

The Sexton's Wheel

Issue 230

The magazine for Long Stratton & Wacton



March 2023

Long Stratton Village Hall - Booking Information



The hall can be booked as follows:

Via our facebook page, search Long Stratton Village Hall

Via our website www.longstrattonvillagehall.org.uk

Email us at longstrattonvillagehall@outlook.com

Call Kirsty Dye on 07986942804 and leave a message

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Licenced bar available through Wacton Social Club. Contact taylor169@btinternet.com

Church Contacts

St Mary's Chrissy Briggs - (01508) 536724

St Michael's Rosemary Bennett - (01508) 530296

All Saints' Angie Baldwin (01508) 536639

Congregational Church June Braddock (01508) 470701

Church Parish Office

Due to a change in circumstances the Parish Office will no longer open.

If you know of anyone who is unwell or would benefit from a visit from a member of our ministry team, please contact the team vicar: Revd. John Madinda on 01953 789240.

Long Stratton Town Council, The Pavilion, Manor Road, Long Stratton

Usual office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 10am and 2pm and by appointment on Wednesday.

Tel: Clerk Becky Buck 01508 530524 E-mail: clerk@longstrattoncouncil.info

For general enquiries Email: office@longstrattontowncouncil.info

The Editors reserve the right to edit or decline any material submitted for publication. While every effort is made to ensure that the contents of the magazine are accurate, no responsibility can be taken for errors and omissions. The material printed does not necessarily represent the views of the magazine committee and no recommendation of products or services is implied. While the committee take reasonable care when accepting advertisements for publication, it cannot accept responsibility for any unsatisfactory transactions. Errors and omissions excepted.



A Cry for Help

We are looking for volunteers to help deliver the Sexton's Wheel each month. If you have about an hour to spare and are willing to help
please give Ian a ring on 07557990169.

Magazines are already counted out and delivered to your door.

The Sexton's Wheel Team

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The Road To Easter

I saw my first snowdrops and winter aconites on the 5th January this year – they stood out with headachingly brightness in the greyness of that day. Since then morning has become lighter about two minutes earlier every two days. New flowers continue to be very welcome, but they don't hurt the eyes anymore. The quality of daylight has changed and, though it can still be bitterly cold, there are strong hints that winter will soon be over. Spring is on the way.

Christmas cards and decorations are now a thing of the past, even if we shunned superstition and kept them on display until 2nd February – Candlemas - the real end of Christmas. It's hard to ignore the stark bareness left in their wake. Did you, like me discover card-shaped dust on the mantelpiece or perhaps enjoyed the sound and smell as pine needles were vacuum-ed up when the tree went? Is something inside shouting out that it's time for a new start? If the answer's 'yes', it's perfect timing and others feel the same. Lent began on 22nd February, so it's time for spring-cleaning!

So where to start? We might all choose to start with the low hanging fruit – like having a tidy up at home or reviewing how our new year's resolution is going (or has it already gone??) But really Lent goes a bit deeper than this, it's about trying to look more closely at how we are with God right now. Are we still on speaking terms? How does our life speak of the life of His Son? How do we spend our time, our energy and what about our money? And our relationships?

Christians live Lent in all sorts of different ways and may or may not decide to do it on their own or in the company of others. They might choose to: read something special; join others in a Lent discussion Group; support a charity with a food tin, personal energy, direct finance or be part of a Lent lunch to raise money; or set time aside to pray. They may choose to 'do' nothing but simply 'be' more. Whatever you decide for yourself this year, there is something being offered in our benefice that will help you to do it.

This is a special and sacred time of the year, it's a gift in which Jesus as the Messiah can be met anew. He's not always easy, and can be deeply challenging, yet He still has the power to overcome the darkness with light and bring God's love and a new zest for life into any heart that welcomes Him.

May you be hugely blessed on the road to Easter!

Lydia Avery



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2nd Long Stratton Brownies

This term we are working on the Be Well theme First Aid skill builders badge.



We thank Bruce and Robert for coming along to our Brownie meeting to teach the Brownies how to give Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with rescue breaths using an adult, child and baby Resusci Annie models and including the use of an AED (defibrillator). We have also practised using the recovery position and Dr ABC.



On Wednesday 22 February, 'World thinking Day' we remembered our Founders – Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, who started the Scout and Guide Movement.



We used the '2023 Thinking Day' activity pack headed 'Our world, our peaceful future' and did some fun activities from the syllabus around the type of community we would like to live in. We finished the evening thinking about Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from other countries and renewing our Brownie Promise all together by Candlelight. Another badge for our camp blankets.

