

THE *Mardler*

BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 254 December 2024 - January 2025

**THE MARDLER is FREE and delivered to all
houses in Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots**

Also available on-line at www.themardler.org.uk

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The views expressed in The Mardler are not necessarily those of the Editorial team. The Editor reserves the right to amend or alter any copy received.

BROCKDISH VILLAGE HALL TIMETABLE

Wednesday	Art group (10.00am)
	Badminton (3.00pm & 5.00pm)
Thursday	Yoga (10.15am)
	Carpet Bowls (7.30pm)

From local events and history to Parish Council news, please look at the village website:

www.brockdishandthorpeabbotts.com

ADVERTISING IN THE MARDLER

If you are interested in advertising, the current rates are £25 for ¼ page, £50 for ½ page and £100 for a full page, which covers the 6 issues from 1st April annually. The cost for less than 6 issues is £5 per issue for ¼ page, £10 per issue for ½ page and £20 for a full page. For further information please contact Judith Chambers, see above.

Useful Contacts


Harleston Surgery	01379 853217
Emergencies	999
Police Harleston and Diss	101
NHS Direct	111
Electricity Power Cuts	105
Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Anglian Water	03457 145 145
South Norfolk Council	01508 533633
Brockdish Village Hall <i>Bookings Lisa Poole</i>	01379 668416
Thorpe Abbots Village Hall <i>Bookings Sarah McClusky</i>	07717737570
Waveney Heritage Centre	01379 668285
Carpet Bowls Club <i>Peter Croxson</i>	01379 668630
Art Club <i>Sue Hughes</i>	01379 855414
Badminton <i>Roger Woodrow</i>	01379 669016
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Parish Clerk <i>Teresa Hines</i>	01379 308617
South Norfolk Help Hub	01508 533633 0845 269078
Waveney Food Bank	01379 870506

Welcome to this very festive edition of The Mardler! December is such a busy month with Christmas preparations, including our very own Christmas Lights switch-on events on Saturday 7th December, as well as the Christingle and Carol Services. Christmas is all about community, kindness, and generosity. Please don't forget those who may be alone or in need this season. A kind word, a warm meal, or a thoughtful gift can mean the world to someone struggling, especially now that the nights are long, dark and cold. As 2024 comes to a close, let's look back on all we have achieved in our communities. We have said goodbye to old friends and welcomed new ones. On that note, we would like to express our deepest thanks to Frances Frost, who has distributed The Mardler in Thorpe Abbots for many years, and who is moving on to pastures new. Thank you for everything you have done Frances, we shall miss you! If there is anyone who would like to take over from Frances as a distributor, then please get in touch with the editorial team. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Rob Buck, Editor

REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the February/March 2025 issue is Monday 6th January 2025. Articles received after this date will not be included in the next issue.



**The Mardler Editorial Team
would like to wish all
our readers, distributors,
contributors and advertisers a Very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year. We thank each one of you for
making this such an interesting and
successful publication.**

Harleston Library

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/40193/Harleston-Library>

Household Support

As part of this year's NCC Household Support Offer, we have supplies of blankets, hot water bottles, and draught excluders available for those who need a bit of extra help keeping themselves warm and well this winter. Also, during staffed hours, we have a tea trolley available, so you are very welcome to come in and help yourself to a hot drink.

Bounce and Rhyme

We hold 'Bounce and Rhyme' and 'Stay and Play' sessions every Wednesday morning, every week of the year. 'Bounce and Rhyme' sessions start 10.30am and are aimed at babies and toddlers. They are a relaxed mix of traditional rhymes and new songs to sing along to. Then, at 11.00am, we have 'Stay and Play', where we have toys out for the children and the parents/carers can have a cup of tea and a catch up. There is no need to book for either of these groups, just turn up and join in.

Lego Club

We hold a Lego Club every Monday afternoon from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. This is aimed at Primary School-aged children, although younger siblings are welcome. Refreshments are available but children must be accompanied.

Family Time

We are pleased to announce that our Family Time group, which up until now has been running on alternate Wednesdays, is now being held every week from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. There is no need to book, just turn up and enjoy craft activities, toys and games. Refreshments are available, but children must be accompanied.

