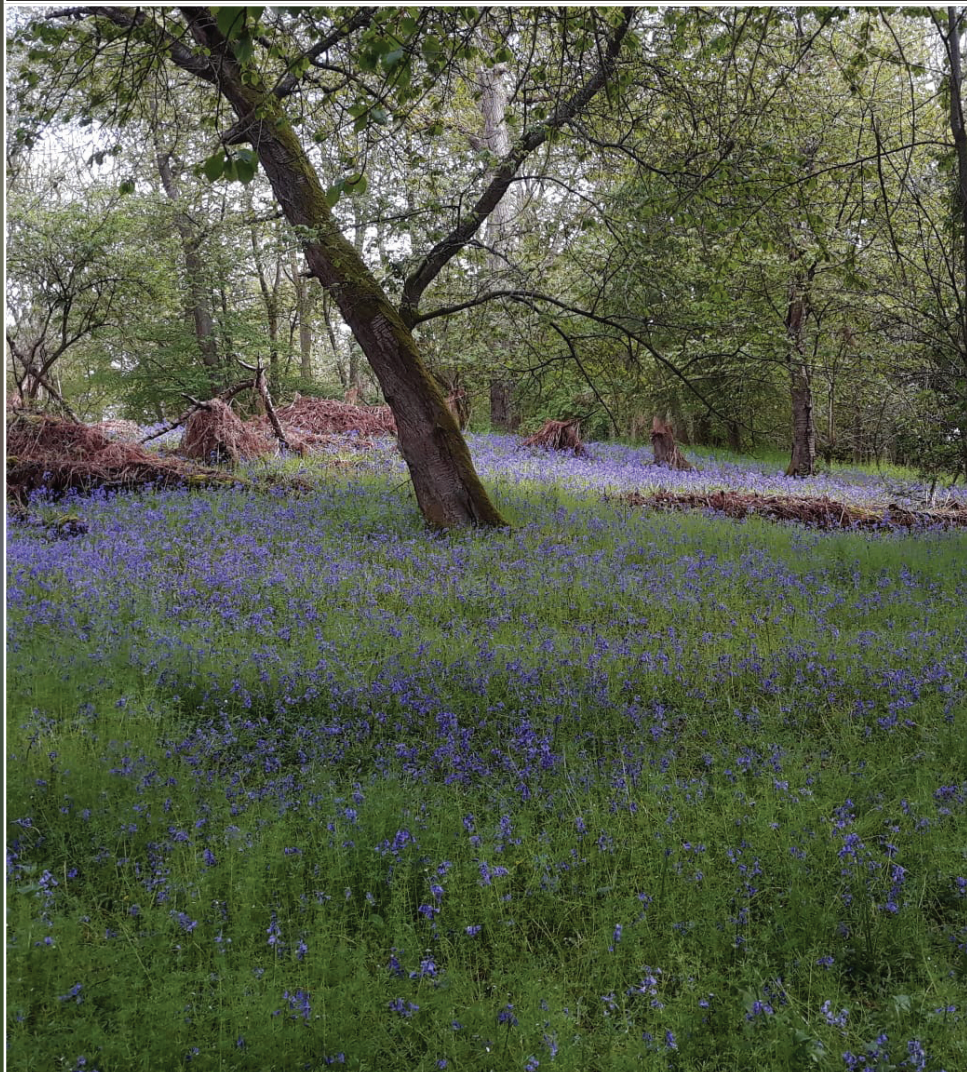


THE
LITTLE CORNARD
MAGAZINE



Easter 2025



SERVICES at ALL SAINTS

Currently services are held on the
2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10.30 a.m.

30th March Mothering Sunday Service at 10.30 a.m.

13th April Palm Sunday Service at 10.30 a.m.

20th April Easter Day Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m.
followed by breakfast in the Schoolroom

**Updates will be posted on the church notice
board and on the website**

www.littlecornardchurch.org.uk

From All Saints Registers

BURIALS

David Fordham
Jennifer Hollocks

Cover photo taken at Arger Fen, near Bures by Keith Bullen in April 2023

Vicar's Letter Easter 2025

Dear friends

Perhaps the falling of barriers is one of the greatest causes for celebration. Berliners certainly felt so on the historic evening of 9 November 1989. When the commander of the Bornholmer Straße crossing allowed the gates to be opened, Eastern Berliners flooded through. They were met by westerners armed ready with champagne for celebration. The youngsters of course took the party onto the top of the wall, fallen in effect that night, even if not yet demolished.



In the Good Friday accounts, at the moment of Jesus' death, three of the gospel writers report the breaking of another barrier: "the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom" (Mark 15:38). Like the Berlin Wall, this barrier represented total restriction barring relationships across it. But in the case of this Jerusalem temple curtain, it is God and human beings who were kept apart. The curtain was embroidered with cherubim (warrior angels), depicting those who guarded the border of the Garden of Eden preventing the disobedient Adam and Eve from coming close to God. This curtain blocked the way into the Most Holy Place of the temple making it clear that no-one was free to approach the Holy One.

An historian from Jesus' time, Josephus, tells us that this temple curtain was 18 metres (60 feet) tall and 10 cm (4 inches) thick. That it was torn from the top, tells us what Jesus' self-sacrifice achieved. God has torn the wall down because the way is now open. Our response should emulate that of the Berliners when the Berlin Wall fell. Through Jesus, we are free to enjoy a close relationship with God. Now that's certainly worth a champagne celebration!

