

***The* PICKENHAMS' OCTOBER 2025**

Community Newsletter for North Pickenham and South Pickenham

In print and on-line this month

IT STARTS AT THE VERY BEGINNING!

**The Pickenhams' Heritage Collection, covering
Houghton -on-the-Hill, North Pickenham and South Pickenham,
is up and running!**

**We are having OPEN DAYS on
SUNDAY 5 and WEDNESDAY 8**

October, 12 noon to 3pm

at The Pavilion, Johnson's Playing Field, North Pickenham.

**Come and see what we already know
about the history of the two Pickenhams and
Houghton-on-the-Hill.**

Can you tell us more?

Tea and Coffee provided

**A date for your diary. On Friday 17 October
the Hub Cafe will be having a grand renaming event!
And to celebrate the occasion, renowned Norfolk
author, Heidi Swain, will be joining us.**

Heidi Swain is a Sunday Times Top Ten best-selling author.
She writes feel-good fiction for publisher Simon and Schuster, releasing two
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DOG OWNERS/WALKERS



Do your bit to help keep North and South Pickenhams safe, clean and healthy by making sure you pick up your dog's mess. It can be disposed of in the various bins provided. There's a bright red bin for dog waste at Johnson's Playing Field, North Pickenham.

Please don't put dog waste in the black bin in the children's play area near the picnic tables, nor in the bin in the Bus Shelter.

Also, it's best not to let your dog approach another person unless it's someone you know likes dogs! Please keep your dog under close control at all times and do not let it wander unattended particularly on the playing field.

Residents who have direct access to the playing field, please keep your gates shut at all times so that your pets cannot gain unsupervised access to the playing field.

The Pickenhams' Newsletter is produced by volunteers.

It's delivered to all homes in North Pickenham and South Pickenham and is on-line at:

<https://nthpickenhamparish.wixsite.com/nthpickenhampc>

and

<http://southpickenhampc.wixsite.com/southpickenhampc>

We can also send it direct to your email in-box.

Just send your email address to pickenhamspediodical@gmail.com

The Pickenhams' Newsletter welcomes adverts, which we publish in good faith but recommend that potential customers/clients should check on claims to qualifications and certification made in any advertisement.

Please email pickenhamspediodical@gmail.com for rates etc.

Copy needed by the 15th of the month.

What's on at the Hub: OCT 2025

Pickenham Community Hub opposite PE37 8LG

MONDAY:

Fitness in Later Life - exercise class (reece@fill.fit) 12.30-1.30pm

Table Tennis (Gwyn on 07873 730291) 2.00-4.00pm

Gardening Club (Hayley on 07775 332560) 6.00-7.00pm

TUESDAY:

Table Tennis (Gwyn on 07873 730291) 2.00-4.00pm

WEDNESDAY:

Carpet Bowls (Keith on 07771 936686) 2.00-4.00pm

THURSDAY:

Table Tennis (Gwyn on 07873 730291) 6.00-8.00pm

FRIDAY:

Pickenham Hub Coffee Shop 10.00am-2.00pm

Legless Saxon Bar 7.00pm 'til late

SATURDAY:

Pickenham Hub Coffee Shop 10.00am-2.00pm.

Kids Play Area 10.30am-1.30pm

SUNDAY:

Dog Training 9.15-11.30am.

(Abigail on barkingbasicdogtraining@outlook.com)

+++ PLUS +++

FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER: QUIZ NIGHT: with Jon & Sonia. 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

£10 per person including fish and chips. £5 without food. Up to 6 per team.

Cash prizes. Bar open from 7.

Register your Team: pickenhamcommunityhub@gmail.com.

FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER: BAR, BBQ & BONFIRE PARTY: Free entry.

Bar open from 7pm. All welcome. Costume optional. Dogs on leads welcome.

Food, drink, warmth by the fire and good company.

Why not end your Trick and Treat around the village at the Hub?

Free treats, hot chocolate or fruit shoot for the children, from 6pm.