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Harleston Library

Christmas Opening Hours

- Tuesday 24th December: Open Libraries until 12.00pm only
- Wednesday 25th December: CLOSED (NO Open Libraries)
- Thursday 26th December: CLOSED (NO Open Libraries)
- Friday 27th December: Open Libraries 8.00am-11.30am, Staffed 11.30am – 7.00pm
- Saturday 28th December: Open Libraries 8.00am-11.30am, Staffed 11.30am – 4.00pm
- Sunday 29th December – Open Libraries 10.00am – 4.00pm
- Monday 30th December - Open Libraries 8.00am-11.30am, Staffed 11.30am – 7.00pm
- Tuesday 31st December - Open Libraries until 4.00pm only
- Wednesday 1st January - CLOSED
- Thursday 2nd January – Open Libraries 8.00am – 7.00pm

Merry Xmas from us all at Harleston Library!

Bringing the Library to You

Our Home Library Service delivers books and other media free of charge to people unable to get to their local library due to poor health, mobility issues, or caring responsibilities. To use this service please contact the Norfolk Library and Information Service on 0344 800 8020 or email libraries@norfolk.gov.uk.

To learn more about becoming a Norfolk Home Library Service Volunteer, please visit royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk, call 01603 397998, or email norfolkhl@sroyalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Mobile Library

Visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots every 4 weeks on a Thursday. Next visit is the **23rd January 2025** (no visit in December).

Stopping at:

- Brockdish Grove Road, 12.10 pm
- Thorpe Abbots, Mill Road (opposite Westview), 12.35 pm

A HUGE Thank You!

You are an amazing community! On Friday 27th September, the Coffee Morning raised the fantastic sum of £562 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to all those who helped and supported this event. Together we make a difference! THANK YOU!

Ann Cork

🎵🎄 Carol Singing in Brockdish 🎄🎵

We shall be celebrating Christmas with carol singing around the village on Wednesday 18th December. Please meet at 6.30pm at the end of Causeway Close, and bring a torch! We shall be collecting for East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Come and enjoy singing all your favourite carols! More information from Ann Cork (tel. 01379 668635).



Christmas Day Lunch

**St John's Church,
Harleston 12.30pm**

**For anyone who wants to
be with others on
Christmas Day.**

Booking Essential

Please phone 01379 851148
or email admin@7churches.org.uk
to book by 13th December.

Help the Homeless Appeal: Norwich Homeless Centre

The homeless have had a brief reprieve from intense cold, but it's coming again.

We can help to bring some comfort. I need hand towels, warm hats, gloves, scarves and toiletries to make up comfort packs for the Norwich Homeless Centre.

Sadly, the need never goes away, and it will get worse this winter. Please help if you can.

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A word from Rosedale Bereavement Support

I love this time of year, autumn being my favourite season. I channel my inner Dane, embrace the Hygge and take every opportunity to enjoy blustery walks in the chilly air, followed by warming food and drinks by the fire. There is nothing quite like cosying up in a comfy armchair with a blanket and a good book or magazine. I think I share much in common with hedgehogs because I like to hibernate when the season of falling leaves arrives!

I know that not everyone shares my preference and it seems that most people I talk to, lament the end of summer. Many dread the end of long, warm days and the opportunity to be out and about as much as possible. This is especially true of those who are bereaved, particularly those who now find themselves living alone.

Motivation can wane and doing anything can feel like more of an effort. However, it is more important than ever at this time of year, to make self-care a priority. Self-care can sound a bit selfish but it really just means taking time to look after yourself and doing things that make you feel recharged and warm inside. It might involve spending time alone, to rest and relax or reaching out to engage with others. This could mean volunteering for an organisation or charity, which gives a sense of purpose by knowing we are helping others and making a positive difference in the world. We can also make time to meet with others. Inviting someone round for a coffee or meal, or going out together, could mean a lot to someone who also lives alone.

Those who are bereaved can sometimes experience feelings of guilt if they start to enjoy life again and engage with others. This is not unusual and does not mean that we are leaving our loved ones behind or being disrespectful to them. It simply means that we are trying to make the most of the life we have now. We are all entitled to experience joy, happiness and connection in life – it's what makes life worth living. So, this Autumn, make time for self-care: Meet with others, enjoy some good food, watch an uplifting film, read a good book, have a long soak in a fragrant bubble bath or whatever else makes you feel warm inside.

Our next Bereavement Support Groups start in January. All our groups are free and open to everyone. Please book your place by calling 07901 888 122 or pop into your local Rosedale branch.

