



Blyth Valley Times

Church in Community—Community in Church

March 2026

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Mothers Sunday

As I write this, the shops are full of cards and gifts for Mothers' Day. Social media bombards us with offers of flowers, chocolates and perfume. Pubs and restaurants advertise special Mothers' Day lunches and afternoon teas. Don't get me wrong, I'm not objecting to this. I too will be thanking my Mum for her role in my life, and (hopefully) will receive at least a card from my children. The popularity of Mothers' Day is overall a good thing: it is a time to appreciate our mothers' love, care and guidance, to celebrate the work that goes into childcare, often balancing this with employment. It is a time to reflect on what our mothers mean to us.

However, Mothers' Day can be a difficult day for some people. Not everyone has a good relationship or good memories of their mother. Some are estranged from their mothers, or have a complicated family life. For women who want to be mothers but are unable to have children, this is a particularly painful time in their ongoing grief. And some people will be mourning the death of their mothers and feeling their absence keenly.



This is why it is important that we understand that in the Church we are marking Mothers Sunday, a day when we celebrate the maternal qualities of our Church. For the Church is a place where the birth of our faith is celebrated through baptism, where that faith is nurtured and encouraged, where we find a love that is all-embracing and unconditional. We see in the Hebrew Scriptures and in the New Testament motherhood in all its richness and sorrow: the joy of having children, mothers who protect their children through their own courage and self-sacrifice, mothers who witness the suffering of their children, women who feel marginalised by their inability to bear children. Mary, as Jesus's mother, should not just be celebrated for giving birth to the Son of God but for being his mother: for feeding him, cleaning him, guiding him, teaching him. We are not told about the laughter and tears they shared as Jesus grew up, but we do know that her love was there throughout Jesus's life and ministry, strong enough for her to stand at the foot of the Cross, refusing to abandon her son in his suffering.

Mothers Sunday is a time for celebrating the maternal role of the Church in our broken world. It is a time to reflect on how we can offer a strong and reliable love to all who need it, how we can live as a caring and nurturing family, for all our flaws and mistakes. Family life is not always easy; some in our congregations and communities carry the scars of hurt, betrayal and abuse they experienced growing up. As a Church family, our prayers at this time should be that we reflect the love of God to all who seek safety and support.

Revd Alison Alder

Take a look inside this month's *BVTimes* magazine for local news items and details of services and events happening across the Blyth Valley Churches and further afield.

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March Lectionary**Sunday the 1st**

Holy Communion – The Second Sunday of Lent (Purple)

Rom. 4. 1-5, 13-17 (NRSV)

John 3. 1-17 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Second Sunday in Lent (Purple)

1 Thess. 4. 1-8 (KJV)

Matt. 15. 21-28 (KJV)

Sunday the 8th

Holy Communion - The Third Sunday of Lent (Purple)

Rom. 5. 1-11 (NRSV)

John 4. 5-42 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Third Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Eph. 5. 1-14 (KJV)

Luke 11. 14-28 (KJV)

Sunday the 15th

Holy Communion - Mothering Sunday (Purple)

2 Cor. 1. 3-7 (NRSV)

Luke 2. 33-35 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Fourth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Gal. 4. 21-end (KJV)

John 6. 1-14 (KJV)

Sunday the 22nd

Holy Communion – The Fifth Sunday of Lent/Passiontide begins (Purple)

Rom. 8. 6-11 (NRSV)

John 11.1-45 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Heb. 9. 11-15 (KJV)

John 8. 46-end (KJV)

Sunday the 29th

Holy Communion – Palm Sunday (Red)

Matt. 21. 1-11 (NRSV)

Matt 26. 14-end of 27 (NRSV)

Ps. 118. 1-2, 19-end (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Sunday next before Easter/
Palm Sunday (Red)

Phil. 2. 5-11 (KJV)

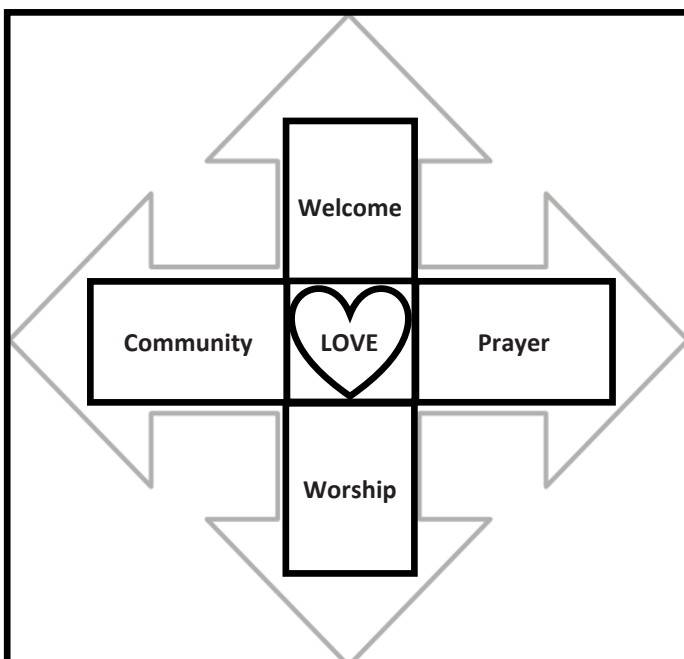
Matt. 27. 1-54 (KJV)

St. Mary's Church Halesworth

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CHANNEL

**SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH**

10am Holy Communion, every Wednesday.

8am Traditional Communion, every Sunday.

6pm Evensong, most Sundays.

Worship in the Blyth Valley in March 2026					
CW – Yr A Continuous New Testament	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Dominic 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Family Communion Linda and Jim	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Mothering Sunday Dominic 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Iona Worship Jason	10am Holy Communion Palm Sunday Dominic
St Peter Group					
Holton St Peter		10am Family Communion Vic	10am Mothering Sunday Edmund		
Wenhaston St Peter		10am Joint service with Methodists at St Peter's TBC	10am Mothering Sunday Holy Communion Alison A	10am Pause for Thought Chris and Gary Atkins	
Bramfield St Andrew		10am Holy Communion Alison A		10am Family Service Pauline	
Blyford All Saints			10am Wild Church Charlotte		
Thorington St Peter				10am Morning Prayer Edmund	
St Andrew Grp					
Wissett St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer Charlotte	10am Mothering Sunday Veronica M	10am Holy Communion Adrian	
Chediston St Mary		10am Holy Communion Dominic	10am Mothering Sunday Linda		
Spexhall St Peter			10am Mothering Sunday Jim		
Linstead St Margaret			10am Mothering Sunday Malcolm		
St Michael Grp					
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Desmond		
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Family Service Edmund		6pm A Service of Peace Edmund and Charlotte	
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Holy Communion Dominic	
Walpole St Mary		6pm Evensong Edmund			

Additional Services This Month: 9:30am Tuesdays, Morning Prayer, St Peter's, Spexhall + 10am Wednesdays, Holy Communion, St Mary's, Halesworth + 9:30am Thursdays, Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Bramfield + Saturday 28th March 10am-5pm Stations Pilgrimage, all churches.

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan
27 Meadow Gardens, Beccles, NR34 9PA.
Tel: 07921 540170

March 1st Rev I McKillop

March 8th Service with St Peter's 10am

March 15th Mrs Julie Warren

March 22nd Rev Robert Soanes

March 29th Rev Martin Keenan

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am

(unless stated otherwise)

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth

Father Christopher Smith

Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

Please enquire about our Service times and details



Morning and Evening Prayer

with the Revd Dominic Doble,
from Tuesdays to Saturdays

(Live streamed and later audio on Dominic's
YouTube channel).

From

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via:

8am Morning Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092

Passcode - 607673

6pm Evening Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304

Passcode - 825686

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Sunday 1st March 2026 11am

Gathered Worship, Clive Sutcliffe

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 10am to 12 noon

Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by
Morning Worship

Friday 6th March 2026 9.30am

Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by
coffee morning

Sunday 8th March 2026 11.00am

Gathered Worship, Michael Homfray-
Cooper

Sunday 8th March 2026 3.00pm

Bramfield Chapel, Mr Paul Potts

Sunday 15th March 2026 11.00am

Gathered Worship Mothering Sunday,
Elizabeth

Tuesday 17th March 10am to 12 noon

Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by
Morning Worship

Friday 20th March 9.30am

Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by
coffee morning

Sunday 22nd March 11.00am

Gathered Worship TBA

Tuesday 24th March 10am to 12 noon

Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by
Morning Worship

Friday 27th March 9.30am

Prayer Meeting in the Church,
followed by coffee morning



From the Rector...

**O Lord, our God, giver of life and growth,
grow in us a longing for you,
that we might deepen our faith;
grow in us a compassion for your world,
that we might serve our neighbours;
grow in us a vision for your kingdom,
that we might proclaim your love.**

By the power of your Spirit, and in Jesus' name. Amen.

This prayer was written to support our Suffolk Diocesan Growing in God Strategy. It was the fruit of the countywide expression of our denomination engaging in self-reflection. In Lenten style they considered how we might become a more decent example of a people of God in this place at this time. The questions were asked: Where do we want to be in five, ten or twenty years from now? So, what do we need to do tomorrow to get there?

The Gospel reading for the first Sunday in March connects to one of four elements in this strategy, namely: Growing in Number. It presents the secret discussion Jesus has with Nicodemus where the expression to be 'born again' was coined. People of faith, and people without, ought to understand that within the Christian tradition the door is always held open offering anyone the opportunity to start again. This is such a radical turning of the page that elsewhere it is described as being like a new creation. Like falling in love, or having your first child, nothing will ever be the same again. The church will grow in numbers as church folk grow both in the confidence that this is a real thing, and in their confidence to direct people to and through the experience.

The reading for the second Sunday is the woman at the well which maps well on to the Growing in God theme of Growing in Depth! Here Jesus meets the enlightened Photini used and abused by so many men such that she couldn't show her face in polite society. He chats her up and asks her for a drink. A deeply theological discussion culminates in her bringing the whole town out to meet the one she declares to be the messiah. Whether we get our kicks from jumping around in a massive marquee at a Christian festival, listening to a wise one, or receiving the sacraments in wonder; personal and communal growth in depth can be the only outcome.