May you have a joyful Eastertide

Daniel

Storehouse Foodbank

The Storehouse Foodbank is a compassion ministry affiliated to the Stour Valley Vineyard Church. The aim of the teams of volunteers is to help local families and individuals in crisis. There are donation points at Sudbury branches of Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco and at East of England Co-op shops in Great Cornard, Lavenham and Long Melford. Dry stores foods only please as they do not have refrigeration facilities. More information, including if you would like to volunteer your help, and a list of the most needed items can be found at

<https://stourvalleyvineyard.org/storehouse>

Churchwarden's Notes Easter 2025

As the magazine goes to press, we have the snowdrops in the churchyard looking beautiful and the sunshine is highlighting the new cupola and weathervane. There are many people who regularly walk through to enjoy these sights and the tranquillity of God's Acre.

The church has welcomed a walking group and a U3A group in recent weeks. The visitors have all been impressed with the much-loved church in its peaceful location.

There have been funerals in church followed by burials for the late David Fordham and the late Jennifer Hollocks. Our thoughts and prayers are for the family and friends of David and Jennifer.

Many people have supported our Heritage events, for memorabilia and the Stained Glass event which included pupils from the local primary school. The Bell Ringing exhibition is ongoing on specific dates and at the Sunday services.

The Sunday services continue on the second and fourth Sundays in the month with special dates for Mothering Sunday and Easter. We do hope to see many of you on these occasions, you can be assured of a warm welcome whether you are a regular visitor, are making a first visit or are returning after time away.

Best wishes

Brenda Pentney and Jeremy Apter

First Tuesday Open Church and Cafe

On the first Tuesday of each month, other than January, the Schoolroom is open from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm for tea, coffee and biscuits. A freshly prepared lunch is served at 1.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to call in for chat and friendship. Dates for Spring and Summer are April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st, August 5th, Sept 2nd.

The church is also open on these days giving a quiet space for thoughts and reflection. For access to the church at other times please speak to Brenda or Jeremy (see Who's Who in our Parish for contact details)

Brenda Pentney

Christmas Flower Decoration 2024 at All Saints Church

A big thank you to all the ladies who helped decorate our church for the Christmas Carol Service and Christmas Day Celebration Service. The church looked amazing and gave a very warm and welcoming atmosphere. It was greatly appreciated.

Contacts: Marian Turner (01787) 377889 Or Glyn Donnelly (01787) 312580

All Saints Church

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the Schoolroom at the church on Thursday 22nd May at 7pm. Anyone resident in the parish or on the church electoral roll is welcome to attend, but only those on the church electoral roll can vote at the APCM.

The parish church electoral roll is the first building block of the Church of England's governance structure. It is a register of the lay members of the church who are entitled to vote at the APCM. Those on the roll are eligible to be elected to lay representative positions on their PCC and deanery synod. Deanery synod representatives may then be elected to diocesan synod and general synod. The total number on the parish church electoral roll, as presented at the APCM, is an important factor in determining the number of lay representatives (parochial and deanery synod) that a parish may have.

The church electoral roll is completely renewed every sixth year, and 2025 being such a year everyone currently on the roll will need to fill in a new application. I will be contacting them shortly inviting them to reapply. New members are also welcome to apply. Forms are available in the schoolroom or by email and must be returned to me by 4th May. The names of people on the roll will then be displayed in the schoolroom and the total number reported to the APCM.

Clare Lodge, PCC Secretary, clare.lodge@btinternet.com or 01787 312494

Easter Flower Church Decorations

Dear Ladies

We will be setting up the flowers for the Easter Sunday Service on Good Friday morning, 18th April commencing 9.30am onwards. We hope you will all be able to join us once again.

We will be buying lilies to decorate the Church and if anyone would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please get in touch with our PCC treasurer, Paul Baker on 01787 379923.

We look forward to meeting you all again.

Many thanks

Glyn Donnelly 01787 312580 or Marian Turner 01787 377889

Wanted...

If you have any books or jigsaw puzzles you are able to donate for the Flower Festival please contact any PCC member or bring them along on the day.

2025

On the
LAST FRIDAY
of each
month

SUDBURY

FARMERS MARKET

9.30AM – 2PM

**MARKET HILL
SUDBURY
CO10 2EH**



Jan 31st
Feb 28th
Mar 28th
Apr 25th
May 30th
Jun 27th
Jul 25th
Aug 29th
Sep 26th
Oct 31st
Nov 28th
Dec 19th
(third Friday)

WWW.SUFFOLKMARKETEVENTS.CO.UK

E: HELLO@SUFFOLKMARKETEVENTS.CO.UK

T: 07704 627973

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Village Hall Update

Village Hall refurbishment - the final building quotes are being received as I write this update. Once these are available, we will be able to proceed to prepare our funding applications to the local council and other providers. In addition to the upgrade of the hall toilets and improvements for disabled parking and hall access, the committee have received quotes for the purchase and installation of play equipment for children on the green space behind the hall, together with some picnic benches. Subject to the success of these funding applications it is hoped that all of the improvements can be completed before the end of 2025.

I am pleased to advise you that we have managed to purchase fifty new chairs for use in the hall. These replacements are long overdue and hopefully will provide a little more comfort to its users.

Social events - the Spring Quiz has been a sell out and another will be planned for the Autumn. A lot more events are planned for the year including a coffee morning, tabletop sale, Summer party and a fun casino night. Please see details below or look at our website for the dates and more detail.

littlecornardparishhall.onesuffolk.net

Finally, I would just wish to remind the residents of Little Cornard that the village hall is a community asset, it belongs to us all and as such we could make a lot more use of it than we currently do. Hire rates for the hall are very modest and have been frozen this year. We have lots of availability during the week or at weekends.