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Mon 13th – Cherry Lane & Goodies Farm Shop – Fare £8.00
Mon 20th – Beccles – Fare - £15.00
Thurs 23rd – Lunch at The Red Lion, Needham – Fare £8.00
Mon 27th – Taverham Garden Centre - £18.00

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LONG STRATTON & DISTRICT WI

The speaker at our January meeting was a long standing member of our own institute. Of course , we knew a bit about her life and hobbies but there was so much more and it was a very interesting reveal. For many years she enjoyed gliding and some listeners were heard saying how brave. No engine! Thank you Bonnie for a very interesting talk and bringing along many lovely photographs.

Currently the Norfolk Federation of Women's Institutes has arranged an introductory day for members to try gliding at Tibenham airfield. So far none of our ladies have expressed an interest in taking it up. However, there are lots of other events organised by the Federation which have more appeal. Some enjoyed the Ely Cathedral Christmas Fair and others booked to see Kinky Boots at the Theatre Royal. In the past some have enjoyed, for example, landscape watercolour painting, archery, computer technology, etc. The opportunities are there and belonging to the W.I., is what you make it!



This month some members have lunched together at the Ram and another group enjoyed seeing the snowdrops at Raveningham Gardens. We are a very active group of ladies but if you just want a monthly meeting with a speaker and good company there is no pressure to do more.

When you read this it will be March and our present members will be renewing their subscription for another year. Our new programme will start with the April meeting. Just to clarify a point, you can live anywhere to join any W.I. and it is possible to join straightaway and pay the full subscription, after which monthly meetings are free, or you can come along as a visitor for a small fee to try you out.

If you want more information or have questions please telephone the Secretary on 01508 531154. Otherwise, just turn up and be assured of a warm welcome.

Our meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Long Stratton Village Hall which is situated opposite the church on the main A140 road. There is plenty of free parking behind the hall. The March meeting will be our AGM.

Quiz Night

***Long Stratton Village Hall
29th April***

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Best wishes

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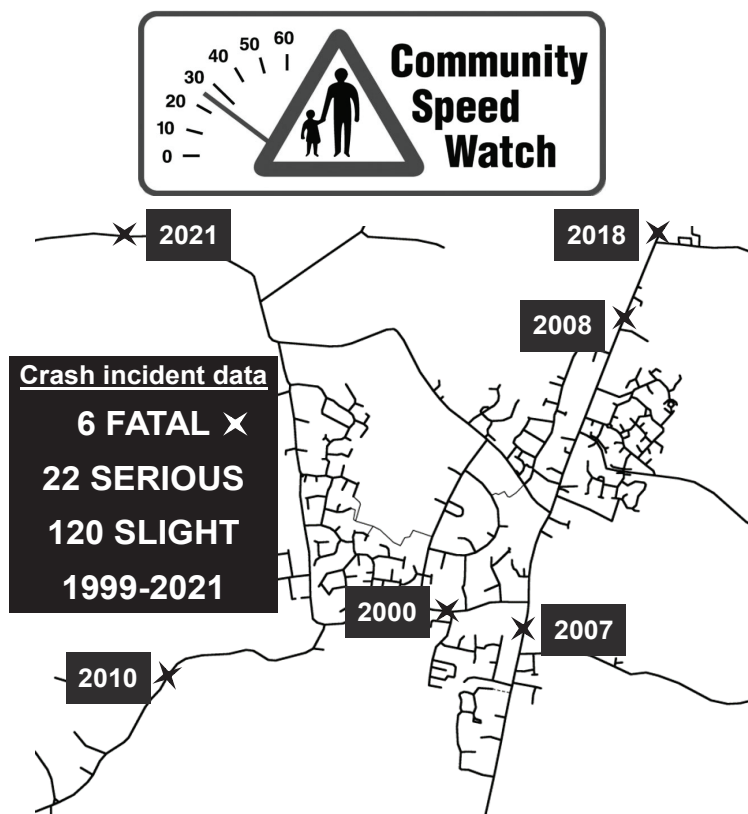
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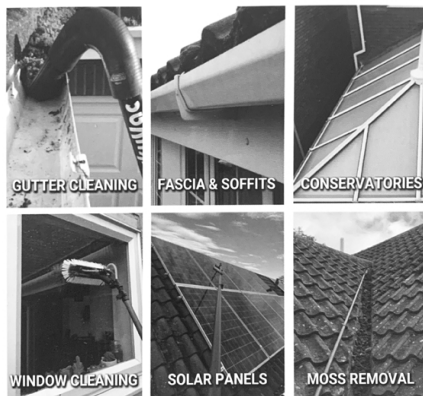
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website: www.longstrattoncouncil.info

Upcoming Elections

The next round of elections for Long Stratton Town Council will be in May 2023.

