the

Stetchworth & Dullingham Newsletter

December 2025 / January 2026





St. Peter's Church, Stetchworth and St. Mary's Church, Dullingham

If you wish to book a baptism, wedding, or funeral, or have any other queries please contact one of the churchwardens initially:

STETCHWORTH CHURCHWARDENS:

Mrs Lily Whymer Tel: 01638 507576

e-mail: lilywhymer@gmail.com

Mr Alastair France Tel: 01638 508335

e-mail: afrance@jdpw.com

DULLINGHAM CHURCHWARDENS:

Anthea Kenna Tel: 01638 508173

e-mail: antheakenna@gmail.com

(preferred)

Dulce Threlfall

Tel: 01638 508470 / 07810 140412 e-mail: thedulcethrelfall@gmail.com

RURAL DEAN:

Rev'd Dr. Eleanor Williams Tel: 01638 741262

e-mail: vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

For information about the Benefice, please see our website www.raddesley.com

As I write this it's the middle of November, and yet I'm writing for a Newsletter that will cover three major seasons in the Church's year, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. These are seasons where, despite it being dark outside, Christians celebrate wonderful festivals of light.

I can be a bit of a "grumpy old man" sometimes in terms of the run up to Christmas. I do rather think that decorations (and Christmas adverts) seem to start a little early, although I do completely understand the need for preparation for Christmas – both from a faith perspective (with the time of Advent being a preparation) and in terms of the "busyness" of the season.

It's rather fascinating in some ways that Christmas itself is now the time for giving of gifts, as the "traditional" reasons for such came with the festival of St. Nicholas (from where we derive Santa Claus), which will always fall within Advent, and the coming of the Magi (or Wise Men) to visit the baby Jesus at Epiphany. Yet I know that the greatest gift of all is the one that we all receive at Christmas with the coming of Jesus among us, when "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

Within these pages you will find details of the services in all our churches over the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. You will be very welcome to join any of our services or just to visit a church at some time as many generations have done in these villages.

We all wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Alastair France

Christchurch Mobility Aids Loan Service

15 St Mary's Square, Exning Road, Newmarket CB8 OHZ

Opening Hours

Tuesdays, 10.30 am - 12.30 pmThursday evenings, 7.30 pm - 9.00 pmFridays, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

We have a great variety of mobility aids and equipment available for loan including wheelchairs, walking frames/sticks, shower stools, commodes, and much more.

Calll us on 01638 666456

A Note from the Editor

The next edition of the Newsletter will published in February. If you would like to share any items of interest, news, or information please e-mail me at stetchworthnews@gmail.com. The deadline for articles is 20th January. Note, I cannot guarantee that content received after this date will be included in the next issue.

Newsletter content does not reflect the editor's views.

Catherine Hartness

Editor



Carpet Cleaning

& Stone Floors, Upholstery, Rugs

A few points that make us stand out,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993
We're an honest local family firm.
Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for excellent results.
Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.
We will move the furniture.
100% satisfaction or it's FREE.



Call Oliver or Max Campbell for expert help today.

01638 428 060 www.Rothwells.biz



Tank Replacement Specialists
Plastic & Steel Tanks
Base Construction
Tank Removal/ Disposal Service
Oil Boiler Servicing & Breakdowns
Heating Oil Supplier
DBS (CRB) Checked & Fully Insured

01440 820267

info@suffolkoilsolutions.co.uk







THE BOOT INN, DULLINGHAM

01638 507327 andrew.spooner@hotmail.com



The Boot is a friendly, local village pub that offers a wide variety of popular lagers, real ales, spirits and wines, and lunchtime food which includes several pub classics. We frequently have food vans for the community to enjoy! We also have several events throughout the year which includes beer festivals and live music events where people can come and enjoy a warm and friendly atmosphere!

