

# STOURHEAD BENEFICE NEWS

Editor: Sue Davison - 01440 705829 - [suzannedavison747@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suzannedavison747@yahoo.co.uk)

**August & September 2025**



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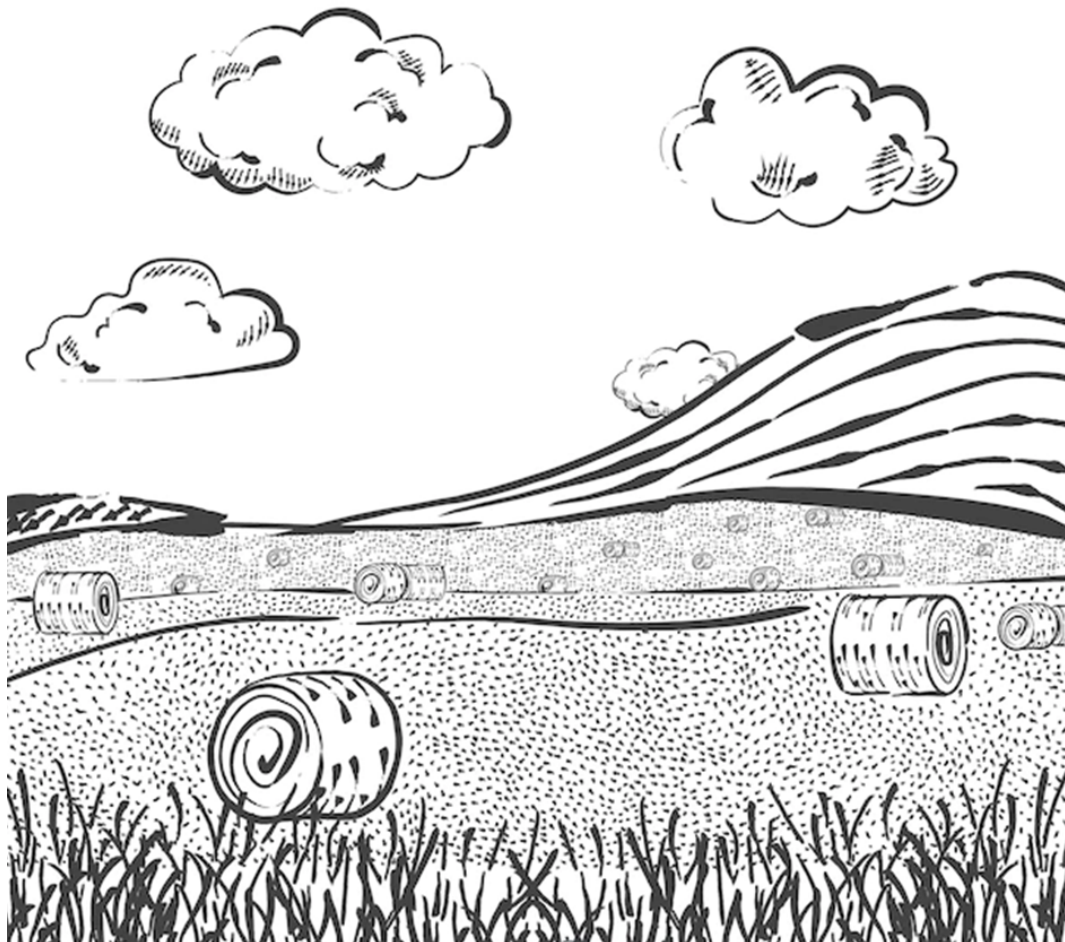


BARNARDISTON - GREAT BRADLEY - LITTLE BRADLEY - KEDINGTON  
GREAT THURLOW - LITTLE THURLOW - GREAT WRATTING - LITTLE WRATTING

**Rector : Fr Christopher Giles**

**Benefice email - [stourheadbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:stourheadbenefice@gmail.com) - 01440 762901**

**Or use the QR code for more information on our Benefice**



## Ministry Team

Father Chris Giles	01440 762901
Jill Davis	01440 713137
Ruth Hopper	01440 783125
Peter Smith	01440 783278
Mary Upton	01440 706237
Benefice Safeguarding Officers	Ruth Hopper and Naomi Shelmerdine 07405 624132

