



# Blyth Valley Times

Church in Community—Community in Church

April 2026

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## He is Risen!

Sadness. The wind blew from the plains. The Sabbath was over. Mary walked down the path into the place of the dead. The nightmare of the crucifixion and Friday preparation still written on her features; her tunic still carried the bloodstains of the hurried wrapping to put Jesus into a place of rest. Of course, nearly everyone else had fled, leaving Joseph, his mother, and her and Martha to be there to watch their messiah die. In her hands she carried the spices to finish what had been started.

Shock. The stone was rolled back. Inside the tomb was empty, the cloths all neatly folded and set aside, as if someone had woken up and put their sleeping clothes aside. So like Jesus—he'd always been considerate and careful with even the little things. A motion made her jump and turn around. Through her bleary eyes she saw a form. Familiar, but not. "Someone took my Jesus," she spoke roughly. A quiet laugh came out, "Why would you say that?" Mary, offended, retorted, "We put his body here on preparation evening. Now it is missing. Is it NOT obvious?" Another of those haunting laughs. "But I said I would rise on the third day."

Recognition. Mary looked again, then knelt, wrapping her arms around his legs, her mass of black hair falling from her head-covering and forming a halo. Tears came again, this time of joy, not pain. Jesus knelt, lifting her to her feet. "Mary, Mary, while we could spend all of this day talking, and I know you have a thousand questions, I have things that must be done.

But time will be made." His still weathered face, with the unruly dark slightly curly hair framing the warm brown eyes and a warm smile. He laughed, "Please go tell the rest I am risen." Mary froze, a frightened look in her eyes. "They will laugh, call me crazy, close the door on my face."

"Perhaps, but they must know, and you know, and they will figure it out soon enough."

On this Easter, covered in acres of pomp, ceremony, and celebration, please take a minute to think of the real people who were part of that story we celebrate. Friends, frenemies, family, and even the bit players. How one of the most insignificant of all of them, in their eyes, was the one who got to see Jesus first, to hold his hand again first, and perhaps spend more quality time with the risen Jesus than all the rest combined.

Find a friend, find one who needs a moment, or an hour, and be an echo of Jesus to them.

**Alfred Mullett**



**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.**

**Blyth Valley Times is published monthly by Blyth Valley Churches.**

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### April Lectionary

#### Sunday the 5th

Holy Communion – Easter Day (White or Gold)

Acts 10. 34-43 (NRSV)

John 20. 1-18 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – Easter Day (White or Gold)

Col. 3. 1-7 (KJV)

John 20. 1-10 (KJV)

#### Sunday the 12th

Holy Communion— The Second Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 2. 14a, 22-32 (NRSV)

John 20. 19-end (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The First Sunday after Easter (White)

1 John 5. 4-12 (KJV)

John 20. 19-23 (KJV)

#### Sunday the 19th

Holy Communion – The Third Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 2. 14a, 36-41 (NRSV)

Luke 24. 13-35 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Second Sunday after Easter (White)

1 Pet. 2. 19-end (KJV)

John 10. 11-16 (KJV)

#### Sunday the 26th

Holy Communion – The Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 2. 42 - end (NRSV)

John 10. 1-10 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Third Sunday after Easter (White)

1 Pet. 2. 11-17 (KJV)

John 16. 16-22 (KJV)

**St. Mary's Church Halesworth**

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SUBSCRIBE TO OUR  
**YouTube CHANNEL**

[www.youtube.com/  
@halesworthparish](http://www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish)



### 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 April 2026				
CW – Year B Continuous New Testament	5 <sup>th</sup> White CW – Easter Day BCP – Easter Day	12 <sup>th</sup> White CW – Second of Easter BCP – First after Easter	19 <sup>th</sup> White CW – Third of Easter BCP – Second after Easter	26 <sup>th</sup> White CW – Fourth of Easter BCP – Third after Easter
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic  10am Holy Communion Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Adrian  10am Breakfast Church Pauline and Eileen	8am Traditional Communion Dominic  10am Iona Worship Jason  6pm Evensong Charlotte with Edmund	8am Traditional Communion Dominic  10am Holy Communion Alison  6pm Evensong Dominic
St Peter Group				
Holton St Peter	10am Holy Communion Adrian		10am Morning Prayer Veronica M	10am Iona Worship Chris and Gary Atkins
Wenhaston St Peter	10am Village Easter Communion Alison	10:30am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel		10am Pause for Thought Linda
Bramfield St Andrew	10am Morning Prayer Veronica M			10am Family Service Pauline
Blyford All Saints			10am Wild Church Jim	
Thorington St Peter				10am Morning Prayer Edmund
St Andrew Grp				
Wissett St Andrew	10am Holy Communion Vic	6pm Evensong Edmund	10am Morning Prayer Edmund	
Chediston St Mary		10am Holy Communion Linda		10am Morning Prayer Veronica D
Spexhall St Peter	10am Easter Matins Edmund			
Linstead St Margaret	10am Holy Communion Linda			10am Matins Malcolm
St Michael Grp				
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Dominic	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Family Communion Dominic		
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Holy Communion Dominic
Walpole St Mary				10am Morning Prayer Charlotte

Additional services this month (for Easter week services please see p.26): 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

## Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

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

5th April Service with St Peters 10am

12th April Rev Pam Bayliss

19th April Mrs Sue Groome

26th April Rev Clive Sutcliffe

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](mailto: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

Thursday 2nd April 2026 7.00pm

Maundy Thursday evening service

Friday 3rd April 2026 10.30am

Procession of Witness starting from URC Good  
Friday

12 Noon Good Friday Service at URC

Sunday 5th April 2026 11.00am

EASTER SUNDAY – Rev Ken Thom

Tuesday 7th April 2026 10am to 12 noon

Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by Morning  
Worship

Friday 10th April 2026 9.30am

Prayer Meeting in the Church and followed by  
Coffee Morning

Sunday 12th April 2026 11.00am

Gathered Worship Peter Walker

Sunday 12th April 2026 3.00pm

Bramfield Chapel, Mr Paul Potts

Sunday 19th April 2026 11.00am

Gathered Worship, Elizabeth

Tuesday 21st April 2026 10am to 12 noon

Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by Morning  
Worship

Friday 24th April 2026 9.30am

Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by Coffee  
Morning

Sunday 26th April 2026 11.00am

Gathered Worship TBA

Tuesday 28th April 2026 10am to 12 noon

Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by Morning  
Worship



## From the Rector...

Happy Easter for later this month!

Do you prefer the term the Feast of the Resurrection to the more pre-Christian name-check to the Goddess of Life? Either way can we all agree to intentionally celebrate the wonder of new life this Equinox? However you come to it, new life is everywhere! Plants and animals sense the increasing temperature and insolation as with rhythmic cycle our planet tilts us towards the sun. With the turning of the year, people also get in touch to talk about getting baptised, confirmed and married. For some this newness is brand new. It is a new relationship. Their first Easter in East Anglia. For others, its a case of not new-new; just new to us as they speak of replacing an MOT failure. Some are still shocked at lighter evenings as the clocks are put forward for the umpteenth time! The Christian expression of all this, like many other traditions, holds the repetition and the new-new together with a realistic retention of the loss experienced by all as an obligatory part of the human condition.

We have been running a refresher, seekers, baptism and confirmation course for a handful of people who are taking a new step in their faith. One or two have been putting it off. One or two thought it was simply a good idea. For a couple more the time was right. Baptism can happen as an intimate family gathering around the font (bowl on a pillar for the purpose) at a time of your choice. It can happen in a normal service. It can happen as a major gig looking like a wedding with cars and smartly dressed people moving from church to pub or other village venue to continue the celebration. For some it is a celebration of new life and a human relationship. For some it is a celebration of new life in God. For others its an excuse for a party. For some it is all of the above. Jesus gave his disciples or followers the charge to preach the gospel to all people and to baptise in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We continue repeating that age-old Christian tradition afresh especially at this time of year. If you would like to be baptised or have a child christened (same thing), do get in touch. Or, you may be interested to know that you may renew your baptism vows in the company of others at our 6pm evening service on Easter eve on Saturday, 4th April at St Marys, Halesworth.

Just as individuals can benefit from being reinvented, reborn, reinvigorated, regenerated, so can the church. I don't know what you think of as the church. Some of our neighbours smile behind their beards, hands or sun-glasses to hear other neighbours say say, 'Oh the church is responsible for that', 'the church is rich' or


'the church is bigoted'. The smile is due to the apparent assumption that the church is some Godlike external otherness. In fact, at least locally, the church is us - you and me, members of our community that mostly volunteer as treasurer, Churchwarden or secretary. OK I'm paid; but most give their time and talents for free – thank you and thank God! Locally, our churches are priceless, under resourced, stones standing as beacons of community, time, place and season. Admittedly, church has found itself on the wrong side of history from time to time: culpable for supporting colonialism, abuse, and privilege. So I would welcome anyone who wishes to challenge prejudice, to use their local (church), or see it used, tidy the churchyard, win efficiencies, help serve community lunches, visit schools and care homes in the name of love. In short, if you are keen to instil new life to the old institution locally, you are welcome here.

Just as individuals in need of a new chance, a fresh start or a clean sheet can sometimes benefit from a therapist, partner or life-coach who knows them rather too well, so our communities and countries, likewise, can benefit from long-term residents, incomers, supporters and detractors who live among us to hold us to account – the critical friend.

Organisations, like leaders, are the more vulnerable for simply surrounding themselves with yes-men or people who will stroke their egos. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer said Winnie the Pooh or was it Mother Theresa? If that's true, surely the reverse is too. We, as church, must have a moral responsibility to speak up when our communities and country need a new approach, a new life. Rather than death dealing, war waging, promoting injustice, flouting international law, committing ecocide: instead breathing life, building bridges, rescuing all from the sea, empowering communities and a youth voice.