The committee would welcome any feedback on how further improvements can be made or as to what other social functions you would like to see being held.

Please provide comments to the booking secretary: markirwin777@gmail.com

Mark Irwin

Little Cornard Village Hall Forthcoming Events

QUIZ	Saturday 1 March	6.30 for 7.00pm
COFFEE MORNING	Wednesday 7 May	10.00am - 12.00 noon
TABLE TOP SALE	Saturday 14 June	9.00am - 12.00 noon
SUMMER PARTY	Saturday 9 August	12.00 noon - 5.00pm
FUN CASINO Night	Saturday 22 November	from 7.00pm to 10.00pm

Further details of all events can be found on the village hall website:

<http://littlecornardparishhall.onesuffolk.net> and will be published on the little cornard residents whatsapp group, notice boards, etc.



Little Cornard

All Saints Church

Flower Festival

10th & 11th May 2025

11am to 4pm

Evensong

Sunday 11th May at 4:30pm at All Saints Church

**FLORAL DISPLAYS
WELL STOCKED PLANT STALL
REFRESHMENTS | BBQ
CAKES & PRODUCE
BOOKS & JIGSAW PUZZLES**

WAR MEMORIAL EXHIBITION LAUNCH

Licenced Bar

**All Saints Church, Kedington Hill, Little Cornard,
CO10 0PE**

www.littlecornardchurch.org.uk



Five hundred and seventy years ago...

In March 1455 Eneo Silvio Bartolomeo Piccolomini, who would later become Pope Pius II, wrote a letter to Cardinal Caravagal of Spain, reporting a "marvellous man seen at Frankfurt". This was Johannes Gutenberg who was working on producing printed Bibles. Piccolomini wrote that he had seen pages from the Gutenberg Bible displayed to promote the edition, and that either 158 or 180 copies (the historical record is unclear) had been printed. He did not report seeing a finished product yet, but he was very impressed with what he did see, calling the script "very neat and legible, not at all difficult to read - Your Grace would be able to read it without effort, and indeed without glasses."

The famous 42-line Gutenberg Bible was the earliest major book printed in Europe using mass-produced metal moveable type. The book is valued and revered for its high aesthetic and artistic qualities. Forty-nine copies (or substantial portions of copies) have survived. They are thought to be among the world's most valuable books, although no complete copy has been sold since 1978.

Wise Words

What may be done at any time will be done at no time. *Scottish proverb*

USEFUL CONTACTS & EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police, Fire, Ambulance - Emergencies

Phone 999

Police - Non emergency situation

Phone 101

NHS Direct

Phone 111

Police - Minicom users with hearing difficulties

01473 611160

Sudbury Police Station, Acton Lane, Sudbury CO10 1QN

Tel 01473 613500

Highways – report potholes, dangerous road defects etc.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/>

Other enquiries, 8.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday

9.00 a.m.-1.00p.m. Saturdays

0845 606 6171

Highways – out of hours

01473 433444

Anglian Water

www.anglianwater.co.uk

Mains water leaks

0800 771881

Water supply + public sewerage emergencies

08457 145145

Electricity power problems

105 / 0800 3163105

Little Cornard Parish Council website

<https://e-voice.org.uk/littlecornardpc>

Little Cornard Village Hall -

Mark Irwin

07545 543729

markirwin777@gmail.com

All Saints Church Wardens -

Jeremy Apter

Brenda Pentney

07813 717659

01787 227615

Rural Community Policing Team - Sudbury

PC Brendan McKenna Area: Waldingfield, Boxford and Bures.

I was appointed as a Police Constable in March 2000 and completed my probationary period at Haverhill Police Station.

Whilst at Haverhill I performed roles as a response officer, local beat officer and then a Safer Neighbourhood Team officer. I also served at Clare and as an Acting Sergeant at Sudbury Police station.

I went on to serve on the Ipswich Priority Crime Team before joining the Ipswich Tactical Support Team in 2013 and then the Bury St. Edmunds Tactical Support Team

In December 2014 whilst on a C.I.D Attachment I was involved in Operation Hurry, a jewellery robbery in Bury Town Centre. I served on a specialist Team and was awarded a Chiefs Commendation. I also did a placement on Bury St Edmunds CID.

Over the years I have been trained as a PSU Medic, Protest Removal, CBRN Search, Licenced Search Team Leader, and DVI (Deceased recovery). I have been on numerous deployments such as:

- 2006 - Operation Sumac Ipswich Search team.
- 2012 - London Olympics Search Team.
- 2013 - Police Support Unit - Northern Ireland.
- 2014 - Operation Ismay Wales Search Team.
- 2018 - A multi-regional team deployed to Salisbury in relation to the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal.
- 2019 - Operation Steam was part of the Multi Regional DVI Team which attended Essex in relation to the 39 Vietnamese bodies found in lorry.
- 2020 - During the Covid epidemic was part of the MARC Team dealing with all Covid related Sudden Deaths.
- 2021 - C0P26 deployed as PSU Medic

The Community Policing Teams deliver neighbourhood policing and focus on policing issues that matter most to the community, using effective partnership working and a problem-solving approach to reduce crime. It allows increased focus and ensures we better understand residents' concerns in that area and target activity where it is most needed and, in an evidence-based way.

