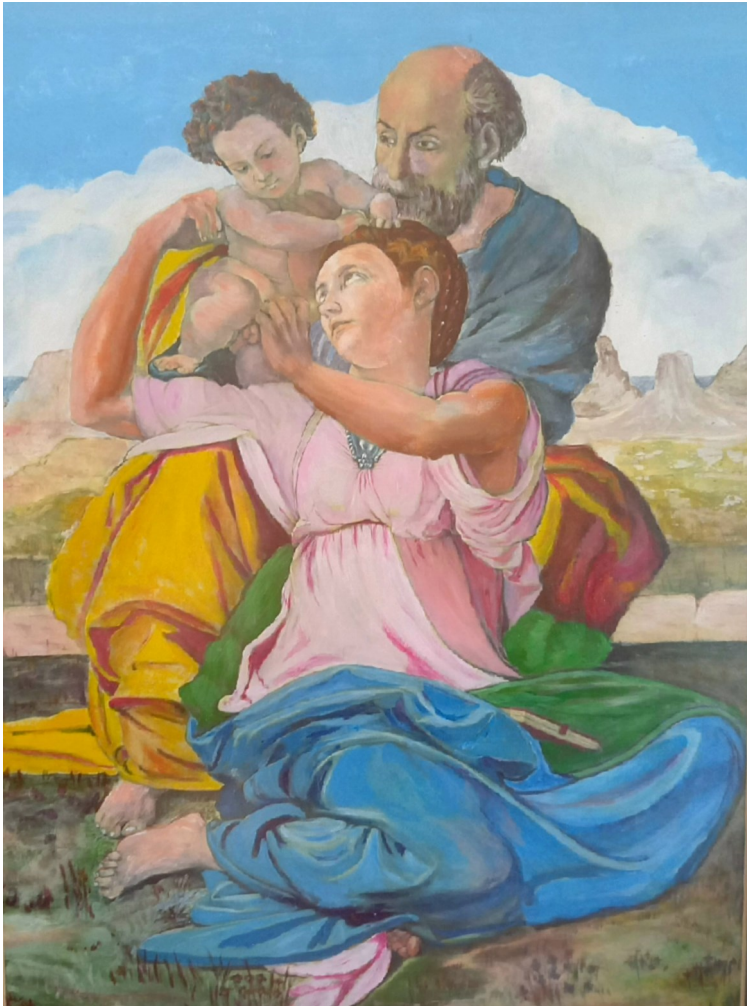




Yaxley Messenger

December 2023—January 2024



***The Holy
Family***

**Painting by
Jenny Roche
(after
Botticelli)**





Please join us for the Crib service on
Christmas Eve at 4pm in the church.

Feel the joy of Christmas with carols, children
creating the Nativity scene, mulled wine, mince
pies and chocolate for the youngsters.

The only way to start your Christmas
celebrations



Clubs and Societies

The Art Club

Meets in the Village Hall on Tuesdays 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon

**December 5th, 12th and 19th
January 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th**

All abilities welcome, £4.00. Come and create something artistic.

Further details: Chris Virgo 788819.

The Garden Club

**December 7th at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall Quiz Night
January 4th 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall AGM**

Visitors welcome £4

More details: Celia Pearson 788494

The Yaxley Needlework and Craft Group

**December 13th and January 10th and 24th
at 2 p.m. in the Village Hall**

Share skills, complete projects—with tea and chat £2.50
Do come along and join us.

More details: Celia Tel 788754 or email: celiaarmstrong@hotmail.co.uk

The Four Seasons Ladies' Group

**December 19th—Christmas Social Gathering
January 16th—Tony Diamond "Queen Victoria"
at 2 p.m. in the Village Hall**

Guests welcome: £4 plus £1 for refreshment

**Further details: Rita Hunt 0776 7143287
email: ritahunt100@hotmail.com**

Yaxley and Mellis Reading Group

Enjoy reading? Want to discuss books with others?

