

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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Weston Colville Circular Walk

Our next walk (of approximately 5 miles) will be on New Year's Day, meeting in the Reading Room at 11 am, to give you a little lie in. As always, BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome, refreshments available.

Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com , 291475.

Tea and Cakes

We raised a fantastic £130 for the Cambridge homeless shelter Jimmy's at December's Tea and Cakes.



We will kick off 2019 (Happy New Year!) on Friday 4th January, 3.30 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room. All welcome.

Thank you to everyone who supports Tea and Cakes, it couldn't happen without your help.

Melanie (291319)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

Huge thanks to everyone for another buzzing café in December! It was lovely to see so many young children enjoying the winter-themed crafts.

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 5th January between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall. Join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

Half the joy of the Saturday Café is that we are never completely sure who will turn up. We have registered our January 5th café with Cambridgeshire ACRE; two of their officers would like to come and see the fun for themselves. In addition, they may advertise the event on social media and on their Community Buildings website. Publicity for our hall is welcome as our

main income is from lettings and we must cover our running costs.

The money raised at the café continues to be donated to local community projects. This year, all proceeds from the bookstall will go to Granta School.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Seniors

Happy New Year! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th January at 2.30 pm in the Reading Room, when we will take the opportunity of looking back on 2018, and forward to 2019. Charlotte will introduce ideas on art connected with yoga, which is a different and new idea for us. New ideas from everyone, please, to create our 2019 programme.

New seniors are always welcome, or call me for a chat.

Allen (290837)

Parish Council of West Wrattling

VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

There is a vacancy on the above council caused by the resignation of Campbell Ross-Bain. A bye-election to fill the vacancy will be held within 14 days (not counting Saturday and Sundays) from the date below if ten electors of the parish give notice in writing claiming such an election to the Returning Officer.

The address of the Returning Officer is:
The Returning Officer,
South Cambs District Council,
Cambourne, CB23 6EA

If no such notice is given the parish council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

Dated: 29th December 2018

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk:
(j.richards597@btinternet.com 01223 665260)



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Winter Lunch, Weston Colville

20th January 2019

We are reviving the Winter Lunch as a fund raising activity for St Mary’s church in Weston Colville. Enjoy a classic roast Sunday lunch and a popular social event on 20th January at 12.30 for 13.00 at the Reading Room. There will be a bar, and tickets, including a welcome drink, are £20 each, or £30 per ‘family ticket’ (two adults and up to two children under 12); under 3s are free. Other concessions are available, but there are only 60 seats, so book early! Tickets from Cheviot House: text 07785 361345 or email cheviotbob@me.com to reserve a place.

Bob Coates (290842)



Weston Colville Cinema Club

On Wednesday 2nd our January film will be ‘Il Postino’, a gentle heartwarming

tale for a winter’s evening, set on an island in the Gulf of Naples.



In the New Year, we’ll be teaming up with West Wrating Book Club for ‘Great Expectations’. Buy or dust off your copy of the book now, you’ve got two weeks to read it before the book club meets at The Chestnut Tree in West Wrating on Wednesday 16th and then we’ll be showing the film three weeks later on Wednesday 6th February.

Both films will be in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm; donations; refreshments available; all welcome. Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.

Murder Mystery Evening



The Reading Room will host a Murder Mystery Evening with a forties theme on Saturday 9th February at 8 pm – play a role and guess the culprit. All welcome, bar available, £5 a head, and bring a course for



dinner. There are a limited number of places; please contact me to book, giving any dietary requirements, by 20th January.

You’ll be given a card two weeks before the evening which will include your role, tips on how you might dress, and which course to bring.

Jacqueline (jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475)

The Bumble Bees Baby and Toddler Group

Bumble Bees is held every Tuesday (term time only) from 10 am to 12 noon in The Reading Room, Weston Colville. £2.50 per session (with an extra 50p for every additional sibling).



There are many different toys suitable for 0 - 5 year olds, a different craft activity each week, a garden with outside play equipment, songs, stories and a drink and snack for both adults and children. Come along and join in the fun!

Term dates and planned craft activities for the first part of the term are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 8 th January | Christmas Card Collages |
| 15 th January | Robins |
| 22 nd January | Burns Night Scottish Flags |
| 29 th January | Snowmen and Snow Flakes |
| 5 th February | Paper Plate Pigs for Chinese New Year (and Chinese related snack) |
| 12 th February | Valentines Day Cards |
| 19 th February | Half Term; no session.
Back on Tuesday 26 th February. |

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West Wratting Book Club

A Happy New Literary Year! Our next book, to be reviewed on Wednesday 16th January at 8 pm, is 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens. The film of this will then be shown at the February Weston Colville Film Club (see page 2).

