



**Margaret's
Meanderings...**

My Boxing Day meanderings took me across the fields to Butterton on a glorious sunny day, apparently while the rest of the country was clothed in gloom & thick fog, and flights were being cancelled at Gatwick & Manchester airports. While not wanting to gloat that at last we were in the sunny uplands for a change instead of in the clouds or snowstorms, it was really very pleasant to end 2024 in sunshine.



Diary Dates

St John's Church

Sun 19th January, Holy Communion 3.00pm Cleaning/Flowers January, Liz Meakin

It was lovely to welcome so many people to the Carol Service (more over the page) & as we reach the end of another year, we'd like to thank all those who helped in any way throughout 2024 to keep the church going – Father John for taking the services, Janet McNichol for covering the absences caused by ill health, all the cleaning team & those who put such an effort into keeping the graveyard tidy & accessible, and all those who supported our fund-raising efforts throughout the year. You're all much appreciated. Finally, welcome back to Rev. Nicola Pepper after her long illness—it's really great to see you back, Nicola.

**Warslow & Elkstones
Parish Council**

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd January in Warslow Village Hall. Please see the attached Agenda & Minutes, or visit the Council Website at warslowandelkstonespc.org



Many thanks to Don Sutherland for these fantastic photos of a redwing & fieldfare which visit our valley in flocks every autumn & winter. Flying in from Scandinavia, Russia & other northern countries in search of food, they can be seen in our fields & one or two sometimes land in our gardens to feed on the berries before rejoining their flock to move on to other areas.



December was a busy month for the village, with plenty of festivity on the agenda ...



... on Sunday 8th thirteen Elkstonians very much enjoyed their annual Christmas Lunch at Biggin Hall. Santa visited to give out gifts—we're always very impressed he can find the place ... 😊



... on the 15th a good-sized congregation gathered in the beautifully decorated church to enjoy the Carol Service and mulled wine & mince pies afterwards.

Thank you to all those who put up the decorations, supplied the food & drinks and gave prizes for the raffle, which raised £331 for church funds ...

... and on the 19th a small but select band of Carol Singers toured the valley & collected £100 for Guide Dogs, the Chair's chosen charity for 2024. Thanks to all who put up with our singing & still gave generously! ...



At long last a warm welcome to Karen and Bill O'Regan who have now moved into Overdale after their 3 years of renovation work! Our carol singers enjoyed drinks & nibbles with them on their first official night in the village. We hope you will be very happy living in Elkstones—there's nowhere else quite like it!!



Wishing all Elkstonians & friends of Elkstones a Very Happy New Year ♥