Our Hours:

Monday: 5pm - 11pm
Tuesday: 12pm - 2.30pm/5pm - 11pm
Wednesday: 12pm - 11pm
(Fish and Chips available every Wednesday 5pm - 7.30pm)
Thursday: 12pm - 2.30pm/5pm - 11pm
Friday & Saturday: 12pm - 11pm
Sunday: 12pm - 6pm

Lunchtime food offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

What's on in the upcoming months:

November:

Friday 28th - Street Noodles & Dumplings

December:

Friday 12th - Steak and Honour Saturday 13th - Quiz Night Friday 19th - Street Noodles & Dumplings and Christmas Draw

St. Peter's Church, Stetchworth

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY:

6th December - 2.00 pm: 4.30 pm Christmas Tree Festival 14th December – 9.00 am : Communion Service

24th December - 6.00 pm: Carol Service 25th December - 10.00 am : Christmas Day Communion

11th January – 9.00 am : Communion Service

Our next church event will be the Christmas Tree Festival on 6th December when we will welcome the Kettlefields School Choir and the Kitchen choir. There will be a cake and jam stall, a raffle and we will be serving Mulled Wine and mince pies. Come along and be entertained by the choirs and view the trees that will have been decorated by our various village groups. The trees will be on display from 6th December until 5th January. The church is open every day from 9.30 am - 4.30 pm.

We will be having our usual Carol service on 24th December – if anyone would like to read one of the lessons, please let me know. The Benefice Christmas day communion service will be held in Stetchworth at 10.00 am.

Lily Whymer – Tel: 01638 507576 / lilywhymer@gmail.com



Ellesmere Garden Club

Everyone going to the Christmas Party at the Red Lion in Soham has placed their orders and we look forward to another convivial evening together. Don't forget that if you wish to take part in Secret Santa just bring along a wrapped gift to the value of around £6.

Then in the New Year we have an uplifting talk on "Dahlias" by Kim O'Brien on Wednesday 14th January. There will be the usual raffle and refreshments at the meeting, which starts at 7.30 pm. Any prizes for future raffles would be very welcome please – bring them along.

The following month our **AGM** takes place on **Wednesday 11th February**, followed directly by a **quiz**. Please come and let your opinions about the club be known and help to shape future meetings with your suggestions. Anyone who would like to join the committee please contact Sandie beforehand.

Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you soon. Any queries about the Garden Club call Sandie on 07903 584676 or speak to someone at a meeting.

All that remains is to wish Seasons Greetings to you all from the Garden Club committee.

Stetchworth and Cheveley United Reformed Church

Services and Events

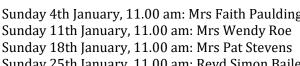
Sunday 7th December, 11.00 am: Revd Chris Baker

Sunday 14th December, 11.00 am: Revd Elizabeth Caswell

Sunday 21st December, 11.00 am: Mrs Wendy Roe (Carol Service)

Sunday 28th December, 11.00 am: Mrs Pat Stevens

Sunday 4th January, 11.00 am: Mrs Faith Paulding Sunday 25th January, 11.00 am: Revd Simon Bailey



Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 13th December, 10.30 - 12.00. All welcome. This will include a Jigsaw Swap - bring a jigsaw you have finished with and take a different one home.





News...

THE POST OFFICE

The Post Office remains closed. We will post updates on the Ellesmere Facebook page as soon as we have any information.

THE ELLESMERE CENTRE COMMUNITY SHOP

In the meantime, the shop remains open as usual Monday to Friday from 9.00am until 12 noon.

Fresh bread, pastries and delicious sausage rolls delivered Tuesdays and Thursdays. Newspapers can be reserved and a good range of groceries and sundries stocked all served by our friendly volunteer staff.

NEW GENTLE PILATES CLASS

Starting January

FREE TATSTER SESSION THURSDAY 8 JANUARY 2.00-3.00PM

Contact gentlepilatesclasses@gmail.com

or Contact Charlotte on 07889 679945

What's On at The Ellesmere?

