

STOURHEAD BENEFICE NEWS

Editor: Sue Davison - 01440 705829 - suzannedavison747@yahoo.co.uk

April & May 2026



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**



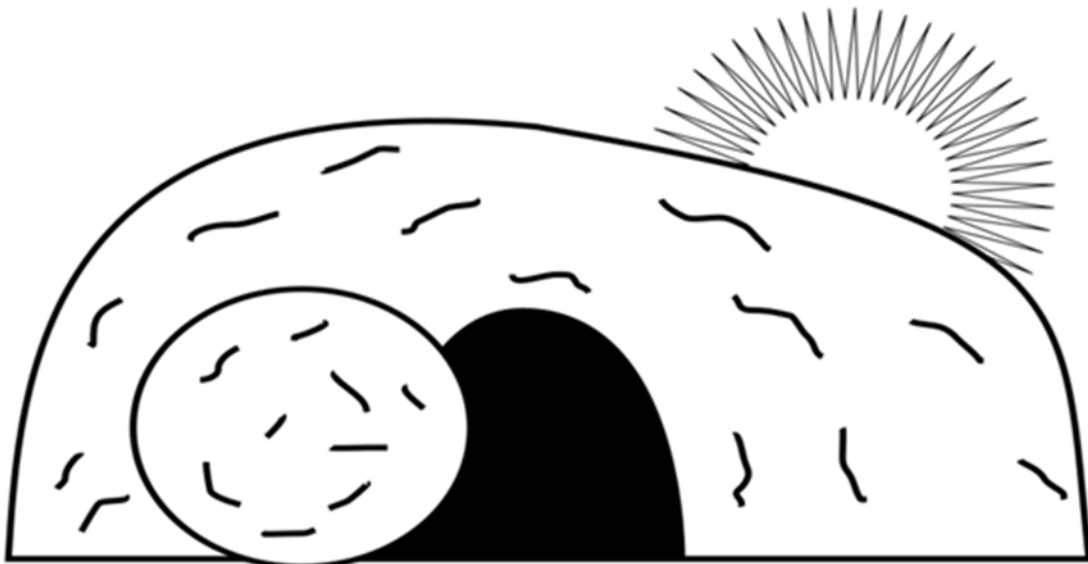
BARNARDISTON - GREAT BRADLEY - LITTLE BRADLEY - KEDINGTON
GREAT THURLOW - LITTLE THURLOW - GREAT WRATTING - LITTLE WRATTING

Rector : Fr Christopher Giles

Benefice email - stourheadbenefice@gmail.com - 01440 762901

Or use the QR code for more information on our Benefice

Wishing all our readers a Joyful and Peaceful Easter



HE IS RISEN

HE IS RISEN

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

Mission Statement: Stourhead Benefice, striving to be a welcoming community for you, whoever, wherever you are, journeying in the footsteps of Jesus.

Benefice email: 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

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Editor: Sue Davison - 01440 705829 - suzannedavison747@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline for next issue (June/July) 15th May

The Stourhead Benefice is grateful to Barnardiston School for printing the Benefice News.

Father Chris writes

Dear Friends

As I write, Palm Sunday is approaching where we celebrate Jesus triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. This then begins Holy Week – and the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

This is the most joyful and hope-filled season of the Church year and, for the Faithful, as significant as Christmas – if not more so. This week leading up to Easter, in which we remember Jesus entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, his last supper with his friends on Maundy Thursday, his arrest later that night, his crucifixion and death on Good Friday, the emptiness and grief of Holy Saturday and Jesus joyful resurrection on Easter Day.

We will be holding a number of services around the Benefice, which all are welcome to attend. I always feel that the joy of Easter Day is much more powerful if we have first journeyed with Jesus with the challenging way of the cross, and sat with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday, before gathering again at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, then experiencing the emptiness of Holy Saturday, before

the lighting of the Easter fire leads us from death to new life.