Sarah Howard, Rosedale Funeral Home Bereavement Support Facilitator



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- Monday 9th December: Thetford Town and Garden Centre, £15.00
- Monday 16th December: Beccles, £15.00
- Monday 23rd December: Christmas Lunch at The Jolly Farmers, Fornsett, £35.00 (includes three course meal and transport)

To book or for more information please call 01379 854800 or visit our website www.borderhoppa.org.

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotment Association

BATAAA is run by a committee of volunteers for members of the local community. Having an allotment is an excellent way of getting your daily exercise whilst growing healthy food for the table, so why not give it a go?



We have a small number of full (250m²) and half (125m²) plots available, and there is water on site.

To find out more about the allotments or to check plot availability please email Rebecca at bataaa@hotmail.co.uk or ring Roy on 01379 854868.



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Christmas Cake

Christmas cake is an English tradition that began as plum porridge. People ate the porridge on Christmas Eve, using it to line their stomachs after a day of fasting. Soon, dried fruit, spice and honey were added to the porridge mixture, which eventually turned into Christmas pudding. In the 16th Century, oatmeal was removed and butter, flour and eggs were added. This helped hold the mixture together, resulting in a boiled plum cake. Wealthier families with ovens made a fruit cake using seasonal dried fruit and spices. The spices represented exotic eastern spices bought by the wise men. Marzipan was also introduced, and this became known as Christmas cake.

Generally, Christmas cakes are a variation on a classic fruitcake. The Scottish cake is known as Whisky Dundee and is a light crumbly cake with currants, raisins, cherries and Scottish whisky. Other types of cake include apple crème cake and mincemeat cake. Christmas cakes are made in advance, feeding the cake with a small amount of brandy, whisky or sherry poured into holes every week until Christmas.

Cakes in other countries vary. Japan's cake is a simple sponge cake frosted with whipped cream and usually topped with Christmas chocolates, and eaten Christmas Eve. In the Philippines the cakes are a bright yellow pound cake with macerated fruit soaked in copious amounts of liquor. This can stay fresh for many months.

Stollen is the German favourite, and is often referred to as Christollen. In Italy, Panettone, a sweet sour bread in a cupola shape containing raisins and candied fruit, is enjoyed. France has a Yule log cake, 'Bûche de Noël', which has special significance. Since medieval times, a log brought to a house is a symbol of warmth and comfort.

Whatever the choice of cake, the tradition of eating the special cake will carry on in time.



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Quiz Night



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2025**

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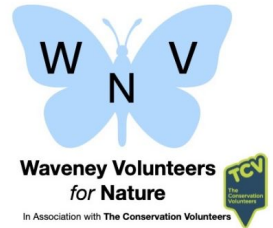
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Waveney Volunteers for Nature

October saw our 2nd birthday and our AGM held at the Waveney Heritage Centre. The Annual Report showed a very successful year with sound finances and progress in a widening field of activity resulting in many improvements to our environment and wildlife.



Support from the community was demonstrated when we were nominated for a Norfolk Biodiversity Award and in the receipt of generous grants from the Parish and South Norfolk Councils. We have also sought to engage the community in understanding and appreciating conservation with, for example, our Open Day on Foredale Common, our encouragement of the Parish Council to treat Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots as Wildlife Friendly Villages and our talk at the Heritage Centre on the 'Rescue and Recovery of our Commons'. We were happy to report how working in partnership with many other organisations adds value to what we do and how we are endeavouring to extend that by getting an agreement with Norfolk County Council for management of the old School Playing Field as a wildlife reserve, involving schools in the work, so that it returns to being an 'open air classroom'. This has very solid support including that of Adrian Ramsay our MP. On a sad note we said goodbye to our founding Chairman during the year. Tony Perkins had been a tower of strength in getting our group off the ground - he is greatly missed. The Committee for the coming year, elected at the AGM, is Christine Douglas (Chair), Colin Kirk (Secretary), Derek Clark (Treasurer), Robin Clay (Field Operations), June Adams (Media), and Alan Carpenter (Partnerships). Following the AGM our guest speaker was Peter Metcalf who gave us an impressive talk on 'Harleston's Future - A Swift Friendly Town'. Such a lot of good work is being done there and hopefully this will inspire others to think about a 'swift box' on their property. As usual I end with an appeal to anyone who would like to enjoy a bit of work in the open countryside with a happy bunch of volunteers 'doing our bit' for the environment, and battling against the effects of climate change. Please get in touch, you will be made very welcome. Email WVfNature@protonmail.com, or see our Facebook page.

