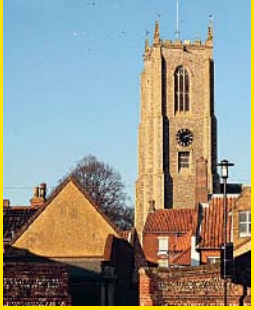
FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

A ROCHA SILVER AWARD WINNER 2024 ECO CHURCH



May 2026

THE BEACON

Church and Community Magazine



* Reflection * Church Quiz
* Salvation Army Concert * Fakenham Bowmen
* Town Council news * Festival of Running photos
* Walks for May * Let's meet * Old Fakenhamian

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www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk

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Email: rector@fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk
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Licensed Lay Ministers:
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Amanda Sands 07789 225011 – Fulmodeston

Church Wardens
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Gail Allcock 07769 811554 – Fakenham
Andrew Lee 01328 878870 – Fulmodeston

Safeguarding Officer:
Anne Peppitt 01328 878355
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Parish Prayers

3 May **Southgates Drive, St Peter's Road, Dairy Farm Close, Clay Pit Lane, Fox Grove.**
All involved in research.

10 May **Waterfield Avenue, Waterfield Close, Jubilee Avenue.** *The work of Christian Aid.*

17 May **Butcher Lane, Caslon Close, Highfield Road, High Terrace.** *All involved in transport.*

24 May **Wells Road, Dewing Close, Clarendon Road.** *Students preparing for/taking exams.*

31 May **Bridges Walk, Massey Court, Olivet Way.**
All those living with addiction, and those who support them.

Cover photo:
The Bishop of Norwich, the Right Reverend Graham James, with the Norfolk African choir at the enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury recently. Photo by the Bishop of Thetford, Bishop Ian Bishop.

"Would you please remember to wipe your feet before coming in here? Some of our clouds are starting to look very grey!"



From the Parish Registers

Funerals

23.3.26	Maria Edgeley
8.4.26	Desmond 'Tommy' White
15.4.26	Samuel Barber
21.4.26	Denise Spark

Weddings

28.3.26	Alex Cole and Bethany Moxon
6.4.26	Ryan Seppings and Kate Moxon

Baptisms

6.4.26	Elouise Seppings

Confirmations

4.4.26	Natasha Banks and Jacob Mitchell at Norwich Cathedral

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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Reflection – Reverend Joy Elkins



A desire for more knowledge, an urge to explore and to discover more about our world and everything in it, and how to use what we learn is part of human nature. It has brought benefits in many areas of life. Progress is the name of the game in our modern world, but, mostly, it seems to be discussed in the area of discovery and achievement. Rarely is it used about human behaviour as a whole.

And yet, if we look at the mess of our world, we might be forgiven for wondering if humankind has really progressed at all. The greedy still grab more than their fair share, cheats still cheat, thieves steal, bullies intimidate to get what they want, disputes still erupt into violence, even warfare. Men, women and children are harmed in the process, and fear, distrust and hatred grow.

In her reflection in the April edition, Tracy, our Rector wrote, "Easter reminds us that transformation is always possible". Because of that Easter promise we can continue to hope for better things. But the transformation Christ bought for us is not about God waving a magic wand and making bad things go away. It is about the transformation of people's hearts and minds. It is about taking onboard Jesus' command to "Love one another as I have loved you".

Proverbs 4:23 talks of "guarding one's heart". For what we hold dear in our hearts will drive us, will drive our behaviour. If we consider ourselves superior to others, if we lust after money, or fame, or power, then that will influence how we behave. If, on the other hand, our longing is to build more equal and supportive communities, if it's for a fairer and more just world, then we will strive for something very different.

The challenge for us all is to open or minds and hearts to that transforming love of Christ, then to listen to other views, other ways of seeing things, and evaluate new things, trusting that His love will show us what is right and how to move forward in a better way.

