



Blyth Valley Times

Church in Community—Community in Church

June 2026

Confirmation and Baptism Joy

£1.50

(where sold)

On 3rd May a group of us from Blyth Valley Churches travelled to Bury St Edmunds to take part in a service of confirmations and baptisms. These are always special services, but this one was even more so. It was Bishop Joanne's first such service as our Bishop and two of our church family were being baptised and confirmed. Steven from Wenhaston and Amelia from Youth Space were among the 42 candidates! Yes, 42!

Steven and Amelia were two of the four candidates from the recent Confirmation Course that Dominic ran throughout March and April. The remaining two, Georgie and Molly from Sole Bay Benefice, made up the rest of the group (see group photo of them all with Bishop Joanne). One amazing coincidence or, as some of us say, Godincidence, was that during the service we all sang "As the deer pants for the water" and this had been the verse from Psalms that we had studied at our last Draw the Verse session at which Amelia is a regular. It meant such a lot to Pauline, me and Amelia to sing this with her as she went forward for her baptism. Bishop Joanne told us in her sermon that God knows us by name, which is a beautiful reminder to all. I am sure you would all join me in congratulating our confirmation and baptism candidates and will support them on their next steps on their faith journey. "Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father"

Liz Doble



Following on from our run of baptisms last year we were thrilled to host a small gathering in April to celebrate the baptism of Tom (pictured right) - one of our regular and much loved parishioners. Tom regularly helps out at our church services - handing out service sheets and hymn books, as well as helping to ring the church bell. The baptism was led by Revd Linda and was a very personalised, special service.

Anita and Lee Hill



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

Blyth Valley Times is published monthly by Blyth Valley Churches.

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

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

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

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June Lectionary

Sunday the 7th

Holy Communion – The First Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 4. 13-end (NRSV)

Matt. 9. 9-13, 18-26 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The First Sunday after Trinity (Green)

1 John 4. 7-end (KJV)

Luke 16. 19-31 (KJV)

Sunday the 14th

Holy Communion—The Second Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 5.1-8 (NRSV)

Matt. 9.35-10.8 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Second Sunday after Trinity (Green)

1 John 3.13-end (KJV)

Luke 14. 16-24 (KJV)

Sunday the 21st

Holy Communion — The Third Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 6. 1b-11 (NRSV)

Matt. 10. 24-39 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Third Sunday after Trinity (Green)

1 Peter 5.5b-11 (KJV)

Luke 15. 1-10 (KJV)

Sunday the 28th

Holy Communion — The Fourth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 6. 12-end (NRSV)

Matt. 10. 40-end (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Fourth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 8.18-23 (KJV)

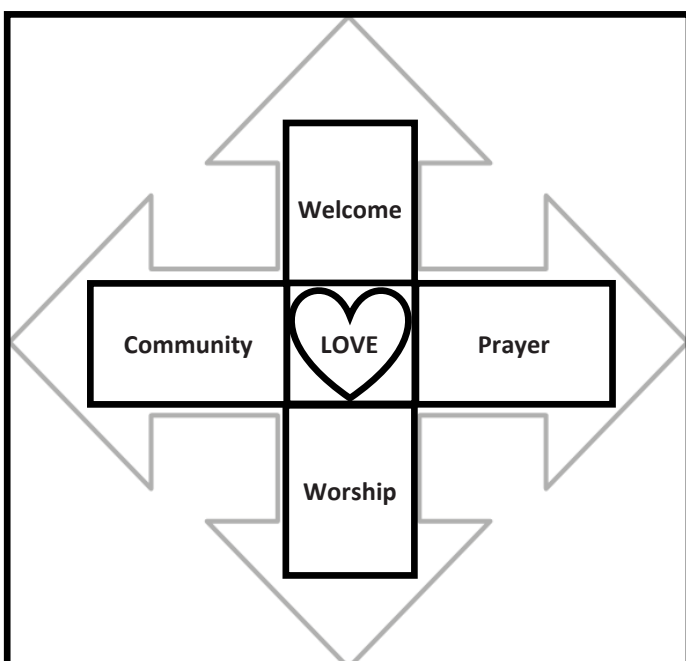
Luke 6. 36-42 (KJV)

St. Mary's Church Halesworth

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CHANNEL



SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

10am Holy Communion, every Wednesday.

8am Traditional Communion, every Sunday.

6pm Evensong, most Sundays.

Worship in the Blyth Valley in June 2026				
CW – Year A Continuous New Testament	7 th Green CW & BCP – First after Trinity	14 th Green CW & BCP – Second after Trinity	21 st Green CW & BCP – Third after Trinity	28 th Green CW & BCP – Fourth after Trinity
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Adrian 10am Family Service Pauline 6pm Evensong Edmund	8am Traditional Communion Adrian 10am Iona Worship Linda 6pm Evensong Edmund	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Edmund
St Peter Group				
Holton St Peter		10am Iona Linda	10am Morning Prayer Veronica M	10am Holy Communion Dominic
Wenhaston St Peter		10:30am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	10am Holy Communion Alison	
Bramfield St Andrew			10am Father's Day Service Edmund	10am Family Service Pauline
Blyford All Saints			8pm Summer Solstice Wild Church Edmund	
Thorington St Peter				10am Morning Prayer Linda
St Andrew Grp				
Wissett St Andrew		10am Caring for Creation Edmund	10am Holy Communion Vic	6pm Evensong Dominic
Chediston St Mary		10am Morning Prayer for Music Sunday Jason		10am Morning Prayer Veronica D
Spexhall St Peter			10am Holy Communion Adrian	
Linstead St Margaret		10am Matins Malcolm		3pm St Peter's Church Commemoration, Church Farm, Linstead. Meet at 2:30pm. Edmund
St Michael Grp				
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Desmond	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Traditional Communion Adrian		
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Morning Prayer Jim
Walpole St Mary	6pm Celebration Service (Corpus Christi) Edmund and Charlotte			

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

7th June 3:30pm Rev Ian McKillop

14th June Mrs Julie Warren

21st June Rev Robert Soanes

28th June Rev Clive Sutcliffe

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am
(unless stated otherwise)

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth

Father Christopher Smith

Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

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 7th June 2026 11.00am

Gathered Worship Rev Richard Edwards
(with Communion)

Tuesday 9th June 2026 10am to 12noon

Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by
Morning Worship

Friday 12th June 2026 9.30am

Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by
Coffee Morning

Sunday 14 h June 2026 11. 00am

Gathered Worship Lydia Mornen

"Barnabus Aid"

3 pm BRAMFIELD CHAPEL

Sunday 21st June 11.00am

Gathered Worship TBA

Tuesday 23rd June 10am to 12 noon

Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by
Morning Worship

Friday 26th June 9.30am

Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by
Coffee Morning

Sunday 28th June 11.00am

Gathered Worship Rev Stuart Davison

Tuesday 30th June 10am to 12 noon

Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by
Morning Worship



From the Rector...

As I write, I am in the process of submitting an end of year review for one of our three ordinands. Charlotte and I are due to meet to review my reflections on her worship and ministry among us. Then I shall hit the 'send' button. She comes to us from not just another town but from another stream of Christianity. Charlotte is training to become a stipended United Reformed Minister. This made it very easy to say that, yes, she is ready to learn, have her own ideas challenged, and enjoys the creativity of diversity or difference. One area of difference between the traditional churches and the Presbyterian and Congregational churches that make up the United Reformed Church, is how they do Communion or the Breaking of Bread.

During my childhood, when I stayed with Mum I went to a Baptist church. When I stayed with my Dad we went to an Anglican church. Despite this, when I moved from ten or so years at a Pentecostal church in Bangor to the local Church in Wales church in Pentir, I was shocked at how much time in each service was given over to Communion. In free churches, such as the United Reform Church and Baptists, the Breaking of Bread can happen after the main service or at the side during it, once a month or every other. The Salvation Army has no such tradition at all. In Anglican-land a good half of every normal Sunday service is usually taken up with prayers about, preparation for and participation in Holy Communion. It is also called: Eucharist (Thanksgiving in Greek); Mass (sending out – Latin version of words said at the end service); and The Lord's Table. I have to say it took me almost as long to become comfortable with the proportion of worship given over to bread and wine as it took me to get used to singing and praying in Welsh!

Whilst I am sure that there are other bases for togetherness within the United Reformed tradition, spending time on Holy Communion does have its merits. In the Church of England we recognise God teaches us in revelation through Scripture, Tradition and Reason. Holy Communion is a tradition so we ought not to be surprised that we may learn from it. There are libraries given over to wisdom derived from such reflection. Just now though I would like to point to the communal aspect of the practice. The syllable 'com' is Latin for 'with'. Communion is an act of with-ness. Or, less uncomfortably: togetherness. Diverse worshippers, varying in age, income, eye/skin colour, education, gender/sex, and relationship are knit together by virtue of sharing the symbolic meal together. The spirituality and pageant is awe inspiring even when done relatively informally. Month by month this happens in your parish churches. Is this God with us? I don't know, you tell me.

What I do know is that Holy Communion is profoundly relevant. Let me explain. In May we were invited to vote. These polls were about pot-holes and planning, Social Services and recycling, not national matters. Still the pundits drew national trends from the local ballots. Politics today finds itself in the destructive echo chamber of celebrity and sound bite rather than a broad landscape of respectful researched responsibility. People and personalities are brutalised while sensible alternative policies cough quietly for considered attention from the sidelines. If only in the middle of that there were a forward-looking church. A place where the integrity and authenticity of Godly sharing by people in united diversity took place frequently and often at the heart of our community! Ah look! There it is! An unobtrusive overlooked extraordinary encounter: counter to the splintering fear promulgated by the powerful. May be it doesn't hurt to take so jolly long over it after all!

Perhaps it is effective because those attending carry the experience with them to their homes and jobs. Perhaps it is effective because it is miraculous. Perhaps it is effective because the gathered are greater than the sum of the parts. Would it be more effective if more knew? Would it be more effective if more came? I suspect yes and yes. Part of what all Christians strive for, especially those in training and in ministry, is to learn to communicate the contemporary radical power of our ancient texts and practices. If you are as intrigued as I am by all this, do join us for one of our more formal/Traditional, or less formal/Family, or regular Holy Communion. Or, simply drop us a line and we'd be only too pleased to catch up with where you are at on your spiritual journey over a cuppa or a pint at a time that suits.


Dominic



J Macs Grass Cutting
Suffolk Coastal

Joshua Mac
07368692409
joshuamacgardening2022@outlook.com

Gardener
Saxmundham
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HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

'Messy Church' or, "If you find the perfect church, don't join it, for you will spoil it." (attributed to C.H. Spurgeon).

