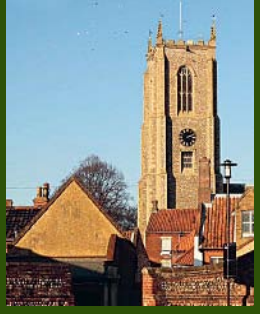
FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

A ROCHA UK SILVER AWARD WINNER 2024 ECO CHURCH



November 2026

THE BEACON

Church and Community Magazine



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* Rector's reflection
* All Souls Service
* Volunteer with the Talking Times
* Wetlands consultation * Old Fakenhamian
* The Foodbank explained

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www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk

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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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Parish Prayers

1 Nov Valley Way, John Chapman Close. *People who are bereaved.*

8 Nov Gorse Close, Foxglove Close, Mallard Close, Heron Close, Kingfisher Close. *Armed forces, veterans of conflict, Cadet armed forces.*

15 Nov Meadow Court, The Ridings, Green Court, River View Close, Paddock Close. *The many, largely unnoticed key workers.*

22 Nov Clover Way, Field View Court, Bramble Court, Plantation Road, Sedge Close. *Musicians and choirs.*

29 Nov Market Place, Norwich Street, White Horse Street. *Christmas Tree Festival charities and organisations.*

From the Parish Registers

Funerals

28.09.26 Anthony (Tony) Gent
7.10 26 Eric Brickles

Baptisms

5.9.26 Iris Nelson
25.10.26 Vinnie Moy

Cover photo:
The Revd Tracy Jessop

"Hello Vodafone. Is there anything you can do to improve the signal down there?"



Rector's Reflection



November can feel like a month pulled in two entirely opposite directions.

Step onto the high street or turn on a screen, and the season of noise has already arrived. The bright lights of commercial Christmas flash long before Advent has even begun. We are bombarded with Black Friday countdowns, "doorbuster deals," and relentless reminders to hurry, buy, stock up, and consume before time runs out. The world tells us that November is a race to be won, filled with frantic preparation and the anxiety of missing out.

Yet, if we step into the rhythm of the Church's year, November tells a profoundly different story. It begins in the quiet shadows of All Saints and All Souls; days set aside to light a candle, speak the names of those we have loved and lost, and contemplate the fragile beauty of human life. A week later, we gather around war memorials in the crisp autumn air for Remembrance Sunday, standing side-by-side in two minutes of shared, sacred silence to honour those who gave their lives for peace.

Here lies the Great November paradox: one voice shouts, *"Hurry, fill your baskets, don't miss out!"* The other whispers, *"Be still, remember, give thanks, and rest."*

In a culture that measures worth by what we accumulate, our Christian tradition offers a sanctuary of perspective. Black Friday promises cheap bargains, but the Gospel points us to a priceless love that cannot be bought. The Christmas rush urges us to fill every empty moment with activity and noise; Christ invites us into the stillness where healing and true joy take root.

Living in the tension of these weeks is not about rejecting the happiness of the holiday season ahead. Gathering with family, giving gifts, and celebrating Christ's birth are wonderful things. But when we rush past November's quiet holy days in a blur of shopping bags and stress, we miss something essential for our souls.

Remembrance and All Souls teach us what truly lasts: faith, hope, love, and community. They remind us that our true treasure is not stored in shiny boxes under a tree but held securely in the eternal grace of God.

Before the full momentum of December takes hold, give yourself permission to dwell in November's gentler pace.

When the pressure to rush threatens to overwhelm you, take a pause. Stand still for a moment. Light a candle for someone you miss. Offer a quiet prayer of thanksgiving for peace. Let the silence nourish you so that when Christmas finally arrives, it finds not an exhausted consumer, but a heart prepared to welcome the Prince of Peace.

The Revd Tracy Jessop



Churches around Fakenham welcome *you* in November

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

Sun 1	10am Holy Communion
	4pm All Souls Commemoration Service
Sun 8	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer, said)
	10am All Age Worship
	3.30pm Civic Service on Remembrance Sunday
Sun 15	10am Parish Communion
Sun 22	10am Café Church Communion
Sun 29	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer, said)
	10am Festival Service with tree charity representatives
	4pm Carols amongst the trees
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.
EXCEPT 29 Nov when there is NO service that day.

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".