Please visit our new website for all up to date details of our Adult and children's classes along with upcoming events

www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk



The Staff and Trustees would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Website: www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk e-mail: office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk or alternatively call us on 01638 508212



Dullingham Community Lunch

We will be holding a community Lunch on Tuesday 6th January 2026, 12 – 3pm at the Taylor Hall Dullingham, and every first Tuesday of the month afterwards.

Please contact Ann Johnson on 01638 507736 if you would like to come but need transport.

Cambridgeshire County Council Report

As we get closer to the end of 2025, I would like to wish you all the best of times, with lots of fun, celebrations and rest throughout the Christmas season.

It is also a time when we need to look out for those in more need of support at every age and circumstance. Everyone deserves to be able to enjoy themselves and have some relief from the stresses of daily life throughout this winter season. I'm sure within the community there will be many of you doing all can to help others. For the social media savvy, follow **#BeWinterWise**, or go to the website using the following link and add 'HAF' into the search engine. It will provide a directory of useful support for all in need. https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living

Support for young families

For those needing support with young families, the County Council will again be operating its Christmas Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. This will be in operation from 20 December to 4 January.

Children eligible for benefits-related free school meals can access a funded place at a HAF holiday scheme or family experience for up to 16 hours. Families experiencing financial hardship may also qualify.

General support

For those needing support over the winter, the links provided above will direct you to help for Cambridgeshire residents to stay safe, warm, and healthy throughout the colder months by sharing practical advice, highlighting local support, and encouraging communities to look out for one another.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Though there is consensus the process and timelines we were forced into were not what any of us would have wished for, the County Council have voted to make sure the only option placing East Cambridgeshire with the City and South Cambridgeshire is put in front of government ministers at the end of November. Other councils will continue to work on and recommend their preferred options.

In addition, our local County and District Councillors have been working with parishes across Woodditton and Burwell to write a letter to ministers representing our unique position on this, helping to make sure our communities are linked to the likely Cambridge, rather than Peterborough based authority. It will ultimately be the government that decides the future of our local government structures.

HIGHWAYS

Improvements: I am working with parish councils to consider improvements to our roads in the future. These not related to maintenance, but rather local schemes to improve the safety and practicality of our roads and pavements. Most parishes already have a good idea of the work needed from concerns shared by you or known to them. Please do continue to engage with either your parish councillors or myself if you believe there are things we should be considering for the future. Cheveley, Dullingham and Swaffham Bulbeck have recently had schemes approved from last year's proposals that will now be progressed for local consultation in 2026.

Maintenance: After considerable personal input to get interventions in place, by the time of reading, the road between the King's Head and Eagle Lane in Dullingham should have undergone work to make it safe. This work has been needed for a very long time and was critical ahead of general surfacing work scheduled for summer 2026, the existing road being the sub-layer for the regular stone treatment that has been seen recently on Station Road.

The council's reporting site was upgraded in September, https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en. I know many were frustrated by the system previously, but please do report any concerns on this site, it's the best way to inform officers of work to be done. An officer does now inspect our roads on a more regular basis, so over the coming year, you should notice improvements to any reactive maintenance work required.

Cllr Jonny Edge, 07974 348141 / jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk





East Cambridgeshire District Council Report

Highways

Further to my report last month, the repairs to the B1061 on the hill coming out of Dullingham should have been done by the time that you read this report. However, this is not a full resurfacing but patching of the road to make it safer.

This is exactly what I told residents after the Highways Committee meeting in March 2025, with full resurfacing taking place in financial year 2026/2027, so unfortunately this work was not expedited as an urgent matter by the Lib Dem controlled County Council, despite my pleading to officers. I will continue to hold the administration to account.

If there is any work that you believe requires work, please contact me and I will raise this with Highways and aim to get it done to address the neglect that has happened over the last 5 years.

Council Reorganisation

The work on Local Government reorganisation continues and will continue well into next year. The Lib Dem controlled County Council has voted for Option A, despite not publishing the Business Case for that option, which means that members were asked to vote without the full facts.