Recently, on a trip to see our daughter in North Norfolk, my wife Jean and I found we had an hour to spare to visit the walled garden at Felbrigg Hall. It was a beautiful day, and the garden looked a picture. The cordons were all neatly pruned and tied, and all manner of food plants were growing vigorously. The flower borders, too, were all neatly trimmed; and there appeared to be more gardeners than weeds!

I came away feeling inspired by the beauty and order on display. It demonstrated perfectly just what can be achieved when knowhow and effort are harnessed towards a specific end. Yet, I have to say that I also came away feeling it put my own garden to shame. You see, I'm only too well aware of the deadlines I keep missing: to plant seeds, to hoe between rows, to water, and to prune my roses.

I could, of course, fall back on the age-old excuse, that I don't have time, but I know it's not true. I could get these jobs done if I was more self-disciplined. Truth be told, I'm a natural at procrastinating! Nevertheless, despite my self-criticism, I still love my garden. It's a haven for wildlife. Lots of pigeons treat it as their own, and muntjac deer drop by whenever they fancy a snack. And, soon enough, blackbirds will be coming around to feast on my soft fruit.


I can't help thinking that Felbrigg Hall garden is a bit too perfect. The high brick walls store heat and protect against biting north winds but, surely, they must also exclude local wildlife? I don't appreciate caterpillars eating my brassicas, but I can at least console myself with the thought that they then become food for young birds. It's at this point that I start to think about my church. I sometimes wish it was perfect, and I imagine it being like Felbrigg Hall garden. But I'm fast coming around to the idea that it never will be. As Spurgeon, said, "If you found the perfect church, don't join it!" Yes, it would certainly be nice to tidy up some of its rough edges, but would I really feel at home in such a perfectly manicured space? I don't think so.

It's at this time of the year that Christians celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit made all things new. The ripples of that remarkable and singular event are still spreading, and today we rejoice in the knowledge that there are more Christians experiencing the Holy Spirit than ever before.

So, our calling as Christians is to embody Christ—our living Lord—in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to do so, I think, not in an artificial and perfectly managed environment, but within the glorious chaos of the Body of Christ.




**Peter Wagg
Elder**




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If you are a member of a group or organisation and you would like to share your monthly news, reports or activities with the local community, please email your articles to *Blyth Valley Times*:
blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

**HALESWORTH
COMMUNITY
LARDER PROJECT**

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

**Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays
10am - 11.30am**

Curate's Corner

The feast of Corpus Christi was at one time one of the most popular religious observances in England. As well as being a day of thanksgiving for the gift of Holy Communion, it was a day for conducting mystery plays, making wreaths of flowers, and all manner of other devotional activities. Although repressed during the Reformation, the feast has been revived in the Church of England and is now a feast celebrated in both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church.

The origins of the feast lie with a mystic called Juliana of Liège (c.1192-1258). During her early life, Juliana repeatedly experienced a vision of something that looked like the full moon – full of light and rising in the night sky. But through the centre of that bright circle of light was a dark stripe. Juliana immediately felt that the moon was a symbol of the eucharistic host; it appeared to her to be just like the bright white circle of unleavened bread elevated by the priest during the eucharist. But that dark stripe appeared to Juliana to mean that something was lacking, and she came to believe that what was lacking was a feast-day solely devoted to Jesus' gift of himself in the eucharist.

As time went on, Juliana told others, and her idea gathered momentum. It was the right idea for the right place and time, and she was given a blessing to begin work on a service to support the feast. Her work makes her one of the first woman authors in medieval Europe.

Juliana did not live to see the feast spread throughout the Western Church, but it did. By various turns of history, the idea ended up on the desk of Thomas Aquinas, who welcomed it with enthusiasm and devoted a great deal of energy to writing prayers and music for the new feast – now called Corpus Christi. Both Juliana and Aquinas were gifted musicians and theologians and, although they never met face-to-face, they were of one heart and mind in adoring Jesus' offering of himself to his people.

By its very nature, Corpus Christi has a great deal of overlap with Maundy Thursday: both days celebrate the institution of Holy Communion. Yet Maundy Thursday is tinged with sadness. The moment the festivities are over, we know that the sanctuary will be stripped bare and Jesus handed over to be arrested by sinners. By contrast, Corpus Christi is the same thanksgiving celebrated in the light of the resurrection. At the altar each Sunday there is a memorial of Jesus' gift of himself, passion, and death: this is the aspect of Maundy Thursday. But above all else, the eucharist reveals the resurrection of Christ and the gift of that new life to God's creation; Juliana showed the Church that we ought to attend more deeply to the boundless power of the resurrection.

Let us pray, therefore, that the same grace which was poured out on Juliana may be given to us, that we might truly see the power of God to be living and active in the sacrament of the altar.

Edmund

N.B. Edmund's first leading of Holy Communion will be at 10am on Sunday 28th June. He will also be leading the benefice main service on Sunday 5th July. Please attend if you can!



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LIFE EVENTS

From the Registers

Funerals/Interment of Ashes:

Irene Thomas at Linstead
John Cunningham at Bramfield
Ernest Woolnough at Wissett
John Eames at Wenhaston
Trevor Cox at Chediston



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

Just call one of our partner agencies:

Citizens Advice National Helpline

0808 208 2138

South Norfolk Early Help Hub

01508 533933

Halesworth Volunteers - 01986 875600

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

ADDITIONAL FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

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

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



Green Tips for June



Make the most of what you've got: waste charity 'Wrap' argues that second-hand purchases are unlikely to replace more than 10% of new sales. It recommends other approaches, such as encouraging people to repair and revamp existing pieces. Each year in the UK we send 350,000 tonnes of clothing to landfill but by buying second hand, buying better and buying less and finding new ways to style the clothes you already own, you can help change things. Extending the lifespan of a garment by nine months can reduce its carbon footprint by 20-30 per cent.

Recycle trainers that are past their best. You or your children may have an old pair of trainers that are falling apart. Drop them off at a Reuse-a-Shoe collection point in certain Nike stores (all brands are accepted) and they'll enjoy a second life. The materials will be separated and recycled into new clothes, shoes or even playground surfacing.

Rent your clothes: Hiring clothes is another way to access new pieces without actually buying them. Often clothes stay in wardrobes unworn for much of the year, yet they have taken a great deal of resources to make and sell. Renting makes ecological sense. 'Wrap' argues that if renting replaced 10% of new purchases every year, it would save 160,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the UK alone. JohnLewis and other stores now have a rental service on line.

Buy less: The simplest solution could also be the most effective. Buying a maximum of eight new items a year could reduce fashion's emissions by 37% in the world's major cities, according to research by Leeds University and Arup. However, this would obviously have significant financial implications for manufacturers and retailers. **Buy Fairtrade:** Some clothes come from manufacturers who use slave labour or pay very low wages. Clothes which carry the Fairtrade mark have not been produced using child or slave labour and the people who make them get a fair price for their work. They are usually sustainably produced with minimal impact on the environment. **Rev. Richard Stainer**



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BY APPOINTMENT

June at Halesworth Library

Did you know that the library can deliver books and audio-books straight to your door? If you're unable to visit the library, one of our friendly volunteers can come to you. Please contact us on 01986 506062 for more details.

The library hosts regular activities and drop-ins. Come and join us every Tuesday term time 10-11:30 for a free Rhyme Time & Play session to sing fun songs followed by free play with our toys. Refreshments also provided for parents.

Wednesdays from 10am our Time Out sociable group for older people meet for tea and biscuits.

The Knit & Natter group meet alternate Tuesdays 2:30-4:30pm.

We also have a new Mah-jong group that now 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.

The Friends of Halesworth Library are inviting you to join us for Sociable Sundays on 14th and 28th June 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 1st and 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. Come and join us for our regular monthly book talk on Thursday 4th June, 7pm. The Friends of Halesworth Library will be hosting Natalie Meg Evans on "Love, Loss and the Blitz: Why I write stories of the Second World War"

Natalie is an award-winning local author, based in Cratfield, and a long term supporter of Halesworth Library. Entry is free but please book a place.

Email thefriendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com or phone the library.

And finally! Would you like to volunteer with us over the summer to help deliver our summer reading programme for children? The Reading Quest takes place again this year and we are looking for volunteers to help us! Please fill out an application form online and we will be in touch (go to the Volunteer with Us section on Suffolk Community Libraries website and click on the link to Volunteer Roles). Don't forget that we will be hosting a range of activities throughout the summer holidays to keep your children entertained – keep an eye out for more details nearer the time both in the library and on our Facebook page too!

Catherine Draper



Hello from the team at Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund! We've had a brilliant few weeks and have lots to share with you this month, from a fantastic national award to a wonderful community golf day, a film afternoon, and some exciting events coming up. Here's all the news...

Big News: We're Highly Commended at the UK Dementia Awards 2026! We are absolutely over the moon to tell you that HDCF has received a Highly Commended in the Respite Care and Carer Support category at this year's UK Dementia Awards, run in association with the Journal of Dementia Care. The awards ceremony took place on 30th April and brought together dementia care organisations from all over the UK, including Scotland and Wales, so to be recognised at that level as a small, community-based charity is truly something special. We couldn't be prouder. This achievement belongs to every single one of you, our wonderful volunteers, our hard-working trustees, and most importantly, the amazing people living with dementia and their carers who make everything we do worthwhile. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Golf Day – What a Day! Our Golf Day on Tuesday 6th May was a huge success - a brilliant event enjoyed by all who took part. We are absolutely thrilled by the generosity shown, and a massive thank you goes to everyone who played, volunteered, sponsored, donated prizes, or simply cheered us on. You know who you are! We'll be sharing the full amount raised in next month's news, so watch this space. We have a feeling it's going to put a big smile on your faces!

Film Afternoon: 'Song Sung Blue'. Join us for our next film afternoon — Wednesday 20th May at 2pm at The Cut, Halesworth. This month's film is 'Song Sung Blue' - a lovely choice for a relaxed afternoon out. All are welcome, so do bring a friend along. These film afternoons are always a lovely occasion and a great way to spend time with others in the community. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more details, or give us a call if you'd like to know more.

Dementia Awareness Workshop – Save the Date! We're delighted to announce that our next Dementia Awareness Workshop will be taking place on Saturday 5th July. Everyone is welcome — whether you're a carer, a family member, a friend, a professional, or simply someone who'd like to know more. Full details, including time and venue, will be confirmed very soon. In the meantime, if you'd like to book a place or find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch; places are likely to be popular so it's worth registering your interest early!