Could you be a Councillor? Do you have a passion for the community you live in? Would you like more information on what would be involved? Contact the Council for further information.

Photo ID

You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station. No ID? You can apply for free voter ID. Find out more at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call 0800 328 0280.

Kings Coronation Celebrations

We are looking for stall holders to join us at our next community event which is being held on Monday 8th May from 1pm until 7pm on the Manor Road playing fields to celebrate the Kings Coronation! Do you have a craft you would like to sell? Or a local business or club who would like a stall to either sell products or perhaps run a game or just to raise awareness for what you do, all welcome! Contact us for further information.

Warm Help Hub

We invite you to keep warm and enjoy some company in the warm space at the Pavilion. You can have a hot drink and a biscuit, squash, and if you are hungry some warm soup – all free of charge.

Fridays 9am - 1pm starting from 9th December 2022 and operating every week until the end of March 2023.

Community room for hire

The community room at the Pavilion is available to hire during the day, evenings, and weekends. It has kitchen facilities and free parking available. Please contact us if you would like to make a booking or would like to come and view the facilities.

Upcoming Full Council meeting dates

The Full Council meetings are held in the Pavilion community room. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings but whilst members of the public cannot participate, a short period of time is given for members of the public to air their views on matters directly related to the Town Council.

The next two meeting dates are: Monday 13th March and Monday 17th April.

Becky Buck, Town Clerk, Tel: 01508 530524

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M	T	W	T
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on Village Hall p14	24 BINGO! Long Stratton Village Hall 1900 eyes down 1930 see p35	25	26 Messy Church St Mary's Church 9am
on Village Hall p14	31		

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World Day of Prayer

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World Day of Prayer

HARLESTON & DISTRICT U3A

Harleston & District u3a would love you to join us for our monthly talk, on Wednesday 15 March at 2.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ. Our speaker Cathy Shelbourne will be talking about the personal life of Lord Nelson, which she says goes beyond his relationship with Lady Hamilton ! Further information about this and all Harleston & District u3a's activities is on our website www.u3asites.org.uk/harleston or by contacting Kim Poulton on 01986 788149.

SEXTON'S WHEEL

Have you got an hour a month to spare, we are looking for people to help deliver the Sexton's Wheel. If you can help, please give Ian a call on 07557990169

Come and join us for....

The next Messy Church is on **Saturday 26th March 9 - 10.45am at St Mary's Church**. Starting with Breakfast at 9am, followed by a story, crafts, and activities for everyone, and finishing with a short time of worship.

For more information contact Megan on **07956 715383**.

Just come along and join the fun!

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



LET'S CHAT

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Tel: 01508 530781

The members of the Patient Participation Group have been working with the surgery over the past few months to find new ways to meet the health needs of patients. We are keen to provide additional support to patients by providing an informal environment in which they can talk openly, and safely, with other patients who are in a similar situation and a "Health Champion," over a cup of tea/coffee.

Health Champions are patients who have themselves experienced medical conditions that they have either survived or are living with, and they are voluntarily giving up their time to support others. The overall aim is to start a feeling of community, perhaps help build links, contacts and even friendships as a network outside of the clinical and family environment. These coffee get-togethers are intended to be a space where people can – if they wish to - share their own concerns as a result of their diagnosis as well as "lived experiences."

Our first meeting is on 1st March and patients who have recently been diagnosed with cancer have been invited. This is our first get together of this kind, our health champions are cancer survivors, and some who are living with the effects of this. We are hopeful to be able to have an invited speaker from a relevant organisation in the charity sector, as least at the first or second meeting.

If this first one works well, we hope to extend it to become a monthly event and extend the medical topics that we cover. If you wish to suggest a medical topic group for us to consider please email the practice at lsmp.d82037@nhs.net and mark the subject PPG Health Support.

Ian Mortimer

Chairman - Patient Participation Group (PPG)



HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Harleston Choral Society, your friendly non-auditioning community choir, would love you to join us as we rehearse Haydn's Stabat Mater and Mozart opera choruses for our Summer Concert on 1 July. We meet in the London Road Church, Harleston IP20 9BH, every Monday from 7.30 – 9.30 pm, under the direction of our Music Director Justin Bindley. We'd also like to invite you to our Quiz Evening on Friday 17 March at 7.00 pm, in St James South Elmham Village Hall IP19 0HP. Price £10.00 pp, which includes a delicious supper, on the door on the night (cash only please), groups of six. Further information about this and all our activities on our website shortly - www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk or from our Chair Stella Brownsea at heidihouse@btinternet.com

WACTON CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS

Our February Coffee morning in February was well attended – it was good to see so many people there. Some of the money raised will be given as a donation to the fund for the earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria. Our Coffee Mornings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 10.30am and everyone is very welcome.