A recent good example of this was in Little Cornard on Friday 24th January at approximately 22:00hrs. We stopped a vehicle on Kedington Hill, Little Cornard. Due to recent intelligence the male occupant and the vehicle were stop searched, drugs and cash were located, and the male was arrested for drug offences as well as driving offences. The vehicle was seized by police on scene and the male is currently under investigation.

I would continue to urge people to report anything that looks out of the ordinary and may be deemed as suspicious activity. Getting this information allows officers to build a bigger

picture and be able to catch criminals and get drugs off the street. Please use the online portal or call 101 to report any suspicious behaviour. If the matter is urgent, please call 999.

I am proud to be part of the Rural Community Policing Team - Sudbury covering Waldingfield, Boxford and Bures. My aim is to provide a service putting people and community first and strive to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.

I would encourage all residents to join their local Neighbourhood Watch Group.

I look forward to meeting you all on my patrols and other village events.

PC Brendan McKenna

Suffolk Mobile Library Service

The mobile library calls at Workhouse Green, Little Cornard every fourth Saturday between 2.30 and 2.50. Regular library users please note the new time! Dates for Spring and Summer 2025 are March 22nd, April 19th, May 17th, June 14th, July 12th and August 9th.

To join the mobile library complete the online joining form or visit any Suffolk Mobile Library with proof of identity. The service is free to use. More information is available at www.suffolklibraries.co.uk or you can contact the library service by telephoning 01473 351249 or email help@suffolklibraries.co.uk

Little Cornard Village Hall

Available for hire: The cost of hiring the hall:

Weekdays

Summer rate (1 April - 30 September) £20 per session (3 hours) for local residents, £25 per session (3 hours) for non - residents.

Winter rate (1 October - 31 March) £25 per session (3 hours) for local residents and £30 per session (3 hours) for non residents.

Additional hours £8 per hour.

Saturday / Sunday

As above for hours up until 5.00pm

After 5.00pm until 11.30pm £60

All lettings are at the discretion of the committee.

Please contact the Bookings Secretary if interested.

Mark Irwin Tel: 07545 543729 or email markirwin777@gmail.com

Spring Report from Lee Parker

Babergh District Councillor - Assington Ward

As I write this report, the days are beginning to stretch, and the temperature has slowly but surely nudged up into double figures. Spring is my favourite season as the long dark nights give way to renewal and growth.

On a national level, not a day seems to go by currently without the need to feel enraged about a new headline emanating from America, such is the slew of initiatives coming from the new administration there. It certainly feels as though a seismic shift in the established world order is underway with Europe looking on nervously, wondering whether we will continue to receive the security protections that the USA have afforded us since the end of WWII.

At a local level, a less dramatic but none the less seismic change is underway in a couple of areas that affect Babergh. Firstly devolution, which promises the biggest shake up of local government in 50 years and secondly, the refreshed National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which aims to aid the Government's stated aim of delivering enormous numbers of houses nationally within this Parliament. Detail on both is scant at this stage but I will endeavour to explain each with the limited information available to date.

Devolution - There is universal acceptance that the current model of local government no longer works. Councils of all stripe and hue are facing significant funding pressures with many on the brink of bankruptcy, forcing cuts upon residents whilst simultaneously increasing Council Tax and charges for non-discretionary services. A prime example here in Babergh is the introduction of parking charges which has been hugely controversial. The Government's proposed solution is to devolve power away from Westminster to a newly formed Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Authority. Simultaneously, this would see Suffolk County Council and all our district and borough councils scrapped in favour of unitary councils. On the plus side, devolution promises to do away with the duplication of services that occurs. For example, waste. Currently, Babergh collect your bins weekly, but it is Suffolk County Council that disposes of them. There are four district councils in Suffolk, plus Ipswich Borough and, of course, Suffolk County Council itself so I think there will be savings to be made in a single, pared down authority. The very real downside in my opinion however will be the deficit to local democracy. As an example, whatever your personal view of this District Councillor, the fact is I do enjoy an engrained knowledge of 'place' having lived, schooled and worked here all my life. Babergh currently serves some 90K people. A new unitary authority will seek to serve over five times that amount which inevitably means those councillors elected to serve it will be spread much more thinly. Town and parish councils are not directly affected by the proposed changes. The Government has opened the consultation process for phase one of the process; the proposed mayoral authority. You can have your say here: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/government-launches-open-consultation-on-suffolk-and-norfolk-devolution>. You have until April 13th to submit your comments.

NPPF - The Government has made no secret of its desire to see a considerable programme of new house building across the nation and Babergh is not immune to the significantly increased housing targets. In fact, we are being expected to deliver an increase of 80% more than under the previous target; previously we were required to deliver 450 new homes annually, now that figure is 775. I have always been open that I am predisposed to development. I believe that if we can build we should, but subject always to engagement with the local community which is why I am also an enthusiastic advocate of Neighbourhood Plans, which Little Cornard has. Affordability for those looking to enter the housing market is simply unsustainable. In Babergh, the average price of a home is eleven times the average income. It is far too simplistic and somewhat condescending to argue that our youth simply need to save harder and cut down on luxuries in order to afford a home. Historically low interest rates since 2008 have allowed banks and mortgage lenders to offer eye watering levels of debt relative to income which ironically has simply fuelled further house price growth. Our youth can no longer in many cases afford to buy or to rent. The average age of the first-time buyer in the UK is an astonishing 33 yrs old. However, I also think the Government's approach to blanket the countryside with 1.5 million new homes is the wrong approach and will do little to alleviate affordability. My personal opinion is that we need a post-war style programme of social housing as the means to offer folk the stepping stone to decent quality, affordable housing, be that for rent or purchase, but such an approach doesn't appear to be on the agenda. Furthermore, I think we have every reason to be sceptical that this Government will be any more successful than any other over the last 40 years at delivering housing in any significant numbers. We do not have enough materials, nowhere enough planners and, thanks to Brexit, not enough labour to get anywhere near the target. That said, we cannot be complacent, and it is certain that we will see at least some of that development delivered locally. I am liaising with your Parish Council regularly to make sure your Neighbourhood Plan remains relevant so that, where development occurs, it at least accords with the stated needs contained within its policies.