As always, if you or someone you know could benefit from our support, or if you'd simply like to find out more about what we do, please do get in touch. We're always happy to chat.

With warm wishes from everyone at HDCF

Tel: 07990 199632 Email: info@halesworthdementia.co.uk
Web: www.halesworthdementia.co.uk



Walpole Old Chapel



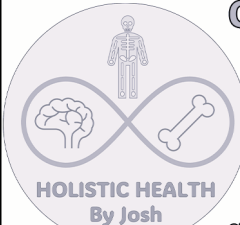
Walpole Old Chapel is a unique building, created c1690 by local people out of an existing farmhouse. We are open to the public on Saturday and Bank Holiday afternoons from 2pm - 4.30pm from 4th April until 26th September. Further events are:

*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
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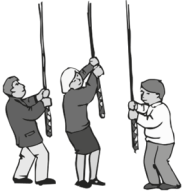
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From the Ringing Chamber

The hot news is that we have regained the prestigious Trevor Hughes Trophy at the NE District Striking Competition. We did have a small advantage this year in that the contest was at Wissett whose bells we know well, but Aldeburgh, to whom we lost out last year, and Beccles both had strong bands, and our final practice was not the best and could definitely be beaten.

There were eleven teams competing, and the churchyard was packed with ringers enjoying the spring sunshine. "Wenhaston" (as we badged our second team) kicked off and put in a creditable performance, while Chediston's newbies also rang as well as they could reasonably have hoped. Halesworth rang sixth and we upped the pace compared with the previous bands – we know that these bells go better at speed, and our "peal speed" of 2:40 was by far the quickest of the afternoon, but as well as maintaining a brisk rhythm we managed to cut out the little imperfections that had marred our practice, and it was encouraging when we came outside that a number of people commented that that was a winning performance.

And so it proved: we scored just 15 faults, with Aldeburgh 2nd (24 faults) and Beccles third (31). Wenhaston's 48 was very respectable, and although Chediston's was the highest score, they were not, as might have been expected, far adrift with their total of 60 faults.

Much of the month has been spent practising for the competition, but we have also managed to score another of our Surprise Minor quarter peals at Wissett, this time Alnwick Surprise Minor. For the monthly quarter peal at Halesworth (first Sunday Evensong) I took advantage of some visiting ringers to arrange to ring Bristol Surprise Major, one of the hardest of the standard repertoire. The ringing was in all honesty, a bit patchy, but was getting towards the end when the conductor (who shall remain nameless, in case it was me) fell asleep and missed a crucial call, whereupon the attempt ground to an ignominious halt. It happens!

Other Sundays in May will have seen us at Wenhaston, Wissett and Huntingfield. We have had some good Tuesday practice attendances, enabling us to try some more complicated methods with good results. The latest is called Single Oxford Bob Triples, Single because there's a Double Oxford, Bob because the bells have to dodge with each other, Triples because it's on seven bells, and Oxford – who knows?

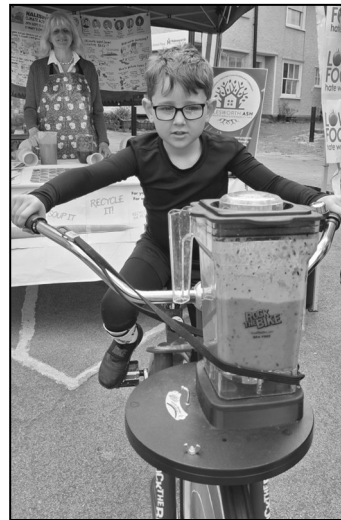
Probably the inventor was at Oxford University as Oxford has never been a centre of ringing excellence. It has features similar to the well-known Grandsire Triples, and our second attempt at our practice was almost completely error-free. And that doesn't happen very often!

PJG



Halesworth ASH Update

What is the most thrown away food in the UK? Name 5 items.... So begins the quiz on the 'Love Food Hate Waste' smoothie bicycle stall organised by Halesworth ASH at INK's 2026 Fun Sunday event on a sunny day in April. People from all ages had a go cycling to create their own smoothie, saving food that may have gone to waste, and keeping healthy at the same time! Children then battled to win at food waste themed snakes and ladders.



Annual food waste in the UK is staggering—it's estimated to be around 10.7 million tonnes. That could fill 750,000 double-decker buses every year!

60% of food waste happens in our homes in the UK. We waste 4.4 million tonnes of edible food worth £17.5 billion creating 16 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change. For a family of 4, that's around £1,000 wasted per year!

Let's prevent waste, use leftovers, save money, save the environment, and recycle the rest. Let's fill our new food waste bins with only inedible food which then gets recycled to make compost and bio-fuel.

For more top tips and recipes, find more information at Love Food Hate Waste / Preventing food waste.

With thanks to Halesworth Co-op, Melons greengrocer and Giggler apple juice for donations.

PS: the answer to the most thrown away foods in the UK are: potatoes, milk, bread, banana, apple (not salad which took us all by surprise).

Jim Green

Halesworth ASH continued their engagement work with a screening of the popular Power Station film, at The Cut the following week. The screening was the latest in Halesworth ASH's successful Green Films strand and included a discussion on community energy with guests speakers John Taylor from Community Energy England and Julian Thompson from Community Climate Action. The film follows activists Hilary and Dan as they try to turn their London street into a solar-powered community and traces their journey from knocking on doors to raising funds for solar panels and building wider support for the scheme. The screening was also supported by a practical energy and insulation advice clinic from Halesworth Energy Champion William Poulsen. The audience engaged with discussions afterwards in the Cut cafe, and a follow up meeting to discuss a green energy scheme for Halesworth is being planned. Look at the Halesworth ASH website www.halesworthash.com to find out more or get involved.

Farming and Faith

A series focusing on our local farmers. This month we hear from Jenny Blackmore, who farms in Huntingfield.

Tell us about your farm

Our farm in Huntingfield is about 67 acres, which is mostly grass with some wooded areas and traditional farm buildings. I farm with my parents and sister who also live on the farm.

Our main business is free-range laying hens, supported by a small beef suckler herd (Hereford and Highland), both of which enjoy the grass.



There are also a small number of sheep and goats, and we currently have over 80 cricket-bat willow trees growing around the farm. There's a shortage of willow to make cricket bats!

What do you enjoy about farming?

I like being outside in nature and enjoy seeing the changing colour of the seasons, especially the greens of the grass, leaves and hedges. I love watching the birds and hares that move around the farm. I'm not a lover of foxes though... Hens and foxes don't mix very well.



I enjoy seeing the new life each spring with the arrival of the calves, lambs and kids.

What are your challenges?

At the moment the weather – there is currently not enough rain for the grass to grow.

There are financial challenges of running a small farm with all the associated oncosts, including employing staff, without the income to support it.

The threat of bird flu and blue tongue outbreaks are a challenge that we could do without, along with the biosecurity and legal requirements that they bring.

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

I believe we are custodians of the land that we farm and that we have a responsibility to look after it.

This means we have planted native hedges around the farm that provide food, shelter and nesting sources for native wildlife species that are low in number, as well as encouraging the growth of native wildflower species.

How can your local community support farmers/ farming?

Because UK welfare standards are higher than elsewhere, the input costs are higher for British farmers, so I would encourage everyone to buy British in order to support British farmers and to buy local products where it is produced locally.

Prayer Points

We really need rain for the grass to grow and protection for the chickens from disease and predators would also be good.



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Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research

I can't believe that we are already in May and that by the time you read this we will have completed our Spring Fair in Holton Village Hall. I will let everyone know how we got on in the next edition of the magazine.

We have two smaller events, but no less important, in June:

We will have a stall at the **Classic Car Day** which is on 21st June at Holton Village Hall. Please look out for us as I hope we will have something to tempt you.

We also have our **street collection** in Halesworth which we have over two days. On Friday 26th June we will be in the town outside The Angel and outside "Coopers" and on Saturday 27th June we will be at The Co-op. We are very grateful for any amount you kindly pop into our collecting goblets as every penny really does count. Unfortunately we can't do "tap and go" kind of payments. We are sorry for any inconvenience. Please say hello to our volunteer collectors if you see them as it will brighten their day.

Our next big event is our week in the **I-Chameleon** pop up shop 2nd - 8th July. We hope to have our usual extras each day outside the shop, cakes on Saturday, Ukulele on Tuesday, **Jane's plants on Friday** etc. We would welcome good saleable items of bric-a-brac, please contact me if you think you have anything suitable.

Forward notice, The Old Hall Cafe has very generously offered to do **The Maze By Torchlight** again for us this year. This is a really fun evening whatever your age. The date this year is Friday 21st August. Please check The Old Hall website nearer the time to buy tickets online.

Thank you all so much for supporting us as we raise money for Cancer Research; you are making a real difference and saving lives.

For more information please contact me:-

Dawn Davis 01986 873640

Wenhaston Doom

It is well known that the Wenhaston Doom is one of the great treasures of the Blyth Valley (photo on back page). Doom paintings were at one time a popular form of medieval devotion; it would not be unusual for a patron to sponsor the creation of a Doom painting to adorn a church, or for a small portion of a Doom to be sponsored by a less wealthy family as a kind of memorial. But most Doom paintings were destroyed or lost during the Reformation. Of those that survived, almost all were painted directly onto plaster, and those rare few which were painted onto wooden boards generally had the boards arranged vertically rather than horizontally. All these features make the Wenhaston Doom into a true treasure of England; a unique window into the world of medieval piety which once surrounded us on Suffolk.

During April, St Peter's Church Wenhaston was proud to welcome a team from the Hamilton Kerr Institute, as well as other experts in the handling and conservation of medieval art. This formed the first phase of our project to stabilise, restore, and re-mount the Doom so that it can be appreciated by visitors and worshippers in St Peter's Church for centuries to come.

It is inevitable that when so many experts were gathered into one place, we would end up learning all manner of interesting things about our Doom. For example: if you look closely, you might see that the halo painted around the figure of Jesus is in the shape of a star, and that to his right you will see the stylised figure of the sun. This might immediately cause the viewer to remember the phrase 'Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light' and to think to themselves, "Well, I can see the sun, and I can see a kind of star, but where is the moon?" As it turns out, the moon has been largely erased from our painting by history, but if you look carefully you can just-about see the shadow where the moon was once present; although the surface paint is gone, enough paint settled into the grain of the wood to leave a dark, crescent-shaped shadow above the figure of Mary.

