

Let us pray: -

Gracious Father, as we enter this Holy season of Lent, draw us close to your heart. Teach us to walk with Christ in trust and humility, to listen for your voice, and to follow where your Spirit leads. In the wilderness moments of our lives, steady us with your mercy. Help us to recognise the temptations that pull us from your way and give us courage to choose what is true and life-giving. Renew our desire to seek you in prayer, to serve our neighbours with compassion, and to grow in the likeness of your Son. May these days be marked by honesty, hope, and a deepening love for you. Prepare us, O Lord, so that when Easter dawns our hearts may be ready to rejoice in the risen Christ and the new life he brings. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for the Box River Benefice during the Interregnum

Loving God, as we walk through this season of waiting and change, surround our Benefice with your calm and constant care. Pour your blessing on our Churchwardens, PCCs, volunteers, clergy team, and all who offer their gifts in service. Grant us your wisdom and your steadying peace. Draw us together in fellowship and prayer, that we may ready our hearts and our communities for the Rector you are preparing for us. Let patience take root, let compassion flourish, and let hope rise again within us. Keep us faithful in the work before us, grounded always in your grace and your love.

Please remember in your prayers

In Need of our Prayers:

Colin Bloomfield, Paul Goldsmith, Joey Jane,
Jill Nation, Jean Watling, John Daniels,
Janet Daniels, Rob Jones, John Overton,
Audrey White, Carol Langley, Heather Abel,
Gill Harritt, Miranda Doyle

*Heavenly Father, giver of life & health, comfort & relieve those who are challenged by physical, mental & emotional health. Give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness & have confidence in your loving care, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Those who have died recently or whose anniversary of death falls at this time:

Fr Henry Heath, Sharon Oliver, Jane Godfray,
Mercy Gant

May they rest in peace and rise in glory! Amen.

Please note: to keep the prayer list 'current,' we refresh it regularly. If you would like a name to be added to the prayer list or to remain on the prayer list longer than 4 weeks, please contact the Benefice Office.



The Box River Benefice

*Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton*

**Sunday, 22nd February
Lent 1**

**Sunday, 1st March
Lent 2**

Associate Priest: The Ven. James Ridge
Tel: 07394 715223
Email: james.ridge@justice.gov.uk
Day off: Saturday

Priest with PTO: The Revd Diana Garfield
Tel: 01787 703457
Email: dianagarfield@hotmail.com

Lay Minister: Maggie Cogan
Tel: 01787 310588
Email: maggie.cogan@btinternet.com

Lay Minister: David Ball
Tel: 07801 416191
Email: dmjball@gmail.com

Benefice Administrator: Liz Potter
Benefice Office, Mary's House,
5 Swan Street, Boxford, CO10 5NZ
Tel: 01787 828046
Email: boxriverbenefice@gmail.com

Normal working hours: 9.00 am – 1.00 pm
Tuesday – Thursday, emails of an urgent pastoral nature will be responded to outside of these working hours

Website: www.boxriverbenefice.com
Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice
Or find us on A Church near You
[Box River Benefice - A Church Near You](#)

If you would like an electronic copy of this notice sheet each week, please contact the Benefice Office to be added to the list.

Welcome to the Box River Benefice

Pastoral visiting, spiritual guidance, confession, blessings:

The Benefice offers a rich ministry of Spiritual Guidance, Confession and Pastoral Visiting to the sick, housebound, or hospitalised. If you would like a Pastoral Visit, Home Communion, Spiritual Guidance, Confession, House Blessing, Hospital Visit for yourself or someone you know please contact the Benefice Office.

