




Village Voice

For the residents of **St MARGARET** Ilketshall St. Margaret

Welcome to **ISSUE 79** December 2025 to February 2026

And just like that we are heading towards the end of another year! This will be my third Christmas in the village – how time flies. Winter is I find a strange time; part of me wants to get all the inside jobs done I haven't managed during the lighter months spent in the garden and the other part of me knows, this is the best time to take stock, refuel and get ready for whatever the New Year brings ..

 Did you know that the first ever song played in space was Jingle Bells!

Saints Benefice Christmas Services



JOY

Saints Benefice Barn Nativity Service
Saturday 13 December 3.00pm Church Farm, St Nicolas SE

Carol Services
Sunday 7 December 3.00pm Ilk St John
Sunday 14 December 6.00pm St Margaret South Elmham
Monday 15 December 6.00pm St Michael South Elmham
Tuesday 16 December 5.30pm (with School) Ilk St Lawrence
Thursday 18 December 6.00pm Rumburgh
Friday 19 December 6.00pm St Cross South Elmham
Sunday 21 December 6.00pm St James South Elmham
Sunday 21 December 6.00pm St Peter South Elmham
Monday 22 December 6.00pm Homersfield

Christingle Service
Tuesday 23 December 4.00pm Flixton

Christmas Services
Wednesday 24 December 3.00pm (Crib Service) Ilk St Margaret
Wednesday 24 December 11.00pm (Midnight Mass) Flixton
Thursday 25 December 10.00am (Family Communion) Ilk St Lawrence

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Members of the Parish Committee were busy in November conducting thermal imaging surveys all around the village – a big **thank you** to all those volunteers who ventured into the cold and took time from their busy schedules to conduct these surveys for us – and where possible pop in for a cheeky coffee while their batteries charged. If you didn't take part in the first round of this project, cameras will be available again in February and to avoid disappointment you should contact the Parish Clerk (parishclerkstmargaretilk@yahoo.com) to book your appointment

St. Margaret Church Services

14th December **Holy Communion** 10.00am
24th December **Crib Service** 3.00pm

Benefice Coffee Morning - the first Saturday of the month at 10.30am in the Village Hall

Every Thursday at 9am Holy Communion

Details of all church services in the Saints' Benefice are circulated by email from Sange Wilson of Rumburgh. Please email her for your personal copy (sange.wilson@yahoo.co.uk)

Back in October, the Village Hall was buzzing with our annual Curry Night, hosted expertly once again by Maggie & Eric. As always we were treated to a variety of lovely curries and side dishes with the night raising just shy of £400 for the village hall – thank you everyone. The next event we look forward to is our **Christmas Lunch on Sunday 14th December**; this event is fully booked, but please let a member of the Village Hall Committee know if you would like to be added to the reserve list.



Christmas dinner is extremely calorific, with the average Brit eating three times more than they need just on that day alone

Note on nature from Brenda: What lovely autumn colours we've had this year. The trees and shrubs in the garden have been brilliant and vibrant. I expect most of you had the masses of ladybirds for a few days last month (October), mostly the harlequin ones which are bigger & bolder. I've seen flocks of redwings, they seem to prefer a particular tree to roost in, they are there most evenings chattering away, quite a sound. The first frost has blackened my Dahlias, but we could do with some more cold spells to see off some of the pesky insects that seem to survive our milder winters now. There has been a red deer wandering through, I found hoofprints in various places. The Tawny Owls are now beginning their territorial hooting. This autumn the squirrels and Jays have been very busy hiding the acorns and conkers – mostly in my big pots!

5th, it came back 3 nights and then disappeared. Since 02-10 no more hedgehogs came over. I would have expected at least half of them that I had last year to reappear this year, unfortunately not. Crissey found 2 dead ones in her meadow at Church Farm, sad. I'm keeping my hopes up that next year will be a better one for hoggies!



Tinsel comes from the old French word 'estincele', which means Sparkle

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Terri and family who moved into the Forge on Low Street back in the Autumn. I hope your family enjoy living here as much as we do and we look forward to welcoming you to our events in 2026

Dates for your diary during the Winter

- 1st Dec: Advent begins
- 11th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day
- 14th Dec: **Village Hall Christmas Lunch**
- 22nd Dec: Winter Solstice (Northern Hemisphere)
- 24th Dec: **Crib Service – Ilk St Margaret**
- 1st Jan: New Years Day
- 5th Jan: Twelfth Night
- 18th Jan: Winnie the Pooh Day
- 24th Jan: **Burns Night Celebrations (VH)**
- 2nd Feb: Groundhog Day
- 4-20th Feb: Winter Olympics
- 17th Feb: Pancake Day
- 27th Feb: International Polar Bear Day

Looking ahead

March 2026 **Village Hall Event TBC**

Coca-Cola helped spread the love of Santa. The company created an advertisement featuring Santa and his reindeer dining on Coca-Cola which played a big part in introducing the jolly old gift giver



Hedgehog update 2025: After last year when we had 19 hoggies, I was looking forward to welcoming them back in our garden this year.

The first one arrived on 08-04, together with another two later that evening. All three were good in weight and still had some pink markings from last year. Every now and then one of them would come back to feed but it took ages in between seeing them. Then on 14-07 I found a baby hoglet near the water butt on the terrace. I put it in the feeding box, and it was happily munching away. Saw it several times after that, weighed it and it was putting on good weight. Then until mid-August hoggies didn't come back. On 22-09 there was a new one, that was the

Looking for Help, Support and Advice

"Winter takes away the distractions, the buzz and presents us with the perfect time to rest and withdraw into a womb like love, bringing fire & light to our hearth" .. and then, just around the corner the new year will begin again, and like a seed planted deep in the earth, we will all rise with renewed energy once again to dance in the sunlight
Life is a gift a Happy winter to you all..."
Original words by Brigit Anna McNeill.