A variety of meeting spaces available for hire for classes, group events and parties.

See our website for more details: www.pickenhamcommunityhub.co.uk

There's now a DEFIBRILLATOR next to the Hub's main door!



THE PICKENHAMS' QUIZ:

International Vehicle Registration Codes

- 1 – AL - denotes which country of origin? 2 – GBZ - comes from....?
3 – What about KZ? 4 – PL - often seen on lorries and vans in the UK.
5 – What about this one from a little further afield – TM.
6 – TR - is from where? 7 – IS - hails from....?
8 – Sometimes seen on luxury cars in London – KSA.
9 – A little nearer home – DK; and
10 – AM - occasionally seen in the UK – usually lorries.

Last month's answers: Musicals

- 1 – The Sound of Music; 2 – South Pacific;
3 – Seven Brides for Seven Brothers; 4 – Singing in the Rain;
5 – Phantom of the Opera; 6 – West Side Story; 7 – Hair; 8 – Mary Poppins;
9 – Chaim Topol (better known as merely Topol);
and 10 – Paint your Wagon.

Well done if you got the right answers!

QUIZ NIGHT



QUIZ NIGHT

**AT THE PICKENHAM
COMMUNITY HUB**

**FRIDAY 10TH
OCTOBER**



**7PM BAR OPEN
7.30PM START**



**TEAMS OF 6. £5 PER PERSON OR £10 WITH FISH & CHIP
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THE PICKENHAMS' WI: OCT 2025 Update



On 9th September, we were greatly entertained by our speaker, Lesley Polley, with her slides and reminiscences about the years she and her husband had spent in France running their French B&B. Also this month, our WI members have enjoyed meeting at Margaret's Tea Rooms for coffee, cake and a catch up.

Our next WI Main Meeting will be on Tuesday, 14th October at St Andrew's Church, North Pickenham. There has had to be an amendment to the programme, which was originally set up a few months ago. Our speaker will now be Senor Momento who will sing and play songs from the 60s and 70s. It will be greatly enjoyable and we look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible.

We welcome all visitors to our meetings.

If you would like more information, please contact our President, Carol Richards on 07873 744971, or our Secretary, Melanie Cousins on 07840 814417.

Every Monday morning (except Bank Holidays) is **COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING TIME!**

10.30am to noon at St. Andrew's Church, North Pickenham.

Coffee/tea; cakes and savouries. Only £3!

See you there! All ages welcome.

St Mary's Church, Houghton-on-the-Hill

Summer Opening:

Last weekend in March to last weekend in October - every day: 2pm to 4pm

MUSIC IN NORFOLK

Gooderstone Swan: 1st Tuesday Every Month - Jam Night;

3rd Tuesday Every Month - Folk Night

Dereham The Cock: Every Sunday Afternoon - Live Music



Ghostly Airfields and Superstitions: Old airfields and ghost stories go hand-in-hand. The historic Grade II listed **West Raynham Station Headquarters (SHQ)** is hosting an evening of 'Ghostly airfield tales, superstitions, and gremlins. The evening is not a 'scare fest' and is intended as entertaining – and is based on real stories and incidents and in part helps remember those who served at RAF airfields. A number of rooms at SHQ will be used as 'settings' in which you can hear stories from World War Two to the present day. The event is taking place on Saturday **25thOctober** and you can book to join one of the three sessions that we will be running between 4 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. Each session lasts around 90-minutes and has four groups, each with no more than 12 participants ... so book early as spaces are limited. Enquiries and bookings can be made by emailing events@veteranscentral.co.uk.

The West Raynham SHQ is open for visitors every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH: CAJUN CREAMY CHICKEN AND PASTA; Serves 2

1 large saucepan; 1 medium frying pan; and 1 basin

4 oz Penne pasta; 1 tablespoon olive oil; 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts diced; 2 rounded teaspoons Cajun seasoning divided; 1 oz butter; 1 clove garlic finely chopped; 1 heaped dessertspoon plain flour; 8 fluid ounces double cream; 1 oz grated Parmesan; salt and pepper to taste; 1 thinly diced tomato; and 1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley or 1 tablespoon frozen parsley.

Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil with $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt. Add the Penne pasta and cook according to packet instructions approximately 12 minutes. Once cooked, reserve two tablespoons of the water, drain the remainder, cover and set aside. Pour the olive oil into the frying pan over medium heat. In the basin add 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning to the chicken pieces and toss to cover. Then place the chicken in the frying pan and fry for about 5 minutes. Lower the heat then add the butter and garlic and sauté for about 1 minute. Now sprinkle over the flour mixing well to combine then add the double cream and the reserved pasta water, stirring continuously for about a minute until the sauce thickens. Add the Parmesan cheese and let it melt completely then add the remainder of the Cajun seasoning. Add the salt and pepper as necessary. Pour the pasta into the chicken mixture with the diced tomato and parsley. If the sauce is too thick add extra cream or water. Adjust the Cajun spices if not seasoned enough. Serve with a green vegetable or salad and flat bread.

Iris Saxon

POET'S CORNER: June Melbourn asks:

Where have all the birds gone? They haven't visited me,
It's August, they're missing from my garden, oh where an earth can they be?

I've put out crumbs and sultanas, bacon fat and sunflower seeds,
The birdbath is full of fresh water, I try to cater for all their needs.

Maybe it's too hot for them, they are sheltering in the trees,
I miss their tuneful bird song, replaced by the buzzing of bees.

Maybe they are resting, after feeding chicks for so long,
They are no longer hungry, but I miss their cheerful song.

No blue tits, robins or sparrows, the blackbirds have gone away,
Even the pigeons and crows have left, they'll come back another day.

So I'll have to wait till summer is over, or until we have a shower of rain,
When the blackbirds will be squabbling, but so nice to see the birds again.

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The PICKENHAMS' OCTOBER 2025

MOBILE LIBRARY: TIMETABLE

NORTH PICKENHAM: 14:50 to 15:00 HOUGHTON LANE; 15:05 to 15:25 BLUE LION;
15:30 to 15:45 WHITE OAKS on WEDNESDAYS: 22 Oct 2025; 19 Nov 2025; 17 Dec 2025;
14 Jan 2026; 11 Feb 2026; 11 Mar 2026 and 8 Apr 2026.

SOUTH PICKENHAM: 12:15 noon to 12:25pm at SOUTH LODGE on TUESDAYS: 14 Oct 2025;
11 Nov 2025; 9 Dec 2025; 6 Jan 2026; 3 Feb 2026, 3 Mar 2026; and 31 Mar 2026.

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment on a permanent or temporary basis. For all enquiries about these routes please call 01603 222303.

MOBILE POST OFFICE visits North Pickenham every Tuesday from 10:10 to 10:30
stopping opposite Latimer Way.

GET IN THE SWIM OF THINGS

Swaffham and District Swimming Club meets 12 noon **every Tuesday** at Dereham Pool.
Travel there and back by hired Eagles' coach. Picks up opposite the North Pickenham Bus
Shelter at 1120, leaves Dereham Pool to return at 1330. **ONLY £8 for the travel and swim.**
Further information from: **Marion in Necton on 01760 724477 or Geraldine on 07584 177295.**
All ages (retired, working, parent with babies/toddlers) welcome.

Swaffham & District u3a: October update. Balls, Bedrooms and Banquets: On the Thursday 4th September, members gathered at Holme Hale Village Hall to welcome local celebrity author and speaker, John Vigar. His talk, 'Balls, Bedrooms and Banquets' explored the history of the country house. John's slide show gave various examples of the increasingly elaborate layout and construction of grand country houses where a display of wealth and entertaining of guests, including royalty and their entourage, became an essential requirement. As ever, John sprinkled his talk with amusing facts: for example that carpets were originally considered too precious to be placed on the floor and therefore laid as a form of table cloth for important guests. **The Naked Chef?** Perhaps the most arresting image came from the fact that Chefs originally cooked unclothed (presumably because of the heat rather than exhibitionism) before moving to wearing 'whites' to show how clean they were for food preparation! The meeting also included displays for new interest groups starting up, including a second Creative Writing group, Craft Card making and a new Whats App group to arrange informal outings. Our next meeting is October 2nd with intrepid traveller Marina Shapton, who spent months touring South America. **Community Event:** Saturday October 25th will see Swaffham & District u3a holding a Community Event in Swaffham Methodist Church, with displays, film shows, activities and refreshments.