Our February book will be 'Melmoth', the latest book by Sarah Perry, date to be agreed.

Linda Gorman (290653)

West Wratting Oil Syndicate

The order cutoff for the West Wratting Syndicate fill up this month is Monday 7th January at 6.30 pm.

Place your orders either by email to me at richardholness023@btinternet.com putting 'Oil' in the subject box (if you don't get a reply from me to your emailed order within 48 hours, please place your order with the pub by phone), or by phoning the pub during licensing hours – not too late, please – on 290384. Please also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements, such as 'Phone day before for gate to be unlocked' etc.

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and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill up, you'll always be buying at the best possible price. Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wratting website (www.westwratting.org.uk) about three days after the order cutoff day.

Happy New Year!

Richard Holness

Peter and Ruth Lloyd Trust

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2019. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year and the amount is approximately £800, which is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc..

For further information about the trust and award please contact Jonathan Drury (01223 290968). For an application form please apply via email to: peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 31st March 2019.

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Parish Matters

My wife said to me, “You’re right – you can’t say Happy New Year” but you can say “Blessed New Year”. It is the early part of December, and we are in the car, and I am asking “What can I say in January’s ‘Letter from the Churches’ when everything now is in such a muddle, nationally and internationally, with long angry debates in Parliament and scary headlines in all the papers?”



The reason I am writing this so early is that all the deadlines for the January issues are early, so much can have happened, for better or for worse, by the time you read this.

To remind you of the Christmas story: things were not any better in Jesus’ day! Joseph and Mary are now safely in Egypt, beginning to settle down, probably in Alexandria with its large Jewish expatriate community. Augustus has been Emperor in Rome for twenty-three years and King Herod the Great has been ruling Judea for seventeen years. Herod is paranoid and obsessive. He is building great palaces and fortresses from end to end of Judea. Any threat to his position sends him into a murderous rage. He has his

wife Mariamne condemned to death for plotting against him, and then later he has their two sons strangled. When the Magi come to Jerusalem, their message of a baby king causes Herod to send his soldiers to Bethlehem and kill all the new-born boys. There is no Happy New Year for the Holy Family! Herod is to be on the throne for another two years, so they have to stay in Egypt until after his death and it is safe to go home to Nazareth.

There is good news today from our seven churches for this New Year. We have officially become the Granta Vale Group of Churches, and Iain McColl has been officially named by Ely Diocese as our Rector. We are continuing to serve the six villages of our group, with its seven beautiful churches. We have three priests, four lay ministers, a parish nurse and an administrator on our ministry team, with two part-time assistant priests who are ready to help us. We are expecting a new member of our team to be appointed during 2019.

But for now, as promised, on behalf of all the team, I wish you all a very Blessed New Year.

Keith Johnson

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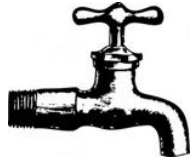
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Parish Nurse Plus – Community Worker

This is a new role for me and as one of two Community Workers in our seven parishes, I shall be working in the villages of Weston Colville, West Wrating and West Wickham. My counterpart in Balsham, Hildersham and the Abingtons will be Steve Jordan.

Our work will be an extension of that already being done locally by the Parish Nurse and will be alongside hers, falling within the overall Parish Nurse Plus Project's goals:

- make where we live a good place to live, so we live here happily and healthily with a good quality of life, a purpose and feeling of wellbeing
- ensure that all local people have a say
- help people with what they want to achieve
- liaise with interested groups to think about new initiatives which might include activities, ways to cope with life events and to care and plan care



- involve people by identifying community skills and knowledge, to find volunteers willing to help.

To help me to do these things, in the coming weeks I shall be contacting local groups. In the meantime, if you would like to know more, let me know what you need or would like, or to offer help, please get in touch. I will be at the West Wrating Saturday Café on 5th January, so please pop in.

Whether you have a car, a skill or just a wish to give someone your time, volunteering doesn't have to be onerous. You may have hours or just moments, and you can make a difference. As one neighbour told me: "When I went to help, I found all that was needed was half an hour each time to go through some paperwork".