This April, much of our time together was spent on the practical questions of what should be done next. How, for example, do you remove an irreplaceable medieval artwork from a wall when one doesn't know precisely how it is attached to the wall? However, a great deal of progress has already been made, and we are confident that with careful planning and forethought it is possible to safely remove the Doom from the wall, conserve it, and re-mount in a prominent position at the back of the Church.

With a painting like this there is a great deal of history which will always remain somewhat mysterious. One thing we can say with confidence is that there was never a single wealthy patron of the Wenhaston Doom who imposed it on the Church as though from outside. Instead, it was funded and created piecemeal, probably in small gifts from families, guilds, or private individuals. It has all the hallmarks of being an authentic product of the community's own spirituality. When we care for it today, we are not so much caring for an artwork as we are preserving the memory of how faith was experienced in Wenhaston during centuries past. In so many ways, our work today is to care for the spiritual heart of those who have gone before us.

Rev'd Edmund Smith

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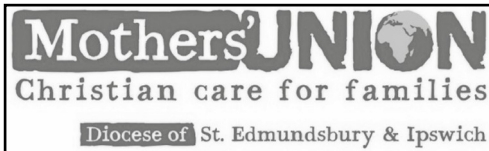
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23rd June Mothers' Union Big Knicker Night at the Salvation Army Centre, Stowmarket. This event is to raise awareness of the issue of domestic abuse, and also to highlight our work to those outside MU. Tickets go live this month via Diocesan weekly eNews. The Salvation Army Centre is providing the venue for no fee. Tesco's are providing the snacks for our event, making this a very low budget event. There will be quizzes, displays, videos, a speaker and the MUE pop-up shop. Tim and Leonie, from the diocesan communications team, are helping us with the publicity.

There is a **new brooch** specially designed for the 150th 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

In April we had three new people join our **Diocesan Officers team**. Sarah Oram has taken up the role of Diocesan Treasurer from Amanda Lanagan. She will be assisted by Linda Smalley who is our new Diocesan Gift Aid Officer. Their contact details will be shared with the branch treasurers. Sarah Oram has a background in accounts. Linda Smalley is a member of Constable Country churches branch and is Parish treasurer for St Mary's Tattingstone. Vicki George has joined as our new Diocesan Booking and Events officer. This is part of the Diocesan Secretary's job share role, with the other part of the job share being the Diocesan Correspondence Secretary, which is still vacant. Vicki has in the past been the Events Co-ordinator for St Paul's Cathedral, so comes with a wealth of expertise to this role.

Easyfundraising is a website that enables you to do something extraordinary. If you register as an easyfundraiser then when you shop online with participating retailers, they'll donate part of what you spend to your chosen cause. Whether you shop on your phone, laptop or tablet, you can earn free cashback donations for your cause. These donations are allocated to our AFIA fund. The retailer just needs to know you are an easyfundraiser to give a donation. You can find out more on: www.easyfundraising.org.uk

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 Wenhampton. *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.*

Fressingfield have made a great start to their celebration of our 150th anniversary. Fressingfield MU members have started on their projects for celebrating 150 years of MU. Branch leader Christine Christian says, "We have recruited four new members for 2026 with another having visited and considering joining as a member". At their March meeting they organised a Lent Lunch with a service of reflection. They invited members from the North Suffolk Area and also advertised it in our Benefice. Attendees donated about £150 for MU projects.

Prayer points:

- For the people enjoying an AFIA holiday this month.
- For our new Mothers' Union members and Mothers' Union friends who joined us this year. May they find being part of this organisation a blessing.
- For the parishes that are looking to start a new Mothers' Union branch or Mothers' Union Group

News from your Diocesan Member Rep

Last month I went to Scargill House in the Yorkshire Dales for an Association of Christian Writers weekend led by Adrian and Bridget Plass, who you may have heard of. The theme of the weekend was "in the eye of the beholder" and we tried to look at things through a different lens and with a different perspective. I wrote about someone taking a family photo for us and I thought I would share it with you.

I hand my camera over to a stranger and as she looks through the lens, I'm sure she sees a happy family with their whole lives ahead of them. Mum, dad and two young boys. Perhaps she thinks this photo is one of many taken on that day. Nothing special. But, just like us, she has no idea how precious this simple snap will become in a few months' time. This is the last ever photo of the four of us.

I am forever grateful to that stranger for that small act of kindness, but she has no idea how special that photo is. I wonder how many small acts we have accomplished over the years that have had a profound effect on someone else? We may never know, but let's keep on doing them!

Mothers' Union Local Events in June

The Mothers' Union celebrates 150 years:

2.30pm, 10th June. A service of celebration at St. Peter's Church in Wenhampton, led by Revd. Canon Alison Alder. Refreshments will be served after the service. All Welcome. Further details from Margaret Goldstone - 01502 478378.

Yoxmere Benefice Mothers' Union Branch Meeting:

Westleton Church, 2.30pm, 10th June. 'Mission Aviation Fellowship' — a talk by Ken Thom. Further details from Sue Norrington 07913 488670.

Mothers Union Craft, Coffee and Chat Group:

2pm, 4th June. Further details from Sue Norrington 07913 488670.

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

St George's Day Parade

Halesworth celebrated St George's Day in style this year, with a vibrant parade and civic service that drew enthusiastic participation from community groups and local dignitaries alike. From the youngest Beavers to esteemed representatives like the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, and Chair of the Town Council, the event showcased Halesworth's community spirit and pride in its heritage.



The parade buzzed with energy as Beavers, Scouts, and Cubs marched through the Thoroughfare, their banners held high. Adding a touch of mythical flair,

the Youth Space crafted an impressive dragon's head from mod rock, a testament to their creativity and teamwork. Younger tots also contributed to the spectacle, collaboratively painting a dragon's body on a large paper roll, their colourful artwork bringing the legendary creature to life. And we were filled with joy at the sounds of the bells and the Molly Dancers, dancing down the Thoroughfare.

Youth Space, by Becca Laughlin

Psalm 144:12: "May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace."

What a wonderful thing it is, to be able to support and nurture the youth within our community. As we sit side by side, adults and youth, to share an evening meal at the beginning of each week, I am reminded of the importance of having that space, that time, and the breaking of the bread. It is a time to share news, thoughts, worries and questions. A time where we, as adults, can lessen the burdens that our youth carry.

Some burdens trivial and some much bigger, but none more important than the other. It is also a time where our youth can help to grow our minds and teach us. Youth Space is fast becoming a well-oiled engine where each cog, each person is as vital as the next to ensure it works efficiently and affectively as a whole.

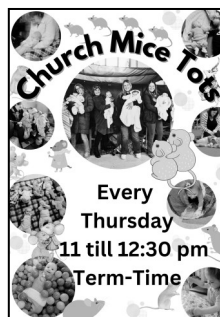
Youth Space is a community. A community grows together, learns from one another and supports each other through all seasons. A community is formed by many different variations, different beings all connected by mutual trust, shared values, and a strong sense of belonging. A belonging that may not be felt elsewhere. We have some amazing, talented young people in our Youth Space community and it is an honour to support and nurture them so that they can always know their worth, fulfil their potential and hopefully pass that greatness to others that they entwine with on their journeys.

Church Mice Tots, by Neri Harris

For families with little ones, Church Mice Tots has become a much-loved part of the week. Running from 11am to 12:30pm for under fives, it offers a gentle, welcoming space where children can explore and parents can breathe for a moment. Over the winter months we gathered in the Community Larder Hall for warmth, but now that we're back in the church, the difference is remarkable. The children suddenly have room to run, wander, and discover — and they do, with huge confidence and joy.

Each session is set up with different "corners" of play to suit a range of ages and stages. There might be soft toys for the littlest ones, building blocks for busy hands, crafts for curious minds, or imaginative play for the older toddlers. Parents and carers can enjoy a hot drink (and usually a biscuit or two) while chatting and keeping an eye on their children as they move around the space. What makes Church Mice Tots special is the atmosphere. Everyone is friendly, everyone is welcomed, and everyone is included. My own children have been coming for nearly two years now, and they feel completely at home — confident enough to run freely around the church, explore every corner, and greet familiar faces with ease.

What I appreciate most is how comfortable my children feel there. After almost two years, they run around the church with confidence, weaving between toys and friends, completely at ease. It's become a place where they feel safe, seen, and happy — and that's a gift.



Church Mice Tots isn't just a toddler group. It's a little community of its own, full of warmth, kindness, and the simple joy of watching children grow. It's a simple group, but a meaningful one: a place where children grow in confidence, where parents find connection, and where the church becomes a warm, living space for the youngest members of our community.

You ever stop and think where you are? By Ruby Palmer

You ever stop and think about where you are? Not just your seat in this classroom, but your place in the world. Geography isn't just maps, it's movement. It's people, pressure, patterns, and change. It's why cities grow while coastlines shrink. Why some places flood, while others barely drink. It's earthquakes - ground shaking under your feet. It's climate change - headlines you scroll past every week. But here's the thing - Geography doesn't just tell you what's happening...It shows you why. Why people move. Why countries develop. Why our future isn't random - it's connected. You don't just memorise facts - you start to see the world differently. That holiday you went on? There's a story behind it. That storm on the news? There's a reason for it. That question in your ear - "why is it like this?" Geography answers it. So when you're picking your GCSEs, don't just choose something easy - choose something that actually matters. Something real. Something global. Something that helps you understand the world you're already part of. Because Geography isn't just a subject — it's your world, explained.

More News from Pauline Milsted

A Recipe for Kindness and Hope at Bramfield Primary School

Each week, Pauline visits Bramfield Primary School to lead Collective Worship, creating a special opportunity to connect with the children and support the Church of England Primary School within the Benefice. These sessions are filled with storytelling, props, shared worship, and prayer, offering a joyful space for reflection and community.

This half-term, the overarching theme for Collective Worship has been Hope. Building on the story of Ruth and Naomi shared earlier in the term by the Open the Book team, the children explored how acts of kindness can inspire hope in others. Together, they reflected on the generosity of Boaz and the kindness he showed, discussing moments when others had been kind to them and how those experiences made them feel. The conversation naturally turned to how kindness can ripple outward—how receiving kindness often inspires people to pass it on.

To bring these ideas to life, the children created their very own Recipe of Kindness. One of the older pupils acted as scribe while others came forward to “mix” the ingredients, imagining each quality being stirred into a big bowl of goodness. Their thoughtful and colourful recipe captured the essence of what it means to live kindly and hopefully.

