs and requirements in our general monthly meetings, but this Extra-Ordinary one gives us time and space to think forwards, as we must always consider how we can keep the Hall viable for the future. We continue to agree that we must continue to keep ahead of the game in keeping our Hall in tip-top condition making it an attractive venue for our hirers.

Two years ago, we recognised that the biggest threat to our future viability was increasing power costs and this last year was the first complete year following our solar installation project. We have all benefited hugely from this system which has meant that we can continue to always provide a warm and welcoming building. And I'm guessing that you noticed that we had a very sunny summer? We uploaded our 'spare' energy to the grid, which was and is very helpful financially.

An added bonus from the solar project was that in December '25 we were host to a film crew, who had been tasked by RWE, one of our solar project grant funders, to highlight the outcome of some of the projects. Because this film was promoted by Norfolk Community Foundation to different organisations it gave our Hall further publicity. Our Hall featured in a segment of the film. My thanks to Lindsay and Bob for their involvement and also some of our users on the day, who made hugely positive comments about our Hall and the benefits of community involvement.

Becoming increasingly busier and having more simultaneous hires means more vehicles, so more of my thanks go to our Parish Council who listened to our concerns for those who were struggling to find parking spaces. We were delighted that they agreed to create extra parking along our driveway. Even more of my thanks go to the Railway Volunteers who actually installed the fencing. Recently, to aid the increasing number of blue badge holders, they have created extra designated parking spaces.

I mentioned that our Bookings Manager is 'busy', perhaps that is an understatement, I think she would say so. The Hall continues to be well used and whilst we welcome new hirers, it is pleasing that we welcome back so many community groups who return to us each year.

In the last 12 months we have had over 550 hires from over 50 'regular' hirers who use our facilities on a weekly or monthly basis. These figures are very similar to our experience in the previous 12 months, showing again that our hirers are very satisfied with us. In amongst all these bookings, the Hall has hosted over 98 'community events', made up from:-

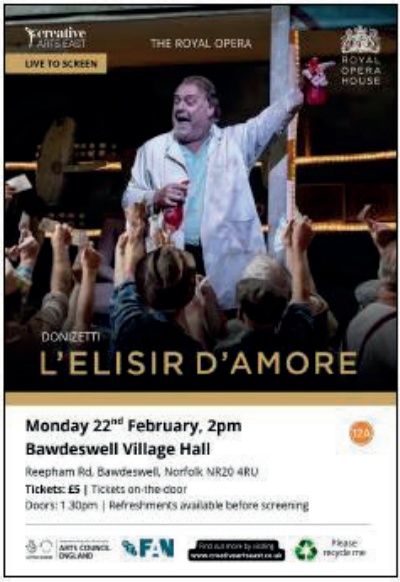
46 Coffee Hubs; 9 Soup 'n' Pud Hubs; 17 Children's' Parties; 3 Family Celebrations; 5 Wakes; 9 BEG events and 12 Cinema Nights.

We earn our income by hiring our rooms and facilities. Last year we received more than £23,000 from our room hires.

BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL

MIDWINTER MONDAY MATINEES







VILLAGE NEWS

Bawdeswell Village Hall – Chair's Report for Annual General Meeting 2026 continued:

You've probably worked out, if you're keeping a running total on these basic numbers, that this leaves us with a funding gap. Which is why the receipt of generous donations through our weekly and monthly Hubs is so important.

We are truly blessed to have our own 'Great Hall Bakers and Soup Makers'. They have donated their wonderful soups and bakes to us each week and month. Their generosity then attracts more donations from everyone who eats their delicacies. And I am delighted to highlight that last year we received around £9,000 from those Hub donations. This then allowed us to claim GiftAid which gave us a further 25%.

We held our Big Community Event;- The Summer Sizzle, in August and our Volunteers looked after and catered for over 100 people. It was much enjoyed and we have decided to do it again in 2027!

In December last year we sadly lost one of our greatest supporters, John Mallen.