May the new life of Easter inspire you to turn over a new leaf, move the church to re-commit to it's calling, and our nation and world to know and express newness of life.

Dominic



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**HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES**

“Lo, the winter is past ..... The flowers appear on the earth: the time of singing of the birds is come.” (Song of Songs Ch 2 v 11—12)

At the time of writing this we have enjoyed some sunny days, and signs of spring are all around to see. The daffodils seem especially vibrant this year; the shrubs and trees are coming into bud and flower beautifully; also, the birds are singing their hearts out. New life bursting forth after the grey days of winter.

As we move into April we reach the climax of the Christian calendar; the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus himself said, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains a single grain of wheat, but if it dies it brings forth much fruit.” (John Ch 12 verse 24).

We see this truth played out in our gardens and on the farms; seed placed into the soil and a few days later green shoots appear. The seed has given of itself to bring forth new life. On Easter Sunday we see new life bursting forth from the tomb, the glorious day of Resurrection!

Let us rejoice in Christ’s resurrection, knowing that He conquered the power of death and the grave. Jesus’ death and resurrection demonstrate to us the depth of the Love of God for humankind, and the lengths He would go so that we could be reconciled with Him.

At this season, let us celebrate this glorious new life.

Happy Easter,

**Paul Potts**  
Elder




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**If you are a member of a group or organisation and you would like to share your monthly news, reports or activities with the local community, please email your articles to Blyth 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

The great season of Easter is the longest and most sustained season of feasting in the Church calendar. The fast of Lent is forty days; the celebrations of Easter last a full fifty days.

The length of the season is for two reasons. The first is that for the Christian, joy always outweighs sorrow. The second is that whilst the Lenten call to repentance is important, much more important is our calling to be an Easter people; we are called to be people of the Resurrection.

A central idea of Christian theology is that the victory over death is already won. Each year, we commemorate the betrayal of Jesus into the hands of sinners, and we remember the sorrow of his death and burial. But these commemorations are something of a fiction: no matter how serious and well-rehearsed our remembrance might be, it is an elaborate work of theatre. But the mystery of the Resurrection and the glory of new creation is the eternal reality of Christian life.

Because the fundamental turning-point of history occurred some two thousand years ago, these past two thousand years have been one long process of waiting for the final revealing of glory. No-one can say when that final revelation will happen, but we do know that it will throw into perspective the sorrows and horrors of history. Everything that happens, no matter how grim, will be redeemed and put into its perspective; even sin shall be made a happy fault. For the meantime, we have seen the Resurrection of Christ and have received the promise of glory; we only await the completion of a process which has already begun.

The Christian call is to live in the light of the Resurrection and to live within the joy of Easter. This does not mean that sorrow has no weight, nor that sin is not worth grieving, but this does mean that we should be more serious about joy than we are about sorrow – more dedicated to feasting than we are to fasting.

St Francis of Assisi once gave some instructions to his brothers about this. He told them that when they are on their own in their cells, then if God moved them to sorrow they should feel free to express it – they should even allow themselves to be moved to tears from time-to-time. But whenever they were outside and with others, they should express the joy which comes from being an Easter people. St Francis would have been displeased to see a dour-faced Church which dwelt only on things that seem grim and ominous; he would have much preferred a Church where all gathered to feast around a common table, where all were pleased to rejoice together in the light of the Resurrection.

**Edmund**

## CAR BOOT SALE

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10am**  
**Church Paddock Holton**

**Bookings: £6 in advance, or £8 on the day**

**Tel: 07944267733 or**  
**01986 872467**

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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.

## Farming and Faith

*A new series focusing on our local farmers. This month we hear from Jo Wareham, who farms in Chediston.*

### Tell us about your farm

My farm is very small at just 49 hectares and just big enough to require serious input without providing the income to support it. Its strengths are its natural beauty found in the hedgerows, trees and views and its wildlife that gains momentum every year. We farm pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle for beef and do so organically certified by the Soil Association. We also have Red Tractor certification and, whilst there may be many other worthy things to sign up for, this is the limit of my capacity for paperwork.



We are tested for TB every 4 years because this area has a very low incidence of TB and we have always been clear. The vets encourage us to treasure the, presumed, healthy badgers that live close by as they are thought to be a defence against any other badgers that may move in. The 25 or so breeding cows, their calves and two bulls graze the fields

of grass from approximately 23rd April until 5th November. Sometime around then it becomes too wet and the grass too poor to stay out so we house them in our cattle shed where they are fed on haylage, a sort of pickled grass that is a bit dryer than silage, and bed them on straw. All they ever get to eat is grass and they seem happy with it. The cows mostly calve in the spring, although we get stragglers who calve late and there is nearly always one born in the summer.

### What do you enjoy about farming?

There is always something joyful to experience on an old fashioned farm like this: putting calves born inside the cattle shed out to grass for the first time is a wonderful sight; seeing wildlife in its hunting, running, swimming or flying element leaves me hoping that I shall be able to stay here for the rest of my life.

### What are your challenges?

Challenges are largely keeping ahead of the complications imposed by the Soil Association and others that test my minimal keyboard skills to a great degree. That, and money of course, although the price of beef at the market has held well for a while. We rarely eat our own beef as a whole animal is a huge challenge and takes years for us to get through. Our other income stream has been electricity from a small wind turbine and lots of roof mounted solar panels—all very handy now the government subsidies have gone.

### How does your faith influence the way you farm, or help you farm?

My faith tells me to do as little as possible and to leave my small corner of the countryside to generate its own robust ecosystems, faith tells me to watch and admire nature at its best, faith compels me to believe that tomorrow will be good.



### How can your local community support farmers/farming?

I feel that those I have spoken to think well of our local farming and understand that the hard decisions have to be taken sometimes, although there is little support for the vast solar farms in the pipeline. Perhaps if people all over the country ate more homegrown food and used less electricity.....

### Prayer points

Whilst not exactly specific to farming I feel prayers should always be connected to hope and I would pray that the countryside we all enjoy now can be enjoyed by our grandchildren in the same way.



# YANA

RURAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

## Helpline

0300 323 0400

helpline@yanahelp.org

# Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund



## Activities Update

### Seated Movement to Music

Every Monday at Holton Village Hall, 11.00 – 12.15

### Memory Café

Every Tuesday in the Co-op Community Room, 2.00 – 3.30

### Seated Yoga

Every Thursday at the Patrick Stead Day Centre, 10.30 – 11.30

### Singing with Friends

Every Thursday at the Patrick Stead Day Centre 2.00 – 3.30

### Creative Art

Every Friday at the Patrick Stead Day Centre, 10.00 – 11.30

### Carers Support Group

Every Friday at the Patrick Stead Day Centre, 2.00 – 3.30

*We also offer Day Care on Fridays from 9.30 – 3.30 (booking required).*

## Other services

HDCF is able to offer an advocacy service for anyone needing help with things like doctors appointments, and we can also offer training days for any organisations that would like to enhance their staff training programme.

## 100+ Club

The latest winning numbers are:

102 (£100), 17 (£75), 156 (£50) and 70 (£25). To join the 100+ Club please contact Anna on 07721 842802

## Golf Competition

There will be a fund-raising golf tournament at the Halesworth Golf Club on 6th May. We would love to hear from people wanting to enter teams or help with the sponsorship. For full details please call John Giles on 07789 991046.

For full details of all our activities please contact us on 07990 199632, go to [info@halesworthdementia.co.uk](mailto:info@halesworthdementia.co.uk), visit our website at [www.halesworthdementia.co.uk](http://www.halesworthdementia.co.uk) or see our Facebook page. Here are some of our members enjoying an art activity at the new Patrick Stead Day Centre.



John

## 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**  
**Co-op Community Room**  
[info@halesworthdementia.co.uk](mailto:info@halesworthdementia.co.uk)  
In partnership with the Pear Tree Fund



The Pear Tree Fund

## Companionship Services


Beeches, Bungay, Halesworth and surrounding areas

**Services Include:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social Support</li> <li>- Housekeeping</li> <li>- Shopping</li> <li>- Transportation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Garden Maintenance</li> <li>- Emotional Support</li> <li>- Dementia Support</li> <li>- General Check-ins</li> </ul>
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## LIFE EVENTS

### FROM THE REGISTERS


### FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES:

Malcolm McMillan at Waveney Memorial Park

# VICTOR'S

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## From the Ringing Chamber

Following on from new ropes at Blythburgh and Heveningham, this month it's been Wenhaston's turn. The pre-existing ropes date from about 12 years ago when Halesworth got some new ropes and donated the old ones down the road to replace the ones that were falling to bits (The Halesworth old ropes were slightly less decrepit). They have lasted surprisingly well, but the tail ends (i.e. the bottom ends) have become very worn so the whole of the bell fund has been blown on a completely new set from Avon Ropes in Bristol. The PCC decided that they would like to keep the same colour sallies (deep blue), but most of the length, from the wheel to the top of the salley, is synthetic, which means they probably won't need replacing for 50+ years with luck. The tails below the sallies are hemp to make them both pliable and adjustable, but likely to wear more frequently, but these tails can be replaced (as has been done at Heveningham) at about a quarter of the cost.

The March first Sunday quarter peal was successful despite a late start due to a member of the band overlooking the fact that the previous day's reminder applied to them! As for the Surprise Minor quarters at Wissett – we've been on a good run lately, and Bacup Surprise Minor was scored despite a false start, following on from the previous month's Bamborough. March's method is Kelso which is probably the most difficult one we've attempted so far so I'm not too optimistic.