The financial details show that combining with Cambridge will result in a loss of over £50m in funding compared to Option B, for the new unitary.

By the time that you read this, all the Councils in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire will have made their decision. I will provide a comprehensive report next month of the situation, what this means and next steps.

Kingsway Solar

The statutory consultation ended on 29th October, so we await the next stage during next year when Kingsway will present their further plans. I have always maintained that we need better ways of generating solar power, making it compulsory on all new builds, on factory and business plants and sites like Babraham Road Park and Ride, where the solar panels are placed over parking spaces. That is a great use of the space. Building on Grade 2 agricultural land is not the answer, as it risks our food security and creates more carbon in importing products from overseas.

Buy British produce from the supermarkets or go to Farm shops and get good quality food that has many less air miles. I will keep you updated on this unnecessary development close to our community.



ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors

No Call Out Charge

No Fix No Fee

All Work Fully Guaranteed

10% Senior Citizen Discount

For More Advice & Help Call Christopher:

07772 111 222

www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk

As this is the last report before Christmas, may I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and Merry New Year with your friends and family.

Look out for others not just at this time, but throughout the year and if you have any concerns about someone let the proper authorities know or if you cannot find the right people to contact, then let me know and I will do it for you. Stay safe and I will speak to you all next year.

I have not done surgeries previously, because I am able to visit residents or meet them, wherever is suitable for them, rather than making residents come to me. I am available to

Alan Sharp, East Cambridgeshire District Councillor -Woodditton Ward

Telephone: 07794 292941 / alan.sharp@eastcambs.gov.uk



WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD

- Investment Planning
 Long Term Care
- Retirement Planning
 Life Assurance
- Estate Planning
- Inheritance Tax
- Business Protection
- **Planning**
- Income Protection

01284 334400 | www.tywm.co.uk

SJP approved 20/04/2023

St. Mary's Church, Dullingham

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY:

14th December – 10.30 am : Morning Prayer 24th December – 6.00 pm : Lay Led Carol Service 28th December – 10.30 am : Holy Communion 11th January – 10.30 am : Morning Prayer

25th January – 10.30 am : Holy Communion

FLOWERS: <u>December</u>: No flowers during Advent – all windows greenery and candles only. <u>January</u>: Greta Bredin

CHURCH CLEANING: <u>December</u>: Daphne Baldwin, <u>January</u>: Sue Page

Christmas Lights in Dullingham Churchyard

The church is seeking sponsorship for the popular Advent-Lights again this year. If you enjoy seeing them please consider sponsoring a particular date for £10 - maybe a birthday, an anniversary, a special occasion or just for fun?

Available dates are from Sunday 30th November (Advent) to 6th January (Epiphany). If you would like to sponsor a date please contact Fiona via fionamarywharton@gmail.com or 07904 931615

Any additional funds will be used for repairs to the church clock and footpath through the churchyard. In order to make this as environmentally friendly as possible, the lights are LED.

Dullingham Charities

For those that have already registered with the Charities, the annual distribution will take place at "The Boot" public house on Wednesday 17th December between 1-2pm.

Please would you make sure you come along in person to receive your distribution.

The hampers kindly donated by "The Boot" will be given out at the same time.

TAYLOR HALL HIRE

Church Close Dullingham CB8 9XE

Contact Sarah Tel: 07780 864774 email: sarahindull@aol.com

ST. PETER'S CHURCH STETCHWORTH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025

 $2.00 - 4.30 \, \text{PM}$

Come and see the Christmas Trees that have been decorated by Community Groups

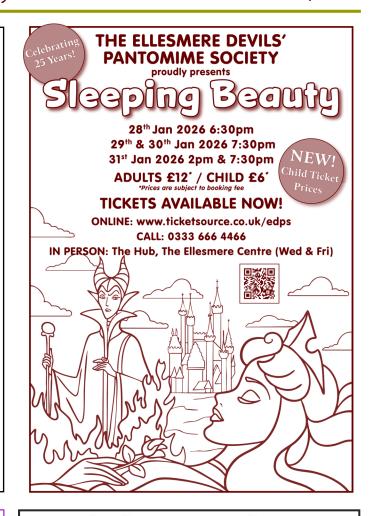
Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