**Benefice email: [stourheadbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:stourheadbenefice@gmail.com)**

**Father Chris's day off is Friday – in an emergency please contact a member of the Ministry Team.**

## Church Wardens

### **Barnardiston:**

Les Jobson 01440 786568

### **Great Thurlow:**

George Vestey 01440 783240

### **Little Bradley:**

Mirjam Gault 01440 783756  
Colin Clifton-Brown 01440 783261

### **Little Thurlow:**

Robin Vestey 01440 783217  
Edward Perrott 07775 731805

### **Great Bradley:**

Sue Ireland 01440 783595  
Keith Willington 01440 783607

### **Great Wratting:**

Simon Corbett 01440 783698  
Ben Stanton 01440 783103

### **Kedington:**

Jill Davis 01440 713137  
Marion Farrant 07833 431184

### **Little Wratting:**

Naomi Shelmerdine 01440 705786

Editor: Sue Davison - 01440 705829 - [suzannedavison747@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suzannedavison747@yahoo.co.uk)

**Deadline for next issue (October/November) 15th September**

The Stourhead Benefice is grateful to Barnardiston School for printing the Benefice News. Cover image from [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)

## Father Chris writes

Dear Friends

As I write, it is the last week of the academic year for children. Most schools and colleges finish this week, and our universities have now completed this year's teaching.

For most of us, we can sometimes remember our school days as though it was yesterday. My favourite teacher of all time was Miss Susan Taylor. She was my first teacher at infant school, and I can remember vividly her kindness to all my class friends and me when we rather nervously started school when we were five years old.

I asked my grandfather many years ago if he could remember any of his teachers, and who were his favourites, thinking he was too old and too decrepit to remember any of his youth. How wrong I was! For over half an hour he regaled me with the names and characteristics (both good and bad!) of all his teachers, firstly at infant school, then from primary school and then from the days at secondary school. I heard how Mr Davis had taught him how to tidy his desk every Friday afternoon, and how this teacher

was responsible for enabling him to recite numerous poems he had to learn off by heart. So often have I heard 'Meg Merrilies' by John Keats, I could then join in from start to finish! I heard also of 'Bruiser' Finlay, 'Waxie' Wheatley, 'Tusker' Lee and many others.

But when you think about it, what makes a good teacher? It has been said that Socrates and Aristotle taught for forty years, Plato for fifty years, but Jesus taught for only three years. Yet Jesus's influence far surpasses the 130 years of these three men who are acknowledged as the greatest philosophers of all antiquity. Jesus painted no pictures, yet the finest painters of Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci received their illumination from him. Jesus composed no music, yet Haydn, Beethoven and Bach reached their perfection in hymns, symphonies and oratorios composed in his home honour.

Jesus was undoubtedly the greatest teacher who ever lived.

Every blessing  
Fr Chris



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## **MAIN RING ATTRACTIONS**



### **BMX Show**

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**Green Dragon Morris Dancing**

**Parade of Thurlow Hounds**



**FUN DOG SHOW - LAND TRAIN RIDES - CRAFT AND FOOD FAYRE**

**FOOD CATERING STALLS - THURLOW HISTORY DISPLAY - CLASSIC CARS DISPLAY**

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## Social Graces

A number of us within the Benefice have completed the Safeguarding Leadership training. One of the sessions on the agenda was 'Social Graces'.

Wikidata defines Social Graces as 'skills used to interact politely in social situations. They include manners, etiquette, deportment and fashion.'

Getting 'with it' in the 21st Century, ChatGPT defines Social Graces as 'the appropriate and polite behaviour and etiquette displayed in social interactions. They involve the ability to communicate with others effectively, showing respect and consideration towards others, and adhering to societal norms and cultural expectations. These skills contribute to enhancing social relationships and creating a harmonious and pleasant atmosphere in social settings.'

Probably how you or I would define them. I did wonder what the training was going to be teaching us - I shouldn't have worried.

The Social Graces we learnt about are a framework for understanding aspects of identity and how they shape our interactions and ways of doing things – how they shape who we are, how we think and how others may think about us. It takes aspects of identity (ours and others) and looks at how they may impact how we relate to others and they to us. Where the 'power' might be in a relationship/interaction due to aspects of identity.

A 'grace' might make us powerful in one interaction but it could leave us powerless in another.

Some parts of our identity can be seen - gender or age, but others might not be so visible - education, culture or religion. These are said to be invisible, but they can still be powerful. And they all influence how we think and behave.

It's a lesson for all of us. In everyday life we all should be aware of our biases (conscious and unconscious) and how they make us think and act, and how we might be perceived by others.