Tuesday practices have been pleasing, despite quite low attendances, because everyone who has been has wanted to improve and extend their learning. Consequently, the ringing has generally improved as the evening has progressed, and we have felt we have earned our pint in the Star afterwards. At the practice at Halesworth on 10th March we were pleased to welcome Dominic David who learned to ring here 20 years ago but hasn't touched a rope for 15+ years, since he moved to Glasgow/Kiev/Toronto. Amazingly he just picked up where he'd left off, excellent style, control and striking. Alas he's back in Canada by now. Sunday ringing has been at Chediston and Wenhaston, and by the time you read this we shall hopefully have included Huntingfield and Heveningham.

We are still desperate for some new ringers as the band is getting older and smaller and, unless something happens, there will be no ringing in the Blyth Valley in a generation. An email to [halesworthbells@gmail.com](mailto:halesworthbells@gmail.com) won't commit you to anything, but will produce some information about ringing that might just tickle your fancy.

PJG



## Halesworth ASH Update

Halesworth ASH presents "Power Station", the latest in the strand of engaging and thought-provoking Green Films. Screening at The Cut on the evening of Friday 24th April, this is a compelling documentary by activist filmmakers Dan Edelstyn and Hilary Powell, charting their mission—hatched during lockdown—to bring solar panels to the roofs of the houses in their street and, in their words, to "turn every house into a power station". Along the way, they also fundraise to get solar panels on the roof of the local junior school (helped by an ambitious attempt at a Number One in the Christmas music charts!) and enjoy a visit from royalty... At a time when oil prices are going through the roof, our Halesworth Energy Champion will be on hand to offer practical support.

Power Station has enjoyed a nationwide series of screenings, encouraging discussion about community engagement, solar panels on domestic roofs (as well as insulation and batteries) and community-owned energy projects—and now Halesworth ASH are delighted to share the film in Halesworth and our neighbouring towns and villages. Halesworth ASH Energy Champion, William Poulsen, will be sharing news of initiatives already underway in the town and planning some energy-related events around the screening— check the Halesworth ASH Facebook page and website [www.halesworthash.com](http://www.halesworthash.com)

The film has been screening to sell-out audiences, so if you want to experience this fun, informative, fast-paced (and timely!) production for yourself, book tickets in person at The Cut or online at [www.thecut.org.uk](http://www.thecut.org.uk)

Tickets £6.

*"I can't recommend this film enough. You'll laugh. You'll cry. You'll kickstart a community- led renewable energy revolution. I will say, without any sense of exaggeration or hyperbole, that this is one of the most important films ever made. Everyone needs to see it."* Rob Hopkins, co-founder Transition Network.

See [www.halesworthash.com](http://www.halesworthash.com) for further information.

Kim Hoare

### Kinda Elders in the Woods

'Elders in the Woods' opens for this year on March 18th in Kaliwoods, Holton. Every Thursday from 12 noon to 3pm, we explore the wood, the land, ourselves.

It will be a year of growing on the land, planting seeds of madder and woad and plants to make dyes out of, as well as plants to eat, such as squash, which we had success with last year.

All are welcome

<https://kindaelders.com/>

Rachel Kellett

## Spring at Halesworth Library

We have a busy spring planned at Halesworth Library – read on below to find out more about what you can discover in the library!

Come and join us on Wednesday March 25th, 10.00 -12.30, for a special Time Out+ session. We will be making Easter themed rush-work nests, decorated eggs and turning our hand to needle felting too! This event is free, but donations are welcome. Open to all adults. Kindly funded by the Friends of Halesworth Library.

On April 4th, 10.00 - 3.00, we will be celebrating our very own Halesworth Library Day! We welcome customers old and new to find out about all the great things the library has to offer. If you haven't got your library card yet, why not sign up on the day? It's free to join and only takes a few minutes to sign up – just bring some ID with you and our friendly staff will be able to help. There will be a book sale on the day with cake and refreshments available. We hope to see you there! This event is organised by the Friends of Halesworth Library who will be there on the day if you would like to chat with them about how you can also get involved in supporting the library.

On Thursday, 16th April at 2.30 p.m. the Friends welcome back Suffolk-based creatives Jackie Carreira (a patron of the Friends of Halesworth Library) and Andy Deane. They will bring us an informative and fun talk about playwriting, and about Quirk House Theatre, their East-Anglia advocating grassroots company. Some will remember the couple's first visit to Halesworth Library, back in November 2018 when Quirk House Theatre put on a performance of Jackie's award winning play, "Talking in the Library". That was just the start of their supportive relationship with us. Come and join them for an entertaining afternoon. Entry is free. Please contact the Friends at [friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com) to reserve a place, or speak to staff at the library.

With Easter on the way we will be hosting extra activities for children. Pop along to the library on Tuesday 31st March and 7th April 10.30-11.30 for some Lego club fun and a children's craft club on Friday 10th April, 10.30-11.30. The library also hosts regular activities and drop-ins. Come and join us every Tuesday term-time 10.00-11.30 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 10.00 our Time Out sociable group for older people meet for tea and biscuits. The Knit & Natter group meet alternate Tuesdays 2.00-4.00. 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.

The Friends of Halesworth Library are inviting you to join us for Sociable Sundays on 5th (please note, the rest of the library will be closed on this day) and 19th April: meet new people and enjoy a chat over cake and a cuppa in the library! Pop in anytime between 10.30-12.30. Join the Friends for their Board Games Cafe 30th March and 27th April 2.00-4.30. 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.

Thank you to everyone who attended our mask making workshops in February half term. The event was a big success and fun was had by all involved! The children's creations filled our window display! The Friends kindly funded these workshops, and we hope to run more in the future. And finally! 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.

**Jeffery & Associates**  
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## Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research

Our first event of the year, our very popular Jumble Sale, was a great success. The hall was very busy with people enjoying catching up with each other over a cup of tea and a slice of delicious cake and finding some bargains on the various tables and clothes rails. We are always so grateful that you all come along to support our events and we are delighted to tell you that you raised a fantastic £1324.

Thank you to Halesworth Co-op for providing a lovely hamper for the raffle, which contributed £111 to our total and was won by G. Butler with yellow ticket 88. Thank you to everyone who baked for our refreshments.

We held our AGM on Thursday 5th March in Maureen's meeting room at Halesworth Co-op. Our President Dr. Clarke opened and also closed the meeting with some encouraging remarks about how far cancer treatments have advanced since he qualified 60 years ago. He also praised the successful year that the group had with all the fundraising events and how important it is to continue to raise money so that Cancer Research can continue its groundbreaking research.

The election of officers ( Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) remains the same and all the committee members were happy to continue to serve except for Valerie who stood down as she is hoping to move shortly; however she and husband Michael happily have said they will continue to help us for as long as they can. We are very grateful for everything they have done for the Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research and wish them well.

Our Area Manager, Sophia France, was also present and informed the group of the science behind some of the research and how it is making a real difference to so many people, especially people at high risk of getting cancer, with preventative treatments before the cancer appears.

We will have completed our second event of the year, "The Big Breakfast" by the time you read this and we will let you know how we got on in the next edition of the magazine.

We don't have an event in April but, looking ahead our Spring Fair is in Holton Village Hall on Saturday 16th May, please pop the date on your calendar.

We totally rely on your support and we are extremely grateful that you all continue to come along to our events. Thank you so much. For more information please contact Dawn Davis 01986 873640.



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**Mothers' UNION**

**Diocese of  
St Edmundsbury  
& Ipswich**

Editorial extracts from  
MU Newsletter

[www.musuffolk.org.uk](http://www.musuffolk.org.uk)

Charity No 249726

What are you doing to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union? Could you complete a 150 challenge? Our World-wide President Kathleen Snow is running 10k 15 times to complete an overall 150k distance. Could your branch put up 150 RISE Up posters round your community? (Pubs often have at least eight toilets for customers, as do community centres and supermarkets). Hadleigh MU have had to replace the four posters in their church toilet four times in the past six months making that 24 posters in total. Perhaps invite some friends round and share why you value being a Mothers Union member, and all for just £2.40 a month subscription. Or share some of our knitting patterns—the Infant Feeding Team need more knitted breasts, which are essential resources for supporting mothers with breastfeeding. The patterns are all on the [www.musuffolk.org.uk](http://www.musuffolk.org.uk) website or you can contact Cathie McGregor for a pattern at email: [cathiemcgregor211@gmail.com](mailto:cathiemcgregor211@gmail.com)



### Church-based Mothers' Union

Church-based membership of Mothers' Union is a new way of being Mothers' Union which was launched from Mary Sumner House and aimed at parishes without a MU Branch or Group as a first step to introducing Mothers' Union. This initiative aims to complement, not compete with, traditional models that continue to be supported to evolve and thrive. It is hoped that these church-based groups will be a first step and that MU branches will grow as a result. Exciting news that at least one parish with two churches has already made the first step of discussing how to introduce church-based membership in their location.

The trustees board were able to meet the three bishops from Tanzania who are now linked to our diocese, which includes the diocese of Kagera. Bishop Joanne had graciously allowed our trustee board to meet in Bishop's house following a hiccup with the usual venue, and this coincided with the bishops meeting with Bishop Joanne.

The blue and white basket Jeanette is holding is a gift from Pensa, MU Diocesan President of Kagera.



### Dates for the next few months

*AGM and Spring Council meeting 2pm 28th April* at the Salvation Army Centre, Violet Hill Rd, Stowmarket IP14 1NE. Please note the change of venue and the afternoon starting time. These meetings are for all MU members. If you are a diocesan member do come and meet Sarah Nicholson in person, as well as hear about the latest MU initiatives and events in our diocese.