Baby & Children's Clothes Swap

Fakenham Parish Church
Monday 9.45 – 11 am @ Stepping Stones
Thursday 10 – 12.30pm

A warm welcome awaits you.
Clothes available from birth to 11 yrs
Freshly laundered and free of charge

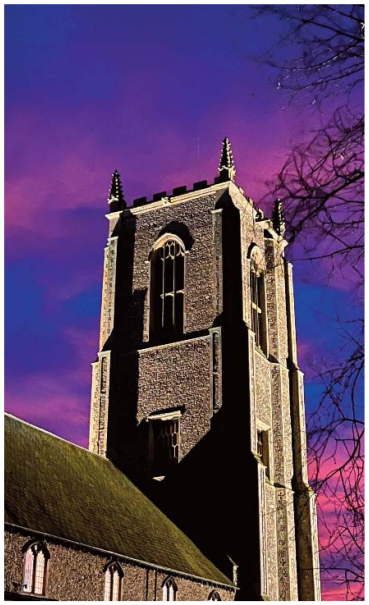
Mothers' Union – Caring for the young family

Floodlighting Sponsorship - helping our light shine

30 November
In loving memory of Peter James
(Rosemary and Brian Dear)

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 are a taxpayer, you can gift-aid your contribution. Our form gives details of how to make your sponsorship payment.

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.





All Souls Commemoration Service

Sun 1 November 2026
4pm in Fakenham & 6pm in Fulmodeston

A service to remember someone close to you who has died. Names of loved ones will be read out in this moving service, candles are lit, and we commend those we love to God.

FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

† Christ Church Fulmodeston

4th Sunday of each month

Cafe Church

10.00am

Communion

A simple gathering with hymns, a monthly topic, and communion or a blessing.

Enjoy a breakfast of hot drinks & pastries.

FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

A Way of Seeing – *Staying Human in the Age of AI*

Like many people, I assumed there would come a point when new technology would simply move faster than my ability, or desire, to keep up with it. Yet the rapid arrival of artificial intelligence into everyday life has had the opposite effect: I find myself both fascinated and concerned.

AI is already becoming part of how many of us work, communicate and access information. It can help us write emails, summarise documents, improve photographs and solve practical problems. The potential benefits are significant. At the same time, questions about truth, human relationships, meaningful work and personal responsibility seem more important than ever.

As a photographer, I've spent years learning that attention matters. Good photography is not simply about cameras or software. It's about genuinely seeing people, places and moments. Thinking about AI has reminded me how important that kind of human attentiveness is.

Recently I read Pope Leo XIV's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* (On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence). The Pope does not reject technology. Instead, he asks a deeper question: does it help human beings flourish in dignity, truth and community?

One of his key observations is that AI can imitate certain aspects of intelligence, but it cannot replace wisdom, compassion, moral judgement or love. These remain profoundly human qualities. Technology can be a valuable tool, but it cannot create authentic relationships or take responsibility for ethical decisions.

That insight has helped me think differently about AI. Rather than asking whether the technology itself is good or bad, perhaps we should ask how we are choosing to use it. Does it help us care for one another? Does it support truth? Does it strengthen our communities? Does it respect the dignity of every person?

For Christians, these are not technical questions but moral and spiritual ones.

I remain cautiously optimistic about the future. AI will undoubtedly change many aspects of life, but the qualities that make us most deeply human, our capacity for compassion, creativity, hope and self-giving love, cannot be automated. In fact, they may become more important than ever.

Keith Osborn

The full version of this article, including reflections on Pope Leo XIV's Magnifica Humanitas*, can be found on my Substack at: keithosborn.substack.com.*

The Talking Times - Volunteers needed!

The Talking Times is an audio newspaper for people living with visual impairment in the Fakenham and Dereham areas. It is highly valued by listeners, entirely run by volunteers, and there are two important roles that need to be filled:

Secretary - responsible for

- organising the Annual General Meeting and taking the minutes, for updating our readers when it's their turn to read, and for responding to referrals. A laptop will be provided to assist with this role, together with full training, and most of the work can be done from home.

Copying and registration – responsible for

- copying each edition of the Talking Times (issued twice a month) onto USB sticks and putting them into Freepost wallets for posting. Copying equipment and full training will be provided, and it is a job that can be done from home. You would be in a team of two, working on alternate months on this task, although there is room for flexibility in the rota.

In both cases, please apply to secretary@fakenhamtalkingtimes.org
We look forward to hearing from you!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL UPDATE

26 Nov to 3 Dec 2026 10am – 8pm daily
Festival Service – Sun 29 Nov 10am,
festival opens after the service

Hold the date
We are in Christmas tree festival month! Hold the dates in your diaries.

Volunteers are still needed!
There are some gaps in our rotas – if you have 2 hrs or more to spare, please offer your services at the CTF desk, in church each Thursday until the Festival, from 10.30am – 11.30am.