We talk about Safeguarding being everyone's responsibility. If someone sees us as being 'powerful' would that stop them speaking to us? Or make them feel they wouldn't be heard? In Safeguarding we talk about creating a culture where everyone's voice is heard. I see it as part of Christian living – 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you' (Matthew 7:12).

So, what are these Social Graces we should be thinking about? It's a bit of a list, designed to be adapted, and I am sure you can think of more that could be added. How do they affect your behaviour, your assumptions of others or they of you? Something to think about.

- G- gender, geography
- R- race, religion
- A- age, ability, appearance, accent
- C - class, culture
- E- ethnicity, employment, education
- S- sexuality, sexual orientation, spirituality

Ruth Hopper

### **Kedington Open Gardens**

On behalf of the St. Peter and St. Paul, Kedington Church Restoration Fund Committee, we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who supported this year's Open Gardens, either by opening their garden or helping with lunches and teas at the Church and the bar. All those who helped set up and of course everyone who visited the beautiful gardens that were open on the very hot and busy day. Your participation and involvement is very much appreciated. As always, apart from being well supported by our local community, again this year the event drew many visitors from other parts of the country who were able to enjoy not only the gardens but commented on the friendliness, hospitality and beauty of our village and Church.

We are very happy to be able to report that this year the event raised over £1050 for the fund which is fantastic.

Once again may we thank you all for your support.



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## Kedington “Home-made and Home-grown” Show (Formerly Kedington Horticultural Show)



**Saturday 20 September 2025**

There is something for everyone at this show. For those who are creative, take a look at the arts and crafts section. Maybe contact Carly and have a go at ceramics (contact details at the end of the article). If the children are bored on wet days in the school holidays, maybe encourage them to make a greetings card, bookmark or paint a rock? The green-fingered amongst you could enter the fruit and vegetable classes. There is a class for a single rose. If you have a perfect bloom on the day, carefully snip it from the stem, with a couple of leaves still attached, and bring it along to the show with a bud vase or an old herb jar. You might win the Rose Driscoll trophy which is one of the eight trophies up for grabs on the day. It's a fun show; no one takes it too seriously.

We look forward to seeing you and receiving lots of entries. Please check the schedule carefully; there have been a few changes to the rules and the schedule. Visitors are welcome to come along from 2.00pm to see the wonderful exhibits. Don't forget the church fete will be taking place in the meadow off church walk on the same day with the Bar and BBQ opening at 1pm and the prizegiving and auction from 4.00pm. All proceeds in aid of Church Funds.

### Rules

All entries to be grown or made by those with a connection to Kedington including living in the village, attending the school or church, belonging to one of the village groups, clubs or societies.

- a. Cost – **30p per entry**
- b. No more than **three** entries per class, per household.
- c. Children's classes are open those up to 12 years of age. All other classes are open to all ages.
- d. Exhibits to be brought to the Church between 10.00am and 11.45am on Saturday 20 September.
- e. Exhibits not to be removed until after 3.00pm on the day of the show.  
Collect between 3.30pm and 4.00pm if you intend to take your entries home, otherwise it will be assumed that it is your wish that they will be auctioned.
- f. The prize-giving, auction and sale of the exhibits will take place at approx. 4.00pm on that day. All proceeds to Church Funds.

- g. Judging will take place between 12 noon and 2.00pm on Saturday 20 September. No one will be allowed in the area during judging. Doors will open at 2pm.
- h. Points will be awarded as follows: 1<sup>st</sup>: 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 3 points, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 1 point. All prize winners will receive a certificate.
- i. Trophies will be presented just before the auction.
- j. The Keddy Trophy will be awarded to the exhibitor achieving the highest number of points overall.
- k. The Les Moulton Trophy will be awarded to the exhibit that the judge decides is the best in show in the vegetables, fruit, flowers and plants sections.
- l. The Barbara Mouton Trophy will be awarded to the exhibit which the judge decides is the best in show in the Culinary Section.
- m. The Jeannie Lee Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the winner of class 5 in the Flower Section - One container of six mixed stems of any garden flowers, excluding shrubs.
- n. The Rose Driscoll Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the winner of Class 1 in the Flower Section – one rose, any variety.
- o. The Mike Driscoll Trophy will be awarded to the exhibit which the judge decides is the best in the Children's Section.
- p. The Kedington Rocks Trophy will be awarded to the best painted rock in the Children's Section.
- q. The Beryl Bracken Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the best exhibit in the Arts and Craft Section.

