

THE NAB

COMMUNITY



PARISH MAGAZINE OF NEATISHEAD, IRSTEAD & BARTON TURF



13th & 14th December 2024
at the New Victory Hall

The Benefice of St Benedict

'And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall'

The sentence above is from that well known carol, 'Once in Royal David's City'. This sentence sums up beautifully the wonderful reality that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was born into poverty. Jesus was born in simple and humble surroundings; no palace for the Son of God.

I recently returned from a Christian conference that I was invited to attend by an old university friend who I had not seen for many years. It was wonderful to catch up with my friend; however, I really struggled with the conference.

The conference was not organised by the Church of England, but instead, hosted by an independent church which teaches that there is a direct link between financial wealth and faithfulness to God. This church encouraged significant donations with the promise that all who do give will be blessed by God.

The church where this conference took place was a modern, huge, warehouse type building. It had its own coffee shop and book shop, and the main room was akin to a theatre or a night club. There were huge screens, a deafening sound system, and a lighting package that would not be out of place at the Royal Albert Hall! The services felt more like rock shows and entertainment, rather than a sacrament and a focus on God; silence and quiet contemplation were nowhere to be found.

All of these material things had been paid for by members of the congregation, hoping that their donations would result in them receiving divine blessings. I struggled with the teaching at the conference as there was a recurring message that no Christian should have any doubts or questions; instead, all that was needed to live a wonderful and successful life was to believe in Jesus and to give money to the church.

I found it all too simplistic and shallow.

Jesus was not financially successful. Jesus was poor. As we remember this Christmas, he was born in a stable and grew up in poverty, a refugee to Egypt in his early years.

It is also OK to have questions and doubts in relation to our faith. I gladly enjoy talking to people about their questions and doubts, therefore please feel free to speak to me about them.

Finally, being a Christian and giving money to a church unfortunately does not guarantee anyone material success. If anything, it is harder to be a Christian than a non-Christian. However, what

being a Christian does mean is that we have hope, we have hope for our world, and we have hope of eternal life, and the reason we have that hope is because God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, into this world, born into poverty, and who lived in poverty his entire life. Christ came into this world at Christmas to show us the way to live, and through his death, he opened the gates of heaven.

I pray you all have a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

Praised be Christ,

Revd Ben
brother_ben@btinternet.com

Sunday Club

We have had another fun and exciting few weeks at Sunday Club! Our fortnightly meetings in Neatishead have seen us explore what a saint is and we learnt about St Francis of Assisi and his love of animals. We also had a meeting where we heard the story of Jesus' friends- Martha and Mary, and the importance of getting a good balance with how we spend our time. The highlight of the month was undoubtedly our first ever talent show at St Benedict's, Horning! Lots of extremely gifted children showed off the amazing talents that God has blessed them with! We were also treated to a professional magic show and balloon modelling.

Upcoming Dates and Events:

Sunday 1st December 9.30am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church

Sunday 15th December 11am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church

Christmas Eve 4pm, Christmas Crib Carol Service at Irstead Church

Sunday 19th January 11am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church

Sunday 2nd February 9.30am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church

All children are most welcome so do come along.

Revd Ben



St Michael and All Angels', Barton Turf

We welcomed a good number of people to our church for this year's All Souls Service on the afternoon of 3rd November. Members of the congregation were able to light candles and remember loved ones no longer with us as names were read out. The following Sunday the congregations of Neatishead Church, the Baptist Church and Barton Church gathered at Barton for a Remembrance service for those killed

in conflicts. After a very moving service a retiring collection was held for the Royal British Legion which raised £241, a splendid total. We then met, as usual on 11th November at the Lych-gate for our annual service of Remembrance.

Wednesday 11th December will see Neatishead School coming to the church for their Nativity which begins at 4pm. The coffee morning for December will be on **Saturday 21st** just before Christmas! As has been our habit in previous years the refreshments on that day will be free as a thank you to all who have supported the church coffee mornings throughout the year. I do hope you will be able to join us to take a breather from all the Christmas preparations.

Christmas Day will see our service of Nine Lessons and Carols beginning at 11am to which all are welcome. A good opportunity to listen to the Christmas story and sing some well-known carols. The Sunday after Christmas we will be having a Benefice service when candles will be lit to give thanks for all the churches and organisations in the Benefice which enhance our weekly worship.

Looking at January our coffee morning will be held on **Saturday 18th January** from 10am until noon, as usual.

May I thank you for all the support you have given the church during the year and wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Barbara Pilcher, Churchwarden



St Michael's, Irstead

On behalf of the Royal British Legion may I thank those who kindly donated to their Poppy Appeal at St Michael's Remembrance Day service.

We look forward to welcoming you all to St Michael's for the Benefice Crib service on Christmas Eve, **Tuesday 24th December**, at 4pm when the story of the birth of Christ will be retold for the young and not so young!

St Michael's **Christmas Day** service of Holy Communion will be at 9.30 am.

On behalf of St Michael's PCC may I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year

David Murrells, Churchwarden

St Swithin's, Ashmanhaugh

Well despite the lack of rain we managed to plant a couple of hundred daffodils in the newly cleared churchyard, so that should provide a nice display in the Spring.

Christmas Draw tickets are now available from myself and as usual there are lots of nice prizes. The Draw will be on **13th December** in the Preston

Rooms at about 6.30pm after the Carol Service. Refreshments will be served!

Our services for December are below so I hope to see you at one or all of them! Finally, may I send Christmas greetings and thanks to everyone in the village for your support throughout the year.

December Services:

8th December 11am Holy Communion

13th December 5pm Carol Service

22nd December 9.30am Benefice Holy Communion

25th December 9.30am Holy Communion

Anne Mulhall, Churchwarden
anne.mulhall1@btinternet.com

NEATISHEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER AT 6PM



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Carols old and new
Mince pies
and mulled wine

**Location - South on the Horning Road (towards
Horning, second turning on the left)**

Bring a torch!

Carpark on the right beyond the church. NR12 8YF

What3words: burglars.depth.valve



Winter Warmer

We started the new season of the 'Winter Warmer' at the beginning of November and were very happy to welcome old friends back to the New Victory Hall. However, for various reasons we have lost some people.