I will endeavour to keep everyone up to date with developments via the Parish Council or my Facebook page, 'Lee Parker – District Councillor.' Please feel free to follow that if you have Facebook. If not, I will always be glad to hear from you via more traditional methods be that letter, telephone, or email.

I wish you all a very pleasant spring.

Lee Parker, Babergh District Councillor.

Tel 01787 376073 Mobile 07970 196884 Email lee.parker@babergh.gov.uk

Plants!

We will soon be issuing the list of plants that will be available to buy both online and in the plant tent at the Flower Festival.

Gerald and Cheryl Bird



The Bell Exhibition



The Stained-glass exhibition

The Bell Tower Report

February 2025

Our well-attended Wednesday practice evenings and Sunday Service ringing continue following the completion of the tower repair work. We welcome anyone who would like to learn how to ring the bells or just learn more about it. If you would like to talk about it first, feel free to ring me on 01787 227259 or come along to All Saints any Wednesday at 7.00pm. (Please note that there will be no ringing on the Wednesday of Holy Week.)

It is planned to return to ringing and offering the opportunity to try out ringing the bells at the Sudbury Arts Centre (St Peter's Church on the Market Hill) on Thursdays at lunchtimes and some Saturdays starting in March.

The stained-glass exhibition held at the church back in January was well received and proved to be an interesting evening learning about the cleaning and repair of the beautiful stained-glass windows here and in other churches. We were surprised to learn that the team that worked on our windows had also carried out work on stained glass at the Disneyland Paris castle.

The Bell Exhibition currently being held in the church was launched on 18th February and will be available to view after services on Sundays from now until 27th April so do come and have a look. It will also feature at the Flower Festival the weekend of 10th and 11th May.

We will be commencing school visits starting on February 26th when we will be talking to the children about the history of the church, the bells and other related topics. On March 5th we will be visiting the schools again to answer the children's questions on war memorials and the effects of the war years on village families etc. On March 26th we will be holding an Historic Festival bringing over one hundred children up to the church to see and try out various activities (including the bells), a nature trail, building a bug hotel, and there will be a history trail in the church. When the children have left, the festival will be open to all villagers and visitors from 3.30 until 4.15 pm. All very busy events which are part of the community engagement under the terms of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant for the tower repairs.

The events have been really good so far, helping to engage both children and older folk with the church and the associated age-old skills of stained glass and bells. You too can try them out and find interest in them so do come and support us.

Little Cornard ringers have continued to represent the village around the district at various events.

We provided ringers at St Peter's when the Sudbury Christmas lights were officially switched on in November and at St Mary's Church when the Bures Christmas lights were switched on. We provided ringers for the Christmas Carol services at St Gregory's in Sudbury and at Bures, Nayland and Acton Churches as well as our own here at Little Cornard. Wasn't that a lovely start to Christmas with candle lit carols, bells and mulled wine and mince pies to finish!

The Dickens Christmas Carol reading on the 12th of December was much enjoyed with the bells helping to add to the atmosphere.

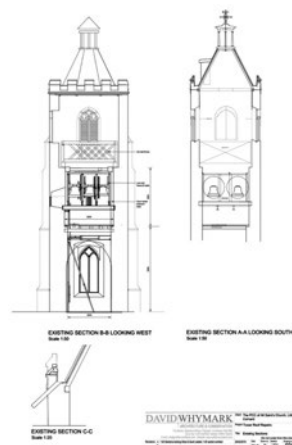
We will be ringing for some upcoming weddings and, sadly, for the occasional funeral. We were able to ring for Jenny Hollocks' recent funeral, which was also a memorial service for her husband, Ivan Hollocks, who passed away in 2020. Ivan and I grew up together on Prospect Hill, so I had known him all my days. He was known to many as the tractor driver for the shoots.

Bell ringing is good exercise, gets you out among very friendly groups of people and helps to maintain an ancient traditional art. We welcome anyone who would like to learn this traditional skill. There must be more Little Cornard folk who should learn!

Gerald Bird



Fun element for the children!



How the bells sit in the Tower

Little Cornard Speed Watch

We have the SID (Speed Indicator Device) up and working now with a new battery purchased and are moving it between its various posts.

Ideally, we need to have a minimum of eight volunteers so that there are some to call on for holiday cover. At present we are hoping to recruit a few more so if you have an hour or two to spare and might be interested in getting involved with the Speed Watch project email me, Steve Arran, address is thearrans@aol.com to find out what is involved.

