

## Help shape the future of library services

Suffolk County Council has launched a public consultation encouraging Suffolk Residents to tell Suffolk County Council what they want from their library services in the future.



Suffolk County Council's contract with Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) Limited, the independent charity that runs the library service, comes to an end on 31 May 2025, with a new contract set to begin in June 2025. The Council is therefore seeking views from the public about what is important to them, ahead of awarding the new contract.

The 13-week consultation, will be followed by a competitive Tender Process, before the new contract is awarded in November 2024.

To inform the consultation, the council has undertaken engagement with over 30 organisations including Suffolk Libraries staff, key service users, schools and partner organisations. A key focus of the consultation is the council's Library outreach services, which include three mobile library vehicles, serving more than 500 stops across rural parts of the county each month, for the pickup and exchange of books. The mobile library vehicles are coming to the end of their life and the council therefore needs to consider the best way to deliver these services to people in rural areas of the county going forward. Library Outreach services also include Pop-up Libraries and a home library service, run by local volunteers, is also available for Suffolk residents that find it difficult to access a static or mobile library.

The consultation is made up of two parts. Part one gives residents an opportunity to tell the council what they value in their library service and what they would like to see more of in the future. Part two seeks views on how Library Outreach services could be run in the future.

The council is keen to hear from people who currently use library services and those who do not, to better understand the needs across the county. This feedback will help to inform the requirements for the future contract.

The consultation is open until **Friday 26 January 2024**.

Residents can have their say by visiting <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/056c85fc/NqPZEbSPBEq4UU3QcaJGdA?u=http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation>

Easy read and translated versions of the consultation are available on request. Those who cannot access the consultation online, can request a printed copy by calling 0345 603 1842.

## Thank you from Tunstall Bowls Club

A big thank you to all who came along and supported our very successful Christmas Craft and Gift Fair on 18 November.

We continue to hold Short Mat bowls sessions in the Community Hall every Thursday afternoon from 2pm. Please come along and give it a try.



## Diary dates

### Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 6.00pm in the Community Hall

### The Mobile Library

Wednesday 13 December 2023  
Tunstall Green 10.10–10.25am  
Tunstall Common 10.30–10.50am

## January 2024 Bulletin

Please send or give all material to

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by **15 December 2023**

# Tunstall BULLETIN

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## St Michaels and All Angels Church Son et Lumière: Remembering the fallen

Tunstall's own answer to the grand spectacles you see on French cathedrals began on the evening of Sunday 12 November with a projection on the church tower to mark Remembrance Day. The event was really well attended and the seven minute film by villager Andy Durham was very thought provoking. Those who came to watch it were very generous with their donations and a total of £116.16 was raised to be divided equally between the British Legion local branches and church funds.

The next, and final projection (for some time anyway, due to the amount of time involved in preparation) will be on Saturday 23rd December at 6.30pm to celebrate the Christmas story. We would love to see you there and it's free entry, with optional donations to be split between the church and the Red Cross.



## Father Christmas is coming to Tunstall



From 3.30pm on Saturday 16 December Father Christmas will tour the village with his Elves bringing joy, festive cheer, and some surprises. You need to let him know if you'd like to take part, so register your child/children following the steps below and Father Christmas will be along to drop off a treat.

### Nominate your Neighbour is also back.

To nominate a neighbour or Tunstall resident for a gift from Father Christmas, follow the same steps below.

### Registration:

You can register by email to [replytunstall@gmail.com](mailto:replytunstall@gmail.com) or put a note through the door of 17 Street Farm Close with the essential information. Please provide the child/ children's name, age, address and if they have any allergies or intolerances, or your nominated neighbour or resident's name and address. Registration closes on 10 December.

## Getting the church ready for Christmas

Is anyone free to help to decorate the big Christmas tree in the church on Sunday 3 December at 2.30pm? We're also putting up another, smaller tree. Our memory tree will be for people in the village to tie on a message to someone they miss. If you are free to help with the tree, by bringing in some greenery for the window ledges or by doing a bit of light cleaning, please email [sarahvashti@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahvashti@hotmail.com) or text 07900 657780 so we know what refreshments we need for helpers.



## December church events at St. Michael's

**Saturday 9 December, 6pm**  
Christmas concert in the church; free entry to all villagers.

**Saturday 23 December, 6.30pm**  
Son et Lumière projection onto the church tower

**Sunday 24 December, 6pm**  
Christmas Eve traditional service

**Sunday 31 December, 11am**  
5th Sunday church service

## Christmas Eve Service

Our traditional service of lessons and carols on December 24 is always very popular and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. We have just been informed that there are issues with the church boiler and it will need to be replaced. We plan to have temporary solutions in place for this service and other events during December, but suggest wearing an extra layer of clothing as well just in case.



### Christmas 2023

The birth of a baby is an exciting event. The miracle of new life, a new person being introduced to the world. Often fulfilling the dreams of parents and grandparents. Although it is such a common experience (we have all been present for at least one birth – our own) it is so special and significant as well.

Along with the miracle of birth come all the issues of potential. What will this baby be like? What will she or he do with their life?

Perhaps the most pressing question is “What will the baby be called?”

All of these things were buzzing around in Mary and Joseph’s minds as they prepared for the birth of their first baby!

They were excited! Their baby had been longed for, although not just by parents and grandparents! A whole nation - and if it did but know it, a whole world – was longing for the birth of this baby!

They wondered exactly who their baby would grow up to be and what he would do. Although they did have a bit of an idea!

However, one thing they didn’t have to spend hours agonising over was the name! Jesus! (literally – God Saves). That name was given to them! A clear message concerning what their baby would do.

