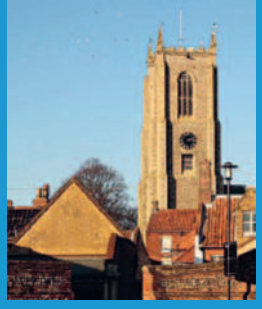
FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

A ROCHA UK SILVER AWARD WINNER 2024 ECO CHURCH ecochurch.arocha.org.uk



April 2025

THE BEACON

Church and Community Magazine



*** Free kids Easter workshop * Rector's reflection**
*** Easter Services with Bishop Jane * Sponsor our floodlights**
*** Fancy a dance? * Antiques Valuation Day**
*** Can you fly our drone? * Fakenham Ramblers**

Church Contact Details

www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk

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Revd Tracy Jessop
The Rectory, 21 Gladstone Road
Fakenham NR21 9BZ 01328 862268
Email: rector@fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk
Or: admin@fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers:
Elaine Burbidge 01328 851848 – Fakenham
Amanda Sands 07789 225011 – Fulmodeston

Church Wardens
Roger Burbidge 01328 851848 – Fakenham
Alison Harding 01328 864685 – Fakenham
Andrew Lee 01328 878870 – Fulmodeston

Safeguarding Officer:
Anne Peppitt 01328 878355
Email: anne.peppitt23@gmail.com

Parish Prayers

6 Apr Seppings Road, Peckover Road, Toll Bar.
The many, largely unnoticed, 'key workers'.

13 Apr Sandy Lane, Olivia Close, Goggs Mill Lane.
God's provision for us.

20 Apr Oak Street, Constitution Hill, Howland Close, Star Meadow, Chapel Court.
New beginnings.

27 Apr Hall Staithe, Vine Court, Quaker Lane, Quaker Court, Tunn Street, Swan Street
Cubs and Beavers.

From the Parish Registers

Funerals
20.2.25 Madeleine (Jill) Barker at Fulmodeston
19.3.25 Terence Butcher

Cover pic:
Compiled by
the Rev'd Tracy Jessop

"I'm afraid both St Peter and St Paul are busy in Fakenham at the moment. Can I take a message?"



Beacon Deadline
Editorial content to Audrey Sharp by 1st of every month
Advertising artworks to Dee Jackson by 1st of every month
Bundles available for deliverers on the last Thursday of every month

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Rector's Reflection



We are journeying through the season of Lent and approaching the celebration of Easter, and I wondered what that means for you? Regardless of our individual beliefs, there are universal values and practices that can benefit us all.

Lent is traditionally seen as a period of reflection, self-discipline, and personal growth. For many, it is an opportunity to pause and consider what truly matters in life. This practice of self-examination, though rooted in Christian tradition, can be a valuable exercise for anyone. It encourages us to look inward, to assess our actions and motivations, and to realign ourselves with the values we hold dear.

In these challenging times, with conflicts and uncertainties all around us, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and anxious. This is reason enough for us to recognise the importance of community and mutual support. It calls us to extend a hand to those in need and to foster a spirit of generosity and care. By looking out for one another and offering our support, we can create a more compassionate and resilient community.

As we move towards Easter, a time of renewal and hope, and of new beginnings and the triumph of hope over despair, I hope you are encouraged. Fakenham is a town where the good far outweighs the bad. A place that you can see examples of generosity, service, and humility. These principles are not exclusive to faith; they are the foundation of a harmonious and thriving community. Take some time to reflect on how you can contribute to the wellbeing of those around you and what you might contribute to our Town. There are lots of opportunities to get involved, many are listed in The Beacon.

In the spirit of Lent and Easter, I encourage you to reach out to those in your community, to offer kindness and support, and to strive for a world where compassion and understanding prevail. Together, we can make a difference and build a better future for all.

I wish you peace and renewal during this season.

