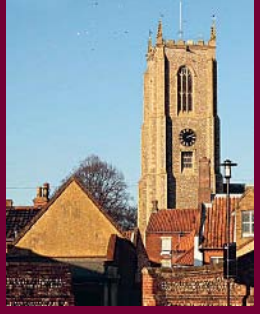
FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

A ROCHA SILVER AWARD WINNER 2024 ECO CHURCH



September 2026

THE BEACON

Church and Community Magazine



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* Rector's Reflection * Parish Administrator Vacancy
* Ukes and Fadlos Concerts * Let's Meet
* Quiz Nights * Old Fakenhamian
* Town Council News * Walk with the Ramblers

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www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk

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Beacon Deadline
Editorial content to Audrey Sharp by 1st of every month
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Parish Prayers

6th Sept	The Lawn, Ratcliffe Road, Oxborough Lane. *Returning to school/new school/university. Staff and students.*
13th Sept	Salmons Way, Townshend Green West, Sheldrake Close. *Sports clubs, people, gyms. Active Fakenham.*
20th	Gwyn Crescent, Searle Close, Townshend Green North and East. *The environment, our commitment and care for it. Climate change.*
27th	Trinity Road, Saxon Way, Meadow Walk. *Artists and craftspeople.*

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

9 August	Isla Cunningham
20 Sept	Aurelia Poppy Weston

Funerals

5 August	Glenda Boley
10 August	David Arthur Wright
24 August	Michael Stanley Ambrose

Cover photo:
Artwork by a young person in Stepping Stones

"No we don't need air conditioning up here. Perhaps you're thinking of the other place - that's a bit hotter"



Rector's reflection - Growing up today



It is not always easy to grow up in today's world. Children and young people are surrounded by opportunities that previous generations could hardly have imagined, but they also face pressures that can feel heavy for them and for their families. Many parents and carers are doing their very best while coping with the cost of everyday life, busy work patterns, worries about the future, and the challenge of keeping childhood safe, joyful and hopeful.

In the middle of all this, small acts of kindness and encouragement matter. A smile at the school gate, a listening ear, a safe place to play, a word of reassurance to a tired parent; these things may seem ordinary, but they can make a real difference. Children flourish when they know they are noticed, valued and loved. Families are strengthened when they know they are not alone.

As a church, we believe that every person is precious. That belief is not just something to say on Sundays; it is something to live out in the life of our community. We may not be able to solve every problem faced by young families, but we can offer welcome, patience, practical care and hope. We can create spaces where children are free to be themselves, where parents, carers and grandparents can pause for breath, and where friendships can begin.

One of those spaces is 'Stepping Stones', which meets every Monday morning. It is a simple session, but simple things can be powerful. We share a story, sing songs and say a short prayer of thanks. For the children, there is music, movement, imagination and fun. For adults, there is a chance to connect with others, to have a conversation, and perhaps to feel a little less isolated at the start of the week.

A story can open up a child's imagination. A song can bring confidence and laughter. A prayer of thanks, however short, can help us notice the good things we might otherwise miss: food on the table, a friend beside us, the beauty of the world, the love that holds us through difficult days. These small rhythms help children learn that life is not only about rushing, worrying or getting things right; it is also about belonging, wonder and gratitude.

Many people who receive The Beacon may not think of themselves as churchgoers, and that is perfectly all right. The door is still open. 'Stepping Stones' is not about having all the answers or pretending family life is easy. It is about sharing a little time together, offering encouragement, and helping children take their next small steps with confidence.

If you care for a young child, or know someone who does, you would be very welcome to come along on a Monday. And if 'Stepping Stones' is not for you, perhaps there is still something we can all do: notice the children and young people around us, encourage the families raising them, and help make our community a place where they can grow up knowing they matter.

The Revd Tracy Jessop



Churches around Fakenham welcome *you* in September

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

Sun 6	10am Holy Communion
Sun 13	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 10am All Age Worship 6.30pm Choral Evensong
Sun 20	10am Holy Communion 3pm Pet Blessing Service
Sun 27	10am Café Church 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
Every Sunday 10:30am Fakenham Community Centre in Oak St.

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.