*23rd June Mothers' Union Big Knicker Night* at the Salvation Army Centre Stowmarket. Doors open 7.15pm. Entry free, but all those attending are asked to bring a pack of knickers which will be passed onto the two Women's refuges in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. By having an evening event we hope to have some younger people attending from outside of the church and Mothers' Union membership. So start thinking about who you can tell about the Mothers' Union Big Knicker night.

### Prayer points:

- For our AFIA sports holiday camps that are being planned for this summer at St Matthews C of E School, Ipswich and All Saints C of E School Newmarket.
- That our 150th celebrations activities and events will enable us to grow our membership.
- Make a Mothers' Day appeal, the 'Gift of Belonging'

### Local Mothers' Union Meetings

#### Wenhaston Mothers' Union Branch Meeting

Wednesday 8th April-2.30pm, in the School Room at the Methodist Chapel.

*Guide Dogs for the Blind (accompanied by the dogs)*

Further details from Margaret Goldstone - 01502 478378

#### Yoxmere Benefice Mothers' Union Branch Meeting

Thursday 16th April-2.30pm, in Westleton Church  
*Nicky's Foundation - A talk from Nicky Smith about the Challenges of Political Unrest in Cameroon*

Further details from Sue Norrington 07913 488670

#### Mothers Union Craft, Coffee and Chat Group

Monday 30th March-10am-12noon, in Halesworth

Further details from Sue Norrington 07913 488670.

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

### Half Term Family Picnic

We had another successful family picnic in February at St Mary's Church in Halesworth. It amazes me even now, that new people come through the door every time. People who just happen to stumble upon something happening in the church, and end up staying. Our family picnics give us a chance to show action in our community; to show love, generosity and kindness. It brings people together and gives something back to our community.



One of our children asked this question, "Pauline, what would we do if a homeless person came in?" My response was, "Welcome them in and feed them. We would be gracious and kind!" The child then said, "What if 10 homeless people turned up!" Me: "It would be no different, it would be the same, we don't judge anyone who comes. We just share food and time together." The child then asked, "But why?". And I shared, "Because that's what Jesus did, he fed the hungry, he loved everyone." Many years ago, there used to be an acronym that people wore on wrist bands — WWJD. This stood for What Would Jesus Do? as a reminder to ask one another and ourselves, what would Jesus do? He was our example on earth; he led and showed us how to live and we have a lot to learn from the example he showed us. So, perhaps this is a challenge for us all as we move through Lent and Easter, to consider our actions and how we show Jesus' light every day.

### Family Pancake Event

For Shrove Tuesday we held a family pancake event at St Mary's Church in Halesworth. Our youth worked hard making a lot of pancakes for everyone, and we all enjoyed eating lots and lots of pancakes. We had crafts and in the toy kitchen we made and flipped playdough pancakes. We also had a lot of fun doing pancake races in the churchyard. There was a lot of laughter and fun had by all.



### East Suffolk Well Minds Event

Pauline was excited to be invited as a stallholder at East Suffolk County Council's Well Minds Event at Lowestoft Sixth Form College, to share the work we have been doing through Youth Space, our approach and also our commitment to well-being. This was such a privilege to be there presenting our work, alongside so many stakeholders committed to well-being in our county. We were the only Youth provision there and it was a true privilege to talk with so many professionals about what we do, our ethos and approach, as well as hear other inspiring speakers and network with professionals and groups within our area with whom we can collaborate further.

You may have noticed our lovely new amazing banner in the entrance to St Mary's Church in Halesworth. We created this for the event, and it has the words 'beloved belonging'. This is one of the key principles across all the children, family and youth work we do. We are committed to creating a safe space where everyone belongs, feels loved, and is held. This is no small feat. Feeling loved with a sense of overwhelming belonging takes time. It requires a commitment to providing not only a physically safe environment but also an emotionally safe one. It means investing time in developing meaningful relationships, where people feel special, loved and cared for. It means pushing the boundaries of how we think things might be done.

This means that much of our work is co-produced - another one of our, what you might call, buzz words. Co-produced means that we recognise that beloved belonging cannot exist in relationships with a power dynamic, where one person has more authority or control over the other. Instead, we work in a space of mutual respect, developing our rules and sharing ideas together, valuing everything people



bring to the plan and discussion. This might include some gentle mentorship, but we recognise that this is two-way and that we can all learn from one another.

Photo of Alex Bond (East Suffolk County Council's Community Officer for Beccles, Bungay and Halesworth) - a colleague who has been working in the background with us for Halesworth youth!

### Youth Choir

Exciting News...Youth Choir starting on the 4th April 2026. We will meet fortnightly on a Saturday from 5pm until 5.45 pm. Jo will be teaching us a song and Pauline will be teaching us some BSL (British Sign Language). Some of our young people have shown an interest in BSL and we would like to nurture this! We are going to start with one song, that we hope to sing at a service in the future!

## More News from Pauline Milsted

### Mini Green Fingers

Spring is arriving; we can see the daffodils, snow drops and crocuses in our churchyards. And our Church Mice Tots have been busy getting their flower beds outside St Mary's Church in Halesworth ready. We have topped them up with more compost and moved our swiss chard and radishes into deeper pots to help their roots to grow. We have also added some strawberry runners to our tiered pot. We are very excited to grow some yummy strawberries to eat!

Youth Space will also help us look after our plants and they have made some wooden planters that will go into the churchyard. Over the next month, Church Mice Tots and Youth Space will plant tomatoes, lettuce and beetroot.

You may wonder how a little bit of gardening has come into what we are doing with Church Mice Tots and Youth Space. Firstly, the young people want to do 'real life' activities.

When we discussed what this meant, one of the things they said they would like to learn to do was gardening and growing things! And we do it at Church Mice Tots because we can learn a lot from spending time outdoors and gardening! Also, spending time outside connecting with nature is great for our well-being.



So, if you see us in St Mary's Churchyard be sure to say "hello!" or admire the work of our children and youth.

### Children, Family and Youth Ministry Prayer

The Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verses 16-18 to, "Rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

A good reminder to rejoice in the Lord and the work he is doing, to continuously talk to the Lord and be thankful. So, this month, we pray that you will rejoice and give thanks with us and join us in prayer for the children, family and youth ministry.

We have so much to rejoice and be thankful for: the strong links we have with Holton Primary School; the youth that are exploring baptism and confirmation with Revd Dominic; Youth Space and the friendships, trust and evolving space; Church Mice Tots and the families we get to be with; our new family service at Bramfield Church; the "I love Jesus!" – we are hearing being exclaimed more and more at our school visits, and groups; our volunteers who give their time to support us; the doors and opportunities God is opening for us to share our faith and be witnesses of the gospel; our growing younger congregations. We hope that you will join us in prayer this month as we give thanks, but also pray without ceasing. We come to God with all that is good in the children, family and youth ministry with expectant and thankful hearts. But also, join us as we pray for those that

are in need, who do not have food on the table in an evening, our youth who are both physically and spiritually hungry. Pray for those who are in need of love and protection, those involved in county lines. For those who need direction. Those in our community who struggle to feel a sense of belonging, pray with us that they will feel that belonging through us, at the church, that we will provide a safe, inclusive and loving place for all. From March we have decided to move our prayer meeting to the last Thursday of the month in the evening from 7 till 8 pm at St Mary's Church in Halesworth, to hopefully encourage more people to come and join us as we pray for the children, family and youth ministry.





**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE**  
**Can anyone spare one or two**  
**Wednesday mornings (from 10am - 11.30am) each month to come and help us at Waveney Foodbank**  
**in St Mary's church Halesworth, please?**  
**If you are able to volunteer, please contact**  
**Gill on 07940 221054**  
**or Pauline on 07758 489102**



**HMS Footcare**

Hollsewell@gmail.com

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Hollie Sewell  
 Foot Health Practitioner  
 07880005783

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**FOR DETAILS OF SERVICES AND LOCAL EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT BLYTH VALLEY CHURCHES WEBSITE:**

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There are news items and photos on our Facebook page too:



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## Café Church Tuesdays!

Café Church is held on a TUESDAY morning at 10am, via Zoom.



**For login details of how to join, or to be added to the mailing list, please email:**

**The Revd Linda Berry at:  
[lindaberry@outlook.com](mailto:lindaberry@outlook.com)**

# News from Town & Villages

## Blyford

**Correspondent Martin Clarke**  
clarkehk@yahoo.com

With the purchase of a new motorcycle last year (well, new to me), I find I have settled into the classification of a 'B road biker'. The long stressful stretches of the A roads and the mile-eating dual carriageways I have found are not for me but a gentle potting around our country lanes at a leisurely thirty miles an hour has revealed a world that I had forgotten existed. The atmosphere evoked by last year's long summer evenings gave me the opportunity to cruise through quiet villages where I could wave or toot my horn or even chat to walkers and gardeners (at least the ones that didn't leap into the hedge, and sorry Mr and Mrs Bartley of Cratfield - I've ordered some new fence panels to replace the broken ones), then past fields undergoing a gentle harvest which seemed to transport me back 200 years before today's mass industrialised agribusiness. And then of course there is the camaraderie of motorcycling itself where we wave to other bikers or meet-up in cafés or even congregate in big motorcycle meets at a designated rendezvous. (Get to the point - Ed). Ah yes. The point is churches. Churches are positioned to provide an endless variety of focal points for the intrepid B roader. And thus it was today after a dreary non-biking few months I was able to venture out and explore some of our characterful one thousand year old edifices. Gosh, that ceiling in Huntingfield, that Norman arch in Cookley, and Black Shuck's burn marks in the door at Blythburgh. I have now forgotten what I was going to say, but suffice it to say that the maintenance of all these historic structures requires money and a lot of fundraising work to raise it. Here at Blyford we have just had our annual jumble sale which raised over £700 last year, and we will be having our next plant and bric-a-brac stall on the green (opposite the Queen's Head pub) on Saturday 16th May, plus a Blyford Big Breakfast at the pub (raising money for the church) on July 18th. Aside from the fundraising our popular outdoor Wild Church services are held on the third Sunday of every month and also this month we will be having a work party in the churchyard on Saturday the 18th when any volunteers would be most welcome, particularly if you can bring a gardening implement or two. That will start at 10:00.