A Recipe of Kindness

A blue cup of friendliness

A green cup of generosity

A green cup of respect

A green cup full of helpfulness

A red cup of gentleness

A red cup of helping someone

A yellow cup of believing in someone

This creative exercise reminded everyone that kindness, like a recipe, is something that can be made and shared. Each ingredient adds its own flavour, and together they create something beautiful and nourishing for the heart.

Perhaps by following the children’s recipe, the world can become a brighter, more hopeful, loving, and kind place—one small act of kindness at a time.

Safeguarding Lead Vacancy

Are you passionate about safeguarding? Do you have experience from your working or volunteering life you’d like to use to help develop our safeguarding work here at Blyth Valley Churches? We have a fulfilling volunteer role here waiting for the right person. If you’re interested we would love to hear from you! Please contact Annie (details on p.16). **Congratulations to Margaret Bloomfield for completing her safeguarding training recently.**

Annie

Bury St Edmunds Cathedral Pilgrimage

After the morning services on Sunday 10th May, a group of eight merry pilgrims made their way to St Edmundsbury Cathedral for a day of pilgrimage, prayer, and fellowship. Although rather more orderly than Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, our group set out as part of the same great tradition – to weave across the countryside and gather together at a holy place which has been waiting to welcome us.

The Reflective Pilgrimages at St Edmundsbury Cathedral normally have three parts to them: a tour of the cathedral interspersed with prayers, choral evensong, and a time of tea and cake provided by the Friends of the Cathedral. But just for us, there was a fourth and more secret part – a visit to the Ancient Library.

The Ancient Library is a collection of early printed works which were acquired by the Church in the years immediately after the Reformation for the purpose of training clergy. It offers a fascinating window into the theological and philosophical currents of 16th - century Suffolk and testifies to the way in which the Church has been called to proclaim the Gospel afresh in each generation.

At evensong we were invited to read the lessons, prayed for and treated to a particularly fine rendition of Standford’s Ye choirs of new Jerusalem. It will be a comfort to know that even after we have gone, the Cathedral continues to pray for us, just as it does for all the parishes and people of our Diocese.

More than anything else, the warmth and hospitality with which we were welcomed serves to remind us that the Cathedral of the Diocese is a home for all of us. It is always there and continually stands ready to welcome us, to pray for us, and to be a resource to us.

This was a delightful day out, with a balance of prayer, history, and the warmth of being welcomed home. Do keep your eyes peeled for the next time this pilgrimage is offered – it’s not to be missed!

Edmund



The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



**The Revd
Dominic Doble
Team Rector**

The Rectory,
Highfield Road,
Halesworth, IP19 8SJ

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



**The Revd
Linda Berry
Assistant Curate**

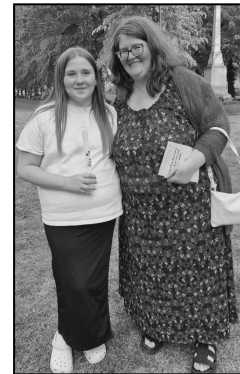
Old Post Office,
The Street,
Huntingfield,
IP19 0PU

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



**The Revd
Dr Edmund Smith
Curate**

Tel: 07787 615716
Email:
eps31@cantab.ac.uk
(Off duty: Fridays)



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

Deputy Safeguarding Officer

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



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



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



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



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



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

READERS

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

ELDERS

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

Blyth Valley Churches Contacts

Gary Atkins: Lay Chair BV Parishes Joint Council

Tel: 07981 979551

Email: corg.atkins87@gmail.com

Brian May: Treasurer BV Parishes Joint Council

Email: treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com

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

Tel: 01986 875941

Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

Email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

Jason Busby: Organist Blyth Valley Churches

Tel: 01986 873336. Mobile: 07817 863533

Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

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

Tel: 01986 875354

Email: pjg@hxxx.me.uk

PARISH	CHURCHWARDEN	CONTACT
Blyford	Charlie Hawkins	charliehawkins100@gmail.com
Bramfield	Jinnie Barham Alfred Mullett	01986 784254 snowmein@mac.com
Chediston	Jo Wareham	07711 066727
Cookley	Jane Evers	01986 785209
Halesworth	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

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Café Church Tuesdays!



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

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent Martin Clarke
clarkehk@yahoo.com

It must be nearly two years ago that the entire membership of the Blyford PCC was released from the confines of its vaulted chambers deep underground and allowed into the daylight to visit the studio workshop of celebrated sculptor **Mary Anstee Parry** deep in the wilds of West Suffolk. There, amidst myriad chisels and mallets and half finished carvings of heraldic shields, high-level discussions were made over the design of two benches that were planned to be built and installed in the churchyard. Well, I am pleased to announce that after much to-ing and fro-ing of various designs this ambitious project has now come to fruition and the benches have been installed and are looking absolutely magnificent. One on the north side of the church offering a view of the church tower and views beyond, and one basking on the south side under the shelter of the church offering views across the Blyth Valley which have recently been opened up thanks to the new traditionally layered southerly hedge. The wildness of nature is at the forefront of everything we do at Blyford and the beautifully executed designs feature many of the wild plants, berries and wildlife you might find here. Do come and have a look....see if you can spot the Cinnabar moth or some *Claytonia Perfoliata* (Spring Beauty). Photo on the back page.

Our **Wild Church** service this month falls on the 21st - Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year. We will be breaking with our tradition of a 10:00am service and holding it in the evening at 8:00pm. We always celebrate God through nature and given the unique characteristics of the day we might like to linger longer and make this a social occasion so make sure you put this in your diary. Our Wild Church events are held outdoors and are open to everyone so it would be a great opportunity for newcomers as well as regulars to come along and have a bit of a knees-up.

One other event for your diary is the **Blyford Big Breakfast** on 16th July. This will be held in the Queen's Head pub opposite the church with donations going towards the church fabric fund. You might like to book in advance on 01502 478404.

We had a very lovely wild service on Sunday 19th April. The theme was The Good Shepherd, taken by Pauline Milsted. We discussed the meanings and understanding of the Bible reading from John verses 11-16, followed by a reflective walk around the churchyard. Later we sang 'Will you come and Follow' me by John Bell. Uplifting...thanksgiving.

Virginia Storey

Bramfield

Correspondent Alfred Mullett
snowmein@mac.com

John Andrew Cunningham 27th May 1940 - 8th May 2026. We were very saddened to hear about the passing of Andrew Cunningham of Doctors Meadow, Bramfield in May who lived here with his wife, Louise and sons for over 40 years. He was well known in the village and a great character, full of stories, very knowledgeable about all kinds of machinery, especially vintage motorcycles, and a great historian and family man. They had recently moved to Blythburgh to live and more recently his health had deteriorated. Andrew's burial was held at Bramfield Church by Reverend Dominic on Friday 24th April for all the close family; he is laid to rest overlooking the land where he lived. His Memorial Service was held at Wenhaston Methodist Church on Saturday 25th April. It was a lovely service with wonderful recollections from Andrew's sons talking about their fond memories of their father and the wake was held afterwards at the Queen's Head in Bramfield. We send all our good wishes to all the family at this time.

Ecotherapy East Community Day – Saturday 2nd May 10am Ecotherapy East hosted a community day on

Saturday 2nd May in Foxtail Meadow, Bramfield. A non-denominational celebration of Beltane which is the Gaelic May Day festival celebrating Spring at its peak, followed at 11.30am with land tending. The day was wonderful and warm; it also was a gathering with a thoughtful, small group of friends. We spoke of our role in our world then walked the labyrinth in silence, nearly within the shadow of the trees of St Andrew's. Afterward we spent time on various land - tending tasks, including checking new trees and helping with the setup of the yurt. It is an experience I would recommend, though be certain you come prepared for walking fields and be dressed for the weather. The next event is 20th June at 10am to celebrate the summer solstice.

Reflective Pilgrimage to St Edmundsbury. Many thanks to Edmund for the invitation to the Reflective Pilgrimage to St Edmundsbury. I found it to be both inspirational and a good time spent with friends. The Evensong was most beautiful and inspirational.

Family Church Pauline presented the family church service this month. We had words on video this time and the service as always was enjoyable. We had an enjoyable time with tea and biscuits and chatting afterward. A time well spent.

Things to Come:

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

Ecotherapy East Community Day – Saturday 20th June, 10am. The next gathering on Foxtail Meadow will be on Saturday June 20th celebrating the summer solstice. The quiet celebration begins at 10am with a gathering to acknowledge the time of year and all that Nature provides for us, both physically and spiritually. This part of the day is non-denominational, but all about giving thanks and acknowledging the natural world around us. Everyone is

very welcome. From 11.30am onwards we focus on the land tending which is paying attention to the seasonal needs of the meadow. Quiet, less strenuous jobs are available for anyone who is not so keen to be too physically challenged!

Any questions please feel free to email: ecotherapyeast.info@gmail.com

Father's Day Service 21st June at 10:00am

We will be having a Father's Day service at 10am. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you. There will be tea and coffee following.

Halesworth Food Bank Collection Box

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

Family Church at Bramfield St Andrews. Sunday 28th June at 10:00am. Family Church will be presented by Pauline. It is a shorter, simpler service, with things for everyone from all ages, from the little to the Elders. All are welcome. There will be tea and coffee following.

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

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

veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

APCM St Mary's had its Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 30th April and Jo Wareham was re-elected as Churchwarden. The PCC members remain as before with David Newton our Treasurer, Veronica Downing as PCC Secretary and Paula Hall representing Chediston community. Veronica is also commissioned as a Church Elder and is able to lead services of worship, such as Morning Prayer, and other occasions like Mothering Sunday. The Annual Report and Annual Accounts for 2025 were presented.

Bellringing at Chediston

On 9th May Chediston was able to enter a band of call-change ringers for the North East District of the Suffolk Guild striking competition, held at our neighbouring tower of Wissett. Given that nine months earlier, three of the band had not even chimed a bell, this was no mean achievement. We may have struck the most faults but we were not so far behind the next band. Bellringers, whether ringing in rounds,

call changes or methods, aim to ring at an even pace and rhythm, and clips, clashes and delays are scored as faults. Therefore the band with the least faults wins in either the call-change category or in change ringing. Chediston 'borrowed' Claire Whiting from Fressingfield, who had come to our practices, to make up our band of six. After the competition, where 11 towers competed, there was an excellent 'bring and share' tea in Wissett Village Hall and the Spring quarterly meeting of the NE District, where three Chediston ringers, Noah Fisher, Ed Elford and Natalie Burrows, were elected as new members to the Suffolk Guild of Ringers. It was good to have family and friends as spectators supporting our band, sitting and enjoying the traditional sound of bells in Wissett's sunny churchyard.

