



Blyth Valley Times

Church in Community—Community in Church

September 2026

New Team Vicar!

£1.50

(where sold)

Hello everyone, I'm Alex Firman and I'm excited to join Blyth Valley as the new Team Vicar. After many years of wandering around the country, God is calling me back to ministry in Suffolk and it's a delight to be back in my home county. I'm from Stowmarket but since then I've been to university in Wales, volunteered and/or worked in Scotland, Manchester, Devon and Somerset. After studying politics at uni, the natural career move was into organic market gardening where I've worked for ten years before ordination. This work took me into commercial food growing, promoting local food production and horticulture therapy for people moving out of homelessness. Growing food and caring for creation became important to me at university and still gives me joy.



During market gardening I met my wife Bailey, who is from the USA, and we shared a love of food growing together, up to the simultaneous transitions of our daughter being born and starting ordination training. We also have a baby son, born last year. I have just finished my curacy in the Diocese of Newcastle right at the top of Northumberland by the Scottish Borders. During my journey of faith I've had the fantastic experiences of volunteering for the Iona Community in Scotland and the Othona Community in Essex. I am also a Novice in the Third Order of the Society of St Francis. We are all looking forward to moving back to Suffolk in December and I look forward to getting to know all the communities in Blyth Valley in January when I will be licensed.



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

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September Lectionary

Sunday the 6th

Holy Communion – The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 13.8-end (NRSV)

Matt. 18.15-20 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Gal. 5.16-24 (KJV)

Luke 17.11-19 (KJV)

Or: Creation in Christ (White): Colossians 1:15-20 and John 1:1-14 or Matthew 8:23-27.

Sunday the 13th

Holy Communion— The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 14.1-12 (NRSV)

Matt. 18.21-35 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Gal. 6.11-end (KJV)

Matt. 6.24-end (KJV)

Sunday the 20th

Holy Communion — The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Phil. 1.21-end (NRSV)

Matt. 20.1-16 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Eph. 3.13-end (KJV)

Luke 7.11-17 (KJV)

Sunday the 27th

Holy Communion – The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Phil. 2.1-13 (NRSV)

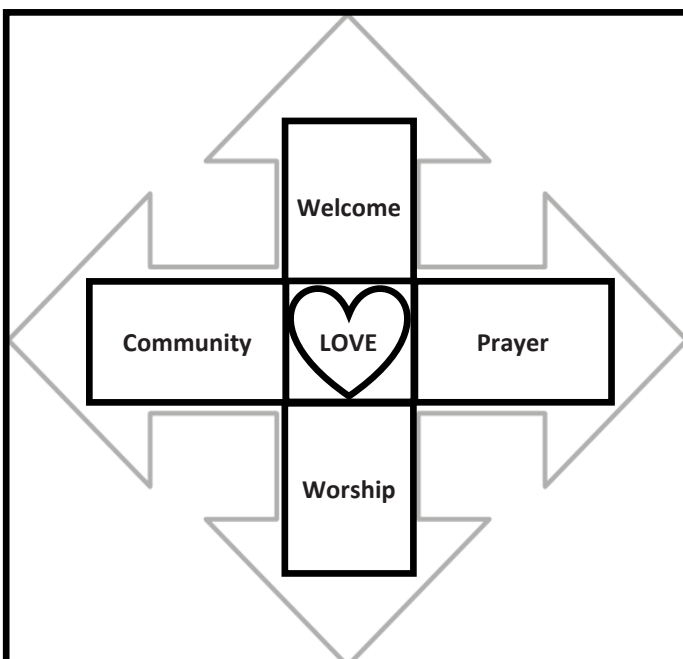
Matt. 21.23-32 (NRSV)

Traditional Communion – The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Eph. 4.1-6 (KJV)

Luke 14.1-11 (KJV)

