



Blyth Valley Times

Church in Community—Community in Church

May 2026

Space for Youth!

£1.50

(where sold)

At Youth Space we have worked hard to cultivate a space of belonging, safety and togetherness. It is amazing to see our youth grow and develop like they have in the past 18 months. To take ownership of their church and call it "our church!" To help us with the everyday jobs, as part of what we do. We have developed such amazing relationships and have also added to our youth provision, offering "Draw the Verse" monthly, and we have just launched a youth choir. It is so exciting to have them as part of our church. We often hear people say, "Children are the church of the future!", but I challenge that children are the church of NOW. We don't need to wait for the future, they are already here. **Pauline Milsted**


Church means to me that I am part of a community that will accept anyone and will help redo their wrongs and will help others. It also means to me that I can follow God and he will always protect me and we both go to Youth Space, which is really fun and that links to church, because Pauline helps us learn about God and understand his ways and what God is all about. *Amelia*

Church means to me that I can be loved and follow God and be welcomed into the community.

Makayla



FREE **Draw the Verse**




14th May 6-7 pm
St Mary's Church,
Halesworth

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

"My sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me."
John 10 verse 27

11-16 years old **Snack-Time!**



YOUTH CHOIR!



2nd, 16th and 30th May 2026
Every Fortnight | 5:00 - 5:45 PM

BSL & NEW SONGS
10 - 18 Years Old



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.

To subscribe, with a copy delivered locally through your door each month, the minimum donation is £18 a year please.

You can also request a postal subscription, costing £40 a year.

Telephone 01986 875941/07752 275328 or email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com for further details

Blyford - Bramfield - Chediston - Cookley - Halesworth - Heveningham with Ubbeston - Holton - Huntingfield - Linstead - Spexhall - Thorington - Walpole - Wenhaston - Wissett.

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May Lectionary

Sunday the 3rd

Holy Communion – The Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)
 Acts 7. 55-end (NRSV)
 John 14. 1-14 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Fourth Sunday after Easter (White)

James 1.17-21 (KJV)

John 16. 5-15 (KJV)

Sunday the 10th

Holy Communion – The Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)
 Acts 17. 22-31 (NRSV)
 John 14. 15-21 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Fifth Sunday after Easter/
 Rogation Sunday (White)

James 1. 22-end (KJV)

John 16. 23b-end (KJV)

Sunday the 17th

Holy Communion – The Seventh Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 1. 6-14 (NRSV)

John 17. 1-11 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Sunday after Ascension Day (White)

1 Pet. 4. 7-11 (KJV)

John 15. 26-16.4a (KJV)

Sunday the 24th

Holy Communion – Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday) (Red)

Acts 2. 1-21 (NRSV)

John 7.37-39 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – Whit Sunday (Red)

Acts 2. 1-11(KJV)

John 14. 15-31a (KJV)

Sunday the 31st

Holy Communion – Trinity Sunday (Gold or White)

2 Cor. 13.11-end (NRSV)

Matt. 28. 16-end (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – Trinity Sunday (Gold or White)

Rev. 4. 1-11(KJV)

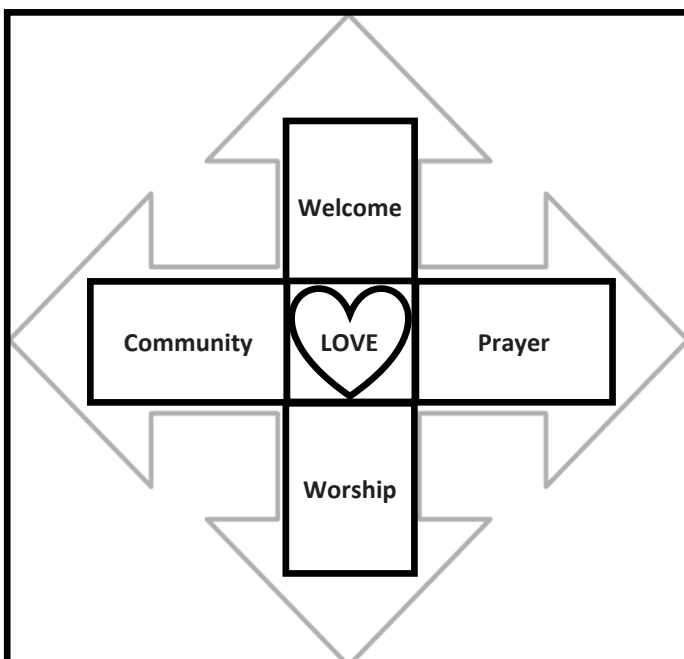
John 3. 1-15 (KJV)

St. Mary's Church Halesworth

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE

www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

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YouTube
 CHANNEL



SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

10am Holy Communion, every Wednesday.

8am Traditional Communion, every Sunday.

6pm Evensong, most Sundays.

| Worship in the Blyth Valley in May 2026 | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| CW – Year A Continuous New Testament | 3 rd White CW – Fifth of East- er BCP – Fifth after Easter | 10 th White CW – Sixth of Easter BCP- Fifth after Easter/Rogation Sunday | 17 th White CW – Seventh of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day) BCP – Sunday after Ascension Day | 24 th Red CW - Day of Pente- cost (Whit Sunday) BCP – Whit Sunday | 31 st White CW – Trinity Sunday BCP – Trinity Sunday |
| Halesworth St Mary | 8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Dominic 6pm Evensong Edmund | 8am Traditional Communion Adrian 10am Family Communion Dominic and Pauline | 8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Iona Worship Jason | 8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Vic 6pm Evensong Dominic | |
| St Peter Group | | | | | |
| Holton St Peter | | 10am Iona Chris and Gary Atkins | 6pm Taize Linda | 10am Holy Communion Linda | |
| Wenhaston St Peter | | 10am Joint Service with Methodists at St Peter's Edmund | 10am Holy Communion Alison | 10am Pause for Thought Veronica M | |
| Bramfield St Andrew | | | 10am Holy Communion Dominic | 10am Family Service Pauline | |
| Blyford All Saints | | | 10am Wild Church Edmund | | |
| Thorington St Peter | | | | 10am Holy Communion Alison | |
| St Andrew Grp | | | | | |
| Wissett St Andrew | | 2:30pm Rogation Sunday Walk to Spexhall Jim | 10am Holy Communion Linda | 10am Morning Prayer Charlotte | |
| Chediston St Mary | | 10am Holy Communion Alison | | 10am Morning Prayer Veronica D | |
| Spexhall St Peter | | | | 10am Holy Communion Dominic | |
| Linstead St Margaret | | | 10am Matins Malcolm | | 10am Holy Communion Dominic |
| St Michael Grp | | | | | |
| Cookley St Michael | | | 9.30am Traditional Communion Desmond | | |
| Heveningham St Margaret | | 10am Traditional Communion Vic | | | |
| Huntingfield St Mary | | | | 10am Morning Prayer Jim | |
| Walpole St Mary | | | | 10am Morning Prayer Edmund | |

Additional services this month: 9:30am Tuesdays, Morning Prayer, St Peter's, Spexhall + 10am Wednesdays, Holy Communion, St Mary's, Halesworth + 9:30am Thursdays, Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Bramfield

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

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

3rd May Rev Ian McKillop
10th May Service with St Peter's 10am
17th May Rev Martin Keenan
24th May Service with St Peter's 10am
31st May Rev Les Richards

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am
(unless stated otherwise)
ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth
Father Christopher Smith

Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

Please enquire about our Service times and details



Morning and Evening Prayer

with the Revd Dominic Doble,
from Tuesdays to Saturdays
(Live streamed and later audio on Dominic's
YouTube channel).

From

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via:

8am Morning Prayer
Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092
Passcode - 607673

6pm Evening Prayer
Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304
Passcode - 825686

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Sunday 3rd May 2026 11.00am
Gathered Worship with Peter Wagg

Tuesday 5th May 2026 10am to 12 noon
Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by
Morning Worship

Friday 8th May 2026 9.30am
Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by
Coffee Morning

Sunday 10th May 2026 11. 00am
Gathered Worship with Michael H-Cooper

3pm BRAMFIELD CHAPEL

Sunday 17th May 11.00am
Gathered Worship with Elizabeth

Tuesday 19th May 10am to 12 noon
Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by
Morning Worship

Friday 22nd May 9.30am
Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by
Coffee Morning

Sunday 24th May 11.00am
Gathered Worship with Paul Potts

Tuesday 26th May 10am to 12 noon
Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by
Morning Worship

Friday 29th May 9.30am
Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by
Coffee Morning



Sunday 31st May 11.00am
Gathered Worship with Judy
Morton

From the Rector...

One of the great joys of being part of any organisation is welcoming new people to it. For voluntary organisations this is especially true, whether you are a bowls club, the Lions or the local church committee. Amongst other reasons, current members will be pleased that other people will benefit from their aims and objectives. Also, the arrival of new people gives reassurance that those aims and objectives are more likely to be continued for the foreseeable future as extant committees become increasingly threadbare.


There are a number of challenges to such recruitment for any organisation. Only a small number of people will be sufficiently interested to seek them out. Someone may have had a relative or other significant person who was involved in the hobby, way of life or charity. So when they move, change job, or otherwise hit a re-set, they explore how they might engage or re-ignite that passion. The difficulty can be reaching people with no such latent regard or openness. Happily, as with many clubs or societies, the church offers a number of hooks. We have social, or fellowship, as well as worship and discipleship aspects. You could be more interested in helping to clean the building or manage the churchyard for wildlife. It may be that you want to keep your grey cells ticking over so want to take on the accounts or building management to facilitate public use. Perhaps its the heritage that you feel needs to be cared for, more widely understood and or benefitted from. That may mean you feel called to curate the war graves, ancient Bibles, family records, or ecclesiastical features from Dooms and Roods to tiles and frontals.