During the Easter season, Christians celebrate Jesus resurrection from the dead – his bursting from the tomb, and his victory over sin and death. Jesus resurrection brings us a real and living hope that death will not be the end for us either – that we too, will rise to eternal life and take our place in our Father's house, where God will wipe away every tear from our eye. We don't know exactly what heaven will be like, but many of us hope to be reunited with our loved ones there – with family, friends and, perhaps our pets, too. And so, for Christians, Easter is a season of joy, hope and celebration.

My hope and prayer is that this Holy Week and Easter, you will know the peace of God, which passes all understanding, the unconditional and abundant love of God and the hopefulness and joy of Easter.

Every blessing
Fr Chris

All are welcome to the
Stourhead Benefice Garden Party
Saturday 16 May 2026
5pm until 8pm
Little Thurlow Hall

by kind permission of
Mr Robin Vestey

There will be a free bar and BBQ
Please let us know if you are going to join us
by e-mailing Amy at

pa@lthfamily.co.uk

giving any specific dietary requirements



Friday 24 April 2026

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All proceeds to St Peter and St Paul's Church
Kedington

News from the Ministry Team

As I begin to compose the Ministry Team offering, I am looking out on yet another miserable damp and grey day. Jill has just written about the Easter Vigil which has led me to think about Good Friday, 3rd April, also the second Bank Holiday of the year, followed by the early Bank Holiday on 4th May then the Spring Bank Holiday on 25th May. I cannot but think it is somewhat ironic that we still have Bank Holidays when we see bank branches closing all around us! But at present there are still eight Bank Holidays on the calendar.

For Christians everywhere, Good Friday is a very special day when we can all come together. We meet to worship and remember at the cross where Jesus gave his life to redeem us of our sins.

Also as Good Friday is an official public holiday, we may well see the start of the traffic jam season both on land and in the air reflecting how the world has changed with both partners needing to work to provide income to pay the bills.

The Bank Holiday gives an opportunity to relax and spend time together to re-charge batteries. This year of 2026 can be described as a bonus year as 26th December (Boxing Day) falls on a Saturday so the official Bank Holiday is moved to the 28th. Enjoy.

My hope for 2026 is that we will have relaxing times together with Family and Friends, in sunshine, and be able to spend time admiring the wonderful world GOD created for us. Please give some precious time to thank him.

Peter Smith

Ascension Day Service
All the Benefice are invited
Thursday 14th May at 8am
At St Peter and St Paul's
And afterwards for a sausage breakfast

DNG CONTEMPORARY ART

AT GREAT BRADLEY CHURCH



We are delighted to invite you to a mixed exhibition of artwork at St Mary's Church, Great Bradley. The exhibition will include paintings by Karl Backhurst, Nancy Chambers, Peter Corr, Emma S.Davis, Martin John Fowler, David Hawthorne, Mandy Lowton, Magdalena Morey, Darryl Nantais, Sylvia Paul and Kate Rose.



10% of painting sales and all Private View ticket sales will go to The Friends of Great Bradley Church to continue the enhancement of this wonderful historic building, which is always open.

To purchase Private View tickets at £10 per person, please email karl@linton59.co.uk

Curated by Karl Backhurst (DNG Contemporary Art t: 07787 517825)
All wines and refreshments kindly funded by Charles and Alice Ryder.