The third Sunday is Mothering Sunday. It is the day when those in service returned to their mothers and mother church. The readings offer the option of Mary at Jesus' dedication, or at his death. The former as well,

as the traditional observances, clearly present links with the Growing Younger facet of our strategy. Whilst many people turn out for Mothering Sunday as they do for carol services and funerals, good numbers also ask for Baptisms and Weddings. As anyone who has changed a baby, worked on stage with children or run a youth club will know that youth is messy. May we as church advocate for space and give expression to the energy, integrity and creativity of young people – learning from them as we go.

The fourth Sunday reading is the miracle of Lazarus coming back to life. It is one of those episodes that some take literally and some metaphorically. Either way in the hearing of the story, we feel loss and hopelessness. Mary and Martha's friend, faith and circumstances let them down. Much in the same way as our government, community, family or bodies may have let us down. Yet, we are called to Grow in Influence as with Jesus we call out the death dealers and speak hope, joy, justice, light and love into the death-dark holes of our day.

The fifth Sunday is Palm Sunday. You'll need to come to the 10am at St Marys, Halesworth, to find out more about what that's about! Meanwhile, I'll leave you with this prayer from the Everybody Welcome course designed to help congregations engage with some of these activities.

Heavenly Father, you have welcomed us into your kingdom

and your heart's desire is to draw every human being to yourself.

**Grant us clear eyes to see people as you see them,
sensitive feet to stand in their shoes,**


and warm smiles to welcome them in your name.

Give us such generous hearts,

that our church becomes a foretaste of heaven

**where every soul you send us finds their living home
in the community of your Son our saviour Jesus Christ,
Amen.**

Dominic



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HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Dear Friends,

A question: what connects the Epstein Scandal and the dumping of oil and car tyres beside the A14 near Woodford in Northamptonshire?

The answer, I propose, is that they are both symptoms of an attitude that was prevalent in Greek and Roman culture at the time of Christ. It was a common practice, then, for unwanted babies to be left exposed on hillsides, or taken to the municipal tip.

Unwanted humans were expendable, and this disregard for life is what is so shocking about the Epstein Scandal. It is both remarkable, and yet at the same time, not at all unusual in our modern capitalist and sociopathic world.

Greek and Roman culture was enabled by slavery. On a recent trip to Sicily, I saw temples built by slaves—prisoners of war—who had been taken in battle. In opposition to this, Christianity grew out of the conviction that every human being is unique and special to God, and that we bear his image. And, not only that, every human being is infinitely loved by God irrespective of gender, status, or ethnicity: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave not free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3.28).”

During this Lent Season, we could all profit from time spent contemplating the kind of culture we want to live in, and are willing to work for.

We may never intentionally discard litter—let alone car tyres and engine oil—but we can all get involved in the clean-up operation.

As it happens, we’ve probably all left litter of one kind or another kind. Consciously or unconsciously, we’ve probably all dumped on someone else: with lies or half-truths; with ill-considered judgments and criticism. It comes so naturally that we hardly notice it—through ignorance, weakness or our own deliberate fault.

Next time you take a walk, keep an eye open for all the discarded wrappers, cans, and vapes that are lying around. We are all capable of picking it up, and maybe you know someone who needs your help to clear up the mess in their life?


Regardless of your situation, I believe we can all profit from using this Lenten period to reflect on how much we owe to the One who came and took our mess upon himself, and by his example, showed us how to live life in a better way.



The
United
Reformed
Church

Peter Wagg

Elder




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Valley Times:

blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

HALESWORTH
**COMMUNITY
LARDER** PROJECT
ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays
10am - 11.30am

Curate's Corner

On Maundy Thursday each year, the reigning monarch gifts to selected pensioners two small leather bags – one filled with ordinary coins, and the other filled with special coinage called 'Maundy Money'. This uniquely English practice has much to teach us.

The word 'maundy' comes from a Latin root meaning 'commandment', and refers to Jesus' commandment to his disciples that they should love one another. For most of Christian history, this love for one another has been expressed through the ritualised washing of feet during worship on Maundy Thursday, which is done in imitation of the way that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

This particular ritual has something of an edge to it. From the 14th to the 17th centuries the English monarch would wash the feet of some of the poorest members of society as well as distributing gifts of money, food and clothing. At the heart of the ritual was a symbolic reversal of power structures. No matter how carefully chosen the candidates for footwashing, there is always something of an edge to the idea that someone of immense seniority should kneel and wash the feet of others. This 'edge' was keenly felt by English monarchs, who sometimes insisted that the feet of the candidates should be washed three times before the monarch approached.

Over time, practices like this tend to moderate themselves. By the end of the 17th century, the monarch had ceased to wash the feet of the poor themselves and sent a representative known as the Lord High Almoner to do it in their stead. At the same time, the practical gifts of food and clothing were replaced with money, and the alms of money were replaced with a special kind of coinage known as 'Maundy Money'. By the end of the 18th century the footwashing had disappeared entirely, and by the 19th century we arrived at a service in which unusable coins were distributed on behalf of the monarch without the monarch's actual presence, and there was no washing of feet at all! All of this rather defeated the point of the exercise. It was exactly the uncomfortable disturbing of power structures which leant such symbolic power to the washing of feet.

Today, the practice of the Royal Maundy continues as a symbolic gift of coins to pensioners nominated by members of the clergy. It is, in effect, an awards ceremony for long service in charitable or civic life. The coins given out are a distant memory of practical charitable gifts once given out to accompany an uncomfortable requirement that Christian leaders should make themselves the servants of all.

The lesson for us all is that there is a tendency to moderate the harsh edges of the Christian tradition until there is nothing left except an inoffensive charitable commitment. But the Gospel is not an inoffensive charitable commitment: it is the demand that 'whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant' because 'the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve'.

Edmund



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LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES:

Michael Stannard at Walpole
 Terrance Summerfields at Halesworth
 Nigel Plummer at Halesworth
 Michael and June Robinson at Bramfield
 Rodney Fox at Halesworth
 Christopher Palmer at Linstead
 Richard Canham at Holton
 Danny Nichols at Halesworth
 Graham Fleet at Halesworth
 Peter Muttitt at Wenhaston
 John Levy at Wenhaston



If you need help from Waveney Foodbank you will need a referral voucher.

Just call one of our partner agencies:

Citizens Advice National Helpline
 0808 208 2138
 South Norfolk Early Help Hub
 01508 533933
 Halesworth Volunteers - 01986 875600

There are collection places for Foodbank donations in Chediston; St Mary's Church, Halesworth; Halesworth Co-op; Holton; Rumburgh; Spexhall (2); Wenhaston and Wissett.

ADDITIONAL FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

Donations of food for the Foodbank can also be left at Woolnough's Funeral Services office at the entrance to Halesworth Cemetery on Holton Road and also at Rosedale Funeral Services in the Market Place, Halesworth.

There are collection boxes outside the offices, where produce can be placed.

STEP INTO FUN LEGO WALK!

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 CHILDREN, FAMILY AND
 YOUTH MINISTRY



14TH March 2026
 from 2-3.30 pm

Join in our sponsored 10 m Lego walk.

Do you dare?

Pick up a form from St Mary's Church,
 Halesworth

Email:

pauline@growingtogetherearlyyears.co.uk
 to register!

March at Halesworth Library

Celebrate the National Year of Reading with us here at Halesworth Library and spring into a new book! Did you know that the library can deliver books and audiobooks straight to your door? If you're unable to visit the library, one of our friendly volunteers can come to you. Please contact us on 01986 506062 for more details.

Courtesy of The Friends of Halesworth County Library and East Suffolk Council, we are still offering you a very Warm Welcome! We provide a warm space with hot drinks and snacks available, alongside hygiene products on request too. The library also hosts regular activities and drop-ins. Come and join us every Tuesday 10-11:30 for a free Rhyme Time & Play session to sing fun songs followed by free play with our toys. Refreshments also provided for parents! Wednesdays from 10am our Time Out sociable group for older people meet for tea and biscuits. The Knit & Natter group meet alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm. Lego Club runs every Saturday 11:00-12:00 and Family Fun Time every Sunday, 10:30-11:30. You can also drop-in for advice from the East Suffolk Council customer services team every Tuesday 10:00-16:00 and Citizens Advice are here alternate Tuesdays, 10:00-12:00. Please ask a member of staff for more details.

With World Book Day on the way, come and join us at the library on Thursday 5th March, 3:15-5:00pm for some after school fun! We would love to see you there in your World Book Day costumes. Children's crafts and snacks are kindly provided by the Friends of Halesworth County Library. This event is run in collaboration with The Halesworth Bookshop who will be providing your free World Book Day books!

The Friends of Halesworth Library are inviting you to join us for Sociable Sundays on 8th and 22nd March: meet new people and enjoy a chat over cake and a cuppa in the library! Pop in anytime between 10:30-12:30pm. Join the Friends for their Board Games Cafe 30th March 2:00-4:30pm. There are plenty of games to choose from, or feel free to bring along your own favourites. Join us and have a fun afternoon, meet new friends and enjoy tea and cake! Suggested donation £1 to the Friends of the library who kindly volunteer to run these events.

The Friends will also be hosting a book talk on March 19th at 2:30pm. The speaker is Carsten Clovelly, who is working on the final book of a trilogy, having published "The Importance of Being Peter" and "After the Peter".

As well as telling us about his books he will be investigating the art and science of creating a novel, and the publishing options and their complexities. He describes his books as "a one-man campaign to bring back whimsy. Think Jeeves and Wooster if Jeeves was a Wolfhound".

Catherine Draper



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Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund



Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund (HDCF) is thrilled and deeply grateful to announce that we have been awarded a generous £20,000 grant from the Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust, whose continued support is making an extraordinary difference to families across our community who are living with dementia.