P.S. If you see me on the bike give me a wave (I will be the one holding up all the traffic).

P.P.S. Special mention to Dominic. Fantastic to see him back driving his car to the PCC meeting this week after his illness. He says he's not ready to get back on his Triumph Speed Twin yet, but hopefully by the Ride and Stride on September 12th.



## Bramfield

**Correspondent Alfred Mullett**  
snowmein@mac.com

**Family Service.** On Sunday 22nd February we had our second Family Church at Bramfield. Pauline presented the service and we all were blessed with a wonderful time together, and a wonderful message. While our congregation was small our hearts were blessed. If you have little ones, or are just looking for something that is less formal, the Family Church at Bramfield is a wonderful way to experience a little bit of Spirit and much heart.

**Ecotherapy East Tree Planting.** On 7th March, Eco-Therapy East held a hedgerow/tree planting at Foxtail Meadow in Bramfield. This field adjoins the churchyard for Bramfield St Andrew's. We had approximately 35 people from the little ones to the elders. Everyone was involved with the planting of around 370 of the saplings received from the Woodland Trust to help rebuild the hedgerows along the Walpole Road. It was an amazing time spent with neighbours, both from near and not so near, and getting to know many new people. Ecotherapy East holds nature and land related events on a regular basis and is a great way to get to know some very interesting and wonderful people, and if you have little ones, to introduce them to the joys of being in nature, in all its green, sometimes wet, glory.

If you'd like to find out more, do have a look at their website:

[www.ecotherapyeast.co.uk](http://www.ecotherapyeast.co.uk)

Or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact them via email at:

[ecotherapyeast.info@gmail.com](mailto:ecotherapyeast.info@gmail.com)

**Halesworth Food Bank Collection Box.** We have a collection box in the church porch for donations for the Halesworth Food Bank. Any donations of tinned and non-perishable items are gratefully received. Thank you for your support of this vital community organisation.

**Family Church at Bramfield St Andrew.** Sunday 26 April 10:00 AM. Family Church will be presented by Pauline, and the theme for this service will be David and Goliath. It is a shorter, simpler service, with things for everyone from all ages from the littles to the elders. All are welcome.

**Village Fete Saturday 1st August 12-4pm.** 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 12-4 and we hope to have the same kind of set up as previous years, with the Black Deek Band confirmed to come already, as well as Morris Dancers. 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 the 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](mailto:veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk)

By the time that you read this, our ORGAN RECITAL – "BACH TO THE FUTURE", with guest organist, Lyndon Ford, will have taken place on Friday, 13th March. Lyndon, responsible for organ installation, voicing and the technician for Wyvern Organs, rebuilt our

Copeman Hart organ, which was once the practice organ of William Lloyd-Webber. Lyndon has sent me an advance copy of the programme, which includes a very wide range of musical styles and composers, including William Lloyd-Webber, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Verdi and some popular numbers not usually associated with the organ such as Over the Rainbow, Moon River and A Nightingale sang in Berkley Square. There will be a guest appearance from J S Bach and audience participation in the finale.

Tickets have been selling and we are really looking forward to using Chediston church for such a special event.



Lyndon at the organ – not Chediston’s, but we will have a picture for the next issue

It will have been a busy weekend, as Mothering Sunday is on the 15th and Chediston is holding an all-age service at 10.00am, followed by Simnel Cake, tea, coffee, squash and social. We will be ringing for the service beforehand.

Easter at Chediston will be quiet, as there are no services at St Mary’s, BUT there are lots taking place throughout the Benefice of 14 churches including Wissett, the village next door, so please refer to the Blyth Valley Times.

## Cookley

**Correspondent Jane Evers**  
[janeeversj@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**01986 873336**

[halesworthparish@gmail.com](mailto:halesworthparish@gmail.com)

It hardly seems possible that we are already approaching the end of Lent and preparing once again to sing those joyful words, “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”. Lent invites us into a quieter season of reflection, sometimes a time of waiting and longing as we look for the light of God in our lives. Yet as Easter approaches, that light begins to break through again, reminding us that hope and new life are always at the heart of the Christian story.

Here at St Mary’s we are also beginning to see the signs of spring: brighter mornings, longer days, and perhaps even the promise of some warmer weather. With the new season comes plenty happening in and around the church.

So, diaries at the ready. During Holy Week the Chediston Art Group will be holding an exhibition on 2nd, 3rd and 4th April. The Produce Market will take place from 9am–1pm on 11th April, and the St George’s Day Parade will be on Saturday 25th April at 2.30pm.

One highlight will be the stunning voices of The Bohemian Choir from Liberec in the Czech Republic, performing at 6pm on Monday 27th April. After the concert there

will be an opportunity to meet the choir members and share stories together.

Throughout April, Pauline, our Youth Minister, will also be running a range of activities and events for families and young people, so do keep an eye on the posters and social media for details. As always, everyone is warmly welcome at any of our events and concerts.

Looking ahead to 3pm Sunday 3rd May, we will also be welcoming back Elizabeth and Malcolm of Chanters Jigge, but more about that next month.

You may have noticed the church clock has not been striking properly and occasionally stops. If you look up at the north clock face facing the Market Place, you might spot the cause — pigeons have returned and are nesting there between 6 and 7pm, which keeps interrupting the mechanism!

Our usual pattern of worship continues: Morning and Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel Tuesday to Saturday at 8am and 6pm, Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10am, and Sunday services at 8am, 10am and 6pm. Our main Sunday services are also livestreamed for those unable to join us in person via our YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish](http://www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish)

As we approach Easter, may the joy of the resurrection fill our hearts with renewed hope and peace. A prayer for Easter - Risen Lord, as the dawn of Easter breaks, fill our hearts with the joy of your resurrection. Renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and help us share your love with all we meet. Amen.



### HALESWORTH WI REPORT

Frances Betts gave a very interesting talk on her career providing costumes for films and theatre productions which has given her an opportunity to work with many famous

names. She showed us a variety of fabrics that were used to make costumes, upholstery for hard wearing costumes such as great coats, also saris, silks and beaded fabrics, plus individual made-to-measure corsetry with flexible boning for ballet and films. Frances has made costumes for a wide variety of films, including Lady Jane Grey, Alexander, Les Miserable, Mama Mia and Wicked, for which she was flown to New York to look at their costumes. Also, she's made costumes for Madame Tussauds in Amsterdam.

1000 kilts were made for Braveheart, including a job she approached with some trepidation, taking the full measurements of Mel Gibson for his costume whilst he was wearing a kilt. Theatre and ballet costumes wear out as they are worn many times a week for each show, they need cleaning and constant repairing. Each show needs three costumes alike, one to fit the principal and two more for the understudies-all to fit them individually. We all admired the samples of material passed around and the beautiful workmanship.

## Heveningham

Correspondent

Jeanette Griffin

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As most people know, I simply can't get enough of the beauty of our church. It's always a pleasure walking over to open or close it and take a moment to enjoy everything around it. At this time of year especially, the colours in the churchyard are wonderful. The snowdrops give us their blanket of white, soon followed by the cheerful yellow of the daffodils. Then come the primroses, and before long the bluebells take their turn. Each one seems to arrive just as the last is fading.



It was actually a conversation like this with Annie that led us on to the subject of weddings. I mentioned that spring would be such a lovely time to get married. Imagine walking up to the church through a sea of yellow daffodils – it would make a beautiful picture.

But the truth is that weddings in churches are declining. I can think of a few possible reasons for this. The "all-in-one" wedding venues do offer an appealing alternative. Everything is in one place and some of the locations are stunning, although they can also be very expensive. There may also be a feeling that a church wedding is complicated, costly, or that you need to read the whole Bible before you can even think about it!

In reality, the answers might pleasantly surprise you. Yes, it is a little more expensive than a registry office, but not dramatically so. There can be additional costs if you'd like the bells rung or an organist to play, but those touches can make the day feel truly special. There are also certain criteria for getting married in a church, but again, it's usually much simpler than people expect. It's definitely worth having a chat with Rev Dominic, who will happily explain everything.

A recent wedding at St Margaret's was very personal to the bride and groom. They were able to make a few changes so the service reflected them as a couple, which made it a



very special day.

I understand that walking into a church service can feel a bit daunting if you're not sure what to expect – especially if you haven't been to one for a while. When I first moved to Heveningham, it was just after the Covid lockdowns and the church wasn't open every day. As services gradually started again, I often thought about going but wasn't quite sure what it would be like.

It actually took me about a year before I attended a service. When I did, I was greeted by friendly faces and have since met some lovely people. It certainly wasn't as scary as I had imagined!

Now that I've taken on the role of Church Warden, one of the things we're keen to keep is that same informal and welcoming atmosphere – both at services and at our events. Everyone who visits comments on how beautiful the church is and how calm and peaceful it feels inside. We love it, and it really is an honour to look after it.

That brings me to two things I'd like to mention.

First, we have our Open Day on March 28th. This will be a lovely opportunity to come and see the church, meet the team and learn a little more about what happens here. We'll also be sharing information about what the churches across the Blyth Valley offer. If you've ever wondered whether a church wedding might be for you, please do come along and have a chat with us. We even have a beautiful photograph in the church from a recent wedding which shows just how special it can look.