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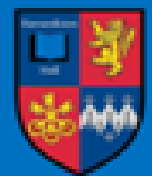
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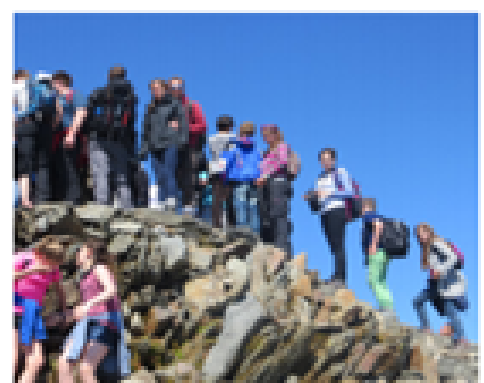
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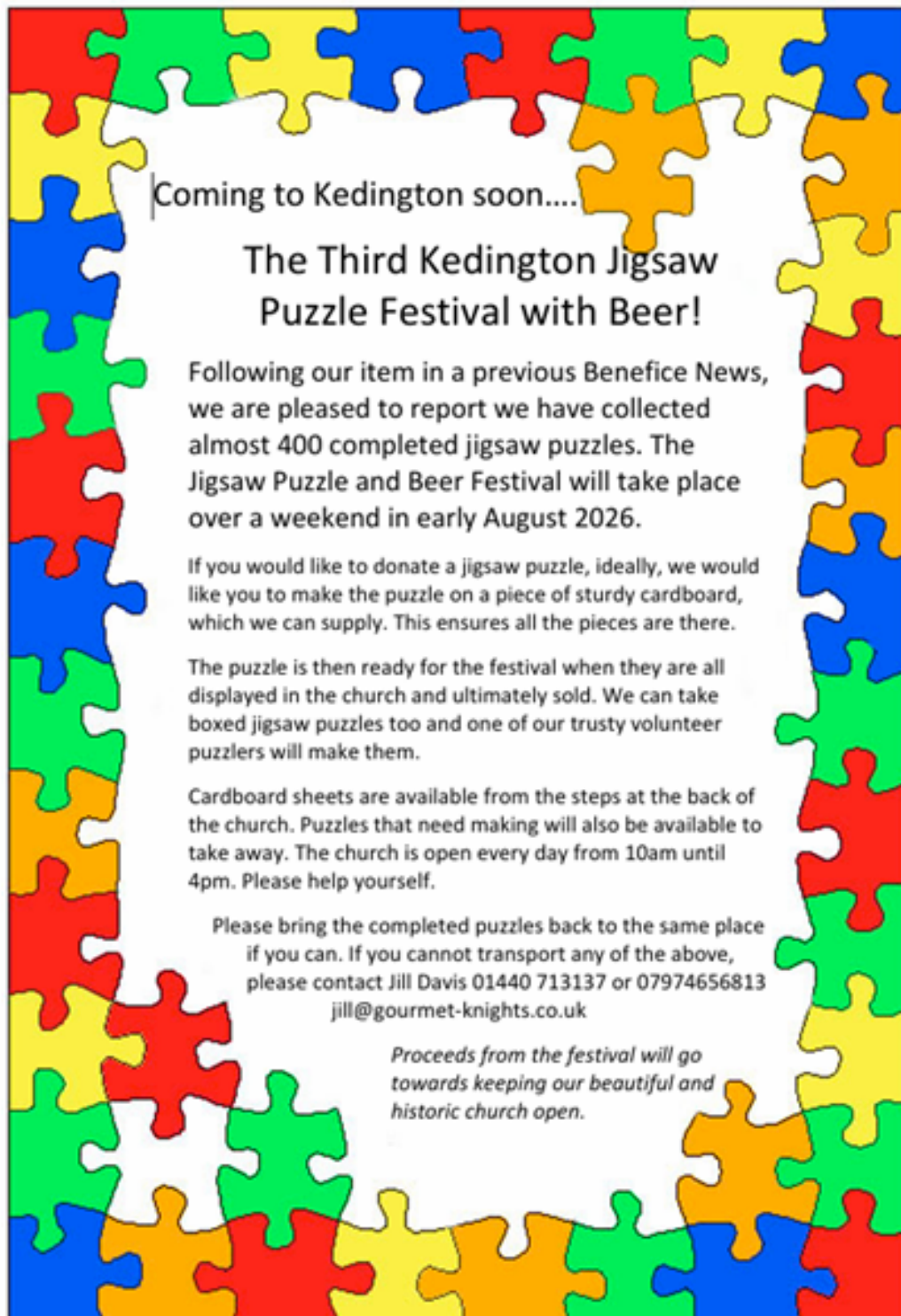
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**Kedington 'Home-made and Home-grown' Show
(Formerly Kedington Horticultural Show)
Saturday 12 September 2026**

This year we are holding the home-made and home-grown show and church fete on different days. We look forward to seeing you and receiving lots of entries. The QR code gives details of the schedule. Please check carefully; there have been a few changes to the rules and the schedule. More information in the next issue of the Benefice News.