This significant funding will enable us to expand and strengthen our services, ensuring that people affected by memory loss throughout Halesworth and the surrounding villages can access support, meaningful activities, and vital respite care.

The grant will directly contribute towards the running of our Friday Day Centre at the Patrick Stead building, a safe, welcoming and stimulating space where people living with dementia can enjoy companionship, engaging activities, and freshly prepared lunches, while their carers are able to rest, recharge, or simply take some much-needed time for themselves.

It will also help sustain our wider programme of weekly groups and services, including our Memory Café, Singing with Friends, carers' support groups, and up to four hours per week of in-home respite care with trained dementia carers. Together, these services reduce isolation, build confidence, and provide reassurance and continuity at every stage of the dementia journey.

As a small, independent charity run by volunteers, support from organisations such as the Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust is essential to everything we do.

Nicky Kelly, Chair of HDCF, said: "We simply couldn't provide the level of care and support we do without the generosity of the Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust. Their continued belief in our work means local families facing dementia know they are not alone. This funding allows us to keep our services accessible, welcoming and community-focused, something we care deeply about. We are enormously thankful for their kindness and ongoing commitment to our community."

One family member whose partner attends the Day Centre shared: "It's enormously helpful to me to have this time to reset on a regular basis. It's a tough and often isolating experience to care for someone with dementia. I feel like I am much better able to cope for the following few days. To know that x is being cared for in such a caring environment and with lots of humour and patience is so reassuring. The day centre run by Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund is a life-saver from which we both benefit, and I feel very lucky to have found you."

The impact of this support goes far beyond financial help. It brings comfort, dignity, friendship and peace of mind to some of the most vulnerable people in our area. Everyone at HDCF, our members, carers, volunteers and trustees, extends heartfelt thanks to the Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust for helping us continue to grow and serve our community with compassion and care. For more information about Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund or to get involved, visit: www.halesworthdementia.co.uk

John Wood

Family Carers Support Group

Facilitated by
Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund
Helping people with memory problems and their family carers


Charity No. 1170477



Every Friday 2-3.30pm
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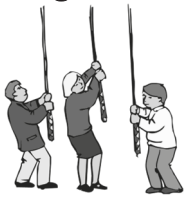
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From the Ringing Chamber

I have been delighted by the response to my request for people to say whether they would be for or against ringing in the new year at midnight on 31st December/1st January. The complete apathy (no responses) gives us carte blanche to ring whenever we like at all hours – excellent! In the meantime we'll stick to our usual slots – 7.30pm till 9pm on the second Tuesday of the month and 5pm till 6pm before Evensong on the first Sunday. Anything else you hear is likely to be either a special service (e.g. wedding) or a visiting band showing us how it should be done.

February's first Sunday quarter peal was successful but unsatisfying: we never really got into the rhythm and lots of silly mistakes interrupted the flow, and our lack of practice at ringing on eight bells showed rather.

Most Tuesdays now we are going to be at Blythburgh where the new first floor ringing chamber is a delight, despite one or two "interesting" design points. There is decent lighting, effective heaters and, joy of joys, no fewer than TWO indoor toilets—complete luxury! Added to that the bells have been done up and go like a dream, or will when the new ropes have softened up a bit. Just shows what you can do with £200K (I kid you not).

For a rather more modest outlay, Heveningham bells now have some refurbished ropes, which means that the old amateur splices don't catch in the ceiling anymore, so no more alarming missed sallies. Although it is a long time since any serious work was done on these bells, and they still run on plain bearings, they are a tuneful five and, suitably oiled, go reasonably well, so we are looking forward to some decent Sunday ringing every month or two, and maybe the odd practice. Anyone interested may like to note that 28th March will see some demonstration ringing in the afternoon with the opportunity for able-bodied volunteers to have a go, but check your life insurance is up to date first (I shall!).

PJG

Halesworth ASH Update



Halesworth ASH is supporting residents to make homes warmer and to cut costs this winter!

Halesworth ASH are here to help Halesworth people migrate to less carbon-based energy systems: make your home warmer, reduce your bills and your carbon footprint. Whilst the old ECO4 Grants are ending, the Government's 'Warm Homes Plan' is coming on-line this year. This plan, with £15m funding, seeks to support communities to upgrade their homes, help families cut their energy bills and tackle fuel poverty; we will know more about this sometime in April, however we can prepare now! Our Energy Champion, William, has already held a number of public surgeries in Halesworth (at the Library and Co-op Community Space), which have led to a number of home visits. If you need help and advice, please contact Halesworth ASH. (details at the bottom). Here are some other ways you can take action:

1. There is a current discount scheme for the purchase of INSULATION rolls, which has been improved to make it very good value. Insulation is such a vital first step, so please do take advantage of this scheme. If you need any help in filling in the form or how to measure the space necessary, let us know, as we can offer support.
2. You can get a RETROFIT ASSESSMENT for your home. The Warm Homes Plan has dedicated contractors to carry out the retrofit assessment. This is an in-depth evaluation of your property's energy performance, physical condition, and occupancy patterns, conducted by a qualified Assessor. Information on Suffolk Warm Homes website www.suffolkenergyassessment.co.uk
3. Halesworth ASH have made a valiant effort to contact all homes on our list from Opergy* that have poor Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) of F&G, by delivering leaflets to all with information about the surgeries. If you need to check your EPC, you can do so here - www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate

*Opergy is the energy firm commissioned by Halesworth ASH to report on our town's energy use and help us identify how to work collectively to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

See www.halesworthash.com for further information.

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A Burst of Spring and a Celebration of Art and Heritage

Spring really does feel as though it's in the air at last. Despite all the recent rain, the church grounds are bursting into colour, with snowdrops and daffodils bravely showing their faces.

I've always loved the month of March. It's such a feel-good time of year: the days begin to brighten, the sun seems to shine a little more often, and we welcome cherry blossom and even more flowers adding splashes of colour everywhere you look.

With that in mind, March feels like the perfect time to showcase some beautiful textile hangings depicting the seasons of Spring, Summer and Autumn. These stunning pieces were created by the Waveney Textile and Stitch Group. Back in 2016, the Embroiderers' Guild invited several of its branches to produce work to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Capability Brown. The Beccles branch was tasked with creating three large hangings to be displayed at Ickworth House, where Capability Brown designed the grounds.

The hangings were displayed at Ickworth House for several years, but were taken down during refurbishment. Sadly, they were deemed unsuitable for the new décor and were returned to the group, where they have remained in storage ever since.

Last year, Blyth Valley Churches were approached to see if one of our churches might be able to display the hangings, given the local links to Capability Brown. Walpole Church was the first to host them, but as the hangings are quite large, Heveningham proved to be the ideal space to show them together as the triptych they were designed to be. They have been carefully stored over the winter, and as the hangings celebrate their 10th anniversary this year, it feels especially fitting to finally share them with the public once again.

We will be showcasing the hangings at our Open Day on March 28th, and we would love you to come along and see these beautiful intricate pieces.

As well as enjoying these wonderful works of art, you'll have the chance to learn more about our church and its history.

We'll also be celebrating our new bell ropes — and yes, you can have a go yourself! If you've ever fancied trying bell ringing, this is your chance. Who knows, if you show promise, you might even find yourself signed up as a bell ringer. It promises to be a fun and welcoming day, with activities for children, refreshments available throughout, and plenty of opportunities to find out more about the events and activities we hold during the year. We hope to see you there!

More information on p. 27 and a photo of the hangings on the back page!

Jeanette

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The 2025-26 subscription is valid from the May'25 to the April'26 issue (incl).

Payment can be made to your local delivery person or to Administrator in the Blyth Valley Churches' office in St Mary's Halesworth.

(The office is open on from Mon to Thurs, 9am - 1pm).

If you prefer, you can pay the fee directly into the *BVTimes* bank account please.

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Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research

January is a quiet month for us as we don't have any events. However, two very brave ladies did organise a fundraising event which we were very happy to go along to and support.

Christine and Linda hired the I-Chameleon pop up shop for their head shave on Saturday 17th January. They had a cake stall, Tombola and The Ukulele Band played for the large crowd that came to watch. After the head shave we presented Christine and Linda with a beanie hat so hopefully they won't feel the cold quite so much.

The two ladies have raised, to date, an incredible £4499.13 for Cancer Research. We were so pleased that their hard work to organise this event was so successful and on behalf of Cancer Research we would like to thank everyone involved.

We will have completed our first event of the year by the time you read this and I will let everyone know how we got on at our Jumble Sale on 14th February.

Our next event will be our Big Breakfast on Saturday 21st March In Holton Village Hall 9.30am - 1pm (please see our advert).

We will be serving a full English with fruit juice, tea/coffee, toast. Also bacon baps, sausage baps or beans on toast. We will also have a cake stall, a raffle and a gift/Easter stall etc.

We are sorry for the inconvenience but as usual all our events are cash only.

We do now have a date for our AGM which is Thursday 5th March 2-4pm in the meeting room at Halesworth Co-op.

Everyone is very welcome to come along to meet us and see what we do.

Please continue to support our events as we continue to raise funds for the incredible work carried out by Cancer Research UK. We can't do it without you all.

Thank you.

For more information please contact, Dawn Davis 01986 873640.

Before and after....



We did it!

Thank you Tash from Twiggy's Hair Cabin and Aimee from Cabello for shaving our heads, Brenda and Alan for allowing us to use the I-Chameleon shop and the wonderful Halesworth Ukulele Band for playing in The Thoroughfare and starting the money flowing into the collecting bucket.

Thank you to everyone who came out on a cold January day to support us and who gave so generously. We raised £1244 on the day, which was added to our Cancer Research UK 'Just Giving page' currently standing at £4499.13.

Linda Hopkins

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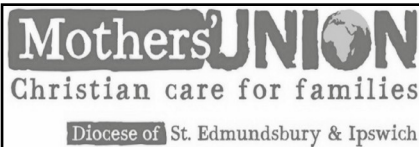
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Editorial extracts from
MU Newsletter
www.musuffolk.org.uk
Charity No 249726

Mothers' Union cards

Clare Thomas has some Mothering Sunday cards from previous years available at 20p per card which would be ideal if your group wanted to give cards out to your congregation / children and group etc. Please contact her for more details.