Any dates can be Harvest: 2 Corinthians 9. 6-end and Luke 12.16-30 or 17.11-19



Worship in the Blyth Valley in September 2026				
CW – Year A Continuous New Testament	6 th CW & BCP – Fourteenth after Trinity	13 th CW & BCP – Fifteenth after Trinity	20 th CW & BCP – Sixteenth after Trinity	27 th CW & BCP – Seventeenth after Trinity
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Edmund 10am Holy Communion Edmund 6pm Evensong Edmund	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Family Communion Alison and Pauline	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Back to Church Sunday Communion Edmund 6pm Phone Church Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Harvest Festival Alison
St Peter Group				
Holton St Peter		10am Holy Communion Edmund	10am Iona Veronica M	
Wenhaston St Peter		10am Morning Prayer Jason	10am Holy Communion Alison	4pm Village Harvest Festival and Tea St Peter's Alison
Bramfield St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer Jim		10am Family Service Pauline
Blyford All Saints			10am Wild Church Jim	
Thorington St Peter		6pm Evensong Edmund		
St Andrew Grp				
Wissett St Andrew			10am Holy Communion Vic	6pm Evensong Dominic
Chediston St Mary		11am Harvest Festival Veronica D		10am Holy Communion Edmund
Spexhall St Peter				10am Harvest Festival Dominic
Linstead St Margaret			10am Matins Malcolm	
St Michael Grp				
Cookley St Michael			9:30am Traditional Communion Adrian	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Traditional Communion Dominic		
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Harvest Festival Jenny
Walpole St Mary				10am Harvest Festival Jim

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. Also Friday 11th September 7pm Wissett Harvest Festival

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

27 Meadow Gardens, Beccles, NR34 9PA.

Tel: 07921 540170

6th September Miss Thlema Waller

13th September 10:30am at St Peter's, Wenhaston

20th September Rev Robert Soanes

27th September Rev I McKillop

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 6th September

11.00am Gathered Worship Rev Alex Jacob

Friday 11th September

9.45am Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by Coffee morning

Sunday 13th September

11.00am Gathered Worship Peter Walkee

3.00pm BRAMFIELD CHAPEL Service

Friday 18th September

9.45am Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by Coffee morning

Sunday 20th September

11.00am HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Friday 25th September

9.45am Prayer Meeting in the Church, followed by Coffee morning

Sunday 27th September

11.00am To be arranged TBA



From the Rector...

We're getting to that point in the year when we might be beginning to think about harvest festivals. Wissett have a meal after their service. Huntingfield have a connected meal but on a separate evening. Wenhasston and Bramfield host their school's harvest services. Chediston invite local producers to give a brief report of the year past. This may bring back happy memories of gatherings we've attended in the village, or the 'Big Red Combine Harvester' ear worm. Yes, harvest is a time of rest after labour, meeting across parish and family boundaries, celebration, feasting and dancing.

Yet, at a recent church committee meeting someone, quite rightly pointed out that harvest is a challenge as it is booked in at the wrong time of year and farming is in crisis. This comment was made not to pour cold water on the festival, but rather a plea to make it more relevant and appropriate to farmers and life more generally. Perhaps that is the job of the preacher. Though to be fair the hymn 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' does include the corrective that the seed (our effort) 'is fed and watered by God's almighty hand'.

Harvest festival, like church more generally, grants communities the opportunity to walk through hope and fear together. When farming or growing on our allotment or herbaceous border we need the faith to prepare the soil and sow the seed. As you'll have seen, we're preparing the ground to welcome the Firman family to the Blyth Valley early in the new year. Bailey and Alex's background is in horticulture. They, therefore, know the lessons harvest festivals teach us about stepping out in faith. Mixed weather, mixed crops, mixed soil types, mixed economies, mixed prize classes, mixed markets, mixed policies can provide confidence that if one fails the others may succeed. We plough and scatter but God feeds and waters.

Harvest festivals at best encourage people on farms, in careers, in ministry, and in families, to step up and step out in hope. The celebrations also encourage people in and around our churches to do the same. It can be all too easy to assume when we see the jolly farmer or the happy chicken on our box of eggs or bag of crisps that all is well with the world. Similarly when we watch the Vicar of Dibley or Midsomer Murders that all is well with the rural church. Yet a church full of school families can seem a long way from the cold lonely days of fundraising for paying for our clergy and building works, faculty (planning)

applications, unlocking and cleaning for the three people and a dog that turn out for our monthly Sunday worship as we await green shoots of the crop to come.

There is a scripture: he that soweth little shall reap little; he that soweth plenteously shall reap plenteously. This is a harvest festival ready version of: are you a glass half empty or a glass half full type of person? If you are the latter we would love to welcome you to St Mary's, Halesworth, in particular, and in the other churches across our group. St Mary's in particular, because we are needing people to sow plenteously. Our part of the cost for vicars and administration alone is £80,000 under a new formula. We need to be raising more than that to pay our bills, insurance and building maintenance. Then several times more than that to really get our teeth into sorting toilets, kitchen, flooring, heating, access, lighting, storage, CCTV, bells and organ. If you or anyone you know really loves a good harvest festival in a church community maybe you would be so kind as to whisper in their ear to get in touch with the people at St Mary's so we can see if we can make a go of it this year. You don't need to be available on a Sunday nor even recite the ten commandments, just have a heart for the harvest of the community and putting something back.