If you would like a bowl of soup, roll and butter, coffee or tea and biscuits along with a warm room, a chance to chat to people you may or may not know please come along on Tuesdays from 12 noon – 1.30pm.

There is no charge, but we do ask for donations to help cover our costs. This is open to all ages! If you would like more information please contact Nick or Jane. We look forward to seeing you.

Nick and Jane Fowle 01692 630249

New Victory Hall

Doghouse Play Beatles

This was a fantastic evening. Sincere thanks to Mike Gower and the Doghouse Band for bringing the Beatles to Neatishead. The event raised £968 split 50/50 with East Anglian Air Ambulance and New Victory Hall. Thanks to all who performed, ran the bar and supported us.

Advance notice - Doghouse and another band called The Collaborators will be at The New Victory Hall on **Saturday 22nd February 2025**. Details and tickets on sale in mid-January.

The Christmas Fair will be held at New Victory Hall on **Saturday 7th December** from 9.30am to 12noon.

This is a great opportunity to shop for gifts, craft items, cakes and try your luck in the Grand Christmas Draw and on the popular bottle and chocolate tombolas. Santa and his elves will be there to meet all the children and collect any special Christmas letters. There will be yummy refreshments on sale including bacon rolls, mince pies and tea/coffee. NABS and the Ukulele Group will be around to entertain you. Many thanks for the help and support given by the NVH user groups who run many of the stalls and to WISE for arranging for Santa to come along. Free admission and all welcome so don't miss this lovely start to the festive season.

Community Market



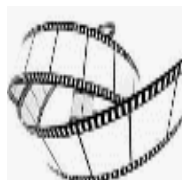
Our last Community Market of the year is on **Saturday 14th December** from 9am – 12 noon.

There will be additional craft stalls, gifts, luxury soaps plus our regular stall holders. Via Vigna will be there with an assortment of Italian wine and produce. You can stock up on your bird food from Rosa and Peter of Garden Bird Direct. Order your Christmas fudge, especially packaged for those treats for friends and family.

Our café will have bacon rolls and mince pies.

Looking forward to 2025, we would love some new volunteers to join our rota of helpers. It's a great way to meet people and support our village hall fundraising. Even if it is one Saturday a year it would be a great help. Please email pauline761@btinternet.com.

NVH Events Committee



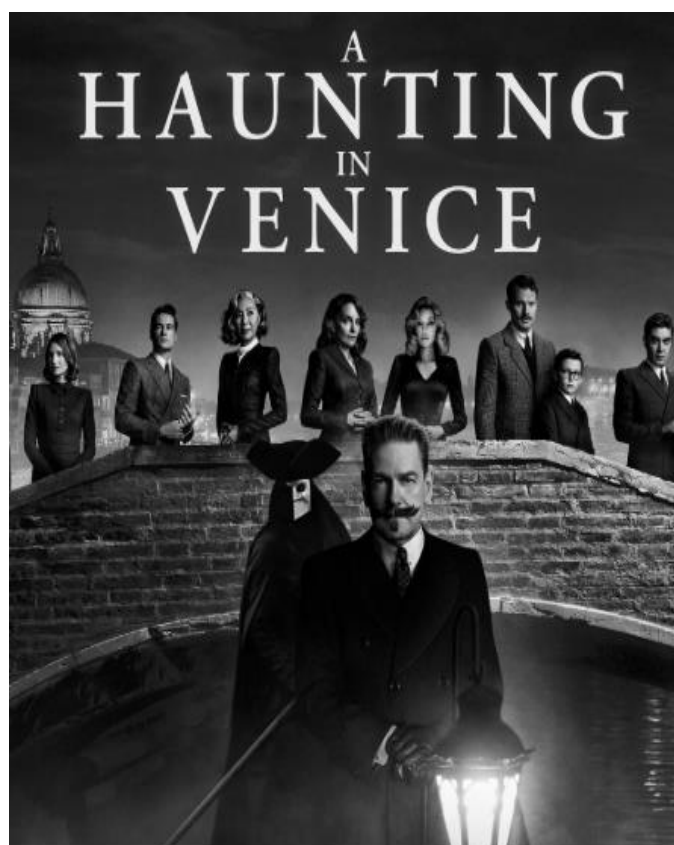
Village Screen

We need you!

Support your local Village Screen!

On **Monday 2nd December** we will be showing *A Haunting in Venice* (2023) Cert 12A: 103 mins.

This mystery/thriller, set in post WWII Venice, is produced and directed by Kenneth Branagh. It is a sequel to *Death on the Nile* and *Murder on the Orient Express* and loosely based on the 1969 Agatha Christie novel *Halloween Party*.

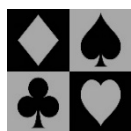


Hercule Poirot (Kenneth Branagh), now retired and living in self-imposed exile in the world's most glamorous city, reluctantly attends a seance at a decaying haunted palazzo. He soon gets thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets when one of the guests is murdered.

We look forward to welcoming you with a complimentary Christmas Cocktail at 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets at £6 can be purchased from the White House Stores Community Shop (cash only, correct change please). Advance booking is preferred by calling Christine on 01692 631347. Card payment is an option for tickets on the door, numbers permitting.

Wishing all our supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Village Screen Team



Bridge Club

Every year during the week of the Children in Need appeal, bridge clubs around the country play in "Simultaneous Pairs" with all proceeds going to the charity.

Simultaneous Pairs is a competition where all of the participating clubs play the same 28 hands on the same day. The results are uploaded to the organiser's website and the national results are collated and ranked.

I played in the Monday session with a new(ish) partner. As with all new partnerships, we discussed our "system" and one specific item was about defence to the opposition's 1 No Trump bid. This sounds a bit esoteric, but one of the most common opening bids in bridge is 1 No Trump (1NT) and it's worth being prepared for it. It's a good job we were!