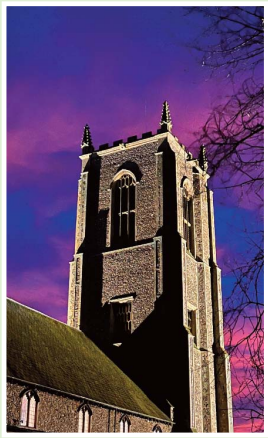
We continue to pray for peace for all the people of Gaza, Israel, Iran and throughout the Middle East at this time.
We continue to pray for peace for the people of Ukraine and all areas of conflict.
"God of peace and justice, we pray for the laying down of weapons in every place of war. We pray for all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

Floodlighting Sponsorship - helping our light shine

12/13 Sept To remember Gavin George - friend, brother, son, and father. (Lesley Lindsay)

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.



Town Council News

Aldiss Park

At its meeting in July the council considered the need for managing the piece of land at Aldiss Park that sits alongside the road leading to Fakenham Racecourse. There is a path through it and a pond, hidden away in the undergrowth. It was decided at the meeting that a consultation would be undertaken to establish whether residents would like to see this area turned into a managed wetland. This would serve a number of purposes; to improve biodiversity and attract wildlife, to continue the wildlife corridor between Pensthorpe and Sculthorpe, to capture carbon so that clean water is returned to the River Wensum, to provide an easily accessible area for school pupils to study nature and to provide another reason for visitors to Fakenham to enjoy a walk in nature whilst in easy reach of the town centre.

Campaign for a Banking Hub in Fakenham

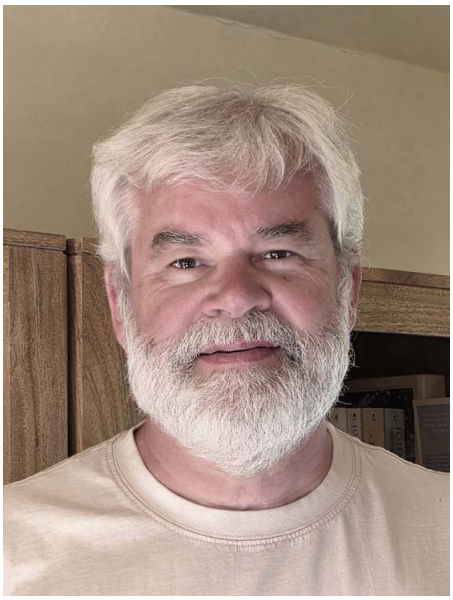
The two organisations that decide on the provision of Banking Hubs reassessed Fakenham at the request of Postmaster, Mark Eldridge and with the support of local councillors and Jerome Mayhew our MP. This exercise took place in July and we were hopeful for success. However, Cash Access UK only recommended an 'enhanced cash access facility', which only means another cash machine to be installed in our Post Office. Given the refusal for the proposed external cash machine at the Nationwide Building Society by the planning authority, this news was very disappointing. Mr Eldridge will be appealing against the refusal for a full Banking Hub, supported by the petition organised by the town council. By the time you read this copy of the Beacon, the appeal will have been lodged and we will keep fingers crossed for a positive result.

Angela Glynn, Chairman, Fakenham Town Council





Let's meet… Neville Luness Barnes



Neville, despite having lived most of his life elsewhere, is incredibly embedded in Fakenham life. He is chair of the Talking Times and the Fakenham Society, is a member of the Fakenham Ramblers, Men's Probus and the Friends of Fakenham Library.

His wife Louise, died last year after her cancer eventually proved undefeatable.

Neville was born in 1962 in Exeter. His father was a Royal Marine, and his mother a "professional" mother. Neville's father served in Northern Ireland and elsewhere, and the family lived for three years in Mauritius, where Neville discovered the beauty of snorkelling in the coral reefs.

Aged 11, he was sent to a boarding school in Kent. There he met Louise who was to become his future wife, and coincidentally discovered that Louise's father had been his father's commanding officer.

Sadly, Neville's mother died during the pandemic, having been diagnosed with vascular dementia as a complication of Lyme disease following a tick bite. Neville's father lives in Scotland.