Our Camino Journey - continuing Claire and Amanda's journey

Friday - Sobreido de Monxes to Arzua, 22km

The sun had yet to rise as we tiptoed out of the dorm. We took our backpacks and possessions into the cloisters to pack so as not to wake up the remaining sleepers. You are not permitted to eat in the cloisters so we left through the appointed side door and ate yogurt and bananas in the square before setting off. I was excited about the day ahead but sorry to leave the monastery of Santa Maria de Sobrado dos Mondes behind - we had enjoyed spiritual contemplation during the vespers service and sleeping in dorms that Cistercian or Benedictine monks had been inhabiting for a thousand years.

Today there was quite a lot of road walking, but also foot paths, hamlets and countryside lanes. Houses on the whole were in good repair and gardens well kept, compared to previous stages. I stopped to buy a small jar of honey (unfortunately confiscated at the airport as it contained more than 100ml) from a stall selling honey products and cherries. En route we stopped for a large coffee, which was served with complimentary cake and croissant slice, such a great custom! We needed to discard a layer at about 11 as the sun was getting hotter, and I realised I had lost my hat which had come untied from my pack. After some rehearsing we recorded a second verse of our 'song' to entertain ourselves and to Whatsapp to our family. A young Czech couple, Clara and David increased their pace to catch up and ask if would like some company up to Arzúa - they turned out to be very nice companions. On arriving at midday in Azuro, we bid them goodbye, bumped into the French trio again and found a peaceful square in which to eat our simple lunch of peanuts and boiled eggs.

On arriving at our hostel, Albergue de tres Alberto's, we were very pleased to learn that we had been given a dorm of two beds only, for which we were very grateful as we registered after a group of eight lively teenage boys and were not keen to share a space with them! Amanda offered that it was her turn to do our handwashing - I didn't refuse! With carrying everything we needed for ten days, we were very limited with the number of clothes we had and so there tended to be laundry every day. We sat in the breeze and in the shade of a huge sun umbrella in the garden, an idyllic setting, surrounded by terracotta pots brimming with tomato, squash, basil and marjoram plants - an idyll only slightly disturbed when a rat ran very close past our table! The hostel had copious amounts of free food, clothes and books, so I picked up a hat, to replace my lost

one, and a paperback, *The Time Keeper*. I spoke to a young trilingual girl who was walking the camino to overcome social anxiety - she seemed to have overcome this, chatting to me for half an hour. A trip to the supermercado to stock up for this evening and tomorrow's breakfast and lunch, and then we made onion, tomato and bean stew accompanied by a tin of tuna and slices of cheese. The young lads started watching a football match on the TV outside our room at 9.30pm but fortunately, by 11pm, the match had finished and all was quiet. It was so good to be in a dorm of two with our own bathroom just next door and only one person snoring (her not me!) and not a whole dorm of snorers.

Saturday - Arzúa to O Pedrouzo, 18km

At 5.30am I got up to the bathroom and saw that the first pilgrims were setting off! We were not in a hurry today as our next accommodation was booked. After a 'lie in' and then a breakfast of banana we set off at 7.10am It was very nice packing without having to muffle every sound of zips and plastic bags as you have to in a communal dorm. Our backpacks seem lighter and not so bulky – were we getting used to carrying our luggage on our backs, or packing more efficiently or discarding items?

What a change in the atmosphere on the Camino today - hoards of pilgrims walking the paths - our route, the Camino Norte, having joined the Camino Frances at Arzúa. Not everybody acknowledges you and says 'Buen Camino' now and there is lots of overtaking and being overtaken. It was a little more difficult to be contemplative, but it felt good to be part of a large community all heading in the same direction, literally and metaphorically. We were noticing a fair few people with support bandages at this stage of the Camino and one young lad walking in flip flops as his trainers had got soaking wet in a bravado river crossing. There was no shortage of bars on this busier part of the route, and after 5 km we stopped in a very popular place for coffee. The route today was quite hilly, but shady too. We passed some enterprising people selling braid bracelets, Camino jewellery, water and one woodworker making decorative walking sticks and bowls.