We also need donations for Tombola prizes, gifts for the craft stall, and homemade cakes to sell for refreshments. Financial donations are always welcome too.

Thank you to our Sponsors
And once more, we want to thank all our sponsors who help make it all possible, and in particular, Martin Turner and his parents, Gordon and Brenda before him, from Fakenham Garden Centre, who, with huge generosity, provide all the trees. We also thank Hayes and Storr for the provision of Festival posters, the Rotary Club for the Festival programmes and Andrew Simnor for supplying the Festival phone.
We couldn't do it without you all.

Please see fakenhamchristmastreefestival@gmail.com for information and please come to enjoy the festival.

FULMODESTON CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE & COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5th December
10.00am to 1.00pm

- Free Entry
- Local Crafter Stalls
- Christmas Bake Stall
- Tombola & Grand Raffle
- Wide selection of jigsaw puzzles & books
- Tea, coffee, hot chocolate including warm snacks.
- Music in the church played by local group 'The Unthank Irregulars'.

Old School Hall & Christ Church
Hindolveston Road, Fulmodeston
NR21 0AT





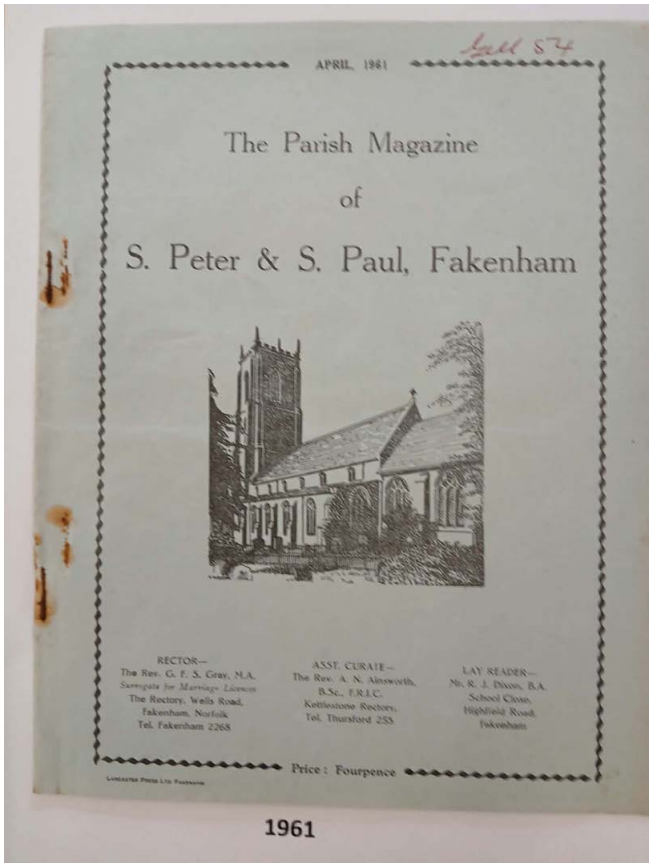
FAKENHAM AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

As well as being a barber at Gill and Graver in Bridge Street the late Austin Gill, who passed in February, was also a great collector. His family has recently donated to the Archive his wonderful, huge collection of photos, albums, documents, books and scrapbooks, that includes his collection of parish magazines.

Here is an image of a cover that we thought was particularly interesting, to see how it has changed over the years, like the style of its cover (and the price!)

The collection goes from 1961 to 1982. In the 60s the Rector was the Revd Francis Gray and after this the Revd Hugh Buckingham.

Howard Young



Who was Guy Fawkes?

'Remember, remember the 5th November, gunpowder, treason and plot'.

Who doesn't need reminding about it after that rhyme went into childhood circulation? Guy Fawkes would be classified as a terrorist today, so what was going on?

In 1605 a group of Catholics plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London with King James I inside and restore a Catholic monarch to the throne. The leader of the Plot was Robert Catesby, but the man in charge of the gunpowder, stored in an undercroft below the House of Lords, was Guy Fawkes.

The Gunpowder Plot was motivated by King James I's refusal to grant more religious toleration to Catholics. What let it down? One Lord Monteagle, a Catholic peer and due to attend the opening of parliament, received an anonymous letter revealing the plot and he informed the King. Guy Fawkes, who was guarding the undercroft, was caught red-handed with multiple barrels of gunpowder. The conspirators were hunted down and Fawkes was to be hanged, drawn and quartered, the most awful of all the sentences. However, he died when his neck broke at the partial hanging and he didn't have to tolerate the pain and humiliation of being drawn through the streets of London, disembowelled but alive.