This hand came up:

	North ♠ A9 ♥ K84 ♦ J8652 ♣ AJ8	
West (Dealer) ♠ QT8632 ♥ A653 ♦ - ♣ T74		East ♠ KJ ♥ QT92 ♦ AK9743 ♣ 6
	South ♠ 754 ♥ J7 ♦ QT ♣ KQ9532	

I was West and passed; North bid 1NT (showing 13-15 points and a balanced hand). Now my partner, East, bid 2D. In our system discussion, we agreed that this bid would show at least a 4 - card heart suit as well as diamonds. This made my hand look a lot better! South bid 3C – a good competitive bid. I bid 3H, knowing that we had at least a 4-4 fit. North passed and my partner bid 4H – the point about this is that 4H is a "game" contract and scores much higher than other contracts. This was the final contract and I played it as I was the first to mention hearts as trumps.

The bidding had revealed where most of the opposition high cards were and it was fairly straightforward to lose just one spade, one heart

and one club. So 10 tricks, and the contract, made for a very good score compared with others.

This nearly compensated for a mistake I made on another hand where I missed a lead that would have defeated the opposition's contract. I only lost one night's sleep over it!

Monday's session raised £66 for Children in Need. For more information about either Neatishead or Horning Bridge Clubs contact Jim Fletcher on 07565 507060.

If you want to learn Bridge from scratch or need to brush up, contact Matt Jackson on 07845 658131.

Jim Fletcher



Knit and Stitch

Thank you to all the lovely ladies who helped with the knitting of poppies for Remembrance which were seen across the villages around signposts and much admired. Hopefully we will have more for next year. We only have one meeting in December on **Wednesday 11th**, but before that we'll be at the NVH Christmas Fair on **7th December** with a selection of handmade gifts. Our alternative Christmas trees will be on display outside the NVH - made up completely of knitted and crocheted 'granny' squares - so easy! Thinking of taking up a new hobby for the new year, why not try knitting or crochet? We are always happy to help. Our first meetings of 2025 will be on **8th and 22nd of January**. All welcome, we meet in the Dolly Newcombe room of the NVH from 7-9pm.

Claire Penstone-Smith, 07760643739
claireps@btinternet.com



White House Stores Community Shop

Thank you to everyone for your support over the year. Don't forget to pop in for your last-minute gifts and Christmas food. Our Christmas meat and cheese ordering is available, and you can enter our raffle to win a hamper so just ask in the shop or check out our social media.

It may seem like a strange time of year to ask but there are always jobs that need doing. We need someone to volunteer who would like to be our 'shop gardener'! I have been doing this job this year but I need someone to take over from me. Pop in any Thursday or Friday and have a chat with me to see if it suits you.

Happy Christmas to our customers, members, volunteers, staff and committee members



Margaret Maxwell
margaret@whitehousestores.co.uk



White House Stores
Christmas opening times

TUE 24TH DEC 8.30AM-1PM
WED 25TH DEC CLOSED
THUR 26TH DEC 9AM-12PM
FRI 27TH DEC 8.30AM-5PM
SAT 28TH DEC 8.30AM-5PM
SUN 29TH DEC 8.30AM-12PM
MON 30TH DEC 8.30AM-5PM
TUE 31ST DEC 8.30AM-1PM
WED 1ST JAN 9AM-12PM



Christmas card deliveries

Once again the Xmas Elves will be cheerfully delivering all your local Christmas Cards. The post boxes will be placed in the shop and village hall on Monday **2nd December** and emptied early on **Tuesday 17th Dec**, ready for delivery on **Wednesday 18th**. Please label all cards clearly with name and address.

We ask for a small donation of £3 which goes to help buy Santa's presents for our local children and various charities. Last year we happily helped with our local defibrillators. If anyone is house bound and would like a collection from home please ring Ruth on 07810 177764. If you see any of the Elves out and about on the 18th, please give them a cheerful wave.

The Xmas Elves



Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group

From the NIB Archive, December 1983. "**Christmas 1905**. On the Saturday before Christmas, Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch kindly invited all the children of Neatishead and Ashmanhaugh to a tea in the Clubroom (Old Victory Hall) Neatishead. The room had been tastefully decorated for the occasion by the Neatishead teachers and Mrs and Mr Easton. The room was filled to its utmost capacity, about 150 children being present. After tea a huge Christmas tree, laden with toys etc was unveiled; and its appearance greeted with loud cheers; every child being on the tiptoe of expectations wondering what he or she was going to receive. During the evening selections on the gramophone and a Magic Lantern [1] entertainment, were greatly enjoyed by all. Before dispersing, the Rev G. Wyche called for cheers for Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch which were vociferously accorded. All left home after having spent a most enjoyable afternoon."

[1] Before mobile phones, computers or TV screens, magic lanterns, like our projectors today, used light to project small pictures and blew them up so that they could be projected onto a screen, sheet or wall.

We know of Mr and Mrs Easton who lived at The Saddlery in Neatishead, but who were Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch? Do get in touch if you are able to tell us more about them.

As 2024 draws to a close we would like to thank everyone who has attended any of our events, walks, talks or open mornings this year – we hope you have enjoyed them and learnt a little more about the history of the villages. Details of our next talk on **Monday 24th February 2025** will be in the next issue of NIB. Meanwhile I should like to thank Gail Murrells and Barbara Pilcher, two of our founder members, for all their help and support over the past 11 years, as they step down from the committee. If you would like to get more involved with the planning and organising of events in the coming year or have an interest in a particular aspect of the villages' history, we would love to hear from you.

Claire Penstone-Smith, 07760 643739
claireps@btinternet.com



Jane King, 07423 820228
janeelizabethking@hotmail.com



Neathead to the North Pole : 6010 km zig zag or 4150 km direct! :

HO HO HO
Collect your kilometres from the GYM and from HOME ...

... so that Gymniny can meet me at the NORTH POLE

I can help by sprinkling
* stardust *
to double your kilometres!

Gymniny's NORTH POLE Challenge

Can I use my gym skills to travel 6000 km in 6 weeks?
(with Santa stardust)

Father Christmas promises to bring me home by sleigh for the gym's 15th Dec coffee morning & raffle!

Distances are approximate ... and possibly magical!

Over the last few months we've seen two regular gym members involved in charitable exercises to



denvergurney@tiscali.co.uk,
neal418@btinternet.com



Rachel Clayton 07939 007271

raise funds for Cancer Research UK (CRUK). We all know someone affected by cancer and incredible breakthroughs in treatments, and occasionally cures, are made every year through research with CRUK's support.