Steve Arran

Feedback from James Finch

T: 01206 262993 M: 07545 423796 E: james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

➤ **Council's budget prioritises vulnerable residents and essential services** -

Suffolk County Council has unveiled its proposed budget for 2025/26, with a strong focus on supporting vulnerable residents across the county. Under the proposals, the council's net budget would rise by 6.7%, from £752.9 million in 2024/25 to £803.7 million in 2025/26. Key allocations include:

£18.1 million extra for children's services, ensuring continued support for young people and families in need; £35.2 million extra for adult care, aimed at addressing the growing demand for social care services. To help fund these essential services, the council is proposing a 4.99% rise in Council Tax. This would consist of a 2.99% increase in general Council Tax and an additional 2% specifically for adult care services.

This means the costs for a household would be:

Band B property: £24.67 per week, a £1.17 increase from 2024-25 (Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk); Band D property: £31.72 per week, a £1.51 increase from 2024-25.

The council will also receive £12.1 million of the additional £880 million allocated by the government for adult and children's social care. It also expects to receive £2.2 million of the £263 million earmarked for a new Children's Services Prevention Grant. To balance the books, the council has also identified £10.9 million in additional savings, building on the £17.5 million approved last year. This brings the total savings to £28.4 million for the 2025/26 financial year.

➤ **Suffolk commits to devolution fast track** - Following an invitation from Ministers, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet today agreed to recommend Suffolk for inclusion in the government's Devolution Priority Programme (DPP), which would see the creation of a directly elected Mayor (likely covering Suffolk and Norfolk) and the replacement of existing council structures with a streamlined unitary council being set up. The decision followed a debate and vote at a meeting of all county councillors on the cabinet. Suffolk County Council wrote to the government expressing its desire to be at the front of the queue for devolution and local government reorganisation. At the beginning February Suffolk was approved as part of the Devolution Priority Programme, and the County Council Elections have now been postponed until May 2026. More detailed proposals, engagement and Government-led consultation will follow.

➤ **Unique landscape to be changed forever by pylons** - A large area of landscape on the Norfolk/Suffolk border with particular uniqueness, rivaling those of other nationally protected landscapes, is set to be desecrated by pylons as part of National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury project. In a letter to both Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council, and other local leaders, National Grid has outlined that it has decided to install overhead lines through the Waveney Valley, rather than running cables underground, as they had set out in their previous consultation. This is a significant blow to local communities and the natural environment, especially following last year's Valued Landscape Assessment, a report jointly commissioned by Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council. The report concluded that "the length of the Waveney Valley expresses many special qualities, and in the context of Suffolk and Norfolk, it is considered to be a valued landscape. Conserving and enhancing the special qualities articulated in this report is a key aspiration of existing planning policy."

I, along with Cllr Richard Rout, believe this decision not to underground any of the proposed pylons through the Waveney Valley, is nothing short of contemptible. The study that Suffolk County Council commissioned saw the area recognised as a valued landscape and National Grid's plans will wreak untold damage on it. There was a clear alternative to this and they've chosen not to take it. "What we find particularly flagrant - if this is what National Grid will press ahead with – there is a lack of any suggestion of mitigation or compensation package for the local area. Suffolk and Norfolk County Council will now look to take up their concerns with National Grid and discuss the issue further. I am pleased to confirm that undergrounding in the Dedham Vale is still in place.

➤ **Detailed report provides blueprint for changes to Suffolk's SEND services** -

A report has been published that provides the most detailed assessment of need for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities services in Suffolk, (known as SEND). This report will be used as a blueprint for immediate change. As a result of this analysis, a series of recommendations have been made to further shape improvements to SEND services. Some of the key findings and recommendations in the report include:

A significant rise in demand for SEND services, with projections suggesting further increases in the coming years; The importance of early intervention, timely diagnoses, and accessible services to address complex and multiple needs; Strategic priorities emphasising communication, transition support, and whole system improvements to meet evolving demands.

The report also captures the voices of children and young people, parents, and practitioners to ensure lived experiences inform future strategies. The Suffolk Parent Carer Forum was involved in collating the report. The report can be found here: [Suffolk SEND Needs Assessment](#).

➤ **Suffolk County Council Collaborates with Ipswich Town Football Club to Launch Stop Smoking Campaign: 'Never Stop Trying'** - Suffolk County Council, in association with Ipswich Town Football Club, is excited to launch a powerful new stop smoking campaign encouraging people to never stop trying on their journey to quit smoking. The campaign highlights real-life stories of struggle, perseverance, and success, reminding people that while quitting smoking is difficult, the benefits of stopping are well worth it, no matter how many attempts it takes.

The campaign's theme of persistence is echoed through a compelling new video that features Eddy and James, two Suffolk residents who have faced the challenges of quitting smoking and are now sharing their personal experiences. Their stories emphasise that quitting may involve setbacks, but it's important to keep trying. This message mirrors the journey of Ipswich Town Football Club, who spent 22 years fighting to return to the Premier League a long and challenging journey, but one that proves that with perseverance, you can achieve your goal.

Those seeking support on their quitting journey should visit Feel Good Suffolk Stop Smoking. The service offers various methods designed to assist people at every stage, whether it's one-on-one coaching, phone support, or digital tools. Watch the campaign film at www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk/NeverStopTrying/ and follow Feel Good Suffolk on Facebook or Instagram.

➤ **Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley** - Fostering is a flexible role with options for short term care from a weekend a month to longer term

opportunities, all providing life-changing support for local children. If you want to find out more about what it's like to foster or adopt with us, please call a member of the team on 01473 264800 or Visit www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk to find out more how you can foster and adopt in Suffolk.

► **My Priorities** - Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and fair council tax.