Fourth Thursday afternoon of the month

Further details: Marie Needham 07904 121215 mnwhizz@yahoo.co.uk



The Parish Council

Next Council Meeting **6th December**



The agenda/notices are on the Parish Noticeboard five days prior to the meeting

The Parish Clerk may be contacted by phone on 01379 783203 or 07958 623897 between 9.00 am and 7.00pm from Monday to Friday and on Saturday from 9.00am to 1.00pm. Please leave a voicemail message if there is no reply and the Clerk will return your call as soon as possible. Contact may also be made by email:- philip.c.freeman@btinternet.com or by letter to: Philip Freeman, 2 Mellis Road, Thrandeston, Diss, IP21 4BU
If there is an emergency then please phone 07958 623897
Website: <http://yaxley.onesuffolk.net>

Councillors: N Young (Chairman) I Luff
J R Hawes J R A Moore Karin Stubbington

Don't Forget

**The Mobile Post Office Van
is parked in the layby
on Eye Road**



From 9 to 10 a.m. every Friday

“Use it or lose it”

HIRE OF YAXLEY VILLAGE HALL

To book or enquire contact **Celia Armstrong** on
01379 788754 or email: celiaarmstrong@hotmail.co.uk



St. Mary's Church

**South Hartismere Benefice
December 2023**

All is strange, all is journey, and at the same time all is well'

These were the words that a recent writer used to describe a 17th century painting of *The Flight into Egypt* - that moment at the end of the Christmas story when the Holy Family (Mary and Joseph and the infant Jesus) escaped the murderous fury of King Herod. The picture, reproduced here, is by Adam Elsheimer (1578-1610): half of it shows the night sky and its reflection in the water below; in the centre is the Holy Family, lit by a single lantern; on the left is the welcoming glow of a shepherds' fire.

The words seem to me particularly appropriate to the whole Christmas story. The elements in that story are certainly strange. We have angels, we have virgin conception, we have shepherds leaving their sheep to look for a baby, and we have wandering magicians following a star. And there is journey: Joseph's journey of acceptance of what has happened to him and his intended bride; the long hike to Bethlehem for them and the Magi; the desperate escape to Egypt. And underlying it all, the sense of the long and difficult road that lies ahead for this child.

It is because the Christmas story has all these elements that it speaks so powerfully to us. We certainly live in strange times: we have wars that we never thought would happen again; we are more than ever aware of our vulnerability to pandemics; we see only too clearly the fragility of our beautiful world. And what a journey we are on, technologically and in so many other ways: assumptions, certainties, expectations, all changing inexorably. The Holy Family were on a journey into the unknown, and so are we.

How can we be sure that, at the same time, all will be well? We cannot know how it will work out, but we can trust that we are in safe hands - that the pain and the cruelty in the world will not have the last word. Kindness, compassion, and love are somehow truer: they feel more how things are meant to be. In the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, we catch a glimpse of reality, a sight of the God who made us, and will love us to the end. In his company we can say, in the words of the old hymn: "It is well, it is well with my soul".

All is strange, all is journey ... and all is well

Alan

News from the Parishes:

Welcome to: Swanley Crisp baptised at Thorndon

In Loving memory:

Keith Pawsey (Yaxley); Eileen Philips (Gislingham)



FOR ALL YOUR HOME NEEDS, SINCE 1983.



Family run 45,000 square foot superstore, **open 7 days-a-week!**

In store **Howard House, 46-50 Sawmills Road, Diss, IP22 4DA**
Online johndoe.co.uk | Call **01379 644 081** | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [y](#) [p](#) [in](#)

CARPETS ◯ FLOORING ◯ BEDS ◯ FURNITURE ◯ SOFAS ◯ CURTAINS ◯ BLINDS ◯ LIGHTING

FOUR SEASONS

19th December

16th January

2p.m. Yaxley Village Hall



Please come along on Tuesday 19th December for our last meeting of the year. This will be a social get together with mince pies and mulled wine, plenty of fun and chat. Bring along a 'talking point' something to share, maybe a precious Christmas decoration or a story about your best Christmas. Put on your party frock or Christmas jumper and join in the fun. Guests welcome as always at £4 plus £1 for refreshments.

Our first meeting in 2024 is on Tuesday 16th January at 2.00pm in the Village Hall IP23 8BX. Entertainer Tony Diamond will be coming to tell us all about Queen Victoria which should be interesting and good fun. Bring or wear something Victorian to share with members and you might just win a prize! Guests welcome as before. Avril will be taking membership subscriptions for 2024.