RAFFLE, CAKE AND JAM STALL ENTERTAINMENT FROM THE

KETTLEFIELDS CHOIR

AND

KITCHEN CHOIR





Counselling with

Fully trained and qualified counsellor

Local private therapy room or online

Helping you cope with grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, loss, relationship breakdown – or whatever life is throwing at you!

You have what you need to deal with them – my job is to help you find that within yourself.

Call or email for an initial chat and see how I can help you.

07721 054613

rebecca@counsellingwithrebecca.co.uk

STEPWISE FOOTCARE



Clinic-based Podiatry

WE PROVIDE GENERAL FOOTCARE AS WELL AS MORE SPECIALIST TREATMENTS BY QUALIFIED PODIATRISTS AND FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

- Standard Chiropody
- Children's foot problems
- Lunula Laser™ fungal nail treatment
- Verruca treatments including Verrutop and Swift Microwave
- Biomechanical assessments
- MotionMetrix clinical gait analysis
- MotionMetrix 3D running analysis
- SIDAS bespoke orthotic insoles
- Diabetic foot care
- Nail surgery
- Wilde-Pedique toenail reconstruction

Tel: 01638 741973

HCPC Registered | RCoP Accredited Practice stepwise-footcare.co.uk

Unit 1, 10 Ness Road, Burwell, Cambridge, CB25 0AA

Report from Charlotte Cane MP

As the year draws to a close and we gather for festive events across our villages and towns, I've been reflecting on what makes Ely and East Cambridgeshire so special – our sense of community, our compassion, and our determination to look out for one another. That spirit has shone through in everything from local campaigns to doorstep conversations this autumn.

In November, I joined my constituent Lisa Smart, from Cottenham, outside 10 Downing Street to deliver a petition with over 15,500 signatures calling on the Government to save vital hospice beds at Arthur Rank Hospice. Lisa's daughter received end-of-life care there, and her powerful story shows just how much this service means to families across Cambridgeshire. The petition is part of a joint campaign I launched alongside Liberal Democrat Cambridgeshire MPs Pippa Heylings and Ian Sollom to reverse an £829,000 funding cut. Without that funding, nine of the hospice's 23 beds face closure – meaning more than 200 patients could be left without access to specialist care each year. Everyone deserves compassion, dignity, and peace at the end of their lives. We must not let a funding failure take that away.

In Parliament, I've been urging the Government to deliver fair funding and real reform for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In Ely and East Cambridgeshire, 4% of pupils have Education, Health and Care Plans – higher than the national average. Our schools do incredible work, but they need the Government's support. Every child deserves the chance to thrive, with properly funded and accessible support close to home.

I continue to press the Government on fuel poverty, after uncovering official figures showing that 9.6% of households in our constituency – that's 4,487 homes – were living in fuel poverty as far back as 2023. Shockingly, Ministers have yet to publish the data for the past year, even as families continue to struggle with soaring energy costs. I am urging the Government to publish the latest figures, to end fuel poverty and tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

Whether it's meeting residents on the doorstep, attending local events, or holding my three monthly surgeries, I'm always here to listen and help. Since being elected, I've now closed over 9,000 cases where residents have come to me for advice or support. As your local champion, I'm here to stand up for you – and I'll keep doing just that.



You are invited to

DULLINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

Thursday 11th December 2025 8.00pm

The Taylor Hall, Church Close, Dullingham CB8 9XE

Come and have 'A Jolly Holly Supper' with entertainment by Luan

and Christmas Quiz

Admission £18

(to include 2 course supper and tea/coffee)

PRE BOOKING YOUR SUPPER IS ESSENTIAL

Christmas Raffle

PLEASE CONTACT LESLEY BIRD Tel: 01638 507658 or 07786 817154

DATES FOR DIARY:

NO MEETING in January
Thursday 13th February — Valentines Demonstration

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who keeps our community running through the darker months – from NHS staff and carers to utility workers, emergency services, and transport teams who work tirelessly through the holidays.