It could be said, however, that there are particular obstacles that our church groups face in welcoming new members. A number could be categorised as the church's public image. There is no one size fits all response to what does the church think about this or that. Nevertheless, people's reading and experience can entrench preconceptions about views on marriage, ministry from non-males, action on slavery or sexual abuse of children. Another misconception is money. There is in fact very little money about either, outside the Church Commissioners and the experience of Anglicans in and around London. Central Government has fallen foul of this and recently removed a VAT reclaim scheme. This effectively means any new toilet, kitchen or other project aimed at making our buildings more

accessible will cost one fifth more. Our local governance is also being moved more determinedly under the auspices of the Charity Commission. We have always been accountable, but this move brings significant adjustments particularly for parishes with smaller bank balances. We will increasingly find our reporting and other matters are going to be tightened up, becoming more burdensome. Finally, when we think of 'The Church', we imagine some well oiled professional superstructure. In fact 'The Church' in your town and village is you, us, our community; those of our neighbours who give their time, money and talents in good times and in bad, year in year out. Without us, or them, we couldn't have this concert, that funeral, this moment of reflection or that picnic out of the sun.

Once one has taken the plunge and chosen to become involved, one discovers a wealth of creative opportunity. This is an organisation like no other. We are predominantly run by local volunteers. Small groups beaver away in their village, caring and fundraising, for the community, church, churchyard and clergy stipends. We have rules for how these local teams work and a constitution that sets out how we work together across the Blyth Valley. Our collective effort is most obvious in the invaluable contribution of Annie's professional administrative support and expertise. We also have central funding enabling Pauline's Children Family and Youth Ministry amongst us to be so fruitful. With thanks too, to Gary our honorary Lay Chair and Brian our newly recruited honorary Treasurer. Whilst each parish would love to hear from you if you are able to offer anything or yourself, our Joint Council is looking for four new volunteers. Each will be asked to champion one of the four Diocesan themes of Growing Younger, Growing in Number, Growing in Influence and Growing Deeper. The role is anticipated to involve reporting to our quarterly meetings, organising a strategic planning event and attending Diocesan training on that area of work. If that sounds inspiring to you do get in touch!

Dominic



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HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

“.....and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell” (Song of Solomon 2: 13)


Gazing out on the late-March garden, I reflect that by the time you read this ‘letter’ most of the profusion of early Spring flowers will be just a memory. The herbs, shrubs and trees will have already started the process of producing fruit and seeds.

Many of the teachings of Jesus are concerned with fruitfulness – or the lack of it. We remember the irregular yield of wheat in the parable of the Sower, fields that are “ripe already to harvest” and the unfruitful fig tree that was given one last chance (Luke 13: 6-9)! Jesus told His disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes.” (John 15: 1-2). They were the ‘branches’. As Jesus’ disciples we, too, are His ‘branches’ and are subject to the same treatment..

Careful pruning of the vines opens up the foliage allowing sunlight, water, sugar and minerals to reach the grapes. This allows them to ripen, and air circulation reduces humidity so reducing the risk of disease. So, too, the Father prunes us, the Son’s branches, to allow us to receive His blessings which enable us to bear mature and healthy fruit. But we have to participate in His pruning through the prayerful examination of our lives and a willingness to let God cut away those things in us which hinder our healthy spiritual development.


St. Paul’s list of the of the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal 5: 22-23) includes love, kindness and gentleness. These are key components of compassion: a deep and real concern for the well-being of those around us and even for those who are not personally known to us. To show such compassion is a salient feature of our Christian witness, bringing “light” and “salt” (Matt 5: 13-16) to people’s largely secular existence. It can make our Church gatherings spaces of caring, security and refreshment for those seeking spiritual meaning in their lives. In Jesus’ name, pray that this will always be true of us!

Chris Dunn
Elder


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– from a family we have cared for at Rosedale

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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

On June 27th I will – God willing – be ordained priest at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. This is an immensely significant moment, as well as a season of profound joy. As I prepare myself for this moment, I thought that I might use this space to share my thoughts on the ministry for which I am offering myself.

The Church recognises three orders of ministry: deacon, priest, and bishop. These orders are a little bit like the layers of a pyramid. The wide base of ordained ministry is the order of deacon. The word “deacon” just means “servant”, and the deacons are appointed to be servants to their people. Everyone who wears a clergy collar is a deacon. Many who are deacons are also priests, and a few who are deacons are also priests and bishops. Priests and bishops all, to a greater or lesser extent, hold authority. But their authority is grounded in the fact that they are first and foremost deacons with the heart of a servant.

Right at the tip of the pyramid we find bishops. Bishops are to be treated as though Christ himself is walking amongst us; their calling is to be the principal shepherds of Christ's flock here on earth. They are the ordinary ministers of the eucharist, the primary focus of spiritual authority, the guardians of our traditions, the protectors of the teaching of the Church, and above all a source of boundless gentleness and love.

Priests are a strange kind of creature: neither solely deacon nor wholly bishop. In one sense they are “super-deacons” – servants who have been given permission to celebrate on behalf of the bishop at Holy Communion and who have received, through the bishop, the authority to forgive sins. In another sense they are “mini-bishops” – at the ordination to the priesthood, the priest is permanently granted a share in the bishop's oversight of the people and will – at the end of time – be held accountable for how they have used this oversight.

The only thing I can say with integrity is that the calling to Christ's holy priesthood is much too high a calling for any human being to fulfil. Temptation abounds for us either to work ourselves to exhaustion in trying to fulfil a calling that no human being can wholly fulfil, or else to withdraw into despair as we realise the enormity of the gap between ourselves and the life of Christ we are called to imitate. Yet, in each generation, God calls quite ordinary human beings to serve as deacons, priests, and bishops in His Church. In seeking to accept this calling to the priesthood, I will need your prayers. Pray for me, that I might have the grace to seek out the lost and the broken hearted. Pray for me, that I might grow in love each day. Pray for me, that I might have the gentleness of heart to use this tiny portion of the Church's authority to feed Christ's sheep, to proclaim Christ's love for his people, and to live a life that makes Christ known to those I meet.

Edmund



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LIFE EVENTS

From the Registers

Funerals/Interment of Ashes:

Lewis Cator at Spexhall

Martin Parry at Bramfield

Pauline Bone at Waveney Memorial Park

Rosemary Ward at Huntingfield

Patrick Lee at Halesworth

Pamela Read at Linstead

Wedding:

Michaela Bloomfield and Andy Hammett
at Wenhaston (see back page for photo)



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

Just call one of our partner agencies:

Citizens Advice National Helpline

0808 208 2138

South Norfolk Early Help Hub

01508 533933

Halesworth Volunteers - 01986 875600

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

ADDITIONAL FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

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

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



Green Tips for May



Hedges are a great way to capture carbon, so it is worth seeing if a hedge in or around your churchyard could replace a fence. A neatly trimmed hedge looks better than a fence and is easier to maintain. Again, it is worth working with local farmers to see if there are hedgerows that could be re-stored. Farmers can now get grants to restore hedges or plant new ones. Planting should be done between November and March, so now is the time to start planning new planting.

A good way to clean up our waterways is to use less aggressive chemicals in the home. Detergents and surface cleaners often contain harmful chemicals which are not good for you nor the environment. There are now a wide range of effective cleaners from companies like Ecover which do a great job without the nasty chemicals. There are a wide range of eco-friendly household cleaning products but you could do worse than start at <https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/category/cleaning-and-household/> to get an idea of what is on offer.

Half term week for many schools and a chance to spend more time together as a family. This might be a good opportunity to look at ways of travelling for days out without using your car (particularly if it is still running on petrol or diesel). Trains and buses can be less stressful ways of travelling and can even be cheaper if there are family deals on offer. They certainly burn less fossil fuel and are therefore a greener option. Why not investigate opportunities in your area to travel on public transport this half term?

Rev. Richard Stainer

May at Halesworth Library

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.

The library hosts regular activities and drop-ins. Come and join us every Tuesday term time 10-11:30 for a free Rhyme Time & Play session to sing fun songs followed by free play with our toys. Refreshments also provided for parents! Wednesdays from 10am our Time Out sociable group for older people meet for tea and biscuits. The Knit & Natter group meet alternate Tuesdays 2:30-4:30pm. 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, 10-12:00. Please ask a member of staff for more details. Don't forget we will be hosting extra children's activities during May half term! There will be an extra Lego club session on Tuesday 26th, 11-12:00 and a children's craft session held on Friday 29th, 11-12:00.

The Friends of Halesworth Library are inviting you to join us for Sociable Sundays on 3rd, 17th and 31st May; meet new people and enjoy a chat over cake and a cuppa in the library! Pop in anytime between 10:30-12:30pm. Join the Friends for their Board Games Cafe on 1st June 2:00-4:30pm. There are plenty of games to choose from, or feel free to bring along your own favourites. Join us and have a fun afternoon, meet new friends and enjoy tea and cake! Suggested donation £1 to the Friends of the library who kindly volunteer to run these events. On Thursday 21st May, at 2:30, the Friends welcome author and blogger Robert Taylor, Essex born and now based in Norfolk. He will consider how blindness impacts on his writing, both his 'Travelling Blind' blog and his fiction, including his most recent book 'Wish Dead List'. Check out his website and follow links to his Facebook and Instagram pages or sign up to his blog. <https://www.roberttaylorauthor.co.uk/index> Entry is free but please book a place. Email thefriendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com or phone the library.

Thank you to everyone who celebrated Halesworth Library Day with us last month. We celebrated the National Year of Reading with a book sale and homemade cakes. It was fantastic to see so many people enjoying their local library. We raised £120.00 all of which will go towards funding future events held in the library.

And finally! Would you like to volunteer with us over the summer to help deliver our summer reading programme for children? The Reading Quest takes place again this year and we are looking for volunteers to help us! Please fill out an application form online and we will be in touch.

Catherine Draper



NO BAD FEET

Susan Fitch, A.H.C.P.

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BY APPOINTMENT



The Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund (HDCF) is thrilled to announce that it has been named as a finalist in the Respite and Carer Support Award category at the UK Dementia Awards 2026, organised by the Journal of Dementia Care. The award recognises organisations and individuals who offer meaningful respite and support to unpaid carers, and the ceremony will take place on 30th April 2026.

HDCF is a small registered charity (No. 1170477) serving people living with dementia and their carers across Halesworth and the Blyth Valley area of Suffolk. Being shortlisted for a national award is a wonderful recognition of the dedication of our volunteers, trustees, and everyone involved in making our services possible.

The HDCF Day Centre, which runs every Friday, continues to go from strength to strength. Providing a warm and stimulating environment for people living with dementia, the Day Centre offers vital respite for carers whilst ensuring those in their care enjoy a full and meaningful day. Activities include singing, gentle exercise, yoga, and creative sessions, as well as the popular Memory Café. Attendance has been excellent and the feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive.