We may not feel we can change the world but we can do our best to change our little bit of it and together we can do much. Remember, too, that 'mighty oaks from little acorns grow'. When our discoveries are used to benefit everyone, when injustices end and the world's people are treated equally, when people, groups and nations find ways to get along without resorting to violence - now that really will be progress.

The Reverend Joy Elkins





Churches around Fakenham welcome *you* in May

Parish Church **Upper Market Place, Fakenham NR21 9DY**

Sun 3 May	10am Holy Communion
Sun 10 May	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10am All Age Worship
	6.30pm Choral Evensong
Sun 17 May	10am Holy Communion
Sun 24 May	10am Café Church Holy Communion
Sun 31 May	10am Holy Communion

Other Services 9.30am every Thursday Holy Communion, a short, quiet service.

9.45am every Monday (except Bank Holidays) Stepping Stones for pre-school children with a grown-up. (Including free children's clothes Swap Shop)

Salvation Army **Oak Street, Fakenham.**
Every Sunday morning at 10.30 am

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

Fakenham Baptist Community Church
Sundays 10:30-12:00 at Fakenham Community Centre. All are welcome.
Please note: *no service 10th May. The Leadership Team invite you to join them at the Salvation Army, 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

Orthodox Church of the Holy Transfiguration, Scarborough Road, Gt Walsingham
Every Sunday morning 10.00am Hours 10.30am Liturgy.

Holy Trinity, Hempton
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 continue to pray for peace for the people of Ukraine and all areas of conflict.
"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".

Floodlighting Sponsorship - helping our light shine

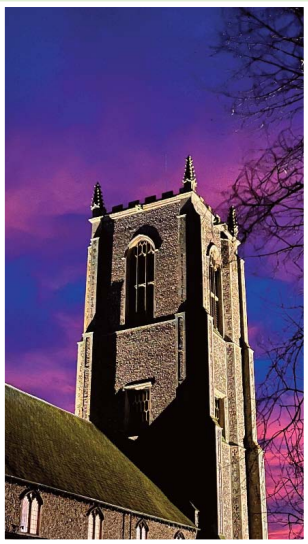
19th May — *To commemorate the 70th wedding anniversary of the late Ron & Eileen Howell (Dawn Humphrey)*

29th May — *In memory of Tony George; dad, grandfather and husband (Chloe)*

Thank you.

You can keep our Church beautifully lit by sponsoring one of our floodlights for £15 a week, perhaps to celebrate a special occasion or to remember a loved one.

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



Fakenham Choral Society

COME and SING DAY

Fakenham Academy, Field Lane.
9 May 10.30
All voice parts welcome

Free concert @ 4.30pm
Audience donations to Age Concern Fakenham

Full details: fakenhamchoralsociety.org
(follow the Come & Sing links)

SUMMER CONCERT

20 June 7.30pm
Fakenham Parish Church

Vivaldi's Gloria and Mozart's Coronation Mass.

Details and booking:
www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/forthcoming-1



AGE CONCERN FAKENHAM AREA MINI BUS

Could you be a Volunteer Assistant or Driver?

We need YOU!

Providing transport to Fakenham for the over 55s

Collecting from many villages, including **Cley, Colkirk Burnham Market & Weasenham and town centre**

Various weekday routes
private hire also available

Call Adrian on **07990 026839**
to check on days and routes

Let's meet… James Platten, co-owner of Taylor's café



James Platten was born and raised, along with younger sister, in Wells-next-the-Sea. He attended Alderman Peel school and then went to the College of West Anglia to study Hospitality and Catering. From the age of thirteen, he worked at the Golden Fleece in Wells, starting as the bottle boy, then a kitchen aide and as bar staff. After a brief position working with people with Special Education Needs, he went to Holkham Hall beach café to gain experience. He later got the position of Visitor Manager at Sandringham. He was in charge of the visitors, the music and the catering. In 2024 the Oak Street premises, Taylor's, was for sale and he and his father decided to run their own business. They opened in September that year and appreciate great support from customers who also support the special event evenings, when they are able to serve alcohol under licence. The building is full of character, which lends itself to hosting both day and evening events. There have been mussel nights, Indian supper clubs and the Round-the-World cuisine events. James is the operational manager, whilst his father, Garry, looks after the finance.

