



Blyth Valley Times

Church in Community—Community in Church

July 2026

Caring for Creation

£1.50

(where sold)

At the end of May, five intrepid members of Halesworth ASH went to the launch of the East Suffolk Community Energy project to learn more about community energy with local benefits and local ownership, benefitting both citizens and nature as we wean ourselves off climate-damaging fossil fuels. The Community Energy project aims to help communities shape their energy future by developing, leading, owning and benefitting from renewable energy projects. Halesworth ASH have now submitted ideas (have a look on their website www.halesworthash.com), ranging from domestic energy and industrial sites, to working with landlords to improve their domestic properties. If you have ideas to help shape our greener future collectively, get in touch; even better, get involved!



Now for something different, but connected, which underlines why community-owned renewable energy is so important, and that's the People's Emergency Briefing film, coming to Westhall Village Hall on 8th July and to St Mary's, Halesworth on 10th September. This is a public information film that clearly and honestly briefs the UK on the climate and nature crisis. We know God's creation is in trouble and its ability to sustain people is already failing our brothers and sisters in the Global South and will have an impact on us too, from our national security to our food supply. The film aims to help us know the seriousness of the threat and the actions that must be taken to keep us, and the precious natural environment, safe. This is what Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich and lead Church of England bishop on the environment, had to say about it: "The Church of England has a clear role in caring for God's creation and taking prophetic action. With a Christian presence in every community in England, I strongly encourage our churches, chaplaincies and schools to host screenings of this timely and important film."

Jim Green, Reader

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

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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

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July Lectionary

Sunday the 5th

Holy Communion – The Fifth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 7. 15-25a (NRSV)

Matt. 11. 16-19, 25-end (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Fifth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

1 Pet. 3. 8-15a (KJV)

Luke 5. 1-11 (KJV)

Sunday the 12th

Holy Communion — The Sixth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 8. 1-11 (NRSV)

Matt. 13. 1-9, 18-23 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Sixth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 6. 3-11 (KJV)

Matt. 5. 20-26 (KJV)

Sunday the 19th

Holy Communion – The Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 8. 12-25 (NRSV)

Matt. 13. 24-30, 36-43 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 6.19-end (KJV)

Mark 8. 1-10a (KJV)

Sunday the 26th

Holy Communion – The Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

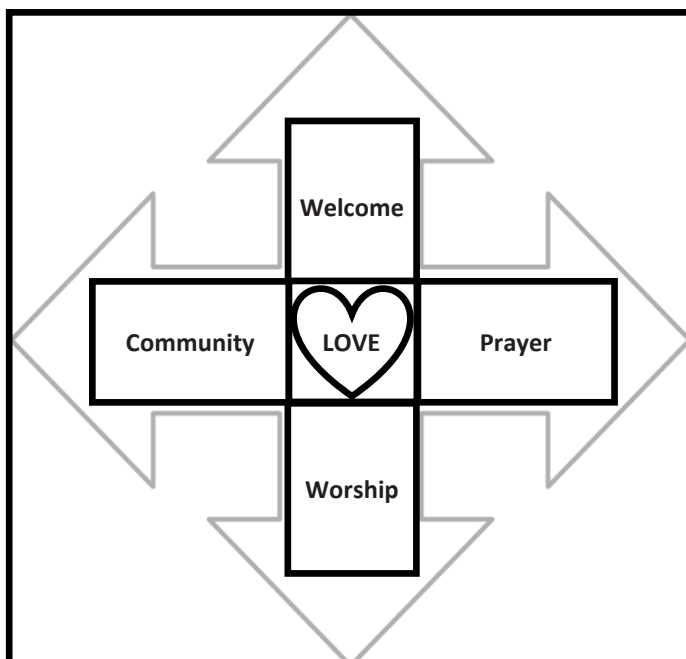
Rom. 8. 26 -end (NRSV)

Matt. 13. 31-33, 44-52 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 8. 12-17 (KJV)

Matt. 7. 15-21 (KJV)



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 July 2026				
CW – Year A Continuous New Testament	5 th CW & BCP – 5th after Trinity	12 th CW & BCP – 6th after Trinity	19 th CW & BCP – 7th after Trinity	26 th CW & BCP – 8th after Trinity
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Edmund 6pm Praise Evening Pauline	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Family Communion Dominic and Pauline	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Iona Worship Jason	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Vic
St Peter Group				
Holton St Peter		10am Morning Prayer Chris and Gary	6:30pm Songs of Praise Edmund	10am Iona Veronica M
Wenhaston St Peter		10am Holy Communion Alison	10am Holy Communion Edmund	10am Pause for Thought Margaret
Bramfield St Andrew		6pm Evensong Dominic		10am Family Service Pauline
Blyford All Saints			10am Wild Church Jim	
Thorington St Peter				10am Holy Communion Dominic
St Andrew Grp				
Wissett St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer Jim	10am Holy Communion Alison	6pm Evensong Dominic
Chediston St Mary		10am Holy Communion Linda		10am Morning Prayer Veronica D
Spexhall St Peter			10am Holy Communion Adrian	
Linstead St Margaret		6:30pm Floral Evensong Edmund	12 noon Patronal Service, Village Hall Dominic	
St Michael Grp				
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Dominic	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Traditional Communion Edmund		
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Holy Communion Edmund
Walpole St Mary		10am Holy Communion Adrian		

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

5th July Mrs J Shiret
10am 12th July Joint Service at St Peter's
19th July Rev Martin Keenan
26th July Rev Mrs Sue Groome

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 5th July 2026 11.00am
Gathered Worship Rev Alex Jacob

Tuesday 7th July 2026 10am to 12noon
Coffee morning at Lowestoft,
followed by Morning Worship

Friday 10th July 2026 9.30am
Prayer Meeting in the Church,
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 12th July 2026 11. 00am
Gathered Worship Elizabeth

3pm BRAMFIELD CHAPEL

Sunday 19th July 2026 11.00am
Gathered Worship Peter Wagg

Tuesday 21st July 2026 10am to 12noon
Coffee morning at Lowestoft,
followed by Morning Worship

Friday 24th July 2026 9.30am
Prayer Meeting in the Church,
followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 26th July 11.00am
Gathered Worship Michael H-Cooper

Tuesday 28th July 10am to 12 noon
Coffee morning at Lowestoft,
followed by Morning Worship

Friday 31st July 9.30am
Prayer Meeting in the Church,
followed by Coffee Morning



From the Rector...

As we move towards the end of the month the holiday season will be well underway. Followed not long after by the back to school posters offering mathematical instrument sets, pencil-cases and calculators I dare say!

August was traditionally the month when clergy took time off. (Vicars are not employees. Indeed, they only recently have become subject to legislation relating to office holders.) Ts & Cs notwithstanding, this was achieved by swapping parsonages for a couple of weeks. A rural minister would change places with an urban one. Both would simply undertake light duties. In effect just taking a minimum of Sunday services. What else does a vicar do though, if not Sunday services? At one level this is perhaps a very silly question: don't vicars only work Sunday? But, at another it is very important. Look at all the sacrificial giving and time and effort people put in to raising money to cover the life expenses and housing of our professional class of deployable priests.

The most important thing - I think - for any competent authentic boss, or leader, is to be present. Not just there, but attentive, calm, reliable and responsive. In any organisation spread across a number of sites this is tricky at the best of times. Where one has small numbers of faithful volunteers at each of these sites the challenge is multiplied. When each site is public-facing and engages solely, or collectively, with partners the challenge is exacerbated.

Across the Blyth Valley Churches there are a number of ways by which I try to deal with this demand. In many ways they are soft approaches. They are not immediately chargeable. Some are more obviously part of the job. Some are more obvious full stop. I chair all our Church Councils. This means I am involved in all core decision making. I also have a cycle of social/discussion meetings with the Church Council officers; that is Churchwardens, Treasurers and Secretaries; and am party to their WhatsApp group interactions. All these things mean I may learn from and pass on their experience and knowledge and share mine.

Between meetings I triage my e-mails to try and respond to them all within two weeks if the subject appears less urgent and important. Funeral requests made by e-mail, procedural or other Safeguarding correspondence tends to get same day treatment if possible. Wedding, Baptism or other enquiries, such as a permission to install a bench, alongside school

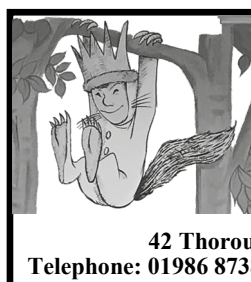
governor or Diocesan Governance Committee business, may fall somewhere between the two extremes. Joint Council, Deanery, property and other matters may also be dealt with by e-mail between meetings.

I keep up with ministry colleagues through a schedule of quarterly or monthly one to ones, monthly select Team Meetings and more inclusive Ministry Meetings. These are designed so that I meet those from whom most is expected more frequently than those who are more in control of their time and have bounded it to make room for other responsibilities or interests. One to ones are open discussions, while the meetings are group chats book-ended by Bible discussion and prayer using Common Worship's Prayer during the day.

The dog gets a walk now and then which gives me some exercise, thinking time and a chance to meet people, especially if on one of our longer weekend routes we take in a pub. Liz and I sometimes manage to squeeze in a date night, a lunch break, some gardening or time away with friends. Then when the diary allows, or I've the energy, it is a joy to join you at the events you so faithfully organise across the villages of the Blyth Valley.

So what with Morning and Evening Prayer to set the tone and 10:30, 2:30 and 7:30 meetings Tuesday to Thursday each week, there is much to give thanks for. This is my calling and I love it. I am sustained and energised by it. Whilst I do not swap parsonages, I confess I do enjoy giving this up for a few weeks a year to rest, refresh and retreat. Yet, I am extremely grateful to all of you who put their hand in their pockets that I may devote my time to being your priest in this place at this time. Do get in touch with your local Church Council treasurer if this has inspired you to set up a Direct Debit through the Parish Giving Scheme or to make a one-off donation. We can't do this without you!

Dominic

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HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

(Prov. Ch 12 v 18)

Probably we are all familiar with the phrase “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me”?

I expect we are very aware how far from the truth that actually is, and I am sure that you, like me, have had times when we ‘wish we hadn’t said that!’ At those times it is even more important for us to humble ourselves and say ‘sorry’, however hard that may be. How much better a place our world would be if we all endeavoured to be more gracious, no matter how others respond to us. Our neighbourhood and whole area would be impacted.

Why, I wonder, is it so hard at times for us to say the right thing? But if we give thought to our words, it is possible to bring support and comfort to others in times of trouble or difficulty, and thereby make an enormous difference.

We need interaction with others – that’s how we are made. Many people admit to being lonely at least some of the time. How good then to pick up the phone and spend a little while talking to someone to lift up their spirit and help them along life’s journey?

We can talk to God in prayer; no special words or formula are needed, we just need to believe he is listening and waiting for us to get in touch. Some people like to say the Lord’s Prayer others prefer a quiet stroll in the garden or countryside, but it is possible to talk to God in our hearts, even in the busyness that we find ourselves in, and that can often bring some peace into our hearts.

In Psalm 141 v 3, the Psalmist asks the Lord to “Take control of what I say”. I think we would do well to follow suit.



**Paul Potts
Halesworth URC**



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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

As I write this, I am preparing to celebrate the Eucharist for the first time; as you read this I will probably have done so quite recently. It is therefore a timely opportunity to consider an important question: what is the Eucharist, anyway? What is actually going on up at the altar?

