

Church Notes

April 2026



Welcome to Church Notes.

The weather in the last few weeks gives every impression that Spring has finally arrived, and the churchyard has really begun to hum with new life.

*"The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.*

*Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too,
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain."*
-Philip Larkin

At the time of writing, the cherry trees are just on the cusp of flowering, whilst the daffodils and primroses have taken over from the snowdrops to blaze in cheerful clusters, gently nodding in the cool breeze.

The churchyard is slowly and surely coming awake, a quiet sanctuary where the patient rhythms of nature are renewing themselves.

It has been a busy winter for the churchyard management team, working carefully to ensure the churchyard is well tended and ready for the new seasons visitors to enjoy its peaceful tranquillity.

After much deliberation, we took the difficult decision to fell the long moribund ash tree that has been struggling for many years. This decision was taken to reduce the risk of inadvertently spreading disease to the neighbouring ash trees on the eastern boundary wall.

The tree proved to be a very rich habitat for Lesser Stag Beetles *Dorcus parallelipipedus* in particular, who have clearly spent many years colonising the decaying timber in the southern section of the great trunk. To minimise the ecological impact caused by felling the tree, we have relocated these beetles to a habitat pile where the larvae can continue their long two-year maturation before emerging as adult beetles in the next few years...



Upcoming Services

Easter Sunday - 5th April 09:30am

Regular services are usually held on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Morning Prayer 9.30am on the 1st Sunday - May 3rd and June 7th

Holy Communion 9.30am on the 3rd Sunday - April 19th, May 17th and June 21st



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Stiffkey People

It will come as no surprise that Stiffkey is home to a wealth of talent, with our residents skilled in everything from art and writing to baking and handicrafts.

Much of this creativity is inspired by the remarkable landscape that surrounds us. The fluid, ever-changing light over the marshes, the vast skies, and the shifting colours of the North Norfolk coast provide a constant source of inspiration, reflected in the work of many who live here.

To celebrate this creativity, we are planning to launch an annual Made in Stiffkey event, which will culminate each year over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Our aim is to showcase the

spirit of the village and the remarkable talents of its residents.

In 2026, we will begin by focusing on our local artists. Throughout August, an exhibition of their work will be on display, offering everyone the chance to enjoy and perhaps even take home a piece of Stiffkeys' creativity.

Raffle tickets will be available, offering you the chance to win one of the exhibited artworks. For as little as £5, you could become the owner of an original masterpiece—so do be sure to get your tickets!

We are extremely grateful to all the artists who have generously donated their work to support the church fabric fund. Tickets will be available from 1st August at £5 each, with the draw taking

place following the Stalls on the Knoll event later in the month.

Further details will be available soon, so please keep an eye out for posters and updates, and look out for the church website www.stiffkeychurch.com launching soon...



Church Exhibition - Stiffkey Then and Now

We are delighted to be able to host the second opportunity to visit the Stiffkey Local History Group's **Stiffkey Then and Now** exhibition in the church over the Easter weekend of the 4th and 5th April 2026.



Set within the heart of Stiffkey, a village rich in history and shaped by centuries of coastal life, the exhibition offers a fascinating glimpse into the past.

From its maritime and military heritage, the livelihoods sustained by its saltmarsh and sea, to the stories of families who have lived and worked here over generations, Stiffkey's history is woven deeply into its landscape.

This exhibition brings those stories to life, pairing historic photographs with present-day views to reveal how the village has evolved while still retaining its unique character.

The exhibition will be open from 11am to 4pm on both days, and visitors are cordially invited to spend time exploring, reminiscing, and discovering more about the heritage of this remarkable place.

Free refreshments will be available.

Any donations received will go towards the church fabric fund, helping to preserve an important part of Stiffkey's rich heritage for future generations.

Wild Nature

The churchyard is a place of peace and reflection and it is also a peaceful haven for many species of flora and fauna.



Managing this landscape both for the many people from near and far who visit the churchyard, as well as for the benefit of local wildlife forms a big part of the role of the PCC.

For such a small area, the churchyard provides a surprising diversity of habitats, from shaded wooded areas, to grassland and the rich living spaces provided by the flint walls of the building and the churchyard itself.

Alongside the obvious aspects such as mowing and strimming the roughly one and a



half acres of land that comprise the churchyard, we also aim to provide an environment that encourages as wide a diversity of wildlife as possible.

With this in mind, in 2026 we aim to develop a churchyard management plan that will help preserve and enrich the ecological make up of this beautiful part of North Norfolk.

If you would like to get involved, please let us know!

How You Can Help

Make a Payment Today.

- A cheque payable to Stiffkey PCC
 - A bank transfer
- A card payment via the QR code below
 - A card payment in the church

Make a Regular Donation.

Setup a monthly Standing Order
Make a Deed of Covenant

Leave a Legacy.

Please contact us for more information

Volunteer.

- Help in the church
- Help in the churchyard
 - Help fundraise

Please contact us for more information

Stiffkey Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the following members:

Rev. Ian Whittle . Heather Harrison . David Hooper . Alan Duff . Chris Halford . Roger Bland . Alexandra Hooper

Contact Details

The Secretary, St Mary and St John's, c/o Glebelands, Church Street, NR23 1QJ
Email: stjstiffkey.sec@outlook.com

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales No. 1210243



We are registered for *giftaid*



Bank Details

Bank Account Name: **Stiffkey Parochial Church Council**
Sort Code: **20-30-81**
Account Number: **20844306**