For those of you who maybe can't make the December meeting Best Wishes for the Festive Season. Have fun, eat well, look after yourselves and most importantly spend time with family and friends.

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all.

Rita, Avril & Liz.

Repairs & Upgrades
Outdoor Sockets
Security & Garden Lighting
General Handyman
Gutter Cleans



Call Steve
07912 341646

Steve@livepropertyservices.co.uk

Elaine Brown

Massage Therapist and Beauty Services

Deep Tissue & Remedial Massage Swedish & Hot Stone Massage
Indian Head Massage Reflexology Sugaring (Waxing)
Hopi Ear Candles Facials
Basic Pedicures Eyebrow Shape & Tint Lymph Drainage Facial Massage

Gift Vouchers available

Also available for sporting and charity events including
pamper evenings

Ring or text for information or to book an appointment

Meadow View, Maple Close, Yaxley

Email: ebmassage@btinternet.com

01379 788904 or 07894 255613

Mobile Hairdresser

Dry Trims,
Cut & Blow Dry's
Perms
Colours

Competitive Prices

Over 30 years experience

Telephone Karen

01379 871143

Or Mobile 07505 030110



Eco Sweep Chimney Services

New Power Sweeping method
used for a more thorough
chimney clean than brushes.

**All chimneys, wood burners,
AGA, boiler flues swept.**

Spotless, reliable
and friendly service.
Fully insured.

Tel: 01359 232335



Keith Pawsey

1948—2023

Anne Helen & Martin would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, messages & flowers following the loss of Keith.

Also thank you to everyone who attended Keith's funeral service and for the donations given for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Anne, Helen & Martin.

Christmas Memory Tree

**The Christmas Memory Tree
will be in the Church Porch
from the
1st of December
for people to place
their memory cards.**



Pauline

Come and join us at the Soup lunch for
a warm up and a catch up



*This year, there will be a valentine's theme
with a beautiful valentine hamper as a raffle prize*



Show your love for the St Mary's church appeal
by coming on Saturday 10th February
at 12 noon to the Village Hall, for
homemade soup, homemade cakes and
a hot drink, all for just
£5 on the door

The Yaxley Book Shelf Vol 22

By Andrew Martinelli....

Some familiar themes again as I seem drawn to them in bookshop excursions!

David Stirling - The Phoney Major

by Gavin Mortimer

Having been hooked on the first series of SAS Rogue Heroes I have been intrigued to learn more. This is something of a revelation and a character assassination all in one. An apparent hero, widely recognised for a large part in forming the SAS, this is a fascinating insight into how someone apparently created their own version of the truth, when in fact his elder brother and the great Paddy Mayne did far more. A character that found himself in Colditz, a stay that perhaps saved his life.

"It was a Hollywood fantasy in which the truth was sacrificed for titillation"

So fake news is not new?

Bridge of Clay

by Marcus Zusak

The next one from the author of 'The Book Thief', a book that remains a particular favourite. This is another departure from the more usual and follows the lives of five brothers. A building expectation of an impending tragedy keeps the interest going and revealing the five different journeys through life. As is indicated within, this fascinating book will, and does:

"...ask two eternal questions: where are you going, and who will you be when you get there?"

From a guest:

The Perfect Escape

by Daniel Hurst

Everyone needs a little time out every now and again. Aiden and Fay have found an idyllic barn house away from their everyday stresses. When they are invited to have a drink with the owners, their lives will be changed forever. This tale has so many unexpected twists and turns that keep the reader guessing. Quite a few OMG moments, which made me think about ever booking an AirBnb stay ever again!

A film

The Book Thief

(2013)

A superbly made film. Germany, World War 2, and the delight of learning to read and to enjoy books.