So far as I understand things, there are really four actions which are absolutely essential to the celebration of the Eucharist, namely: sacrifice, invocation, remembrance and intercession. And although there are one or two exceptions, these generally follow one-another, in that order, starting with the words "lift up your hearts" and continuing to the end of the Eucharistic prayer. At one point, the whole first section of the Eucharistic prayer was called the 'sacrifice'; that is: the whole section from the beginning up until "Holy, Holy, Holy". The interesting question is: what is being sacrificed? There are only two real possibilities: one is that it's the bread and wine presented to the altar by the community; the other is that it's a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. There is therefore an argument for either baking locally the bread for the altar or preparing a good musical setting of the Sanctus; although the Eucharist is perfectly valid without either, it really does make most sense if the sacrifice involves us giving up enough time and energy that it feels like a sacrifice, because the properly sacrificial element of the prayer is not the sacrifice of Calvary (which has already happened and does not need to be repeated), but something that comes from us as a sign of our deep love for God.

Second, after the words "Holy, holy, holy", there will be a prayer which invokes one of the persons of the Holy Trinity and asks them to make Jesus present in the gifts that are being offered. In most services, you will hear words like "Send down your Holy Spirit...", accompanied by the priest moving their hands over the gifts as though to indicate where the Holy Spirit might come down. Much like in the Incarnation, the Eucharist involves a stooping down of heaven to earth.

Thirdly, there is a remembrance of what Jesus did at the Last Supper. This way of remembering Jesus goes back at least to the time of Paul, who may well have learnt it from the Apostles in Jerusalem. It will generally start with the words "who, in the same night that he was betrayed", and in some traditions this is seen as the high point of the prayer. Here is the time when the gathered Church forms part of the table at the Last Supper, as though transported across time and space to that upper room in Jerusalem.

Finally, older eucharistic prayers used to conclude with a long sequence of intercessions. Today this survives only in phrases like "send the Holy Spirit on your people", and in a slightly longer format in the prayers after communion used in the Book of Common Prayer. But it is important: we all carry with us people we have promised to pray for, prayers we cannot say out loud, or even prayers we have forgotten. All these and many other prayers are offered to heaven at the altar. Even if we have forgotten the words, in that time and that place, God knows and hears our prayers. Above all, the eucharist is only one thing: the time above all times when heaven touches earth and the praises of earth echo throughout heaven.



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LIFE EVENTS

From the Registers

Funerals/Interment of Ashes:

Martina Calver at Halesworth

Pamela Alen at Cookley

Sue Spall at Halesworth

Dawn Warne at Halesworth



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); Wenhamston 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.

Summer at Halesworth Library

We have lots of activities planned over the summer to keep your children occupied. On Wednesday 29th July, 10:00-11:00, we will be hosting a sports themed craft club; it's FREE, but booking is required – contact the library to secure your place! On Friday 31st July we will be hosting a chess taster session – drop in anytime between 2:30 and 4:30pm. Whether you are a complete beginner or looking to develop your skills, we hope to see you there! On Wednesday 5th August we welcome Mini Monsters to the library with their creepy crawly roadshow. £1 per child, booking required. Choose between our morning session (11:30-12:30) or afternoon session (1:30-2:30). On Wednesday 12th August we welcome local artist Anita Andrews (1:00-3:00pm) for a craft workshop, again £1 per child, booking required. Anita will also be running an all-day workshop on Friday 21st August, 10:00-3:00pm, showing children (aged 8+) how to create their own notebooks. Lunch provided, £1 per child, please book in advance. On Wednesday 26th August, 10:00-11:00, we are hosting a rainbow fish craft club; it's FREE but booking is required. Not forgetting the Reading Quest which will be returning at the end of July - make sure you pop into the library to sign up and collect your casebook to carry you through the summer!

The library hosts regular activities and drop-ins. Come and join us every Tuesday, 10-11:30, for a free Rhyme Time & Play session to sing fun songs followed by free play with our toys. Refreshments also provided for parents! Wednesdays from 10am our Time Out sociable group for older people meet for tea and biscuits. The Knit & Natter group meet alternate Tuesdays, 2:30-4:30pm. We also have a new Mah-jong group that meet on the first Friday of the month, 2:00-4:00pm. At this early stage, the group is open to experienced players and if you have your own Mah-jong set, please bring it along with you. 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. On Tuesday 7th July we will have our local PCSO visiting for a drop in session, 10:30-11:30.

The Friends of Halesworth Library are inviting you to join us for Sociable Sundays on 12th and 26th July, to 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 Monday 29th 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.

The Friends of Halesworth Library will be holding their AGM at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 30th June at the library. Anybody may attend the meeting, but voting rights are restricted to members of the Friends. Copies of the agenda, the report of the trustees to members and accounts for the year to 31st March 2026 will be available for collection from the library from 15th June. Following the formal business, there will be a panel discussion and audience Q&A reviewing the

transition of the library service to Suffolk County Council in 2025. We will also discuss the future projects and activities of the Friends group under the new in-house provision. The panel will include Daniel Harvey, Library Operations and Delivery Manager, Suffolk Community Libraries and Councillor Annette Dunning Suffolk County Councillor for the Halesworth Division and ambassador of the Library. Come along, share your views, and be part of the conversation about the future of our library. And finally! Did you know that the library can deliver books and audiobooks straight to your door? If you're unable to visit the library, one of our friendly volunteers can come to you. Please contact us on 01986 506062 for more details.

Catherine Draper

Safeguarding ... *it's everyone's responsibility*



Congratulations to Fred Woods for completing his safeguarding training recently. Also Lis Willmet, Philip Hays-Nowak, and Ken Allen

If you need help accessing the online training get in touch with Annie or your local PCC.



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It has been a wonderful few months for the Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund, and we have some exciting news to share: **Golf Day — Over £5,600 Raised!** We are absolutely thrilled to report that our recent charity golf day was a tremendous success, raising over £5,600 for the Fund. This is an extraordinary result and a testament to the generosity of everyone who took part, sponsored a hole, donated prizes, or helped to organise and run the event on the day. Huge thanks to everyone at Halesworth Golf Club and our main sponsor, Suffolk Car Centre for your continued support.

Introducing Hands Up for Halesworth We are delighted to be part of an exciting new community initiative: Hands Up for Halesworth. This project has been created to make it as easy as possible for local people to discover the many voluntary organisations in Halesworth and the surrounding towns and villages and to find out how they can get involved. The project has already mapped many local volunteer groups, covering a huge range of causes and activities. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to give something back to your community, visit www.handsupforhalesworth.co.uk to see what's available and how you can help. HDCF is proud to be listed on the platform. Volunteering with us is a rewarding and meaningful way to support people affected by dementia in our community. Whether you can offer a few hours a week or a little more, we would love to hear from you.

Day Centre — Spaces Available Our Day Centre at the Patrick Stead Day Care Centre, London Road, Halesworth IP19 8LR continues to provide a warm, friendly, and stimulating environment for people living with memory problems. We cover Halesworth and the surrounding towns and villages, and we currently have spaces available on Fridays 9:30am – 3:30pm and Wednesdays (starting 1st July). Our Day Centre is free to attend, there is just a £5 charge for a hot lunch (donations always welcome). Activities include music, reminiscence, crafts and gentle exercise in a supportive and sociable setting. A friendly assessment is carried out to make sure the Day Centre is the right fit for your loved one. Even if the Day Centre isn't quite the right option, we can still help, with advice, signposting and carer support. No one should face dementia alone.

As well as the Day Centre, HDCF offers a range of support for people affected by dementia and their carers: **Carer Support**— practical advice, a listening ear, and signposting to services for family members and carers who are supporting someone with a memory problem. **Advice and Information**— guidance on dementia, the care system, financial entitlements, and local services, whether you are newly diagnosed or further along the journey. **Community Outreach**—we work across Halesworth and the surrounding area to ensure support reaches those who need it, wherever they are. **Groups and Activities**—Music and Movement, a memory café, seated yoga, singing with friends, art and crafts. More details on our website, or get in touch.

07990 199632 or info@halesworthdementia.co.uk or www.halesworthdementia.co.uk



Walpole Old Chapel



Walpole Old Chapel is a unique building, created c1690 by local people out of an existing farmhouse.

We are open to the public on Saturday and Bank Holiday afternoons from 2pm - 4.30pm from 4th April until 26th September. Further events are:

Sunday 7th June 3pm *The Dollard Collectief - Voices through the Trees: The Northwestern Seaboard Down the Ages.*

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June 11am – 5pm *Suffolk Open Studios. Grace Adam, artist in residence.*

Saturday 13th June 12 noon–2pm. *Drawing Workshop.*

Sunday 12th July 3pm. *Blake Morrison and the Hosepipe Band.*

Sunday 9th August 3pm. *Here's the Summer Lovekyn Consort.*

Sunday 16th August 10:30am-5pm. *Sings the Chapels Weekend.*

Sunday 23rd August 3pm. *Music on a Summer's Afternoon.*

Sunday 6th September 3pm. *Tin Foil Aliens.*

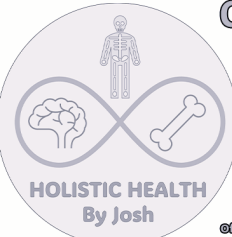
Saturday 12th September 10am-4:30pm *Heritage Open Day.*

Saturday 19th September 4pm. *Harvest Festival.*

Grace Adam is Artist in Residence March to September. Exhibition open Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September 11am-4pm. October 11am-3pm on Fridays 9th-30th and Saturdays 10th–31st. Also Thursday 29th October.

To book tickets before the event, go to ticketsource.co.uk Walpole Old Chapel for tickets @ £12, or pay £15 on the door.

Contact: info@walpoleoldchapel.org
Halesworth Road, Walpole, Halesworth IP19 9AZ
www.walpoleoldchapel.org/programme



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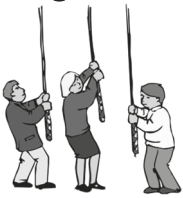
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 Find us on Facebook: Victor's Barber Shop



From the Ringing Chamber

The weather is currently too hot for serious journalism, but Annie's gentle reminder has dragged me in from the garden to enlighten you all on what the Halesworth ringers have been up to.

The Surprise Minor project has taken a lift with two successes since I last wrote, "Newcastle" at Wissett and "Northumberland" at Rumburgh, both moderately difficult but producing some good ringing. We're having a break from the very hard stuff next month, but there are some awkward ones coming up which will need everyone to stay awake.

Some of you may remember Joan Johnceline of Wenhaston who died a while ago. Some of her old ringing colleagues got together at Wenhaston on the weekend of what would have been her birthday to ring a quarter peal in her memory. Her two daughters came to listen and produced some memorial meringues at the end, which sent us suitably fuelled up back to Halesworth for the performance of the month, a quarter of Plain Bob Major. Having three quality guest ringers certainly upped the striking which was excellent. There were hardly any mistakes, and Pete tapped the tenor round in just 45 minutes, the ideal speed for the bells that we normally manage to add a couple of minutes to. 5% doesn't sound much of an adjustment but actually it can make all the difference.

Tuesday practices have been going well. Although attendances have not been great, that can sometimes help those who are there by giving them more rope time. We've had one or two visitors too which usually helps.

The banner outside the church has drawn lots of comments but very little actual interest. The Recruitment Committee are rebuilding the drawing board.