Derek Clark

Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

Halloween in Thorpe Abbots! A spooktacular event and great to see new friends from Brockdish!



Coming in the New Year at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

- Pilates
- Bingo
- Quiz Night
- Thorpe Abbots Goes Walking

Watch this Space!



2024 Review

It has been a very good year at the Waveney Heritage Centre. Our museums, Waveney Wireless, The Museum of Broadcasting and The Museum of Memories, including a '30's Lounge', have been very popular and well received.

We offered monthly talks on a wide variety of subjects, and two walks, one around Dickleburgh Moor with Ben Potterton, and the other around 'Horrible Harleston' with Gordon Lascelles, both of which attracted an excellent turnout. Our Christmas Craft Fair is now a regular event and very popular along with the Brockdish Village Garage Sale. We also held a quiz, a first for us, which was very well attended and enjoyed by us all. An excellent talk was also given by The Waveney Volunteers for Nature who have rescued and recovered the two Brockdish Commons, both of which are well worth a visit.

Work is underway on the Events List for 2025, and it will include the community Garage Sale. The sale will take place in June 2025, and as soon as the exact date is set and the other events are confirmed, they will be published in the forthcoming Mardlers and on our website. Plenty of time to start your spring cleaning!

During the winter, the Museum of Broadcasting will be open on the last Sunday of every month, 10.30am to 3.00pm, from October 2024 through to Easter 2025.

On behalf of us all at Waveney Heritage Centre a huge thank you to everyone for their support over the last year and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Jill Edwards

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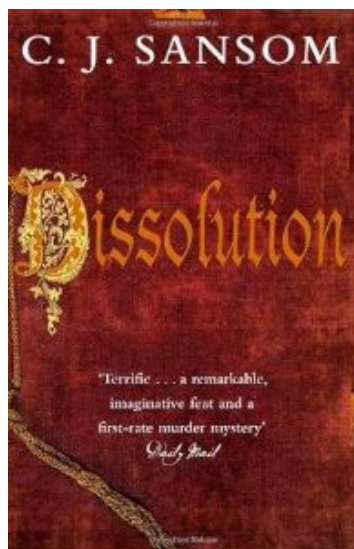
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The Book Club recommends...

Dissolution By CS Sansom

It is a time of great religious upheaval; King Henry VIII wants to dissolve the monasteries and keep the lands and treasures held by them. Some would go to his trusted and corrupt cronies, but he kept most of the proceeds for himself. Henry has declared himself to be head of the reformed church, and God's voice on Earth. Matthew Shardlake is a lawyer and a religious reformer and hates the Catholic Church. He has at one time been friends with Thomas Cromwell as they shared religious views, but the execution of Anne Boleyn has soured Matthew who is that rarest of things at that time – an honest lawyer. He believes in fighting for the poor and is tenacious in his work and is losing faith in Reform. Unfortunately for Matthew he is also a hunchback, an omen of bad luck, and much derided by some at all levels of society. Cromwell has sent for him. A King's Commissioner has been sent to Scarnsea on the south coast to make the Abbott surrender the monastery. He has been murdered, his head taken clean off his shoulders and left in a manner which some claim involves witchcraft. Cromwell charges Shardlake to find the murderer and force the surrender. The monks greet Shardlake with hostility, but he has his Commission from Cromwell who is deeply feared. There are many suspects, including a monk who has been tortured in the Tower of London, a Moor, who is the Pharmacist, the Bookkeeper, whom Shardlake suspects of selling monastic lands, and indeed, the Abbott himself, who lives a life of luxury. There is sodomy amongst the monks, and lust for a woman who assists in the Pharmacy. Soon, a monk is poisoned, and a young woman's body is found, and Shardlake is a target himself.

CS Sansom is a Tudor historian whose writing brings the whole period to vibrant life. The story is full of fascinating historical detail, twists and turns in the plot, and a surprise when we discover who the actual murderer is and why. He has written seven books about Shardlake, all based on events that really happened, and people who are well known historical figures. *Dissolution* has even been made into a series by Disney. Please do not be put off by the length of his books, you will soon find that they are not long enough!