Revd Tracy Jessop





Churches around Fakenham welcome *you* in April

Parish Church Upper Market Place, Fakenham NR21 9DY

Sun 6 10am Parish Communion

Sun 13 Palm Sunday
10am Holy Communion with Bishop Jane Steen
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Holy Week

Mon 14 Compline at 6.30pm with a Meditation from Bishop Jane
Tues 15 Compline at 6.30pm with a Meditation from Bishop Jane
Weds 16 Compline at 6.30pm with a Meditation from Bishop Jane
Thurs 17 Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot washing at 7.30pm
Fri 18 An Hour at the Cross at 2pm with a Meditation from Bishop Jane
Sat 19 Easter Vigil with Confirmations at 7.30pm with Bishop Jane
Sun 20 10am Easter Day Holy Communion
Sun 27 10am Holy Communion

Other Services

Every Thursday 9.30am Market Day Holy Communion (a short, said service)
Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) 9.45am Stepping Stones for pre-school children with a grown-up.

Salvation Army Oak Street, Fakenham.
Every Sunday morning at 10.15 am

Methodist Church Chapel Lane, Sculthorpe. NR21 9QB
Morning service of worship 11am each Sunday

Fakenham Baptist Community Church

PLEASE NOTE

Sunday services on 6th, 13th and 27th April 10:30-12:00 at the Community Centre, Oak Street. 20th April Easter Sunday : no service, but the Leadership Team invite visitors and church members to join them at 10.15am at the Salvation Army Headquarters, Oak Street.

St Anthony RC Church Wells Road, Fakenham.
Sunday Vigil Mass every Saturday at 6.00pm
Sunday Mass at 10.45am and Tues-Fri at 10.00am

cont...

Orthodox Church of the Holy Transfiguration, Scarborough Road, Gt Walsingham
Every Sunday morning 10.00am Hours 10.30am Liturgy.
Easter services: Friday 18 : Good Friday Vespers (with veneration of Epitaphion) 2.00 p.m.
Sat 19 : Easter Eve Paschal Mattins and Liturgy: 10.00 p.m.
Sun 20: Easter Day Paschal Vespers 3.00 p.m. (Visitors from other churches are welcome at all of these but especially at the Vespers on Sunday.)

Holy Trinity, Hempton *Contact: The Revd Dr Harri Williams SSC, harri1985@gmail.com*
Sunday Mass at 9.30am.
Wednesday Mass at 9.30am.

We continue to pray for peace for all the people of Gaza, Israel and throughout the Middle East at this time.
We pray for peace for the people of Ukraine.
"God of peace and justice, we pray for the laying down of weapons in every place of war. We pray for all those who fear tomorrow, that you would hold and protect them".

The story of a hymn: There is a green hill far away…

As a child, I was given 'The Little Picture Hymn Book' (with illustrations by Cicely Mary Baker), by a favourite aunt, who had a lovely singing voice and exercised it weekly in her local Baptist church. In it was one of my favourite Easter hymns, 'There is a Green Hill Far Away.
Although primarily a children's hymn, its simplicity directly conveys basic Christian beliefs and encouragement. It was written in the 1840s, by Irish poet/hymnwriter, Cecil Frances Humphreys. She married clergyman William Alexander, who became Bishop of Derry, and later Archbishop of Armagh. It is said to have been inspired whilst she was visiting a sick child, and by a hillock visible from her Londonderry home.
Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander was known for not only her hymn writing, but also her philanthropic work. She was a schoolteacher, and provided the means (primarily from the sales of a successful hymnbook) for a school for the deaf-mute, initially in the family garden. She encouraged a man who hadn't been able to attend school as a child, to join in her class and learn. She gave him the means to live so he could attend, and eventually was able to get a teaching position for him. She gave food to the sick and the poor, always delivering it personally. It was said that the lines 'and trust in his redeeming love, and try his works to do', bear this out. This hymn is always sung to the music composed by William Horsley.