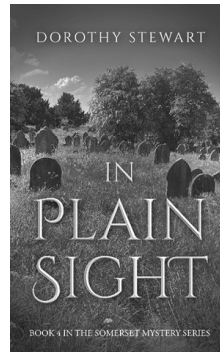
New Facebook page for Thorington Church!

Do join/like/follow to keep up with the latest news, photos, information and reflections.

Search for St-Peters-Church-Thorington

Your Invitation:

book signing: local author Dorothy Stewart's latest book



Halesworth Bookshop
Saturday 11th July from 10.30am

Paperback £9.99 from Halesworth Bookshop and Amazon e-book

£0.99 Kindle, free on Kindle Unlimited

GO EXPLORE

for the adventures of your life!



If there's one thing we believe at Go Explore, it's that travel should be every bit as exciting as the destination itself. I'm Jess, Manager of our Halesworth branch and since opening our doors at the end of 2025,

we've been helping travellers swap daydreams for departure lounges and bucket lists for boarding passes.

Go Explore was founded by Steve, who brings nearly 25 years of travel industry experience, including almost two decades as Managing Director of Fred. Olsen Travel. After retiring early 2025, he set off on his own adventures and quickly realised that sharing a passion for travel was simply too hard to leave behind. Inspired by the people, places and cultures he encountered, Go Explore was born.

Today, we're all about creating holidays that are as individual as the people taking them. Whether you're craving a luxury escape, an epic adventure, a family getaway or something completely off the beaten track, we'll help make it happen.

So, where next? Bring us your travel dreams and let's start exploring.



GO ON... GO EXPLORE

ARE YOU READY TO BOOK ON YOUR DREAM ESCAPE? POP IN-STORE TODAY...

☎ 01986 373045

✉ enquiries@goexploretavel.co.uk

Farming and Faith

A series focussing on our local farmers, food producers and land owners. This month we hear from Rachel Kellett, who runs Kaliwood in Holton.

Tell us about your farm

Kaliwood - a 5 acre wood nuttery, coppiced on rotation, and used as a base for Kinda Forest School.

Rachel's land - 18 acres of previous arable land, now planted up with 6,000 trees (funded by EWCO project) with 2 acres of Agroforestry and a community and forest garden in the making.

<https://kaliwood.wordpress.com/>

<https://kaliwood.wordpress.com/land/>

<https://www.kindaeducation.org.uk/>

What do you enjoy about farming?

Being rooted in the land

Welcoming children to take part in the story

Learning about nature's system

What are your challenges?

Water!

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

I was raised in the Christian tradition (Catholic) which definitely informs me. However, I examined it and found it wanting in India and instead now tread a more Buddhist way. However, I acknowledge the importance of the spiritual element. Every Equinox I invite the local community to join in celebrating the land.

How can your local community support farmers/farming?

I benefit from much excellent information from the Blyth Valley Cluster. I share resources like diggers for minimal price with local land owners.

Prayer points

I have an Angel in the wood, and various places of contemplation and meditation through the wood and land. For example where my dog Kali is buried.

The Suffolk Agricultural Chaplaincy team seeks to share God's love with those working on the land, at sea, and across rural industries. They attend events throughout the county, including the Suffolk Show, Hadleigh Show and others, and support is available to anyone working in these sectors. The team offers confidential care, prayer and practical help through phone calls, home or farm visits, or meetings at a convenient location. They can also attend events to provide information or give talks.

To get in touch or refer someone for support, please email: agr chaplaincy@cofesuffolk.org



St Margaret's Church
Heveningham with
Ubbeston present

Bells and Bakes

Enjoy a traditional cream tea and discover the fascinating art of church bell ringing.

Saturday 18th July 12:00 - 14.30 hrs

Join us for a delightful afternoon at the church
Enjoy a traditional cream tea and discover the fascinating art of church bell ringing.

Experienced ringers will be on hand to explain how the bells are rung, demonstrate ringing techniques, and, for those who would like to, offer the opportunity to have a go.

Cream Teas available £5 with unlimited drinks

Everyone is welcome



Church Road
Heveningham
01986798280

stmargarechurch11@gmail.com

Free Parking

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www.jefferyopticians.co.uk

4 - 5 Rectory Street, Halesworth

Opposite the Library

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Enhanced OCT examination available

NHS eye examinations

**Where eyecare is as individual
as you are**

We care EYECARE





Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research

The Committee and Volunteers would like to thank everyone who came along to our Spring Fair which we held at Holton Village Hall on Saturday 16th May. We hope that all of you who stayed for lunch enjoyed the food. We have received some really nice comments about the meals, which means a lot to us, so thank you very much.

It was a lovely friendly community event and the hall looked very pretty with all the flower table decorations; thank you Felicity and ladies for doing these and thank you to everyone who took one home for a small donation.

We are so grateful that so many of you support our events and we are delighted to say that you raised an amazing £2518.36 towards the incredible work carried out by Cancer Research as they continue to find new treatments and better diagnostic techniques in their fight to beat Cancer — their progress is truly astounding.

We have to say a huge thank you to the following businesses for providing items used for our meals:-

Cleveleys, Co-op Halesworth, Spar Halesworth, Tesco Beccles.

Their support makes a massive difference to us and we are extremely grateful to them.

Thank you to all the committee members and volunteers who made the soup, pies, and desserts that we served at lunch time.

We would also like to thank the following businesses for providing items for our raffle:-

Adnams Southwold, Africa Alive, The Wentworth Hotel in Aldeburgh, Serenity Ceramics, The White Hart.

Congratulations to everyone who won a raffle prize and thank you all for taking part. Thank you to Market Fields Holton for donating the lovely food hamper which raised £242 and was won by D Cadle.

The Bonus Ball Gin Hamper was won by M. Page with Saturday 16th May lottery bonus ball number 20.

A special thanks to Woottens of Wenhaston for donating some fantastic plants for the plant stall.

Thank you to everyone who baked cakes or savouries for our cake stall, donated a raffle prize or contributed in any way.

Our next fundraising opportunity is our street collection which takes place in The Thoroughfare on Friday 26th June outside Coopers and The Angel, also on Saturday 26th June at the Co-op.

Unfortunately we don't have access to a card machine or tap and go facilities. Please say hello to our collectors as it will brighten their day and if you have a few pennies to drop into our collecting goblets we would be very grateful as every penny counts.



Our very popular Tombola stall at the Spring Fair

We are in the i-Chameleon pop up shop in the Thoroughfare Halesworth from:- Thursday 2nd - Wednesday 8th July.

We have something outside the shop each day.

Thursday is Tombola

Friday we have Jane Bastow with her very popular plant stall.

Saturday is cake day

Monday it's books and jigsaws

Tuesday the Ukulele Band are playing for us from 11.00am (ish) to 11.45am

In the shop we will have lots of bargains and we will have some nearly new clothes (with good labels eg. Seasalt, Dash, Fat Face, Weird Fish, Boden etc). Please call in and say hello and pick up a bargain.

We apologise as all our events are cash only.

For more information please contact

Dawn Davis 01986 873640

The Rumburgh



REAL ALES, REAL FOOD, REAL PUB

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

FOOD SERVED DAILY 12pm - 2pm & 5pm - 8pm

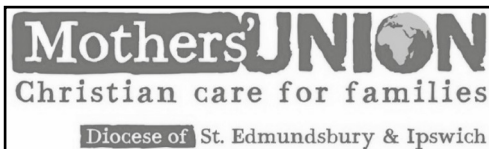
Mill Road, Rumburgh,

Halesworth IP19 0NT

Tel: 01986 785257

www.rumburghbuck.co.uk





News from the staff at Mary Sumner House

Mothers' Union has partnered with the Girls' Brigade of England and Wales and re-partnered with a reinvigorated and now independent charity, The Clewer Initiative. The partnership with Girls' Brigade will ensure that the voice of young people is heard boldly and loudly in all we do, and the partnership with Clewer will deliver Mothers' Union's new National Programme on Modern Slavery.

150th Anniversary Events in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

£150 challenge: Claydon and Barham branch teamed up with Henley branch and had a stall at the village gala on May 4th. The £10 seed money paid for their stall and they raised £152 with the sale of plants and cakes. A wonderful start for our £150 challenge.

MUeshop

There is a new brooch specially designed for the 15th anniversary – only £4.50. They will be available from the MUe stall at the AGM/Council meeting on 28th April, or email or phone Clare Thomas to order one – 01473 832808 or clare.thomas@mothersunion.org

Supporting the Infant Feeding team with essential teaching resources



Jeanette Appleton hands over another batch of knitted breasts to Lisa Locke the Infant Feeding Coordinator, Suffolk County. Lise shared, "Staff in our health visiting and family hub teams are very appreciative when they receive one of these beautiful, colourful knitted breasts following breastfeeding training. They are a really practical tool to support the demonstration of breastfeeding techniques to lactating parents. They are all unique and we thank the members of the Mothers' Union for taking the time to craft each one."

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 Wenhamston. *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.*

Prayer points

- Pray that 'United in Solace and Grace' will be granted charity status, so that they can develop their worship resources which are about reaching out to survivors of abuse and building bridges between church and community. For Rev Wendy Segar and Christine Ward our Modern-Day Slavery officer.
- That all our 150th Anniversary events will enable us to grow in number and that the funds raised will enable MU to reach even more people in need.
- Prayer for the two sports holiday camps, currently being planned, and the church holiday camp run by a team at St Mary Stoke, all funded through our AFIA fund.

News for Diocesan Members

I had a great email from Diocesan Member Cathie McGregor last month. She has been thinking about how we as DMs, could be involved with the 150 challenge. "As DMs we could link to another branch (by email or physically), who have an active challenge project to participate in some way. This could be by attending their event(s) or donating something etc. It is up to the DMs as to how they support this, but it would be a shame to be left out for want of a prod!" So, consider this a virtual prod! Some of us are already connected to a fellowship group, or whatever name you call yourselves, and perhaps you are involved in some way. Let me know what you are up to and I can share it here to inspire others.

Local Mothers' Union Meetings

Wenhaston Mothers' Union Branch Meeting

Wed July 8th 3pm

Wave of Prayer Service and Summer Party

Contact Margaret Goldstone - 01502 478378 for further details

All Welcome.

Yoxmere Benefice Mothers' Union

North Suffolk Area Afternoon

Thurs 16th July - 2pm

St. Edmunds Church, Southwold

Wave of Prayer Service

Cakes & Preserves, Scarves and Jewellery, Raffle.

Mothers' Union Cards and Gifts.

Refreshments

Further details from Sue Norrington 07913 488670

Mothers Union Craft, Coffee and Chat Group

Tues 14th July 10am -12noon

Further details from Sue Norrington 07913 48867

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

Prayer Spaces for Mental Health Awareness Week

We welcomed children from Halesworth Day Nursery, Bramfield Primary School, Sparkles Nursery and St Peter's Holton to prayer spaces in our churches for mental health awareness week. With interactive activities that focused on mental health and well-being these were lovely sessions. At St Andrew's Church in Bramfield, the schools Ethos group helped run the sessions and have done a little write up.



Photo of Halesworth Day Nursery during their visit to St Mary's Church in Halesworth.

Mental Health Prayer Week

Year 3 and 4 children visited St Andrew's Church for a special prayer event. The school's Ethos Group, made up of Key Stage 2 pupils, worked alongside Pauline to help lead a range of engaging activities.