Christmas Cracker Jokes

How do snowmen get around?
They ride an icicle.

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Snowflakes

What athlete is warmest in winter?
A long jumper

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card?
Stick with me and we'll go places.

Who hides in a bakery at Christmas?
Mince spies



Christmas Carol Conundrums

1. Tiny ass.
2. A small settlement south of Jerusalem.
3. Off in a feeding trough.
4. Soundless dark hours.
5. Vorderman from Godivas city.
6. Festoon the foyer with branches of Willoughby.

Answers on page 35



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A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

Norfolk County Farms have welcomed four new tenants, as part of the council's ongoing efforts to encourage new entrants to the industry and support the rural economy. The new tenants, who have taken on farms ranging in size from 72 to 250 acres, will bring a diverse range of skills and experience to the county's agricultural community. Among the new tenants are Montana Moorse and Tyler Taylor who are just 21 and 22 years old. They both graduated from Easton College and have worked up their skills working on local farms and stables. The council's farms estate covers nearly 17,000 acres and has 95 farm tenants which makes it the second largest council-owned farm estate in the country. The farms provide opportunities for people to enter the farming industry, with a focus on supporting new and innovative approaches to agriculture. Find out more at:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/countyfarms.

People have been warned not to abuse blue badges for disabled people, after officers took 13 people to court over reported misuse of the permits. Warnings were also issued to dozens and blue badges were destroyed because they had been wrongly used. More than 35,000 valid badges are held across the county, permitting holders to park on single or double yellow lines for up to three hours in vehicles they are driving or travelling in. Holders can also park for free in areas with on-street parking meters and pay-and-display machines.

As the nights draw in and temperatures fall, we know that cold weather and the risk of ice and snow can make getting around a challenge, whether you're driving walking or cycling. All of our salt/grit stores are full across the county, and when the temperature drops below freezing our fleet of 47 gritting vehicles are ready to spread the salt on over 2,000 miles of our roads. We have many local farmers on standby to help with clearing the roads in snowy conditions. Also we have around 2,000 yellow salt/grit bins across the county where the salt is spread across pavements and roads by local volunteers. Keep up-to-date with weather warnings, gritting and road safety advice at www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkwinter.

The One Million Trees for Norfolk subsidised tree scheme is now open for individuals, parish councils, community groups, businesses, schools and landowners to apply for tree packs (and tree protection) at up to 50% off the original price. As well as the usual range of tree packs available, this year, for the first time there are a limited number of single Norfolk Oak Trees, grown at Gressenhall Community tree nursery, making it possible for more people to

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

take part and be 'one in a million'. Those interested can apply for subsidised tree packs by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/subsidisedtreepacks. Also, NCC is once again partnering with Busseys, to launch the Busseys Community Grant. This initiative offers £10,000 in funding to support tree planting projects across Norfolk that gives tangible benefits to their local area. For all details visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/busseyscommunitygrant

Wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

Best Wishes

Martin

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Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council

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Clerk: Teresa Hines (01379 308617)

Email: brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com

We currently have one Councillor vacancy (voluntary role). For further information please email brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com.

Planning (www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning)

Applications: pending decision

- **2024/2912 Abbots Gate, Grove Road, Brockdish.** Extension to existing garage. Decisions: Approved by SNC and PC.
- **2024/2262 54a The Street, Brockdish.** Demolition of existing rear covered patio area to garden room.
- **2024/2417 45 The Street, Brockdish.** Two storey rear extension and associated internal alterations. Development Management Committee Meeting: Refused by SNC, supported by PC.
- **2024/1118 Abbots Gate, Grove Road, Brockdish.** Extension to existing garage.

Withdrawn:

- **69 The Street, Brockdish.** Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a self-build dwelling and garage.

SNC Brockdish Tree Preservation Order 2024 No SNO696 (provisional)

- Land North East of Common Lane and West of Orchard End, Common Lane, Brockdish



We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas!



Dates of next scheduled meetings: Members of the public are most welcome to attend. Agenda posted on both village notice boards prior to the meeting.

- Thursday 28th November 2024, 7.00pm at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall
- No scheduled meeting is held during December
- Thursday 9th January 2025, 7.00pm, WHC, Brockdish

The Winter Garden

If your New Year garden plan includes adding some beds, dig them now so the soil can settle before you start planting in spring. Strip off the grass and stack the pile upside down and leave for a year and it'll turn into soil to add to beds. Cover with weed control membrane. Carex sedges often look their best in frosty January, but can soon look ragged and unkempt. The solution is easy; run your gloved hands or a hard fork through them to comb out the dead material.