Lady Day Service 2pm Tuesday 25th March, Ipswich Minster

President and preacher: The Venerable Samantha Brazier-Gibbs. The Lady Day service starts our celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union. Ipswich Minster is in the centre of the town and a very short walk from the bus station. There are also plenty of car parks nearby. Why not make a day of it and add some shopping, a visit to Christchurch Park, or lunch at one of the many cafes nearby. There will be a time to catch up with MU members from across the diocese over a cup of tea after the service.

Ideas for you to use to celebrate our 150th Anniversary:

- Could you wear your MU badge every day?
- Bring a friend to an MU meeting.
- Share your Connected magazine with a friend.
- Suggest joining as a Friend of MU, if your friend is too busy to be a MU member.
- Introduce the topic of Mothers' Union into conversations.
- Tell them about our Grandparent Day in March.
- Host a Silent Knit with friends, sharing MU knitting patterns and see who lasts the longest in silence.

NEWBY BOOKS ON SALE

"THE CENTURY I SAW" by Donald Newby

£9.99 from Halesworth & District Museum, and Halesworth Bookshop. *Proceeds to local charities.*

"HALESWORTH STREET and PLACE NAMES" by Derek Newby

£6.99 from Halesworth & District Museum, Halesworth Bookshop and Heathside Stores Wenham. *Proceeds to Halesworth & District Museum.*

"MEMORIES & STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH"

by James W Newby

£7.99 available from St Mary's Church. *Proceeds to St Mary's Halesworth Regeneration etc.*

"The LIFE and TIMES of DEREK NEWBY"

£9.99, an autobiography.

Proceeds to local charities and EA Air Ambulance.

For more information, see Derek Newby You Tube and www.newbysofhalesworth.com

What do you say when people ask you to tell them about Mothers' Union?

One suggestion is to remind them of the Heineken beer advert from the 80s, where the slogan was "Heineken, the beer that reaches the parts that other beers cannot reach." Tell them that, like the Heineken beer, Mothers' Union is a charity that reaches people that other charities cannot.

Why? Because we are a grassroots charity with over 4 million members in more than 83 countries. We live in the communities that need our support, knowing personally who needs support and how best to provide that, whether this is our literacy and finance outreach, credit and savings groups, or the projects here in our diocese, such as our AFIA holidays and School Uniform grants. Tell them about the work we do to raise awareness of domestic abuse and gender-based violence. We also provide fellowship and prayer support and, if they really need one, we can make an excellent cup of tea and serve delicious home baked cakes.

150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union.

There is still time to book your ticket for the service at St Paul's on 10th June and for the Annual gathering on 11th June. Details are on the central MU website: www.mothersunion.org/event/150/

Book your place for our next Grandparent Day

Saturday, 14th March at the Thomas Clarkson Centre Bury St Edmunds. Doors open 10am. You can book your place on our third and last Grandparent Day. Tickets are free from Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grandparent-day>

or email: jeanetteappleton91@gmail.com

Diocesan Treasurer Vacancy

There have been no enquiries for this role, so we have to redouble our prayers and please think who you know who could take on this role or part of the role as a job share. For the past year the role has been shared as a Bookkeeper and Finance officer. There is no need for the person or persons taking on this role(s) to be an MU member or for them even to be a member of a church. As all our trustee meetings and council meeting can be attended via the zoom link, they also do not need to have a car.

Prayer points

- For one or two people to take on the role of Diocesan Treasurer
- For our membership to grow in this the 150th year of Mothers' Union
- For younger people to join Mothers' Union
- For our patron Bishop Joanne

News from Pauline Milsted, BV Churches' Children, Family and Youth Worker

RSPB Big Churchyard Birdwatch

Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported the Great Big Churchyard Bird Watch at St Peter's Church in Holton. We were blessed with some lovely winter sunshine and a lovely time together.



Annette Dunning came along with the rural coffee van and was available for a chat and a warm cuppa. We were blessed to see a 2 buzzards, jackdaws, crows, robins, blue tits and so much more. The Brownies joined us and loved the craft room, where we made binoculars and painted cardboard tube birds. We also had lots of quiet spaces for sitting and watching the birds.

There really was something for everyone. Holton Pits brought some information about birds at the pits and the work they are doing. We also made some lovely bird feeders that we hung around the churchyard. We did share some of the fruit... taste tests are important after all. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the SPAR Halesworth who provided us with a £40 voucher, which we used for yummy cakes. We were even lucky enough to find a sleepy Peacock Butterfly in the church. More photos on the back page!



The Blue Tits of St Peter's Churchyard

In St Peter's Churchyard you can often find a family of blue tits. Pauline has created a story booklet for children about the blue tits. Feel free to pop along to St Peter's Church in Holton, share the story, explore the churchyard and see if you can find some blue tits. Booklets will be available at the back of the church.

Sensory Bible Storytime January



At January's sensory bible story time we looked at the story of Noah's Ark. We sang songs, danced and played instruments and heard the story in two different ways. Our adults talked about the story while we played and explored. We talked about how rainbows often fill us with hope. We talked about what our hopes are.

Family Service at St Andrew's Church in Bramfield

In January we held our first Family Service at St Andrew's Church in Bramfield. This will be on the fourth Sunday of every month at 10 am. We had a truly blessed time together, as we gathered to worship. The Bible passage was about the transformation of Saul to Paul. We used Lego to talk about transformation and change. God has the power to change us just like we can transform simple Lego blocks in front of us into something, like a car, house or dinosaur, and make something beautiful. This is what God did for Saul. Saul let the light in and he was changed from a grumpy, feared and scary man who persecuted the early church to a man who was filled with the love and hope of the Holy Spirit and stepped out and followed Christ. We also sang songs, played instruments and had an open time of prayer, plus opportunities for those who wished to add to a prayer tree. These services are always informal, have lots of opportunities for young children to be involved and are a little bit shorter.



Youth Space - Caring for Our Church

At Youth Space we have worked hard on getting the young people involved in all aspects of the evening. One of the initial aims we continuously go back to is remembering our youth wanted:

"A safe place, with safe adults, doing real life!"



And part of doing real life is doing the everyday things altogether. We love to cook and prepare food together, but that also means we have to do the washing up. A few months back you may remember me saying we used some of our funding money to add recycling bins into the church. Why? Because the youth said we should recycle (and they are right!). So one of the jobs

they do on a Monday night is taking the recycling out and emptying the bins.

Not only are we responding to the request of the young people, but we are teaching them life skills in a hands-on way. We are teaching them how to look after the church, for example, where to find the wipes if they spill a drink, so they can clean it up themselves. A few weeks back, I went to the church and there was one of our youth with the dustpan and brush, sweeping up. Not asked—just looking after 'our church' that belongs to all of us. How incredibly beautiful is that? Well, I think it is!



More News from Pauline Milsted

Church Mice Tots

Our Church Mice Tots continue to grow so much from week to week. They are becoming more and more independent and talkative each week and are certainly mastering the animal sounds. You may walk past the church hall on a Thursday at the moment and wonder what on earth is happening.



We are just demonstrating we can moo like a cow or baa like a sheep! It is lovely to see the relationships continue to develop between parents, children and volunteers. It really does feel like one big happy family.



HOLISTIC HEALTH
By Josh

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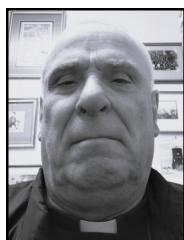
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URC Minister Vacant

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Father Christopher Smith, Roman Catholic Priest

St Edmund King & Martyr Roman Catholic Church,
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FOR DETAILS OF SERVICES AND LOCAL EVENTS,

PLEASE VISIT BLYTH VALLEY CHURCHES WEBSITE:

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

There are news items and photos on our

Facebook page too:

Find us at:

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Café Church Tuesdays!

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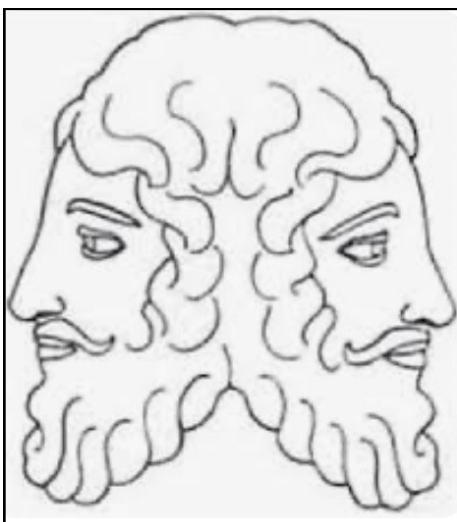
**The Revd Linda Berry at:
lindaberry@outlook.com**

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent Christina Ballinger
ballinger@myphone.coop

All Saints Blyford lived up to its Wild Church objectives with Charlotte Remblance and Edmund Smith. We gathered outside round a small fire, and Edmund added some incense in a smaller dish. Charlotte introduced us to the Roman god Janus (from where we get January). He is depicted with two faces looking in opposite directions. He was the god of transitions, doorways, endings and beginnings.



We wrote and put into envelopes what we wanted to leave in the past (regrets/ failures etc) and threw them onto the fire.

(Please see back page for a further photo).



A second envelope held our goals, hopes and dreams for the coming year which we kept along with a book mark which said "The light shines in the dark, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). We sang, prayed and shared. And the weather was kind. Many thanks.

Virginia Storey

Bramfield

Correspondent Alfred Mullett
snowmein@mac.com

We have just had our first Family Service at Bramfield on Sunday 25th January and this was a new type of service for our Parish. A lighter, and shorter service, predominantly aimed at families, with more emphasis on the sung hymns and instrument playing, with the aim of keeping little ones entertained and interested! It was a lovely service. Our next service with Pauline is on Sunday 22nd March at 10am. We look forward to meeting you then.