He was always 'here', having been the first to open the doors to our new building. In fact he and I were the first 'cleaners' on Monday mornings; I wielded the vacuum cleaner and John dusted. Fortunately we were soon joined by many others, and we were soon called The Scrubbers. I'm delighted to say that since we got to the point where we could afford professional cleaners, our Hall has been well looked after and I am very grateful to our current cleaning team of Mona and Malcom.

I'm sure those of you who were here in the early days will remember Tuesday Hub mornings when John would arrive with his cheery smile, man-bag and keys which were often misplaced, before he headed behind the counter to offer teas and coffees. And we will, I'm sure, always remember his special fish soups and trifles on Soup Hub days.

We are very grateful to John for everything he did when he was with us, and now we are grateful for his, along with his partner Roger, generous donation to the Hall. Because of their generosity we have been able to replace the water boiler in Reception and we have upgraded the gentlemen's urinals. Neither are very 'glamorous' but both are used constantly and both support all our users. I would urge you to remember him each time you have a hot drink, or, gentlemen, use our facilities!

Thank you again to Lindsay, our Treasurer, for providing the financial evidence to prove tonight (and always) that we've had a successful year!

Without being boring, I'd just like to say my final 'thank you', which is to all our Volunteers and supporters, without you, we couldn't do it and we wouldn't have a reason to be here.

I come back to where I started this evening: ***We All Love our Village Hall!***

Contacts:
Chair: Carolyn Good - 01362 688 944
Vice-Chair: Chris Leppard – 01362 688 774
Bookings: Jo Porter – 01362 688 887

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For more details contact Laura
01362 692021 or 07845 578689





VILLAGE NEWS

Bawdeswell Primary School

We had a fantastic end to the first half term with our Halloween dress up day. Children and staff got 'spooky' for the day, which was a lot of fun! Thank you to FOBS for their donations of prizes for the children which added an extra excitement to the day. We finished with a Halloween Treat stall selling hot chocolate cones, treat bags which the children got to take home. What a great end to the half term!



Across the school we spent the last week of last half term learning about different countries in Africa, including their food and culture; their geography and their art. The children have learnt what we have in common and how our countries are different. Through these weeks across the year the children learn about the British value of tolerance and develop an understanding of their place in the world and how we can have a positive impact on it.

This half term we have also elected our School and Eco councils. These children represent their class friends and ensure their voice is heard when making decisions about our school. The school council is organising a whole school project linking with local food banks and the Eco council are helping us to meet our goals on our climate action plan. Through these councils the whole school is learning about the British value of democracy. Some children in Year 5 and 6 have also become prefects and librarians. These roles help them to understand the importance of looking after each other and our school environment. All these children have badges to help the others identify them and know who to go to if they need anything. Wear your badges with pride!





New school applications are now open for September 2027. If you have a children starting primary school next year why not come and see what we can offer. We would love to meet you and your child. Please call the school to arrange a time **01362 688282**.


Foxley Village Hall Committee
Invites you all to a
Christmas Coffee Morning
Wednesday
9th December 10:00-noon
(note the date!)
Fakenham Ukuleles
special raffle
mince pies
sausage rolls
Registered charity: 303953

VILLAGE NEWS

FOXLEY NEWS

Foxley Coffee Morning - Foxley Village Hall

The next coffee morning will be our Christmas Special on **Wednesday 9th December**, **10:00am to 12 noon**, with Fakenham Ukeleles. There will be a warm welcome to all with cake, coffee and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours. Our next coffee morning is on **6th January.**

Candlelit Advent Service – Foxley Church

At **3pm on 6th December** there will be a candlelit advent service at Foxley Church. Wrap up warm, as it's never warm in Foxley Church.

Foxley Carol Service – Foxley Village Hall

At **3pm on Sunday 13th December**

A traditional service of readings and carols with Revd. Jane Nursey. Refreshments will be served after the service.