It is easy to help wildlife with your old Christmas tree. Using secateurs, remove the branches as close as possible to the main trunk and stack them 4/5 high on soil under trees, hedges or shrubs. Saw the trunk into 30cm lengths and create a mini log pile. These piles will be great for insects and small animals as a shelter. The needles and branches will eventually break down into the soil for nutrient boost. Sprinkle the needles around potted pink hydrangeas and with a bit of luck they should become blue at the next blooming. Shred your Christmas tree which can be used as mulch.



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Knit or Crochet a Temperature Scarf or Blanket for 2025

A temperature blanket is a simple project that is great for using up odd bits of yarn. Simply knit or crochet one row each day to represent the maximum temperature in your area that day. Each temperature corresponds to a different colour, so by the end of the year you will have a unique and beautiful memento of the year.

The trickiest bit is working out which colour represents which temperature, but I have done the hard work for you. Of course, you can just substitute whichever your favourite colours are for each temperature. From Met Office data, I looked at the average annual temperatures for Norfolk and worked out a colour chart:

Below 0°C	Dark Blue	
1-5°C	Light Blue	
6-10°C	Dark Green	
11-15°C	Light Green	
16-20°C	Yellow	
21-25°C	Orange	
26-30°C	Pink	
Above 30°C	Red	



Now it's time to get the needles and hooks out! For a scarf, you will need to cast on or crochet around 40 stitches. However, this does depend on the thickness of your wool. For blankets, you will need many more depending on how big you wish your blanket to be. Knit or crochet your temperature blanket with whichever stitch you choose to create different textures.

Variations:

- Use circular knitting needles to create a temperature ‘snood’ scarf
- Knit/crochet half a row minimum temperature and half a row maximum temperature for an extra challenge. Make sure you tie the different colours of wool together where they meet, to prevent your project from falling apart.
- Knit a mini temperature square for each day, then mattress stitch together for a patchwork blanket.

Warmers for Cold Nights

Roasted Roots Traybake

1kg mixed roots, e.g. carrots, parsnips, swede, cut into batons and halved
 220g baby potatoes, halved
 garlic cloves, skins on
 rosemary sprigs
 4 thyme sprigs
 2 tbsps olive oil
 50g mixed snacking nuts or seeds
 45g vegetarian feta

3
4



For the dressing:

2 tbsps olive oil
 Small pack parsley finely chopped
 1 lemon, juiced

Tip the roots, potatoes and garlic into a large roasting pan. Toss with the herbs and olive oil, season and roast for 50 minutes, or until veg are tender. Squeeze the garlic out of their skins and blitz with the rest of the dressing ingredients. Toss the roots in the dressing, scatter over the nuts and feta to serve.

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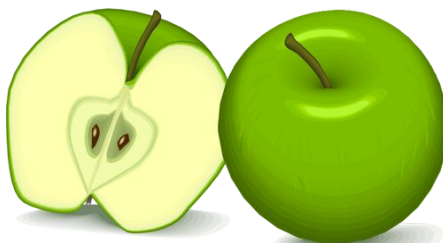
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Warmers for Cold Nights

Mincemeat, Marzipan and Apple Tart

Serves 12. Cook 40 mins, 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6

320g ready rolled puff pastry
5 tbsps vegetarian mincemeat
200g ready to roll marzipan
icing sugar for dusting
4 medium Granny Smith apples
25g cold butter, cut into small chunks
25g golden caster sugar
Crème fraiche to serve.



Line a tray with baking parchment. Rolling out the pastry and place on top of the paper. Prick with a fork and spread over the mincemeat, leaving 1cm border around the edges. Chill for 20 mins.

Sprinkle icing sugar on a surface and roll out the marzipan on the icing sugar to roughly 30cm x 21cm and 2mm thick. Lay the marzipan over the mincemeat, ensuring it stays within the border. Chill for 20 mins.

Preheat oven. Peel and core the apples, and slice thinly crossways. Arrange the apples over the marzipan, overlapping in a tight spiral or in neat overlapping lines. Dot over the butter and sprinkle with sugar.

Bake for 35-40 mins until the apples are golden. Serve with crème fraiche. Will keep covered in the fridge for up to 3 days.