Rising Hope Forest Church

I moved to Sawyer's Farm in Little Cornard three years ago with three aims: to explore and develop spirituality, sustainability and community. Has that sentence already put you off?

Well, what it means in practice is that we are a Christian-based extended household, learning about the best way to live gracefully and faithfully together on our little bit of land. We call ourselves Rising Hope.

We have a polytunnel for vegetables, a little orchard, and a wild space which has been left to regenerate naturally, like an informal nature reserve. As we get better at organic growing, we hope to be able to share more with you - you might have already tasted our tomatoes, jam or apple juice at the church Harvest Fair.

We love showing people around, especially with a peaceful walk amongst our lovely old trees. There has been lots of research recently about the benefits of natural spaces on mental health and wellbeing, and we see that in practice – people feel better when they've been here! There is also the kitchen, where deep conversations can be had over coffee or soup. If you're feeling down, stressed or adrift, or if you're looking for a little peace and joy, please come and visit.

As a pioneer lay minister in the Church of England, I have a passion for interesting spaces where people can explore faith, and from that, together with my love of nature, our forest church was born. Forest church is an informal network of gatherings which all work in different ways but generally meet outside and seek to meet with God in and through connection with the natural world. The monthly forest church gathering is called Emmanuel Fire. Emmanuel is one of the names for Jesus and means "God with us".

Here are the dates for the Emmanuel Fire gatherings in 2025. February 22nd, March 29th, April 26th, May 31st, June 28th, July 26th, August 30th, September 27th, October 25th, November 29th, December 27th

We meet in the farmhouse kitchen for soup at 6.30 pm, move up to a "sacred space" under the old oaks for a story and contemplation around the fire, then back to the kitchen for hot chocolate. You're ever so welcome to come along to the fire, whatever your faith journey – just let me know on saraljpx@gmail.com. Or come for a cuppa and a chat any time.

Much love, Sara and Rising Hope



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Local Welfare Assistance A grant for people struggling with the cost of essentials. Visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/LWAS for more information and to apply.

Surviving Winter Financial support for people over pension age to help with fuel costs. Eligibility criteria apply, visit www.suffolkcf.org.uk/surviving-winter-appeal or contact Sudbury Citizens Advice using the details above.

BRING DOWN YOUR BILLS

Warm Homes Suffolk Free efficiency assessments, advice and grant checks to bring down energy use. Visit www.warmhomessuffolk.org or call 03456 037 686.

National Energy Action Free national helpline provides information on how to use less energy, and get on top of your payments. Call 0800 304 7159 or visit www.nea.org.uk

Suffolk Centres for Warmth In person energy and financial inclusion advice to keep people warm and healthy in their homes. Visit www.babergh.gov.uk/suffolk-centres-for-warmth or call 0333 016 2000.



OFF GAS HOMES



Oil Loans Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union offer interest-free loans to spread the cost of oil and LPG. Visit www.eslco.co.uk or call 03336 000690.

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Oil Buying Clubs Reduce the cost of oil by buying in bulk. Visit www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk or call 01603 881 888.

DEALING WITH ENERGY DEBT

Supplier Grants many energy suppliers have grants to reduce or clear debt if you meet their criteria. Speak to your energy supplier to see what help you can get.

Citizens Advice offers advice for energy, debt and more. They can support you to create a budget, negotiate with your supplier and boost your income.

Boost your income by checking your benefit entitlement, even a small amount can unlock hundreds of pounds a year. Visit www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators, or contact Citizens Advice for a free benefit check.



MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.babergh.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities for more resources to help you keep fuel and utility costs down.

If you would prefer to speak to someone, you can contact our Customer Services team on 0300 123 4 000, option 7 to discuss your situation and find local organisations available to support you.

News from Cornard Mere



Harsh winters at Cornard Mere, with snow lying over ice for a week or more (see accompanying photo taken on the 11th of January 2010), now seem a distant memory. However, snow did greet the January work party volunteers. By lunchtime all traces of snow had melted only to be replaced by freezing rain and our abandonment of any further tasks. The last few comparatively mild winters contrast even more markedly with the weather patterns of forty years ago when I first

started volunteering for the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. In those days the high-pitched squeals of a Dabchick were never heard before the middle of March but, in early February of this year, volunteers, whilst clearing up a fallen tree, heard this distinctive call emanating from the reedbed.

Dabchicks or Little Grebes rely for their survival on free-flowing rivers during the Winter months and return in Spring to ice free, still bodies of water with plenty of vegetation in order to breed. Up to three pairs compete for territories. As water levels drop later in the year the young become susceptible to predation. However, one of the delights of Summer is watching a parent with an offspring diving for prey on the central pool.

Work parties cease during April and May and only essential footpath maintenance is carried out in June. In the meantime, I will be paying regular visits and anxiously awaiting each sign of Spring to unfold across the reserve.

Robin Ford - Suffolk Wildlife Trust Voluntary Warden

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Sixty years ago...

On 21st March 1965 Baptist minister Martin Luther King, Jr. led more than three thousand civil rights demonstrators on a march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery. By the time they reached their destination four days later, the group had expanded to twenty-five thousand.



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All meetings start at 7pm and members of the public or press may attend.

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Clerk to the Parish Council - Kevin B. Money

Office Hours 9.00am - 12.00noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Telephone: 07810 781509 email: clerk@littlecornard-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council meeting dates

**20th May AGM APM and full meeting,
15th July, 16th September, 18th November**



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WATCH THIS SPACE!