In September Jackie Hall, from Tunstead, bravely committed to walking one mile per day: difficult but part of her rehabilitation for a back injury. Some walks were completed from home or frequently made in the gym on our treadmills. Jackie completed her 30-mile target; amazing... well done Jackie.

Meanwhile Simon Thompson, from Neatishead, (foolishly, he admits) signed up for CRUK's 100 press-ups a day in October; these were completed mostly from home but also often in the gym, with helpful tips on best form from Gary our gym instructor. 3,100 press-ups later, Simon confessed to being drained and having an appetite like a horse for a week after!

Both Jackie and Simon agree that the encouragement from the gym community and Gary really supported their physical efforts and the generous donations from many gym members helped contribute to a combined fund-raise of almost £2,500; another positive endorsement for membership of Neatishead Community Gym. See photo of Simon and Jackie in their Cancer Research t-shirts.



For a gym visit and free trial please contact: gym@victoryhall.info or call Gary, our instructor, on 07387 876216. Gary is also leading circuit training sessions for all fitness levels, on Tuesday evenings (NVH). For photos, video, and more information: www.neatisheadcommunitygym.com

Joan Dickie



Neatishead School

Pupils at Neatishead C of E Primary School were awarded the Eco-Schools' Green Flag with Distinction! We are proud to announce that we have received international accreditation for our exceptional work in promoting sustainability and raising environmental awareness within our school. Earlier this year, we set up an Eco committee to help the local environment. It is pupil-led, with support from Gatekeepers class teacher Mrs Morton.

Our Action Plan focussed on 3 key issues: biodiversity, litter and waste.



Activities included creating a wildlife area within the school grounds, litter picking, holding a bake sale for the WWF, looking at ways to reduce food waste and taking part in the Nationwide Trash Mob competition week run by Plastic Free Schools Surfers Against Sewage. These activities were thoughtfully selected to increase environmental awareness, bolster their school's sustainability, and make meaningful contributions to global conservation efforts.

The Eco-Schools Team feedback said, "It is evident that young people in your school are aware of environmental issues and passionate about protecting our planet!" As well as this award we also won the Nationwide Trash Mob competition and received a handmade body board in recognition of our work. We hope that the local villages will love what we have achieved to help our local area. We are continuing to build on what we have achieved and we are setting ourselves new challenges.

Isla, Eco-committee member 2024



Barton Turf & Irstead Parish Council

From January 2025, the parish council will be meeting every other month, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The website will be kept up to date if these dates change. Please feel free to come along as there is always a space on the agenda for any public participation and questions.

Seen a pothole? Noticed a sign is missing? Mud on the road? If you spot any highways issue, please do report it using the Norfolk County Council's 'report a problem' page, www.norfolk.gov.uk/highwaysproblem.

The page will lead you through a series of questions to identify what and where the problem is and then provide you with a reference number so you can keep track of the outcome. Update emails will also be sent to you.

Nicola Ledain, bartonturfirsteadpc@yahoo.com

Neatishead Parish Council

Neatishead Parish Council are delighted to confirm that on receipt of some partial funding, a second defibrillator machine has been purchased! This is following on from the successful installation of one earlier in the year at the business park. Whilst a site has been secured there are a few technicalities to cover before the exact location is announced but please watch this space for more details.

The budget for 2025/2026 is in the process of being drafted ready for approval in January and the council are planning on including plans for some additional seating in the village and improvements at The Staithe.

As 2024 draws to a close the council and its members would like to wish all the residents of Neatishead a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing many of you at next year's meetings commencing on **16th January 2025**.

Please remember there are still two vacancies on the parish council that desperately need filling, so if one of your New Year resolutions is to give something back to your community then please do not hesitate to get in touch with a councillor or the parish clerk at neatishead.parish@gmail.com.

Laura Bateman



Neatishead, Barton Turf & District WI

INSPIRING WOMEN Joshua from the Benjamin Foundation came to thank us recently for the money we have raised over the past year for their charity. An amazing £1,066. A fabulous result. Our next charity is Hear for Norfolk.

We've also held a Murder Mystery event led by Julie Porter. Only one team managed to guess correctly but it was a great deal of fun trying to find the murderer and the motive.

In memory of Jane Mitchell, our competition table was full of ginger biscuits made with Jane's recipe. Her son Robert kindly came to judge, and Jo MacDougall won first prize.

We are already looking forward to our Christmas lunch at How Hill in December. New members always welcome.

Email neatisheadwi@gmail.com for further details.

Sally Church, President



Horning Flower Arrangement Club

At our November meeting, Moira Neville gave an entertaining demonstration called 'Whatever The Weather' using a lovely variety of flowers. The competition for displays entitled 'Autumn Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness' was won by Bridget Hedges. At the next meeting at 2pm on **9th December** in Horning Village Hall, we look forward to welcoming Gill McGregor who demonstrates "Sparkle Spectacular" and knowing Gill it will be both spectacular and sparkling!

We are also having a Christmas afternoon tea. Advance booking essential for tea so please contact Secretary, Carole Swan 01692 536270. Gill will no doubt have lots of hints and tips on Christmas arrangements, so a meeting not to be missed.

At our New Year meeting on **Monday 13th January**, we have a practical workshop 'January Joy' with Charlene from Charlie's' Blooms so all welcome to come along but please book with Carole so that your arranging kit for the afternoon can be ordered.

Doreen Dean



Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers Cricket Club

The 2024 season finished on a high as 100 members, friends, families and sponsors joined together for a wonderful meal at The Lodge, Salhouse. Senior presentations were made and the food and service was, as always, sensational!

Colchester Inns have long supported the club but during 2024 their support reached another level with all the 1st team match day lunches being provided by their chef. We consider ourselves very lucky and extend our thanks to Matthew & Nicola once again.

Winter nets are booked for juniors and senior nets will be confirmed shortly, please check social media or contact Jordan joeeverett333@gmail.com directly for details.