On approaching O Pedrouzo we spotted the French trio waiting at the municipal hostel for it to open. Our hostel was at the other end of town. We were getting experienced in registering now... first join the hostel's WiFi network then photograph the QR code to follow the link to the registration page. We were nicely surprised to find an immaculately clean hostel with a twin bed room, sheets

already on the bed and fluffy white towels – bliss (Amanda had brought a tea towel as her towel, to save space in her pack so she used her luxurious hostel towel for a shower straight away!). We had hostel room ‘lunch’ and had our first siesta of then trip. Next we went walkabout and were drawn to a bar with shady parasols in the garden. Here we met the ‘earring couple’ (a Spanish pair with multiple piercings) and their less-fit friend, who walked at her own slower pace and met her friends at the destination each day. We sat in the peaceful garden for two hours, chatting, painting, reading, listening to nice music and helping ourselves to the free hot drinks. Then we bought provisions and had another bedroom picnic - tin of butter beans with vegetables, sliced cheese and salami, corn crackers, avocado and tomato and a small tin of tuna each - a veritable feast! Strolling down the high street we met our ‘family’ who we told about the free drinks at the nice bar which we were returning to and we chatted about our day’s experiences.

Sunday - O Pedrouzo to Santiago de Compostela, 21 km

We didn’t set our alarms and consequently didn’t wake until 6.30am. We were off by 7.10 – when you have so few possessions it doesn’t take long to pack and go! The route today had a more celebratory feel to it – we were all soon going to arrive at the pinnacle of our journey, we had overcome challenges en route, had met interesting people and had discovered something about ourselves. A group of teenagers were excitedly and loudly singing along to ‘Sweet Caroline’, which was blaring out of their boombox, encouraging other walkers to join in. We walked for a while with a very sweet, introspective South African guy who was going to stay overnight 3km from Santiago so he could enjoy the last stretch towards the Cathedral very early before the stream of other walkers, whilst the sun was rising.

We continued on at a good pace despite today’s walk being more hilly, and stumbled upon a brilliant (understated from the outside) café with a barista making excellent coffees, and with a boujee, art nouveau bathroom - this was very different from the provincial cafés we had been used to so far; we felt as though we were approaching city life now. At Monte do Gozo, meaning ‘Mount Joy’, a hill on the outskirts of the city, we again passed our ‘family’, and many others who had paused to reflect and pray as this was the emotionally significant spot where



pilgrims would traditionally get their first glimpse of the cathedral spires, marking the imminent end of their journey. From this point, 4km from the cathedral many pilgrims would walk barefoot for the final stretch in a gesture of gratitude and joy. As well as being the site of a beautiful sculpture of two Jacobean pilgrims pointing towards the cathedral, it is the place where Pope John Paul II celebrated the World Youth Meeting in 1989, an event that revitalised interest in the Camino pilgrimage.

We felt a buzz of excitement on the last stretch down to the centre of Santiago, mixed with weariness, a sense of pride for our achievement and a quiet contemplation, as we encountered friends we'd made on the Camino once again and chatted with them. We then held back from them to be able to take in this special moment - the final part of our 'journey'.

As we arrived at the Praza do Obradoiro, the cathedral square, some bagpipes started playing, the sun came out, and the church bells started chiming – surely a coincidence, but both Amanda and I felt very welcomed! We stood for a long time watching others arrive, this time able to feel their joy and relief, and we marvelled at the soaring spires of this Romanesque cathedral with its ornate Baroque facade, a sight that had been so meaningful for pilgrims and visitors for a thousand years. Eventually, having had our fill of people watching, we made our way to the Pilgrim's Office, a little sanctuary not far from the cathedral where we received our final stamp in our credenciales and also our certificate to confirm we had walked the Camino. We luxuriated in the peaceful pilgrims' garden there, feeling contented.