Thank you to all our competitors, visitors and buyers for your usual splendid support.

## **Schedule 2025**

### **VEGETABLES and FRUIT**

1. Six runner beans on a plate
2. Three beetroot, trimmed and tied
3. Three carrots, long, pointed, trimmed – any variety
4. Three onions, trimmed and tied
5. Four tomatoes on a plate
6. Six cherry tomatoes on a plate
7. Four potatoes, white, on a plate
8. Four potatoes, coloured, on a plate
9. Heaviest potato
10. Heaviest marrow
11. Longest stick of rhubarb
12. Longest runner bean 13. Heaviest onion 14. Funniest shape vegetable

15. Six shallots
16. Three fruits or vegetables (all the same) of any kind not otherwise specified in the schedule
17. Three dessert apples, on a plate
18. Three cooking apples, on a plate
19. Six dessert plums, on a plate
20. Three dessert pears on a plate

## **FLOWERS**

1. One rose, any variety
2. Dahlias, any variety, specimen bloom
3. One bowl of floating flower heads (diameter of bowl not to exceed nine inches)
4. Gladioli, any variety, specimen bloom
5. One container of six mixed stems of any garden flowers, excluding shrubs
6. One container of three stems of one variety of a shrub in flower
7. A green arrangement to include variegated foliage and herbs

## **CHILDREN'S CLASSES** (for children up to 12 years of age)

1. Garden arrangement on a saucer
2. Four decorated biscuits
3. Four decorated cup-cakes (judged on the decoration only)
4. Four pieces of chocolate brownie
5. One decorated greetings card
6. One decorated bookmark
7. Best painted rock, any design
8. A Christmas decoration to hang on a tree
9. A 3D model made from recyclable materials. Max dimension 35cm

## **CULINARY**

1. One apple pie
2. One coffee and walnut sponge
3. Four cheese scones
4. Four savoury muffins
5. One savoury tart at least 16cm diameter
6. One Victoria sponge with jam filling (not iced or decorated)
7. One banana loaf any size
8. Four decorated cup-cakes (judged on the decoration only)
9. Three cream-filled chocolate eclairs (choux pastry)
10. Six pieces of any gluten-free tray bake
11. One jar of fruit jam
12. One jar of marmalade
13. One jar of chutney

## ARTS and CRAFTS

1. An embroidered bookmark using any stitching technique
  2. A knitted hat
  3. Crocheted coaster between 8 and 9cm diameter
  4. Greeting card to celebrate St Valentine's Day
  5. Handmade piece of jewellery or hair accessory (does not have to be made of metal)
  6. Cushion cover in any medium
  7. Mixed media depiction of a plant/flower
  8. Pencil drawing of any animal
  9. Water colour painting of a local scene
  10. A decorative ceramic plate
  11. A ceramic vessel for a drink
- If you would like to have a go at producing a ceramic piece but don't know where to start, contact Carly Jones 07867871611 [Tithebarnceramics@gmail.com](mailto:Tithebarnceramics@gmail.com)

For more information about the show - contact Jill Davis 01440 713137  
[jill@gourmet-knights.co.uk](mailto:jill@gourmet-knights.co.uk)

A collage of four images: top-left shows the text 'Harvest Festival' in white on a red background; top-right shows a golden wheat field under a blue sky with white clouds; bottom-left shows a plate of salad with tomatoes, olives, and bread; bottom-right shows a bouquet of yellow and orange flowers.

**Harvest Festival**

**From 4pm Sunday 5 October 2025**  
**Kedington Church**  
Short Harvest Thanksgiving Service at 4pm  
Followed by "Bring and Share Supper"  
Contact Lol 01440 704179 or Jill 01440 713137  
To book your place and pledge your contribution to the supper. Bring your own drinks.

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# Kedington Church Fete

**Saturday 20 September**

**Bar and BBQ from 1pm**

**Other stalls open 2pm**

**On the meadow off Church Walk**

By kind permission

Access via pedestrian gate on Church Walk

Parking in the churchyard



## BBQ

-----  
Licensed bar -

Real ale and wine

-----  
Home-made  
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-----  
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-----  
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-----  
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children

-----  
Auction of Home-  
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grown Show  
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entries at 4pm.  
Exhibits on display  
in the church from  
2pm

-----  
All proceeds to  
church funds

Donations of cakes, produce, full bottles and items for the hamper will be most welcome. They can be left at the back of Kedington Church or passed on as follows:

Hamper items to Mary Upton the week before the fete please 01440 706237  
Other items to Lol Farr 01440 704179 or Jill Davis 01440 713137

Many of our Benefice may be away during August or visiting family and friends. Here is a reflection for these holiday times.