We meet at Holme Hale Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month from 9.45am to 12 noon. Further details on all the activities covered by Swaffham & District u3a are available on our website: <https://swaffham.u3asite.uk/>, on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577031791441> or contact Laurene Henderson 01362 821164

South Pickenham Parish Council

Minutes of South Pickenham Parish Council – Wednesday, 10th September at 6pm at the Hub. Present: Cllrs J Blackburne (Chair), S Bloomfield, C & S Chalkley. In attendance: M Cousins (Clerk). Apologies received from NCC/BDCCLlr Eagle.

1. Minutes of meeting held on 16 July 2025 – The Minutes were approved and signed. There were no Matters Arising that were not covered on the Agenda. **2. Venue** – The Clerk had checked with NPTS and it is in order for the Council to continue to meet at the Hub, providing that the Bar is not open whilst the meeting is taking place. **3. Vacancy on Council** – This had been taken forward with the village residents, but there was not currently anyone willing to join the Council. The Clerk would make further enquiries and report back to the next meeting. **4. Update on PC Website Redevelopment** –The Chairman had raised his concerns about the webpage and email. He advised that the new gov.uk webpage and email were now registered and hopefully would be active soon, at which time details would be published in the Pickenham Newsletter. The Chairman said that he would also put an item in the Newsletter about the issues. The Clerk would also continue to make enquiries. **5. Street Lighting Maintenance (Cozens)** –The Clerk had arranged for this to be paid by Direct Debit but this would not be implemented for several months. In the meantime, the Council will continue to pay by cheque. **6. Update on npower** – The Clerk advised that the Street Lighting invoices for the months February to July 2025 had been received on 29 August. **7. Correspondence** –**a) Norfolk Recycling Centres** – NCC are asking for views on these; **b) Norfolk Constabulary**–Operation Radium - Request for support with Trigger Plan. **8. Approval of Accounts, Cheques issued**–Cheque for £54.00 signed for Cozens Ltd; Cheque for £50.00 signed for Mrs R Joachim; Cheque for £125.00 signed for the Clerk's time/expenses.

9. Date of next PC meeting – Wed 03-December-2025 at 6.00pm at the Hub.

South Pickenham Parish Council Contacts

John Blackburne (Chair)	01760 756219
Sue Bloomfield	01760 756204
Stephen Chalkley	4 West View
Carole Chalkley	4 West View
VACANCY	
Melanie Cousins - Parish Clerk	07840 814417 or email sthpickenhamparishclerk@gmail.com
Breckland Councillor: Fabian Eagle	01760 440284
Norfolk CC Councillor: Fabian Eagle	01760 440284

North Pickenham Parish Council

Main points from the Draft Minutes of North Pickenham Parish Council Meeting – September