Beyond the Day Centre, HDCF's wider programme of groups and activities continues to flourish. From carer support groups to social and wellbeing sessions, the charity is reaching more families across the area than ever before, providing connection, practical support, and a sense of community for people who might otherwise feel isolated.

"My husband and I care for my 94-year-old mother, who has dementia along with other health issues. It's a full-time commitment, and I can't begin to express the relief and support that HDCF provides us. The opportunity for respite is invaluable — it allows us precious time to recharge, focus on our own wellbeing and, for me personally, to spend time painting again.

My mum absolutely loves attending the Day Centre. She feels safe, secure, and stimulated, and is always greeted with genuine warmth and kindness from every volunteer. She feels part of the community and has made friends there, something that was missing from her life before. Prior to attending, she was socially isolated and deeply affected by depression; the change has been remarkable. HDCF has made a profound difference to all our lives. We're so grateful for the compassion, care, and sense of community they bring to families like ours."

Family carer supported by HDCF

As the charity looks ahead to the awards ceremony later this month, everyone at HDCF is proud to be recognised alongside other outstanding organisations making a difference in the lives of people affected by dementia. Whatever the outcome on the night, being shortlisted is a testament to the hard work of our volunteers and the impact of our services on local families. **Nicky Kelly, Chair**

**For further information please contact
HDCF via :**

www.halesworthdementia.co.uk

info@halesworthdementia.co.uk

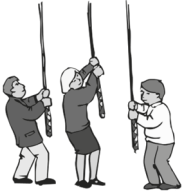
07990 199632

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

Every Friday 2-3.30pm
Co-op Community Room
info@halesworthdementia.co.uk
In partnership with the Pear Tree Fund

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From the Ringing Chamber

By tradition, the theology of which seems to vary from parish to parish, we don't ring in Holy Week between Palm Sunday and Easter Day. We usually therefore hold our annual meeting on the Tuesday of that week, knowing that everyone is (or should be free). Once again Chippy's was our host venue. If anyone would like to see the minutes then our new minute secretary Erika (taking over from Sal) will provide them on request, but assuming you are not interested in the minutiae, the highlights were:

- Officers all re-elected, except as above
- Ed and Jason are going to share out the steeplekeeping duties when Pete moves to Wales in September
- We are going to do our best to improve on our striking competition performance
- Recruitment is a serious problem so radical action is called for – watch this space!

Sunday ringing has gone well the last few weeks with the bonus of two Sunday evening quarter peals, at Heveningham and Wissett, as well as the usual first Sunday one at Halesworth. It can be a struggle to get enough to ring on a Sunday morning because you can't pull in friends from elsewhere as they are ringing for their services, but not so many churches have evening services these days so reinforcements are more readily available. This was particularly helpful at Halesworth this month, as calling in a couple of favours enabled us to ring Stedman Triples, notoriously likely to fire up at a moment's notice, but on this occasion successful. It was especially pleasing to get Jon through his first quarter of Stedman.

We DID score the quarter of Kelso Surprise Minor at Wissett, admittedly after a false start, but it was a relief to know that we CAN succeed with the more difficult methods, as there are a few more to conquer yet. We were also pleased to ring a quarter at Blythburgh before the formal opening of the new kitchen/toilets/ringing chamber by the Bishop.

Our Tuesday practices have also gone well this month with good attendances every week. The one at Halesworth included our method of the moment, Single Oxford Bob Triples, not particularly difficult but with some unfamiliar features, while Blythburgh and Wenhaston have had both Double Oxford Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor, proving that a little homework can make all the difference.

PJG



Christian Aid Week

10th-16th May: Faithful Action

In the bustling informal settlement of Dagoretti, Nairobi, families are facing extraordinary hardship. Homes made of steel sheets and concrete blocks are packed closely together. Access to clean water, sanitation and electricity is limited. With secure jobs hard to find, and most people earning less than a dollar a day, buying food is a constant struggle. Aching hunger compounds relentless stress. Fridah Moraa lives in Dagoretti with her children and grandson. She recently lost her husband and feels anxious about the future. 'Sometimes I don't know how I'll buy food,' Fridah says. 'I don't know how I'll feed my family.' Drawing on her unstoppable resolve, her deep faith in God and training in vital new skills, Fridah is taking action to ensure her family has enough to eat. She has joined a project run by Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, which trains people in Dagoretti to become urban farmers. With the tiny spaces available, you might think that farming would be impossible. But women like Fridah are learning innovative techniques that allow them to grow crops in unexpected places. The vegetables Fridah grows feed her family, and she sells the surplus to generate a more reliable income. Belinda Kasudi, a mother of five children, has also joined the project. 'Before, my life was very difficult,' Belinda says. 'Through the lessons, I was able to get the skills I needed to grow.'

Thankfully, seeds of change are being planted in the heart of Dagoretti. Our trusted partner, Beacon of Hope, is supporting parents to find security and nurture hope, through urban farming.



This May, can your church support families like Fridah's to overcome poverty? In Holton there will be a Taize Service of music, prayer and reflection at 6pm on Sunday 17th May. The theme will be "Faithful Action" and will include extracts from the Christian Aid Week Daily Devotional. There will be an opportunity to donate to Christian Aid at this Service.

Jackie Watts

Farming and Faith

A new series focusing on our local farmers. This month we hear from Veronica Downing, who farms in Chediston (Bridge Farm).

Tell us about your farm

Bridge Farm, Chediston, circa 1500, is a small working farm of 40 acres producing a fodder crop from herbal ley cut in early June, and hay which is cut and baled in July from a 7-acre wildflower meadow. We have a registered flock of rare-breed Norfolk Horn sheep, which we produce for meat and breeding stock. Conservation and traditional farming methods are key to the management of our farm, which is run by my husband Graham and myself. A local contractor is used to cut, bale and wrap large bale haylage for his cattle. The hay from the wildflower meadow is cut and baled by another contractor and made into small bales for our own sheep's need throughout the year and also sold to customers. Graham does deer management on local farms and estates and we process wild meat of the small deer (Muntjac, Chinese Water Deer and Roe) to sell at produce markets in Halesworth and Snape, and at the farm gate.

What do you enjoy about farming?

The privilege of being stewards of this land and being responsible for its future to pass on to the next owners and generation. Creating a habitat that has promoted an abundance of wildlife, especially songbirds, including nightingales and skylarks. Having livestock on the farm supports the increase of wildlife – dung is so important! Having a small flock of sheep (about 35) means that you get to know them and their individual characteristics and behaviour. As I write we are in the middle of lambing and that brings highs and lows, but seeing the lambs once they are outdoors racing around as a 'kindergarten' is a real pleasure.

What are your challenges?

Probably financial – there is very little profit margin - and finding the most economical way of managing the farm. We do not employ any farmworkers and are reliant on our own fitness and ability to manage the sheep, lambing and conservation work. The other main challenge for me are the effects of aging, which make bale carting and hurdle lifting back-breaking! Graham is keeping fitter than me presently.

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

For both of us, our love of nature and the spirituality of the countryside is central to our reason for being, and we marvel endlessly at the abundance of nature on the farm. For me personally, the idea of a creator God being the power behind our existence and of all nature is empowering – I share that in conversation with God, which in itself is prayer.

How can your local community support farmers/farming?

Locally, farmers in the Blyth Valley have been working together to promote a collected way of managing the countryside and we have been carrying out conservation activities like tree planting, putting hedges back, managing hedges traditionally by laying them and coppicing trees. We have put back ponds and created scrub habitat in the corners that

are unproductive for food, but essential for wildlife, flora and fauna. The Blyth Valley Cluster of farms meets regularly, and is a good forum for working and social networking. The local community can support farmers and local food producers by buying locally grown and sourced vegetables and meat from independent retailers and producers; even once a month, makes such a difference. Prices for locally grown food are higher per kilo than the supermarket, but flavour and goodness means you spend less on the extras to tart up the meal, and buying smaller amounts of better tasting food helps with the budget anyway.

Prayer points

Regardless of what the day ahead may hold, start with, "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." And gratitude and thankfulness for the farm every day of the year, not just at harvest-time.

Remembering farmers and agricultural workers who are struggling to make ends meet, and farmers who don't have alternative work and diversification opportunities to make their farms viable, especially in the current economic climate. We pray for their mental health and well-being and for the organisations which provide support, such as YANA and RABI.

See the back page for a photo.

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Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research

We hope everyone who came to our Big Breakfast on 21st March had a lovely time and enjoyed the food. We can't thank our supporters enough for making our events so successful and we hope you will be as delighted as we were with the amount raised which was an amazing £1,606.

The team in the kitchen cooking the breakfasts and the team in the bar area providing the tea and toast were kept very busy, as were the waitresses; they all did a sterling job and we hope no one was kept waiting too long for their food.

Thank you to Michael and Valerie for keeping on top of the washing up. We have a lot of businesses to thank for very generously providing all the food for our breakfast:

Halesworth Co-op, Allen's Butchers, Melons, Spar (all in Halesworth), Clarke's (Bramfield), Mills Butchers (Southwold). Please support these local businesses. Also our sincere thanks to: Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrison's, Bookers.

We are extremely grateful to all of these businesses for their kindness and support. Thank you to everyone who baked for our cake stall or gave a raffle prize. Congratulations to all the lucky winners on the raffle.

Thank you to Felicity and everyone who did a jam jar of spring flowers for the tables; they were beautiful. Just a little reminder that we always have jam jars of flowers at the fairs as well and we would love it if you took them home with you for a small donation. You don't have to wait to the end of the event, you can take them away at anytime.

Our breakfast is an annual event (always in March) but if you enjoy going out for a cooked breakfast, the Village Hall do one on the 1st Sunday of the month to raise much needed funds for the hall, so please go along and support them.

We don't have any events in April so our next one will be our Spring Fair on 16th May in Holton Village Hall.

We will be serving light lunches from 11.30am which will include soup, Ploughman's + other mains and delicious desserts, so please come and join us for lovely food and a get together.



The hall set up looking lovely and ready to receive visitors.

To anyone who was served from one of our dishes at the Christmas Fair that wasn't as nice as it should have been, we can only sincerely apologise for this rare occurrence and hope you will still come to our Spring Fair lunch.