We will be having our Lent Lunches each Thursday during Lent (apart from Maundy Thursday) so please come along to the Village Hall from 12.00 noon on 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th of March. A variety of soups will be on offer for a suggested donation of £5.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there.

We are also planning to hold a Ceilidh (Barn Dance) in Wacton Village Hall on Saturday 25th March from 7pm. The tickets will be £10.00 to include a buffet and music from our talented local musicians. Proceeds will go to the Church Restoration Fund.

A TASTE OF HOPE

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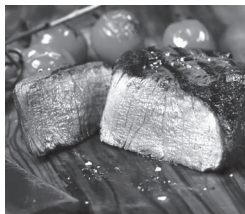
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about a
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another.*

Wacton Social Club

**Open 1st and 3rd Friday every month
7.00pm - 11.00pm at Wacton Village Hall**

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book sales from 7.00pm eyes down 8.00pm**

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The 3rd Friday of each month we are open for Pool, Darts, etc.

**Friendly atmosphere all welcome any enquiries please call:
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Rev Joseph Hepworth

The first Rector of the united benefice was Rev Joseph Hepworth. He bought the advowson in 1780 and presented himself to the bishop for installation at Wacton. At the time he was head master of Paston Grammar School and lived at North Walsham. As a salaried headmaster he had presumably amassed sufficient funds to purchase the advowson. Although the Rector, he never lived at Wacton appointing the Rev. Randall Burroughes who lived in Stratton Hall as curate.

After his daughter Maria married Henry Atkinson in 1799 he resigned from Wacton in favour of his son-in law and made his will. Joseph left all his messuages, hereditaments, advowsons, real and personal estate to his wife for life then to his son John. Nothing was left to his daughter Maria.

In 1819 John Hepworth, son of Joseph, sold the advowson to Rev E Randall Burroughes

Rev Henry Atkinson

Rev Henry Atkinson was a Norfolk boy born at Bacton. When he was first ordained he went to Durham where he married Ann Bonas then returned to Bacton, here Ann gave birth to a daughter but sadly the child died 12 weeks later, shortly followed by the death of her mother.

Henry then married Maria Hepworth, daughter of his headmaster at Paston Grammar school, they both lived at Bacton, Henry appointed curates, Rev Ellis Burroughes and Rev William Walford, both of Long Stratton to serve the Wacton Church. Henry died in 1846 at Bacton.

Rev Charles Grain

In 1844 Rev Ellis Burroughes sold the advowson to Peter Grain of Great Shelford Cambridgeshire. Peter Grain's seventh child, Charles, had been ordained in 1840 and was acting as a curate, so his next step up was to become the Rector of Wacton, however there was a slight snag as Wacton had no dwelling for the Rector so the Church authorities agreed that the patron, Peter Grain, could build a new rectory on a piece of glebe land near the church.

Charles had married Isabella Finch at Linton, Cambridgeshire in 1841 and had two children Louisa and Isabella by the time the rectory at Wacton was ready in 1845 when he was installed at Wacton. At Wacton they had a further six children, five girls and one boy Charles junior, sadly Charles only survived three days.

In 1852 Charles inherited the advowson of Wacton in his father's will and borrowed £600 from his brother then in 1876 he transferred the loan to Victotia Thurnell and borrowed further monies.

Charles died in 1877 at Great Yarmouth, possibly on a visit to his daughter who in 1881 was a governess at Great Yarmouth, and his body was brought back to Wacton for burial. His wife and younger daughters moved to Barton in Cambridgeshire after Charles death.

Rev Allen Z Grace

The next Rector was Allen Zachariah Grace, he had been curate at Wakefield. There he became active at meetings and lectures as well as being a member of the West Yorkshire Chess Association. From the newspaper reports he was a controversial speaker and maybe he was 'moved' to a quieter place when he came to Wacton in 1878. He bought the advowson a year later.

By the time he left Wacton in 1881 Rev Grace had five children and he moved to Wellington in Shropshire. There three of his younger children died of diphtheria, he took their deaths badly and hit the bottle being suspended in 1884 for being drunk while conducting a service. Later he was prosecuted for stealing and made bankrupt, his wife left him and he moved to London where he was imprisoned for six months. By the 1901 census his wife described herself as a widow.