J.Barham

We had the first Family or Intergenerational service. Having grown up through three different faiths, I see the world through slightly different eyes. Pauline's presentation of the service had all the pieces, but it had something more. It had a joy, a heart, it felt a bit like home. You could be as interactive as you felt comfortable, or just listen and see. With this, she has brought a service to Bramfield that means I already look forward to the next one. It's the sort of service I could see Jesus walking in with a smile and a laugh. Home. It is wonderful we are in a parish group where we can celebrate our faith in many ways. Pauline and those behind this concept, thank you for your efforts with this.

A. Mullett

We had a short internment of ashes for the parents of Deni Webb, Michael and June Robinson on Saturday 31st January 2026. Deni recently

married her husband at St Andrew's a few years ago. It was a lovely celebration of their life and we had a good chat with all the family afterwards with coffee and chocolate cake. We send our good wishes to all the family at this time.

J.Barham

Things to come

Ecotherapy East Tree Planting 7th March 10-4.

Ecotherapy East are holding a Tree Planting on Saturday 7th March where we plan to plant 400 saplings in Foxtail Meadow, Bramfield, which is open to all in the local community. It's 10-4pm, but drop-ins are very welcome. Bring a spade or fork, gloves (and a packed lunch if you want to stay longer). Come and witness what is happening on the 12-acre meadow and return through the seasons to check on the saplings you plant. Families especially welcome. If anyone is coming by car, or has any enquiries, please contact ecotherapyeast.info@gmail.com as we will need to book spaces in the village hall car park.

Village Fete Saturday 1st August 12-4

Looking ahead to the summertime, we plan to have the village fete again on the village green, next to the school. This will be on 1st August 12-4pm and we hope to have the same kind of set up as previous years, with the Black Deek Band confirmed to come already. If anyone is able to help do let us know or wishes to have a stall at this then do get in touch. If anyone is able to help or wishes to have a stall, then do get in touch. You will have to provide your own table and awning (if needed). Contact either Jinnie on 07780833450 or Jane on 01986 784393.

PCC Membership

We are always very interested if anyone wishes to come on board with our PCC helping us to run and manage our beautiful church. We have meetings every two months and so if anyone wishes to help assist us in any way, we would be very grateful. Do contact Jinnie on above number. Thank you.

Home Service of Communion

If anyone locally would like to have a

Service of Communion at their own home, then do get in touch with Reverend Edmund as he is happy to come to you. His details are 07787615716.

Prayer Noticeboard and Assistance

As always, we are always here for you, so if you know of anyone who needs a hand with anything or help in any way, please do get in touch as we are always happy to help. Tel Jinnie on 01986 784254. We have a Prayer Noticeboard in the church now, so if you need us to pray for you, we will be happy to do this at our regular Thursday service.

Thank you!

Chediston

Correspondent Veronica Downing

veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

Candlemas is the close of the Christmas season, and start of the interlude before Lent and the preparation time for Good Friday and Easter. At Chediston, we used the last Sunday of January to mark Candlemas at Morning Prayer, where the focus was on the infant Jesus' presentation at the Temple and Simeon and Anna recognising that Jesus is the Messiah to be a Light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of the people of Israel. It was also the occasion where I preached my first sermon, on the theme of Jesus as light to all people. Back in November I started the Diocesan course, Introduction to Preaching, a 6-month training module that Elders may do as a stand-alone course. The same course is also completed by Lay Readers and Priests in training. We were a small and intimate congregation and I got some helpful feedback for the next Sunday, 1st February, at Halesworth, where I preached the sermon again, to a different and much larger congregation.

My next sermon will be for Mothering Sunday 15th March at Chediston – Hope to see you there! I have to prepare this for my next training session the week before. The service will be at 10am with refreshments and Simnel Cake afterwards at 10am. It will be a family service suitable for little people as well as grown-ups and will last about 40 minutes.

This will be a busy weekend, as there is an Organ Recital, "Bach to the Future" at Chediston on Friday, 13th March 7pm. We are looking forward to a

stunning recital given by Lyndon Ford who rebuilt the organ's digital system and is also a wonderful organist and musician. He will put the organ through its paces and demonstrate a range of organ music. Please do come and support this event, tickets are £15 and include refreshments. Get in touch with me on 07799 484266. Children and students are welcome, with free entry. Anyone who is interested in playing the organ for lessons (bring your own tutor!) or for pleasure, please get in touch myself or Jo Wareham, our churchwarden. We would like our organ, as a village asset, to be used as widely as possible.

Bell Ringing

Our other remarkable village asset is our ring of 6 bells, beautifully restored in 2009 and bell ringers from near and far love to come and ring them, as they sound good, being properly tuned, and are easy to ring. Our newest village ringers to the traditional art of bell ringing are Natalie, Ed and Noah and they rang for Sunday service for the first time on 24th January after coming to see what ringing was all about last August. Chediston's practice night is on Wednesday evenings at 6.30 to 8pm. If you are interested in learning about the bells and learning to ring, please come along to meet us. Everyone is welcome and learners from the age of about 11 years to adults.

Cookley

**Correspondent Jane Evers
janeeversj@gmail.com**

SAVE COOKLEY CHURCH

This is an appeal to all Cookley residents about the future of St. Michael's Cookley.

The secretary, treasurer and churchwarden of Cookley PCC have now been in post for some twenty-five years and the time has finally come for them to hand over to others. Unless new officers can be found, our church may be forced to close.

Would you, or anyone you know, be interested in taking on one of these roles? Our church has been here for more than a thousand years: It boasts a fine Norman arch and a beautiful 15th century hammer-beam roof and

Cookley people have worshipped here for centuries. Countless generations of local residents are buried in our churchyard.

Restoration work over the years has not always proved sympathetic but it has at least ensured its survival and it would be a tragedy if – after all this time – our generation was the one to abandon it.

St. Michael's is a small, friendly church. If you have never visited, please consider doing so. It is never locked and although access is through a private garden, don't be intimidated. The owner is very friendly and there's no wild dog to impede your progress!

I'm Jane Evers, the current churchwarden of Cookley church; please do get in touch with me either on 01986 785209 or janeeversj@gmail.com and I can tell you more about it.

After some thousand years of its existence, the prospect of there being no more Cookley church is too horrendous to be contemplated. Please help us to prevent this from happening.

Halesworth

**Correspondent Jason Busby
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halesworthparish@gmail.com

This past month St Mary's has hosted several large funerals for well-known members of our town community. We gave thanks for the life of Nigel Plummer, a long-serving worker at the Blyth Road Industrial Estate Council Depot; for dear Rodney Fox, who owned Fox's Card Shop opposite The Angel for decades and was one of those characters everyone in town knew; for Terrence Summerfield; and most recently for Danny Nicholas, landlord of The White Swan, remembered in a powerful service filled with music and stories. Our church has been full of love, memory, and gratitude as families and friends have gathered to commend these souls to God's mercy. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the lives of Nigel, Rodney, Terrence and Danny, for all they meant to their families, friends and this town. Grant them rest and light perpetual, comfort those who mourn, and remind

us all of the hope we share in Christ's resurrection. Amen.

We have been very pleased this past month to offer worship in the east end choir stalls, taking advantage of the under-pew heating. This has been warmly received (in every sense!) as we gather together in a smaller, cosier space during this cold, damp spell which seems to be lingering longer than we hoped. For now, this arrangement will continue. If you have yet to join us in the choir stalls on a Sunday, please do — you will be most welcome.

St Mary's has been approached by the Town Council to be part of this year's Halesworth Day of Dance on 28th March. We are due to host the Folk Orchestra in the afternoon, currently planned for 3.00–5.00pm, though please keep an eye on publicity in case timings change. It promises to be a joyful addition to a wonderful town event.

A reminder, too, that the Halesworth Produce Market takes place on the second Sunday of each month from 9am–1pm here at St Mary's. Do come along and support our excellent local traders.

We are delighted that Chanter's Jigge will return to St Mary's on Sunday 3rd May at 3.00pm with their Tudor programme, "A Tudor Portrait". This popular concert has delighted audiences in recent years. Through music, readings and period instruments, they bring to life the age of the Tudors — its intrigue, pageantry, courtly splendour and everyday customs. It is both entertaining and enlightening, and we look forward very much to welcoming Malcolm and Elizabeth back to St Mary's for what promises to be another memorable afternoon.

Finally, a reminder that if you or your friends and family are unable to join us in person for Sunday worship, you can worship with us online via our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

As always, you are assured of a warm welcome at St Mary's.

Halesworth WI Report

Members enjoyed a very interesting talk with slides given by Catherine on "Bees and Beekeeping" at our last meeting. We were fascinated to learn

that there are 250 species of bees, they communicate by vibrations, dancing and smell. Each hive has a Queen bee who lays up to 2000 eggs per day, and can live between 2 and 5 years.

We were amazed to learn that one bee will produce less than a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. They have an acute sense of smell, five eyes, 6 legs and two pairs of wings. The female worker bees clean the hives, feed the young and build the honeycomb.

We all sympathised with the females doing the housework while the male drones are out gathering pollen but male drones only live about six weeks. Each hive will have about 50,000 bees in the summer but less in the winter months. The beekeepers look after their hives and feed them if they do not have enough food to sustain them through the winter months.

Honey does not go off and is one food that can be eaten even if one hundred years old and has been found edible in the tombs of the pharaohs. One third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees and the world would be in serious trouble if we allow bees to die out.

We then had an opportunity to purchase Suffolk honey and taste the honey cake that Catherine had made— never let it be said that the WI hesitates to eat cake! Catherine also makes cosmetics and candles out of the beeswax and sells her produce at the local produce market in town.

Heveningham

Correspondent

Jeanette Griffin

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The final two weeks of Lent are traditionally kept as a period of intense prayer and devotion known as 'Passiontide', and as the name suggests, much time is given to considering the Passion of Jesus and looking with hope for his glorious Resurrection. This year, Passiontide begins on the 22nd March, and in order to mark the day we would very much like to invite you to St Margaret's, Heveningham, for a unique Service of Peace. This service will include contemporary worship music, traditional liturgical actions, and opportunity to reflect on the way in which the Cross opens the way to both healing and peace.