James has been with Claire, a family support worker, for 18 years and they married in 2019 They have a six-year-old daughter, Florence.

What is the most underrated thing about Fakenham? There is so much to do and see here.

If you could change something about yourself, what would it be? I'd be less impulsive.

Is there a gadget you couldn't be without? My phone. It's my diary, and access to the world.

Do you have a pet hate? Noisy eaters and the noisy effects of crisp packets and sweets, especially in the cinema.

Who has been a great influence in your life? My Mum, who sadly died a few years ago. She was kindness and hospitality personified.

What was your biggest decision? Whilst working at Sandringham, we learnt that the late Queen Elizabeth was very poorly at Balmoral, and I had the job of planning and delivering a response for visitors, who would eventually come to pay their respect to our longest serving monarch. On one day, 43,000 visitors came to pay their respects and lay flowers.

What is your greatest strength? I am a good operator and keep the wheels turning, especially on busy days and when planning other events.

And weakness? I'm not a person for detail. I generally want to get things moving, so others have to pay more attention to the minutiae.

Your earliest memory? Being at a family barbeque with the paddling pool, lots of family and friends and of course the dogs. I would have been 4 or 5.

Have you ever been touched by the kindness of a stranger? Yes, the family was on holiday in Majorca. I was aged 10 or 11 and decided to walk to the town to spend my few pesetas. I got completely lost and in my visible distress an English woman approached and walked me back to the hotel. It left me with both huge relief and a fear of getting lost.

Do you have a religious faith? Yes. I attended Sunday school as a child and I try very hard to be a good Christian.

What would you buy on impulse? Definitely food. I love street food, café food and bread.

Your biggest extravagance? Holidays. We have one main holiday, with the year broken up by special weekends away

Where would you like to travel to that you haven't been to? Costa Rica, where the government don't have a military presence or weapons. The monies can then be used for the benefit of society. Costa Rica now has the happiest people.

What concerns you about modern life? AI and deep-fake news. Both mean we can't trust the news we're given.

What are you currently reading? 'Vicious Elegant Bastards : the Truth behind the legend of the Krays', by Jacky Hyams.

What might Claire say about you? That I'm the sexiest person in Fakenham!!

Do you have any regrets? I liked to do things my way and sometimes placed my trust in others, while being more discerning, and asking my father, may have led to better outcomes.

What do you like best about your work? Meeting people and providing them with lovely food and drink.

And the least? The effects of climate and political fluctuations which can alter the availability of various foodstuffs.

What do you do in your limited spare time? Be with family, cook for family and friends, have a couple of pints at the local. I am also a Freemason, which raises monies for local causes.

The secret of happiness? Being comfortable in one's own skin.

What lessons has life taught you? The value of human kindness.

Kay Hathway

Town Council News

Town of Culture bid

Beacon readers may have seen in the local press that Fakenham has entered a bid to become the UK Town of Culture after a well-attended public meeting attracted over 30 people, and there was general enthusiasm for the project. Of course, there was some negative comment on social media - but when is there not?

Our entry, entitled Fakenham - Town of Stories, has been received by the Dept of Culture Media and Sport and we await the outcome.

Many people offered ideas and support, but Mel Harriss of Shop Fakenham put her heart and soul into the first draft of the submission, so a big thank you to her. Lesley, our Town Clerk, submitted the final document on behalf of the town. If we are successful, the town will receive £60,000 to go to the next stage of the competition.

Town markets

Fakenham now has three markets to its name. The weekly Thursday Charter Market is as popular as ever with more stalls taking part each month. Our office team promotes it every week on our social media feeds (which I know not everyone reads!), with weather updates and introductions to new stallholders.