Harvest reminds us that the bottom line is that there is much to be thankful for across our lives. That does not negate the challenge that sometimes things don't turn out as we expect. Meteorological and political instability makes money for the rich whilst we are left to swelter, fear and borrow. Yet, seed corn faith could give us the confidence to plough and sow with common generosity together. We could tend the crop, accepting our responsibility to understand and stand with agriculture and the church as institutions representing collective ways of life and our interdependency. Then we may prayerfully and thankfully leave the stuff above our pay grade, the feeding and watering, to God's almighty hand!

Dominic

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HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

'Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark' (James 3:5).

I feel certain that we've all been left saddened by the recent fires on Dunwich Heath. For a few days at the end of July and the beginning of August, the national and local media seemed mesmerised by events unfolding at Minsmere, Dunwich Heath and Westleton. Mercifully, thanks to the superhuman efforts of the firefighters, the Coastguard Cottages, and a nearby caravan-site were saved, though sadly, many hectares of heathland were destroyed.

The National Trust has launched an appeal, saying on its website: 'Heather and rare wildlife have been left scarred almost beyond recognition'. ... 'The devastation is heartbreaking'. ... 'An area estimated to be the size of 210 football pitches has been affected'.

Whilst very much wanting to draw attention to the local situation, I also want to strike a spiritual chord by drawing our attention to James' remark. He is, of course, stating the obvious, but he's using 'small spark' as a metaphor for the destructive potential of unguarded words. We know this because of the bookends on either side. First, he writes: 'The tongue is a small part of the body; it makes great boasts'. Then, afterwards, he goes on: 'The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell' ... 'No man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.'

He doesn't mince his words! His rant concludes with a series of questions: 'Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ... Can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs?' He's telling us, in a roundabout way, to be careful what we say. Indeed, we would do well to take David's prayer to heart: 'Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.' (Ps.141:3).

Words have the power to heal and to wound, to bless and to curse, to lie or to speak truth. St Paul said: 'Do everything without complaining or arguing,' (Philippians 2:14). And, elsewhere he wrote: 'Rid yourselves of ... slander and filthy language... Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self'. (Colossians 3: 8-9).

Nowadays, so much public discourse seems tainted by insults and crudity. Language is all too often offensive, confrontational, and inflammatory, and, unless called out, it debases human relationships. Am I being fanciful? As Christians, I think we need to redouble our efforts at speaking kindly, wisely and gently to one another. And we would do well to take to heart the words set down in Proverbs 16: 24: 'Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.'

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

I am writing to you with great joy this month: I have recently officiated at my first wedding! It was an utter delight, and I headed home afterward, rather tired but truly believing that the husband and wife have a lifelong and truly loving marriage ahead of them.

In the process of preparing for that service, I had to ask myself a question: what is marriage, when we get right down to it? Or to ask the question in more precise terms: what takes place inside the marriage rite that makes the husband and wife who leave the service meaningfully different from the bride and groom who arrived that morning?

As you might expect from me, I went away and did my research. And after I did my research, I did some thinking. And having done both my research and my thinking, I have an answer to offer you. In the marriage rite the bride and groom are separated and set apart from the rest of their community. They are given a distinct status and a distinct task that they – and they alone – are to fulfil. That task is to be ministers to one another: to reveal the love which is God's nature to one another, with a quality and intensity which cannot be expressed in any another way. In order to fulfil this role, they receive a variety of blessings, which are intended to confer to them a specific kind of grace – a kind of boundless power to love which takes root in their hearts and which supplies them with the means to always offer love to one-another, without fear of running dry.

There are, then, three things happening inside the service: an act of separating, the assigning of a task, and the conferring of a spiritual gift. The act of *separating* consists in taking the bride and groom and making clear in an appropriately public way that they are set aside solely for one another – and simultaneously making clear in a sufficiently public way that the task of ordering their marriage belongs to the two of them, to God, and to no-one else. This may, perhaps, be quite a comfort to anyone who fears that friends and relatives may try to have undue influence on how the couple run their household together! The act of *assigning* a task consists in the vows taken by the couple. Those vows describe what they promise to do for one another. The vows articulate a minimal but very real set of terms and conditions which will structure their life together. Just like the covenants between God and his people, these vows are not supposed to constrain, but to provide a scaffold within which the work of building a life together can take place. The act of *conferring* a spiritual gift consists in the blessings bestowed on the marriage. Whenever God assigns a particular role to someone, He equips the people so called with the gifts they need for that ministry. Marriage is a kind of ministry, and in the blessing of the marriage the gifts needed for the work of marriage are called down upon the couple.