From childhood Neville was fascinated by marine life, and went to Swansea University to study marine zoology. He moved to London to be with Louise, who was qualifying to become a dentist. He joined Hill Samuel Investment Bank (amongst others) and started as a computer operator. He found an aptitude for design and implementation of IT systems and this became his life's work, taking him to many different parts of the world. Louise had her own dentistry practice.

He retired in 2019. The couple had discovered Norfolk on their travels and wanted to make it their home. They found a cottage in Stiffkey which they used for weekends and longer holidays for 16 years while they continued to work. They found their current home with its large garden in Fakenham and moved here in 2016. Neville liked the number of things to do here, and now shares the garden with a family of muntjac deer, and the house with two small dogs.

If you could change something about yourself? Being able to say no.

Do you have a pet hate? Litter. I've recently been to Lithuania and it was so clean.

Your biggest decision? Buying this house.

Your greatest strength? Seeing the best in people and being optimistic.

Your greatest challenge? Louise's illness (and death).

Earliest memory? Eating fish and chips most days when Mum went into hospital to have my youngest brother.

What might you buy on impulse? I don't, preferring to research before committing to buying.

Is a religious faith part of your life? I think being at boarding school for seven years curtailed any desire to do so. I still hold to Christian values though.

Your biggest extravagance? Definitely travelling. I have been to so many interesting countries, but there are still more to explore.

Where would you like to go that you haven't been? When there's a change of White House resident, the USA.

What concerns you about modern life? The inability to determine the truth from online stories. And artificial intelligence.

What might a friend say about you? That I was kind.

Are you a saver or a spender? I used to be a saver but now I'm a spender.

What advice might you like to pass on? Never put off doing things.

You are clearly a volunteer. What do you get from it? Team working. I love being a team player.

Do you have any ambitions? To maintain my independence for as long as possible.

Your luxury on a desert island? A guitar complete with tutor!

Are you a reader and what are you reading now? Yes, definitely so, and I'm reading Jonathan Clement's 'A brief history of Japan.'

Would you like to visit? Yes, and reading the book is good preparation.

What did you learn from your parents? A sense of deep love from their relationship. From my father, the importance of books, and my mother, kindness.

Who do you admire? I admire people who quietly get on with good work in the community.

The secret of happiness? Opening a new book.

What lessons has life taught you? It's better not to live in your partner's pocket; being self-sufficient has stood me in good stead.

What lessons has money taught you? That it's not fairly shared out.

And a philosophy to live by? You are not alone in whatever distressing circumstances you are living with. There are others walking the same route.

Kay Hathway

Pet Blessing Services

Sunday 6 September
at 4pm
in Fulmodeston

Sunday 20 September
at 3pm
in Fakenham



A chance to give thanks for our pets and blessings for all.

FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

Christ Church Fulmodeston

WE NEED A
PART-TIME ADMINISTRATOR

Fakenham Parish Church is seeking someone to join the team and support our growing ministry, strengthen communication and administration.

WORKING FLEXIBLY, 6 HOURS A WEEK ACROSS WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

we are looking for someone who is organised, confident with digital tools, an excellent communicator and able to work independently. Respect for the Christian ethos and a willingness to work within the life of the church is essential.

FULL DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE.
CLOSING DATE FRI 11 SEPT 2026.



FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

Old Fakenhamian

Seeing Norfolk strawberries for sale at the roadside always takes me back to fruit picking at Whissonsett on the Stangroom's farm in the late Sixties. During the summer holidays a friend and I used to bike there from Fakenham and spend many a happy day earning pocket money by picking strawberries that went to jam factories. They must have been a particular variety as they were very easy to 'hull', that is, pull from the stalk.

The atmosphere was lovely. As you picked strawberries you would leave your completed baskets in the row and when you had picked to the end you would return to the weighing station collecting your baskets as you went. They were pretty heavy, so this was the best method, and everyone respected each other's property. I had never heard of the word empathy in those days, but looking back I realised that empathy was what I felt. You would be lying on the straw, picking away and watching other pickers walking back with their heavy loads, and you knew exactly how they felt: the weight of the baskets, the sun beating down and the wonderful smell of the strawberries, even down to the juice encrusted fingernails!