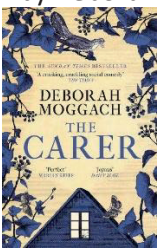

Foxley Carol Service
In Foxley Village Hall
3pm Sunday 13th December 2026
Traditional service of readings and carols with Revd. Jane Nursey
Refreshments

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Book Group

The Book Group meets in the Village Hall. We meet on the **second Thursday** of each month, starting at **7:30pm**. Each member pays an annual Group Subscription Fee currently £25, to cover our room hire and library charges. New members are welcome and are invited to attend for two meetings before deciding to join the group and pay their subscription.

'***The Carer'*** by ***Deborah Moggach***



Do you remember the film 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'? It was a successful film released in 2011 which explored an 'alternative way' of living and caring for those getting on in years. Originally it was a book written by Deborah Moggach. In her book, *The Carer,* she develops a story around the idea of getting 'a carer' to help look after an ageing father.

Of course, it's not straightforward. The father, James, has both a son and a daughter, both of whom have lives which are too busy to provide him with the necessary care. The answer of course, is to employ a live-in professional carer. Mandy seems perfect. She's'"not beautiful – far from it. She's an overweight woman in specs, wearing a bobble hat and stripy tights'. And yet within weeks she has seemingly inveigled her way into their father's affections: calling him pet names, escorting him on outings he would have previously sneered at.

And yet when the revelation about Mandy's true motivation is delivered, a third of the way into the story, it is unexpected.

Deborah Moggach successfully subverts the plot, exploring themes of desire and expectation. At its heart, this is a novel about family myths.

The Carer is poignant, insightful and funny. It will, I think, resonate with anyone who has ever considered becoming or employing 'a carer' for their loved ones.

The story unlocked some memories for our group which were described by one of us, as 'cathartic'.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 10th December**. We will be discuss 'Exit' by Belinda Bauer and exchange our 'Christmas Books'.

On **Thursday 14th January**, we will discuss our Christmas Books.

Enquiries: Carolyn 01362 688944

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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Bawdeswell Bowls Club

Autumn leaves are beginning to be a big problem because they cover the green and can cause diseases which are hard to control because they cover the grass, and it is very time consuming to keep it clear of leaves as well. We are now preparing to arrange the 2027 fixtures which start last week in April.
New players are always welcome if interested, phone **Paul 07796964574 or email** paul.digby5@hotmail.co.uk

Bawdeswell Knit and Natter

Knit & Natter will only be meeting once a month from now.
There is **no meeting in December**.
Our meeting in 2027 is the **14th January**.
2 - 4 pm at the Village Hall. Come along and join us. Refreshments will be available.
Enquiries: **Josie Beach 01362 688869**.

Bintree Bowls Club

The 2026/27 indoor bowls season at the Gallow Indoor Bowls Club at the Fakenham Leisure Centre is now in full swing, where we also have our Wednesday afternoon roll-up for any Bintree member who wishes to partake, followed by a visit to a local hostelry for eats. The AGM was held on 12th November at Foxley Village Hall. Nick Mears stood down as Chairman and Helen Mears as Secretary. David Chapman was proposed and elected as the new Chairman and Louise Ledbury elected as Secretary. The club would like to thank Nick and Helen for all of their hard work in guiding the club over the last few years. Our Xmas Dinner and Presentation Evening is being held on 12th December at Elmham Kings Head. New members are always welcome and you can track us on our website, bintreebowlsclub.co.uk.
Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to one and all!