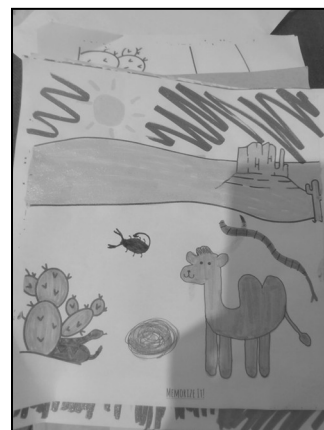
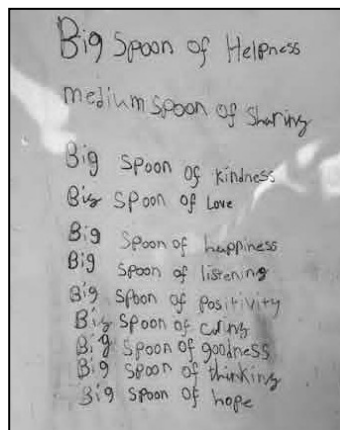
During the afternoon, the children reflected on the things they are thankful for and shared their thoughts on bricks which were used to create a "Wall of Thankfulness". Other activities included "Fizzy Forgiveness" and the "Happiness Roller Coaster", encouraging the children to think about forgiveness, joy and gratitude in their daily lives.

The event provided all the children with a thoughtful and reflective afternoon, full of opportunities for prayer, discussion and personal reflection.

Linda Ashford and the Ethos Group, Bramfield Primary

Kindness Assembly at Holton Primary School

In June, Pauline conducted her first assembly at Holton Primary School. The theme of the assembly was kindness. We talked about kind things that people have done for us, or things that we do to be kind. We read the story of Ruth and Naomi from the Bible, which Open the Book covered during their last visit, and recapped the elements of kindness shared in the story. Together, we then made and wrote a recipe for kindness, before finishing by singing the kindness song. Pauline looks forward to visiting again next term for another fun assembly!



Draw the Verse

June's verse at Draw the Verse was:

"This is what the Lord says: cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord. For he will be like a bush in a desert, and will not see when prosperity comes."

Jeremiah 17:5-6a (NASB)

We always have very interesting conversations at Draw the Verse. We talked about how difficult it is for something to grow in the desert, and how, when we don't trust and turn to God and what he teaches us in the Bible, we can be like those in a desert.

Artwork by Charlie (above right)

Pauline's Update

The end of May and June has been a busy time as always for the children, family and youth ministry across the Blyth Valley Churches. We were invited to be part of the Halesworth Town Parish Meeting and had a stall with some nature activities that went down well. Also, Pauline has been busy working with the local schools, including meeting with the headteacher from Wenhaston Primary to discuss provision for families in Wenhaston and how the church can support this – so watch this space! We have been into Holton Primary School to do an assembly on kindness, and continue our weekly assemblies at Bramfield Primary School. This half-term's theme is Humility, and we have been learning a new song and exploring what it means to be humble.

Continued....

NHS Healthy Start scheme

Apr 2026

What is the Healthy Start Scheme?
If you are more than 10 weeks pregnant or have at least one child under the age of 4 years old and you receive one of the following benefits, you may be eligible to receive payments every 4 weeks.

- Universal credit (if your family's take-home pay is £408 or less per month from employment)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Pension Credit (which includes the child addition)

You will also be eligible if:

- you're under 18 and more than 10 weeks pregnant, even if you're not claiming any benefits
- you claim income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and are more than 10 weeks pregnant

These payments are added to a special card, that is similar to a bank card, that can then be used to buy essential items to support the healthy development of your child.

What could you get?
£4.65 each week of pregnancy (from the 10th week of your pregnancy)
£9.30 each week for children from birth to 1 year old (£483 a year*)
£4.65 each week for children between 1 and 4 years old (£241 a year - total of £723*)
Over £1200 over 4 years*
*costings are approximate
Your money will stop after your child's 4th birthday or if you no longer receive benefits.

These payments can be used to buy:

- Cow's Milk
- Fresh, frozen or tinned fruit and vegetable
- Infant formula milk
- Fresh, dried or tinned pulses

You can also get free healthy start vitamins

To check if you can apply or to find out more, speak to your Midwife or Health Visitor or visit www.healthystart.nhs.uk
You can also call the Healthy Start helpline on 0300 330 7010

www.healthystart.nhs.uk
www.healthystart.suffolk.gov.uk
childrenandfamilies@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk County Council

More News from Pauline Milsted

This month's theme at **Eco Warriors**, with nursery and reception at Holton Primary School, was moths. I think I choose the wettest week we have had in a long time! So unfortunately, we didn't catch any moths, but we watched a snail for 20 minutes on a grave with one nursery group. We named wildflowers and we watched lots of grasshoppers. Sometimes we can have the best plan and end up doing something even better than we were going to do! They also did some lovely art work that you can see displayed in St Mary's Church in Halesworth for our Family Service in June that had a nature theme.

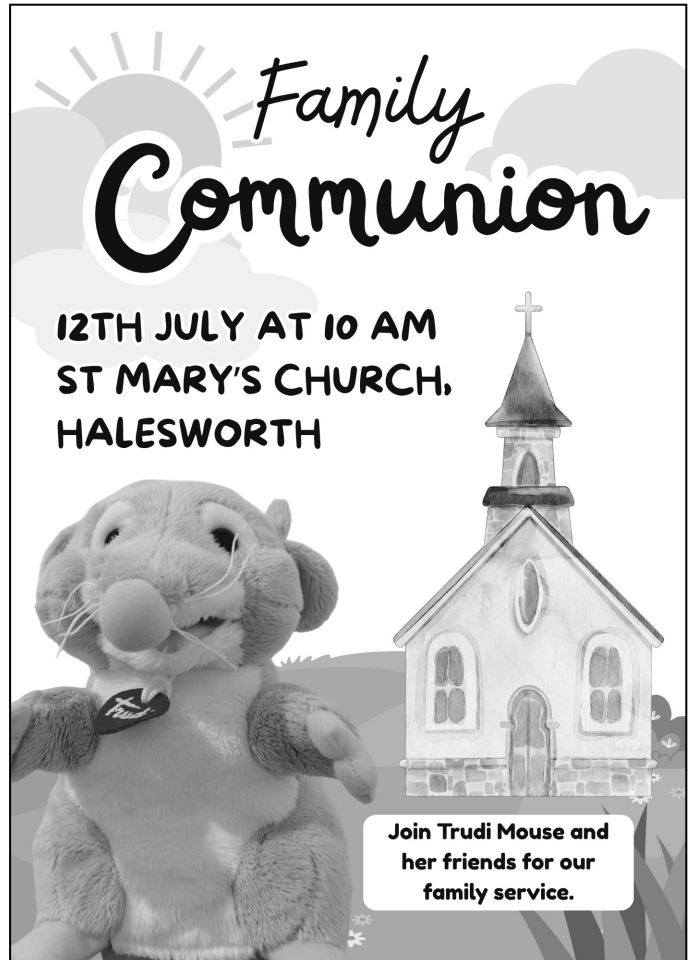
Church Mice Tots continues to grow and since being back in the church we have had anywhere between 4 and 12 families a week and continue to welcome new people to our Church Mice Family. Their planting area continues to grow outside, with the help of Youth Space as well working together to look after the plants. We enjoyed our first red strawberries! And Youth Space, although reluctant at first, also enjoyed trying some Swiss Chard in a carbonara they made; they are becoming proper little chefs. We also enjoyed another outing to the skate park and basketball hoops for one evening in June.

In March, Pauline became the chair of a town organisation called **Youth Action Halesworth** – Rural 2.0, which brings together youth provision in a town, helping us to make sure that we provide young people with opportunities and listen to what they want in town. It is a way of bringing organisations, schools, town council, East Suffolk County Council and police together to look at our community and youth provision working together. It is such a privilege that I was approached and asked to become the chair of this group and that the church is seen as a pivotal part of the community, influencing what is happening in our town. As a result, we have some exciting things coming up this summer, from the What's Out There project? to working with Active Suffolk on a Hackathon at Holton Primary School and a community day in Halesworth. We are also running a readathon and poetry day as part of the year of reading.

Draw the Verse has become a group that I am very fond of. It is a time where people of all ages share and we learn from each other and sometimes our young people just come out with such profound statements, like "Jesus is life". I feel this has become a real intergenerational group, where we draw, discuss and talk about a verse and just study together.

No one attended **May's prayer meeting** for children, family and youth ministry. I would really like to encourage people to come and give an hour of their time once a month, (last Thursday of month 7-8 pm) to pray for this important and evolving ministry.

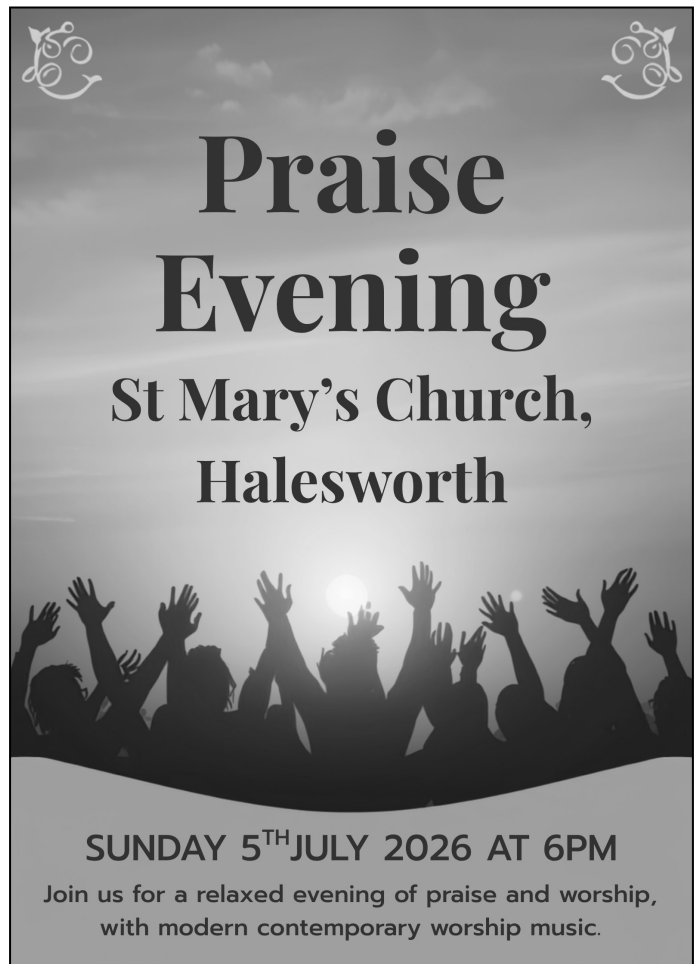
Please pray with us as we head into the busy summer that we will continue to be community in church and church in community. Pray that we will reach the families that need us, that people will attend our events and that we have enough volunteers for everything planned. Also, please pray for the continuous development and growth of our children and young people. And finally for future funding past August 2027 – it's a way off but is creeping up on us.



Family Communion

12TH JULY AT 10 AM
ST MARY'S CHURCH,
HALESWORTH

Join Trudi Mouse and her friends for our family service.



Praise Evening

St Mary's Church,
Halesworth

SUNDAY 5TH JULY 2026 AT 6PM

Join us for a relaxed evening of praise and worship, with modern contemporary worship music.

The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



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Team Rector**

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Highfield Road,
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**The Revd Canon
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Associate Priest**
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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@hnhh.me.uk

Community Choir Coach—vacant—please contact Annie Groves if you're interested.