The club AGM will take place on **7th January 2025**, at 7pm at the Diamond Centre Sprowston, NR7 8TR. Nominations for all club positions are open and a virtual link to the meeting will be available for those unable to attend.

Fundraisers are booked as follows

8th February 2025, Quiz Night New Victory Hall, Neatishead.

5th April 2025, Fun Casino Tithe Barn, Horstead.

These are open to everyone and we would be delighted to see you at a few of our events.

All money raised goes into the club to provide facilities, equipment and a good level of cricket for all to enjoy.

We are always very proud and grateful for the support we receive from the community and local businesses; please get in touch if you would like to promote your business via our club. We have a variety of advertising opportunities and as one of the "big 4" clubs in Norfolk your business would be seen far and wide!

We have 4 senior teams playing Saturday cricket, a Sunday side (or 2), friendly teams and junior cricket in every age group.

For 2025 we will be launching dedicated ladies/girls cricket so please express your interest asap!

And finally everyone at Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers CC wishes you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a great 2025.

We look forward to seeing you on the boundary in 2025!

Jayne Everett



Weather

Dry end to October continues into a gloomy November.

The total rainfall recorded in October was 65.2mms/2.57in which is 93% of average, the majority falling in the first half of the month. Temperatures recovered to above average in the second half, reaching 20°C on both the 16th and 25th. The rainfall recorded for November to date (up to 14th) is just 1.6mms/0.06in which is 2.3% of average. This came courtesy of one or two light showers on the 11th and 12th in what has been an otherwise dry but very dull period, caused by a huge anticyclone stretching from the Atlantic to the Caspian Sea. Temperatures have been a fairly uniform 12-14°C by day and a mild 8-10°C by night.

Peter Mills



Wildlife Notes

During October and November many of you commented on the big flocks of Pink-footed Geese flying over our villages in large skeins with impressive numbers recorded.



Pink-footed Geese – *Margaret Maxwell*

The call of the geese is a very evocative sound and I find that I have to look up to see them whenever I hear that "wink wink" call. During November the bird which has come to notice nationally is the Hawfinch, a species which I have yet to record in the NIB villages. In some years there is a large irruption of these finches into the country and this has occurred this autumn after a gap of 7 years since the last notable one in 2017. Hawfinches are a large finch but are extremely shy, wary birds and don't tend to visit gardens as readily as their cousins the Chaffinch and Goldfinch. They have a very large, gun metal blue coloured bill which they use to open seeds and can even crack open a cherry stone using large cheek muscles. The way that the beak is designed with four interior horny pads to cushion the stone combined with the large muscles means that the bird can deliver a crushing

pressure said to be more than a thousand times greater than its own weight. Their preferred choice of habitat is mixed woods and orchards and they have a liking for Beech, Hornbeam and Wild Cherry trees. They are sometimes found in small flocks feeding underneath their favourite trees but generally perching on the highest branches of mature trees out of view.

The Hawfinch is a scarce breeding bird in Norfolk but for many years there has been a small population in the Brecks especially around Lynford arboretum although numbers are declining and we could lose it as a breeding species in the not-too-distant future.

On 12th November I came home from a trip to the theatre to find a pretty little moth on my front door, attracted no doubt, by my outside light. It turned out to be a Marbled Fern which is a native of Australia and New Zealand and has been colonising the south of this country since 2009 and is believed to have been accidentally imported with tree ferns. The moth has established a foothold in the south of the country but has been steadily moving northwards and first reached Suffolk in 2019 and then Norfolk in 2020 but is now considered to be widespread.



Marbled Fern Moth – Jon Kelf

The moth is multi brooded and thus can be found flying during almost every month of the year. The caterpillars feed on ferns including bracken which may explain its rapid spread. Jon Kelf informs me that it reached the Stalham / Catfield square in 2023 but that he has caught several in Neatishead this year.

Jerry Simpson 01692 630674
simpsonj24@btinternet.com

Roman Catholic Churches

- St Helen, Hoveton, NR12 8QJ. Saturday Mass at 5.30pm, Wednesday Mass at 9.30am.
- Sacred Heart, Norwich Road, North Walsham, NR28 9JP, Sunday Mass at 11am.

For more information, call 01692 403258.

Father Peter Raj, parishpriestfrpeter@gmail.com

Wroxham & Hoveton United Reform Church

Do join us for any or all of the following services:

Sunday 1st December. 10.30am Service led by Mr Mike Gibbs.

Sunday 8th December. 10.30am. Service led by Rev Carole Pearl, including Holy Communion.

Sunday 15th December 10.30am. Carol Service.

Sunday 22nd December. 10.30am. Service led by Rev Carole Pearl. Also 4pm Children's Nativity Play in the Church Hall.

Wednesday 25th December. 10.30am Christmas Day Service led by Rev Canon Peter Howard.

Sunday 29th December. 10.30am Service led by the Elders.

Sunday 5th January 2025. 10.30am Service led by Rev Carole Pearl, including Holy Communion.

Sunday 12th January. 10.30 am Service led by Mr Mike Gibbs.

Sunday 19th January. 10.30am Service led by Rev Paul Whittle.

Sunday 26th January. 10.30 am Service for all ages led by the children of JAM.

JAM (our Sunday School) welcomes all children aged 4 to 16. In our sessions we watch, read, listen, discuss, play, act, sing, chat, pray, cook, create and have a great time. We meet in the church hall from 10.15 – 11.45am on **8th, 15th and 22nd December.**

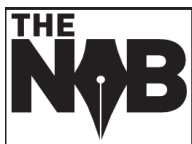
To see future sessions and events please go to <https://wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam> or more details contact jam@wroxhamurc.org.uk or call Chris on 01603 783992

The Community Café meets for coffee and cakes from 10.30am to 12 noon on Thursdays. All are welcome, there is no charge.

We look forward to seeing friends old and new

Lynne Howard (Secretary) 01603 738835.

lmhoward100@btinternet.com



NIB Team

Happy Christmas and best wishes for the new year to all our readers. A big thankyou to our article contributors and to Revd Ben for

his time and work earlier in the year getting the NIB printed.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the NIB. Your donations have enabled us to give a 16 page edition every month.

Calling local businesses!