2nd, 2025. Co-Option: There were three co-option applications. Only two were considered as one applicant did not attend the meeting. Chairman T. Ryan called for a vote on the first applicant. 1 AGAINST/3 ABSTAIN motion failed. Chairman T Ryan called for a vote on the second applicant. 3 FOR/1 ABSTAIN. Motion carried. Cllr. D Harper signed his Declaration of Office and joined the meeting. Clerk to notify Breckland. **Reports:** DC Fabian Eagle informed the Council that final submissions are being completed for Local Government Reorganization. He has pushed the booking North Pickenham Road passing by the Red Barn to be lifted up and properly tarmacked. He continues to take part in Solar Farm and Market Town discussions. Chairman T Ryan: Drainage issues in the village are being monitored. There has been an increase in dog fouling incidents in the village. Clerk to liaise with the Breckland Dog Warden to see if they can help. **Policies:** Safeguarding and CCTV Policy. These policies were reviewed and proposed as accepted. All passed unanimously. **Payments:** E-ON Pavilion Electricity July, £23.20; TTSR Grass Cutting (Playing Field + Verges), £950.48; Nordwell Fire Extinguisher Check, £71.82; Clerk's wages July (361.66) WFH Allowance (13.50), £375.16; HMRC Tax, £2.42; Backdated pay agreement, £45.76; TUFTS (General Maintenance), £70.68; E-ON Pavilion Electricity August, £33.78; Cozens Street Light Maintenance (Aug/Sep/Oct), £30.00; Clerk Expenses (DBS Check), £21.50; and Clerk's Wages August (371.73) WFH Allowance (13.50), £385.23. Payments were proposed as accepted by Cllr. M Cousins. Seconded by Vice Chairman R Parsonson and approved unanimously. **Clerk's Report:** The Men's Shed in Necton have said to request quotes for new planters in Spring. The Monitoring Officer finalised their report on concerns raised regarding other interests and voting procedure. Their findings were that voting procedure was not compromised. Projects such as the gravel under the slide, fixing the air walker, and the car park are ongoing, pending quotes, and grant application success. **Village Maintenance:** Many thanks to Vice Chair R Parsonson for fixing the broken bench on the playing field and the drain pipe on the bus stop. Many thanks to Cllrs. T Goodwin and D Barrington for fixing the zip line. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the zip line. The old bin on the village green next to the village sign has been removed. Clerk to obtain quotes to remove the concrete base and lay a new one for the new bin. The Clerk will be requesting permission from Highways to plant the cherry tree and install the plaque on Houghton Lane near the lay-by. **PHC:** The Chairman to the Pickenhams' Heritage Collection informed the Parish Council that they will not be pursuing a lease of the Pavilion from the Parish Council at this time. They have many issues they need to resolve before they can apply for Charity Status. This will be tabled for now. **Planning:** REFERENCE: PL/2025/1069/DCA; PROPOSAL: Discharge of conditions 3 on pp 3PL/2024/0211/F (allowed on appeal APP/F2605/W/24/3356255); APPLICANT: Mr. and Mrs. Pyne; LOCATION: Nelson House Houghton Lane, North Pickenham, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 8LF; DECISION: Pending consideration; the Parish Council does not wish to comment on this application.

If you would like to see a full unapproved version of the minutes, please go to the Parish Council website at <https://nthpickenhamparish.wixsite.com/nthpickenhampc>

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4 Nov 2025, 7.30pm at the Pavilion, Johnson's Playing Field.

North Pickenham PC and other Council Contact Numbers

Parish Clerk: Laurie Shepherd	07597 561478 or email nthpickenhamparishclerk@gmail.com
Tom Ryan (Chair)	07879 214 651
Melanie Cousins	07840 814 417
Ric Parsonson	07940 797 666
Trevor Goodwin	07788 885 702
Stephen Haley	07900 517 401
Dave Barrington	07802 912 823
David Harper	
Breckland Councillor and Norfolk County Councillor: Fabian Eagle	01760 440 284
To contact Breckland Council	01362 656 870 / http://www.breckland.gov.uk/
To contact Norfolk County Council	0344 800 8020 / https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/

NORTH PICKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL NOTICES

Posters etc: The Parish Council asks that posters for events etc are not attached to lamp posts, telegraph poles or street furniture. If you would like to put a notice in the notice boards in the village please contact the Parish Clerk.

Faulty street lights in North Pickenham? If you see a street light is not working please contact: the Parish Clerk on 07597 561478 or email
nthpickenhamparishclerk@gmail.com

Report it: Below are occurrences that you may need to report to Breckland Council on 01362 656870 or at <http://www.breckland.gov.uk/> **Abandoned Vehicles; Benefit**

Fraud; Damaged Wheeled Bin; Change Of Address; Change Of Circumstances; Compliments; Complaints; Comments; Dog Fouling; Empty Dwelling; Fly Tipping; Full Public Dog Bin; Full Public Litter Bin; Full Recycling Bank; Highway Problem; Litter and Dog Mess; Missing Wheeled Bin; Noise or Nuisance; Street Name Plate Issue.