God be with you in every pass,  
Jesus be with you on every hill,  
The Holy Spirit be with you on every stream,  
Headland and ridge and lawn;  
Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,  
Each lying down, each rising up,  
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,  
Each step of the journey you go.

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## **Buddy's Blog - August 2025**

It has been very hot and I have been a grumpy dog!

When it is hot, I can't sleep and when I can't sleep I get tired more easily. When I am tired I don't want to eat my food and when I don't eat my food I don't have any energy and I get tired but I can't sleep because it is hot and so it goes on.

I am hot, tired, hungry and grumpy!

When you have a thick coat that you can't take off, it is difficult to keep cool. Perhaps it is because I am older that I like the heat less.

Opie doesn't seem to mind the heat. He barks and runs around just like normal. Millie is not bothered by the heat either. She still patrols the back garden and keeps the rabbits in order. They both chase the pigeons away. I am often too hot and tired to chase anything but I make sure they don't skip out from their duties. I am still in charge of garden security.

I recently had an injury to my paw. When I was a young dog, if I had an injury or a sore spot, it got better very quickly. Now I am older, it takes longer for it to stop hurting. This means more trips to the vet – which I don't like.

Sometimes I just want to lie down in my basket and leave the others to do the work. But Opie and Millie lie in my bed. That makes me cross. They have their own beds. Why do they have to lie in my bed? They know it makes me unhappy and even more grumpy.

Mummy and Daddy don't mind if I rest a lot. They are just happy that I am here. Now I am older, they don't expect me to work quite so hard. I think they quite like it that I just want to sit with them. I find I have more time to think about things because I am not running around the garden all the time. I watch what everyone else is doing and learn from them. Or I watch the clouds in the sky and the leaves falling and the bees and butterflies on the flowers. I think I am a bit more wise now I am older.

I don't always need to go for a long walk. I don't need them to play in the garden with me. As I have got older, I have learned that it is OK to just be me. I don't have to be busy all the time. Everyone has a role to play just be being here.

Isaiah 46 v 4 *'Even to your old age and grey hairs, I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.'*



Your friend  
Buddy



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## A Smile

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None is so rich or mighty that they can get along without it, and none is so poor but that they cannot be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as they who have no more to give.



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## **Access to our churches in the Stourhead Benefice**

- Great Bradley, Great Thurlow, Kedington, Little Wrating and Little Thurlow each have a ramp that is put in place when needed.
- Great Wrating does not have a ramp but the step into the church is quite shallow, however the slope to the church gate is steep. Arrangements could be made for wheelchair users to park in the Rectory and access the churchyard through the side gate but this is across grass.
- Little Bradley does not have a ramp. The step into the church is 4 inches deep.
- Barnardiston does not have a ramp and the entry into the church requires stepping over a raised threshold.

### **Churches in the Benefice open for Private Prayer:**

**St Mary the Virgin, Great Bradley is always open for private prayer.**

**St Peter's Little Thurlow is open daily usually at 9am and closes about 5 or 6pm.**

**St Peter and St Paul's, Kedington will be open daily between 9am and 4pm.**

**Would you like to advertise  
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## **Events Diary**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Friday 15th August		Little Thurlow Garden Party, Little Thurlow Hall
Sunday 7th September	10am - 4pm	Thurlow Fayre at Thurlow Recreation. See poster in Benefice news for more details.
Friday 12th September	6- 9pm	Great Wratting Village BBQ in the Pad- dock . Cambridge Jazz providing music. The Red Lion will be running a bar. Burg- ers £5 and hot dogs £2.50 cash only, please book in advance with terryholloway.33@btinternet.com
Saturday 13th September		Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride.
Saturday 13th September	10am	Classic cars begin their drive at Gt Thurlow.
Saturday 20th September	From 1pm	Church Fete and Homemade and Home- grown Show at St Peter and St Paul Kedington
Sunday 28th September	12 Noon	Great Bradley Harvest Lunch - more details to follow
Saturday 18th October	7-11pm	Little Bradley Barn Dance & Super at the Garden Barn. See poster in Benefice news for more details
Tuesdays	10am -12 noon	'Dolce Gusto' Coffee morning at St Peter & St Paul's Kedington.
Thursdays	2 - 4 pm	Centre café at Kedington Community Centre.