Share your favourite/ latest books , film or TV with us—just a few words on each will do

Email your notes to me at tony1andabby2@hotmail.com



POP- UP BAR
YAXLEY VILLAGE HALL
FRI 15TH DECEMBER
5PM - 10PM

JOIN THE VILLAGE SOCIAL FOR THE LAST POP-UP OF THE YEAR! ALONGSIDE OUR USUAL RANGE OF BEERS, CIDER & WINE WE'LL HAVE MINCE PIES AND HOT MULLED CIDER. COME DOWN AND WISH YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS



INFO@THEVILLAGESOCIAL.CO.UK



THEVILLAGESOCIALUK



@THEVILLAGE__SOCIAL

Recipe Corner

GLUTEN FREE TEA LOAF

Although this is a gluten free recipe, you could very easily substitute wheat flour for the gluten free flour. The final mixture is a sort of stiff batter, but it cooks well and the fruit doesn't sink to the bottom (as I find often happens with gluten free flour). The flaxseed gives it a nice nutty texture.

Ingredients

*300g mixed dried fruit, sultanas
or raisins
250 ml strong tea
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
150g gluten free flour
50g ground flaxseed
1 teaspoon baking powder
50g castor sugar
2 eggs*

Method

1. Put the brewed tea and fruit in a large saucepan and bring to the boil. Switch off heat and set aside for a few minutes.
2. Add the flour, flaxseed, sugar, cinnamon and baking powder to the dried fruit and stir well.
3. Add the eggs and stir well.
4. Spoon mixture into a 1lb (450g) lined loaf tin.
5. Bake for 50 minutes at 160 degrees (140 fan, or gas mark 5)

Goodbye 2023 .

Maybe a little premature as I am writing this in mid-November ... but anyway, the year to date

It has been a wet year, with 822 mm of rain (compared to 441 in 2022). Unsurprisingly, October was the wettest month (190 mm), but July was also pretty wet with 103 mm. The driest month was February with only 5 mm, but then March and April turned wet.

Over the year, temperatures were pretty average except that September was unusually hot—highest day reached 30 degrees (as did the hottest day of June). July and August were probably cooler than usual. January was the coldest month (coldest day -7 degrees)

Anybody else with weather-related data they are willing to share on a regular basis? Please let me know: tony1andabby2@hotmail.com

JJ'S Waste Services

- **All Types of Rubbish Cleared**
- **End of Tenancy**
- **Garden/Garage**
- **Office Clearance**
- **All Types of Scrap Metal Collected**

FULLY LICENSED

Call Us On:

07912 172826

www.suffolkwasteremoval.co.uk

johnjames1970@icloud.com

Susan Whymark Funeral Service Ltd

Independent and Family Run

Serving Eye, Harleston and the surrounding areas Since 2004

We offer a range of services to suit your individual needs

- Funerals tailored to your needs and budget
- Full estimates given at time of arrangement
- Pre-arranged funeral plans arranged in accordance with FCA Regulations
- Direct Cremations
- Support Groups
- Memorials



We provide an efficient but friendly service through our professionally qualified staff

Chestnut House, 12 Progress Way,
Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7HU

Ley House, 11a London Road,
Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 9BH

Tel: 01379 871168 (24hr) Tel: 01379 851253 (24hr)

See our customer reviews at

www.susanwhymark.co.uk Email: susan@susanwhymark.co.uk



HANDYMAN

**interior/exterior painting
laminate flooring, skirting, decking
gutters cleared, fascia and soffits
replaced**

**mirrors/pictures hung, curtain
poles put up**

**lots more including use of man with
a van should you need anything
collected**

**Call Rob @RJTMaintenance
07973189428**

**WE HAVE PUBLIC LIABILITY
Local firm based in Yaxley, Eye**



DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

For many of us, the Christmas and New Year period is a time to reflect and to think about making healthier and happier choices about our own lives and the lives of our families and friends. I am pleased that the Government will help us to do this by introducing new laws to improve the health of our children and grandchildren and create Britain's first smoke free generation.

As a practising NHS hospital doctor and as an MP, I believe it is the duty of every Government to improve the health of the nation. When I was Minister for Child Health, I was proud to have helped to introduce new laws to ban smoking in cars with children to protect them from the health-related dangers of passive smoking.

Smoking kills. Plain and simple. It is the leading cause of many types of cancer and acquired lung diseases. All too often, as a doctor, I have seen first-hand the reduction in healthy life years caused by smoking. We know that children are four times as likely to start smoking if they grow up with smokers, and once they do it is highly addictive and difficult to quit.

