

Village Voice

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

Welcome to ISSUE 80 – March to May 2026

As I sit at my desk and think about the past few months, it feels like today has been the first day in a long time that it hasn't rained and the sun *finally* put his hat on and came out to say hello. Even the birds seemed busier, I spotted a few bees and ladybirds flitting around – and someone along high street was cutting their grass, which makes me realise I should probably be doing the same!! As we welcome Spring and emerge from our winter hibernation, our minds usually turn towards what we have to look forward to in 2026; holidays, family celebrations, village hall events and of course the highlight of our yearly calendar – The Village Show. Have you started to think about what you will be showcasing this year, are you planning your planting and sharpening your creative skills to undertake bigger and better projects this year. More information about the show to come later and over our social media and your letter boxes in the weeks to come.

**Don't forget the clocks 'spring' forward on 29th
March as we head into spring!**

St. Margaret Church Services

1st March **Lent 2** 10.00am
29th March **Palm Sunday** 10.00am – *St James*
2nd April **Maundy Thursday** 7.30pm
3rd April **Good Friday Liturgy** 12.00pm
5th April **Easter Morning Sunrise Vigil** 6.00am
5th April **Easter Sunday** 10.00am – *St Margarets
South Elmham*
12th April **Easter 2** 5.00pm
17th May **Easter Ascensiontide** 10.00am
24th May **Pentecost** 10am – *Ilk St John & 5.00pm –
St Lawrence*

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

Midweek Communion Service for Spring
March: Flixton April: St Cross South Elmham
May: St Peter South Elmham

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)

THE PARISH & VILLAGE HALL AGM'S WILL BE HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AS USUAL IN MAY. PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR THE AGENDA(S) WHICH WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOUR POSTBOX TWO WEEKS BEFOREHAND

Ten Fun Spring Facts

1. Spring is known for having extreme changes in weather
2. Baby animals are born in spring to take advantage of the sunshine
3. Frogs and Toads sing to greet spring
4. Migrating birds return to their homes in Spring
5. Spring's warmth sparks a swarm of activity in beehives
6. The Earth's tilt makes spring possible
7. Spring can make you feel happier
8. Some butterflies fly thousands of miles north in spring
9. April showers really do bring May flowers
10. Spring's colourful birds are purposefully 'showing off'

Dates for your diary during the spring

10th March **Village Meeting** to discuss dwelling development
14th March **St Patricks Night:** Village Hall
15th March **Mothering Sunday**
29th March **British Summer Time Begins**
29th March **Palm Sunday**
1st April **April Fool's Day**
1st April **Passover**
4th May **May Day Bank Holiday**
25th May **Spring Bank Holiday**
May **Village Hall AGM (date to be confirmed)**
May **Parish AGM (date to be confirmed)**
May **Village Hall Event TBC**

Looking ahead

The Village show: Saturday 18th July
Tea on the Lawn: TBC

For all that we are now looking forward to sunnier, warmer, longer days, January was a sad month in ISM as we lost some of our villages longest residence – thank you to everyone who came to celebrate the lives of both Pauline Desmond and Edgar Collyer

Eulogy

Pauline Desmond: 03.02.2026

It is with great sadness that Ilketshall St Margaret said farewell to Pauline Desmond on Saturday 3rd January 2026. Pauline who lived at Stillwaters on the high street loved the quiet, friendly life in the village and enjoyed feeding and watching the birds that visited her garden, she also shared her garden with a family of Muntjac who spent their days sitting in the sun.

Edgar Samuel Collyer: 09/07/1934 - 19/01/2026



We also said farewell to Edgar Collyer on Monday 16th February when a memorial service was held at the Church.

Edgar was born on the 9th July 1934, to Theo and Sam Collyer, and died at the age of 91 on the 19th January 2026. He was raised in the village with his younger sister, Cynthia, and his family had an agricultural contracting business which consisted of steam engines and threshing drums. This set in motion Edgar's lifelong passion for steam engines so it was only fitting that his final journey was made through the village on a Burrell steam engine - and what a fantastic sight it was to see and hear it travelling through the village, and then later to St Peter's Hall.

As many of you will know, Edgar lived and worked for most of his life in the village that he loved - Ilketshall St Margaret. Edgar was a unique local character, often a man of few words, but he was hard working, well liked and had a dry wit - in these parts you would describe him as a "noice ow boi".

As a young man Edgar did his National Service as a tank driver in Germany, before returning to Suffolk to continue the family business. He raised 4 children (John, David, Andrew and Sonia) with his first wife Kay. He married his second wife, Hazel, in 1991 and they spent many happy years at Orchard Cottage, but Hazel sadly passed away 8 years ago.

Over the years Edgar accumulated a collection of vintage farm machinery, these were proudly displayed at local rallies, such as Henham steam rally. Long after his retirement he would spend hours in his sheds fixing farm equipment, making garden furniture and anything else that took his fancy - he was an expert metal worker! He was involved in local projects, including making the splendid village sign in High Street which of course features a Burrell steam engine! He also enjoyed making (and drinking) his own cider!



A stroke 6 years ago slowed him down physically, but his mind remained sharp and inquisitive for the remainder

of his days. His certainly was 'a life well lived' and the village has lost a true local character who will be greatly missed.

Note on nature from Brenda: JANUARY saw snow and freezing weather for a few days, nice if you didn't have to go out travelling in it! I enjoy looking at all the animal footprints in the snow, fox, deer, hare, squirrels, rat - no badgers though, I expect they have hunkered down for the cold spell. Just before Christmas I was pleased to see a little Owl. I haven't seen one here for about 20-years, it popped out of a small hole in the willow tree - big yellow eyes staring at me. We've also had 40-50 Lapwings on the fields either side of Brook Lane. I haven't seen them for some years, probably because we've had cold spells this year and snow. FEBRUARY what can I say rain, grey, muddy. I think the paddy fields will crop well this year! But the snow drops are beautiful - roll on spring!!

SAVE THE DATE! Village Show, Saturday 19th July 2025

It's time for Planting, Baking & Making!

Happy New Year to you all! Now that you've woken up from your winter slumber and spring is in the air (?) I thought it a good idea to announce the 79th Ilketshall St Margaret Village Show, to be held on Saturday 18th July 2026 at the Village Hall and on the accompanying meadow (courtesy of Mr King), starting at 1pm.

Interested parties helping with setting up the show please contact me. For further details please refer to the Show schedule which will be delivered to your door in April.

Please note that Class entries should be submitted (by hand or email) no later than Weds 15th July (this gives the committee more time to organise).

Roger Webb

Show Secretary

Contacts for the Village

Church - **Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345 / 07714 986462**

Parish Clerk - **Jane Waring waringjane@hotmail.com**

Contact for the Village Hall

Event bookings - **Eva Collyer 01986 781312**

Hall Hire - **Maggie Oldham 01986 681640**

Village Show - **Roger Webb 07941 826772**

Media - **Julie Harding 07931 676289**

General Enquiries - **Val Carroll 01986 781540**

Lastly, a revised proposal has been received for a development of 5 dwellings in Low Street (3 x 4 bedroom bungalows and a pair of semi-detached 3-bedroom houses). A meeting will be held for residents to discuss this proposal, and the site owner has been invited. If you would like to have a say in this matter please come to the Village Hall at 7:30 pm on 10th March.