Games Afternoon

We meet in Bawdeswell Village Hall, every Saturday 1.30 – 4.30pm, there will be **no meetings in August**. Games played: Uno, Mexican Train, Scrabble. Other suggestions welcome. 1st visit free, normal price £5. Contact: **Anne 01362 685308.**

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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Bridge Club

The JayCee Bridge Club meets in the Village Hall on Friday afternoons at 1.30pm. Whilst we aspire to play well, our range of bridge abilities means that it's really bridge for fun. No regular partners are needed. If you think you might like to start playing bridge then you are welcome to come along and watch to begin with.
Please contact Patsy for information, or to confirm a session is to take place.
Contact: **Patsy Catchpole 01362 688352**

Cafe Philosophique

Finding good reasons for everyday beliefs

We meet in Bawdeswell Village Hall, every first Tuesday at 7:30. Everyone coming is asked to contribute to the cost of our room hire fee.
Next meetings: **Tuesday 1st December - The Game**
Tuesday 5th January - 'The role of Norfolk in the Slave Trade'
Contact: **Peter: 01362 688944**

Festival Choir Bawdeswell

The Festival Choir, based in Bawdeswell, has established itself as a vibrant high standard female concert choir. The hour-long programmes from 'Bach to Broadway' delight audiences with the repertoire that spans from classical to modern, and everything else in between, ensuring something for everyone. The choir is committed to delivering music of the highest calibre and welcomes enthusiastic singers with some experience. If you are interested in joining, there are vacancies across all voice sections. We rehearse for an hour on a Saturday morning from 10am and Wednesday evening from 7pm at All Saints Church, allowing greater flexibility with attendance.
To find out more or arrange an informal chat, please **contact Musical Director James Lilwall at 01362 688499 or pjlilwall@hotmail.com.**
You can also visit the choir's Facebook page for updates. New members are warmly encouraged!

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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



Foxley Village Hall Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be our Christmas Special on **Wednesday 9th December**, **10:00am to 12 noon**, with Fakenham Ukeleles. There will be a warm welcome to all with cake, coffee and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours. Our next coffee morning is on **6th January.**
All welcome to join us for coffee, cake and a chance to meet up with your neighbours. If you need transport, please contact **Jo 688981**, or for any other enquiries please contact **Linda 688488 or Gillian 688955.**



Short Mat Bowls

Foxley Village Hall Every Monday and Friday **2 - 4pm**
New members welcome.
To find out more, call **Frank** on **01362 688089** or **Carole** on **01362 688567**.



Lakeside Pilgrims Bowls Club

As we share the green with Bawdeswell, Paul has started preparing the green for next season. We will have had our AGM by the time this goes to print. We are already entering leagues for next season. There is a lot of behind the scenes happening at this time of the year.
If you are interested in playing, please contact me: sue.purse@gmail.com



Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

Indoor meetings at Great Witchingham Village Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome but there is a small charge for non-members.
INDOOR – **December meeting will be a members only social event.** The first talk of **2027, on 21st January**, will be by Frank Street, High Fen Wildland Manager, who works for Nattergal, a commercial organisation that uses entrepreneurship to help address the need for more solutions to the declining biodiversity in the natural world. He will talk to us about High Fen in Methwold.
OUTDOOR – **Sunday 13th December** – High Ash Farm.
Full details on the website - WVBS.co.uk or email:
Alan Hughes wvbs.chair@gmail.com
Mandy Etherington wvbs.editor@gmail.com
David Laurie wvbs.memberships@gmail.com

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SERVICES



Community Car Scheme: Bawdeswell, Bylaugh, Foxley

This year I have been reminded in no uncertain terms how important this voluntary local service is to our users. So far in 2026 we have completed 148 journeys up to 30th September as compared to 83 journeys for the whole of 2025. This represents an incredible increase by our dwindling band of driver volunteers.

And yet without this service, our users would have no alternative other than to try to book a local taxi which would often not be available at short notice and of course would have to be booked for the outward and inward journeys at considerable cost. For those needing regular medical appointments this is unsustainable.

For those who are fortunate enough to have relatives living close by, this of course is no guarantee that they will be available during the day, and many of us have relatives living hundreds of miles away.

So, I certainly feel this service is worthy of maintaining as best we possibly can. So, a rallying call to our community:- please send me a new driver or two for the occasional journey, or watch this incredibly valuable local service dwindle away.

Can you Help?

Can you spare an hour or two? We are looking for volunteers to keep the service going.

