

# Easton Village Newsletter

January 2020

Issue 172

## NATURE NOTE 113

**Brian Davis**



An article by the British Trust for Ornithology about birdfeeders caught my eye recently. Here in the UK, we are putting out vast amounts of supplementary food for birds every day; I expect that many of you provide nuts and/or grain for birds in your garden. A professor at Reading University has estimated that the total amount could support 196 million birds, which is a significant proportion of the total bird population in the countryside – though highly biased towards particular species, of course. One of the concerns that people have, is that birds will become reliant on these handouts and lose their ability to forage for natural foods. However, research shows that this is not so. The food taken at feeders typically makes up less than 20% of the diet of Blue tits in winter, and halting this supplementary supply, even after 25 years, appears to have little impact on winter survival. In summer, parent birds feed their chicks almost exclusively on insects and other natural foods. In fact, this is the only way that chicks can obtain water. Grain is far too dry to allow bodies to grow and develop. Birdfeeders do attract a variety of species which one does not so easily see in the tree tops, and I think, myself, that they have increased the numbers of goldfinches, for example, in Easton village. We have had a pair nesting on branches in our drive for

two years recently, though we were quite unaware of the nest until the leaves fell. The feeder outside our kitchen window provides us with constant entertainment and without one I doubt we would ever have seen a Coal tit or a Marsh tit in the garden.

## REMINDER - ROAD CLOSURE

**Easton Parish Council**

Notice has been served of a road closure affecting the village from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 until Tuesday of the following week, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The closure will be from the junction of Stonely Road and Church Lane (by Avens) to the junction of Stocking Lane and Bigrams Lane. It will be during

the working day only (8.30 – 16.00) and the diversion will be via the A14 to Spaldwick and south through Stow Longa. It is believed to be due to overhead repairs required by BT.

### THE 22<sup>nd</sup> EASTON QUIZ NIGHT

Our annual quiz will take place on Saturday February 8th. starting at 7.30p.m. at Easton in the church. Cost is £7.00 per person, school age children £3.00, plus the cost of the usual fish and chip supper. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets will be available nearer the time.

### CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

<p><b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Epiphany</b>            09.30 COV Parish Communion – Revd. John Rawlinson            09.30 SPA Morning Worship – Revd. Phil Howson            10.45 KIM Family service – Revds. Pamela Soult/            Phil Howson            15.00 STO Evensong – Revd. Phil Howson</p>	<p><b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Baptism of Christ</b>            09.30 TIL Family Service – Revd. John Rawlinson            09.30 EAS Parish Communion – Revd. Phil Howson            10.45 KIM Family Communion - Revd. Phil Howson</p>
<p><b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January -</b>            09.30 STO Family Communion - Revd. John Rawlinson            09.30 SPA Parish Communion – Revd. Phil Howson            10.30 COV Coffee Morning            10.45 KIM Matins - Revd. Ron Lancaster            11.00 BAR Parish Communion - Revd. Phil Howson</p>	<p><b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January -</b>            09.30 TIL Parish Communion – Revds. Phil Howson/            John Rawlinson            09.30 EAS Morning Worship – Warden            10.45 KIM Parish Communion – Revds. Phil Howson/            John Rawlinson            15.00 KIM Evensong - Revd. Phil Howson</p>

If you have any interesting item of news or public information, please send in your copy to the Editor (address below). Contributions are always welcome!



**Deadline for the February Newsletter is 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020**