We will have all the usual stalls for you to browse and I'm sure there will be something for everyone, including a plant stall which we only have at the Spring Fair.

It doesn't matter how much hard work the committee and volunteers put into an event, it's success always depends on you, our loyal supporters, and friends old and new.

Thank you all for continuing to come along to our events. We are so very grateful as the money you raise really does make a difference.

Thank you. For more information please contact:

Dawn Davis 01986 873640



J Macs Grass Cutting
Suffolk Coastal

Joshua Mac
07368692409
joshuamacgardening2022@outlook.com

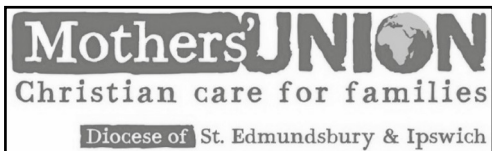
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Mothers' Union Local Events in May

Wenhaston Branch – Wed May 13th 2.30pm at Wenhaston Methodist Chapel. “News From the Pear Tree Centre”. Contact Margaret Goldstone 01502 478378 for more details.

Yoxmere Benefice Branch – Thurs May 21st 2.30 at Westleton Church. “Daughters of Cambodia – talk by Belinda Copping.” Contact Sue Norrington 07913 488670 for more details.

Coffee, Craft & Chat Group – Wed 6th May 10 am -12noon. We meet in Halesworth. Contact Sue Norrington above.

Blyth Valley Parkinson's Support Group

Invite you to

A coffee morning

at

Wenhaston Village Hall

on

Thursday 14th May 10.30am - Midday

Entrance £2 to include coffee and biscuits



All monies raised in aid of Parkinson's support work in our area

Please come and support us!

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.*

Walking the Labyrinth
A Time for Reflection



Monday 4th May 2026 2 - 4pm
St Peter's Church, Holton



“Spring Symphony”

Everyone welcome

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

Future meetings:
Monday 1st June, 6th July.

ST MARY'S WALPOLE EVENTS



We are thrilled to be welcoming **Esther Freud** to St Mary's. One of Britain's most celebrated writers, Esther will be giving a talk with personal insights into her work and specifically her new publication - **My Sister and Other Lovers**.

This is Esther's 10th novel and links back to the beginning of her career and is considered a sequel to **Hideous Kinky** (1992), the much-praised debut inspired by Freud's childhood. **My Sister and Other Lovers** is a captivating coming-of-age novel about love, sisterhood, secrets and betrayal.

'A subtle, clever, evocative book' Joanna Quinn, *Guardian Book of the Day*

Sunday 10th May 5:00pm - St Mary's Church, Walpole IP19 9AU
Tickets: £10 in advance: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1987301838295?aff=oddtcreator>
Or contact Anita Hill 07717 503511 - anita.hill2006@gmail.com

All proceeds in aid of the upkeep of St Mary's.

Licensed bar (wine & nibbles)
Parking in field opposite the Church

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

Eco Warriors Update

The weather has warmed up and we enjoyed two sunny and beautiful days in Holton churchyard this month for Eco Warriors. This month we were thinking all about the signs of spring and what we could see in our churchyard. Both Nursery and Reception came and listened to a story called, "Hello Spring!", before we wandered around looking for five spring flowers: daffodils, snowdrops, primroses, daisies and crocuses. It always amazes me how quick the children are at picking up the names of the flowers, and how seriously they take the job of finding what we have in the churchyard. We also found violets, Easter lilies (a type of wild daffodil), tête-à-têtes (small clustered daffodils), speedwell, thistles, dandelions, buttercups and pansies.

One of the nursery groups spent a long time watching a bumble bee, just sitting on a flower and starting to wake up. We certainly felt that spring and the church was awakening all around us. The children always love to draw and did some wonderful pictures of their favourite flowers. If you would like to join in the prayer we shared, a copy of it is below.



Community Celebrates Good Friday with Creative Easter Garden Workshop at St Mary's Church

HUNTINGFIELD – St Mary's Church was filled with creativity and community spirit on Good Friday as 36 participants gathered to take part in a special Easter garden-making event. The workshop brought together families and children to celebrate the Easter story through hands-on activities and shared reflection. Children and adults alike enjoyed planting and arranging their own miniature Easter gardens, complete with tombs and crosses symbolising the story of Jesus' resurrection. The event provided a joyful opportunity for families to explore the meaning of Easter in a relaxed and beautiful setting.

Organised by Jenny from Huntingfield Church, the afternoon was praised for its welcoming atmosphere and thoughtful activities. Attendees described it as a "lovely family event" that captured the essence of community and faith during the Easter season.

The success of the gathering highlights the ongoing commitment of the Blyth Valley Churches to fostering connection and celebration within the local community.

Sponsored Lego Walk

Children, youth, volunteers and our Children, Family and Youth Minister took on a unique challenge in a sponsored Lego Walk, raising an impressive £550.06 to support children, family, and youth ministry across the Blyth Valley Churches. Participants bravely walked barefoot across 10 metres of Lego, showing courage and community spirit in equal measure. The event saw people of all ages take part, with the youngest participant just 18 months old.



Funds raised will go towards supporting a range of the children, family and youth ministry initiatives, including Youth Space, Church Mice Tots, Eco Warriors, and family picnics. These groups provide valuable opportunities for connection, belonging, creativity, and care within the community, where we share God's love and an opportunity to grow in faith.

The sponsored Lego Walk not only brought people together for a fun and memorable challenge but also highlighted the strength of community support for the valuable work of the children, family and youth ministry across the Blyth Valley Churches.

Church Mice Tots Celebrate Birthdays and Return to the Church for Spring

March was a month of celebration for Church Mice Tots, as the group marked several special birthdays. Some of the little ones turned one or two, while Pauline celebrated a slightly older milestone. The group enjoyed a lively birthday party together, filled with fun and community spirit.

With the arrival of warmer weather, Church Mice Tots is now returning to the church for its regular sessions throughout the spring and summer months. The group extends a heartfelt thanks to the Community Larder for kindly providing the church hall during the colder months, ensuring everyone had a warm and welcoming space to meet.

Church Mice Tots meets every Thursday during term time from 11am to 12:30pm. The group welcomes families with children from tiny babies up to school age, offering a friendly and supportive environment for play, connection, and community.



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

Community Comes Together for Easter Family Picnic in Halesworth

On 1st April 2026, families gathered for the first of two Easter holiday picnics, marking a joyful start to the season with food, fun, and faith-filled activities. The event, known for its strong sense of community spirit, brought together families to share delicious dishes and take part in fun activities.

Organisers expressed heartfelt thanks to the Halesworth Lions, who generously donated £100 to support the event, and to Sue and John, whose help in preparing the delicious food was greatly appreciated by all.

As the picnic took place during Holy Week, the day's activities focused on the story of Jesus' journey through the week leading up to Easter. Children learned about Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, by making donkey ears and palm leaves to wave as they joyfully shouted "Hosanna!" The story was told in a sensory and interactive way, using props and a story tray to bring the events to life.

A particularly touching moment came when one young boy reminded everyone that there was more to the Easter story, eagerly sharing the rest with his friends. His enthusiasm captured the true spirit of the day — one of learning, sharing, and celebrating together as a community.



Easter Crafts at St Mary's, Halesworth

On 6th April 2026, St Mary's Church in Halesworth hosted a delightful Easter craft session that brought families together for an afternoon of creativity and community. The church was filled with the gentle glow of sunlight streaming through its stained-glass windows, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all who attended. Participants enjoyed a variety of craft activities, including making cheerful chicks and lambs, ink stamping, designing Easter cards, stencilling, and decorating ceramic crosses. The tables were alive with colour, laughter, and the sound of the odd nursery rhyme. Although attendance was smaller this year, with 21 people taking part, the event remained a joyful and meaningful occasion. The smaller group allowed for more conversation, shared moments, and a sense of closeness among those present. The Easter craft session once again highlighted the spirit of togetherness that defines the St Mary's Church community—celebrating creativity, connection, and the simple joy of spending time with others.

Finding Refreshment in God: April at Draw the Verse

This month at Draw the Verse, we reflected on the beautiful words from Psalm 42:1 (NirV): "A deer longs for streams of water. God, I long for you in the same way." Together, we explored what it feels like to truly long for water—thinking of those hot summer days when we've been running around and can't wait for a cool, refreshing drink. That simple, physical longing helped us understand the deeper spiritual desire David expressed in this Psalm: a heartfelt yearning to be close to God.

We talked about how David's relationship with God was like spending time with a best friend—someone whose presence brings peace, joy, and renewal. As we reflected, we let our creativity flow by drawing scenes of streams, rivers, and ponds, each one featuring a gentle deer seeking refreshment.

Draw the Verse continues to be a wonderful mindfulness activity—an opportunity to meditate on God's Word while enjoying meaningful conversation and creative expression. It's a time to slow down, connect, and let both faith and art refresh the soul.

Easter Family Picnic 2!

Our second family picnic of Easter 2026 was a time of joy and togetherness. We ate food together, and had a story time listening to the whole story of Easter from Palm Sunday to the resurrection. We enjoyed games, playing and crafts as we came together as a community. It was lovely to meet and see lots of new faces at our family picnic and know we are becoming more and more a church for the community, where the community feels comfortable to come together.

A Joyful Start for the New Youth Choir

April marked an exciting milestone with the launch of a brand-new youth choir. The first gathering was filled with enthusiasm, laughter, and the shared joy of singing together under the expert guidance of Joanna Thackray.

The choir has begun its journey by learning three uplifting songs: We're Going in the Name of Jesus by Engage Worship, Thank You for Saving Me by Delirious, and See What a Morning by Keith and Kristyn Getty. Each piece offers a unique opportunity for the group to grow in confidence, harmony, and expression.

Once the singers have mastered the lyrics, the next step will be to learn British Sign Language (BSL) to accompany the songs. This creative addition will bring a new dimension to performances, allowing the choir to communicate the message of each song in a more inclusive and expressive way.

The youth choir meets fortnightly on Saturdays from 5:00 to 5:45 pm, providing a welcoming space for young people to develop their musical talents, build friendships, and celebrate faith through music. With such a promising start, the future of this new choir looks bright and full of harmony.