Jacqueline Douglas (291475,
jacquelinecommunityworker@gmail.com)

Casio Keyboard

I have a Casio keyboard, mains or battery operated, which was used by a professional musician, but is now free to a good home. If you're interested, please ring me on 290028.

Dianne

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.



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Marsh Tit Study

(Dear Marsh Titters – I hope you're still tittering, not holding your heads in self-piteous recriminations about the feckless festive demon that is Eggnog. One shot glass is too much.)

Weston's wunderkind Y291374 Green over Red on Left 'King Charles the First' was seen in Joyce's garden on northern side of Mill Hill in mid-December. Twice the age of a normal wild Marsh Tit, Charles should now be the biggest Marsh Tit in the British Isles. We need to find out if he's a record breaker. Tits travel in mixed-species flocks at this time of year, venturing further afield in search of food to ward off the cold. He could be anywhere. Please send in all Marsh Tit sightings to me (cambsmarti@gmail.com), Mel (m-stammers@btinternet.com) or 'Challenge Thank you!



An excellent piece of news for the New Year: thanks to the generosity of the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund, a charitable fund managed by Cambridgeshire Community

Foundation, we have been able to purchase two state-of-the-art trailcams for automated Marsh Tit spotting.

Humans will be more intelligent, discerning and omnipresent than machines for the foreseeable future, so our human resighters will always be better than these devices, but the latter are more diligent. They never need to sleep, eat, laugh or do anything other than spotting in their little field of view. These two complementary approaches should yield excellent data for Marsh Tit conservation this New Year.

It only remains for me to wish you the very best for 2019, with the hope that your birds and ourselves will meet all of you in the coming year. You'll be most welcome.

Alex Inzani and your friendly neighbourhood South Cambs Ringing Group

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

First I would like to wish us all a happy and crime-free 2019.

The police have been advised of a burglary which occurred in Church End recently. Domestic CCTV recorded a small red van, similar in size to the one used by our regular postman, which had the registration number EG04 LCC. This may have been a false number, so watch out for a small red van,



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and if you see it take note of its number plate and report your sighting to the police on 101.

These events make us question our own personal security and show that CCTV is useful. The police urge and remind everyone that, if we see something suspicious, call 101, or 999 if a break-in is in progress.

In Balsham a house was broken into by entering a rear garden through a side gate, and cash was taken. Hare coursers have been active in Balsham and Wilbraham. Jewellery and tools have also been stolen from villages around us.

Fraudsters claim to have been canvassing for the Child Brain Injury Trust. This is genuine active trust in Oxford, but not here, where it is a fraud, and an attempt to collect our personal details. Send them on their way and call the police immediately with any details you may have noticed. There is more information on <http://ow.ly/sivr30mlX9l>

I have useful information from Action Fraud about shopping safely on line.

Allen Scott (290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)

Balsham Gardening Club



Our Christmas meeting took the format of a meal, quiz and entertainment. As usual Harold Gawthorp tested our gardening knowledge, and then it was time for fish and chips supplied by Mr Chippy. Next, Sue Arnold led us in several games of Beetle which was fast, furious and, sometimes, frustrating! We ended the evening with the raffle.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th February when Geoff Hodge will be tackling the perennial problem of weeds. All are welcome.

Sue Lock

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Balsham Community Market

Firstly, thank you to those who made it to the Christmas Market on 8th December. As the wind was so strong, we moved into the Church Institute, and it was absolutely wonderful to see lots of visitors from the village and from further afield.

As the footfall of the market has been somewhat unpredictable lately, we are moving the market back down into the Institute, where the café will be up and running once again, and the markets will be run quarterly in 2019. Each market will have a theme, with the next market on 9th March having a ‘**Spring, Easter and Mothers’ Day**’ theme with lots of food, along with gifts stalls including flowers, jewellery, Easter decorations, etc.

The 2019 dates are (Saturdays) 9th March, 8th June, 14th September, and 14th December, 2 - 4 pm. Thank you once again to my lovely regular market-goers for your support in 2018. I now look forward to seeing you and hopefully some new faces in 2019.

Debbie Paton (www.facebook.com/balshammarket)

WEA Courses

The next Linton WEA course is called ‘Every Life Tells a Story’ and has a literature focus. The tutor, Janet Berenson, will examine the themes in the lives of well-known people and help us discover the stories embedded in our own lives and experiences. The course runs for eight weeks in Linton Village Hall, starting on Tuesday 15th January, with a fee of £59. Each session is 10.30 – 12.30, a later start than usual as the tutor comes from further away. You are welcome to try the first week and see whether you like the course. Further details from Sue Mudge, (01223 892737).