Do you have a local business? Why not advertise in the NIB? Contact Sue Clayton on 07850 436211 or email nibadverts@gmail.com.

Did you know you can also read the NIB online? You can find it by searching for any of our villages on the website www.achurchnearyou.co.uk.

If you live outside the villages and would otherwise like to receive a copy by email, please let us know by contacting thenibmanager@gmail.com.

We need a constant rotation of people helping in many ways with the NIB. We are especially looking for a new Deputy Editor. If you are interested in joining our team and would like to chat to us, please call Sue Clayton on 07850 436211.

NIB Team



Wroxham, Hoveton & Belaugh Voluntary Community Care.

Charity No. 1044332 Transport to Medical Appointments.



**PLEASE HELP -
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS
NEEDED**

We take anyone registered at Hoveton and Wroxham Medical Centre, whatever village they live in - Neatishead, Barton Turf, Horning, Tunstead, Irstead, etc.

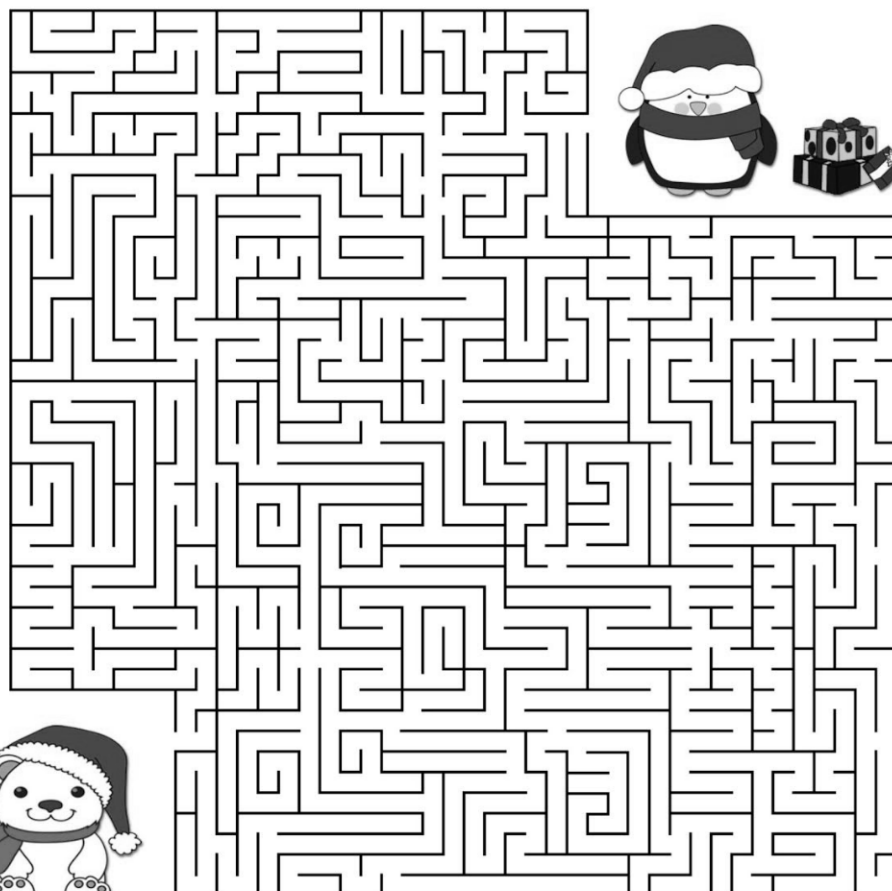
We've been established since 1985 and provide a scheme which takes people to the doctor, hospitals, dentist, optician etc. The demand for our service has increased dramatically and we are having to tell more and more people that we are unable to help them due to a severe shortage of volunteer drivers.

If you can drive, own a car, have a mobile phone and can spare a few hours a week that fit around your existing lifestyle, please come and join our team of volunteers. You will be reimbursed for fuel costs and will know that you are making a great contribution to the health and well-being of our community.

REMEMBER you may be able to drive today but not tomorrow – then YOU might be in need of the service we provide !

Contact us on 01603 784455 or

email wroxhamhovetonvmt@gmail.com



DECEMBER 2024 ADVERTS

DAVID WRIGHT Painting & decorating. Established since 1997. Horning based. Please call 01692 648535 or 07748 257176.

FOR SALE Outdoor Revolution Cayman 4 Gazebo. As new, erected once. See details here: <https://www.outdoor-revolution.com/orsh0004>, £175. Please phone 01692 630015.

FOR SALE IKEA Child's 'Minnen' metal bed frame. Black. £50. Extendable. For details: <https://www.ikea.com/gb/en/p/minnen-ext-bed-frame-with-slatted-bed-base-white-s29123958/> Please phone 01692 630015.

MARINE ELECTRICIAN 35 years' experience. Installation, fault finding, repairs & spares. Fully insured. Please phone Steve on 07958 679118.

NORFOLK FOOT MOBILE HEALTH CARE Routine care, diabetic foot care, corns and callus Dverrucae and fungal nails. Please call Richard Parnell Dip FH BSc Econ Hons 07766 167562.

C&B GARDEN SERVICES for Garden Maintenance and Pest Control, specialising in wasps and moles, rabbits & squirrels etc. For FREE quote please call Clive 01692 538356 or 07867 632572.

JON THE BOOKKEEPER offering local book keeping and general accounting services: Year end, Self Assessment, CIS subcontractors, VAT etc. Contact Jon on 07545 545358 to discuss any requirements. Jonathan.g.dawson@gmail.com.

LANCE BUCKINGHAM CARPENTRY all building work undertaken, incl kitchen fitting, extensions, refurbishment, roofing, fencing, decking & maintenance. Phone: 07795 210522 or 01603 720229, lance@lb-carpentry.co.uk.

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ROOF REPAIRS scaffolding, flat roofs, pitched roofs & chimney repairs. Also fascias & gutters. All high-level maintenance work undertaken. Ring Leighton for a quote or advice 07766 563513.

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KC WASTEWATER Service and repairs to all make of domestic sewage treatment plants. Over 30 years' experience, Felmingham based. Please call 01692 402747 or 07975 620630. Website www.kcwastewater.co.uk.