Are you able to drive your car to the hospital or local surgery? The scheme enables mileage reimbursement. There is a DBS check and medical form which is signed by your GP. The joining process is simple. **You will make a difference in your local community.**

David Wheeler, Volunteer Coordinator
07909 901015
davidawheeler@sky.com

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SERVICES

Elmham Surgery News

Created by this generation in memory of those whose sacrifice secured our future. We remember them today and always with gratitude, honour, and respect.

A huge thank you to our wonderful staff and their families who have spent their time knitting and crocheting these beautiful tributes. Your time, care and creativity have helped make this remembrance display incredibly special, and we are so grateful to everyone who contributed.





Elmham Surgery Christmas opening times:

Christmas is fast approaching; we will be **closed**

- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day
- Boxing Day (substitute day) Monday 28th of December
- New Years Day

Dear Patients,

As Christmas approaches and another busy year comes to an end, we wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and kindness towards our team throughout the year. Your patience during particularly busy periods, and the many kind words and gestures we receive, are genuinely appreciated by everyone across the practice.

It is a privilege to look after our patients and to be part of such a wonderful local community. We look forward to continuing to care for you and your families in the year ahead.

From all the Partners, we wish you and your loved ones a peaceful festive season and a happy and healthy New Year.

With our very best wishes,

The Partners, Elmham Group of Practices

SERVICES



MOBILE LIBRARY

Tuesdays 8th December and 5th January

BAWDESWELL	**VILLAGE HALL**	**11:10 -11.35**
BAWDESWELL	**PARADISE ROAD**	**11:40 – 11.50**
BAWDESWELL	**CHAUCER CLOSE**	**11.55 – 12.10**
FOXLEY	**VILLAGE HALL**	**12:20 – 12.35**

Can't get to the Mobile Library, but have access to the internet, then why not try 'Libby'?

POST OFFICE®

Current Opening Hours and Locations

Tuesday	Bawdeswell Church	9.00am - 12.00pm
Friday	Bawdeswell Church	9.00am - 12.00pm

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PARISH COUNCIL

BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2026 AT 7pm
Cllrs; D. Shannon (Vice Chair), C. Good, P. Craven, A. Hartley-Walder, M. Bailey and R. Hannent. Mrs. J Boxall (Clerk) District Councillor G. Bambridge

Breckland Local Plan
No update was received with regards to the Breckland Local Plan. Cllr Shannon had attended a meeting with the land owner and potential developer, Orchard Homes, of the site at the end of The Street. There was wide ranging discussion without conclusion. Water tests were being carried out on the site to assess flood risk, The Parish Council's perspectives were highlighted – the Parish Council wishes to see housing development proposals with infrastructure considerations and that the Parish Council's idea of development was associated with the Local Plan and therefore the Parish Council would be looking (if the Planning Inspector agreed) to adjust the existing target and relieve the density of housing on Foxley Road. The developer was encouraged to engage with Breckland.

Local Government Reorganisation
Ministers have confirmed that local government reorganisation (LGR) will press ahead, with Norfolk County Council and the county's seven district, borough and city councils set to be replaced by new authorities by 2029. Under the original plan, signed off in March, the county was to be split into three new unitary councils: Greater Norwich City, East Norfolk and West Norfolk.
The government has said a final decision on what replaces Norfolk's councils will be announced in the New Year, with one, two or three councils all still on the table. Local government minister Jim McMahon has confirmed that district council elections will go ahead as normal in May 2027, with elections to new "shadow" unitary councils in May 2028 and the new authorities taking over in 2029, a year later than originally planned. Norfolk and Suffolk are still expected to elect a mayor in May 2028.

Jubilee Garden
As no response was received from any resident/s following consultation on future maintenance of the Jubilee Garden. It was agreed that maintenance of the Jubilee Garden carry on as usual without additional maintenance of the grass etc.

Bus Shelters - To consider invitation to apply for Bus Grant Funding 2026/27
It was agreed that Councillors would review the bus shelters and ascertain the level of refurbishment required. As grant applications needed to be submitted before end of March 2027, it was agreed to put on the agenda for February.