1.There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

5. Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved!
And we must love Him too
And trust in His redeeming blood
And try His works to do.

Sources: Wikipedia, Hymnary.Org, Christopher Idle

Kay Hathway



CHARITY VALUATION DAY

Sat 26 April 2025

10am- 3pm

Professional valuations.
Up to three pieces valued for £5 fee.
Bring your antiques & collectables.





Have a go at valuing a displayed antique piece for £1 a go. One winner will receive a cash prize.

Keys
Auctioneers and Valuers

Keys Fine Art Auctioneers will be happy to discuss items for inclusion in one of their public auctions.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ALL DAY

FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

Fakenham and District Community Archive

With the 80th anniversary of VE day coming next month some people may be surprised to learn that during the war there was a P.O.W. camp near Fakenham. Camp 82 was set up on the Tittleshall Road in Pudding Norton in the early 1940s, originally to house Italian and Ukrainian and later German prisoners, with some of them working on local farms. It closed in 1948 and in 1964 became a site for mobile homes called Green Lane estate.
In this photograph, donated by Erika Alcock, fifth from the left is her father, Heinz Utzat, who was interned there in 1944 at the age of 21.
If you would like to see any more of our huge collection of photos, look at our displays and scrapbooks and meet lots of other Fakenham people you must come to one of our meetings in church, from 2.00 to 4.00 on the last Tuesday of every month. You can also see them on our website which is www.fakenhamcommunityarchive.weebly.com

Howard Young



Can Beacon readers tell us anything about these prisoners? Did any of them remain in the Fakenham area after release? Please contact the Editor if you can add to the story. aes22@btinternet.com

Floodlighting Sponsorship



Many people comment on the fact that it is a joy to see St Peter and St Paul Church floodlit during the evenings, especially in the dark winter months. We are launching a new fundraising scheme to help pay for the expense of this by giving donations to commemorate an occasion – perhaps celebrating a birth, a marriage, an important anniversary, or remembering a loved one no longer with us on a special day.

To keep our Church beautifully lit, we invite you to sponsor one of our floodlights for £15 a week. If you are a taxpayer please do consider gift-aiding your contribution (there is a space on the application form for this). The form gives details of how to make your sponsorship payment.

Unless you request anonymity, dedication details will be displayed on the Church noticeboard, our website and included in The Beacon.

If you would like to sponsor our floodlighting to commemorate a special person or event, please use the form available from church or on our website or call us on 01328 862268 for more information.

Flood lighting sponsors

14 Feb 2025 June Berry in memory of Gordon Berry, 'A much loved husband'.

19 April 2025 Lily Bothamley in memory of Lily Hewitt 'For Mum with love'.

Town Council news

Dementia group enjoy going to the gym!
Each Friday morning a group of people with dementia, and their carers, meet in the Community Room at the Trap Lane Leisure Centre. The group is the initiative of Carl Fairbrother, the Manager. It is run by volunteers, and about 20 people and carers enjoy craft activities, listening to music, doing seated exercise or just enjoying the edible donations! The session provides a safe space for them, and their carers can use the gym to exercise, or to take a break from caring duties. This friendly group has been running since March 2024 and is growing in popularity. If you know someone who would benefit, please invite them along. Donations are always welcome too, of course.

Community Spirit Award
We are delighted to announce that the inaugural Fakenham Community Spirit Award, will be awarded at the Annual Assembly, which will be held in the Parish Church on 22nd May 2025 at 6pm. We know there are plenty of unsung heroes in our town. Do come along to the Annual Assembly to see who takes this prestigious new award home.

VE80 update
The closing event for the afternoon entertainment on 8th May will now be performed by the Fakenham Town Band. The Salvation Army band will host a concert at the Parish Church on Saturday 10th. More details to follow next month and on social media.