Bell Sunday 17th May 2026

As I write this, Bell Sunday, promoted by the Central Council of Church Bellringers (our national organisation) on 17th May, is yet to take place, but we will be ringing at Wissett from 9.30am for the 10.00am Holy Communion service taken by Revd Linda Berry. The object of Bell Sunday is to provide an opportunity for bellringers and worshippers, who both use the church space for their activities, to meet and share their interests, as ringers often are not worshippers and worshippers are only occasionally bellringers! There will be bellringing hymns and refreshments afterwards. We are grateful for this shared chance to showcase our respective skills and interests. Thanks to Geoffrey Kiddy and to Revd Linda for their support for Bell Sunday.

Chediston Summer Fête 29th August

Church and Community are joining together to organise a traditional summer fête on the Bank Holiday Saturday afternoon, 29th August, on the Community Field. Keep the date free and watch out for further information on activities and helpers needed.

In Memory of the late John Parson who died on March 31st 2026. In last month's BVT, I wrote that John Parson had died and that there would be an obituary in this edition. We are very grateful to Gilbert (Gib) Burroughes who wrote the following tribute:

John and David were the children of Jack and Mary Parson living at Packway Farm Chediston. Their parents were very involved in St Mary's Church Chediston, and Mary, who lived to be 100, was the organist. John was brought up and was schooled, first at Wilby, and, on gaining a scholarship, finished his education at Framlingham College, after which he went to Chadacre Agriculture College. It was then, when 18, he was called up to do the then compulsory National service, serving in the army for 2 years, then returning to the farm to be with his father, where they kept poultry, with some arable land growing cereals.

It was in late 1955 that John came to see me after we had moved to Chediston, inviting me to join the Halesworth Young Farmers Club, then held at the Kings Head Hotel in the Market Place. In September of 1956 he married Margaret George of the chemist shop in the Thoroughfare in Halesworth. They went on to have three children. John and Margaret were involved in the church and other activities in the village. John for many years was clerk to the Parish Council and also secretary to the Henry Smith Charity. They continued at Packway Farm until selling the farm house and buildings in the mid-1990s, moving to the bungalow in Norwich Road, Halesworth. They kept the land at Packway.

Having moved to Halesworth, after a while John dispensed with his car, but instead then worked driving for other people, including Fosdikes taxi and bus service, collecting and returning children to school. Later he worked for Hammonds, delivering cars around the country! In more recent years, John could be seen on his bicycle riding to Chediston to tend the land he still owned. Both John and Margaret would still cycle to Church on Sundays. John had a strong voice and enjoyed singing all the old hymns. I understand that John and Margaret had both been living at Beech House since last June. His other cycle rides were for the Suffolk Churches annual bike rides and he did the bike ride last year in September. He did them most years, raising funds for local Churches. His last ride from Beech House to St Mary's was just a few weeks before he died. A good friend. We remember him with affection.

Cookley

Correspondent Jane Evers
janeeversj@gmail.com

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

Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336
halesworthparish@gmail.com

June already! The highlight of the past month has to be the visit of the **Bohemian Choir** on 27th April. Although the audience was modest, with just over 50 people attending, we enjoyed an evening of stunning choral music together with stories of the people, landscape, and glassmaking heritage that shaped the Bohemian Crystal Valley. The programme included traditional Czech folk songs, familiar Taizé chants and Karl Jenkins' Cantate Domino. Our sincere thanks go to Daria, the choir's conductor, and to directors Jana Konvalinkova and Christopher Muffett for preparing this year's performance. We are already looking forward to welcoming the choir back to Halesworth again next year. The evening concluded with soup, wine, nibbles, and the opportunity to spend time chatting with the student teachers, a lovely atmosphere of friendship and hospitality (photo on the back page).

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, civic dignitaries, members of our youth group, and town councillors joined us on 25th April for the **St George's Day Parade and Service of Thanksgiving**. It was a wonderful occasion as we gave thanks for all those in uniform who serve our country, and for all that is good about the rich diversity of our communities in the spirit and name of St George. You can still catch up with the service via our YouTube channel.

At the time of writing, it is the day before the **APCM** of St Mary's, so I will report back next month. However, I would like to share a short paragraph from my annual Churchwardens' Report: "I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to everyone involved in the life of St Mary's. A small but deeply

committed group of people continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the doors of this church open. Thanks are due to our clergy, PCC members, volunteers, the wider Halesworth community, visitors, pilgrims, and our fellow churches across the Blyth Valley Team. Particular thanks also go to our regular worshippers and to all who give so generously, financially, practically, and through the gift of their time, talents, and prayerful support. On behalf of the PCC, thank you all for your continued support, encouragement, and dedication to the life and witness of St Mary's Church."

Looking ahead to June, the **Produce Market** returns to St Mary's on Saturday 13th June from 9am-1pm.

Armed Forces Day falls on Saturday 27th June, so do keep an eye out for the special flag flying from the tower in support and remembrance. Our regular pattern of worship continues both in person and online each Sunday at 8am, 10am, and 6pm.

Finally, we share the sad news that **Martina Calver** died on Saturday 9th May. Although we have not seen Martina regularly at church in recent years, both Martina and her husband Arthur have continued to support concerts and recitals at St Mary's. Martina was also a pitality tower bell ringer in the days when Doug Crooks served as Tower Captain, and she rang with the St Mary's Handbell Ringers for many years. Let us pray for Martina and for Arthur at this sad time:

Heavenly Father, we commend Martina into your loving care, giving thanks for her life, friendship, and service within our community. Be close to Arthur and to all who mourn, granting them comfort, peace, and strength in the days ahead. May Martina rest in peace and rise in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Halesworth WI Report

Members listened with interest to a talk with slides given by Mick Miller on the Life of Edith Cavell, the famous nurse shot during the first world war for helping British soldiers to escape. Born in 1865, Edith grew up in Swardeston, Norfolk in a country vicarage where her Father served as the vicar. She was one of four children and by all accounts enjoyed a happy childhood.

Aged 24 she left for Brussels as a governess to a family of 4 children. She remained with them for 5 years, then returned to London Hospital to train as a nurse. She also trained in Hackney and Manchester. Dr Depage organised a training school for nurses in Brussels, and needed a trained nurse who spoke French. Edith went out to help set this up and when war was declared she remained to nurse the wounded soldiers, British, French and German. It was organised that nurses were sent out to the front line to tend the wounded and accompanied them back to the hospital.

Brussels surrendered to the Germans in August 1914 but Edith continued to nurse and helped more than 200 soldiers to escape, including 6 from Norfolk. Forged papers, documents and guides were supplied with Edith's help. Eventually discovered, she was imprisoned for 10 weeks before being tried and then shot on 12th October 1915.

A service was held at Norwich Cathedral in 1919 in her memory and her statue stands proudly in the grounds beside the cathedral.

Heveningham

Correspondent

Jeanette Griffin

stmargarechurch11@gmail.com

One of the rewarding things about being a Church Warden is being part of special occasions such as weddings and christenings. There is always a sense of excitement when one of these events is approaching, and a real joy in preparing the church for the day.

Recently, we were delighted to hold a christening and welcome Ophelia to St Margaret's. Having children in church always brings such warmth and life to the building, and we certainly do not mind a little noise and chatter. Please never worry about bringing children along to a service — everyone is very welcome, and we are always happy to see families joining us.

With that in mind, many people will already know that St Margaret's is also very dog friendly, and it is quite common to see a few four-legged

visitors attending our services too! Because of this, we introduced our Pet Service a few years ago. This year will be our third one, and I am already looking forward to seeing what animals might appear next. We have had a few requests so we will see what we can achieve. All animals are welcome. This year's Pet Service will be held on 9th August.

Alongside our regular services, we are always thinking of new ideas for events both in the church and on the Glebe. We are very open to suggestions and always keen to put on activities that people would enjoy and support.

This month we will once again be holding our popular Coffee Morning and Table Sale. We are always pleased to welcome people who would like to sell their crafts, gifts or unwanted items, and at just £5 a table it is a lovely way to spend the morning while making a little extra money too. There will be extra dates throughout the year, so watch this space!

Our 100 Club is now up and running, and we have already held our first draw. We still have a few numbers available, so if you would like to support the church while having the chance to win a prize, please get in touch. At just £12 for the year, it is a simple and affordable way to help us.

Dates for your diary

14th June – Traditional Communion

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Jeanette

Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett

01986 875913

jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com

Here I am in May writing for the June issue of the BVT and the weather has turned cold again! The sky is grey and the wind is like a knife. Our weather has always been unpredictable, but it is now much more so. It makes planning for outside events more of a gamble so let's hope that Saturday 16th May is/was a fine day for Halesworth's Town Parish Meeting in the Park.

This month we are reporting on events which took place in the second half of April, which include the Church Spring Clean, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and at the very beginning of this month the Car Boot Sale.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM was held on 22 April, chaired by Dominic, and these are brief notes only. Apologies were received from four members, and 15 members were present. The minutes of the last meeting were received, and oral reports were given: there are now 32 names on the Electoral Roll; fund-raising had gone well during the year; The Labyrinth meetings and Pauline's work with children were appreciated. We had paid only half of our diocesan share. There were no candidates for the post of churchwarden, and it was agreed to proceed without anyone in post. The following were elected to the Parochial Church Council: Gary Atkins, Helen Fensom, Chris Knevet, Veronica Mowat, Fiona Pagan, Neil Reid, Jackie Watts. The first meeting of the new PCC followed immediately, and we welcomed Chris & Gary Atkins as Elders, and confirmed PCC members in their previous roles.

John

The Car Boot Sale

Well, the weather couldn't have been better! I think that everyone involved had been eyeing the weather forecasts all week. Gradually as the week went by the weather for Saturday improved, the wind dropped, so no fear of the tea tent being blown away overnight, and the day dawned sunny and bright. And what a fantastic morning we had, loads of "boots" and lots of people from near and far – well, as far as Bungay at least! To top it all the morning raised the amazing sum of over £1,400.