That evening at seven o'clock we joined the hour long queue to get a chair in the cathedral for Pilgrims' Mass. The inside of the cathedral did not disappoint – we were expecting a dark interior, but the huge ceremonial canopy hovering over the high altar on the shoulders of angels sparkled with its covering of gold leaf, and the larger than usual transept and nave, to accommodate the numbers of pilgrims, gave it a spacious feeling. All seats were filled and pilgrims filed in to fill standing room. Although the service was all in Spanish, there were some parts of the service rituals that we recognised, and during a section of the mass, a priest welcomed each nationality in their own language. Unfortunately the famous Botafumeiro (massive incense burner) was not swung during this service.



Weighing 53kg, this huge censer, mounted on a pulley system, takes eight men, known as tiraboleiros, to move it so that it swings impressively from side to side at a speed of 40mph, wafting incense. It had a secondary purpose in the Middle Ages of covering up the stench of the sweaty, unbathed hordes of pilgrims!

We then decided to reward ourselves with a Galician meal - bean soup, tortilla and Santiago cake with sweet wine in a pavement restaurant in Portuguese street, in the sun. The delicious Santiago cake is a moist, dense cake made from ground almonds, sugar, eggs, lemon zest and cinnamon, traditionally decorated with a St James Cross silhouette. It dates back to the 16th century, because the poor pilgrims could not pay their tax in money to enter the city, but would bring a bag of almonds from their area as a substitute. The city then found they had a surfeit of almonds and so used them to make a cake.

We used our last hour sitting in the shady colonnaded area to watch the jubilant arrivals of youthful vocal groups (who sometimes arrive in bare feet), and witness a couple who got engaged in front of the cathedral, and a cute toddler who was breastfed in front of the cathedral and then delighted in toddling back and forth with a very large hat and small backpack on. We walked to the bus station and got the 6a bus to the airport, a route that took us past Parco de Gozo and some of the areas we had walked. Tired and contented we were proudly sporting our scallop shells on our backpacks, to show we had walked the Camino.



As I sat on the plane home, I had time to reflect on my experience. There is something humbling and comforting in the fact that the Camino has been walked for over 1000 years. People walk for a variety of reasons but I had felt very safe and part of a club, making friends, living a very simple Spartan life, persevering through discomfort and getting to know companions better. In fact my sister and I are talking about doing another Camino route - this time along the Portuguese coast....

Claire Shirm

Buddy's Blog - March 2026

Dear Readers,

There we were, snoozing in front of the telly-box. Opie and me on the rug. Millie and her baby snuggled up together on the sofa. Daddy was in his slippers. We were all relaxed and almost ready for our bedtime.

Then, suddenly, there was a siren! A voice from outside said "Get off the roof! You are being monitored! Emergency services are on their way!"

Opie started to bark. Millie opened one eye and otherwise stayed exactly where she was. Daddy sat up and tried to comfort Opie. (Don't tell anyone, but I think Daddy might have been snoozing so at first he didn't realise what Opie was barking at). Then Daddy heard the siren and Opie and me jumped up with him.

His phone rang and he spoke to someone. "I'll meet you out there" he said. He put his shoes on and he was gone!

Opie and me waited. Millie slept.

After a while, Daddy came back. He rubbed our ears and told us everything was alright. We yawned and stretched and settled down on the rug again. Daddy continued to watch his film on the telly box.

Then it went again!

Daddy didn't wait for the phone call this time. He put on his shoes and his coat, took Opie and a big walking stick.

They were gone for what seemed like a long time. I paced up and down in the house, whining. I tried to wake up Millie to share my worry with her, but she just slept.

They did come back. Opie eyes were wide as he told me that they had walked around the church because the siren told Daddy that there might be somebody on the church who was stealing the roof. Daddy walked around the church with Opie and his stick. The lady who lives across the road was there too, Opie said

she looked worried until they had gone all the way round the church and no one was there. Opie was a little disappointed. He was hoping they would find someone doing what they oughtn't and Opie could tell them off.