Catesby was found mortally wounded but later exhumed, to be hung as a warning to any remaining catholic conspirators. And since 1605, the 5th November has been known as Guy Fawkes night and fireworks and bonfires are set off just about everywhere in the UK.

Kay Hathway

The story of a hymn - Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire

This hymn is attributed to Rabanus Maurus, a Frankish Benedictine monk (c780-856), also known as Hrabanus, who was a theologian, encyclopaedist, poet and military writer. He later became archbishop of Mainz, whilst managing to write treatises on education, grammar and commentaries on the Bible. The hymn is based on the Latin text "Veni Creator Spiritus," believed to have been written by Rabanus Maurus around the year 800. A seventeenth century bishop from Norwich, John Cosin, translated and paraphrased the text.

The hymn has been used in various liturgical contexts particularly during Pentecost, to invoke the Holy Spirit's themes of divine inspiration, presence and guidance. In 1625, a newer version in English made it more widely accessible in the Anglican tradition. This second version has been sung at significant events, including British coronations and ordinations of priests and deacons.

It is traditionally sung to a Gregorian chant melody, which has been adapted into various musical forms over the centuries. This hymn continues to be a significant part of Christian liturgy, reflecting the enduring desire for spiritual inspiration and connection with the divine.

Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sev'nfold gifts impart.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace:
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Sources: Wikipedia; Hymn Desk; AI-Co Pilot.

Kay Hathway

Christ Church, Fulmodeston

November is the time when we invite you all to find peace in our All-Souls' service reflection and give thanks for the lives of those who are no longer with us. Anybody who would like to commemorate a departed loved one is very welcome to join us in quiet contemplation and to light a candle in their memory.

There will be more prayers for peace, and remembrance of the war dead on the following Sunday at our United Act of Remembrance when we'll gather in the road and churchyard, close to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorial stone for Pte Herbert Utting and Pte Bertie Todd. It is very moving when passers-by in their cars stop their engines and join us in respect for those who have lost their lives in war and in prayer that such wastage of lives will cease.

October Services

Sunday 1st	6pm All Souls Commemoration Service.
Sunday 8th	10.50am Act of Remembrance
Sunday 15th	10 am Parish Communion at Fakenham Parish Church.
Sunday 22nd	4pm Patronal Evening Prayer on the Feast of Christ the King
Sunday 29th	11am Advent Sunday Holy Communion (BCP)



Carolyn Thomas-Coxhead

Save the date: Our very popular Advent Craft Fair will be on **Saturday 5th December 10.00- 1.00ish.** Come along and sleuth out some low-gift-miles unique Christmas Present Solutions, all made with love by our talented local crafters.

November 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)
Wed 4th Nov 10am	**Morston & Cockthorpe** - Park/meet at Morston Quay NT cp (NT members free)	OS 251/ TG006442 NR25 7DJ 6 miles	**Alison** 01328 712155
Sat 14th Nov 10am	**Wiveton** - Park/meet at Wiveton Downs Car Park	OS 251/ TG031421 NR25 7LG 7 miles	**Ann** 07798 664815
Wed 18th Nov 10am	**Wells-next-the-Sea** Meet at Wells Buttlands	OS 251/ TF916434 NR23 1EY 5 miles	**Sue & John** 01328 710138

Old Fakenhamian
…the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.

I am writing this as the first month of the Autumn draws to a close and what a lovely month it has been after the exhausting heat of the summer. Keats wrote of the Autumn as a 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. We are yet to experience the mists, but my word are we surrounded by mellow fruitfulness particularly blackberries which are large and sweet this year.

Autumn was the time that my mother's preserving pan was in constant use. All sorts of jams, chutneys and her fabulous piccalilli rolled off the production line. In those days most houses had a pantry and our home in Sculthorpe was no different. Our pantry opened off the living room and therefore had an outside wall so, along with the fact that there was no central heating in the house, the pantry was the perfect place for storing the bounty of the summer and autumn – the salted runner beans in huge sweet jars during the summer glut and her home-made strawberry and raspberry jams.

I have my mother's preserving pan still and use it to make redcurrant jelly in season – a particular favourite of my late husband. But now is the time to make her piccalilli when there is a glut of marrows – it is just fabulous – particularly down to the fact that the cauliflower has a lovely crunch to it.

This brings me to the wonderful celebration – the harvest festival. Back in the day we celebrated this twice – once at chapel and again at school. I have a photograph of us all gathered together celebrating this in Sculthorpe primary school in the early sixties. I had the honour of holding the loaf of bread shaped as a sheaf of corn baked, I think, by Heppells the bakers of Hempton. It was a fitting start to the new academic year as we celebrated all being 'safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.' I wonder whether schools in cities ever celebrated the harvest? Probably not, as their parents were forced to use 'bought' jam – absolutely unthinkable for us and considered a complete extravagance!