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Ramblings from The Rectory

By Rev. Nigel Tuffnell

Winter is here. Winter with snow scenes on cards, with sleds and snowmen. Winter is here with bright winter berries on holly trees and large glasses of winter cheer. Winter is also a time to reflect and take stock of life. To look backwards as the year ends and forwards to what is perhaps to come. What sort of person have I been? What sort of person do I want to be?

All of this can seem sad and morbid but it shouldn't. There are good things to reflect on too. That's where I like to start, by asking myself, "What are all the good things of this year? What has gone well? When did I do well?" I reflect on those things and thank God for them all. Then, knowing God's love for me, I start to bring to mind the things that aren't right. I ask myself, "What went wrong this year?" I let myself remember all the things that I've said and wished I hadn't, and all those things that I've done and wished I hadn't. Also, all those good things that I could have done but didn't, and all the general failures of this world. Then, I thank God for all those things too but I need to let the past speak without prejudging. I know it sounds strange, but either God was with me when the bad things happened or he was never with me at all. God shares the good and the bad with me, like any good parent; like any good friend. So I can remember the good and the bad, in me and in the world, confident that God will work in me to bring more goodness to both.



Then I remember that my faith isn't complicated after all. Jesus gave only one commandment, to love. He summarised the 10 Commandments, and all laws, into love God and love others. Then he made it clear that God is love. A great way to see the joy of Christmas, the birth of hope, with all its colour and

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Ramblings from The Rectory

By Rev. Nigel Tuffnell

celebrations. A great introduction too, to a fresh start in January. So, enfolded and surrounded by God's love. I know that nothing can separate me from God's love, ever. I thank God again and look to a future that's not yet born, a future full of hope. I look forward to seeing you all there! I would like to end my article with two haiku poems.

Solstice haikus by Vivienne Tuffnell

Snow on dark holly
Sunlight on ice, sparkling:
Lovely but so bleak

Silence fills cold air
Crunching feet on frozen snow:
Stillness reigns again.



God bless,
Nigel



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All Saints Church, Thorpe Abbotts



Approximately twenty five years ago, Thorpe Abbotts Church lights were switched on by Rosemary Bareham, Brian Williams and a little Rachel Alderton.

In the last four years, donations for the lights have raised over £1800, and continue to raise funds for the maintenance of this beautiful church building. We have now updated the lights to eco friendly LED lights.

If you would like the lights on to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or to remember someone special please contact Sue Williams. The lights cost £5 per night.

Please remember our Christingle is at 4pm on 8th December. All welcome.

Sue Williams

tel. 07855414941, email williams876@btinternet.com

Brockdish Clothes Bank

Some of you may have noticed over the past month or so, the clothes bank situated to the side of the village hall has been overflowing from donations which were unable to fit into the bank. The problem occurred because on a number of occasions the hauliers have been unable to gain access to the bank due to parking immediately outside the hall.

Please park with consideration so as not to inconvenience others. If we receive any more complaints from the provider they may withdraw their service. The funds raised from this go directly to the up keep of the village defibrillator.

Brockdish Church

At long last, the work has been completed on the Church roof. The delay was due to the fact there were lodgers in the roof – bats! Enough said about that the better! The builders have done a great job.

A huge thank you to all those that contributed to the gift day appeal, it is much appreciated.

Our carol service by candlelight this year is on Sunday 15th December at 6.00pm. Do come along and share in this very joyful time. Refreshments will be served.

A peaceful and joyful Christmas to you all.

Jan Croxson
Church Warden



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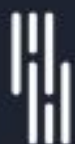
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Brockdish Church Wardens	Ann Cork - 01379 668635
	Jan Croxson - 01379 668630
Thorpe Abbotts Contact	Christine McDonald - 01379 669116

Church Service Times - December 2024 and January 2025

1st December	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
8th December	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbotts 4.00 pm	Christingle/Crib Service
15th December	Brockdish 6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
22nd December	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
25th December	Brockdish 9.30 am	Informal Holy Communion
	Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Informal Holy Communion
29th December	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
5th January	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
12th January	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Holy Communion
19th January	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
26th January	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer

Answers to Christmas Carol Conundrums

1. Little donkey 2. O little town of Bethlehem 3. Away in a manger
Silent night 5. Coventry Carol 6. Deck the hall with boughs of holly
4.



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