Secondly, Cookley Church needs your help. They are currently looking for new members to join their PCC to help keep their church open and well cared for. If you might be interested in the roles of Church Warden, Treasurer or Secretary, please do get in touch with Rev Dominic or Annie in the office.

I never imagined I would become a Church Warden. I wasn't particularly religious and I didn't know very much about the protocols or services. In fact, I think the same could probably be said for many members of our PCC. What we do share, though, is a love for our church. If you speak to most church wardens, they'll tell you the same thing – it really is an honour to look after these wonderful buildings, and it's surprisingly enjoyable too.

Let's keep them alive and loved.

So do think about getting involved... and perhaps even look into those church weddings. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

With thanks, as always, Jeanette

## Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett

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Did you see the daffodils in the churchyard? They were wonderful. I don't remember there being so many before. Perhaps they liked the hot dry spring that we had last year, and the recent wet weather. Whatever the reason they were (and possibly still are) a joy to behold!

I am writing this column just before we celebrate Mothering Sunday, a feast day in the season of Lent, when we thank God for those who mothered us and for our Church family and its care for us. As is our custom we will have distributed posies of spring flowers to those in church, hopefully we will have had some children with us who were able to give posies to their mothers. But as we all had mothers we can all give thanks and accept posies on their behalf.

Excitingly we also had a significant birthday to celebrate! Our very own (Dr) Bill Pagan was 90 and we marked his birthday with cake and wine. Bill is a much-valued member of our church family and the local community so it is lovely to have had this opportunity to share his birthday with him.

We are now rapidly approaching Easter. The Stations of the Cross pilgrimage round churches in the Blyth Valley will have happened on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Now we wait for the agony of Good Friday before the triumph of the Resurrection and joy of Easter Day.

For all services at St Peter's and around the Blyth Valley refer to page 3.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 22nd April 7pm for 7.30pm.

Chris Kneve will be stepping down as church warden. We thank Chris for all his work on our account. But this means that we do need to elect new wardens at this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting. If you feel that you are able to take on this role please let Chris know (he is also our Parochial Church Council [PCC] Secretary).

We also need additional PCC members to help with the day-to-day running of the church. Again, if you feel able to do this please let Chris know so that your name can be put forward at the APCM.

We will, of course, be having some wine and nibbles before the meeting, so don't miss out!

**Champing.** Welcome to the world of Champing (church + camping), a concept developed almost a decade ago by the Churches Conservation Trust, the national charity protecting historic churches at risk. Their goal is to provide unique and exclusive access to these incredible buildings – early medieval, Gothic, Georgian, Victorian, and more. St Peter's Holton is looking into the exciting idea of being a "Champing Church". Administration is taken care of by the CCT, while we provide a camping experience inside the church, outside of the time when services and church activities take place.

We will need some practical help with setting up camp beds etc for our visitors.

If you could be part of this new venture, we would love to hear from you. Call: 07944267733.

More information about Champing can be found at [www.champing.co.uk](http://www.champing.co.uk)

**Spring Clean.** Monday 20th April: We would really like some help with cleaning the church. Our volunteer cleaners do an amazing job, but they need some help with the "Spring Clean". We will begin around 10am. Just an hour (or 2 perhaps) of your time would be greatly appreciated. We will provide refreshments.

**Car Boot Sale Saturday 2nd May.** Time to book your pitch. If you are thinking of having a pitch, now is the time to book, before the rush!

Last year we had up to thirty stalls on the paddock, so it's worth booking in advance to secure your space. Ring: 07944267733 or 01986 872467

Please let me know if you could help on any of the church stalls i.e. bric-a-brac, tea tent, raffle or BBQ. We also need raffle prizes, items of bric-a-brac, homemade cakes.

We are looking forward to another enjoyable community day.

**Jackie (Holton PCC)**

**More dates for your diary.**

Tuesday 7th April Walking the Labyrinth 2-4pm at St Peter's Church and on the paddock. This month's theme is Celtic Knotwork. Come along and enjoy a time of quiet, prayer and craft (if you wish) and tea and cake.

Saturday 11th April, Halesworth Ukelele Band, 3 to 4.30pm. A concert in church in aid of St Peter's. Tickets are £5 available from 01986 873575 or Halesworth Bookshop (cash only).

Refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle.

## Huntingfield

**Correspondent Sally Clarke**  
[sally.clarke@live.com](mailto:sally.clarke@live.com)

Our APCM will be held at the church on Wednesday 25th March from 7pm. The annual report will show the accounts for 25/26 plus activities and events held over the last 12 months and written reports from the Churchwarden and Treasurer.

Recently we have seen an increase in numbers of our congregation attending the monthly services: 4th Sunday in the month at 10am. The Compline services held during Advent and Lent have also been well supported.

On Good Friday afternoon from 2pm Jenny Blackmore and Pauline Milsted will be hosting an 'Easter Garden' workshop at the church. To help create your individual

gardens there will be pots, compost, seeds and flowers for young and old to have a go. There will also be refreshments, colouring activities and you get to take your 'garden' home with you. This is a 'drop in' session so feel free to call in anytime between 2 - 3pm.

**Titanic History Day - Huntingfield Church**

**Saturday 18th April at 3pm**

**3pm Service of Commemoration for all victims of Titanic**

**Unveiling of memorial to Huntingfield resident Thomas Cupper Mudd**

**'White Star Line' Afternoon Tea  
£5 per head**

**Plus information on Thomas and his life in Huntingfield**

Past visitors to the church will know that in order to see the painted ceiling better there is a £1 light coin box which illuminates the ceiling for a few minutes. That coin box has now been replaced with a new one that accepts either payment through your mobile phone using a QR code or £1 coins only - please do not be tempted to put shopping trolley tokens or foreign coins in. They really do 'jam' the mechanics and prevent other visitors from seeing the ceiling in all its glory. We hope this dual facility to light up the ceiling will enable even more visitors to enjoy Mildred Holland's art work.

If there is a group of you wanting to visit and learn more about the church we offer 'talks and tours' for more information contact the churchwarden, Emma Ward on 01986 785343.

## Linstead

**Correspondent**

**Malcolm Heath 01986 785289**

**[www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk)**

THE IDEA OF SAVIOURS WITH chainsaws may sound bizarre, until you have a storm such as we did. Lumps of tree were falling all around and were a source of danger to anyone driving. But rapid work with the chainsaw, restored a degree of normality. Thank you, Rupert! Of course, the power went off, in fairness it would have been faintly surprising if it hadn't. Full credit to the power people, who had it back on within two hours and sent us a comforting (automated) 'phone message. This was reassuring. In days gone by, when the power went off, the we always assumed it was just us and took it rather personally.

CHEDISTON & LINSTAD W.I. HELD their annual Birthday Lunch in March and went to the Spexhall Huntsman & Hounds. They were very well looked after and had a great time. Their next meeting is on 14th April

and their speaker will be Julie Hadridge, who will be telling them all about making chocolate.

### 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 Church-  
wardens and have YOUR say about  
how the church is run. Please come  
along and support us and make  
YOUR views known.

As an added incentive, there will be  
wine, cheese and other nibbles.

## Spexhall

Correspondent Keith Noakes  
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(\*Spexhall is thought to be Anglo-Saxon  
for 'woodpecker') Facebook: St Peter's  
Spexhall and Spexhall Village Hall



**Flying the Flag!** Lots of people enjoy seeing St George's flag flying from our tower. As the church is quite high (for Suffolk) it can be seen from a distance. St George's Day, 23rd of April, is when the English take particular pride in the flag. In its proper use the flag gives us a sense of belonging and of nationhood which aims to unite, not exclude. The flag can only be kept flying by

funding. Unfortunately a flag may last for only a couple of months before it needs replacing owing to the prevailing wind which eventually frays the side hem. Contributions to 'keep the flag flying' are always welcome. It costs about £20 for a new flag. There are small envelopes at the back of church for cash to hand in after the service, or folded and popped in the donations box at the back of church. Please see this as an 'extra' if you would like to contribute. We still need money to run the church and for the Renovation Project! Without your contributions we just couldn't keep the door open. THANK YOU.

**Easter Day.** On Easter Day (5th April) the Church has its most important festival of the year. A celebration of the triumph of love over evil, of life over death. Thanks in advance to all those who contribute to cleaning and preparing the church and grounds for this most important day. Thanks too to those who decorate the church and fill it with flowers. A Service of Morning Prayer will be at 10am, with the lighting of the Paschal Candle; a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus and of the promise of eternal life. All are very welcome to the service. Do stay behind afterwards for some refreshments. Easter Bonnets optional (but always enjoyed!)

#### The Renovation Project

Your Woodpecking correspondent is very glad to write that the Renovation Project is going well, but we are not there yet! With your generous help, and with the help of various grant funding bodies, we really hope that we can re-lead the tower roof (which had a bad leak recently, and now a temporary fix) and re-tile the slate roof over the nave, which is in a poor state. As you know, perhaps the most important thing is to protect a building from rain. If we can achieve the re-roofing we have gone a long way to preserving the building. If you can help with a contribution for the renovation we would be extremely grateful. We are mindful of our responsibility to spend all money given to the church with the utmost care as it is so kindly given. Again, Thank You!

#### The Village People

Woodpecker sometimes perches over at the village hall to have a nosy. The hall people had an amazing fire safety assessment by their Fire Safety Officer, together with training. It made them realise that they didn't know half as much as they should know. But now they do! He has also contributed to the Hall Bookings Agreement which has been updated by our Hall Bookings Secretary. So....do think about our lovely hall for your next special event/meeting/club/party. Booking details via [spexhallvh@gmail.com](mailto:spexhallvh@gmail.com). Special thanks to Steve and Ruth for all the hard work!