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PARISH COUNCIL

Bawdeswell continued….

ENF/173/26 – Unauthorised Development on Land Adjacent to the A1067.
An email was received from the Planning Enforcement Officer confirming that they have asked for a Planning Contravention Notice to be served on the land owner in response to the alleged usage of the storage containers. Once a response is received, the Parish Council will be updated further.

Adams Pit – Discussed at the Trustee Meeting
The pond is in good health supporting a range of wildlife. There are some simple low-cost management measures that can be taken to enhance the nature supported before more costly measures are considered, including reducing leaf litter being added to the pond and increasing light to the pond to enhance plant life. Work should be phased/ split across several years and undertaken in winter to minimise disruption to habitats.
Norfolk Wildlife Trust happy to advise further when needed.
It was agreed that help from the village volunteers would be sought with a view to cutting the branches overhanging the pond (that can be safely reached) to improve the light and reduce leaf drop and strim vegetation on the eastern side to obtain a better idea of what can be coppiced. Phase two work to take place the following year with a view to clearing the island. It was acknowledged that professional services would need to be sought for the hedge laying.

Finance
The balance of the Community account as at 31st October 2026 was confirmed as £35508.57, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £44226.11.

The next Parish Council Meetings will be held on the 17th December 2026 and 4th February 2027 at 7pm. These meetings will be held at the Village Hall. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend. The Council usually meet on the first Thursday of every month except for January & August. Please check the website or noticeboard for any changes.

If you have any concerns please contact the Parish Clerk Jo Boxall, White House, Pettywell, Reepham, NR10 4RN, Tel: 01603 879480, Email: clerk@bawdeswell.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Full draft minutes from this meeting and minutes from previous meetings, including financial / audit information and policies can be found on the Parish Council website http://bawdeswell.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Foxley Parish Council will be on 14th January 2027 at 7pm.

This is the meeting where the Parish Council will consider and set the precept for 2027/28. The precept is the amount of money the Parish Council requires from Council Tax payers in Foxley.
This meeting will be held at the Village Hall. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend. The Council usually meet four times per year. Please check the website or noticeboard for any changes.

If you have any concerns please contact the Parish Clerk Jo Boxall, White House, Pettywell, Reepham, NR10 4RN, Tel: 01603 879480, Email: clerk@foxleyparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Full draft minutes from this meeting and minutes from previous meetings, including financial / audit information and policies can be found on the Parish Council website https://foxleyparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

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CHURCH NEWS

The Friends of Bawdeswell Church
'protecting & enhancing this unique building for the future'



Join us for our annual Christmas Wreath Fair and get into the festive spirit while supporting The Friends of Bawdeswell Church. Discover a beautiful selection of handmade wreaths, seasonal decorations, gifts and produce, lovingly created to bring a warm and welcoming touch to your home this Christmas. Wreaths will also be available for pre-ordering, making it easy to secure your desired wreath. Come along to the church on Saturday the 5th December, from 10am to 1pm, and enjoy this festive community event while helping to raise funds to protect and enhance this unique building for the future.

Pre-order details here: FRIENDS OF BAWDESWELL CHURCH

Christmas Wreath Fair 5th December 2026 **Wreath Pre-order Form**

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Contact Details: Tel: ……Email: ……