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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	Vacant Main contact: 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
Thornington	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 your local Church services and events online here (the old website is defunct):

www.achurchnearyou.com

Blyth Valley Times

published monthly by

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Deadline date for ALL copy for the

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WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY

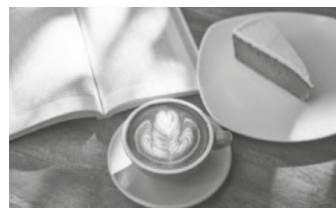
Publishing date: Wednesday 29th July

Advertising:

01986 875941

Email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

Café Church Tuesdays!



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

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent Martin Clarke
clarkehk@yahoo.com

Blyford PCC held its **APCM** inside the church in May with Dominic chairing. The accounts looked healthy and the incumbents all re-elected and it was an opportunity for Dominic to reflect and pour praise on all the recent improvements that had been made. All Saint's Church is elegant in its simplicity. Its smooth uncluttered plastered ceiling allows sound to carry clearly throughout the church, and as such, it is a popular church that holds a place in many people's hearts - particularly people who were born in the village and christened in the church. People like Rodney C (who still maintains the churchyard) and his sister Carol, and her daughter Karen. Also Linda H who married and moved to Leiston.

It is not many years ago that it's future as a commissioned church was under discussion but as we held our meeting we were surrounded by odd bits of cabling and various electrical items as the long-awaited process of installing new under-the-pew heating was finally underway. This was the tail-end of a whole raft of works that have recently been undertaken that have revitalised the old girl. These works include new hand-carved benches, dug out drains, removal of cobwebs, careful applying of lime wash to the walls, repairs to the guttering that had allowed rain water to seep into the walls, removal of overgrown trees and shrubs that were preventing the wall from drying out, removal of mould and repairs to the ceiling and the traditional layering of the south hedge to let in the light and open up spectacular views. We have also had a survey and full report drawn up by church architects on some of the more pressing infrastructural work that needs to be done and we are waiting for engagement of architects and grant applications for the go-ahead. We have also organised many fund-raising events and introduced Wild Church services which have proved popular for church goers.

Speaking of **Wild Church**, our service on the third Sunday in May was led by Edmund. As usual it was held outdoors on the south side of the church using one of our specially commissioned hand-carved benches as a base. His theme was a (belated) Commemoration of the Ascension and included readings from the Book of Daniel, the Book of Acts and the Gospel according to Luke. Following that we all moved to the other new bench on the north side of the

church where Edmund - cross legged on the ground - led a discussion on how we all think about the meaning of the word Ascension and how it affects our everyday life and what sort of memories and emotions we might have about the death of loved ones. Edmund offered a blessing to those loved ones and took the opportunity to give a blessing to both of the benches.

We then chatted about Edmund's forthcoming Ordination in Bury St Edmunds cathedral and all the processes preparations and rituals that he has to go through. It is a huge achievement and we offered him our congratulations. By the time you read this he will be fully ordained as the Revd Dr Edmund Smith and he will have conducted his final service as a Curate at our summer **solstice Wild Church service** where we will have given him a hearty sendoff (not the bumps).

Bramfield

Correspondent Alfred Mullett
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APCM 2026 We had our APCM on 14th May and welcomed some new parishioners to our group, for which we were very grateful. We have plans in place to begin to fundraise for new projects to restore our church.

Family Service Our family service on 24th May was another joyful service, and we were so pleased to see our parishioner, Jean Farmer, come to it again. She recently celebrated her birthday and is now 99 years old!

Prayer Space Pauline, working with the Bramfield Primary School, presented a Prayer Space event. Several classes participated and it was well received.

Learning and Humour We have been blessed over the last month at our church services and morning prayers with thoughts presented by Dominic, Rev Linda, Edmund, and Pauline. The Topics included The Ascension, Gethsemane and the Demoniacs, and thoughts on the feast day of Corpus Christi. They were all very thoughtful, and often spiced with well-placed humour. A favourite line is from Edmund... 'it is a feast day, so when the service is done, enjoy a well-deserved treat.' If you can make it to our morning prayer service on Thursdays or our services, it is always a time of joyful learning, prayerful support of those in need, and quiet reflection.

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 –

Ecotherapy East's Community Day for August will take place on Foxtail Meadow, Bramfield, on Sunday 2nd August, starting at 10am with a celebration of Lammass which is traditionally a time where we celebrate the first fruits of Harvest. It is also the same date as the Gaelic harvest festival Lughnasadh. It is a lovely way to sit in an outdoor setting and give thanks for all the bounty of the Earth and the way it sustains us. Land-tending starts at about 11.30am and you are welcome to do as much or as little as you feel inclined. Everyone welcome. Any questions please email: ecotherapyeast.info@gmail.com

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

Family Church at Bramfield St Andrews.

Sunday 29th July at 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 12-4

Looking ahead to the summertime, we plan to have the Village Fete again on the Village Green, next to the school. 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) and so contact either Jinnie on 07780833450 or Jane on 01986 784393.

Summer Shakespeare As every year since 1985 (except for covid), Circle 67 will be performing an edited version of a Shakespeare play at 7.30pm on Friday 17th July in the garden of the Bramfield Queen's Head. This year - and for the first time - it's the turn of Coriolanus. Free entry / hat collection. All welcome!

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!

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.

Thank you!

Chediston

Correspondent Veronica Downing
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Music Sunday Sunday 14th June was the Royal School of Church Music's 'Music Sunday' and the occasion was marked in the Blyth Valley Benefice with a truly uplifting service of Common Worship Morning Prayer led by Jason Busby, Blyth Valley's organist and also Church Elder. Chediston church bells rang out to welcome people. Five well-known, jolly and joyous hymns (the ones we sung at school!) were sung with gusto by our congregation from Chediston and Halesworth, to a fulsome organ accompaniment using the full range of stops. Scripture readings, prayers and reflection all with making music in mind completed an inspiring morning's worship. One of the hymns, 'O Praise ye the Lord' was Jason's wedding hymn and the organ voluntary at the end was the Trumpet Voluntary by John Stanley, which coincidentally, Graham and I had for our wedding. Coffee and Jo's homemade flapjacks completed a very sociable service. We hope very much that Jason will come again.

August Bank Holiday Chediston Village Fete
 We are looking forward to this village event taking place on the Community Field on

Saturday 29th August, 2 to 4pm. This will be a traditional summer fete with fun things to do, tea and cake to eat, and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Please get in touch with Jo Wareham if you would like to help with stalls and refreshments, making cakes and produce, and donating prizes.

Services in July On 5th July, being the first Sunday of the month, the main service will be Team Holy Communion (Eucharist) at St Mary's Halesworth at 10 o'clock. This will be Edmund's first Team Eucharist as ordained priest and it would be great if he is well supported.

We are welcoming the Revd Linda Berry to take the Holy Communion service at Chediston on 12th July. Linda is mentoring me on the Preaching course that I am currently doing through the diocese, and I will be taking the sermon-slot at that service, when we will be thinking about St Peter whose Feast day with St Paul is on 29th June.

As I write, we have had some more welcome rain for the garden and vegetable plot with the promise of warmer weather as the week draws on. Our sheep are due to be sheared today, so the shearer has postponed coming until the afternoon, so the fleeces dry off...

Everyone is always welcome to call into Chediston church at anytime for a moment of quiet. It is a lovely space to be. We have had our five-yearly inspection (Quinquennial) report and Jo and I will write more on that next month.

Cookley

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See website 'A Church Near You' Cookley, for updates.

Halesworth

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As I sit down to write this month's column, I would normally expect the warmer weather to bring a quieter spell for funerals at St Mary's. Sadly, that has not been the case this year. In recent weeks we have gathered to give thanks for the lives of Sue Spall (16th June), Dawn Grace Ward (23rd June) and shortly we will come together for Sylvia Hunt (3rd July). We hold their families and friends in our prayers at this difficult time:

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Comfort all who mourn with the assurance of your love and the hope of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

Sue Spall's passing is particularly poignant for so many of us at St Mary's. When the Revd Leonard Doolan knocked on the Spall's; door many years ago and invited them to become part of the church family, little could anyone have imagined just how much Sue would contribute to the life of our parish. Sue served faithfully as Deputy Churchwarden alongside Doug Crooks, whom she always described as a wonderful teacher and mentor, before later becoming Churchwarden herself with John Ball as her deputy. Those years included the major tower restoration project, with all the organising, fundraising and rallying of volunteers that such an undertaking required. Many will also remember Sue through her beautiful flower arrangements. For an incredible 27 years she served on the flower committee, helping to make our church such a welcoming and beautiful place for festivals, weddings, funerals and countless other occasions. Her quiet dedication has left a lasting legacy, and she will be greatly missed.

There have been happier musical moments too. On 31st May we were delighted to welcome local choir director Vetta Wise and her singers for the all-day Spring Sing masterclass. The church was filled with glorious music and enthusiastic voices, accompanied by the wonderfully sympathetic Tanya Kirk at the piano. Composer Alexander Campkin joined the day and offered invaluable guidance and encouragement to participants. Our thanks go to everyone involved, not least the many volunteers and generous bakers who kept everyone refreshed throughout the day. It was another wonderful reminder of what a magnificent acoustic and community resource St Mary's continues to be. Photo on the back page.

On Monday 8th June many of us gathered at St Michael's Church, Beccles, for the annual Waveney & Blyth Deanery Archdeacon's Visitation, where Churchwardens from across the deanery are sworn in for the coming year. Following my decision to step down as Churchwarden after many happy years in the role, St Mary's currently moves forward without an appointed Churchwarden. That might sound concerning, but our Rector has an exciting vision for the next chapter in the life of St Mary's. As we continue to grow our engagement with the wider community, we also face the significant challenge of raising over £75,000 this year towards our Parish Share. It is a considerable responsibility, but one that I know will be met with the generosity, commitment and determination

that have characterised St Mary's for generations.

Looking ahead, there is plenty to enjoy over the summer. On Wednesday 8th July at 12.30pm, we are delighted to welcome Qwind Essential to our popular lunchtime recital series for their first appearance at St Mary's. The talented wind quintet features flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn, and promises another delightful hour of music in the wonderful surroundings of our church. As always, admission is free with a retiring collection, and refreshments are available beforehand from noon.

Then on Sunday 6th September at 3.00pm we are thrilled to welcome back the ever-popular Chanters Jigge, whose engaging performances of early music have become firm favourites with our audiences. If you've never experienced one of their concerts before, do make a note in your diary, you won't be disappointed. See photo on back page.

Whether you come to worship, to enjoy music, to remember loved ones, or simply to find a few moments of peace and quiet, you will always find a warm welcome at St Mary's.

Halesworth WI Report Members listened with interest as our speaker Anita Scruby explained ACWW (Associated Countrywomen of the World) which is an organisation bringing together women's groups of which the WI is one. This organisation was set up by Madge Robertson Watts in the early 1930s to help rural women all over the world and now currently 22 countries belong. This started what's called "Pennies for Friendship" where members contributed to the fund what they could afford, perhaps only a few pennies. A reasonable sum in those days.

The monies over the following years have gone to help build wells in Africa, and preserving equipment for surplus fruit and vegetables to be made into pickles to be sold at their markets rather than wasted. The money from various enterprises gained from this is usually spent on food and education for their children.

ACWW has supplied therapy through art and gardening in Ukraine, helped Rumanian children, organised grass roots projects in places such as Mongolia and Tunisia and provided health and education for women and children in many countries. It was agreed this was a very worthwhile organisation that WI members were happy to support.