The Thursday flea market is getting going again as the weather improves and will get busier throughout the spring and summer months.

And in only its second month the Food Market, organised by Shop Fakenham attracted 20 stalls selling an enticing variety of food and generating more footfall to the town centre on the second Saturday of each month. Support your local traders!

Angela Glynn,
Chairman of Fakenham Town Council

New retail outlet welcomed at Morrison's

I had the pleasure of opening the multi-million pound redevelopment by the Motor Fuel Group at Morrison's on 9th April. With the car-wash and EV charging points alongside the high street brands it will be a great addition to the town's facilities. 19 new jobs have been created as part of this improvement.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

FAKENHAM AND DISTRICT 2026

Annual General Meeting

Sat 11 July at 10am at The Salvation Army Hall, Oak Street, Fakenham. NR21 9DY.

Our Guest speaker will be Mr. Gavin Green, from Fakenham Academy.

"How I live out my faith as Headteacher of a secular school."

The AGM business meeting will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch.

All are very welcome



Fakenham Churches Together

Pentecost Picnic 2026

Fellowship, Fun and Food

Fakenham Parish Church (NR21 9BX)
Church Grounds if fine – Inside Church if wet

Pentecost – Sunday 24th May 2026
12 noon onwards

BRING YOUR PICNIC AND CHAIR OR RUG
TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED
All are very welcome

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Fakenham Fellowship Band Concert

Fakenham Parish Church
Friday 22nd May
7.30pm



No tickets – No charge

Cash donations welcome on the night or go to –

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fakenham-fellowship-band-concert--1020375

This year's summer concert is a fundraiser for Prostate Cancer Research UK. It's a condition that has affected several of our band members both past and present. As usual, there is no charge for our concert but we do ask everyone to be as generous as possible by donating on the evening or, if you not able to enjoy the concert live on the night, please visit the band's JustGiving page at https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fakenham-fellowship-band-concert--1020375 Thank you for your generosity.

The story of a hymn – Jesus, lover of my soul

"Jesus, lover of my soul" is perhaps one of the most personal hymns penned by Charles Wesley. Introducing the term 'lover' did not find favour with some sensitive souls with its intimate and personal expression. It was written in 1740 and caused debate about whether good for private meditation rather than public worship.

There's no doubt that Charles Wesley was a prolific hymn writer and 'always meticulous' in his preparation for each hymn. In this hymn he emphasises that God is always there for us in our times of need. He draws from The Wisdom of Solomon 11:23-26,

For thou lovest all the things that are
and abhors nothing which thou hast made:

Other well-known hymns of Charles Wesley amongst many, are Christ whose Glory fills the Skies, And Can it Be, Love Divine All Loves Excelling, Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Lo He comes with Clouds Descending.

There have been several tunes written for this hymn; the most popular and current is Aberystwyth. The composer of this was Welshman Joseph Parry (1841-1903) who wrote it in 1876. At this time, he was the first professor of music at the recently founded University College Wales, Aberystwyth. I find this tune in a minor key, a poignant accompaniment to Wesley's words.

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll.
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Sources Discipleship Ministries; Wikipedia.

Kay Hathway



FADLOS Presents *Frozen*

FADLOS, Norfolk's premier and award-winning theatre company, proudly presents Disney's Frozen The West End Musical at Fakenham Community Centre from Tuesday 12th to Saturday 16th May 2026, with evening performances at 7:30pm and a Saturday matinee at 2:30pm.

Join Elsa, Anna, Olaf and friends for a magical stage spectacular packed with stunning songs, dazzling costumes and all the heart, humour and adventure audiences know and love.

New Fakenham Food Market

The new Food Market, launched on Saturday 14th March, takes place on the second Saturday of each month. Our aim is to revive the tradition of a Saturday food market in the town and celebrate the wonderful food producers we have here in our part of Norfolk. The market brings together a carefully chosen mix of local growers, bakers and artisan producers, offering everything from fresh produce to handmade treats. It runs from 9.30am–1.30pm on Upper and Lower Market Place in the centre of town, creating a lively and welcoming market atmosphere.