The next day, Daddy heard that there was a broken alarm sensor. It wasn't that someone was stealing the roof. That was a relief. I'm glad Opie didn't get in a fight with someone. We will keep our ears open in case it happens again. Next time it might not be a broken sensor but a real thief!

'.....For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.'

1 Thessalonians 5 v 2

Your friend
Buddy



Guided Walks of between 5 and 8 miles in the beautiful countryside of West Suffolk and the Upper Stour Valley.

Last Sunday of every month. 10:00am from Little Bradley (CB9 7JD), Burrough Green (CB8 9NH) or occasionally other venues.

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Curwen Print Study Centre at Great Thurlow

It is hard to believe we have been here at Great Thurlow for four years now.

We and all who visit or attend one of our printmaking courses love our studios here, and the opportunity to view exhibitions in the Gallery. The Gallery has a permanent display of prints from The Curwen Archive including Elizabeth Frink whose childhood home was Great Thurlow and visitors are welcome free of charge. We are open Monday to Friday 10 – 4pm and some Saturdays, plus we are open as part of Thurlow Hall Open Gardens on Sundays 12 April & 7 June 2.00 – 5.00pm, as well as taking part in Suffolk Open Studios on Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 June 11 – 5.00pm.

Our main teaching studio works incredibly well for both the adult courses and the many school groups that visit from across East Anglia. Our second Open Access studio which is for more experienced artists to use as a member, or to book for the occasional day, as artists to develop their own independent work is growing in popularity.

It would be lovely to welcome you to Curwen – we are really enjoying being in Great Thurlow. We are keen to be involved in village life and we take part in Thurlow Fayre each September, offering free printing on our portable presses, with young and old trying their hand at Lino printing and Letterpress.

Please visit if you have not yet done so and please share that we are here www.curwenprintstudy.co.uk or follow us on Instagram or Facebook @curwenprintstudycentre

Points to ponder

When you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a higher fence.
Tamlin Tomita, American actress.

The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change.
The realist adjusts the sails. *Unknown.*

God's love is like an ocean; you can see its beginning but not its end.
Rick Warren.

Candle collection

Do you have any candles that could bring light & heat to the Ukraine?

We are collecting candles of any kind:



used - new - stubs
tealights - bits of wax



Recycling point open until Tuesday 28th April 2026
St Peter & St Paul's Church, Kedington

The Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership (SHAP) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) formed days after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in Feb 2022. Their team of volunteers remain determined to support Ukraine and Ukrainians to the best of their ability. They pride themselves with the Candles for Ukraine initiative aiming to lessen the hardship in Ukraine.

Find out more at www.shapuk.org



Thank you to Fr Chris & St Peter & St Paul's Church for hosting the collection. This project is inspired by an existing mission by Fr Will formerly of St Mary's Sawston & St Peter's Babraham, find him at 'Reverend Candles' BBC website.

For any questions about the Kedington collection please contact Emily 07988 195800



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Save the Date

In June Father Chris celebrates 10 years since his ordination. We are going to mark the occasion with a special Eucharist on 21 June 2026 at 10am at Great Wratting. There will be refreshments after the service. More information will follow.

News from The National Churches Trust

New data from Historic England shows that the public are largely unaware of who foots the bill for church repairs. But why does this matter and what can we do to help? Only 11% of people knew that the responsibility for the upkeep of historic churches falls on the shoulders of the local congregation, including any staff but in almost all cases it is mainly volunteers at each church, chapel or meeting house. There is no consistent UK Government funding for these buildings – other than a VAT reclaim scheme that has been slashed and could be scrapped in the next few months – even though these buildings are some of the nation’s most important heritage. Grade I, II* or II listed buildings that house the most amazing art – stained glass, monuments, wall paintings – spanning hundreds and hundreds of years.

But towers are crumbling. Timbers are rotting. Roofs are leaking. We risk losing some of these buildings for good if action is not taken soon to see them properly funded. If you want to see church buildings kept open and in good repair, please consider writing to your local newspaper or contacting your MP and highlight why church buildings matter and why you support them being properly funded.