Once the strawberries were picked, we moved on to blackberries, destined to make Ribena. These were easier to pick as obviously there was less bending and walking and the baskets filled quickly from the heavily laden bushes. I remember another school friend regaling us with a very funny account of her first Domestic Science lesson when they were taught to make a jelly – we laughed so much that she fell into the bush she was picking from. Biking back from Whisssonsett was a joy as the journey was all downhill so we virtually free-wheeled all the way home. Thank you to the Stangroom family for providing me with such lovely memories and I would like here to acknowledge their support of FADLOS and The Fakenham Choral Society over the years, not least the fact that they store the ranks of seating for both organisations between productions.

Gilly Foortse

Experience Fakenham Ukes Live!

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2026
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CHARITY CONCERT

Date
SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
Time
7:30
Venue
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The story of a hymn - Jesus Christ is waiting

This is a hymn which involves a dialogue between God and the hymn singer. A question is posed in each verse and the hymn challenges the singer to become more involved by deed, faith or touch. However, the hymn is primarily about the second coming, hence the repetition of the phrase, Jesus Christ is waiting. Jesus emphasized that no one knows the exact day or hour of His return, except God the Father (Matthew 24:36). So, the hymn is highlighting a period of waiting filled with 'faithful vigilance and spiritual readiness', whilst it challenges the traditional picture of Jesus.

The hymn is credited to John Bell and the late Graham Maule, contemporary hymn writers, and part of the Wild Goose resource group operating from the Iona community. It is a reworking of a 16th century French carol. The Wild Goose resource group has made a considerable contribution to contemporary church music.

The tune is the traditional French carol tune called Noel Nouvele, associated with the original carol.

Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets,
No-one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too,
Make me friend or stranger.
Fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is calling
Calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey,
I will guide their feet.'
Listen Lord Jesus,
Let my tears be few,
Walk one step before me,
I will follow you.

Sources: Sources; Wikipedia; Hymnary.org; AI co-pilot

Kay Hathway

Christ Church, Fulmodeston

September brings our ever-popular Pet Service, where we can give thanks for all our wonderful furry, feathery, chelonian or scaly friends, great and small. Do join the throng on Sunday 6th at 4pm. You are very welcome!

We hope that we'll have plenty of visitors for the annual Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride, Walk and Drive on Saturday September 12th. This is great event for mind, body and soul, raises useful funds for participating churches and the Trust and is well-worth supporting.

September Services

Sunday 6th	4pm Pet Service – all welcome regardless of variety/breed/number of legs
Saturday 12th	**Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride**
Sunday 13th	11am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 20th	10am Parish Communion at Fakenham
Sunday 27th	6pm Evening Prayer



Carolyn Thomas-Coxhead

September 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 5th Sept 10am	**Litcham & Lexham** - Park/meet at Litcham Common car park	OS 238/TF888173 **PE32 2NU** 8.7 miles	**Lesley & Christine** 07875 177210
Wed 9th Sept 10am	**Blickling** - Park/meet at main NT c/p nr reception. (NT members park free)	OS 238/TG176286 **NR11 6NF** 5.5 miles	**Alison & Linda** 07876 183267
Sat 19th Sept 10am	**Bintree & North Elmham** - park/meet Bintree Church car park (£1 p/p parking)	OS 238/TG017234 **NR20 5NJ** 9 miles	**Jane & Dave** 07790 642185
Wed 23rd Sept 10am	**Burnham Thorpe -** Park/meet at Burnham Thorpe Church car park	OS 251/TF852418 **PE31 8HL** 5 miles	Neville 07501 164890

FAKENHAM AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

It is the tradition to take offerings to church in the harvest season. In this photo from the Archive, taken in 1965 and donated by Colin Andrews, the children are on their way to a harvest festival in their school in Sculthorpe.



If you would like to see more photographs like this of Fakenham and the local villages in the Archive you just need to come to one of our meetings in church from 2.00 to 4.00 on the last Tuesday of every month. Here you will also be able to browse through lots of scrapbooks, look at big displays and watch some fascinating slide shows. You can also look at our website which is at www.fakenhamcommunityarchive.weebly.com

Howard Young

Fakenham Food Market

One of the real treats at Fakenham Food Market is Ian's stall, piled high with seasonal fruit and vegetables. Fresh local produce makes the perfect accompaniment to the delicious handmade pies from Kaylee's Kitchen and Pies, Puddings & Tarts.