#### Horse Race Night

The Fire Safety Officer also suggested a 'Horse Race Night' to raise funds for the Village Hall. Is there no end to his talents?! He did make it clear that no real horses would be used in the making of the races, but you can do wonders with Artificial Intelligence these days. Anyway, race night is Friday 25th May. There will also be a Dog Show on Saturday 29th of August. Save the dates! Details to follow.

#### A Secret Gift Could be Yours!

Have you thought of subscribing to the Blyth Valley Times? Not only do you get top class journalism from correspondents all over the Blyth Valley, but you help support the church and its work too. See the panel in the BVT for details. Any NEW subscribers to the BVT from Spexhall will be given a limited edition secret gift! Why delay? SUBSCRIBE TODAY!\*

(\*terms and conditions apply)

## Thorington

Correspondent  
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A quiet time of year here...do visit the wonderful spring flowers and there is a bench in the churchyard to sit and enjoy the peace there. Services are posted on page 3 of the magazine and we welcome all.

The APCM will be held at the church on 7th May at 7:30pm but come for 7pm and enjoy wine and refreshments before! All are welcome and all ideas and offers of help welcome then to keep this special church going. Any queries call Trish 01502 478078.

## 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

01502 478502

margaret@wrush.plus.com

The spring flowers are looking lovely at the moment which reminds us that Easter isn't far away when we mourn Jesus death on the cross and then three days later celebrate his marvellous resurrection. Wenhaston church will be festooned with lilies and spring flowers for our service on Easter Sunday and for our Teas on Easter Monday from 3pm onwards. We look forward to seeing many of you at 10am on Easter Day and on Easter Monday for tea. There will also be a United Service of contemplation with our Methodist Friends on Good Friday at 2 to 3pm in St Peter's. A reminder that our Plant Sale is on Saturday 23rd May in the Church Yard so if anyone has any spare plants we should be grateful. Congratulations to Michaela and Andy who are being married on 10th April in St Peter's.

### EASTER LILIES..

A Reminder! As in past years you are invited to dedicate a lily or lilies in remembrance of loved ones at Easter. The list is on the table at the back of the Church for you to add your details. We suggest a donation of £5.00 for each lily and the money can be given to either Margaret or put through the letter box at Spindleberry with your details. A list of all names etc. will be on display in the Church during Easter. This Idea has been appreciated at many Easters by people in the village and we are extremely grateful for the donations which you have made.

### WENHASTON MOTHER'S UNION

We all very much appreciated the talk at our February meeting which was given by the Revd. Edmund Smith. We enjoyed and appreciated hearing Edmund's thoughts on the services and traditions of Holy Week. Also it was the first time that Edmund had spoken at our MU and I know that the members enjoyed chatting to him over tea and biscuits!

For our March meeting, the Revd. Iain McKillop is joining us when he will revisit lenten traditions. I know that Iain has put much time into exploring this subject and I am sure that we shall all enjoy his talk.

Four of the Members enjoyed the lent reflection and lunch at Fressingfield earlier in the month and it was good and encouraging to meet up with members from other branches in the North Suffolk Area.

On Lady Day, 25th March some of us hope to be at the Lady Day Service in Ipswich Minster. A speaker from Guide Dogs for the Blind will be at our April Meeting and I know that most of the members are particularly interested as we are also going to entertain two Guide Dogs!

### Wenhaston Flower Club

Our post Christmas meal at The Randolph Hotel Reydon in February was enjoyed by all.



At our March meeting we welcomed Sheila from Callendars Florists, Framlingham for the first time at our club first time who demonstrated "A Spring Wedding" for us Sheila kept us entertained for the whole time with her humorous stories as she demonstrated a top table spray, a buttonhole and a spring-themed bridal bouquet.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we would be delighted to welcome Sheila back in the future. Our meeting in April is continuing our wedding

theme as we welcome back Nicola Wright with a Buttonhole Workshop. Details of what to bring will be going out in the club's newsletter. We will meet in our usual venue, Wenhaston Village Hall on Tuesday 7th April 7.30 pm.

### Wenhaston Walks

Our first walk of the month will leave Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday, 7th April (the day after Easter Monday). The second walk on Tuesday, 21st April, led by Ali and David, starts out from the King's Head (popularly known as the Low House), Laxfield IP13 8DW at 10am. We will order lunch before setting out.

If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email: [ipbigwood@btinternet.com](mailto:ipbigwood@btinternet.com)

## Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester

01986 835869

marypester@rocketmail.com

"Loveliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride  
Wearing white for Eastertide"

Let us hope, in these uncertain times, that April is not cruel but calm and peaceful with Easter early in the month.

Our Stations of the Cross paintings were painted and given to the church by Rev Derek Tilson, late of this parish. They go up on Ash Wednesday and stay up until Ascension Day.

On Good Friday, 3rd April we have a service of the Stations of the Cross at 10.00am. Following the cross we then process up the up the hill (more of a slope really), up the village field, back down to the church. Following this service, hot cross buns will be served in the back of the church.

The church will then be gloriously decorated to celebrate the wonderful return to life of Easter. Maybe not with cherry blossom, but I hope to play a part in the decorating with spring flowers, branches and little eggs to symbolise new life.

Have you noticed how well the daffodils are doing this year? Maybe they appreciated the wet winter more than most of us? Thinking of things in bloom, here is advance notice of the ever popular Wissett Plant Sale! This is a fund raising effort for the upkeep of the church. It is on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th of May in Wissett Village Hall at 10.00am.

It seems strange to think of May on this misty, moisty Monday in March as I write this. Let us hope for peace and to "be of good courage, holding fast to that which is good".

**Plant SALE**  
Wissett Village Hall  
Bank Holiday Monday  
4th May 10:30 - 12:30

Wide range of plants  
cakes, tea & coffee

In aid of St Andrews Church Wissett



**fAmiLy**  
**Breakfast Church**

12th April at 10 am  
St Mary's Halesworth

### 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 Wenhaston.  
*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](http://www.newbysofhalesworth.com)

## University Choir return!

I am writing again at this time of year regarding the repeat visit to Suffolk of the Student Choir of the University of Liberec in Bohemia.

The choir of approximately 30 students will present a concert at St Mary's Church, Halesworth, on Monday 27th April at 6pm. The theme this year is 'The Stories of the Czech Crystal and Glass' in words and music. As Jana, one of their music directors says, "The stories are truly beautiful". Other music will include Handel's Hallelujah chorus, and music of Karl Jenkins.

The choir's connection with Suffolk is that their musical director and English teacher is Christopher Muffett, who has strong links with Southwold, where his mother still lives.

During its week's stay, the choir will visit many local schools during the day, and will perform concerts in the evenings, mainly in local churches.

I can strongly recommend the concert in St Mary's Church to everyone. The admission is free, and it will last approximately an hour. After the concert, the choir members, average age about 21, are keen to meet and talk with the audience, to improve their English, which is already very good.

As I mentioned a year ago, exchanges of people of different countries and cultures, especially the young, is very important, even more so in the present day and age.

Last year, we had a wonderfully large and enthusiastic audience, so please do come!

**Bill Pagan**



## Plant Fair

**Saturday 30th May**

**10am - 3pm**

**All Saints' Church**

**Mendham, Harleston IP20 ONH**



Bedding & Border plants for sale

Garden *bring & buy* stall

Silent Auction & Raffle

Light Refreshments available

**FREE ADMISSION**

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**We look forward to seeing you!**



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## Safeguarding— it's everyone's responsibility

Congratulations to: John Ash, Annie Groves, Sue Norrington, Alfred Mullett and Cecelia Metherell, who attended safeguarding - county lines training on 3rd March 2026 with Pauline Milsted. It is so important as a church that we keep up to date with our safeguarding.

Question and Answers:

### What are County Lines?

County lines are the illegal movement of drugs, weapons and criminal activity from one area to another.

### What is cuckooing?

Cuckooing is when criminal gangs take over someone's house for criminal activity.

How many county lines are there predicted to be in the UK?

It is predicted that there are over 6,500 county lines operating across England, Wales and Scotland.

### How does County Lines work?

Criminal gangs take advantage of vulnerable people through coercion, intimidation, bribery, manipulation, grooming, violence, enticing, debt bondage, financial and sexual exploitation.

### What are the signs someone is being exploited?

There are several signs that you might see: new faces, change in friendships, suddenly having lots of designer clothes, or new items, missing school, lots of train or bus tickets, youth getting in vehicles with unknown people, anti-social behaviour, change in demeanour and unknown injuries.

### What to do if you are concerned for a child, young person or vulnerable adult?

Speak to Pauline or Annie the safeguarding leads at the Blyth Valley Churches, or put in a MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) referral if outside the church context.

Here is the weblink to refer:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/protecting-people-at-risk-of-abuse/mash/contact-the-multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash>

Pauline Milsted

## Safeguarding Lead Vacancy

Are you passionate about safeguarding? Do you have experience from your working or volunteering life you'd like to use to help develop our safeguarding work here at Blyth Valley Churches?

We have a fulfilling volunteer role here waiting for the right person. If you're interested we would love to hear from you! Please contact Annie (details on p.16).

### Last but not least....



Congratulations to the following people for completing safeguarding training/refreshers recently:

Dominic Doble, Liz Doble, Jason Busby, Sal Jenkinson, Fiona Pagan

Annie Groves

Join Us for Family Fun!