Edmund

Please also see article on page. 11.

Jeanette

Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett

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Why do the first few months of the year go by so quickly? Here we are in March already! At the time of writing we seem to have had more grey days than sunny and a lot of rain. Some areas of the UK have had 2 or 3 times the average rainfall for this time of year, I wonder whether that will prevent drought. Here in the East we have had the rain but whether it is enough to fill the aquifers and reservoirs, who knows?

If you are able to go to the churchyard, the snowdrops are looking wonderful! See the back page for photos. Whether they will still be wonderful by the time this issue of the magazine is delivered, I don't know. It all depends on the weather. But if the snowdrops have faded the daffodils, primroses and aconites should still be doing their thing. Spring flowers are all so beautiful, they give a real lift to one's spirits!

On 24th January the Great Big Churchyard Bird Watch was held at St Peter's and happily the sun shone, though it was cold. The time was ably led by Pauline Milsted who had organised the various activities even down to arranging for the Rural Coffee Caravan to be on hand to serve hot drinks, always welcome on a cold morning.

The Eco Warriors from Holton School have also visited the churchyard with Pauline learning about all the creatures and plants that call it home. The children also picked up litter on the two occasions they came. A BIG THANK YOU TO THEM and to Pauline. Do read about the invaluable work that Pauline is doing with families and children elsewhere in the Blyth Valley Times.

Village letter

On a more serious note you will have had a letter from the Parochial Church Council which has gone to every house in the village. It is to let everyone know what we do as a church and if there is anything people in the village would like that we don't currently provide. Our

fundraisers are on there and a piece about how they can support the church financially should they wish to. Regular attenders at services will know this, but even so there may be things that you would like to see the church doing that we are not doing at the moment; if so please let members of the PCC know your thoughts.

Dates for your diary

Monday 2nd March - Walking the Labyrinth 2 – 4pm. The subject for our thoughts this time is “Unfurling”, a somewhat enigmatic title. So come along and discover all that this one word can reveal about us, our faith and our world.

Saturday 21st March - 7 for 7.30pm Quiz Night at the Village Hall. Tickets £5 each, cash only, available from Halesworth Book Shop, Veronica Mowat, Gary Atkins and on the door. Bring your own nibbles. The bar will be open so please don't bring drinks. In aid of St Peter's Church and Holton & Blyford Village Hall.

Tuesday 7th April – Walking the Labyrinth 2- 4pm Please note the day!

Saturday 11th April – 3 to 4.30pm Halesworth Ukulele Band will be giving a concert in St Peter's on Saturday 11th April in aid of church funds. Tickets are £5 available from 01986 873575 or Halesworth Book Shop (cash only). Refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle.

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
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This month we are very excited to bring you news of not one but three upcoming events here at Huntingfield church. These events are open to all of you across the Blyth Valley so why not pay us a visit?

Firstly, this Lent, Compline will be said each Saturday by Edmund; 21st & 28th Feb and 7th & 14th March commencing at 7.30pm. Compline is a short service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It invites us to thank God for the day that is past, to make amends with God for all that was imperfect in the day and to turn towards our rest with a clean heart.

Community Debate

The next community debate will take place on Wed 4th March at 7pm in Huntingfield Hub (IP19 0QH). Chaired by Rev'd Dominic Doble, our topic is “How do we balance inclusivity with protecting sex-based rights?” Together we will explore the definition of transgender, social inclusion, discrimination and harassment, the use of puberty blockers and support for young people.

We provide tea and coffee and a safe space to sit, listen and contribute wherever you feel able.

Titanic 'History Day'

On Saturday 18th April 3 - 5pm, we are holding a special event here at Huntingfield Church to commemorate the life and death of Thomas Cupper Mudd who grew up in Huntingfield. He was among one of the youngest to perish in the sinking of the Titanic at only 16 years of age. The afternoon will begin with a service of commemoration for the victims of the Titanic. 15th April is National Titanic Remembrance Day, when services take place to honour the 1,512 people who lost their lives on that day in 1912.

This will be followed by the unveiling of a memorial to Thomas in the church. Do come along and learn more about Thomas' life here in Huntingfield and why he was heading to America.

See copies of the postcards he wrote to his mother before boarding. The afternoon will conclude with a 'White Star' afternoon tea at £5 per head.



Credit: Forum Auctions

Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289
www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

MY BROTHER, WHO FOR REASONS that can best be described as questionable, lives in Thailand, asked me if I was still above water. He, albeit from a safe distance, takes an interest in the Old Country, which is touching. He was under the impression, not wholly erroneous, that things here were a bit soggy. I explained to him that Linstead is fortunate in being very close to the watershed between the Waveney and the Blyth. So we can our watch our beck, fairly secure in the knowledge that excess water is someone else's problem. We are, in a true Christian spirit, happy to pass our excess moisture on to someone else. I just hope that my theory is correct.

I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR THE Chediston and Linstead W.I. Not least because they always have some news for me. I am grateful to Irene Henderson for this update on their Christmas celebrations.

Initiated by one of our members, Chediston and Linstead WI took part in a community project of forty Christmas trees on display at St Mary's Church, Halesworth. Our Christmas tree was inspired by a line from the Women's Institute festive song: 'Good Tidings we bring to you and your kin, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.' The decorations, all crafted by our members, reflect their interest in WI Resolutions, creative crafts and the outdoors.

Tony Brown returned in February with a beautifully illustrated presentation which was entitled: 'The Story of the Norfolk Broads'. He talked about the work of the work of Joyce Lambert, a naturalist who, with others, established that the Broads were man-made in origin, the result of prehistoric peat digging. He also talked about the maintenance of the habitat, for instance, the importance of regular reed cutting. I am told that they found it all wherry interesting. They have recently welcomed some new members. It is always encouraging

when an organisation is growing. 10th March they celebrate their birthday with a luncheon at the Huntsman & Hounds, Spexhall, at 1.00 pm. May I wish them many happy returns.

IT WILL NOT HAVE ESCAPED YOUR notice that colour is creeping into the magazine. Only on the front cover, but I am hopeful that it is the thin end of a colourful wedge. So often one sees scenes, the beauty of which is lost in monochrome. Before they fade, I would urge you to take the time to stop and look at our churchyard. An absolute carpet of snowdrops and aconites. In years gone by, I have tried to convey the scene, but a lot gets lost in translation.

THE PCC met for the first time this year and have sketched out a programme for the coming months. First of all we have Mothering Sunday. We all have, or had mothers and that fact alone is worthy of celebration.

THE MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE
to be held on
SUNDAY, MARCH 15th 2026
At
10.00 a.m.

This service will be for CHILDREN OF ALL AGES!
Informality guaranteed!

ONCE UPON A TIME, THIS NEXT EVENT was one of the most important in the village calendar. At a time when the parish was responsible for administering the poor laws and raising taxes to finance this. It was the annual chance for parishioners to have their say over all things parochial. Since parish officers were remunerated for their work, there was competition and kudos to serve in roles such as churchwardens. No longer the case but involvement in parish affairs is still vitally important and it is unfair to leave it to the faithful (very) few. So please do come and support us.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Will be held at Linstead Village Hall on Wednesday April 15th, at 7.30 p.m.

This is IMPORTANT because it is YOUR opportunity to elect Churchwardens and have YOUR say about how the church is run. Please come along and support us and make YOUR views known.

NOW, AS I NEVER TIRE OF telling you, Linstead is a hotbed of intellectual achievement, with artists, sculptors, writers and many, many deep philosophers amongst its ranks. It is therefore not surprising that they should all meet together at:

THE GRAND LINSTEAD QUIZ NIGHT

On Saturday, March 21st at 7.30 p.m.

At Linstead Village Hall.

Entry Fee £12 for a team of up to four.

£25 to the Winning Team

In aid of Village Hall funds

Refreshments provided but bring your own liquid brain stimulant.

To enter a team, please contact:
Pauline (01986 785347) or Janet on 01986 785289 ???)

OUR SERVICE IN MARCH IS THE celebration of Mothering Sunday, see the separate panel.

The peripatetic observance of the Stations of the Cross visits Linstead at about 11.30am on Saturday, March 28th.

Spexhall

Correspondent Keith Noakes
spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com

(*Spexhall is thought to be Anglo-Saxon for 'woodpecker')

Facebook: St Peter's Spexhall and Spexhall Village Hall

Remembering the Presence of God/The Plough Light Candles have been used for centuries in sacred places, with a variety of meanings. Many churches have a red candle in the sanctuary symbolising the presence of the living God. We have one which burns constantly in St Peter's in the prayer alcove in the chancel. Please feel free to light your own candle from this, and if you want to leave the name of someone or a situation you would like us to pray for, do leave a note (paper provided).

In Mediaeval times there was often a 'plough light' in village churches, and the plough boys would dance in the winter to collect money to pay for wax for the candle. The Molly Boys who dance today have their origins in this. As we have the plough in church the light also reminds us of God's care for the land which is given to us stewards.

The candle does cost money, and we would be grateful for any donation towards the sanctuary light/plough light. Perhaps you might like to give in remembrance of a loved one who has died?

Their name would be written in the new Book of Remembrance to be read and remembered on the anniversary of their death and written beside the candle. Candles last a week (see the picture on the back page).

If you wish to have a loved one who was associated with Spexhall and St Peter's church remembered in our weekly prayers, please let us know. All those in the service book from funerals in recent years will be included, and we can add others. It is a way of remembering that we have the promise of eternal life. The promise of Easter, which is not far away.

The Restoration Fund

Water was dripping through the tower roof recently in the recent rain!

Woodpecker got very wet up on the tower working out what to do, with his mate the rooster. He always knows what to do. The lead roof, which is planned to be replaced, has cracked. A very temporary fix had to be done with a tarpaulin, and this will be followed by a better temporary fix while we await the beginning of the restoration.

The project to re-roof the nave and re-lead the tower is going strongly, with gifts from individual donors, village fund raising and some generous grant funding. We still need more funds.