Gilly Foortse


Fakenham Food Market
Saturday 14th November
FAKENHAM MARKETPLACE
9.30 am - 1.30pm
Fresh Food
Tempting Treats
Delicious Drinks


Monthly
CRAFT FAIR
FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH
Join us every second Saturday of the month
9.30am-12.30pm
Free entry
Craft Stalls
Celebrate local crafters
Tea & Coffee Corner
*Feel free to bring cake from the Food Market
Treat yourself?
Great gifts and treats for loved ones.
This new venture is here to complement the monthly Fakenham Food Market.
Visit us and find your next favorite thing!

Town Council news

HAVE YOUR SAY ON A NEW WETLAND FOR ALDISS PARK

The Town Council is consulting residents on proposals to transform an overgrown and underused area of Aldiss Park into a beautiful new wetland habitat for people and wildlife to enjoy.

The proposal could create:

- A thriving habitat for birds, insects, amphibians and other wildlife.
- Improved biodiversity and environmental benefits.
- Better access and a pleasant natural space for residents and visitors.
- An outdoor learning resource for local schools.
- Opportunities for community volunteering and conservation activities.
- A valuable addition to the wider Wensum Wildlife Corridor.

We want to hear from you!

Tell us:

- ✅ Do you support the proposal?
- ✅ What benefits do you see?
- ✅ Do you have any concerns or suggestions?

FIND OUT MORE

Full consultation details are available:

www.fakenhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

info@fakenhamtowncouncil.gov.uk
(request a copy or send your comments)

Fakenham Town Council, Fakenham Connect, Oak Street, Fakenham, NR21 9DY

Creating a Better Space for Nature, Learning and the Community

Have your say before decisions are made.

Fakenham Food Bank

Fakenham Food Bank is open every Monday from 10.00 – 12.00 and every Thursday from 1.00 – 3.00 in the Salvation Army building in Oak Street. It is one of the distribution centres for the Mid Norfolk Foodbank (supported by the Trussell Trust), whose local warehouse and hub is in Dereham. It is run entirely by volunteers.

Donated food is sent to Dereham where it is sorted and organised into boxes of differing sizes for single people, couples and families. These are then returned to Fakenham for issue to clients.

Individuals and families needing foodbank support must have a voucher. Since the very sad loss of First Focus, the main source for these is North Norfolk District Council – 01263 516221. They can also be issued by Social Services, housing associations and some schools and childcare settings.

People wishing to donate food can do so at Tesco, QD and in the Parish Church. There are also donation points in shops and churches in several villages in the surrounding area. Donations must be non-perishable and have a minimum of six weeks before their 'use by' date. Perhaps next time you go shopping you could buy one extra item and donate. Thank you.

Anne Harris

Community Noticeboard

LITTLE ANGELS PRE SCHOOL

Little Angels Pre School
The Stringer Ground
Fakenham Rugby Club
NR21 9RZ

Little Angels Pre-School
Growing there wings, to catch their dreams

Contact number: 07903771817
FB: Little Angels pre school

Welcomes children
18 months to school age.

We accept all Funding
9month funding (for an 18 month old start), 2,3 and 4 year funding accepted



Opening times
Monday -Thursday 8:30-4
Friday -8:30-1
Term time only

Charity number: 1034803

COULD YOU BE our next VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDER?

FAKENHAM AREA COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS



- If you live in Fakenham
- are aged 18–70
- have your own car
- and could offer a minimum of 16 hours a month to be on call

you might just be the person we need.

If you care about making Fakenham a safer place for everyone

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH
fakenhamcfrs@gmail.com

Your time could save a life!

The LEGENDARY FADLOS JUMBLE Sale RETURNS!

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2026
11AM - 1PM
FAKENHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, FAKENHAM, NR21 9DY

Prices start from 50p!

- CLOTHES
- SHOES
- TOYS
- BRIC-A-BRAC
- BOOKS
- TOMBOLA

and much more!!

BARGAINS! Galore!

COME GRAB A BARGAIN!

Christmas Concert

Fakenham Choral Society
Sat 12 Dec 5.30pm
Fakenham Parish Church

John Rutter 'When Icicles Hang'
Bob Chilcott 'Christmas Night'
Carols for choir and audience

Tickets £10
under 18s free
but do require tickets

Book on:
www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/forthcoming-1

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