We will continue speak up for churches – in the media and with policymakers and MPs – to help ensure that historic churches get the help they need to stay open.

Claire Walker Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust

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.

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Events Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Friday 24th April	7pm for Eyes down at 7.30pm	Bingo Night at British Legion Hall Kedington. £10 per person for 6 games. See poster in Benefice News.
Monday 4th May	1pm	Duck Race at Kedington from Siver Street Park. Ducks available to purchase in advance from Kedington Spar.
Friday 8th May	3 - 8.30pm (ticketed event)	DNG Contemporary Art at Great Bradley Church raising funds for The Friends of Great Bradley Church. For more details see poster in Benefice News.
Saturday 9th May	10.30 am - 6pm (free event)	
Thursday 14th May	8am	Ascension Day Service at Kedington - All welcome.
Saturday 16th May	5 - 8pm	Benefice Garden Party at Little Thurlow Hall by kind permission of Robin Vestey. All wel- come - please see poster in Benefice News.
Tuesdays	10 am -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 April

5	Easter Day	John 20: 1 - 18
12	2nd Sunday of Easter	John 20: 19 - end
19	3rd Sunday of Easter	Luke 24: 13 - 35
26	4th Sunday of Easter	John 10: 1 - 10

Gospel Readings during May

3	5th Sunday of Easter	John 14: 1 - 14
10	6th Sunday of Easter	John 14: 15 - 21
17	Sunday after Ascension	John 17: 1 - 11
24	Pentecost	John 20: 19 - 23
31	Trinity Sunday	Matthew 28: 16 - 20

Gospel Readings during June

7	1st Sunday after Trinity	John 20: 1 - 18
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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.

Easter Experience



**Easter Saturday 4 April 2026
from 10.30am**

**Stations of the Cross with Fr Chris Giles
Activities for children followed by
Easter Egg Hunt**

**St Peter and St Paul's Church,
Kedington**



All welcome + Bring your friends

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.

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.

Baptisms: We welcome into God's family Tamsin Vestey who was baptised at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington on 1st March and Edmund Vestey - Lander who was baptised at the All Saints' Church, Great Thurlow on 8th March.

Funerals: The funeral of the late Brian Watts was held at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington on 16th February. The funeral of the late Jean Beasley was held at St Peter and St Paul's Church Kedington on 3rd March. The funeral of the late Alan Hames also took place at Kedington Church on 4th March. The funeral of the late Sanuel Sheppard was held at the Cam Valley Crematorium on 19th March.

'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

April 2026

Thurs	2	19:00	Great Wratting	Sung Eucharist - Maundy Thursday
Fri	3	14:00	Barnardiston	Good Friday - an hour at the foot of the Cross
Sat	4	20: 00	Kedington	Easter Eve Vigil
Sun	5	10:00	Little Bradley	Sung Eucharist - Easter Day
Sun	12	8:00	Kedington	Said Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of Easter
		10:00	Great Thurlow	Sung Eucharist
Sun	19	10:00	Great Wratting	Sung Eucharist - 3rd Sunday of Easter
		16.30	Little Thurlow	Evensong
Sun	26	10:00	Great Bradley	Sung Eucharist - 4th Sunday of Easter
		18:00	Kedington	Evensong

May 2026

Sun	3	10:00	Kedington	Sung Eucharist - 5th Sunday of Easter
Sun	10	8:00	Kedington	Said Eucharist
		10:00	Great Thurlow	Sung Eucharist - 6th Sunday of Easter
Sun	17	10:00	Little Thurlow	Sung Eucharist - Sunday after Ascension
		10:00	Great Wratting	Family Service -
Sun	24	10:00	Great Bradley	Sung Eucharist - Pentecost
		18:00	Kedington	Evensong
Sun	31	10:00	Barnardiston	Sung Eucharist - Trinity Sunday
		10:00	Little Wratting	TBC

June 2026

Sun	7	10:00	Little Bradley	Sung Eucharist - 1st Sunday after Trinity
		10:00	Kedington	Family Service

Mid-week Said Eucharist at Kedington on Wednesdays at 10am