We have a lot of people to say thank you to, so if you were involved in any way, thank you. There are one or two people who need a special mention, not least Jackie Watts, the main organiser of the whole event, as without her input it was possibly not going to happen at all! Then there is Helen Knevet and Dottie Booley in the tea tent, Mary Curtis and the barbecue team, Chris Knevet and Gary Atkins with the team of people who put the

tent up and took it down and many others manning the Church stall, the Raffle, shaking buckets, collecting fees. If I haven't included everyone I am sorry, and of course, without the Car Booters and those who came to search for the perfect bargain, buy coffee and cake and to sit and enjoy the warm weather, we wouldn't have had such a great result. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Spring Clean

Our Spring Clean was tackled with "great gusto"! by a team of ten. I think we all felt a sense of achievement as we played our different parts. We sorted cupboards, threw away out-of-date papers, swept and washed between the pews and, most impressively, cleaned the windows with long telescopic brooms. The brass was cleaned and the kitchen area is now looking so clean and tidy. Thanks to all. J.W.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 1st June Walking the Labyrinth 2-4pm St Peter's Room and the Labyrinth. A time of prayer and quiet reflection. This month we are focusing on "St Hildegard".
Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July The Flower Festival with the theme of "Games we like to Play". Please contact Helen Knevett if you can help in any way.

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
sally.clarke@live.com

Please see website: Huntingfield, St Mary the Virgin - A Church Near You

Linstead

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

IT IS PROBABLY AN AGE THING BUT I find computers increasingly uncooperative. They are at their very worst when you know they are trying to be helpful. I understand that there is a thing called Artificial Intelligence but I find that, left to its own devices, a computer can be pretty stupid. One problem is that, in trying to correct Artificial Stupidity (as I shall call it), one ends up feeling pretty stupid oneself.

Trying, for instance, to persuade a computer that there really should be a 'U' in 'colour', can be a bit frustrating. The only advice I can offer is to try swearing at the machine. It doesn't actually correct the mistake, but one feels a lot better for it.

SUMMER IS A CUMEN IN, AND TO prove it:

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
SUMMER PARTY
 AT Linstead VILLAGE HALL
 ON SATURDAY 13th JUNE FROM
 7.00P.M.
 With a
BARBECUE
 And back by popular
 request:
**THE BACKWOODS
 BAND**
 £15 PER PERSON
 IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS
 PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
 LIQUID REFRESHMENT
 To help us with numbers for
 catering, please contact either
 the Heaths:
 01986 785289
 or
 the Keables
 01986 785347

CHEDISTON & Linstead WI ARE being very active. Having digested the gentle art of chocolate making, they have now had an introduction to Seasonal Health Well-being. This covered both nutrition and physical fitness. The speakers, Michelle Cheesborough and Rebecca Leonard, were excellent and got the members to try out some simple chair exercises. The W.I. meets next on 9th June. The speaker will be Sadie Shield and her topic will be 'The history of Chediston seen from the Censuses of 1841 to 1861.'

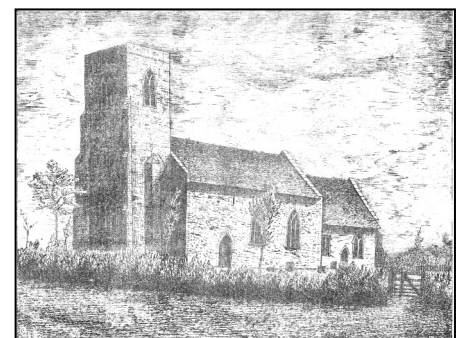
Linstead VILLAGE HALL IS ONE OF our village's greatest assets and needs the support of all of us. The A.G.M. of the

Village Hall Committee will be held on Monday, 1st June 2026 at 6.30 pm, at (of course) the Village Hall. As an added incentive, there will be nibbles, cheese and wine, so do please join us.

Looking further ahead, it was in 2011 that Linstead last held a Flower Festival so we are thrilled to announce:

**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

OUR SERVICE IN JUNE WILL BE OUR annual pilgrimage to the site of St. Peter's Linstead, on Sunday, 28th June. We will meet at Church Farm, Linstead Magna at 2.30 p.m. and then process to the actual site. After the service, there will be light refreshments at Church Farm, by kind permission of Tracey and Peter Abell.



I DO NOT KNOW THE ORIGIN OF THIS picture but it appears to show St. Peter's as it was in the 18th Century. Later photographs show the roof in a

state of collapse. It is a timely reminder of the importance of continuing maintenance. By the late 20th Century, there was nothing left to see.

NOW HERE IS SOMETHING NEW. ON Saturday 30th May, 7 for 7.15pm, the Village Hall committee is inaugurating a Film Night. The first film will be: THE CHORAL. This film was released quite recently to excellent reviews. It tells of the founding of a Choral Society during the First World War. With screenplay by Alan Bennett and starring Ralph Fiennes, it promises to be highly enjoyable. Light refreshments will be served and the cost will be £5 per person. It is hoped that this will be the first of many such evenings in the future, so do please support this initiative.

Spexhall

Correspondent Keith Noakes
spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com

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

Facebook: St Peter's Spexhall and Spexhall Village Hall

Rogation Walk

It was such a pleasure for me to fly over the fields between Wissett and Spexhall and to see such a long group of pilgrims making their way, reflecting on the importance of farming and nature. I think they looked ready for tea by the end of it. Woodpecker can only be thankful for all those who helped to lead and feed on that day (photos on the back page).

Renovation Ready?

Miss Money Penny, our treasurer, has worked so constantly and with such purpose to get funding for the church renovation project that I often fall off my perch when I hear the latest figure of what has been achieved. Thanks to all who have donated, and to those wonderful grant funding bodies who have pledged funds. We are SO CLOSE to what we need to completely re-roof the slate part of the nave and to re-lead the tower. It would be so wonderful to secure the future of the building. We all know that a good roof is the first move towards a building's survival. It may be just a matter of between an extra £5000 and £10000 to secure all the funding and get it done.

Expect a burst of energetic fundraising this summer. News to follow! Ideas welcome!

June Service

We have a Holy Communion Service on Sunday, 21st June at 10am. All are welcome to join us to celebrate the joys of summer with us.

Looking forward to Strimming

Halesworth Ukulele Band strum, but we are the Strimmers of Spexhall! Date for your diary: Tuesday 7th July from about 6pm. We have the appearance of a new machine which will make strimming a lot easier. We can only thank the angels, and sometimes a farmer and others, for unexpected gifts to a church (like most of our churches) which has no spare funds!

Thorington

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

Thorington PCC held their APCM at the beginning of May and all officers are continuing and so thanks again to Dominic and the Team for all they do to keep all our churches alive and well! There will be an event for all at the Church in the summer and more details will follow, so watch this space.

As previously said, we are a small bunch of people here and always ready for others to join, help, contribute in any way to keep the church running, and its churchyard. A beautiful building and outdoor space to come and visit. More on all of this next time! With warm spring greetings from us all on the PCC.

Walpole

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

On Sunday 26th April we welcomed Charlotte Remblance to Walpole to lead our Morning Prayer Service. Charlotte involved the congregation in an interactive sermon to elaborate on the messages within the readings. As always, following on from the service

everyone enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity to catch up.

On 10th May we hosted our first fundraising event of the year when Esther Freud joined us at St Mary's where she gave an engaging talk using personal anecdotes and specific references to her latest publication *My Sister and Other Lovers* - a captivating coming-of-age novel about love, sisterhood, secrets and betrayal. The event was very well attended and the audience particularly enjoyed the opportunities for questions and answers at the end to gain further insights into Esther's work.

On Sunday 31st May the village will be supporting a Charity Tractor Run when a convoy of tractors arrive at Walpole Pavilion around mid-day to break for lunch. We hope the event will be supported by locals and visitors as the participants raise funds for the very worthwhile charity CRY - Cardiac Risk in the Young. CRY is a charity that supports the prevention of young sudden cardiac deaths through awareness, screening and research together with supporting affected families.

We very much look forward to Sunday 7th June at 6pm, when Revd Edmund, accompanied by a small choir will be leading a Celebration Corpus Christi Service.

Wenhaston

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

We are looking forward to the Annual Plant Sale on 23rd May and I will report on this next month. Hopefully it will be a sunny day and we will sell lots of plants. Margaret G has kindly offered to sell leftovers at her gate.

There has been lots going on in the church with the decoration of the porch and the scaffolding in front of the Doom Painting which has been cleaned and prepared for eventual removal for preservation.

We are combining with the Village Hall for a quiz in August. More about this in future reports. Meanwhile, enjoy the Summer!

Wenhaston continued....

Wenhaston Flower Club Our meeting on Tuesday 5th May was our members' take-over evening. Three of our talented members each had a brief for their demonstrations and during the evening the rest of us moved round so we all saw all three demonstrations. Kim was tasked with using supermarket bought flowers and with a few bits from her garden she made three beautiful bouquets and a little posy for less than £20. Jane showed us that, as well as traditional hanging baskets, you could be adventurous and use houseplants, tumbling varieties of tomatoes, strawberries etc. Jane gave us a very useful tip and said it is always a good idea to really soak your basket liner first before you start to plant. Ally showed us how to make a clay flower holder for the top of jam jars as these are becoming popular for table decorations for weddings etc. (Photos on the back page). Our next meeting on 2nd June will be our trip to Helmingham Hall which Jane has very kindly arranged. On Tuesday 7th July it will be our Garden Party, one of our members very generously hosts this in their garden however if wet it will be in Wenhaston Village Hall. Please note the earlier time of 6.30pm. Members are asked to bring a sharing plate of food. Please contact Jackie for items still required on the list. As we don't meet in August, our next usual meeting will be on Tuesday 1st September 7.30pm in Wenhaston Village Hall which will be an Ikebana demonstration by Richard Holmes. For more information please contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401.

Wenhaston Walks Our first walk in June will be on Tuesday 2nd setting off at 10am from Wenhaston Village Hall. On Tuesday 16th June, Wendy will lead the walk from The Swan Motel, Gillingham (near Beccles) NR34 0LD, starting out at 10am; park at the back of the car park, left-hand side. Diners will choose their lunches in advance, menu to be circulated in due course. If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester

01986 835869

marypester@rocketmail.com

"Summer is a coming in
Loud sing cuckoo!
Groweth seed and bloweth breeze
And springeth the woods anew"

Well, if it is June already summer has come if not the cuckoo. Many in Wissett and around had certainly been sowing seeds and tending cuttings ready to provide for The Wissett Plant Sale last month. The Village Hall was bustling, full of people, plants, cakes, coffee, laughter and conversation. It was a very jolly morning which raised an amazing £1,138 for the upkeep of our lovely church. Hooray! Well done and thank you to everyone involved in any way. A splendid effort!