The next markets will take place on 9th May and 13th June. We would love to see you there so we can all support Fakenham as a vibrant place to live, visit and shop.

Claire Howard

May Walks with Fakenham Ramblers

Please note that ALL walks now start 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)
Sat 2th May 10am	**Harpley** - Park / meet at car park behind Dogotel (from Massingham turn off A148)	OS 250/TF772254 **PE31 6UD** 8 miles	**Lesley & Christine** 07875 177210
Weds 6th May 10am	**Holgate Hill - Park/meet at** Holgate Hill Car Park	**OS 251/TG098416** 5.5 miles	**Sue & John** 01328 710138
Sat 16th May 10am	**Foxley Wood** - Park / Meet at number **2** Car park. No dogs allowed.	OS 238/TG054225 **NR20 4QR** 8 miles	**Ann & Christine** 07798 664815
Weds 20th May, 10am	**Wells** - Meet at The Buttlands	OS 251/916434 **NR23 1EZ** 6 miles	**Alison** 01328 712155
Sat 30th May, 10am	**Thornham-Holme Circular** Park/meet at The Lifeboat Inn	OS 250/TF729435 **PE36 6LT** 8 miles	**Ann & Christine** 07798 664815

FAKENHAM AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ARCHIVE



In the Archive this month we've been thinking a lot about how things change as they grow older and this month's Archive photo is a good example. Seen in 1993 these West Raynham parishioners are all OAPs, enjoying having a party in RAF West Raynham. Donated by Keith Eglen, his parents Vic and Jean are on the back right.

RAF West Raynham opened in the 1930s and closed in 1994. The station headquarters was left unused for many years until more recently when the SHQ Veterans Central Charity renovated the buildings to promote social inclusion among veterans and ex emergency services by providing a social environment supporting well-being, that includes a cafe, library and venue for events and activities.

If you would like to see many more photographs like this as well as displays, slide shows and scrapbooks from Fakenham Archive you can 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 many on our website: fakenhamanddistrictcommunityarchive.weebly.com

Howard Young

Old Fakenhamian

Many of you will remember the USAF base in Sculthorpe and may have even worked there, including my late father Alf Mace, and you will remember how cordial and generous the Americans were to us locals.

One day my mother and I were having tea with friends on the base in one of the 'tobacco' houses when suddenly the venetian blinds were closed - I can see them now in my mind's eye - they were in soft pastel colours and a novelty to me as we had curtains at home. The mothers brought out a great bowl of 'candies' notably Hershey bars for us children to enjoy - a memorable moment as they were quite different from our English sweets, which were in those days a rarity in themselves.

The year was 1958. It was only many decades later that I found out what had happened on that day. It appears that Sculthorpe had a great secret, that is, it housed an atomic bomb. That day a master sergeant in a terrible state after his wife had announced she was leaving him, locked himself in the bomb silo, threatening to kill himself and everyone by detonating the bomb.

The base was closed down with no-one allowed to enter or leave and all communications were shut down. My father was driving an American Officer back to the base, I think from Lakenheath, and they kept stopping at phone boxes trying to phone his girlfriend on the base and they could not get connected.

Apparently, the standoff lasted 8 hours until the man was persuaded to hand over his weapon. The truth remained a secret for many years. After Mum and Dad moved back to Sculthorpe in the mid Eighties they were approached by a film company which was planning a programme on the subject, and it was then that I heard the reason behind the venetian blinds and Hershey bars.

Mum said to me: 'I was never happier nor more relieved to get back home to our house in Moor Lane' - we then looked at each other and laughed at the ridiculous notion that getting back to the village would have saved us from certain death and that the closing of the venetian blinds could have made the slightest difference.