Smoking has become responsible for many thousands of deaths from cancer every year, placing huge pressure on the NHS. Sadly, too many GP appointments each month are taken up by smoking-related illness.

Smoking is also the main driver of health inequality across the country. Deaths from smoking are more than two times higher in the most deprived parts of Suffolk, where more people smoke, compared to our wealthier areas. In simple terms, smoking destroys lives. Therefore, I am pleased that we shall soon see historic new laws which will prevent children who are under the age of 14 this year, from ever legally being sold cigarettes when they turn 18.

The smoking age will be shortly be raised by a year, each and every year, until it applies to the whole population. This has the potential to phase out smoking in the next generation of young adults, almost completely, as early as 2040.

By 2075, up to 1.7 million fewer people in our country will be smoking. The health and care system will save billions of pounds and vast numbers of strokes, heart disease, lung cancer and other lung diseases will be avoided, hundreds of thousands of lives will be saved.

No parent ever wants their child to start the deadly habit of smoking. Becoming addicted to cigarettes in early life is one of the worst things that can happen for future health. Now parents will get the support and backing they need to ensure a healthier and smoke free future for their children. We can all help build a better and brighter future for our children and grandchildren by stamping out smoking for good. These changes will mean they will never be able to buy a cigarette, preventing them getting hooked and protecting their health.

At a time when we consider our own New Year's Resolutions, I am proud that we are taking the necessary and robust action in the battle to stop England smoking. This game changing plan will make for a healthier country and allow our children and grandchildren to have a much better chance of leading long and healthy lives.



Heating Services Ltd

Oil, Gas & LPG Servicing and Repairs

01379 783427

Wickham Gate, High Street,
Gislingham, Eye
Suffolk, IP23 8JD
maheating.co.uk



**Tank
Change
Limited**

Does your Oil Tank need replacing?
We are your local oil tank installer established
since 1989 with over 16,000 installations to date

- New oil tank installations, relocations and servicing
- Emergency pump out service available for leaking oil tanks
- Kingspan Titan polyethylene tanks and steel tanks held in stock
- OFTEC registered
- Kingspan Titan Accredited
- Fully insured
- Parish magazine discount
- Free surveys



Tel: 01449 781210
Email: enquiries@tankchange.co.uk
www.tankchange.co.uk



**Registered
Business**





Yaxley & Mellis Pre-School/



Early Years Provision

Mellis CEVCP School, Yaxley Road, Mellis, Eye, Suffolk, IP23
8DP

Website: www.ympreschool.co.uk

Email: contactus@ympreschool.co.uk

Telephone: 01379 788458

LOOKING FOR A GREAT PRE-SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD?

NEED BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE?

Pre-School Sessions Available Now for all 2, 3
and 4 year olds.

Funded session available.

Breakfast and After School Club is available to all
Pre-School and Mellis Primary School Children.

We are open term time, Monday-Friday 7.45am-5.00pm.

For more information or to book a visit please get in touch

Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England & Wales
Registered office as above. Registered No: 6772134
Registered Charity No: 1127983



Mark Jardine

Plumbing & Heating

All Household Plumbing, Large or Small
Full Bathroom Installation
Domestic Heating, Radiators, Pumps etc.
Water Softeners
All Work Anglian Water Certified
24 Hour Emergency Call Out



Anglian Water Approved



Tel: 01728 628291
Mob 07854 924801
Email: mgjardine@btinternet.com

KEVIN EMANS

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

- ◆ Grass Cutting
- ◆ Hedge Trimming
- ◆ Weeding
- ◆ Lawn Edging
- ◆ Pruning
- ◆ Strimming
- ◆ Mulching
- ◆ Jet Washing

For more information please ring
or email Kevin on

Mobile: 07801 540045

Home: 01953 681198

Email:

kevinemansgardenmaintenance@gmail.com

R. GRITTON

Professional Decorators

High quality, reliable
service for all your
interior and exterior
requirements

Telephone: **01379
586768**
Mobile: **07766 982600**



Nick Bobby

Tree Services

NPTC and LANTRA qualified

Professional Service

Competitive rates

**All aspects of tree work
undertaken**

**Professional hedge cutting/
reducing**

www.nickbobbytreeservices.co.uk
Free quotations call: **01379 871459**
or **07545 989081**





Safe & Sound
Hygiene and Pest Control

Is your garden overrun with moles?
Do you have a wasp nest?
Are your paddocks overrun with rabbits?
For ALL your domestic or commercial Pest Control.
Woodworm treatment available.
No obligation – free survey/quotes.