Please give to the Restoration Fund so that we can future-proof the building for the next generation and beyond. You can email me at the address at the top, or phone 07939527340.

We are so grateful to all who have given and who work so hard to ensure the success of the project.

Mothering Sunday

Sunday the 15th of March is Mothering Sunday, and we will have a special service in church at 10am to remember our mothers both living and lovingly remembered. We call to mind the gifts and qualities associated with motherhood, but can be developed in us all in us all: care, acceptance, forgiveness and unconditional love. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is often seen as the 'emblem' of these qualities.

Come to the service and take a posy of flowers to give to those mothers and grandmothers still with us, or to remember those who are dear in our hearts.

The Village Hall People

We are grateful to Steve who has made us the most fire safety aware Village Hall in the land! No reason not to book the hall for that special family occasion or for a meeting.

spexhallvh@gmail.com for availability.

Watch this column for future village events. We have the possibility of a Race Night coming up in late Spring, a village lunch in the summer, and of course the dog show in late summer, which has a very long tradition (well, I think Woodpecker has been to 3 in his time since nesting in Spexhall). Could your dog be the winner of the much coveted 'Best in Show' trophy this year? The Village Hall people have

rarely been so busy organising things (or will be). Roll on the Spring!

Thorington

Correspondent

Trish Gower 01502 478078

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Thorington is at a quiet time of year, but all are very welcome at our services as published and do enjoy the spring flowers as you walk around the churchyard. There will be more updates after our PCC and APCM and thank you to all who visit, attend services etc and keep this small church going!

Walpole

Correspondents Lee & Anita Hill

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St Mary's Church, Walpole

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-marys-church-walpole>

or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

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Well February has been rather wet and soggy so far. Lets hope it improves. It's lovely to see the Spring flowers which remind us that Easter isn't far away.

We are delighted that Arthur Musk's Tractor Day was successful despite the dreary weather. The church benefitted by £480. Many thanks to Arthur and his band of helpers. We are most grateful.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, 18th February and Mothering Sunday is on 15th March this year. We will have Alison with us and hope to have a good number of people to celebrate our mothers and mother church.

I will say more about Easter next month but just a reminder that there will be lilies as usual, (Margaret G has said more about this in her report) and that we are hoping to provide Easter Teas on Easter Monday.

Another date for your diary is the Plant Sale which will take place in the Church Yard on Saturday 23rd May. Happy days!

Wenhaston Walks

Our first walk of the month will leave Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday, 3rd March. Our second on Tuesday, 17th March, led by Ian, is a circular walk via Wissett and starts out from the Huntsman & Hounds, 2 Stone Street, Spexhall IP19 ORN at 10am. Lunch menus will be circulated and orders taken in advance.

If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email: ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Wenhaston Flower Club

After our break in January and our post Christmas meal at The Randolph Reydon in February we are looking forward to starting our 2026 programme of demonstrations and workshops which are always on the first Tuesday in the month.

Our first meeting this year is in our usual venue, Wenhaston Village Hall on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

We are delighted to welcome Shelia from Callendars Florists, Framlingham who will be demonstrating "A Spring Wedding". The price remains the same £5 on the night which includes tea/ coffee and biscuits.

Looking forward to welcoming everyone back as we begin our new year.

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401.

Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester

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March already and it is Spring! As the American poet ee cummings (he used the lower case), said "in just Spring when the world is mud-luscious..... and it's spring when the world is puddle wonderful...". Well it is mid February as I write this and it is certainly muddy and puddly but I have not met anyone in Wissett finding it luscious! Slipping and a sliding through the churchyard on my wet and muddy path to lock the church I go!

Spring, the 1st of March and St David's Day, hopefully with a host of golden daffodils to lift the spirits!

On Friday the 6th of March at 7.30 in Wissett Village Hall there will be an illustrated talk by Mike Morley, a Suffolk Farmer, on his work setting up a pig unit with farmers in Kagera in Tanzania.

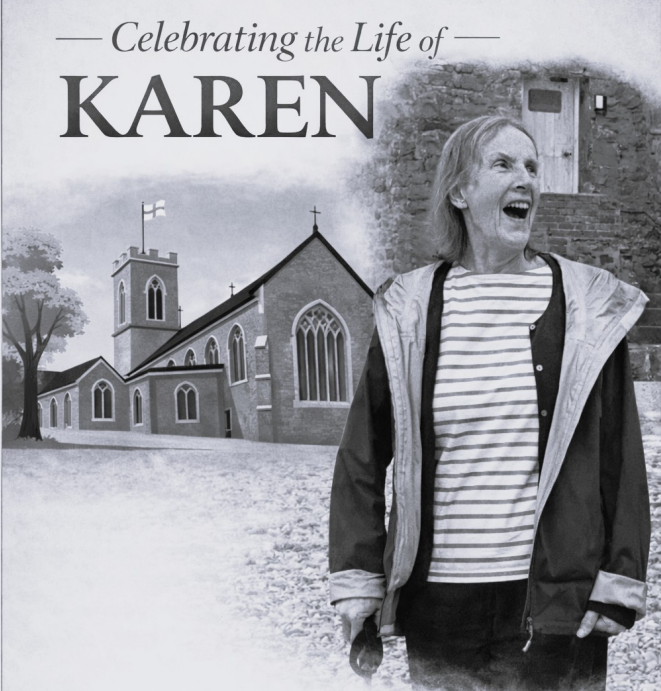
Kagera is our link diocese in Tanzania. I thought of talks with "slides" from my long ago childhood and the lovely book, "Some Tame Gazelle", but of course this will be using the latest technology beyond my comprehension and there will be refreshments and a raffle! The evening is free but bring real money for donations and raffle tickets please.

Mothering Sunday is on the 15th of March and we have a service at 10.00am. There will be flowers, possibly primroses, for all mothers and people who have mothered in any way. A time to remember our mothers and give thanks for them.

I would like to thank all those who clean our church and who decorate it with flowers and care for it in any way. I know many people do care for the building and churchyard and how much visitors appreciate it. By the time this is printed we will have had our historic, cheerful service of "Clipping" when we show our love and thankfulness for the church, our parish and all who have lived here before us.


Thank you! From another poem by ee cummings with his punctuation... "i thank You god for most this amazing day: for leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky, and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes."


— Celebrating the Life of —
KAREN



St Mary's Church Halesworth
 Friday 20 March 2026 · 12noon

Reception at Halesworth Golf Club
 after the service

 www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish



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Safeguarding— it's everyone's responsibility

This month we look at the types of abuse. Abuse can be subtle, unseen, unheard, unreported. These can include:

Neglect, self-neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, financial and material abuse, organisational abuse, discriminatory abuse, modern slavery and domestic abuse.

Remember the 4 Rs: 1) Recognise 2) Respond 3) Record 4) Refer. Please contact Annie, Pauline or Dominic if you have any queries or concerns (details on p.16 and p.17).

Congratulations to the following volunteers for completing their safeguarding training recently: ★

David Blackmore, Geoffrey Kiddy, Theresa Gilby, Malcolm Heath, Simon Dawson

Annie Groves

Kinda Willow Dome

What began as a gift of a woodland hut, has evolved into a Willow Dome, a willow alley and a desire to weave with willow at Kinda Forest School, in Holton. Rachel, the landowner, explained: "I offered my woodland cabin as a raffle gift to raise funds for Thorington Church. The person who won the prize turned out to be Lin Carter, who I now know as the great weaver of beautiful objects. Willow, I said to her, I am interested in willow and creating a willow patch to grow willow to weave with. Come and help me harvest she said to me this time last year."

Planted as an alley on the Agro forestry part of the land, willow with wonderful names was planted out last February: Britzensis (yellow) / Daphnoides / Whissender / Black Marl / Dicky Meadows / Dark Dicks / Green Dicks / Packing Twine / Welsh White. It was a tough year, the year of drought. But some have survived. Undeterred a creative Kinda Education facilitator, Louise, took up the baton this January, and has led this 2nd willow project. A willow dome.

The willow she needed was tall, too overgrown for weaving willow, which she sourced on the top field of Peters in Chediston, planted no doubt by his father-in-law, the veritable willow weaver Wil Berry. Wil Berry was the husband of Jan Berry, who has a bench in her memory in the town park and after whom we will be planting an orchard on the land. With the children and facilitators for Home Ed on Wednesday, we planted 25 stems into a circle in the earth. They went into the wet clay earth easily. Each child added a name 'cooking' to their stem. A duck joined us, enjoying the weather. Our next stage is to weave in the diagonals. If you'd like to be involved in our creation, come along to explore the joy of willow. Forest Family School is open to all ages, and children also welcome other days too, details below. Photo on the back page.

Kinda Forest School, Kaliwoods, Holton, IP19 8NQ
<https://www.kindaeducation.org.uk/>



Halesworth Community Larder – Five Years On

This summer will mark the 5th anniversary of the opening of the Halesworth Community Larder. Set up at the height of the Covid pandemic by the Church, and in partnership with Halesworth Volunteers, it provided a safe space for the most vulnerable members of our community to shop and find support. Initially, the shelves were stocked with the contents of donated government food boxes but, as the financial impact of the lockdown became clear, we were generously supported by government grants, local businesses and individual financial donations.

Thankfully those dark days are behind us but the Larder remains a much-valued community facility and its core value of being a welcoming space for any member of the community still stands. Our 'bring and share' ethos is still important to us and during the summer months we receive fantastic donations of fresh fruit and vegetables from local professional growers, as well as the local gardening community. Each week the Halesworth Co-Op and the Tudor Bakehouse generously donate unsold bread and pastries and we also subscribe to FareShare, receiving regular supplies of surplus food for a small fee.

Over the last year we have focused on projects designed to help people struggling with food poverty to eat as healthily as possible. We held an Open Day for families with a visit from the Norfolk mini therapy donkeys, a healthy picnic lunch and a delicious 'low cost' chilli prepared by one of our volunteers, demonstrating how to cook a nutritious meal on a budget (see the back page for a photo). The same volunteer has also produced a Larder recipe book, which is available in local shops and on Amazon. Having refurbished the hall kitchen, we are now looking to batch cook fresh meals and to offer further cookery demonstrations by local professional chefs.