More photos on the back page!

The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



**The Revd
Dominic Doble
Team Rector**

The Rectory,
Highfield Road,
Halesworth, IP19 8SJ

Tel: 01986 948968
Mobile: 07743 554955
Email:
dominic.doble@
phoncoop.coop
(Off duty: Mondays)



**The Revd
Linda Berry
Assistant Curate**

Old Post Office,
The Street,
Huntingfield,
IP19 0PU

Tel: 01986 798165
Email:
lindaberry@outlook.com
(Off duty: Mon & Tues)



**The Revd
Dr Edmund Smith
Curate**

Tel: 07787 615716
Email:
eps31@cantab.ac.uk

(Off duty: Fridays)



**Pauline Milsted
Children, Family &
Youth Minister**

Deputy Safeguarding Officer

Tel: 07780 459285
Email: pauline@growing
togetherearlyyears.co.uk
(Off duty: Wednesdays)



**The Revd Canon
Alison Alder
Associate Priest**
Limited duties only



Charlotte Remblance
URC Ordinand on placement
charlotteremblance@live.co.uk



The Revd Vic Hopkins
Associate Priest
01986 875934
csninefour@btinternet.com



Fr Desmond Banister
Associate Priest
07702 725825
ppasnh@gmail.com



The Revd Canon Adrian Daffern
Associate Priest
adrian.daffern@churchofengland.org

READERS

Veronica Mowat 07802 611410
Email: vmm1151@gmail.com
Jim Green 07742 032536
Email: jimpiecrust@phoncoop.coop

ELDERS

Jason Busby 01986 873336.
Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk
Veronica Downing 07799 484266
Email: veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk
Malcolm Heath 01986 785289
Email: mlheath@aol.com
Eileen Salmon 07359 438882
Gary Atkins 07981 979551
Chris Atkins 07954 436855
(also the Blyth Valley Times proof-reader)
Email (joint): corg.atkins87@gmail.com

Blyth Valley Churches Contacts

Gary Atkins: Lay Chair BV Parishes Joint Council

Tel: 07981 979551

Email: corg.atkins87@gmail.com

Annie Groves: Administrator Blyth Valley Churches, Clerk to BV Parishes Joint Council, Interim Lead Safeguarding Officer, Communications Officer

Tel: 01986 875941

Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

Email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

Jason Busby: Organist Blyth Valley Churches

Tel: 01986 873336. Mobile: 07817 863533

Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

Philip Gorrod: Contact for bell ringers across the Blyth Valley Churches

Tel: 01986 875354

Email: pjg@hhhh.me.uk

| PARISH | CHURCHWARDEN | CONTACT |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Blyford | Charlie Hawkins | charliehawkins100@gmail.com |
| Bramfield | Jinnie Barham Alfred Mullett | 01986 784254 snowmein@mac.com |
| Chediston | Jo Wareham | 07711 066727 |
| Cookley | Jane Evers | 01986 785209 |
| Halesworth | Jason Busby | 01986 873336 |
| Heveningham | Jeanette Griffin Sara Lister | 01986 798280 Stmargarechurch11@gmail.com |
| Holton | Vacant | |
| Huntingfield | Emma Ward Jenny Blackmore | 01986 785343 Jleebblackmore@hotmail.com |
| Linstead | Malcolm Heath | 01986 785289 |
| Spexhall | Keith Noakes | 07939 527340 |
| Thorington | Mike Gower | 01502 478078 |
| Walpole | Ken Allen Lee Hill | 07710 779146 07713 450078 |
| Wenhaston | Jonathan Alder | 01502 478855 |
| Wissett | Geoffrey Kiddy | 07881 501858 |

ECUMENICAL CLERGY

The Revd Martin Keenan, Methodist Minister

27 Meadow Gardens, Beccles NR34 9PA.

Tel: 07921 540170.

Email: martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk

URC Minister Vacant

Halesworth & Bramfield URC,
Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP

Father Christopher Smith, Roman Catholic Priest

St Edmund King & Martyr Roman Catholic Church,

Halesworth IP19 8SY. Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

Web Address Change

You can now find information about services and events online here (the old website is defunct):

www.achurchnearyou.com

Blyth Valley Times

published monthly by

Blyth Valley Churches

Deadline date for ALL copy for the

JUNE 2026 issue is:

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY

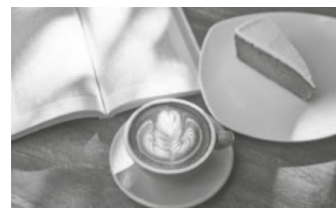
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Café Church Tuesdays!



We are currently unable to offer Cafe Church but there are plans to relaunch it. Watch this space!

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent Martin Clarke
clarkehk@yahoo.com

May 4th to 10th is National Hedgerow Week. Hedgerows are often the unsung heroes of the British countryside, yet they form the UK's largest wildlife habitat, are a major part of our landscape and cultural heritage, and are crucial to halting biodiversity decline and tackling climate change. At Blyford we had our 100 metre southerly hedge expertly 'laid' this year by John Ibbott from Chediston. The hedge was planted around the millennium and had grown to a height of six or seven metres and caused much degradation to the churchyard soil that lay permanently in its shadow. What a privilege it was to watch John at work wrestling with the hazel binders as he wove them in doubles around the upright stakes to provide a sturdy framework to hold the heavily pruned hedge which had been sliced at the bottom just enough to allow the sap to flow and then 'laid' diagonally.

Each hedge is loaded thick wi' green

And where the hedger late hath been

Tender shoots begin to grow

From the mossy stumps below

As sheep and cow that tease the grain

Will nip them to the root again

They lay their bills and mittens bye

And on to other labours hie

John Clare, in 'May'

The Shepherds Calendar (1827)

On March 21st our annual jumble sale transformed the church into something of a cross between the Casbah of Algiers and Aladdin's Cave as it became full of myriad multi-coloured clothes and sparkling trinkets - dresses and shawls, cut-glass decanters and fruit bowls, leather-bound backgammon sets to antique portable surgeons' kits and a range of scents and perfumes that would have made Madame Bovary's boudoir seem more like the changing rooms at Halesworth FC.

It was a huge amount of work and thanks to everyone who helped out.

Those parishioners that are good at gardening can rightly be called 'green-fingered', but those like me that aren't might justifiably be called ham-fisted. Undaunted by the ham-fisted nature of her congregation Charlotte launched into her nurture-themed Mother's Day Wild Church service with a bagful of soil, some planting trays and a packet of dahlia seeds in the forlorn hope that with careful nurturing at home these might somehow become beautiful flowers. Well, I have to report at the time of writing there are at least five little green shoots appearing on my window sill tray. Well done Charlotte. Wild Church services are designed to celebrate God through nature and are held outdoors on the third Sunday of each month and everybody is welcome to attend.

As part of our fundraising efforts to support the church we will be holding a plant sale and bric-a-brac stall on the green opposite the Queen's Head pub on Saturday 16th May at 11:00. This is usually a lot of fun with random motorists often stopping by just for the fun of it and making spontaneous and totally unnecessary purchases just to help the campaign. And one more thing for your diary - the Blyford Big Breakfast at the Queen's Head pub on July 16th.

Bramfield

Correspondent Alfred Mullett
snowmein@mac.com

Burial of Ashes for Martin David Parry

We had a burial of Ashes for Martin Parry, who had sadly died recently. He was a child from Bramfield, who originally lived at Swan House and then later on Sandpit next to the Village Hall, and the service was taken by Rev Edmund Smith at the graveside of his parents. He had, with his family, enjoyed his childhood greatly in Bramfield and came back frequently to see people and visit the church, but mostly lived in London where he raised his family. One of his sons came back from Australia for the service and

the other son lived in London, so we were blessed that the family were together for this service. We remember and pray for all the family, especially Sarah Parry, his sister who lives in Norwich, at this time.

Easter at Bramfield

The whole of Bramfield Primary School came to a service taken by Rev Linda Berry and all the parents came as well, filling the church up completely. A lot of very cheerful Easter hymns were sung and the children did some wonderful poems and songs. It was, as Linda said, her most joyous Easter service ever. We had a Morning Prayer Service for Easter Sunday which was well attended and this was taken by Veronica Mowat. Many thanks to all the children and ladies who helped decorate the church so beautifully for Easter.

A New Flag is Flying

We have managed to buy a new sewn flag for our Saxon Tower now which should hopefully last a little longer now than a few months, and this is up in time for St George's Day. Thanks to Sir Simon Robey for helping us to get the Flagpole up last year. We are so pleased it is up working again properly (see back page for a photo).

Fundraising for Bells and Roof

We are beginning the process of fundraising for repairs to our beautiful church. Firstly restoring the bells so they can sing across our valley again and secondly, recovering the thatch on the roof of the main church. These are going to be large projects, so please, do get in touch if you would like to help with any donations for these projects, or want to help with the fund raising with ideas or assistance, which we need as much as the funds. We would gratefully appreciate any help!

Things to Come

Morning Prayer at Bramfield St Andrews - Every Thursday at 9:30am. If you have the time and are looking for a half an hour of quiet and meditation for your week, please join us for morning prayer every Thursday. The service is taken by either Reverend Linda or Reverend Edmund, or sometimes one of our wardens, as the week settles out. It is a quiet time with God, and with our friends.

Ecotherapy East Community Day –
Saturday 2nd May 10am. Ecotherapy East will be hosting a community day on Saturday 2nd May in Foxtail Meadow, Bramfield, starting at 10am with a celebration of Beltane which is the Gaelic May Day festival celebrating Spring at its peak, followed at 11.30am with land tending and, in this instance, the raising of the yurt! All are very welcome to come to any part of the day which they feel drawn to; you'll be sure of a very warm welcome. Feel free to bring a packed lunch if staying for longer. The land tending can be as energetic or gentle as you prefer, but just engaging with the natural world can be a balm for the soul in these troubled times. Feel free to email if you have any queries or want to know more: ecotherapyeast.info@gmail.com

APCM for the PCC - Thursday 14th May 2026 7:30pm

Our Annual Meeting for the Parochial Church Council is at 7.30pm in the Church. We welcome anyone new to come to the meeting and drinks will be served beforehand at 7pm onwards.