The Parish Council asks that dog mess is not disposed of in the black bin near the play equipment. Please use the red dog mess bin near the entry gate of the playing field.

Many thanks.

BONFIRES and FIREWORKS

Check your bonfire for hibernating hedgehogs before you light it! If you find one, put it in a high sided box, with some water (NOT MILK) and some meaty dog or cat food. Release it when the bonfire is out and has cooled down.

Remember that fireworks with loud bangs can scare horses, cats, dogs, other animals and people. Think before you buy or use them!



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ROTARY CLUB OF SWAFFHAM

Swaffham Rotary is pleased to say that they now have a vicar and a chemist among their number, and they are the same person! President Charles Howard -Vyse welcomed Fr Nigel Tufnell as an Honorary Member at our meeting last Monday. After taking a degree in chemistry at Liverpool University, Nigel worked for ICI in Middlesbrough on many interesting projects, among them a project to produce a very high temperature adhesive to attach heat resistant tiles to the NASA space shuttle. Despite starting his life as an atheist, while working at ICI Nigel felt a calling to the church and was ordained and subsequently worked as a curate at York Minster. Later, with a Masters under his belt, he worked for eight years as an Environmental Consultant, returning to his ministry at various parishes in Suffolk. A man of many interests and enthusiasms, we are delighted that Fr Nigel is now an Honorary Member of our club. Just a quick reminder of our events this month in Swaffham: Art Exhibition at Swaffham Assembly Rooms October 24th-26th; Valuation Day at St Peter & St Pauls Church October 11th. If you are interested in finding out about Rotary or would like to come along to a meeting, do take a look at our website: www.swaffhamrotary.org.uk. *Richard Skinner*



Swaffham and District Lions Club

On Bank holiday Sunday we spent the day at the Swaffham Classic Car and Family fun Day on the Recreation ground. It was a nice sunny day and the event was well supported. Lions and Lionesses helped by manning the entrance gates and selling programmes, and the Lioness Branch Club ran their usual tombola stall, which made £134 for our Charity Account. Many thanks to everyone who supported us. Our Welfare Chairman Lion George Figura paid a visit to Necton Football Club to present them with a cheque for £150. This will be used to provide support for girls football, and the cheque was received by the Girls Under 13s manager Jamie. Our Lioness Branch Club's popular charity **"Pudding Quiz"** will be held on Monday 6th October, 7.30pm start, at the Catholic Church Meeting Room, Station Street, Swaffham. Teams of 4 please, cost £7 pp (including puddings). All the proceeds will be donated to West Acre Youth Theatre. Call Lionesses on 01760 723377 to book your team. For more information on the Lions Club and Lioness Branch, please email swaffhamlions@gmail.com.

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DEFIBRILLATORS

North Pickenham – in the Church Porch AND next to the Hub main door.

South Pickenham – on the outside wall of the South Pickenham Estate Office.

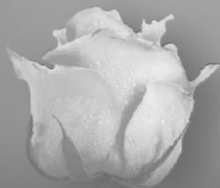
Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline:

If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who is struggling with the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone. Calls are free and confidential – **Call us on 0808 801 0688**

Being able to access support whilst a loved one is dying is really important for a number of reasons. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end and having a sense of 'preparedness' helps both the person dying and their family gain as much control as possible. Please visit **www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service** to find out more.

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WNCTP also operates a RURAL DIAL-A-BUS SERVICE EVERY WEDNESDAY TO/FROM SWAFFHAM.