Sunday, 22nd February

Lent 1

11.00 am – Morning Prayer (Newton)
11.00 am – Family Eucharist (Boxford)

Readings

Romans 5.12-19
Matthew 4.1-11

Hymns

173 – Forty days and forty nights
495 – O let the Son of God enfold you
683 – To God be the glory!
373 – Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Tuesday, 24th February

10.00 am – Drop in for Coffee (Mary's House)

Wednesday, 25th February

Ember Day

10.00 am – Communion & Coffee (Mary's House)
7.30 pm – Bell Ringing Practice (Boxford)

Sunday, 1st March

Lent 2

9.30 am – Morning Prayer (Lt Waldingfield)
11.00 am – Sunday Eucharist (Boxford)

Readings

Romans 4.1-5, 13-17
John 3.1-17

Hymns – Lt Waldingfield

19 - All my hope on God is founded
195 - From heav'n you came, helpless babe
232 - God that madest earth and heaven
104 - Christ triumphant, ever reigning

Hymns - Boxford

19 - All my hope on God is founded
175 - From heav'n you came, helpless babe
219 - God that madest earth and heaven
92 - Christ triumphant, ever reigning

Tuesday, 3rd March

10.00 am – Drop in for Coffee (Mary's House)

Wednesday, 4th March

10.00 am – Communion & Coffee (Mary's House)
7.30 pm – Bell Ringing Practice (Boxford)

Friday, 6th March

10.30 am – Coffee Morning (Lt Waldingfield)

Sunday, 8th March

Lent 3

9.30 am – Sunday Eucharist (Groton)
11.00 am – Family Eucharist with Choir (Boxford)
4.00 pm – Taize Service (Boxford)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds 18th March, 10.00 am – Coffee Morning (Newton)
Weds 18th March, 12.00 pm – Lent Lunch (Parish Room, Lt Waldingfield)
Sat 21st March, 10.00 am – Coffee Morning (Boxford)
Weds, 15th April, 10.00 am – Coffee Morning (Newton)
Sat, 18th April, 10.00 am – Coffee Morning (Boxford)

WELCOME TO THE BOX RIVER BENEFICE.

Whether you have worshipped with us for many years or are visiting for the very first time, we are delighted to share this time with you. May this be a place where you can pause, breathe deeply, reflect, and find renewal. If you are new to the Benefice—or returning after some time away—please do introduce yourself to a member of our Ministry Team. We would love the chance to welcome you properly.

GIVING: Ministry to our communities & the upkeep of our church buildings costs money. We are therefore extremely grateful to all our donors. Please consider contributing as a part of your faith commitment. You can find out more about how to give on our website at: www.boxriverbenefice.com/support-us/, ask a church warden, minister, our administrator or follow the directions on our notice boards. You can also give during any service or when visiting church; please place your offering in the giving plate, alms box or use the card reader (if there is one in the Church).

LENT LUNCH: join us at the Parish Room, Lt Waldingfield on Wednesday, 18th March for lunch, the suggested donation is £10.00 raising funds for St Lawrence's Church. This is not a ticketed event but for catering purposes, can you let Nancy Roser know of your intention to attend 01787 882897 or email nancyroser2004@yahoo.co.uk

TAIZÉ SERVICE: join us at 4.00 pm, Sunday, 8th March at St Mary's, Boxford. A Taizé service is a quiet, meditative Christian prayer service featuring simple, repetitive songs (chants), scripture readings, silence, and candlelight, originating from the ecumenical monastic community in Taizé, France, aiming for reconciliation and peace through a contemplative encounter with God. These informal services welcome people of all faiths and backgrounds, focusing on reflection, music, and silence rather than elaborate sermons or rituals, lasting under an hour. Please join us as we reflect on our Lenten Journey towards the cross.

ST MARY'S, BOXFORD - FOOD BANK: HERE FOR YOU: If you—or someone you know—could benefit from help, please reach out to the Benefice Office in confidence. We know that asking for assistance isn't always easy, especially during the winter months, but you are never alone. Our commitment is to walk alongside our community, providing practical help throughout the year.

OPEN GARDENS IN THE BOX RIVER BENEFICE,

SAVE THE DATES: In the gloom of February, it can feel almost impossible to picture the warmth of summer—green lawns, roses in full bloom, and the gentle hum of a lazy afternoon. But brighter days are ahead, and with them come three wonderful Open Gardens.

Sunday, 7th June – Open Gardens at Boxford
Sunday, 14th June – Open Garden at Newton
Sunday, 21st June – Open Garden at Lt Waldingfield