If you prefer history then go to Great Bradley on Wednesday mornings for ‘Europe between the Wars’, led by Stephen Corley. The two world wars excite constant popular interest, but less attention is paid to the years which separated them, and the history which links these two great conflicts. This is a ten-week course starting on 23rd January, 10.15 - 12 noon, with a fee of £56. Come and try on week 1 to see how welcoming the group is! Further details from Peter Smith (01440 783278) or Gill PB (01223 893012).



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The Meadow School

Christmas at school is always a fun time, although very busy. The Christmas production of ‘Lights, Camel, Action’ was a huge success; our Year 2 children always take on the main speaking parts and learnt the huge amount of lines very well. Every year group learns a dance as well as a lot of songs, and trying to ensure that everyone is in the right place, at the right time, in the right costume, is always the greatest challenge! The Key Stage 2 carol service was also a great success and helped everyone get into the Christmas spirit beautifully. The church was packed full of families and Year 6, aided by the rest of Key Stage 2, retold the Christmas Nativity confidently. Of course, the service would not be the same without the visit from Declan the Donkey, who behaved well! Equally, our Christmas season would certainly not be the same without help from our local community. Mrs Sarah Bassett gives her time willingly to accompany the production and carol service, and we are so grateful for her help. We are also so thankful for our anonymous Christmas tree donation. It is contributions such as this which make us so pleased that our school is a central part of our village communities.

As a new term starts, new topics have begun across the school. We are very excited to be getting stuck into new learning, with different year groups going on trips as a hook to their learning. Year 5/6 have already been to Stibbington dressed as evacuees for their World War Two topic ‘Keep Calm and Carry on’, the Infants have a trip planned to Duxford for their ‘Up, Up and Away’ topic, and Year 3/4 are stepping ‘Into the Freezer’ for their topic. If you feel that you have any skills or expertise you can add to these topics, then please do get in contact with the school.

Helen Loe, Assistant Headteacher

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Marsh Mail

December was a great month for seeing members of the college community come together. Over 120 local residents joined us for our annual 'Coffee and Carols' event, where they were served by Year 9 students and treated to singing and musical performances as a preview to our carol concert in Balsham. It is always brilliant to see how many students we manage to squeeze into the church to take part in the concert. The diverse range of music and readings is a really festive treat.

These events are a celebration of the season and an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Christmas. They also enable us to build community and cross-generational relationships and come together to appreciate the important, bonding quality of the arts.

Another triumph was our Evolve dance production, which this year ran over two nights, enabling even more audience members to enjoy a showcase of wonderful creative talent. Performances from all ages of students were included, from Year 7 penguins and Minions to a mixed hip hop group, an all-boys troupe and a number of accomplished GCSE pieces.

Students donned gaudy Christmas jumpers in aid of REACH, a local Haverhill-based organisation that



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helps families in financial hardship, and raised funds for a number of charities through an array of different stalls and activities at our charities fayre on the last day of term. Lots of ingenious money-making ideas showed off students' entrepreneurial skills as well as their care and commitment to those less fortunate.

When the tinsel and glitter is cleared away it is important that all of us remember that an appreciation of the arts, and acts of charity and kindness, are for life, not just for Christmas.

Helena Marsh, Principal

West Wickham & District Local History Club

At our meeting on 14th January (7.30 pm in West Wickham Village Hall) we will be doing something a little different. Members of the 'Tracing Traditions' oral history project of the Museum of Cambridge (formerly known as the Folk Museum) will be coming to tell us about the museum and how we can help with the project. They are particularly keen to enlist volunteers to collect village people's memories. If you think you would be interested in helping for your own village please do come along. The meeting is open to everyone. For further details contact Janet Morris (290863, jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com).

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The Plastic Problem in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam

I have been lucky enough to spend most of my free time kayaking in stunning, otherwise inaccessible locations across the world. Up until now, these locations have been mostly plastic free. However, the plastic pandemic is encroaching more and more into wildernesses. The thought of what I might find, out on the Mekong in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, terrifies me. An article outlining this issue on the tenth most plastic contributory river in the world, and my plans for documenting it from a white water kayaking perspective, is on The Paddler website.