Heveningham

Correspondent
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How much of a fascination does a graveyard hold for you?

As a child, whenever we went on holiday, my mum had to visit a church and, in particular, the graveyard. She was fascinated by the inscriptions and could easily spend an hour wandering amongst the gravestones. My dad would always quip, "Here lieth..." and roll his eyes as we settled in for another visit!

This past month, I have become increasingly interested in the history centred around our gravestones. In May, I received a request to help a family find the burial sites of several relatives who had lived in Heveningham. With the help of our burial records, we were able to locate the graves, and I also had the opportunity to speak with a resident who remembered the family. It was quite a humbling task, piecing together the history behind a name. Some of these individuals have now become much more than a gravestone; they have become stories, and that is fascinating.

We are already aware of some very special graves in our churchyard. One belongs to Ethel Pearce, a young girl whose story is both tragic and moving. Ethel died at the hands of her mother when she was just seven years old. A wooden cross marks the site of her grave and is lovingly cared for by Sara, our fellow Church Warden. Ethel's story can be found in the church and, despite its sadness, there is a sympathetic touch towards her mother. Another notable grave is that of Air Vice Marshal Thomas Traill, a fascinating military figure whose story can also be found in the church and on Wikipedia.

Over the past month, we have also managed to get on top of cutting back some of the overgrowth and have uncovered several graves that had gone unnoticed for many years. We have started cross-referencing these with our burial records and cataloguing them. As mentioned, it is a humbling experience to look at each grave and try to discover the story behind it.

Although it is not a quick task, we aim to catalogue all the visible graves and create a plan of the churchyard so that future generations can access this information. I may look at holding a volunteer day to help with this project, so if you would be interested in lending a hand, please do get in touch. I am sure this is something that many local churches would appreciate too, so perhaps do ask your own church if they have a similar project underway.

I am also looking at putting together an Art and Photography Competition across our Benefice. The competition would begin later this year, with a view to concluding in time for the Heveningham Country Fair in 2027, where we hope to display the entries in the church tent. Entries could then also

be exhibited in their respective churches. This is still in the early planning stages, so please watch this space for further details.

Dates for your diary

12th July – Traditional Communion

18th July – Bell Ringing Experience, Cream Teas and Social Get-Together

9th August – Pet Service

To keep up to date with all our services and events, please email us to be added to our newsletter mailing list.

With thanks, as always, for your support.

Holton

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"A human being is a vessel that God has built for himself and filled with his inspiration so that his works are perfected in it."

St Hildegard of Bingen

This is a quote from St Hildegard of Bingen, the twelfth century Abbess who was a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, artist and visionary. She was the subject of the June Walking the Labyrinth afternoon led by Valerie Wheeler. The above quote from her work was something I was given, carefully written and wrapped. Each of those present had a similar little parcel with a different quote about which we were asked to comment. As you can imagine I found this very difficult. I still can't quite get my head round it. What a responsibility it is.

If you would like to be challenged, intrigued, fed, supported and a whole lot more, the next **Walking the Labyrinth afternoon is on Monday 6th July from 2 until c.4pm when the subject is/are "Sea Shells."** As usual there will be tea and cake/biscuits, a quiet time to see what we can learn from sea shells, time for a walk round the labyrinth, time to pray, time to produce something visual inspired by what has gone before. Come and join us.

This issue of the BVT is for July, and you know what July means at St Peter's Church, Holton. Yes, you have guessed it, **The Flower Festival which is on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July from 10am until 4.00pm each day. The theme for this year is "Games we like to Play"**, so plenty of scope for our intrepid flower arrangers. There will be refreshments, stalls and tombola and, to round everything off, **Songs of Praise on Sunday at 6.30pm.**

Eco Warriors: It gave us such joy to read Pauline's words about "Eco Warriors". This is the name given to groups of children, who

come with Pauline (Children, Family & Youth Minister) and staff from the school, to the church and particularly the churchyard, to seek, learn, discover all there is to offer through the changing seasons. See picture on back page! Pauline has written and designed a booklet called "30 Days Wild: Churchyard Edition" - you can find a copy in the church porch.

Churchyard Maintenance: We are grateful to the Community Payback Service who come from Lowestoft to help keep the churchyard well maintained. We are aiming to achieve a balance of short grass areas alongside wild, long grass. Paths are regularly cut for access to graves and to allow visitors to walk through and enjoy the myriads of flowers, butterflies, and insects. I love watching the grasshoppers. If you're lucky you may see a slow worm crossing the path or a sand lizard bathing in the sunshine near a gravestone. After dark in June/July we see glow worms and bats.

We are so happy that Pauline is encouraging the children to look after the nature around us and discovering the abundance of wildlife in Holton churchyard.

Christian Aid Week: Thank you for your donations : you raised £269. **Jackie Watts**

Huntingfield

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See website 'A Church Near You' Huntingfield, for updates.

Linstead

Correspondent

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SO HERE IS A QUESTION: when is a power-cut not a power-cut? The answer would appear to be: When it is a Planned Power Cut. The only problem is one of 'crying wolf'. You can bet that when there is an actual power-cut, we won't have got a thermos of coffee ready and we won't know what is going on. Except, of course, nobody appears to know what is going on anyway, not least the electricity people, so welcome to the 21st Century. NOW EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY and here we have the great dustbin conundrum: Which one is it this week?



Now we have been blessed with a choice of dustbins for several years, but it has now reached new heights of complexity. Every dustbin day, we have an intense family discussion as to which is the correct one, grey with a blue lid or grey with a green lid and so on. It would be amusing, except that if you get it wrong, you are faced with a rapidly overflowing bin (or bins) for the next three weeks! We drove along this week, seeking reassurance that we had made the right choice, only to realise that there appeared to be no consensus. So one takes the coward's way and puts them all out.

Linstead Church has moved closer to its puritan heritage. The carpet which covered the aisle was getting a little tired and discoloured. It was decided that rather than replace it, we should remove it to reveal the 16th century brick floor beneath. This is in remarkably good condition. It has changed the church's acoustic (quite an echo) and might, I suspect prove a bit cold in winter, but it is an interesting and bold experiment.



Before: and After

NOBODY CAN AVOID GARDENING AND most take a delight in it. So it is highly appropriate that we celebrate our horticultural prowess.

**THE
Linstead FLOWER
FESTIVAL**
Will be held on
**Saturday July 11th and
Sunday 12th July.**
at
**St. Margaret of Antioch
church.**
From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Concluding with a
service of
Floral Evensong
On Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

**Tea & Coffee will be
served at Dormy House
(opposite church).**

**Proceeds will be in aid of
the church redecoration.
fund**

WE WERE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME BACK the Backwoods Band to Linstead village Hall for a highly enjoyable evening of music and a barbecue. The event raised just over £500 for church funds.

WE HELD OUR FIRST EVER FILM EVENING last month and it was very popular. Our next film night will be held on July 18th, at the Village Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.15 p.m. The Village Hall committee would like suggestions as to what films you might wish to see. Please contact us: 01986 785289

CHEDISTON & Linstead W.I. MET IN JUNE and heard their own member, Sadie, talk about the history of Chediston taken from the censuses from 1841 to 1861. I am told that it was absolutely fascinating, tracing what and who had moved or changed (or not) over that period. They meet next at Linstead Village Hall, on Tuesday, July 14th at 2.30 p.m. The speaker is Pip Wright and the subject is: The Class of '63'. Intriguing.

THE Linstead PATRONAL FESTIVAL

**TAKES PLACE AT THE
VILLAGE HALL**

**ON SUNDAY JULY 19th AT 12.00
NOON**

**THERE WILL BE A SHORT OPEN
AIR SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY A BARBECUE**

Join us as we celebrate
St. Margaret of Antioch,
one of the Church's more
colourful saints.

AND THEN!

**THE Linstead
SUMMER FÊTE**

**WILL BE HELD AT THE
VILLAGE HALL**

**ON SATURDAY
AUGUST 1st**

FROM 2.00 p.m.

'A truly traditional Village Fête'

Stalls, Refreshments and More!
**THE SUMMER EVENT FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY**

This is the principle fundraising event for our other great village asset, the Village Hall. Do please support us.

Spexhall

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

Facebook: St Peter's Spexhall and Spexhall Village Hall

Church Officers until next May Another year has literally flown by for Woodpecker. I see that the churchwarden for this year once more is Keith Noakes, who made it (just about) to the 'swearing in' at Beccles by Archdeacon Rich and Domimic our rural Dean. Mellish Kett has kindly offered to continue as Assistant Warden, and Annie Davidson our treasurer. Our special thanks to Annie who has headed the Restoration Fundraising, especially in regard to grant applications.

A Special Opportunity Keith Noakes continues as PCC secretary, but it would be very helpful if someone could help with the modest amount of work it involves. Practically anyone would be better than him at getting minutes and agendas out on time! Do speak to him if you can help.

Service as Normal In July we will have a service of Holy Communion at 10am on the 19th. Be assured of a warm welcome if you would like to join the congregation. Refreshments afterwards!

The Churchyard Strim Woodpecker got the date wrong for strimming the churchyard this year. (He should be sacked). It is the last Tuesday in June (30th) from 6pm. It is normally the first Tuesday in July. All those with strimmers or able to rake etc are very welcome. It's always a big team effort led by Fred, our top man (and slave driver).

Village Party Francis and Elizabeth kindly invite all villagers to a Summer Party in their garden ('the pightle') at the Old Rectory. There will be cold drinks and some 'light bites' and strawberries from 3pm to 7pm on Monday 31st August. A little fundraising for the Church Restoration Fund too. We are so nearly there! Could you help us put new roofs on the church to preserve for the future? Many thanks to those who have already been so generous.

Fun Dog Show Bring your pooch (or just yourselves!) to the (now) annual Spexhall Dog Show on Saturday 29th August starting at 1pm on the Village Hall field. Lots of 'classes' to enter, and the possibility of your dog winning 'Best in Show'. No doubt Tilly will once more be robbed of winning a class. Tea/cakes/raffle as usual.

Race Night Special Thanks to Steve Milligan for organising the Race Night. A first for Spexhall, although my bird brain couldn't understand the 'odds' system. Thanks to all who helped on the night.

Happy Summer Partying to all in Spexhall and our friends further afield!

Thorington

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The PCC look forward to our usual service in July, see front of magazine for details, and in August. Do call and see this church, a special listed building with its round tower. Also on August 15th we welcome all to the church from 12:30pm— 5pm, when local poet Steph Ellen Feeney will give a short talk and read some of her latest poems from 1pm. Phoenix Brass Ensemble will play from 2-3pm. Come and join us! Liz's delicious home made lunches served from 12:30 and Liam's wonderful bar is open from 12:30pm. Local craft stalls, all are welcome, car parking, admission free. Donations welcome for the upkeep of the church. Further details please phone Trish on 01502 478078 and see August edition for more details.

Walpole

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Sunday 7th June we celebrated an evening **Choral Service of Faithfulness**- Journeying with the Psalms. The Service was led by Revd Charlotte Remblance and was extra special with the recently formed choir led by Revd Edmund sounding absolutely amazing. Our Chancel really has come to the fore in recent years with choral, classical recitals and contemporary music events benefiting from its wonderful acoustics. During the service Charlotte presented a series of thought provoking statements to the congregation and facilitated the responses to formulate 'The Walpole Psalm' which she read out before the Prayers of Intercession. We look forward to receiving the final version from Charlotte so it can be displayed in the church.