Pest infestation can damage your health and your home. Recent surveys show that numbers of mice/rats and bed bugs found in UK homes are on the rise. As Local Authorities are cutting back on free pest control services. We are here to offer you a service at the right price.

Call us to discuss your pests on 07809226109.
www.safeandsoundhygieneandpestcontrol.co.uk

Emergency numbers

Eye Health Centre	01379 870689
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Botesdale Health Centre	01379 898295
Citizens' Advice Bureau (Diss)	01379 640530
Suffolk Police (non-emergency)	just phone 101
Suffolk Fire Safety	01473 260586
Electricity (emergency)	0800 783 8838
Anglian Water (emergency)	0800 145145
Essex and Suffolk Water (emergency)	0845 7820999

Supply your news/village events by **15th of the month please** to **Abby Brett** at Willow Lodge, Old Ipswich Road, Yaxley, IP23 8BX
telephone 01379 783984 or email: tony1andabby2@hotmail.com

Business advertising

The cost of advertising per month is: £4.00/quarter page, £7.00/half page, £12.00/whole page. **Please contact Tony Brett, as above.**



I am a single parent with two kids and I'm really worried about how I'll afford to pay my energy bills when I have to start putting the heating and lights on more now winter is here. At the moment I just about have enough money to cover my bills but there is nothing left over. The thought of getting into debt keeps me awake at night but the idea of my children being cold and possibly unwell as a result is just unbearable. What can I do?

You are not alone - a record number of people came to Citizens Advice with energy debt in the first four months of 2023 (32,400) - a 112% increase on the same period in 2020 (15,200).

There are things you can do to feel in control when it comes to your energy bills. These tips won't cover all the extra costs, but they can make a difference:

- Check your thermostat: A room temperature between 18°C and 21°C is ideal for most people. Try turning your thermostat down by one degree within this range – it could save you around £115 a year. If a medical condition means you need a warmer home, ask your GP what room temperature you should aim for.
- Keep the heat in: Check your home for any gaps in the doors, windows and floors. Blocking any holes where you could get a draught could save you around £30 a year. It is important to allow for some ventilation as without it mould and damp can form.
- Turn off anything you're not using: Turning your appliances, like TVs and washing machines, off instead of leaving them on standby could save around £60 a year. Turning off lights when you're not using them – even if it's just off for a few seconds - could save around £25 a year.
- Consider using LED lightbulbs, which cost less to run.
- Watch your water usage: Cutting your shower time by just one minute can make a difference. If everyone in a four-person household with a water meter did this, they could save around £75 a year.

If you're struggling to afford your energy bills, you don't have to deal with it alone. Get in touch with Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk and you can get free advice on the help available to you.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.



Village Hall News

The Village Hall Committee would like to send out a huge "Thank you" to everyone who attended the Halloween Party which was ghoulishly successful. Big thanks also for Denver and Wayne's horrific disco which made the party go with a terrifying swing! Also, to everyone who donned their ghastly fancy dress (children and adults) you were all marvellous. So, here's to next year!

Our next event will be *Christmas Bingo* on *Saturday, 9th December* which is sure to go with a swing.

Planned Works in Church Lane

Essex and Suffolk Water will be replacing the water main in Church Lane, with work starting 17th November and continuing for about three weeks.

During this time there will be a temporary compound in the Village Hall car park for the company's use.

Residents of Church Lane will also be permitted to park their vehicles in the car park at times when Church Lane is closed.

We would ask that those using the car park at this time park their vehicles as closely together as possible, allowing all users to still access the hall.

www.yaxleysuffolkvillagehall.co.uk

Get in touch - Get involved

It's your Community Space