Wishing you a peaceful and happy festive season, Charlotte

P.S. This is just a snippet – to keep up with everything I'm doing, sign up to my newsletter at bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte.

Charlotte Cane, MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk | 020 7362 1601

Stetchworth WI

In the November meeting we made a Christmas Decoration to go on the WI Christmas Tree for the St Peter's Church Tree Festival on the 6th December.

Our December meeting will be our Annual Christmas Party/Meal, this year it will be held at The Pantry in Newmarket – this is for members only.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th January 2026 and the speaker this month is Joanne Johnson – GONG RELAXTION. The competition is to be a bell. Teas this month Sue Park and Ruth Dennis.

Guests welcome (18+ years) – £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

For any other information contact Sue Durrant on 07740 591195 or visit our website stetchworthwi.weeblv.com



Raddesley Benefice Services for December and January ≈ All Welcome

Saturday 6 th December	Stetchworth	Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 7 th December Advent 2 (purple) Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12	9.00 am Brinkley Rev'd Keith Morrison 10.30 am Burrough Green Rev'd Keith Morrison	Holy Communion Family Service (Liz)
Sunday 14 th December Advent 3 (purple) Isaiah 35: 1-10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11	9.00 am Stetchworth Canon Dr. Malcolm Brown 10.30 am Dullingham Canon Dr. Malcolm Brown 6.00 pm Burrough Green	Holy Communion (Liz) Morning Prayer (Liz) Lay Led Carol Service
Sunday 21st December Advent 4 (purple) Isaiah 7: 10-16 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18 - end	9.00 am Burrough Green Rev'd Robert Van de Weyer 6.00 pm Brinkley	Communion (Josephine) Lay Led Carol Service (Liz)
Wednesday 24 th December Christmas Eve (purple)	4.00pm Westley Waterless 6.00 pm Stetchworth 6.00 pm Dullingham	Lay Led Carol Service (Liz) Lay Led Carol Service (Liz) Lay Led Carol Service (Josephine)
Thursday 25 th December Christmas Day (White) Isaiah 52: 7-10 Hebrews 1: 1-4 (5-12) John 1: 1-14	10.00 Stetchworth Rev'd Virginia Moggridge 10.30 Burrough Green 10.30 Carlton	Benefice Communion (Liz) Lay Led Family Service Lay Led Christmas Service
Sunday 28 th December Christmas 1 (White) Jeremiah 31: 15-17 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29 Matthew 2: 13-18	10.30 am Dullingham Rev'd Dr. Lynne Broughton	Holy Communion (Josephine)
4 th January Epiphany (Gold or white) Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Mtthew 2: 1-12	9.00 am Brinkley Rev'd Dr. Colin McCarty 10.30 am Burrough Green Rev'd Dr. Colin McCarty	Holy Communion Family Service (Liz)
11 th January Baptism of Christ <mark>(White)</mark> Isaiah 42: 1-9 Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 3: 13-end	9.00 am Stetchworth The Ven. Alex Hughes 10.30 am Dullingham The Ven. Alex Hughes	Holy Communion (Josephine) Morning Prayer(Josephine)
18 th January 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany (White) Isaiah 49: 1-7 1 Cor 1: 1-9 John1: 29-42	9.00 am Burrough Green Rev'd Dr. Colin McCarty 10.30 Brinkley Rev'd Dr. Colin McCarty	Holy Communion(Josephine) Morning Prayer(Josephine
25 th January 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany (White) Isaiah 9: 1-4 1 Cor 1: 10-18 Matthew 4: 12-23	10.30 am Dullingham Rev'd Dr. Colin McCarty No Evensong this month	Holy Communion (Josephine)