On Sunday May 31st we hosted over 90 tractors at Walpole Pavilion when they stopped for lunch during their **Charity Tractor Run for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young)**. CRY supports the prevention of young sudden cardiac deaths through awareness, screening and research

together with supporting affected families. The Tractor Run was very well supported by locals and visitors and the organisers have reported total funds raised for CRY of just over £2,000. The monies raised from refreshments at the Pavilion supported the Walpole & Cookley Playing Field Trust Charity and will help considerably towards the running costs of the Pavilion, Children's Play Area and Playing Fields. Photos on the back page.

Many of you will be aware that in February of this year hundreds of local young people were given free heart screenings in memory of Toby Chenery, who died of an undiagnosed congenital heart condition. In partnership with the charity (CRY), Toby's parents hosted 200 free heart screenings at the Pear Tree Centre. The funds raised for CRY as a result of Sunday's event will be used to fund more screenings for young people in the local area from the age of 14 - 36 to determine if there are any underlying conditions that need addressing.

We now look forward to early July when we host the second of this year's St Mary's Walpole Events - Julia Blackburn - Notes from a Creative Life (please see p.24 for the details): Julia's work includes an eclectic mix of novels, poetry, memoir and, in particular, non-fiction in which the journeys to particular places are part of the story she is telling. Her many works of non-fiction include The Three of Us: A Family Story - a memoir of Blackburn's bohemian and troubled upbringing, which was shortlisted for the JR Ackerly Award, and Thin Paths, which was shortlisted for the Costa Biography Award and the Ondaatje Prize. Julia's novels include The Book of Colour and The Leper's Companions, both of which were shortlisted for the Orange Prize.

Wenhaston

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Our Annual Plant Sale was a great success. The weather was kind and the churchyard was buzzing with kind people buying plants and cakes, and taking part in the raffle. Any leftover plants were transported to Margaret G's garden where she very kindly sold them to passers by. The final total was £400.90 and thank you to all who made this possible.

The APCM took place on 20th May and I am pleased to say that Jonathan will continue as Church Warden, Anne as Secretary and myself as Treasurer. We are so grateful for all that Jonathan does for us.

Congratulations to our Curate Edmund who

is being priested on 27th June in St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Some of us hope to be able to join him for this special occasion.

On 21st August we have been invited to join the Village Hall Committee in putting on a quiz. We hope that there will be lots of teams and it will as entertaining as it usually is. More next month.

Wenhaston Mother's Union

The Worldwide Mother's Union is celebrating One Hundred and Fifty Years since its foundation in 1874 and as the birthday was the same date as our June meeting, the 10th, we held a service in St. Peter's Church as Wenhaston's part of the Celebration. The Service was lead by Revd. Edmund Smith who is also one of our members. We sang favourite hymns and were accompanied by Jonathan on the Organ. Felicity read an appropriate reading and Margaret B lead the intercessions. It was good to have several members of other branches with us and also Friends from the St. Peter's congregation and the village.

The service was followed in the church by tea and cakes and lots of chat! My thanks go to Edmund, Jonathan, Margaret B and to everyone who helped in any way to make the afternoon both memorable and enjoyable.

In July we shall be meeting in the garden at Spindleberry (hopefully!) to participate and appreciate the Wave of Prayer Service together. As always this will be followed by our usual summer tea!

As part of the celebrations, branches have the opportunity to accept £5.00 from Mary Sumner House and to organise Fund Raising Events to increase the £5.00 to at least £50.00! Wenhaston Branch plan to do this by holding a **COFFEE MORNING** on WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY at SPINDLEBERRY, NARROW WAY between 10.30am and 12.30pm, including a RAFFLE and BRING and BUY STALL.

Our aim is increase our £5.00 to £150.00 and we invite everyone to come and join us! The money raised will be sent to Mary Sumner House who will use it to continue the tremendous work that the MU does in so many countries in the world, supporting families and children.

Please do put the date in your diary and come and have coffee with us.

Margaret G. 01502 478378

Wenhaston Walkers

Our first walk in July will be on Tuesday 7th, setting off at 10am from Wenhaston Village Hall. On Tuesday 21st July, Lesley and Alastair will lead the walk from The Plough & Sail, Snape Maltings IP17 1SP starting out at 10am; park to the right in the rear

overflow car park in order to gather together. Lunch can be ordered on the day. If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Wissett

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marypester@rocketmail.com

By the time this is printed the longest day will have been and gone. To me this year seems to be whizzing along at speed!

Back on the 6th of June there was a very jolly gathering in the Village Hall for a Coffee Morning in aid of the church and Village hall. There were tables of all sorts, crafts, books, interesting bric-a-brac, plants for sale and a good spread of delicious cakes, tea and coffee were served.

I believe that £340 was raised! Well done and thank you to all involved. It was so good to see so many people enjoying being together from Wissett and beyond.

On the same morning the bells were ringing in the church and some of the visiting group of ringers popped into the coffee morning for refreshment.

Our bells have been much appreciated recently by various visiting groups. "Lovely Bells!" is a recent comment in the visitors book. The bells were restored in 2009. I read in the church guide book that the oldest bell is the fifth bell of six and was cast in Bristol and brought to Wissett in 1340. 1340! Imagine it. I wonder if they rang the bells in the same way in 1340 as they do now? Philip and Jason will know maybe?

On the 14th of June we enjoyed a service led by Edmund, "Caring for Creation" and were in good voice to sing out our praise

"For the beauty of the earth
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth,
over and around us lies"

It was the end of "Love your burial ground" week. We thought of how churchyards are important as a place to mourn and celebrate the life of our departed loved ones but also as havens for wildlife.

At present in Wissett churchyard, along the path going towards the Village Hall and flourishing in a little stony corner of the church, there are the most glorious Poppies blooming! See the back page for a photo.

Beautiful purple, pinky Papaver somniferum poppies! Other poppies and plants too but these are really lovely and good for the bees!

In the churchyard, in the side by the Village Hall, you may have noticed a new, sturdy wooden cross. It has replaced the old, worn one and it is for the grave of Heinrich William, known as Heinz to those who knew him in Wissett. He was a prisoner of war from Dresden but then stayed here. There is a photo of him in our invaluable book, "A Walk through Wissett" on page 18, holding one of the Meek daughters at Whitehouse Farm in 1946.

There were two Meek daughters, Joan and then Ann, and he made them wooden toys and worked on the farm. Heinz died in 1973. Ann Meek didn't stay in Wissett. She died in 2024 but is buried here, "At peace in her beloved Suffolk birth place."

As we sang in the "Caring for Creation" service,

"And thou, most kind and gentle death,
waiting to hush our latest breath, o praise him, alleluia! Thou leadest home the child of God, and Christ our Lord the way has trod;"

Now, back to the future!

On Saturday the 4th of July, we hope to have another Coffee Morning, again in The Village Hall, from 10.00 to 12.00, in aid of the hall and Wissett church.

I aim to make a cake, or little cakes or biscuits, something easy like the Rum and Ginger cake!

I thought I would have a table top sale of more of my many books at very cheap prices.

Refreshments are by donation. Do come and see what else is in bloom in our churchyard, next to the village hall in July. Let us hope, as the inscription on Ann Meek's handsome gravestone reads,

"and all shall be well
and all manner of things
shall be well"

291252

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Children's Games • Stalls

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Village Hall & Bridge Meadow Playing Field
(Sorry No Dogs)

Village Green, Bridge Meadows, IP19 9HZ

Some Future Church Event Dates for the Diary.....

Blyford

18th July: Blyford Big Breakfast at the Queens Head 8.30 - 12.00 noon. Bookings 01502 478404.

12th September: Heritage Open Day 11am - 4pm. Stall on the green. Ride & Stride.

17th October: St Etheldreda Day 11am - 3pm.

17th - 18th October. Water of life all day.

Bulb planting 17th October only.

7th November: Wild Party (Open Mic) 2pm - 4pm

6th December: Angel Day (Make an Angel) 10.00am - 1pm

Heveningham

18th July: Bells and Bakes - Bell Ringing and Cream Teas.

9th August: Pet Service.

26th August: Bat Evening.

9th October: Quiz Night.

11th October: Harvest Festival.

Holton

18th and 19th July: Flower Festival, with Songs of Praise @ 6:30pm on Sunday 19th.

Linstead

11th and 12th July: 10am to 4pm, Linstead Church Flower Festival with teas/refreshment at Dormy House.

19th July: 12 midday, St. Margaret of Antioch Church Patronal at the Village Hall followed by a BBQ.

12th September: 9am to 5pm Ride and Stride.

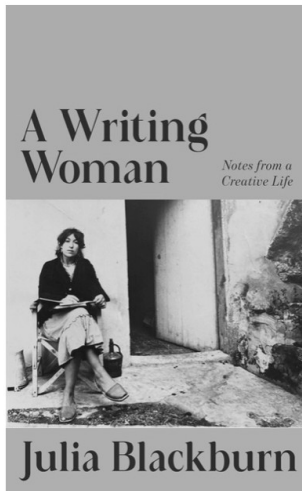
28th November: 10m to 1pm, Linstead Christmas Market at St. Mary's Church, Halesworth.

Thornington

15th August: St Peter's Church Thornington IP19 9JG. Local poet Steph Ellen Feeney will give a short talk and read some of her latest poems from 1pm. Phoenix Brass Ensemble will play from 2-3pm. Come and join us!

See throughout the Blyth Valley Times for other events and activities. Please update Annie with your future plans!

ST MARY'S WALPOLE EVENTS



We are delighted to announce that Julia Blackburn, the multi award winning author, will be joining us to give an exclusive preview into her forthcoming work- **Notes From A Creative Life** - which recounts stories from her long and much celebrated creative life.