I am raising money on a *Go Fund Me page (Cleaning Up Our Rivers, Southeast Asia - Mekong)* for a project out

there in January 2019. The money raised will go towards the awareness and clean-up operation along the Mekong during and after the expedition. Donations will fund the ability to make a larger impact by creating opportunities to visit the local communities and industries, as well as equipment for documentation, to raise awareness and help divert plastic waste to sustainable projects. Any excess, once the trip has concluded, will be passed on to 'Plastic Free Cambodia' and other international organizations that contribute to the global clean-up efforts in rivers and oceans.

I invite you to join me on my trip, either physically (it does not matter about your kayaking experience as this is only a small part of the overall project) or by following me on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, and reading the articles I will be writing for various websites and organizations throughout the coming months. I welcome any form of support, and encourage you to message me on the mentioned platforms for more information.

Together, we can help turn the tide in the plastic pandemic! #ClearAccessClearWaters

David Brearley

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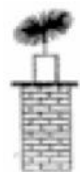
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2523 Linton Squadron ATC

This time of year is an opportunity to look back on the past twelve months successes. At Linton we have had many: a record number of hours flown in both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters; more camp places than ever before; gold, silver and bronze medals in sporting competitions; cadets reaching regional level sports and drill teams; Duke of Edinburgh awards being delivered with the first bronze certificates due soon, and silver awards being planned now; new BTEC awards being completed; a solid placement in both sector and wing field competitions; more first aid and cyber qualifications than previous years . . .

A lot of hard work from the cadets and staff goes into making Linton Squadron the success it is today, and there is no better way to celebrate this than with our dining-in night. All the cadets donned black tie for a formal meal, with speeches, toasts and disco.



It is within the setting of the dining-in night that we as staff see the true benefit of the ATC – 35 outstanding young individuals striving to be the best versions of themselves that they can possibly be, helping each other achieve by teaching and learning from each other. If you're aged 12 and in year 8 why not join us? Please call or email me for more information.


**CI Brad Wright (07943873272,
 training.2523@aircadets.org)**

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St Andrew's, West Wratting (10.45 am)		SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING	
Sunday 6 th January	United Service, Balsham	Rev Iain McColl	n/a	Jenny	n/a
Sunday 13 th January	Café Church, 4 pm	John & Scilla Harvey	Alex	Fanny	Sue
Sunday 20 th January	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop	Jenny	Linda	n/a
Sunday 27 th January	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl	Fanny	Louise	Pauline

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 6 th January	United Service, Balsham, 10.45 am	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 13 th January	Morning Worship	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 20 th January	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson
Sunday 27 th January	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl
Flowers	Maureen	
Cleaning	Gay	

Roman Catholic Mass

Every Saturday at 5.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am and noon, at St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton. Every Saturday at 6.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am, Haverhill (St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

DIARY

January 2019

- Tue 1 Circular Walk from Reading Room
- Wed 2 Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Fri 4 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
First Friday Bridge, West Wratting
- Sat 5 Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting
- Mon 7 Order deadline, West Wratting Oil Syndicate
- Tue 8 Seniors, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Mon 14 West Wickham Local History Club
- Tue 15 Linton WEA course begins
- Wed 16 West Wratting Book Club
- Thur 17 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sun 20 Winter Lunch, Weston Colville
- Wed 23 Great Bradley WEA course begins

February 2019

- Sat 9 Murder Mystery Evening, Reading Room

Revd Iain McColl
tel: 890693 email: mccoll.iain@gmail.com
 Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk
 Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
tel: 890835 email: jkeith1412@gmail.com
 Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
tel: 290396 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com
 Mr Alistair Collen, Licensed Lay Minister
tel: 894230 email: alistair.collen@hotmail.co.uk
 Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)
Philippa Coates (290842)
 St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)
Alex Walsham (291491)

Parish Council Contacts:

Weston Colville Parish Clerk – Jess Ashbridge,
jess@agrarian.biz
 West Wratting Parish Clerk – Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260
Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443
Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Black bins: Monday 14th & 28th January,
Monday 11th & 25th February
Blue bins: Monday 7th & 21st January,
Monday 4th & 18th February
Green bins: Monday 7th January & 4th February

Mobile library: Monday 7th January, Tuesday 5th Feb
 High Street, West Wratting 12.15 - 12.45
 Post Office, Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15
 Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50

Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:
editor@challengemag.co.uk

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

February issue's copy date
Sunday 20th January.