Angela Glynn, Chairman, Fakenham Town Council

April Walks with Fakenham Ramblers

Saturday walks start at 10.30am. Wednesday walks begin at 10am. Bring a packed lunch on Saturday walks which are generally over 6 miles. Otherwise, sturdy boots and waterproofs are all that's required. Please arrive ten minutes or so before the walk start time..

Please contact the walk leader for up-to-date walk information.

Date & Time	Venue	Grid Reference Postcode Distance	Walk Leader(s)
Saturday 5th April 10.30am	**Bintree and North Elmham** Park/meet at Bintree Church Car Park £1 donation per person	OS 238/ 017234 **NR20 5NJ** 9 miles	**Jane & Dave** 07790 642185
Wednesday 9th April 10am	**Blickling** Park/meet at main NT Car Park, Blickling Parking free for NT members	OS 238/ 176286 **NR11 6NT** 5.5miles	**Barbara & Richard** 01328 862834
Saturday 19th April 10.30am	**Aldborough** Park/meet around the Village Green [playground end]	OS 252/ 184342 **NR11 7NX** 9.6miles	**Bridget** 07866 034378
Wednesday 23rd April 10am	**Glandford** Park/meet Manor Farm Barns. Drive through the carpark, park in field on left	OS 251/ 042414 **NR25 7JP** 5.5 miles	**Vic & Jenny** 01263 713613

Town Talk *by Wayfarer*

Sometimes when I'm in church and visitors are wandering around I like to point out the dedication on the south wall to the grandfather of Michael Palin. This simple plaque reads: ' In loving memory of Edward Watson Palin who practised for 32 years in this town and district. He was born on 26 July 1868 and died 19 January 1937.' Many of us have connections with Michael through the television programmes of his travels or the many books he has written. Back in 2013, Fakenham Junior school wanted to mark its centenary with something a bit special. Why not, suggested then head teacher Lesley Cook, invite Michael Palin to raise the Union flag where it was first raised all those years ago. So she did and he agreed to come. I recall that afternoon with pleasure. Michael delighted in being shown around the school by a posse of pupils and was happy to talk to all and sundry. He remembered his childhood growing up in a house called The Oaks close to our present community centre although he never knew his grandfather who pre-deceased him. Another strand to this story which I think is worth a mention concerns the metal centenary fence which



decorates the Queens Road frontage of the school. Many pupils had a hand in designing the images and patterns which were cut out in metal by local company AOT and installed in sections. Lots of us have been attracted by this 'work of art' and I often pause for a good look when passing by. You should, too.

Wayfarer

This article was first published in January 2023



Love film?

Why not join the Fakenham Film Society?

We show classic, foreign and contemporary films at the historic Central Cinema here in Fakenham. Ten films are shown each year.

La Familie Bélier (2014)
Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm
Further details: www.fakenhamfilmsociety.org.uk

Subscription remains at £10 for the year.
Members pay £5.00 non-members pay £7.00.
Note: The cinema has a 'cash only' policy.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, GREAT RYBURGH

Sunday, 20th April
6 a.m. at Little Ryburgh

Easter Sunrise Service (All Saints' ruin) followed by breakfast at St. Andrew's.

Details from 01328 829413

Can you deliver The Beacon?

We need deliverers in the following areas – you don't need to live there!

Thorn Rd and Heather Barrow Court
Wensum Way
Greenway Lane

All help appreciated! Thank you!

Quiz at The Gallow

very popular – book early!

Fri 4 April 2025
Doors open at 7.00 pm, 7.30pm start.
£4 per person, teams of up to six.
Raffle
In aid of Runners Next The Sea

Amigos Grill will be providing food.
(Serena can provide a menu for pre-orders)
Book your team in with Serena on 07496256760