# DAVID & GOLIATH ADVENTURE

Family Service  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 10 AM**

✂ St Andrew's Church, Bramfield ✂

**J Macs Grass Cutting**  
 Suffolk Costal

Joshua Mac  
 07368692409  
[joshuamacgardening2022@outlook.com](mailto:joshuamacgardening2022@outlook.com)

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# WHAT'S ON

## Easter Week Services @ Blyth Valley Churches

**Maundy Thursday 2nd April 6pm**  
 Holy Communion, St Mary's, Halesworth  
**Good Friday 3rd April 10am**  
 Stations of the Cross Service, St Andrew's Wissett  
**Good Friday 3rd April 10:30am**  
 Walk of Witness, URC Church  
**Good Friday 3rd April 8pm**  
 Tenebrae Service, St Peter's, Spexhall.  
**Saturday 4th April 6pm**  
 Easter Vigil, St Mary's, Halesworth  
 Also, later in April:  
**Saturday 25th April 2:30pm**  
 St George's Parade starts outside Edgar Sewter Primary School  
 (service in church on arrival, at 3pm).

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS PILGRIMAGE –

10am-5pm  
 Saturday 28th March

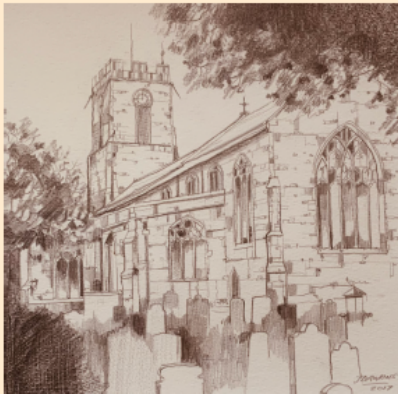
### Blyth Valley Churches

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.



## ANOTHER GOOD REASON TO GO TO CHURCH THIS EASTER

If you are into local art, visit our exhibition and sale of work at St Mary's Church in the centre of Halesworth.

You're free to come in anytime\*.

If you can't make it Good Friday

It'll be just as good Thursday and Saturday.

### THE CHEDISTON ART GROUP

**\*Open 2nd / 3rd / 4th April 2026**

**10am till 4pm**

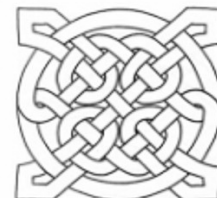
Further Information: John Dawkins 07392 821404

john\_dawkins@sky.com

## Walking the Labyrinth A Time for Reflection



**TUESDAY 7th April 2026 2 - 4pm**  
 St Peter's Church, Holton



### "Celtic Knotwork"

*Everyone welcome*

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

**Future meetings:**  
 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June.

# WHAT'S ON

**FREE**

## Draw the Verse



**9<sup>th</sup> April 6-7 pm**  
**St Mary's Church,**  
**Halesworth**

- Draw it!
- Learn it!
- Discuss it!
- Live it!
- Study it!

*"A deer longs for streams of water.  
 God, I long for you in the same way."  
 Psalm 42 verse 1*

**11-16 years old**

**Snack Time**



## WHAT'S ON AT ST MARY'S

Spring 2026



<p><b>Saturday 14 March</b>  <b>PRODUCE MARKET</b>                  9am-1pm</p>	<p><b>Saturday 28 March</b>  <b>DAY OF DANCE</b>                  FOLK ORCHESTRA - 3pm</p>
<p><b>2-4 April</b>  <b>CHEDISTON ART GROUP EXHIBITION</b>                  10am-4pm</p>	<p><b>25 April</b>  <b>ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE</b>                  2.30pm</p>
<p><b>Saturday 11 April</b>  <b>PRODUCE MARKET</b>                  9am-1pm</p>	<p><b>27 April</b>  <b>BOHEMIAN GIRLS CHOIR CONCERT</b>                  7pm</p>

**ALL WELCOME • ST MARY'S CHURCH • HALESWORTH**

## PLANT SALE SATURDAY

**16<sup>TH</sup> MAY** *in aid of*  
**ALL SAINTS, BLYFORD**  
 11am - 2pm, Blyford Green

DONATIONS OF PLANTS WELCOME

*Please leave on the table by the church porch or bring on the day. Thank you!*



INFORMATION: 07786 292145

*Come and Make an Easter Garden*



at Huntingfield Church  
 3rd April 2026  
 2-3 pm



# WHAT'S ON

Local produce and crafts



From local growers and makers

## HALESWORTH PRODUCE MARKET

EST. 2003

<b>ST. MARY'S HALESWORTH</b>	FEB 14th MAR 14th APR 11th MAY 9th JUN 13th	JUL 11th AUG 8th SEP 12th OCT 10th NOV 14th DEC 12th
----------------------------------	---	---

**9am - 1pm**



# Youth Space

6-7:30 pm

**MONDAYS**

**WEEKLY**

Restarting  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

# Your Space

# YOUTH CHOIR!



Starts 4th April 2026  
Every Fortnight | 5:00 - 5:45 PM

**BSL & NEW SONGS**

10 - 18 Years Old




# Celebrate Easter with Family Fun!

At our Easter Family Picnic!

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

1<sup>st</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026

11:30 am till 1 pm




# Church Mice Tots Group

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



**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>

# WHAT'S ON



## Easter Crafts Eggtravaganza

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

6th April 2026  
2-4 pm

*Free!*



## 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)




St Margaret's Church  
Heveningham with  
Ubbeston

## OPEN DAY

SATURDAY  
28TH MARCH 2026  
11:00 - 16:00 HRS

Learn about the history of St Margaret's  
Find out more about our yearly events  
and fundraising



Try your hand at Bell Ringing  
13.30 - 15.30 hrs

Children's  
Activities

Free  
Refreshments



View the beautiful embroidered hangings  
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WENHASTON

## Easter Lilies & Spring flowers

WE INVITE YOU TO VIEW THE FLOWERS ON



### Easter Sunday and Monday

Throughout the day

### Teas on Easter Monday at 3pm


Come and see the church decorated with flowers for Easter  
Donate a Lily or spring flowers in memory of a loved one





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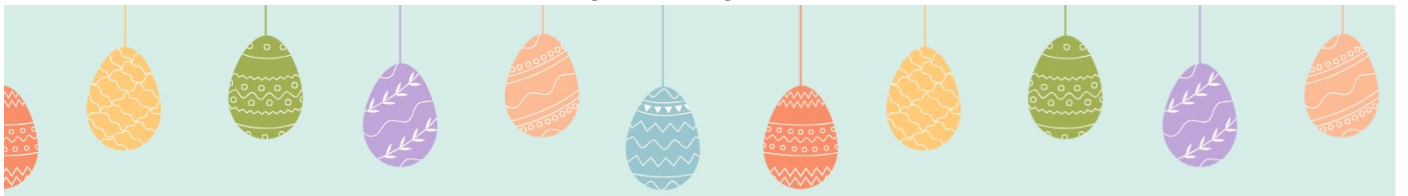
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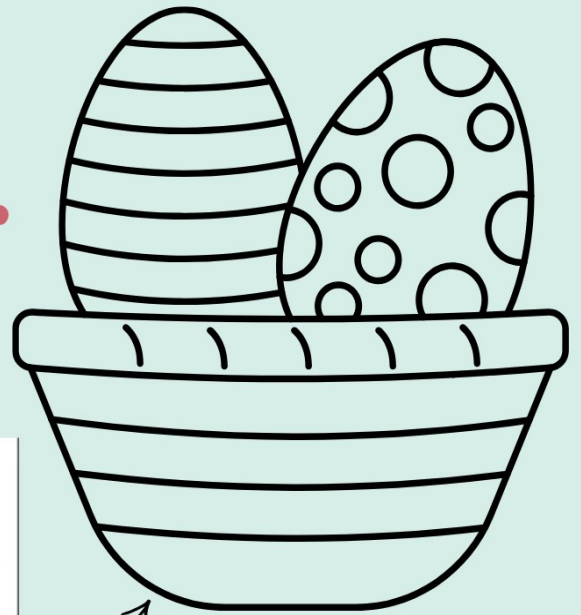
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# HAPPY Easter



colour me



## EASTER WORD SEARCH



EASTER	C	B	A	S	K	E	T	G	R	E	K	L	A	W	X
BUNNY	H	U	A	B	M	I	L	E	A	S	T	E	R	D	J
CHICK	T	N	S	M	K	A	O	R	C	P	L	A	C	P	B
EGGS	S	N	C	Y	Y	D	R	C	C	Q	R	K	U	M	L
CARROT	C	Y	L	C	I	A	R	G	Q	L	A	M	B	K	O
SPRING	A	A	H	E	W	F	O	D	S	T	O	A	A	C	S
DAFFODIL	R	G	N	O	F	F	I	A	S	S	G	Y	C	E	S
LAMB	R	W	T	D	P	O	Q	J	N	W	A	E	K	X	O
BASKET	O	A	C	S	Y	D	L	O	B	T	E	R	S	P	M
HUNT	T	L	N	E	A	I	U	Y	K	I	N	O	O	T	R
TULIP	R	I	V	N	K	L	I	C	N	N	M	I	S	C	E
CANDY	A	C	I	C	K	M	A	I	K	T	E	E	P	R	K
DUCKLING	X	J	I	J	F	Y	T	S	O	L	R	A	R	N	E
RABBIT	U	H	G	W	J	N	D	R	E	W	I	P	I	E	N
BLOSSOM	C	W	X	T	U	L	I	P	N	O	R	N	N	E	N
	X	J	O	H	V	Z	I	C	O	J	E	G	G	S	A
	U	Y	R	A	B	B	I	T	F	I	J	P	V	E	B
	X	J	D	O	F	Z	I	C	B	J	W	E	S	T	S