Opening the church the other morning I found myself singing the Canned Heat song, "Let's work together... "United we stand, divided we fall, come on, come on, let's work together!" - something like that anyway and very true it is too. I was thinking as I was singing, about working together and how sorry I was not to be united with friends from across the team in our Rogation Walk. I have heard that more than twenty people walked from Wissett to Spexhall, some with sticks which jammed in the cracks of the very dry ground in the field up to Spexhall. Rogation is when prayers are said and blessings asked of all things that grow, including us. May we be united, grow and flourish!

There were bells ringing out on a beautiful sunny afternoon and into the evening on the 9th of May. I thought, is it a wedding? What celebration that goes on so long? It was a bell-ringing competition "Ring out wild bells!" Sing Praises!

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40th Anniversary Celebration –
This year HV celebrates 40 years of supporting the community and making lives better. The charity has grown since the

1980s, originally helping people with odd jobs around the home. Very soon it became clear that people were in need of support with transport, and the Community Car Service soon followed. Of course, our much-loved Car Service is still running today, along with our Isolation Busters project and Community Larder. HV started life in Waveney Local Office where we remained based for almost 40 years, moving into the new offices behind the Patrick Stead Day Care Centre in January 2025. There have been many changes over the years, but one thing that hasn't changed is the commitment and dedication of our volunteers, who go above and beyond to ensure that local people live happier and healthier lives. In 2022 we were delighted to receive recognition of the outstanding work that was carried out during the Covid 19 pandemic, with Halesworth Volunteers receiving the Queen's Award for Volunteering. The highest award a charity can receive. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of Halesworth Volunteers over the years: our volunteers, trustees, staff team and to all the organisations and businesses who have supported us and been a part of our journey and of course to the community of Halesworth and surrounding villages, who are always behind us, supporting our events and activities. It has been a busy year so far and we have more events planned, including an 80s musical bingo evening at Westhall Racehorse and Gardeners' Question Time in September. We will keep you posted with dates and details. To celebrate reaching this incredible milestone, HV will be hosting a party in the Rifle Hall on Thursday 4th June at 7pm. If you are one of our wonderful volunteers, or a retired volunteer, we would love to see you on the 4th June to help us celebrate. We couldn't have done it without you.

Pacing to Paget 2gether – Pacing to Paget is back this year in the form of Pacing to Paget 2gether. Our intrepid volunteer Shaun enjoyed his Pacing to Paget experience last year so much, he is back for more and wants to transform pacing into £s for Halesworth Volunteers. This time he has invited friends to share the pain of 80k! On Wednesday 3rd June, Shaun will be walking 40 kilometres around Halesworth and out to some of the villages. In addition to this, we have some fabulous friends who will be clocking up another 40 kilometres on the treadmill at Perform Fitness (Behind Chinnys and Men's Shed) If you would like to join in the fun and support us by either walking with Shaun or clocking up a few kms on the treadmill please do get in touch. If you would like to donate, please see our Just Giving page - www.justgiving.com/campaign/pacing2paget2gether or we have sponsor forms in the office.

Quiz – Our fundraising quiz night continues on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in The Stables, at the Angel, 8pm start. Our quizmaster Chris has introduced some new twists to quiz night: the much-loved joker round and the opportunity for the losing team to pick the theme for a round the following month. The next two dates are 20th May and 17th June. For a small charge of £2 per person, you can have a fun night of quizzing, with the winning team taking home a small prize. Teams of 4 are ideal, with a prize draw and nibbles served in the interval.



Swifts Swooped in Early This Year

We had heard our favourite little superbirds were approaching fast and probably would reach the UK early, but it was a surprise to have the first 2026 sighting of swifts in Halesworth's Thoroughfare on 23rd April. Last year the arrival date recorded by Halesworth Swifts was 29th April and in 2024 they were spotted on 4th May, so they seem to be arriving significantly earlier year by year. In Holton the first 2026 swift was spotted on 1st May; last year it was 9th May.

Indeed, the birds arrived so early that the Halesworth Swifts spring round of nestbox installations hadn't yet happened! We had boxes, mostly with callers, put up by members of the RSPB Woodbridge Swifts group at four properties in Halesworth on 28th April, three were at new locations in Chediston Street. Another swift-friendly household installed a double box supplied by Halesworth Swifts the same day. Further boxes were put up in Halesworth and Holton by the same team in early May.

By the time this is published, our children's swift-themed event in Halesworth library will have taken place. Children of different ages were taking part in a variety of art and craft activities to welcome the swifts back home to Halesworth. More on this next month, as well as some photos of what the children got up to. Swift Awareness Week this year runs from Saturday 27th June to Sunday 5th July and Halesworth Swifts will have a window display in the library to celebrate this. We plan to start the week with a swift walk about town (or, rather, a "slow swift stroll") on Saturday 27th June to watch swifts flying and see some of their nesting sites, hoping to spot some entering or leaving their nests in boxes or under roof tiles. The free walk will take about an hour; it will start outside Halesworth library at 7.30pm and end with a social drink in town. If the weather is bad, the walk will be cancelled but if that happens we propose a second chance to do the walk on Saturday 4th July, same time and location. Do come along and find out a bit more about our amazing Halesworth swifts, we would love to meet you and share our enthusiasm!

It's always nice to read what well-known nature writers have to say about swifts. Here's Simon Barnes, from his book *How to be Wild*: *"It's quite clear that swifts are the crown of creation. The reason that evolution took place was to produce the swift. The end of all those millions of years was to produce this flying creature, a beast of such staggering perfection that it would never descend to base earth save to make more of itself ... What a piece of work is a swift!"*



And we thought we were enthusiastic ...If you feel inspired and are interested in supporting Halesworth Swifts in any way, or you know where swifts are nesting, please do get in touch via the Facebook page Halesworth Swifts or email halesworthswifts@gmail.com

Edith Summerhayes

KIDS' PAGE

Unscramble to words:



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Colour me

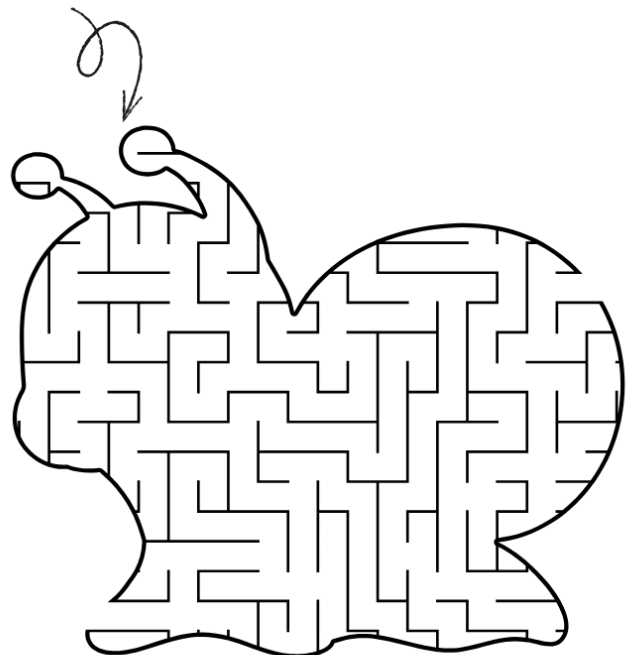


WORLD

Prayer:

Thank you God for the world you created. Help us to love it and look after it. Amen

Find your way



Draw a nature picture.

WHAT'S ON

Youth Space
6-7:30 pm
WEEKLY
Your Space

MONDAYS

Family Picnic

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

Blyth Valley Churches

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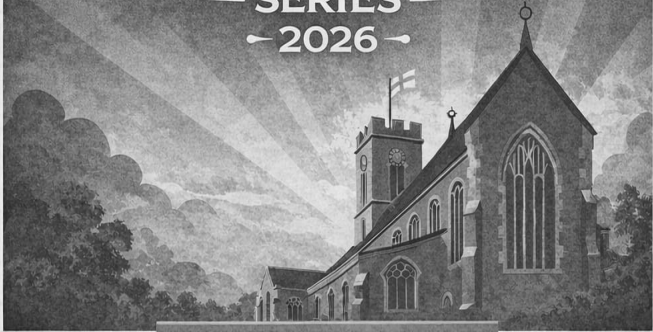
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- Wed 10th June - Roman Rudnytsky - Piano
- Wed 8th July - Qwind Essential - Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn
- Wed 12th August - Veronica Downing & Wendy Slaney
Soprano / Mezzo Soprano
- Wed 9th September - Evan Ruth - Tenor
- Wed 14th October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

FREE TO ATTEND, RETIRING COLLECTION

WHAT'S ON

FREE




Draw the Verse

Snack Time: 11th June 6-7 pm
St Mary's Church, Halesworth

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

"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 the desert, and will not see when prosperity comes.'"
Jeremiah 17: 5-6

11-16 years old




Family Service


St Mary's Church, Halesworth

14th June 2026 @ 10am

Everyone is welcome as we have a special Family Service celebrating nature. With artwork displayed from local schools.

Family Service

St Andrew's Church



28th June 2026, 10 am

Jesus feeds the 5,000

All ages welcome!


Web Address Change

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

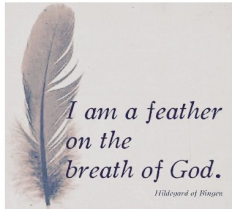
www.achurchnearyou.com

Walking the Labyrinth

A Time for Reflection



Monday 1st June 2026 2 - 4pm
St Peter's Church, Holton



I am a feather on the breath of God.
Hildegard of Bingen

"St Hildegard: Sybil of the Rhine"

Everyone welcome

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


Future meetings:
Monday 6th July, 3rd August



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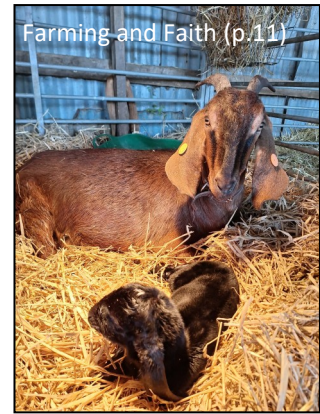
More Photos from Town & Villages



Blyford's beautiful bench



Holton Car Boot Sale



Farming and Faith (p.11)



The Bohemian Choir, Halesworth



Andrew and Louise Cunningham (p.18)



Wenhaston Doom



Family Communion, Halesworth



Kim, Wenhaston Flower Club



Ally, Wenhaston Flower Club



Rogation Walk

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