Let's meet . . . Ann Harris, volunteer and Trustee at the Gas Museum



Born and raised in Greenwich, Ann became a pharmacy technician on leaving school. She met John, a Norfolk man, when she was twenty and they were married in Greenwich. John was employed by Wimpey, which meant he was frequently on the move. The first place they lived as a couple, was Southampton, for John to finish a contract. Then they relocated to Suffolk, and the couple's two daughters were both born there. Before the girls came along, Ann continued her pharmacy work, but when both were at school, she branched out to become a CDT technician at the local secondary school. Their last work-related move was to Leicestershire, when the girls were 15 and 18 years old. In Leicester Ann became a school IT technician. She also volunteered at the Lutterworth museum. Retirement beckoned and they felt that a small town in Norfolk would be ideal, having always lived in villages. They found that Fakenham had many amenities and they both loved the house, from which you could walk to most things. John volunteers at the Hawk and Owl trust, and Ann at the Gas Museum. Ann is volunteer co-ordinator and has recently become a trustee joining five other prominent local people.

Ann tells me that this is the only surviving Gasworks in England and Wales, with all its equipment intact. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, giving a unique insight into our cultural, social and industrial heritage. To find out more about the Fakenham Gas Museum, visit www.fakenhamgasmuseum.com or email enquiries-fakenhamgasworks@outlook.com It opens from Easter until the end of October on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am – 2pm

What is your favourite view of Fakenham? From either side of the Hempton Bridge.

What is your greatest strength? Patience. **And weakness?** Chocolate.

Who has been a great influence in your life? My great aunt Nel, who was crippled with arthritis, but managed to work and was never miserable.

Your earliest memory? My grandfather lived with us and always sat in a wooden chair. One day the chair legs went through the floorboards!

Do you still have anything from your childhood? Yes, a teddy that I was given by an aunt for my first birthday. It now sports a baby-grow to conceal worn patches.

Have you ever been grateful for the kindness of a stranger? Yes, some strangers rescued me when my car stopped dead up a hill, on the way from Suffolk to Cambridge to work. They not only diagnosed the fault as a broken fanbelt, but had one in their car, and put it on.

Do you have a religious faith? Not really. I think you can be a Christian without going to church.

What might you buy on impulse? Shoes, because I have great difficulty in getting any to fit

What troubles you about modern life? That children can read online things that aren't necessarily true, and the older ones might be stirred up by 'knowledge porn'.

What would John say about you? That I was helpful, tolerant, and sometimes hard of hearing!

Any advice that you might pass on? Don't say or do anything that you might later wish to reverse.

What is the best part of being at the Gas Museum? Meeting people. We have visitors from all over the country, who are really interested in what we show.

And do you have any concerns? That we're all older people who run it. We do need young people to take an interest.

Does the Museum put on any special events? Yes, we have had two open weekends, where visitors can watch a video of the gasworks, and there may be special displays. Over the two we held last year, 300 people visited, which was an amazing testament to our industrial heritage.

What are you really good at? Organisation.

What do you like doing in your spare time? Apart from volunteering at the food bank, I enjoy gardening, always have a jigsaw on the go and like to read crime novels.

What is your current read? Dark Sky Island by Lara Dearman.

What sort of music do you listen to? 'I rather like listening to Radio Caroline, because they play lots of old stuff.

Do you have any outstanding ambitions? To live to see what my grandchildren make of their lives.

Your luxuries on a desert island? A good book and a bar of chocolate.

If you had a whole day to yourself? I'd garden, especially as before my recent hip replacement, I couldn't do any.

A good holiday that you've enjoyed? John and I went to Antarctica and it was the trip of a lifetime. We set sail from Argentina and went through the Drake Passage. The weather was perfect, but it is the beauty, the silence, that stays in our minds. And we must make sure it remains as it is.

What lessons has life taught you? Things don't always turn out as you planned.

Kay Hathway

Regular events at Fakenham Library, Oak Street.