Holy Communion Service 17-May-2026 10:00am

We will be having a regular communion service at 10.00am. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you. There will be tea and coffee following.

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 Andrews. Sunday 24th May, 10am

Family Church will be presented by Pauline. It is a shorter, simpler service, with things for everyone from all ages from the littles to the elders. All are welcome. There will be Tea and Coffee following.

Village Fete Saturday 1st August

Looking ahead to the summertime, we plan to have the Village Fete again on the Village Green, next to the School. This will be on 1st August 12-4pm and we hope to have the same kind of set up as previous years, with the Black Deek Band confirmed to come already, 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 07780833450. 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.

Chediston

Correspondent Veronica Downing
veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

April has been a quiet month for St Mary's Chediston compared with March. However, the Churchwarden and PCC have been busy maintaining the fabric and worship, with the Quinquennial inspection in progress and our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) takes place on 30th April at 6pm in the church. Every parishioner is welcome to attend and we will be electing our churchwardens and PCC members.

Bell Sunday 17th May

On Sunday 17th May it is "Bell Sunday". Chediston ringers will join other Team ringers at Wissett for service ringing at the 10am service when bellringers and congregation will have the opportunity to meet each other in the church space that we all

enjoy and share, either in the pursuit of bellringing or of our Christian faith, with refreshments afterwards.

John Parson

It is with sadness that we report the death of John Parson, who lived and worked at Packway Farm, Chediston, with Margaret and his family. John continued his attendance at St Mary's Chediston, cycling to special services such as Harvest and Remembrance Sunday after he moved to Halesworth. He was a man of strong faith and voice, leading us all with the hymn singing. A full obituary will be in next month's BVT.

Cookley

Correspondent Jane Evers
janeeversj@gmail.com

SAVE COOKLEY CHURCH

This is an appeal to all local people about the future of St. Michael's Cookley. The secretary, treasurer and churchwarden of Cookley PCC have now been in post for some twenty-five years and the time has finally come for them to hand over to others. Unless new officers can be found, our church may be forced to close.

Would you, or anyone you know, be interested in taking on one of these roles? Our church has been here for more than a thousand years: It boasts a fine Norman arch and a beautiful 15th century hammer-beam roof and Cookley people have worshipped here for centuries. Countless generations of local residents are buried in our churchyard.

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

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

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

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

Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336
halesworthparish@gmail.com

On Saturday 11th April we held the funeral of Patrick Harold Lee, known to many as "Pat", a local boy who was born, lived, worked, retired, and died in our community. The family spoke so beautifully in tribute to him. We sang the hymns "Jerusalem" and "How Great Thou Art," and heard a Bible reading from John 15:1–10, along with a beautiful poem I had not heard before, "A Letter from Heaven" by Ruth Ann Mahaffey. May Patrick rest in peace and rise in glory.

A brief note to say that Revd Jane Held, who helped hold the Blyth Valley together during Covid and throughout our interregnum, retired on Easter Sunday. She has now joined Emma in Acharacle, on Scotland's north-west coast. We wish Jane and Emma a wonderful and well-earned retirement and send them our love and blessings from the Blyth Valley.

Looking ahead, at 3pm on Sunday 3rd May we will be welcoming back Elizabeth and Malcolm of Chanters Jigge who present "A Tudor Portrait" first-hand accounts of intrigue, chivalry, and mischief. Discover what befell both high and low, noble and notorious, in a performance that is both entertaining and enlightening.

On Sunday 24th May we will celebrate Pentecost with our brothers and sisters from other denominations at St Mary's. Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, often described as the birthday of the Church and we look forward to welcoming everyone to share in this joyful celebration.

On 8th June at 7pm, at St Michael's, Beccles, we will celebrate all things churchwardens, as those serving across the Blyth Valley are sworn in by Archdeacon Rich. You would be very welcome to join us for this special service and show your support.

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

May the risen Christ give us his peace.

Alleluia. Amen.

Heveningham

Correspondent
Jeanette Griffin
stmargarechurch11@gmail.com

March has been a very busy month for us at St Margaret's. We were fortunate to hold two services, and alongside preparations for our open day, the church has felt particularly lively and full of activity.

In addition to our regular Traditional Communion service, we were delighted to welcome Edmund and Charlotte, who brought their Peace and Light service to St Margaret's. This contemporary service of music and readings was a real joy to experience. The church looked beautiful, illuminated by glow sticks and countless candles, while the choir sounded wonderful. It truly was something very special. If you ever have the opportunity to attend one of these services, I would highly recommend it — a refreshing and meaningful change from the usual.

Our open day itself was a great success, with around 50 visitors joining us. The morning saw people coming to view the tapestries and enjoy guided tours of the church. At lunchtime, we welcomed the Pilgrimage — a much-valued annual event where Revd Dominic visits each church in the Benefice in the lead-up to Easter. A lot of fun was had in the afternoon when Philip Garrod and his bell ringing team came to ring the bells and gave us a chance to ring the bells ourselves. Some even showed real promise! The bell ringers are always keen to welcome new members, so if you've ever been curious, do consider giving it

a go — it could be the start of a new hobby.

The open day was also an opportunity to reach out and raise awareness of the Blyth Valley Churches, and how others can get involved. We now have a suggestions book in the church for ideas for future events, as well as a sign-up page for anyone who would like to help with services — whether through readings, flowers, or general support. If you would like to get involved, please do pop into the church or get in touch via email.

We have also launched a 100 Club to help maintain the churchyard and surrounding areas. Forms are available in the church, or you can email for more details. It's a simple way to support the church while also having the chance to win a prize.

April will be a quieter month again but the grass cutting and the churchyard tidy up will commence. It's also a delight to bring flowers back into the church and this will be welcome for our family communion service and baptism that will be happening this weekend.

Dates for your diary:

Church Services

12th April – Family Communion

10th May – Traditional Communion

Events

8th May – Quiz Night, 7pm start (teams of 4, £10 per team)

23rd May – Coffee Morning and Table Sale, 10am start

With thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett
01986 875913
jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com

Easter day dawned bright and sunny, the Church looked lovely with the sun shining through the windows, lighting up the flowers and the congregation as we welcomed Revd Adrian Daffern to St Peter's for the first time. He spoke of that first Easter morning and the sadness and confusion of Mary and the disciples. We know what was to follow, the appearances of Jesus, his Ascension and then the empowerment of the

disciples on the Day of Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit, who is still working in us today.

In April we also had our Church Spring Clean on Monday the 20th and our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 22nd April. I will report on these two events in June, particularly focusing on the APCM. Sadly, the concert by the Halesworth Ukelele Band couldn't take place owing to a lack of ticket sales. I would like to thank the members of the band for their kind offer to hold this concert.

The Community Larder

You may have noticed a large lidded plastic box in the church porch. This is for donations to the Community Larder. St Peter's has been asked if we could donate to the Larder again as donations have decreased, probably owing to the cost of living, and also the assumption that it is no longer needed. Sadly, it is needed as much as ever. Opening times for the Larder are on the lid of the box, plus a list of appropriate items which are non-perishable. The contents of the box will be taken to the Larder regularly. Thank you in advance for your donations.

The **Car Boot Sale** is on Saturday 2nd May from 10am. Help is needed on the Church stall, plant stall, and in the refreshment tent. Items for the raffle, cakes and pastries for the refreshments, plants (or pots or garden tools) for the plant stall and bric-à-brac for the Church stall are all needed. We also need strong (preferably tall) men or women to help put up the tent for the refreshments on Friday evening. If you can help in any way please speak to Jackie Watts. Thank you!

Walking the Labyrinth 2 – 4pm on Monday 4th May. A time for reflection – this month's theme is "Spring Symphony". So come along with your thoughts on spring and what it means to you.

In Holton there will be a **Taizé Service** of music, prayer and reflection at 6pm on Sunday 17th May. The theme will be "Faithful Action" and will include extracts from the Christian Aid Week Daily Devotional. There will be an opportunity to donate to Christian Aid at this service. There will not be any delivery of Christian Aid envelopes locally this year nor any available in

church. If you wish to make a donation to Christian Aid there will be an opportunity at the Taizé service and at other services.

A date for your diary

The Flower Festival is on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July and the theme this year is "Games we like to Play". Please contact Helen Knevetts if you wish to do a flower arrangement.

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
sally.clarke@live.com

A Big Thank You to Jenny Blackmore and Pauline Milstead for facilitating our Easter Garden event at the church on Good Friday. The church was filled with the sound of excited voices as families dropped in to create Easter gardens; pots, containers, compost, seeds, plants and sticksall those things that small hands find so exciting.

For those of you with larger hands and gardens make a note of **Huntingfield's plant sale**; Sunday 17th May 10am - 1pm at The Hub (IP19 0QH) where there will be a large variety of plants available: Annuals, Perennials and vegetables. Card payments accepted. In aid of Huntingfield Millennium Green and a donation to be made to EACH.

Our ever popular '**Morning Bird Walk**' is on Saturday 2nd May from 8am. Meet at St Mary's Churchyard, Huntingfield from 8am where you can start the day with coffee, tea and a hot bacon roll. The gentle, steady paced bird walk will commence at 8.30am, taking in the sights and sounds of our beautiful countryside. Suitable footwear is advised.

Linstead

Correspondent

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

THE DEATH OF IRENE THOMAS HAS left a huge gap in the life of our village. Even after she moved to Halesworth she was a huge supporter of all our activities, not least of all, our church.

There is a photo of her on the back page of two or three years ago,

receiving a cheque on behalf of her winning team at the Linstead Quiz. She had had a very full life, as a headmistress, wife to Reg and mother to Claire. She was a published authoress of both a novel and a collection of poetry. She will indeed be missed.

CHEDISTON & LINSTED W.I. MET IN April and heard from Julie Hadridge about the gentle art of chocolate-making. She explained how the cocoa beans were grown and how they were sourced ethically. They all had a chance to sample an actual cocoa bean (quite chocolatey!) and were able, not only to sample the finished product, but to buy it too. Ever since 'Chocolat', with Juliet Binoche, there has been an appreciation of the art of the chocolatier, and quite right too. A profession which brings joy to us all.