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Patriotism or prejudice: The conundrum of British flag flying

Many of us will be aware that in recent months there has been a spate of British flag flying, with both Union and St George's Cross Flags being displayed from lampposts, bridges and other prominent locations across the country. For many this has been a source of patriotic delight and pleasure, while for others it has been a foreboding sign of division and 'far-right' intimidation. The truth is as always, more nuanced than this binary description might suggest, for patriotism is not (and nor should it ever be) the sole preserve of the 'far right' as many people across the ages and political spectrum have proudly stood under these flags at many a sporting occasion or days of national significance -and indeed a few have fought for them. Equally, many people of immigrant heritage have proudly adopted the Union flag as their own. Some have suggested that this bout of patriotic flag flying should be seen as a protest to the high levels of illegal migration that we see (which has ballooned since 2020, with last year's figure of 44,000 *illegal* migrants exceeding the *total* number of migrants who arrived each year in the 1990s) which inevitably changes communities and puts a strain upon limited resources, especially if there hasn't been enough investment. It's also an attempt to mark out and preserve traditional British culture and values which many seem to think might otherwise be lost. This means that traditional Christian values have inevitably been brought into the conversation and used as 'markers' by those who wish to see less immigration, even if they rarely come to church themselves.

So what can the Bible and a proper Christian understanding teach us in such circumstances? Firstly, there is nothing wrong with patriotism and flag waving, if we use it to unite and inspire communities, bringing them together with a common sense of pride and belonging. But we should never forget that God sent his son into the world, to be the 'Saviour of the world' (1 John 4.14) precisely because he loves the world. If we therefore use our flags to intimidate and cause division, and not act in a loving or compassionate way to those who are in a very real and genuine need, then not only have we turned our patriotism into an idol, (loving our country more than we do God himself) but we have also devalued our flag and the Christian principles upon which it is based.

However, there is no doubt that illegal immigration in such large numbers is a real problem, but we must respond to it in a positive and constructive way, asking ourselves whether cutting the foreign aid budget which might support people in the development of their own countries is actually the wisest thing to do. Likewise attracting employees from abroad, when they are so desperately needed at home might not in a global sense be the best example of 'loving our neighbour as ourselves' (Matthew 22.39), however advantageous it might be to us. The trouble is that it is so easy for our patriotism to turn into prejudice, and we should be constantly vigilant that we don't allow this to happen, choosing instead to prayerfully respond with compassion and kindness. These are the qualities which should feed our patriotism and make our nation proud.

With best wishes. *Stephen Thorp*

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. 1 John 4.7

CHURCH UPDATE

Sunday Church Services: October 2025

October 5th *Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*

Necton	10.00am. Holy Communion (CW)
Holme Hale	11.15am. Morning Worship (CW)

October 12th *Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity*

Necton	10.00am. Morning Worship (CW)
North Pickenham	11.15am. Morning Worship (CW)

October 19th *Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity*

Necton	10.00am. Morning Worship (CW)
Holme Hale	11.15am. Holy Communion (BCP)

October 26th *Last Sunday after Trinity / Bible Sunday*

Necton	10.00am. Morning Worship (CW)
North Pickenham	11.15am. Holy Communion (CW)

(BCP) denotes a traditional liturgical service according to the 'Book of Common Prayer'.
(CW) denotes a modern liturgical service according to 'Common Worship'.

From the Parish Registers

Baptism: We offer our sincere congratulations to Daniel & Kathryn whose little daughter **Kinsley-Mia Louise Bergmann-Brittain** was baptised at the Parish Church of All Saints, Necton on Sunday 14th September 2025. The service was taken by the Revd Canon Stephen Thorp. May God bless you and keep you as you continue to live and grow in Christ.

Funerals: We express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mrs **Margaret Ann Daynes** (aged 82) whose funeral took place at the parish church of All Saints, Necton on Thursday 18th September 2025. The service was taken by the Revd Canon Stephen Thorp. May God's special love, grace, peace and compassion be with you all.

Notices: **Men's Shed – Thank you.** Just a brief message to say thank you to all those members of the Men's Shed who helped level and tidy up the Church driveway last month. It looks superb and is very much appreciated. Stephen.