Mondays

Free Legal Advice NCLS ***booking essential***
2nd Monday in month 10am

Family History help ***booking essential***
1st Monday in month 10.30am

Audio Book Club
3rd Monday in month, 10.30am

Computer help ***booking essential***
Weekly from 10.30am

Just a Cuppa
Weekly 11.30am - 12.30pm

Games group for Adults
Weekly, 1pm

After school crafts
Weekly, term time 3.30pm

Tuesdays

Craft Group Drop in
1st Tuesday in month, 10.30am

Reading group
Check dates with staff, 10.30am

Creative Writing ***booking essential***
3rd Tuesday in month, 10am

Watercolour painting ***booking advisable***
2nd Tuesday in month, 1pm

Lego Club
Weekly, 3.30pm (2pm school holidays)

Thursdays

Bounce and Rhyme / Stay, Play and Chat
Weekly, 2pm

Saturdays

Family Fun session, games, Lego etc
Weekly 10am

– for further info or to book where necessary call 01328 862715

IMPORTANT : Launch of the 2025 Christmas Tree Festival Fakenham Parish Church

Our 25th Christmas Tree Festival will run from November 28th to December 4th 2025. The official launch will be at **7.00pm on Wednesday 23rd April** in church. Members of the team will be present to explain how it all happens and to answer questions.

If your charity wishes to take part it will need to send one or more representatives who will be *actively involved* if your application is successful.

Application packs will be issued on the night so it is important to be present at the meeting. They will not be sent either electronically or by post so please put the date in your diaries.

CTF Team





Christ Church, Fulmodeston



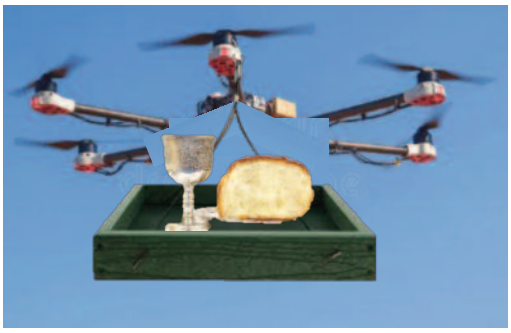
This Easter we are delighted that Bishop Jane Steen will be with us for the Easter services, as forty days of penitence translate into the joy of Resurrection.
As has become customary (our baked jacket potatoes are, after all, the stuff of legend) we shall again be welcoming a group from the Oxford Leg of the 2025 Pilgrim Cross pilgrimage to Walsingham, stopping at the Old School Hall for lunch and a break before the final stage of their pilgrimage. Pilgrim Cross, https://pilgrimcross.org.uk/about/, is a registered charity, designed to be accessible and inclusive, particularly for the unwaged and those on low incomes who might want to participate in a pilgrimage but may feel unable to do so. We are always delighted to receive them and to support the efforts and enthusiasm of all the pilgrims and the volunteers who make the pilgrimage possible – and this year we have our shiny new Walsingham Way Pilgrims' Stamp with which to certify their efforts.
A very happy Easter to you all from us at Fulmodeston.

April services

Sunday 6th	6pm Evening Prayer
Palm Sunday 13th	Holy Communion 11am
Good Friday 18th	A Good Friday Liturgy 10am
Holy Saturday 19th	Vigil and Confirmations at Fakenham 7.30pm
Easter Day 20th	Easter Day Communion at Fakenham 10am
27th April	Evening Prayer at 6pm

 Carolyn Thomas-Coxhead

Volunteer needed to fly drone



With so many demands on our lives these days, sadly the times of our Church Services are not always convenient. and are sometimes put to one side, in favour of other activities.
A proposal to this problem has been made to the PCC which may resolve the problem.
The idea is to have the Sunday morning service videoed, and the highlights (if any) posted on the internet.
Nothing new there, you say. A Floyd Polaris, a technical consultant new to Fakenham, has proposed that when someone 'logs on' to the site to watch the recording of the Communion Service, an alert is sent to a 'designated operative', and they will fly a drone to the location of the person watching. The drone will deliver (Amazon style) a portion of 'pre-blessed' bread & wine, which can be taken at the appropriate time in the 'televised' service!