Keeping the shelves stocked with the basics is always a challenge for us and we are very grateful for individual donations of tinned food, toiletries and household essentials. Although we now ask our shoppers for a minimum donation of £3.00, we now have to buy in the majority of our stock. This is because most tinned and ambient food products no longer have a best before date and are not routinely donated by the supermarkets.

Donations can be dropped off at the Larder and at the Halesworth Volunteers office at the Patrick Stead Centre., London Road, Halesworth. There are also donation boxes in Wenhaston, Bramfield and Spexhall churches and on The Street in Rumburgh.

Equally, we are looking for new volunteers either to serve our shoppers or to help with our food-based activities. The Larder is open every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10.00 am – 11.30 am, and you will be warmly welcomed. For more information or to volunteer, please email us at larder@halesworthvolunteers.org.

Karen Kerridge

Kids' Page

Lent is an important time for many people around the world. Some families have special days during these weeks, like Ash Wednesday. Words such as pray, help, and share are important for this season. Some may see a sign, like a cross, to help them remember what this time means.

Match the word to the description:

Lent

Ash Wednesday

pray

cross

share

help

This day happens at the start of Lent. People may get a dark mark on their forehead.

Giving what you have, like food or toys, to help someone else feel happy or safe.

This season comes every year, lasting forty days. People may try to grow kinder during this time.

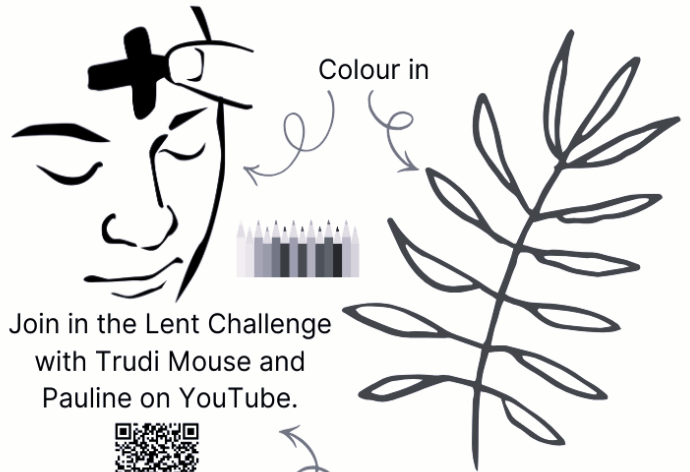
A day when people toss flower petals outside to welcome springtime.

Talking with or listening to God about your life, family, or friends.

A shape made from two lines crossing can remind people of faith or hope.

A special sign that people look at to remember hope, love, and new life for all.

! One of these options doesn't have a match — can you spot it?



Join in the Lent Challenge with Trudi Mouse and Pauline on YouTube.



Pick up your **free** copy from St Mary's Church, Halesworth

Download the wall chart here:



WHAT'S ON

OPEN DAY








St Margaret's Church

Heveningham with Ubbeston

Saturday 28th March
11 am – 4 pm

Everyone Welcome!

-  Discover the history of St Margaret's Church
-  Learn what we do today and have your say in forthcoming events
-  Try your hand at bell ringing between 1.30pm – 3.30pm
-  Children's activities
-  Refreshments available throughout the day

Whether you are a regular visitor or just curious, we would love to welcome you.

St. Mary's Church, Chediston
Inaugural Organ Recital

Bach to the Future

A Recital by
LYNDON FORD
Musician - Organist - Technician



Friday 13th March 7pm
Tickets £15 including refreshments
For Tickets contact 07799 484266
Advance Booking Required

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

PILGRIMAGE –

10am-5pm

Saturday 28th March

Blyth Valley Churches

- 10:00 am Agony in the Garden – St Peter, Spexhall
- 10:30 am Betrayal – St Andrew, Wissett
- 11:00 am Jesus is Condemned – St Mary, Chediston
- 11:30 am Peter's Denial – St Margaret, Linstead
- 12:00 noon Jesus is Judged – St Mary, Huntingfield
- 12:30 pm Jesus is Scourged – St Margaret, Heveningham
- 1:00 pm Jesus Carries His Cross – St Michael, Cookley
- 1:30 pm Simon Helps Jesus – St Mary, Walpole
- 2:30 pm Weep Women of Jerusalem – St Andrew, Bramfield
- 3:00 pm Jesus is Crucified – St Peter, Thorington
- 3:30 pm Forgiveness and Promise – St Peter, Wenhaston
- 4:00 pm Jesus, Mary and John – All Saints, Blyford
- 4:30 pm Jesus Dies – St Peter, Holton
- 5:00 pm Jesus Buried in the Tomb – St Mary, Halesworth

Given the nature of the event, timings can only be approximate. You are welcome to walk, ride, cycle or drive between all or some of the stations.

Toilets are available at Holton and Huntingfield. Public toilets in Halesworth and at some pubs and village halls across the villages.

Any gifts or donations will be retained by the parish where it was received unless marked to be forwarded to the year's Lent Charity.

Walking the Labyrinth A Time for Reflection



Monday 2nd March 2026 2 - 4pm
St Peter's Church, Holton



“Unfurling”

Everyone welcome

Time to be still, read, walk, pray, reflect, with craft resources offered and refreshments provided.

Future meetings:
TUESDAY 7th April

WHAT'S ON

Local produce and crafts



From local growers and makers

HALESWORTH PRODUCE MARKET

EST. 2003

ST. MARY'S HALESWORTH 9am - 1pm	FEB 14th	JUL 11th
	MAR 14th	AUG 8th
	APR 11th	SEP 12th
	MAY 9th	OCT 10th
	JUN 13th	NOV 14th
	DEC 12th	



Church Mice Tots Group

St Mary's Church, Halesworth
Thursday's 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Term-Time



SALE

SATURDAY, 21ST MARCH

Preloved

CLOTHES & SHOES
CHINA, GLASS, BOOKS
BRIC-A-BRAC

10^{AM} - 1^{PM} BLYFORD CHURCH

Do you have donations? Please leave inside the church at the back. Thank you!

INFORMATION: 07786 292145



HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH

BIG BREAKFAST

Saturday 21st March 9:30am-1pm
Holton Village Hall, Lodge Road, IP19 8RZ



Stalls, Cakes, Raffle,
Gift/Easter stall etc

COMMUNITY DEBATE

WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH

AT THE HUB, HUNTINGFIELD

7 - 9pm

'How do we balance inclusivity with protecting womens' sex-based rights?'

Together we will explore the definition of transgender, social inclusion, discrimination and harassment, the use of puberty blockers and support for young people.

You are all invited to come along, join in or just listen.

Tea and coffee provided

Friday 6th March 7:30pm in Wissett Village Hall

Talk by Mike Morley, about Kagera, link diocese in Tanzania.

Mike is a Suffolk farmer who last year visited Kagera to help local farmers set up a pig unit. This February he returns to Kagera and will be giving us an up-to-date insight into the life and people of Kagera. Raffle in support of Kagera, refreshments, donations appreciated.

WHAT'S ON

Youth Space
6-7:30 pm
MONDAYS WEDNESDAYS
Restarting
5th January 2026
Your Space

2026
ST MARY'S HALESWORTH
LUNCHTIME
RECITAL
SEASON

Season Line-up announced soon!
First Recital
Wednesday 8th April

Do you have what it takes to be the ultimate quiz champion? Then, gather your friends and join us for Quiz Night at Holton and Blyford Village Hall. This is your chance to show off your knowledge and have fun in a friendly competition.

There will be a fully stocked bar (cash or card), and we ask that people do not bring their own drinks, but feel free to bring your own nibbles. There will also be a raffle on the night.

Saturday 21st March 2026

7 pm for 7:30 pm start
Holton and Blyford Village Hall
Joint Fundraiser Between Hall and Holton Church

EVERYONE WELCOME

£5 per person tickets (cash only) and can be purchased from Halesworth Bookshop, Gary Atkins, or Veronica Mowat.

All money raised will be in aid of Holton and Blyford Village Hall and St Peter's Church, Holton.

HALESWORTH
UKULELE BAND

AT ST PETER'S CHURCH
HOLTON

SATURDAY 11TH APRIL
3.00-4.30PM

Refreshments available
Raffle

Tickets £5 from 01986 873575 or
Halesworth Bookshop (Cash Only)

Blyth Valley Churches
have joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation to **Blyth Valley Churches** are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.co.uk>



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More Photos from Town & Villages



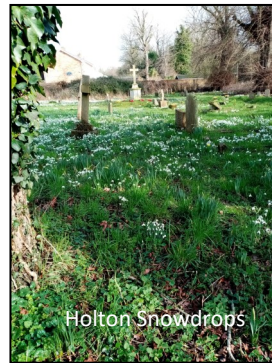
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RCC at Holton



Holton Snowdrops



Holton Snowdrops



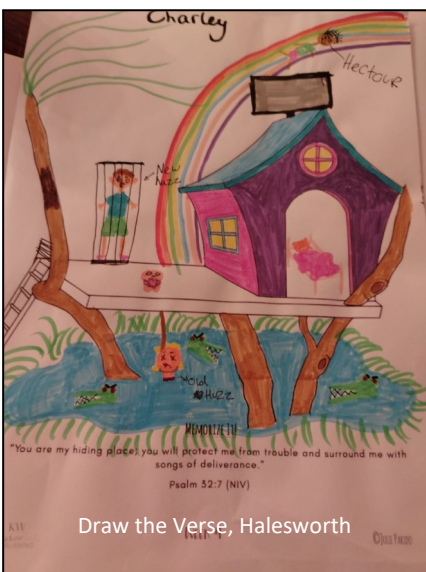
Blyford's
January
Service



Spexhall Sanctuary/Plough Light



Willow Dome Project



Draw the Verse, Halesworth



Community Larder Family Day



Family
Communion,
Halesworth

Thank you to everyone for their lovely photos. Please send to: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com