Marriage is a holy calling, blessed by God. I implore you to pray for those being married in our parishes, that their lives may be hallowed, their ways directed, and the works made fruitful – to the good of their households and the glory of God's Holy Name.

Edmund



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LIFE EVENTS

From the Registers

Funerals/Interment of Ashes

Rosanna Steel at Huntingfield
Vera Brocklehurst at Waveney Memorial Park

Marriages

Williams' Renewal at Huntingfield
Aubugeau-Williams and Durban at Spexhall



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

Just call one of our partner agencies:

Citizens Advice National Helpline

0808 208 2138

South Norfolk Early Help Hub

01508 533933

Halesworth Volunteers - 01986 875600

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

ADDITIONAL FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

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

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

September at Halesworth Library

Join us to celebrate the end of the summer – we have The Tricky Twister joining us on Friday 4th September (3:30-4:30pm). £1 per child (ages 5-11). Spaces are limited so contact the library to book your place! We will be getting involved in Heritage Open Days this year with a fun activity for children on Saturday 19th September! We will be hosting a medieval paint-making workshop for children - this is a chance for children to learn about medieval paint. The children can have a go at mixing and using their very own water-colour paints! This activity will be run by artist Meraylah Allwood. Meraylah is an artist and illustrator, and has work published in many books around the world. Her miniature paintings have been exhibited with the Royal Miniature Society and the Hilliard Society, and her artwork is collected and loved by many. She also worked as a librarian for many years and runs creative workshops for adults and children in the community. For several years, Meraylah took part in Kentwell Hall's living history project - a recreation of Tudor life, and there learned many of the skills to be shared in this workshop. The sessions are free, but booking is required. Morning session (10:00-12:00) and afternoon session (2:00-4:00pm). For adults, we will again be joined by Meraylah for an extra special craft session where we will be making traditional corn dollies! Join us from 10:30 on Wednesday 2nd September. Free event, no booking required.

The library hosts regular activities and drop-ins. Come and join us every Tuesday (10-11:30) for a free Rhyme Time and Play session to sing fun songs, followed by free play with our toys. Refreshments also provided for parents! Wednesdays from 10am our Time Out sociable group for older people meet for tea and biscuits. The Knit & Natter group meet alternate Tuesdays (2:30-4:30pm). Lego Club runs every Saturday (11:00-12:00) and Family Fun Time every Sunday, 10:30-11:30. You can also drop in for advice from the East Suffolk Council customer services team every Tuesday 10:00-16:00 and Citizens Advice are here alternate Tuesdays, 10:00-12:00. Please ask a member of staff for more details.

The Friends of Halesworth Library are inviting you to join us for Sociable Sundays on 6th and 20th September, 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 28th September (2:00-4:30pm). There are plenty of games to choose from, or feel free to bring along your own favourites. Join us and have a fun afternoon, meet new friends and enjoy tea and cake! Suggested donation £1 to the Friends of the library who kindly volunteer to run these events. The Friends will also be hosting a book group talk on Thursday 17th September, 2:30pm – please check back with the library nearer the time for further details.

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

Catherine Draper

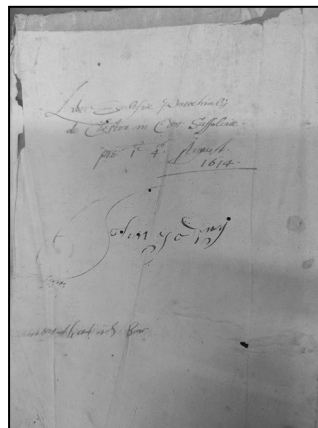
The Treasures of our Churches

A series in which Edmund explores some of the lesser-known jewels of the Blyth Valley Churches...

A few months ago, I was shown a book entitled *The works of the very learned and reverend Father in God John Ilevvell*. It had been living in the vestry of St Mary's Church Halesworth, seemingly unnoticed for the last few years.

The book itself is a copy of the works of Bishop John Jewell (1522-1571). The collection we have now was originally published in 1609, but our copy is from the second edition published in 1611.

How it came to be in Halesworth is a matter of speculation, although some handwritten Latin on the inside flyleaf does provide a clue. When translated, it simply says 'Book of the Parish Church of Cheston, Suffolk' together with a date – 1614 – and a partly indecipherable signature. There is some evidence to suggest that 'Cheston' was an old way of spelling 'Chediston'. It may well be that the book was gifted to Chediston in 1614 by the priest there at the time and came over to Halesworth only later.