Before Rev Grace left Wacton he sold the advowson to Alexander Webber, a merchant from London.

researched and written by Robert Maidstone
robertwmaidstone@gmail.com



Long Stratton Village Hall
24th March
1900 for 1930 eyes down

In aid of St Mary's church Restoration Fund

SKYLARKS AND SNOWDROPS



We welcomed Linda and Steve, whose first time it was and began our February walk at All Saints Church, on the outskirts of Tacolneston. I'd often driven past but such are the bends of the B1113 that, with my eyes firmly on the road, I'd never noticed it before! We found it well worth a visit: very striking outside and with several unusual features inside. There is room to park on the verge outside.

It was a glorious Spring-like morning with blue sky and sunshine as 9 of us crossed the busy road with care and entered quiet Hurn Lane, passing a lone house with a fascinating sculpture carved from part of a tree stump of two life-size rural figures enjoying a pipe. We were on high ground and could see for miles as the land sloped down towards Forncett St Mary and the little River Tas before climbing up again on the other side. Brown and green fields, trees and hedges spread out before us giving the promise of a splendid pastoral walk. We walk at a leisurely pace so we can enjoy all the countryside has to offer: birds, beasts, flowers, and whatever interesting thing is spotted, rather than the speedy health walk style where you can miss so much.

After a km or so, Hurn Lane bent to the right and became Stickfer Lane. We passed two footpaths on our left that we had explored on a previous occasion and carried on to pass a small, strangely cut field used by model aircraft flyers. We saw a hare in the distance and half a dozen meadow pipits took off from a tree. We know they weren't sparrows or starlings because new walker Steve is a very competent ornithologist and spent the walk with binoculars round his neck and an open notebook in his hand, listing every species he saw or heard. At the end of the walk we asked him how many and he had counted 26 different kinds of bird, including many robins and skylarks, great and blue tits, a kestrel, a buzzard and even heard the yaffle of a woodpecker. Most of us only saw half that many but it was still good, and so wonderful to experience the liquid song of the first skylarks of the year.

At the crossroads we turned up Cheney Lane towards Forncett End and walked steadily uphill. Opposite the charming cottage of St Mary's Farm we transferred to the other side of the hedge and walked on grass to a pond where we turned right to walk beside a thick hedge (lots of birds here) before turning right again on a field edge beside a deep drainage ditch; this is where we saw the kestrel. After a few hundred yards we came to a crossing of footpaths where there was a wooden bridge hidden in the trees which we crossed and continued over a field towards a long narrow wood. This was the climax of the walk as the ground was covered with the pure white of thousands of snowdrops, with just a few splashes of brilliant yellow from winter aconites. What a treat to finish with.

Thanks to Liz for planning this lovely walk.
Bonnie



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This winter, Tricky Period, Toiletries to Go and Keep Warm and Go bags are available from all Norfolk Libraries, along with free hot drinks available all day during staffed hours.

Activities:

Parent & Child Stay & Chat – Mondays, 2pm

Lego Club – age 4-7 Mondays, 3.45pm

Lego Club – age 6-11 Tuesdays, 3.45pm

Bounce & Rhyme – Tuesdays, 2pm

Stitches & Knitters – Thursdays, 4.45-6.45pm

Please note that our Creative Writing group comes to an end at the end of February.

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CHURCH SERVICES -March

3rd March - 3.00pm - World Day of Prayer - St Mary's

5th March - 09:30am - Holy Communion - Wacton

11:00am - All Age Worship - St Mary's

12th March - 09:00am - Holy Communion - St Michael's

11:00am - Holy Communion - St Mary's

19th March - 09:30am - Taize Style Worship- Wacton

11:00am - Morning Worship - St Mary's

26th March - 09:00am - Holy Communion - St Michael's

11:00am - St Mary's - All Age Holy Communion

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday 5th March at 10:45am – Family Service incl. Holy Communion – Bruce Thorn

Sunday 12th March at 10:45am – Family Service – Pastor Malcolm Simpkin

Sunday 19th March at 9:45am – Community Family Breakfast

Sunday 19th March at 10:45am – Mothering Sunday Family Service – Pastor Malcolm Simpkin

Sunday 26th March at 9:45am – Monthly Prayer Meeting

Sunday 26th March at 10:45am – Family Service – Rev. Pat Atkinson

HOPE CHURCH

11th March at 3.30pm - A Service for all Ages - Long Stratton Methodist Church

Separate activities for children school years 1-6

From the Parish Registers

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

Margaret (Jean) Colls - 30th January - St Mary's

Pat Hubbard - 23rd February - St Mary's

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