Trials have already begun to check the range of the drone, which is limited by trees and buildings, so the drone 'pilot' will therefore need to control the flight from the top of the Church tower, from where there is an uninterrupted signal.
The PCC is therefore looking for a fit and able person to ascend the Church tower whenever an alert is sent out, and then to fly the drone to wherever it is needed across Fakenham!
Anyone interested in applying for this position, or to be one of the first recipients of this innovative enterprise should contact Roger Burbidge on 01328 851848

Old Fakenhamian

When driving I often listen to Classic FM. The other day the presenter said how lovely the first signs of spring were when the daffodils arrived in the supermarkets! I was in Tatterford and the banks of the Church were covered in snowdrops and aconites and the catkins were waving in the breeze. Poor presenter, I thought. It then occurred to me that this was possibly true of many city dwellers and how blessed we are living in our lovely county where we are fully in touch with the signs of the changing seasons. As a little girl in Sculthorpe, my friend Margie and I used to collect posies of primroses to take home to our mothers and used to delight in the sight of the tiny violets that grew along a ditch on our way to school. Of course, nowadays, we know better than to pick wildflowers and should leave where they are found. Last year, I checked our old primrose site and found that the farmer now ploughs right up to the hedgerow and alas those primroses bloom no more.

After winter, how we welcome the arrival of April in all its gentle glory! We turn to the great Lakeland poet Wordsworth who wrote " … a violet by a mossy stone half hidden from the eye! Fair as a star, when only one is shining in the sky". And of course, we all know his famous words about "A host of golden daffodils … Fluttering and dancing in the breeze".

This year April is the month in which Easter falls – a Christian celebration of re-birth and hope. It is fitting that these events are celebrated in Spring, a season when we brush ourselves down after the long winter and look forward to the warmth and promise of the months ahead.

I lived for a few years in Bahrain, and one of the things I missed most was the changing of the seasons and disliked the fact that the sun used to plop into the sea at more or less the same time every day of the year. Think of those lovely long May and June evenings and the beauty of twilight that are to come for us over the next months. Oh joy!

Gilly Foortse





New to Fakenham?
Hoping to make new friends?

We have a thriving Mothers' Union at Fakenham Parish Church.

Come and meet us
you will be warmly welcomed!
Meetings on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2pm in the Trinity Room in the Church.

Open Meetings to which everyone is welcome!

Would like a chat beforehand?
Contact Eunice on 01328 855665

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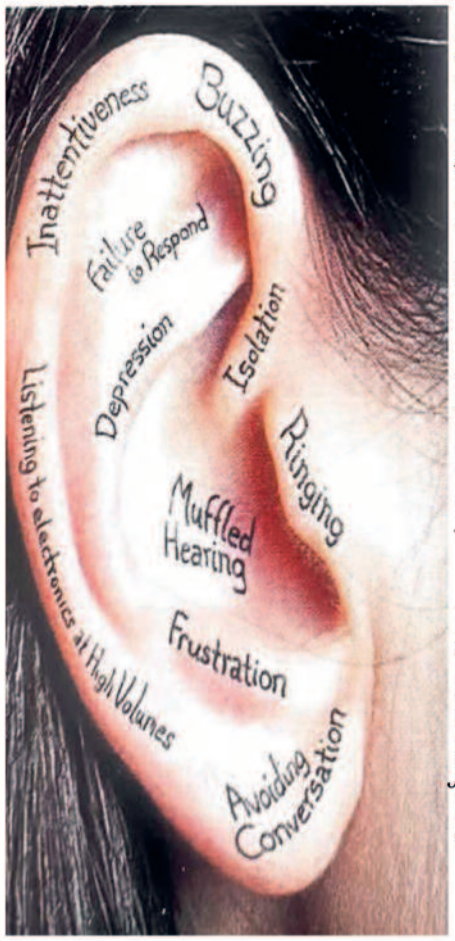
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