Why not pick up a chicken and mushroom pie with some buttery new potatoes, or a goat's cheese and sun-dried tomato pie with everything you need for a crisp green salad? It's an easy way to enjoy a delicious meal while supporting local businesses.

The next Fakenham Food Market takes place on
Saturday 12th September,
from 9.30am to 1.30pm,
in the Market Place.



Community Noticeboard

26th Annual Christmas Tree Festival

26th Nov - 3rd Dec 2026

Preparation is already well underway for our 26th Tree Festival in Fakenham Parish Church. There will be over 40 groups taking part, and the church will have over 50 decorated trees on display. Once again, we owe sincere thanks to the huge generosity of our sponsors, Fakenham Garden Centre.

We have lots of opportunities for you to help and donate. If you are interested in helping, please collect a volunteer form from church, to be returned as soon as possible, or come and chat to one of the team on Thursday mornings 10.30-11.30. Donations for our high quality Tombola will also be welcome any Thursday morning.

Next month we will have our famous Christmas Cake recipe in the magazine - watch this space!

CTF Team

Fakenham Film Society

My House in Umbria (2003)
Thursday 10th Sept

Death in Venice (1971)
Thursday 8th Oct

Still Crazy (1998)
Thursday 5th Nov*

Chocolat (2000)
Thursday 3rd Dec*

** note change of date for Nov and Dec*

All screened at 7.30pm at Central Cinema, Fakenham

THE FAKENHAM SOCIETY

Join us for a value night out

1st October – How to be a Roman Empress - *Ralph Jackman returns to tell us of the intrigue Roman ladies employed*

15th October – Fire & Sword in the Sudan - *Richard Peaver talks about the twice knighted Victorian general who escaped from capture & walked 1000 miles across the desert to freedom.*

29th October – My Trip to the Arctic *Bob Johnson PAGB Wildlife Photographer of the Year talks about his trip to the Arctic, photographing polar bears and other wildlife.*

Meetings are held on alternate **Thursdays** at **7.00 pm** for **7.30 pm start** in The Lancaster Room, Fakenham Sports Centre, Hempton Road, Fakenham NR21 7NY (on the Racecourse)

1st October 2026 to 18th March 2027

Membership (12 meetings): £25. Visitors: £5 per meeting
Visit www.fakenhamsociety.org.uk, follow us on Facebook
or leave a message on 01328 887514

Supported by Fakenham Town Council

Quiz @ The Gallow

Lancaster Room, Fri 4th September
Doors open 7pm. Start 7.30pm

By The Friends of Fakenham
in aid of Fakenham Junior Cricket Club

Teams of up to six - £4 per person - Bar & Raffle

For all enquiries and to book your team in please contact
Serena on 07496256760 serenaward@btinternet.com

Dawn and helpers invite you to the

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Fri 25 Sept 10am Sculthorpe Village Hall

Admission £1.50 incl Tea/Coffee and Biscuits.

Raffle, Bric/Brac, clothes, jigsaws,
cake stall and more…..

Hope to see you there!

Community Noticeboard

BRISLEY HERITAGE WEEKEND

St. Bartholomew's Church, Church Street, Brisley, NR20 5AA

11th - 13th Sept. 2026

Friday 6.30pm-8.30pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm.

Opening talk at 6.30pm on Friday 11th Sept. by **Charlotte Paton**, researcher and historian.

The heritage exhibition this year will focus on life in Brisley through time with stories and photos of village life, work and play, including details about the working life of one particular family, focussing on the wife / mother and how her role changed during the period after The First World War.

Do you have an interesting story, or perhaps historic photographs or documents that you would like to share? If so, we would love to hear from you!

Contact: marycarden1@icloud.com

heritage open days





The Gallow

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FULL DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE.
CLOSING DATE FRI 11 SEPT 2026.



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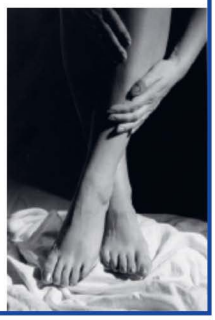
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