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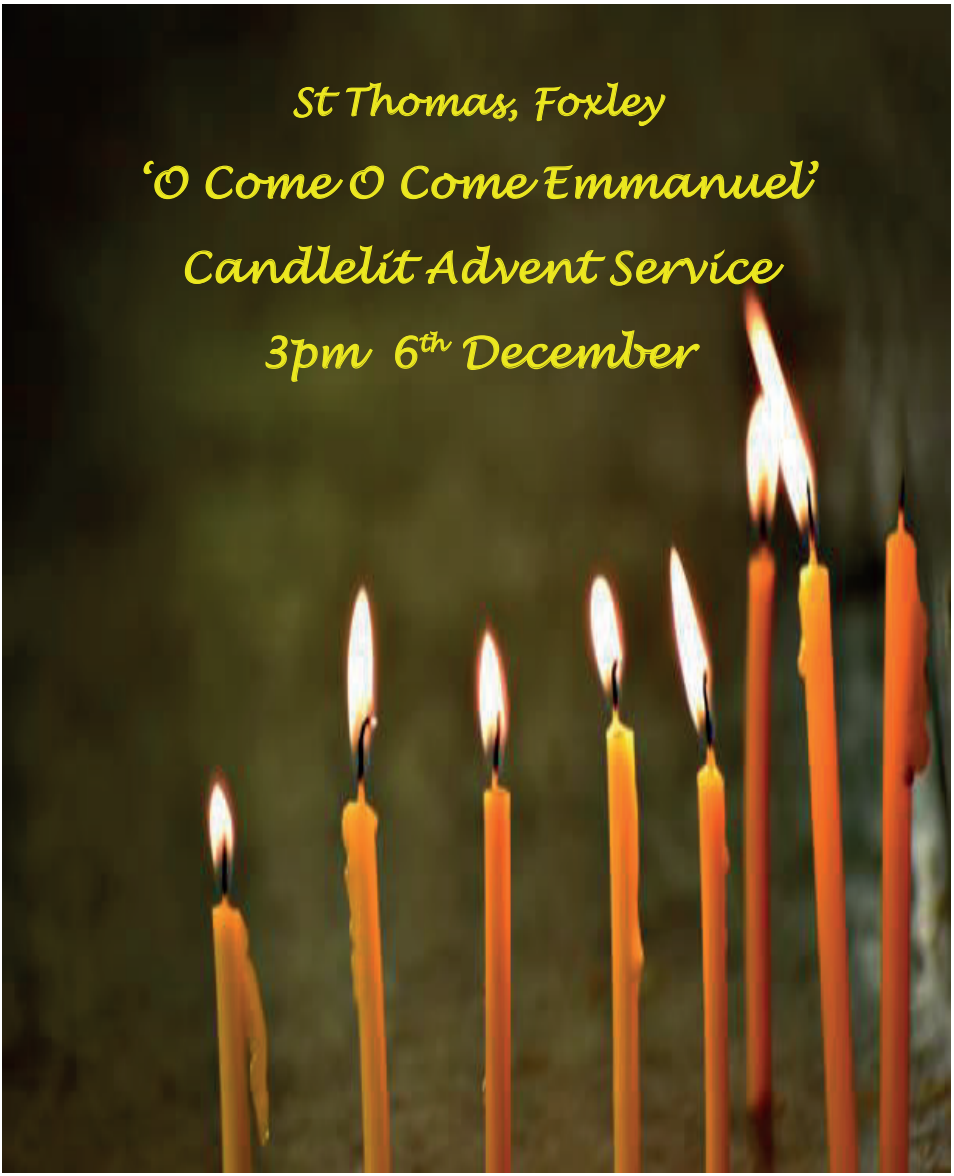
2026 events:

Dec 5th	Christmas Wreath Fair	Church, 9am – 1pm
Dec 10th	Gala Christmas Concert & Reception	Bylaugh Hall, 7pm

2027 events:

Jan 23rd	100 Club Members Annual Drinks Party	Church View, 7pm
Mar 20th	Gala Bingo with Supper	Village Hall, 7pm
July 25th	Sheringham Little Theatre Festival	Bylaugh Hall, 2pm

All ticket information and further enquiries from 01362 688499 or pjlilwall@hotmail.com James Lilwall – Chairman, David Shannon – Treasurer, Peter Jervis – 100 Club Secretary. Committee Members – Robin Taylor, Sandi Taylor, Angela Shannon, Jamie Duncan, Melanie Pratt, Jo Porter, Anne Toomey and Josie Beach.