THE RSPB HAVE ADVISED US NOT TO feed wild birds from our garden feeders. This is to prevent the spread of some diseases which are afflicting them. As it happens, I do not put out any food after mid-March; I don't wish to encourage avian laziness. Notwithstanding, my normally friendly blue tit, on hearing the news, decided to take revenge on my car. And very messy it was too. Once I knew what to look for, I have seen many cars upon which, dissatisfied birds have vented their spleen, or some other part of their anatomy. The news that there is a move afoot to reintroduce the golden eagle does beg the question; knowing what a blue tit is capable of, what happens if a golden eagle discovers its reflection in a door mirror?



ON A PERSONAL NOTE, MAY WE AS A family apologise for rearranging a little bit of the Linstead scenery. This is the same area about three years ago a storm had brought down quite a few

dead trees and branches, including one which fell across our house.



When the opportunity presented itself, we took a deep breath and bought the field. It is now being tidied up, with the removal of dead trees and much undergrowth. We apologise to our green friends, amongst whom there was a sharp intake of breath, but when it has settled down and matured, we are sure that it will look much better. There are, potentially, some lovely trees in there; oaks, silver birches, hornbeams, all self-seeded.



It was satisfying to note that within minutes of Lawrence Tree Services having finished, the local pheasant population were ambling round, inspecting their new territory. Although we have made a rod for our own backs, as it were, we are quite excited to see how things develop.

SERVICES IN MAY COMPRISE MATINS on May 17th and Holy Communion on May 31st, both at 10.00am.

Spexhall

Correspondent Keith Noakes
spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com

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

Facebook: St Peter's Spexhall and Spexhall Village Hall

It must be May already! Woodpecker has been so busy spring cleaning his nest and worrying about those pesky

ravens trying to build their homes under the eaves of the church that he's forgotten to get to the typewriter in good time for the BVT (not that he ever did to be honest!) So here are a few quick lines about what's on this month.

10th May Rogation Sunday We have our traditional walk between St Andrew's Wissett and St Peter's Spexhall starting at 2.30pm. Join us for this lovely walk. Dogs are welcome too. It is a time to think about the gift of the land and the environment, and to remember the importance of farming for our communities and our country. Tea will follow in Spexhall Village Hall (about 3.30pm).

22nd May Pentecost Sunday (Whitsun) We will celebrate Pentecost Sunday with a Holy Communion at 10.00am. All are welcome to join us for this Whitsun celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Village Hall Event You may have noticed the Race Night Event poster. A new venture for the village. Do join us for an evening of fun at the (virtual) races. All will be explained on the night. No knowledge of horse racing is required! Friday 22nd May. See poster for details!

Thorington

Correspondent
Trish Gower 01502 478078
trish@coastal1.plus.com

All are most welcome to our APCM on Thursday 7th May; there will be wine and nibbles from 7pm and the meeting will formally start at 7.30pm. Looking forward to seeing you there.

A report about the meeting will be published next month. Quiet times here, enjoy spring!

Walpole

Correspondents Lee & Anita Hill
07713 450078
anita.hill2006@gmail.com

It is all too easy to think when walking up to the church in the mornings and evenings to open and close, that perhaps no-one visits the church, unless at the weekend or for a monthly service. Therefore, it really was

uplifting one evening last week when I glanced at our visitor book and noticed that the Pickford family from London had visited and made reference to their Great Great Grandfather Joseph Pickford, who had been Vicar of St Mary's between 1909 and 1929. This in turn led me to look back at previous pages and see where other visitors had come from since re-opening 4 years ago: Australia, Chile, Belgium, Liverpool, Glasgow and of course many other places closer to home. So if I think sometimes, like I have in the past on a cold and damp mid-week morning, "Is it really worth opening the church today?", the answer is yes, for that one person who has made a special pilgrimage to a far flung corner of Suffolk to spend time and reflect at an ancestor's place of worship or burial, or even like the Pickford family, to visit where Great Great Grandfather Joseph preached, it absolutely is worth it!

We look forward to the first of our fund-raising events on May 10th when we welcome **Esther Freud** to St Mary's. One of Britain's most celebrated writers, Esther will be giving a talk with personal insights into her work and specifically her new publication - My Sister and Other Lovers. This is Esther's 10th novel and links back to the beginning of her career and is considered a sequel to Hideous Kinky (1992), the much-praised debut inspired by Freud's childhood. My Sister and Other Lovers is a captivating coming-of-age novel about love, sisterhood, secrets and betrayal. Please see poster on p.13 for details of how to get tickets if you would like to attend this event.

Later, on May 31st, Walpole will be supporting a **Charity Tractor Run** when a convoy of tractors arrive at Walpole Pavilion around mid-day to break for lunch. We hope the event will be supported by locals and visitors as the participants raise funds for the very worthwhile charity CRY - Cardiac Risk in the Young.

Wenhaston

Correspondent
Margaret Bloomfield
01502 478502
margaret@wrush.plus.com

Our Easter weekend began with a very

moving meditation which Rev. Iain McKillop had lovingly prepared and lead us through, together with Rev. Canon Alison assisting. A very sombre yet hopeful day. Alison was with us again on Easter Day when we had a good congregation and we celebrated the Risen Christ with hearty singing. The church was beautifully decorated with Easter lilies and spring flowers, thanks to our lovely flower arrangers.

On Easter Monday we served teas in the church. Thank you very much to all who came to support us, as well as the helpers and those who donated cakes. It was a very happy afternoon and over the weekend we raised a marvellous sum of money for church funds.

The Church's Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Wednesday 20th May in church at 7 for 7.30pm. We review the church's year and give reports regarding this. We invite anyone interested to join us for this meeting. There will be wine and nibbles beforehand.

Our next event is our Annual Plant Sale in the churchyard on Saturday 23rd May at 10am. We should be very grateful for any gifts of plants as well as cakes for the cake stall or raffle prizes. Do come along and support us.

Wenhaston Flower Club Our meeting on the 7th April was a continuation of the wedding theme from our March meeting. Nicola guided everyone through a "Buttonhole Workshop" with some beautiful results, we would like to thank Nicola for a lovely evening. See the back page for a colour photo. Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday 5th May, 7.30 pm in Wenhaston Village Hall. As usual the price is £5 on the night which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. This meeting is slightly different as it is our popular "Members take over". Three of our members will be demonstrating. We have one member doing Garden Design and two members doing Floral Designs. Everyone has the opportunity to see all three demonstrations during the evening. For more information please contact Jackie Chenery on 01502 478401.

Wenhaston Walkers Our first walk in May will be on Tuesday 5th (the day after bank holiday) setting off at 10am from Wenhaston Village Hall. On

Tuesday, 19th May Charlie and Tonia will lead us around the Sparrows Nest, Gunton Cliffs area of Lowestoft. We will meet at Whapload Road car park, Lowestoft NR32 1XG starting out at 10am. Lunch will be at the Martello Coffee House, self-serve.

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

Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester

01986 835869

marypester@rocketmail.com

Here in Wissett and beyond we mourn the passing of Ernie Woolnough whose funeral will be at 11.00 am on Tuesday the 28th of April here at St Andrew's Church. Ernie was such a vital character in the life of the village, taking a Yoga class in the Village Hall when I came here 30 odd years ago and going up in his balloons. I expect the church will be packed as it was for Evelyn's, last November. They are much missed. We send our love and sympathy to all the family and friends.

The blossom this spring has been wonderful and I have been telling the wild cherry trees that they are the loveliest! We could do with a few more April Showers for the May flowers but maybe we will next have a dripping June to keep us all in tune! John Clare writes of Spring;

"The sparrows round their new nests
chirp with glee
And sweet the robin Spring's young
luxury shares
Tootling its song in feathery
gooseberry tree
While watching worms the gardener's
spade unbares."

Now! Gardeners with renewed hopes for the new growing season come to Wissett! Wissett Village Hall on Bank Holiday Monday the 4th of May 10.30 to 12.30 there will be the popular **Plant Sale**. A wide range of plants for sale and tea, coffee and cakes will be served.

Proceeds from the sale are for the upkeep of our beautiful church next door to the Village Hall.

The church is open every day and is there for everyone. We will be praying for all who tend the land, gardeners and growers on Sunday the 10th of May - Rogation Sunday. The **Rogation Walk** this year will start at Lodge Farm up Lodge Lane Wissett at 2.30. Walking down and into Wissett church then up hill and down dale to Spexhall Church. It is lovely to share this each year with our Spexhall friends and those from around the Team. Do come and join us.

Thinking of blossom I have the hymn, "Immortal, Invisible God only wise", in my head...
"We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree
And wither, and perish but nought changeth thee!"



Huntingfield Easter Garden

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

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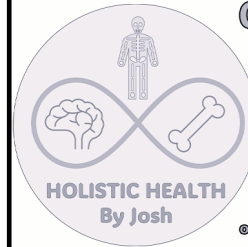
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*St Peter's Church,
Wenhaston*

Plant Sale

Saturday 23rd May
10:00 to 12:00

In the Church Yard
In the church if wet

Plants, Cake Stall, Raffle,
Coffee

Proceeds To The Church

TAIZE SERVICE

Of music, meditation and prayer



Sunday 17th May
6pm

St Peter's Holton

Anyone who would like to
Join the music preparation
would be very welcome
at 4pm

There will be an opportunity to donate to Christian Aid at this service



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Halesworth Volunteer Centre

Community Car Service - Our Community Car Service offers transport for medical appointments, shopping trips and essential outings, ensuring people remain independent, stay connected and are able to meet their everyday needs. Our drivers support mostly older people, vulnerable adults and those with mobility challenges. Our dedicated volunteers go above and beyond to ensure people get to their destinations, on time, and home again safely. If you are interested in joining us, as a new volunteer driver, or if you need to use the service, we would love to hear from you. If you have a booking or would like to enquire about the Community Car Service, please give us a call on – 01986 874290.

Isolation Busters – Our programme to provide social support to isolated older and vulnerable people. Isolation Busting is about bringing people together, whether it be younger or older people through befriending, or bringing groups of people together to enjoy activities, lunches, afternoon teas and trips, helping to build lasting friendships. Last month we ventured out of Halesworth for an eagerly awaited spring visit to Cherry Lane Garden Centre! The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We received some lovely feedback from one of our ladies:

“Thank you to Halesworth Volunteers for organising the most enjoyable outing to Cherry Lane Garden Centre today. A happy time had by all with humorous chat on the Hoppa bus. We gave Cherry Lane takings a boost with all our purchases. With plenty of room on the bus for plants and topiary. On behalf of everyone, we are grateful for all that you do for us and the benefit of the community. A big thank you to all volunteers for the time they give.”