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NB NORFOLK BUILDS – local experienced builder. Call Steve for repairs & small works, home improvements, specialist brickwork, extensions and roofing. Please contact Steve on 07568 384934 or at norfolkbuilds@hotmail.com.

MICHELLE STEPHENS DECORATING - Quality efficient interior and exterior decorating 07866 726178 www.mdec.me.

PAINTING & DECORATING by Chris Ryan. Prompt and professional. Free quotation. 01692 631194 or 07758 127983.

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CHIMNEY SWEEP Member of guild of master sweeps. Fully insured. Clean and efficient. All work certificated. All solid fuel appliances. Call Harry on 07799 484012 or 01263 833362.

BARTON REED PANEL FENCING - handmade reed panels and screens. All types of fencing work undertaken. Please contact Jon on 07881 717692, email at jon.moore61@btinternet.com or see bartonreedpanelfencing.co.uk.

LOCAL SEASONED FIREWOOD free delivery various load sizes available, starting at £80. Will stack on request. To book a delivery or for more information, please call Brent 07551 753127.

PLATTEN PEST CONTROL specialising in the management of wasps, rats, mice, moles, and rabbits. Free survey. Please contact us on 01692 631173 or 07711 391839.

REGENCY GUEST HOUSE, GIFT SHOP & PICTURE FRAMING - The Street, Neatishead, NR12 8AD. Contact us at 07790 011098, 01692 630233 or regencyhouse1786@gmail.com.

EAST ANGLIAN TANKERING SERVICES a local cesspool and septic tank disposal service, also blocked drains cleared. Smallburgh based. Tel 07988 020984 / 07988 406305 www.eatankering.co.uk.

M STUDIO HAIRDRESSING at Ikens, Smallburgh Road, Barton NR12 8AP. Please call Maz 01692 630744.

YOGA CLASSES with Clare Badham at New Victory Hall, Wednesdays 18.15-19.45, more details at www.yogabreeze.co.uk or call/text 07557 353723.

ANTHONY HOWARD & SON – wet rooms, kitchens and bathrooms. All plumbing, plastering, tiling, carpentry etc. Please call 07954 224216.

STEVEN LUXFORD Experienced local decorator. Please call 01603 891662 or 07786 510558 for a free quote.

THE MOWER DOCTOR for garden machinery, service and repairs. On site repairs and servicing meaning reduced machinery downtime. Stalham based. Please call Rob 07799 530015 or 01603 291927.

A R PAYNE - for all your local painting and decorating needs. Over 35 years' experience within the building trade. Please contact Andy on 07706 991443 or andyrpayne.ap@gmail.com.

GARDEN BIRD FEED Free delivery of peanuts, sunflower, seed mixes, fat balls, mealworms and more! Please contact us on 01493 740288 or visit our website at gardenbirddirect.co.uk.

CHIMNEY SWEEP Mike Wicks & Son. Fully insured. Certificate issued. Please call either 01692 536592 or 01603 387400.

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SAM THE LADY SWEEP Wood burners, open fires, agas etc. Guild of Master Sweeps trained. HETAS registered, NVQ qualified. Please call 07835 476106, www.samtheladysweep.co.uk.

YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL ELECTRICIAN Glen Rogers Electrical. From an electric shower to a garden light. Give us a ring on 07774 103426.

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INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE Wills & Power of Attorneys, Probate and Executor Service, very competitive rates to local residents. Home Visits available or at Hoveton office. Call Martin Smith on 01603 273590 or 07584 030071.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

- £1.25 a line, maximum five lines.
- Payable by bank transfer please.
- Please contact us at nibadverts@gmail.com or phone Sue Clayton on 07850 436211.

All contributions welcome to The NIB, but please note the Team reserves the right to amend or omit items. We also start the magazine from the first of the month, and therefore events in the previous month will not be advertised. Views expressed are those of the named author. No responsibility can be accepted for any content or errors. Everybody who sends in articles, including advertisers, automatically consent to having their details published on the Internet, unless specifically requested otherwise, in which case we will endeavour to omit details before uploading onto the churches' websites.

Local Services and Contact Details

- New Victory Hall: Street Hill, Neatishead, Norfolk, NR12 8AD. Bookings: bookings@victoryhall.info or call 07551 008065
- White House Stores Community Shop: Irstead Road, Neatishead NR12 8BJ, 01692 631549
- White Horse Inn: The Street, Neatishead, NR12 8AD, 01692 630828:
- Wroxham Library events & dates: 01603 782560;
- Barton & Irstead Parish Council clerk: Nicola Ledain, bartonturfirsteadpc@yahoo.com
- Neatishead Parish Council clerk: Laura Bateman, neatishead.parish@gmail.com

Magazine Team for February 2024 – December 2024

News & dates: Margaret Maxwell (Editor) – 07460 740700 - nibeditor1@gmail.com

Dates: Joan Dickie (Deputy Editor) – 07796 617704 - nibdeputyeditor1@gmail.com

Adverts: Sue Clayton (Manager) - 07850 436211 - nibadverts@gmail.com

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NIB Kids: Georgina Grocott - 07900 411103 - nibskids12@gmail.com

NIB Treasurer: Mandy Parks 07547 697010 – nibfinancials@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY EDITION – 14th January 2025