Sunday 5th July 5:00pm - St Mary's Church, Walpole IP19 9AU

Tickets: £10 in advance: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1991505545697?aff=oddttdtcreator)

[1991505545697?aff=oddttdtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1991505545697?aff=oddttdtcreator)

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)



Walking the Labyrinth A Time for Reflection



Monday 6th July 2026 2 - 4pm
St Peter's Church, Holton



"Seashells"

Everyone welcome

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

Future meetings:
Monday 3rd August, 7th September

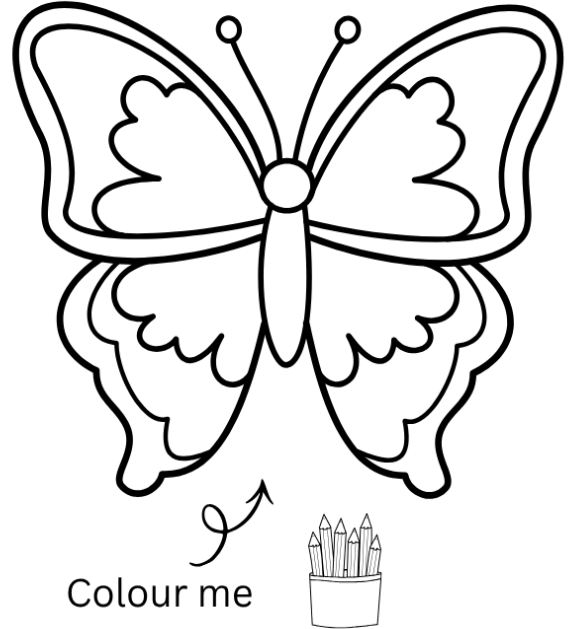
KIDS' PAGE

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moth
insect

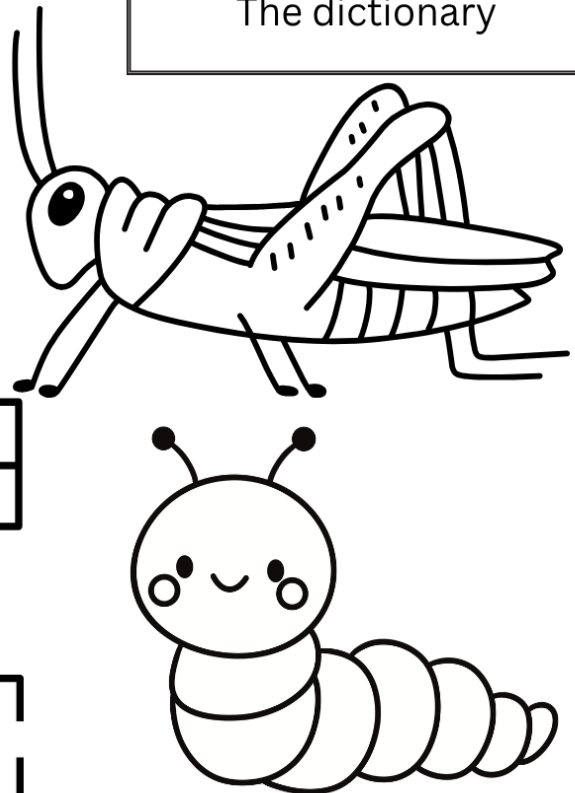
fly
bug

worm
slug



Riddle:

Where does today come
before yesterday?
The dictionary



Halesworth Church Concert Reviews

In May, St Mary's Halesworth was delighted to welcome Will Ferguson, who has been performing both here and in Norwich for well over a decade. Before this month's concert he promised that he would seek to bring out of the music the emotional life written into it by the composer, and that is something he certainly accomplished.

Mozart's Fantasia and Fugue in C was filled with resonant chords which nevertheless had enough restraint to give way to moments of surprising tenderness. One got the sense that only the word 'fantasia' was apt: one couldn't listen without calling to mind landscapes majestic and strange. But this fantasia didn't quite sound like the Mozart we are used to; this was a window into Mozart straining against the boundaries of what was possible within his artform.

Britten's Twelve Variations were similar in one respect, which is that when Britten put pen to paper to write this, he must have been so filled with ideas that he could hardly restrain himself. Will's performance seemed to set us down on an isolated Suffolk beach, shrouded in mist and secrecy. His performance evoked the danger of the ocean, and its power to turn danger into calm. The generous use of consecutive fifths seemed to suggest the distant shores and faraway empires across the ocean; but no-sooner did a clear image begin to emerge than we were returned to the mists.

It was suggested to us that at least in places, Schubert's Sonata in A can be heard as a meditation on death. If that is true, then Schubert was not a man who was terribly afraid of death. The first movement seemed in part to be like a heavenly fanfare, welcoming someone who, in hope, resigns his charge. But over the four movements we were invited to reflect in different ways upon the one theme. To give just one example, the second movement was far more sorrowful and suggested the emptiness of a home during the week after a funeral.

The community of St Mary's Halesworth are deeply grateful to Will Ferguson for offering us a window into three composers straining against the boundaries of what it is possible to do with music. We could not have wished for a better start to the lunchtime recital series for 2026.

This June, St Mary's Church were very pleased to welcome Roman Rudnytsky, who performed for our lunchtime recital this month. Roman has performed at St Mary's on numerous occasions in the past and returns to us partly out of deep affection for St Mary's and the community here.

Roman brought to us a range of music one really cannot hear from anyone else. He began by performing the music to accompany a dance of the Hutzul people, as transcribed and arranged by Roman's father, Antin Rudnytsky. Roman may have the only copy of the music for this particular dance, but he is certainly the only person who is able to bring out the spirit of this particular Hutzul dance on the piano.

Roman also transcribes orchestral music for performance by a solo pianist. He shared with us one of his latest works: an arrangement of Mozart's Concerto in A, taken from being a concerto arranged for orchestra and piano, and arranged for the solo piano. Roman clearly took great pains to help us hear which parts of the concerto formerly belonged to the

orchestra and which are proper to the piano: the formerly orchestra parts being richly harmonised and filled with a sweeping majesty, and the properly piano parts chiming like bells over the top. One of the most special moments in this concert came during Roman's performance of Debussy's Estampes. The first movement expressed the Buddhist spirituality which accompanies the pagodas of Indonesia, with trills fading in-and-out of hearing as though merely being passing sounds on the wind. Then, after a few seconds of silence, we were plunged into the tension and energy of the night-time scene in Grenada. Roman's ability to express the change in emotional register without changing dynamics was truly something to behold.

It was clear, also, that Roman has a particular gift for communicating the story behind his music. Although he wears it lightly, he has for many years served as a professor and is an expert in teaching people how to listen to music. The community gathered at St Mary's for this lunchtime concert join together in enthusiastically thanking Roman for sharing so much of himself at this month's concert.

Roman also performs and explains his music on his YouTube channel, which can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/@RomanRudnytskylive>

Edmund

Church Volunteer Vacancies



A wonderful range of volunteer vacancies; an interesting and fulfilling role awaits you! Training provided and you don't have to be a practising Christian. Contact Annie for further information (p. 17). We need:

Churchwardens: Holton, Halesworth

PCC Secretary: Spexhall, Heveningham

PCC Members: Blyford

Church Mice Tots and Youth Space: Halesworth

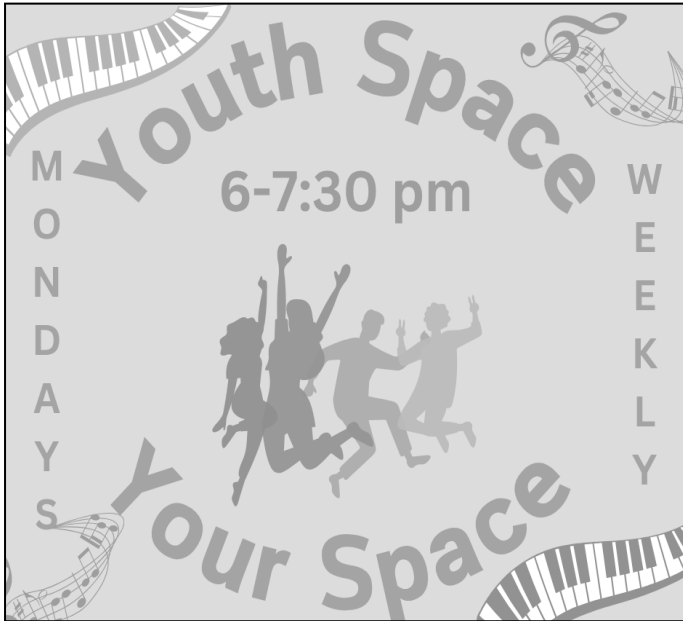


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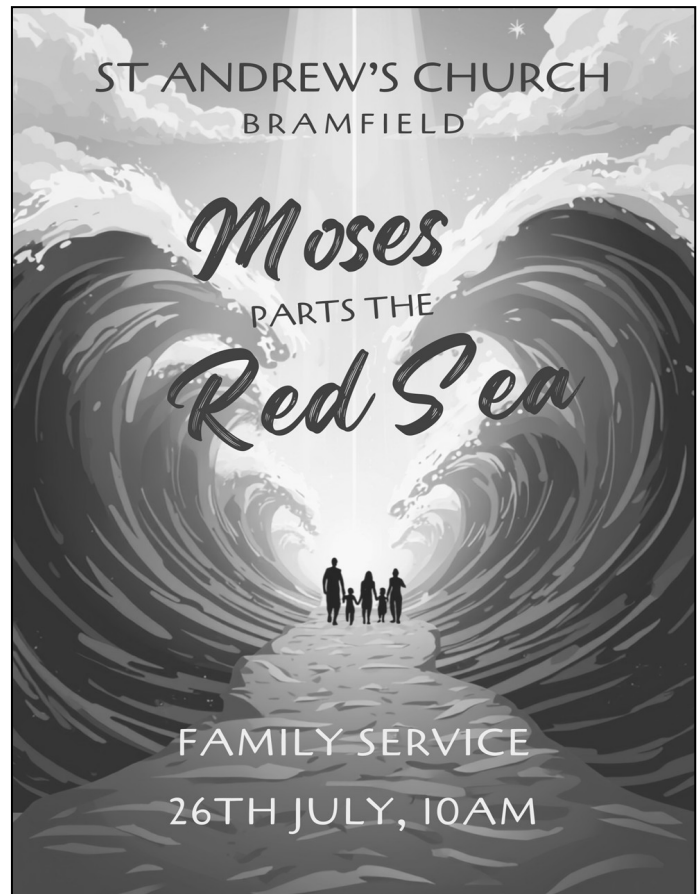
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DEC 12th**

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**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

Summer Big Churchyard Bird Watch!

St Peter's Church, Holton
11th July 2026 from 11am - 2pm

All welcome:

Join us as we complete surveys, have
information about birds, craft
activities, bird feeder making and
refreshments.



BAT EVENING

St Margaret's Church,
Heveningham

26th August 2026 from 8 -10 pm

Join us for an evening of bat fun and
hopefully a sighting of the
Heveningham bats. Fun for the whole
family, join us for hotdogs in the Glebe,
a bat walk, children's activities and a
bat talk.



Web Address Change

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

www.achurchnearyou.com

AFTERNOON TEA



**COME AND JOIN US
FOR A CUPPA, CAKE AND CHAT**

**Tuesday 28th July
2.00pm – 4.00pm**

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

Contact: Win Sutton: win.sutton28@gmail.com
Or Lis Willmet: liswillmet@btinternet.com

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'GAMES WE LIKE TO PLAY'

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SUNDAY 19TH JULY

10.00 AM – 4.00 PM

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SUNDAY AT 6.30PM



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More Photos from Town & Villages



Poppies at Wissett



Trudi Mouse joins one of the interactive prayer stations and prays for the world!



Jean at Bramfield (p.18)



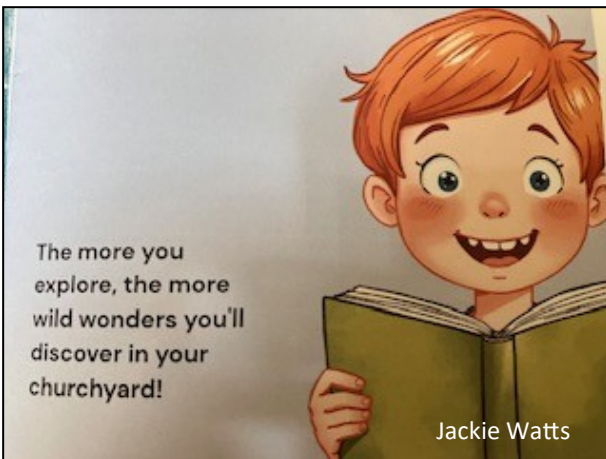
Spring Sing Masterclass, Halesworth



Charity Tractor Run, Walpole



Charity Tractor Run, Walpole



Jackie Watts



Bramfield Church



Sue Spall (p. 19)

Chanters Jigge (p.20)

Thank you to everyone for
their lovely photos.

Please send to:
blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