St Thomas, Foxley
'O Come O Come Emmanuel'
Candlelit Advent Service
3pm 6th December

CHURCH NEWS

Bawdeswell Church News



We are looking forward to a busy month in the church, beginning with the popular Wreath Fair on Saturday 5th December.
The Bawdeswell Festival Choir will have sung for us the last Sunday of November. Advent carols being the theme.
These were not Christmas Carols. That service is on Sunday 20th December at 4pm with Refreshments. Please do join us. The Festival Choir will be helping to raise the roof with popular carols.
On Christmas Day we also welcome whole families and the atmosphere is festive, with Buck's fizz and soft drinks served after the service.
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
Robin Taylor and Linda Rose
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CHURCH NEWS

Reverend Richard Reflects

What are you hoping to get for Christmas? What are you giving to others for Christmas?

This Christmas, the church is thinking about gifts. There are, of course, the gifts of the wise men. Christmas carols and nativity performances like to call them the three kings, but the gospel in which they appear doesn't call them kings. And it doesn't say how many of them there were. Also, they were rather late to the party, arriving quite a considerable time after Jesus' birth; which is why the church marks the occasion on Epiphany in January. But they did bring gifts.

So, the reason that I'm thinking about gifts this Christmas isn't because of the wise men. And it isn't because many of my socks are starting to wear out and get holes in. The reason we are thinking about gifts is because Christmas itself is a gift.

The tradition of buying one another gifts for Christmas is something that has become commercialised. But it comes, at its heart, as a response to the gift of Christmas. We give each other gifts because we are responding with joy and gratitude for the gift that was given to us in the person of Jesus Christ. We remember that the human race was given the gift of God's own son, *God the Son*, so that we could be saved. God became man. God came to dwell on Earth. Christmas is a celebration of that gift, a gift that would not be fully recognised at the time, but would result in the death and resurrection of Jesus so that we could find new life in him and have a right relationship with God.

Perhaps that wasn't the gift that you thought you would be getting for Christmas. But it is the gift that is offered to all of us. And, even though new socks would be useful, the gift of Christmas is the best gift that any of us could hope to receive.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and blessed New Year.

Richard Turk

Rector of the Bawdeswell Group of Churches

comprising the parishes of

Foxley, Foulsham, Lyng, Elsing, Bawdeswell, Bylaugh, Sparham, and Themelthorpe.


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BAWDESWELL GROUP CHURCH SERVICES

December 2026

Date	Sun 6th Dec	Sun 13th Dec	Sun 20th Dec	Fri 25th Dec	Sun 27th Dec
Season	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas	Christmas
Bawdeswell	**10.30am Words & Praise**	**10.30am HC**	**4pm Carol Service**	**10.30am Christmas Benefice HC**	**10.30am Benefice HC Bawdeswell or Sparham**
Foxley	**3pm Candlelit Advent Service**	**3pm Carol Service At Village Hall**	-	-	-

January 2027

Date	Sun 3rd Jan	Sun 10th Jan	Sun 17th Jan	Sun 24th Jan	Thurs 31st Jan
Season	Epiphany 1	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3	Epiphany 4	
Bawdeswell	**10.30am Words & Praise**	**10.30am HC**	**10.30am The 10:30**	**10.30am HC**	**10.30am Benefice HC**
Foxley	**3pm Epiphany Service**	-	-	-	-

Morning Prayer is said at 9am: Monday and Thursday at Bawdeswell, this is also live on Facebook. Tuesday and Wednesday at Lyng.
A reminder that you can join us on Zoom for the Bawdeswell service any Sunday –
Meeting ID: 656 174 6525 Passcode: TwKH7n
A midweek communion service is held at Holy Innocents, Foulsham on Wednesdays at 10:30am.
Other information for our new group of churches can be found in our weekly News in the Pews sheets, available at each service. Or our newsletter which you can get by contacting:
Bawdeswellgroupchurches@gmail.com
The Rev'd Richard Turk, 07721 035009 Email: revdrichardrwv@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook at 'The Bawdeswell Group of Churches'

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