Thank you to HACT and our wonderful driver Colin, who always makes our trips and socials extra special.

Our next **Community Lunch** is Wednesday 29th April from 1.00 – 3.00pm. This will be in St Mary’s Church. Come and join us for a warm bowl of soup, sandwiches, cakes and a tea or coffee. Everyone welcome, there is no need to book.

Chinny’s Social - Coffee and Chat is a relaxed and welcoming opportunity to connect with like-minded people, make new friends and a chance to enjoy some delicious food on offer at Chinny’s. Our next date is Tuesday 5th May, in the Events Bar at Chinny’s from 12-2.00pm.

If you would like to discover more about Isolation Busters, our programme of events and dates, befriending or shopping support, please give us a call on 01986 875600 or email-info@halesworthvolunteers.org.

Kingsley’s Reverse London Marathon – Training is well under way, as Kingsley prepares for his Reverse London Marathon on Sunday 26th April. Kingsley is running the London Marathon route in reverse, starting at midnight and running through the night to raise vital funds for HV. Kingsley has always wanted to run a marathon, and thought this would be a fun way to raise some funds for us. Of course, Kingsley is not new to running and was the inspiration behind our 5Ks do 5K in 2024 and is due to complete his 300th Park Run this year. However, this is going to be quite a challenge. If you would like to support Kingsley and HV by making a donation, please pop into the HV office, or talk to Kingsley.

Or visit our Just Giving page—<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/kingsleyreverselondonmarathon>



100 Club – Our 100 club is launching this month, with our first draw taking place at the end of April. If you haven’t already signed up and would like to join, it’s not too late! For just £60 per year, you can be part of our monthly draw and could win as much as £100! But more importantly, money we raise through our 100 Club will go to supporting our vital services. Each month we will have three winners, first prize

£100, second prize £50 and third prize £25. Just call us on 01986 875600 if you would like to become a member, and we will let you have more information, including how to pay.

Quiz – Our next fundraising quiz night will be Wednesday 20th May. Join us for an 8pm start in The Stables, at the Angel. It is £2 per person, with teams of 4 ideally. There is a small prize for our winning team and nibbles served in the interval.

Annual Parish Meeting – We are very much looking forward to taking part in the Halesworth Town Council’s Annual Parish Meeting in the town park on Saturday 16th May from 15.00-20.30. There will be information from local organisations and stalls, live music, food, bar and lots to see and do. It is also an opportunity to meet your Town Councillors. The official meeting is at 6pm. We will also be launching our community Volunteering Strategy Campaign along with other local voluntary organisations during the afternoon. Please do come along and give us a look; the fun starts at 3pm.

Karen Kerridge, Director

Safeguarding— it’s everyone’s responsibility

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).

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



Alex Nisbet, Anna Davidson, Brian May, Ed Rolph, Helen O’Brien, Jane Evers, Michelle Rolph, Rosie Rolph, Fiona Pagan.

Annie

KIDS' PAGE

Unscramble to words:



EOPH

SUJES

GHILT

RUTTS



Colour me

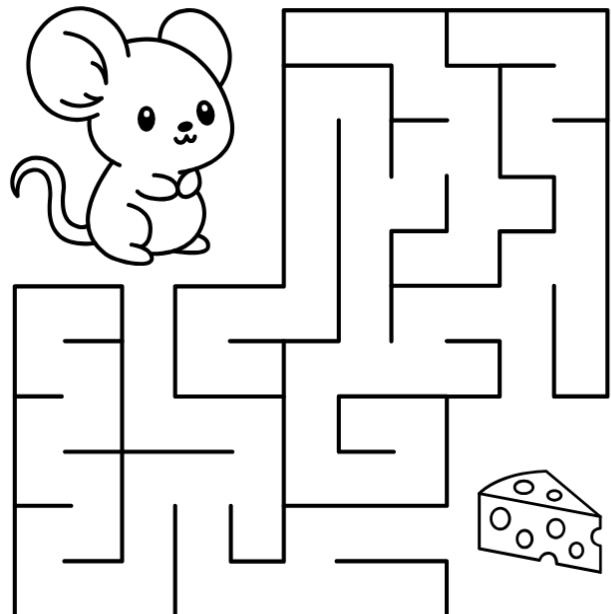


HOPE

Riddles:

What is full of holes
but still holds
water?

Find your
way



Write a prayer for what
gives you hope.

WHAT'S ON

Voxcetera Chamber Choir

VOXCETERA

returns to Blythburgh, with
Ian Burdge cellist
Martyn Noble pianist & organist
Jane Hopkins conductor

I Am A Cloud

Sacred sounds, folk songs and beautiful new choral music including *I Am A Cloud* by Majel Connery and works by Britten, Dvořák, Fauré, Petter, Poulenc, Rusby and Sondheim.

Saturday 23 May, 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church,
 Blythburgh IP19 9LP

£15 | Under 18s half price
 Book tickets: voxcetera.co.uk



Open the Book

Open the Book is a scripted programme of bible stories which are shared with children in primary schools.

The photo on the back page shows three of our team (Carol, Jim and Simon) at Bramfield School acting the story, A Walk to Emmaus. At the end of their journey Jesus shares a meal with Mr and Mrs Cleopas.

It is a fun and exciting time for us and the children whom we involve as much as possible.

Besides Bramfield, we also visit Holton and Wenhaston schools. At all the schools we are always given a warm welcome.

We are currently a team of seven but new members are very welcome to join!

Helen O'Brien

Family Picnic

Thursday 28th May
St Mary's Church, Halesworth
 * 11:30 am till 1 pm

ST MARY'S HALESWORTH LUNCHTIME RECITALS SERIES — 2026 —

REFRESHMENTS FROM 12 NOON
 — RECITALS AT 12:30PM —

- Wed 13th May – Will Ferguson – Piano
- Wed 10th June – Roman Rudnytsky – Piano
- Wed 8th July – Qwind Essential – Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn
- Wed 12th August – Veronica Downing & Wendy Slaney
 Soprano / Mezzo Soprano
- Wed 9th September – Evan Ruth – Tenor
- Wed 14th October – Katalin Farsang Prentice – Soprano
- Wed 11th Nov – TBC
- Wed 9th Dec – Jason Busby – Organ

FREE TO ATTEND. RETIRING COLLECTION

WHAT'S ON

Local produce and crafts



From local growers and makers

HALESWORTH PRODUCE MARKET

EST. 2003

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



Church Mice Tots Group

St Mary's Church, Halesworth
Thursday's 11:30 am - 1 pm
Term-Time

PLANT SALE

SATURDAY

16TH 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



HOLTON CARSHOW 2026

SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2026
10am until 4pm

FREE ENTRY
(Donations will support the village hall)

Holton & Blyford Village Hall
Lodge Road
Holton (Nr Halesworth)
IP19 8RZ

For more information or to book a vehicle space please call:
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HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH


SPRING FAIR

Saturday 16th May 10:30am—2pm
Holton Village Hall, Lodge Road, IP19 8RZ

Tea, coffee and biscuits from 10:30am.
Light lunches from 11:30am. Tombola, cakes, raffle, plants, books, jigsaws, gifts etc





WHAT'S ON



Family Communion

**10TH MAY AT 10 AM
ST MARY'S CHURCH,
HALESWORTH**

Join Trudi Mouse and her friends for our family service.



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

For details contact kate.lamorn@gmail.com
We look forward to seeing you!

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Woman in Mind

by ALAN AYCKBOURN


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| | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| Wednesday | May 6 | Wingfield Barns | 01379 384505 | wingfieldbarns.com |
| Thursday | May 7 | Diss Corn Hall | 01379 652241 | thecornhall.co.uk |
| Friday | May 8 | Fisher Theatre Bungay | 01986 897130 | fishertheatre.org |
| Saturday | May 9 | Laxfield Village Hall | 01986 872481 | openspacetheatre.org |
| Thursday | May 14 | Beccles Public Hall | 01502 770060 | becclespublichall.co.uk |
| Friday | May 15 | The Cut Halesworth | 03003 033211 | thecut.org.uk |
| Friday | May 22 | Southwold Arts Centre | 01502 722572 | southwoldartscentre.co.uk |

For further information and to book tickets for all venues, visit openspacetheatre.org

Jonah and the Whale Family Service



**St Andrew's Church
Bramfield
24th May
10:00 AM**

CAR BOOT SALE

**Sat 2nd May 10am
Church Paddock Holton**

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

**Tel: 07944267733 or
01986 872467**

**Refreshments, Raffle
and Church Stall**

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More Photos from Town & Villages



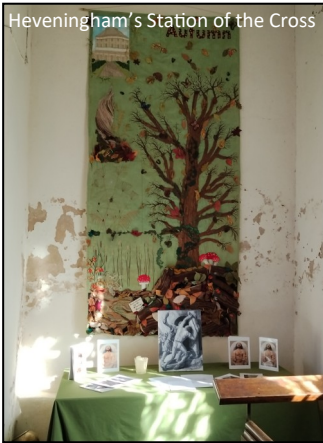
Open the Book at
Bramfield Primary
School



Irene Thomas (stripy top).
See Linstead update.



Easter flowers
at Holton



Heveningham's Station of the Cross



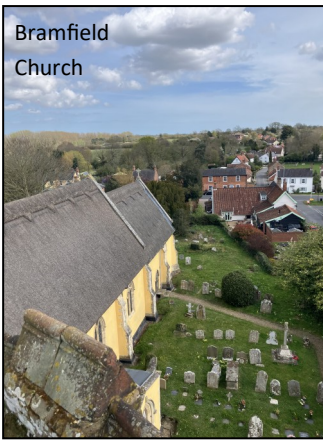
Youth Choir



Draw the Verse



Nicola Bar, Wenhaston Flower Club



Bramfield
Church



Heveningham
Open Day



Veronica and Graham Downing



Bramfield Church Flagpole



Having a roar-some good time
at Breakfast Church!



Easter Family Picnic

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



Congratulations to Andy Hammett and Michaela
Bloomfield, married at St Peter's, Wenhaston on
Friday 10th April