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## Gospel Readings during August

3	7th Sunday after Trinity	Luke 12: 13 - 21
10	8th Sunday after Trinity	Luke 12: 32 - 40
17	9th Sunday after Trinity	Luke 12: 49 - 56
24	St Bartholomew	Luke 13: 10 - 17
31	11th Sunday after Trinity	Luke 14: v1 and 7 - 14

## Gospel Readings during September

7	Blessed Virgin Mary	Luke	1: 46 - 55
14	Holy Cross	John	3: 13 - 17
21	St Matthew	Matthew	9: 9 - 13
28	St Michael and All Angels	John	1: 47 - end

### Evening Prayer on Mondays

Monday Evening Prayer is  
at Kedington Church at 5pm.

All are welcome to join this short  
intimate service as we pray for  
the world, the Church, our  
communities and ourselves.



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

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hope during this lockdown?

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



CONNECTIONS

# Barn Dance

& Supper

At The Garden Barn, Little Bradley

In aid of All Saint's Church

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025

7pm – 11pm

Dancing to Kelly's Eye

Pre book tickets from: [emily@thegardenbarn.co.uk](mailto:emily@thegardenbarn.co.uk) or

Mirjam: 07770 885956

£25 adult

£15 12 yr – 18yr

£5 child (under 12)

BAR

## Home Communion – Pastoral Care

The Blessed Sacrament is perpetually reserved for the Communion of the housebound, the sick and dying. Please inform Fr Chris, or a member of the Ministry Team, of parishioners who are sick or in hospital, and of those who are in need of pastoral care.

**Baptism:** We welcome into God's family Milo Messenger who was baptised at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington on 28th June.

**Holy Matrimony:** We congratulate Anna Nohre and Robert Morris who were married at All Saints' Church Little Bradley and Lucinda Peck and Mitchell Hunt who were married at All Saints' Church Great Thurlow both on 21st June. We also congratulate Katie Whitton and Alexander Shaw who were married at All Saints' Church Little Bradley on 5th July and Bethan Manchett and Adam Cobbold on the Blessing of their marriage at All Saints' Church Little Bradley on 19th July. We wish them well at the start of their life together.

**Funeral:** The funeral of the late Jeanette Smith was held on 4th June at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington. The funeral of the late Gillian Drake-Brockman took place on 2nd July also at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington.

**'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'**

Thinking of a christening or a wedding in church? Please take a look at our Benefice website where there is useful information about both baptisms and weddings.

## Holy Communion

Sharing of the common cup is now permitted. However, if you do not want to receive from the Chalice, please say 'intinct' as the Priest approaches you and they will intinct the wafer in Consecrated wine from a separate Chalice. Good hygiene practises are maintained at Holy Communion.

Gluten-free Communion wafers are available - please ask when you come up to the altar rail.

# SERVICE ROTA

## August 2025

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Sun	3	10:00	Little Bradley	Holy Communion
		10:00	Kedington	Family Service
Sun	10	10:00	Great Thurlow	Holy Communion
Sun	17	10:00	Great Wratting	Holy Communion
		10:00	Little Thurlow	Family Service
Sun	24	10:00	Great Bradley	Holy Communion - St Bartholomew
		18.00	Kedington	Evensong
Sun	31	10:00	Little Wratting	Holy Communion - with a Summer Brunch
		16:00	Barnardiston	Songs of Praise

## September 2025

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Sun	7	10:00	Kedington	Holy Communion - Blessed Virgin Mary
Sun	14	8:00	Kedington	Said Holy Communion - Holy Cross
		10:00	Great Thurlow	Holy Communion
Sun	21	10:00	Little Thurlow	Holy Communion - St Matthew
		10:00	Great Wratting	Family Service
Sun	28	10:00	Great Bradley	Holy Communion - St Michael & All Angels
		18:00	Kedington	Evensong

## October 2025

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Sun	5	10:00	Little Bradley	Holy Communion - Harvest Festival
		16:00	Kedington	Harvest Festival - followed by Bring and Share Supper

Mid-week Eucharist at Kedington on Wednesdays at 10am