Diary dates for December

Mon	2	7-7.30pm	NVH: Village Screen: A Haunting in Venice (2023: Cert 12A: 113m)
Tues	3	Noon-1.30pm	Winter Warmer NVH
Wed	4	10.10am 11.15am 7pm	Mobile Library: Pitt Corner, Neatishead, NR12 8BT Mobile Library: Council Houses, Ashmanhaugh, NR12 8YL White Horse Inn Quiz for charity: Crisis, plus Xmas tapas menu
Thurs	5	12.30pm 2-5pm	Friends and Neighbours: Christmas Lunch: Crostwick Broadacres Xmas Fayre
Sat	7	9.30-noon	NVH: Christmas Fair
Mon	9	2pm	Horning Flower Club Sparkle Spectacular
Tues	10	Noon-1.30pm	Winter Warmer NVH
Wed	11	10.15am 10.35am 10.55am 4pm 7-9pm 6.30pm	Mobile Library: Pennygate, Barton Turf NR12 8BE Mobile Library: Ex-Post Office, Barton Turf NR12 8BB Mobile Library: Staithe Road, Barton Turf NR12 8AZ School Nativity: St Michael and All Angels Knit and Stitch: Community Room NVH White Horse Inn Cheese & Wine night – details on website
Thurs	12	10am-noon	Friends & Neighbours: Carol Service: Baptist Church,
Fri	13	7.30pm	NABS PANTO: Cinderella
Sat	14	9am to noon 2.30pm 7. 30pm	NVH: Community Market NABS PANTO: Cinderella: Matinee NABS PANTO: Cinderella
Sun	15	10am-noon 4pm-6pm	NVH: Neatishead Community Gym Coffee morning and Raffle White Horse Inn Wreath making course
Mon	16	7.30pm	NVH: Gardening Club: Quiz Evening Neatishead Parish Council meeting
Tues	17	Noon-1.30pm	Winter Warmer NVH
Sat	21	10am-noon	St Michael and All Angels Coffee Morning
Sun	22	4pm-6pm	White Horse Inn Supper with Santa
Sat	28	10-11.30am	Hope Café. Neatishead Baptist Church NR12 8Y
Tue	31		White Horse Inn Great Gatsby night – details on website

Diary Dates for January 2025

Tues	7	Noon-1.30pm	Winter Warmer NVH
Wed	8	10.15am 10.35am 10.55am 7-9pm	Mobile Library: Pennygate, Barton Turf NR12 8BE Mobile Library: Ex-Post Office, Barton Turf NR12 8BB Mobile Library: Staithe Road, Barton Turf NR12 8AZ Knit and Stitch Community Room: NVH
Mon	13	2pm	Horning Flower Club January Joy
Tues	14	Noon-1.30pm	Winter Warmer NVH Deadline for NIB February Edition
Wed	15	2pm	WI: NVH
Sat	18	10am-noon	Coffee Morning: St Michael and All Angels
Mon	20	7.30pm	NVH: Gardening Club: Jerry Simpson
Tues	21	Noon-1.30pm	Winter Warmer NVH
Wed	22	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Community Room NVH
Sat	25	10-11.30am	Hope Café. Neatishead Baptist Church NR12 8Y
Tues	28	Noon-1.30pm	Winter Warmer NVH
Wed	29	10.10am 11.15am	Mobile Library: Pitt Corner, Neatishead, NR12 8BT Mobile Library: Council Houses, Ashmanhaugh, NR12 8YL

Future Dates Sat 22nd February:  Doghouse and Collaborators return to NVH 
Mon 24th February: NIBCHG talk (details in next NIB)

Defibrillator Locations

Neatishead	New Victory Hall, NR12 8AD	The Granary Business Park, School Rd NR12 8BU
Barton	Point Farm (barn wall) NR12 8BB	Cox's Boatyard toilet block NR12 8AZ
Irstead	Staithe Car Park, NR12 8XS	
Pennygate	Berry Hall Lodge (left of gate) NR12 8BE	

Benefice of St Benedict - Church Services – December 2024 & January 2025

1 st December	<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am	Benefice HC with Sunday Club	Neatishead
8 th December	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am 9.30am 11am	MP HC HC	Horning Barton Turf Ashmanhaugh
15 th December	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am 11am 11am 4pm	HC (BCP) HC MW with Sunday Club EP	Irstead Horning Neatishead Barton Turf
22 nd December	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am 6pm	Benefice HC Carol Service	Ashmanhaugh Horning
24 th December	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	4pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Midnight Mass	Irstead Neatishead
25 th December	<i>Christmas Day</i>	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11am	HC HC HC Carol Service	Ashmanhaugh Horning Irstead Barton Turf
29 th December		11am	Benefice HC	Barton Turf
5 th January	<i>Epiphany</i>	9.30am	Benefice HC	Neatishead
12 th January	<i>Baptism of Christ</i>	9.30am	Benefice HC	Ashmanhaugh
19 th January	<i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	9.30am 11am 4pm	HC HC EP	Horning Irstead Barton Turf
19 th January		11am	Sunday Club	Neatishead
26 th January	<i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	9.30am 11am 11am	HC (BCP) MP HC	Irstead Horning Barton Turf

Weekday Morning Prayer Services – in our Benefice churches at 9.15am*

Monday: Irstead

Tuesday: Neatishead

Wednesday: Horning

Thursday: Barton Turf

*Friday at 9.45am: Ashmanhaugh

Parish Church Wardens

Neatishead: Pauline Simpson: 01692 630674 & Nick Fowle: 01692 630249

Irstead: David Murrells: 01692 631427 Barton Turf: Barbara Pilcher: 01692 536132



Neatishead Baptist Church

December	2024		January	2025	
1 st Dec	10.30am	Rev'd Neville Khambatta:Com'ion	5 th Jan	10.30am	Rev'd Neville Khambatta Communion
2 nd Dec	2pm	Fellowship study: Mark	10 th Jan	10am	Prayer meeting
8 th Dec	10.30am	Marc Grimston	12 th Jan	10.30am	David Osbourne
13 th Dec	10.00am	Prayer Meeting	13 th Jan	2pm	Fellowship study: Mark
15 th Dec	10.30am	Rev'd Rob Hume	19 th Jan	10.30am	Val Khambatta
22 nd Dec	10.30am 6pm	Val Khambatta Village Carols: Rev'd Neville Khambatta	25 th Jan	10am	Hope Cafe
25 th Dec <i>Christmas Day</i>	9am	Val Khambatta	26 th Jan	10.30am	Marc Grimston
28 th Dec	10am	Hope Cafe	27 th Jan	2pm	Fellowship study: Mark
29 th Dec	10.30am	Marc Grimston			
30 th Dec	2pm	Fell'ship study-Mark			

Hope Café meets for fellowship, coffee, games etc.10am to 11.30am on the last Saturday of the month. Everyone welcome for a bit of fun and fellowship. **Fellowship Meetings** 2pm. **Prayer Meeting** 10am.

NIB deadline for February edition is 14th January