For the purpose of this article, I googled USAF Sculthorpe and was surprised to discover that the base was home to 10,000 personnel and was the largest and most strategically important in the country. Right on our doorstep!

Gilly Foortse

Christ Church, Fulmodeston

Longer and brighter days, colour in the fields and gardens, birds in the hedgerows, cattle in the fields: what's not to like? Some of God's creatures may be a bit more welcome among us than others (just why exactly don't Muntjacs know their place and stick to it?) but they are all testimony to Life Going On. At the time of writing this, things are looking very bleak in the political world: the best we can do, perhaps, is to keep on keeping on.

And this is what enables us to look forward to a summer of church and village activities and as always extend a warm welcome to all who may wish to drop in for a bit of fellowship at one of our services.

May Services

Sunday 3rd	6pm	Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday 10th	11am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday 17th	10am	Parish Communion at Fakenham
Sunday 24th	6pm	Whit Sunday Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday 31st	4pm	COME AND SEE our church! Tea and cake - all welcome

Carolyn Thomas-Coxhead

Record Turnout for Easter Sunday Festival of Running

Active Fakenham's Easter Sunday Festival of Running, featuring an official UK Athletics 5K race, a 1K Fun Run and the popular Toddle 'n' Trike event for under-fives, has been hailed a fantastic success by organisers and participants alike.

Despite chilly conditions, record numbers took part, creating a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere throughout the morning. There were around 350 entries for the main 5K race and approximately 160, mostly children, in the Fun Run.

One local family perfectly captured the spirit of the event, with three generations taking part!

Active Fakenham would like to extend a huge thank you to the volunteers and sponsors who made the event possible. More than 65 volunteers supported the day, including a dedicated team from Runners Next The Sea, helping to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Organisers took precautionary measures in response to forecast windy conditions, and the day passed safely and without incident.

Richard Crook



Tom and Ted Sheils (Photo: Josh De Lyon)



5K run (Photo: Alastair Robinson)

Esme Jonas winner of 5k race (Photo: Alastair Robinson)



Volunteer Editor role available – TALKING TIMES

If you are looking for a volunteer role that really makes a difference, enjoy admin tasks and are familiar with computers, we'd love to hear from you.

The Talking Times is an audio newspaper and magazine for people with visual impairments in the Fakenham and Dereham area.
The purpose of your role is to receive via email recorded news stories from our readers, to check them for clarity, and then to incorporate them with other pre-recorded material to form the finished product for our listeners. A laptop PC can be provided if needed, and full training and support will also be given.

You'll be part of a busy team, but with the convenience of working from your own home.
For more information or to register your interest, please contact secretary@fakenhamtalkingtimes.org
We'd love to hear from you!

Community Noticeboard

Spring Fair
and
Book Sale

St Andrew's Church, Gt Ryburgh
Sat 23 May 9.30 – 12 noon

Also - Plants, gifts, heritage displays
St Andrew's Pantry
OPEN for refreshments

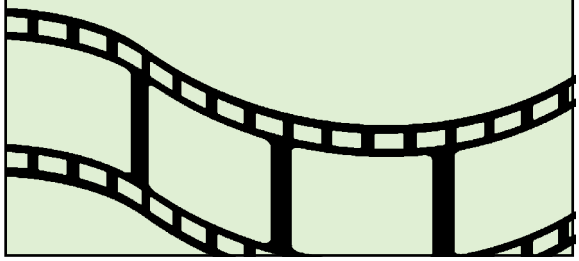
Details from 01328 829413

Fakenham Film Society

Thelma and Louise (1991)
Thurs 14 May

La Famille Belier (2014)
Thurs 11 June

All screened at 7.30pm
at Central Cinema, Fakenham



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The Beacon?

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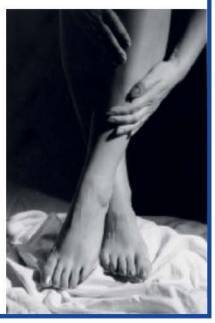
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