Of course, the name Jesus was not the only name the Bible gives to the Son of Mary who also is the Son of God! There are loads, given hundreds of years before Jesus was born and they all describe different aspects of who he would be and what he was going to do.

We are going to be considering some of those names as we celebrate the birth of the most special baby in the history of the world this Christmas. We would love it if you could join with us at Grace Church for one or more of our carol services. Details to follow!

We wish you a really Happy Christmas!

## The Vicar’s Voice

### Snow on snow

‘In the bleak mid-winter’ and ‘snow on snow’ and, please God, more ‘snow on snow’ was always my prayer as a little boy for 5<sup>th</sup> November. But no snow in Bromeswell this year! I recall standing in our next-door neighbour’s back garden, as a little chap, in my pyjamas and dressing gown watching and waiting as my Dad tried in vain to light the bonfire drenched in the slush and water. I cannot remember now whether or not he managed to light the fire, but I do remember the fireworks. We didn’t have many, but they lit up the garden and the endless darkness of the sky. Huddled together to keep warm we all gazed and went ‘ooh and ah’ and ‘wow’ and ‘look at that’ and wondered and hoped that that was not the last one.

We rarely huddle together these days. Of course, there is no need to. Warm coats and an aversion to any act that could be perceived by an onlooker as even slightly inappropriate is frowned upon. We are nervous of each other and any potential for assuming misplaced affection, but we also rarely gaze into the wider world and ooh and ah at anything. There is little sparkle. The news from abroad is disturbing. The world is getting warmer and humanity gets colder. We distance ourselves from the heat of the fire because of policies and regulations and our response to each other is sterile. Spontaneity is left to reality TV and we crave for it.

‘Snow upon snow and, please God, more snow upon snow’ was always my prayer too as 25<sup>th</sup> December

approached. Huddled in a stable: I wanted to be there. I imagined the weary family trying to keep warm in their pyjamas and dressing gowns looking up into the sky as the sparkle of the star lit up the endless darkness of the sky. I suppose they must have gazed in surprise and wonder. Were they fearful of the cold and needing each other? No policies in place here. No protection from the outbreak of Covid, or something similar. No international outcry at the cruelty of a puppet king or a terrorist on the rampage.

But someone else managed to light the fire! – I remember now. It smoked and crackled and leapt into life.

Every time the autumn comes I look forward to someone lighting the fire. Whatever the weather, the depth of cold or the weight of snow; whatever the burden of depravity, and emptiness, and the futility of life in the shadow of existence, I rely on the warmth of the huddle and the fire. So, I gaze once again as I did before with my ‘ooh’ and ‘ah’ at the sparkle of the star. But I know something now I never knew before; the star is my light for another next-door, another garden, another fire and another shore.

With my love and prayer for a wonderful Christmas.

THE REV CANON  
KEVAN S. MCCORMACK



### Litter Pick

A big thank you from the Parish Council to those who attended the litter pick in such horrible weather and to those who over the following days selflessly went out to collect litter to keep our village looking tidy. It is very much appreciated by all.

## Tunstall Parish Council

### Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

#### Flooding

Tunstall Parish Council would like to thank everyone in the village who helped with the serious flooding that has hit the village and The Common in recent weeks. When storm Babet arrived on Friday October 30 a number of houses were flooded not only with rain water and run-off from the fields and the village pond but also with sewage. Several people had to move upstairs or be evacuated. Neighbours and residents were very quick to help those who were flooded, bailing out water, moving furniture, moving vulnerable people who needed to leave their flooded houses and finding the nearest source of teabags and a kettle. We would like to thank everyone in the village who helped for their selflessness, as well as the Fire Brigade and Suffolk County Council who worked to pump standing water from the road, and Councillor Tim Wilson who has funded a pump to help protect flooded properties in future.

Babet has not been the only storm this autumn. There have been two other downpours which have caused further anxiety in the village. Anyone who has concerns can contact the Parish Council and anyone whose house is flooded can contact Susie at the Tunstall Flood response team on 07957 236566.

#### Finances

At its January meeting TPC will be setting the Precept. This is the amount of money we request from East Suffolk Council. ESC collects it via your Council Tax. Each year we try to keep the precept to a reasonable level and only request small increases. If you know of a project that TPC should be investing in next year please let us know, as this may make a difference to the precept amount requested.

#### We’re here for you

Flooding is only one of a number of issues that might concern you. From plans for more building in the village to worries about the roads and people speeding on them, to the use of the playing fields and footpaths, let us know if you have any questions or thoughts. Equally, if you have any ideas for how we can be better involved with the community, please get in touch. The best way is to email the Parish Clerk on [pcclerktunstall@gmail.com](mailto:pcclerktunstall@gmail.com)

*Tunstall Grapevine – let us know your e-mail address and we will keep you informed of the latest news*

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## New Grants to Fund Community Cost of Living Projects

Voluntary organisations, community groups and faith networks can now access fresh grant funding for projects that help ease cost of living pressures this winter.

The East Suffolk Cost of Living Winter Grant Fund, made possible with funding from the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board, will provide grants for projects that help East Suffolk residents to stay warm and fed during the colder months. Organisations can apply for between £500 and £2,500 from a total fund of £40,000 for a wide range of projects – as long as they support individuals and families to stay warm and/or to access healthy nutritious food, particularly between the end of December and end of March.

Last year, the funding supported a wide range of projects ranging from small warm rooms/spaces to community energy projects and projects to help people to access warm, nutritious food – both at home and in the community. More details are available on the East Suffolk Council website. Applications require completion of a simple online form which must be submitted by 6 December.