With the support of Babergh District Council, The Cornard Environment and Wildlife Group (CEWG) have started the work of creating wildflower areas in Cornard. Three patches of ground were seeded with wildflowers, during February. In agreement with Babergh, eighteen different native flower species were selected, and the council will alter their mowing scheme, in order to let them grow.



Those seeded areas are on the grass verges of Stannard Way (by the bus stop), Poplar Road (near the shops) and Kiln Drive/St. Andrews Road. Some of the flower seeds included are also those which might be considered 'garden' flowers - cornflower (above), for instance, which is a native British species.

Some of the plants that we buy for our gardens are native to other parts of the world, and some are species native to the UK. Many have been bred to make them taller, change the flower size and colour, and generally make them more appealing to us for our gardens. This selective breeding however, often changes the flower so much, that the features which attracted, and provided food, for bees and other insects, have been lost. These species have evolved slowly over many generations, together with the insects, to produce features which attract insects to pollinate them. While selectively bred flowers are very beautiful and of some use to insects, there needs to be greater provision of those native species on which insects rely, and hopefully we can help reverse the serious decline in insect numbers. So -- Cornard Environment and Wildlife Group volunteers, and pupils from Pot Kiln School, have been planting native wildflower seeds!

Early February - Pot Kiln forest school classes came to the Kiln Drive grass verge area, to work with CEWG volunteers. It was pretty chilly, but the work warmed us up ... a bit! The pupils knew a great deal about the environment and the problems facing it, and us. First, we surveyed the ground to see what was already growing there, apart from grass. In the winter there was not much to see but the children found - yarrow, plantain, daisy, clover and dandelion. We looked at some seed pods including those of Field poppy and Bird's-foot trefoil - so varied and specialised.

Seeds are dispersed in different ways - blown by the wind, exploding from their pods, catching on creatures' fur and feathers (like Velcro), carried by water, falling directly to the ground, and, most memorably, by means of animal poo!

The children measured and plotted their planting areas on the site plan. On these patches the grass turf had already been turned over to expose the soil. The buried grass would take time to emerge, giving the seeds the chance to grow, ahead of that grass. The lumpy soil was broken up, raked and smoothed. Then the seeds of our eighteen different flowering plants were scattered and covered with sand.

Among the seeds were those of - Bird's foot trefoil, Cornflower, Meadow buttercup, Field

poppy, Field scabious, Self heal, Corn cockle, and Yellow rattle.

Yellow rattle is VERY important for the success of a wildflower meadow. It is a 'semi-parasitic' plant, whose roots pierce those of the grass around it, and draw nutrients from the roots. In doing this, yellow rattle reduces the vigour and size of the grass, allowing more light and space for the flowering plants to thrive.

Now we wait and watch those spaces. The pupils will be carrying out surveys of the plant growth on their plots; to identify the plants, insects and other creatures present. Some of those creatures will be feeding from the flowers, some eating the plants, some eating one another! Some will find protection in the longer grass, eggs for next year's insects will be laid there, and we hope that the population will increase.

Many birds feed on insects, and on the caterpillars and larvae that are part of the insect lifecycle. Others feed on seeds, some of the seeds will provide next year's flowering plants. The more flowers, the more insects - the more insects, the more birds. Swifts, Swallows and House Martins, feed exclusively on insects.

During our work, there were some little surprises! The larvae of the Soldier beetle and of the Chafer beetle and the Large yellow underwing moth. These larvae were in the soil where we were working, and in the summer, we will look out for their adult forms.

Many thanks to the hard-working staff and pupils of Pot Kiln School for their involvement. We look forward to the return of migratory birds. Among them the swifts, for which we are installing 30 swift boxes around Cornard on Saturday March 1st - the result of the CEWG Swift project. We hope to do the same for House Martins, and various other birds.

The Cornard Environment and Wildlife Group produces a bi-monthly newsletter, which includes notice of our litter pick dates and other work we hope to undertake. Volunteers for these activities are always welcome.

If you would like to become a member of CEWG, (and therefore receive the newsletter) please contact - cornardewg@gmail.com.

Sarah Davies. CEWG.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any matter of interest or news item you would like included in the next issue of the Little Cornard Magazine, please contact:-

Rosemary Bullen

bullenrosemary@gmail.com • Tel: 01787 379890

**All material for the Harvest magazine to be received by
Tuesday 29th July**

This is the Little Cornard Magazine which reports on all areas of interest in the parish. The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee assist the Church with the finance of this magazine.

Who's Who in our Parish

www.littlecornardchurch.org.uk

Clergy:	Reverend Daniel Whiffin vicar@parishchurch.co.uk Reverend Mary Cantacuzene Reverend Simon White Reverend Tricia Box	07309 947039 07932 033019 07572 418555 07747 124592
Readers:	Murray Emerson John Symons Andrew Clifft Sylvia Gaspar	269073 211534 227648 204033
Pioneer Reader:	Sara Merritt saraljpx@gmail.com	07504 412420
Lay Elders:	Sue Emerson Carol Barnham Sue Ryman Andrea Carter	269073 228417 227715 228081
Organist:	Stuart Mathieson	07896 896559
Church Wardens:	Jeremy Apter Brenda Pentney	07813 717659 227615
Parochial Church Council:	Lucy Baker, Paul Baker, Rosemary Bullen, Glyn Donnelly, Phyllida Hallidie, Clare Lodge, Marian Turner	
PCC Secretary & Electoral Roll:	Clare Lodge	312494
Treasurer:	Paul Baker	07929 005620
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