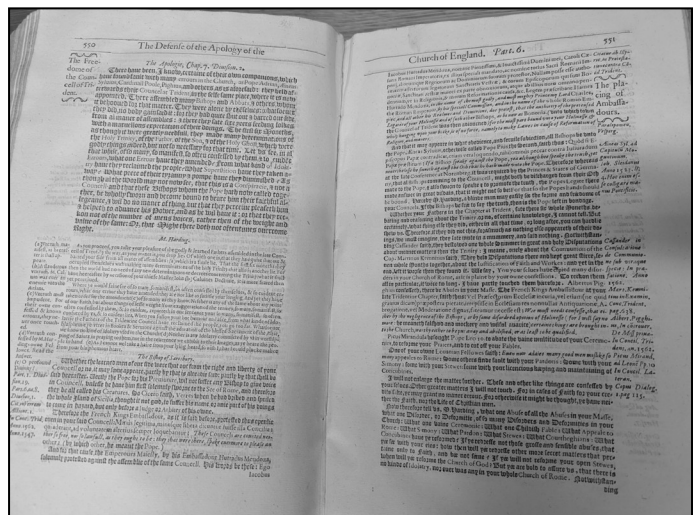


So far as I can tell, there are slightly fewer than 50 copies still in existence. So our copy is not unique, but neither is it common. Whoever gifted the book to the Church must have been quite learned, and probably quite wealthy too.

Inside the covers, the book mostly consists of writings that try to articulate a clear theology for the Church of England during the reign of Elizabeth I. One has to remember that in this time, the-

ology was a matter over which wars were fought and governmental policy was decided: the theology of the Church of England was a high-stakes game and it was quite necessary for a bishop to have something substantial to say on the matter!

Like so many of our treasures, the book has comparatively little monetary value. What it does provide is a tangible and physical connection to our history. It reminds us that our faith today is the product of countless generations before us receiving the faith as they understand it and passing it to us, in a chain from century-to-century, all the way from the first Apostles down to our own time.





Community Car Service Despite the ongoing inconvenience of the Wissett Road closure, and other road closures around Halesworth, our team of fabulous volunteer drivers continue to ensure people are able to attend medical appointments, shopping trips and essential outings. Our drivers support mostly older people, vulnerable adults and those with mobility challenges. If you are interested in joining us as a new volunteer driver, or if you need to use the service, we would love to hear from you. Please give us a call on – 01986 874290 or email carservice@halesworthvc.co.uk

Community Lunch We had the pleasure of welcoming special guests to our July Community Lunch at St Mary's Church. We were joined by Adrian Ramsay MP and Claire Stephenson, Adrian's constituency office manager. A really big thank you to our volunteer team who make lunch possible every month, from everyone who bakes, prepares and serves food, to our volunteer drivers and bus buddy. We enjoyed vegetable ratatouille, quiche, sandwiches and cakes, finished off with tea and coffee. Adrian spent time discovering more about the fantastic work HV and our incredible volunteers carry out, chatted to lunch guests and picked the winning numbers for our 100 Club. Our lucky winners this month are: 32 – K Elliff, 22 – J Thrower and 10 – K Eddie. Thank you to Adrian and Claire for joining us; it was lovely to meet you both and hopefully we will see you in Halesworth again soon. Our Community Lunch is the last Wednesday of the month, August lunch is Wednesday 26th, at 1pm in St Mary's Church. There is no need to book, everyone is welcome.



Chinny's Social On the first Tuesday of every month, we meet at the Events Bar at Chinny's for Coffee and Chat – Our next date is Tuesday 1st September from 12-2.00pm. If you would like to discover more about Isolation Busters and our programme of events and dates, please give us a call on 01986 875600 or email info@halesworthvolunteers.org

Halesworth Community Larder Thank you to everyone for all the wonderful donations this month. Berry Farm have donated lots of lovely fresh vegetables, and we have received donations from Holton Community Garden, Dave's allotment, Jo at Herne Hill Farm, Kay, Julie, Rumburgh Residents and Spectra Packaging and last, but not least, thank you to Eileen and Zoe for the delicious piccalilli. All donations are much appreciated; thank you for your generosity. The Larder is open to all, please do pop in and shop for some of the fresh local produce we have in currently. For more information contact larder@halesworthvolunteers.org

Karen Kerridge
Director



Walpole Old Chapel



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

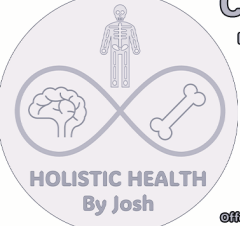
Saturday 12th September 10am-4:30pm *Heritage Open Day.*

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

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

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

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



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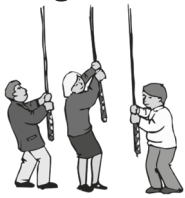
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From the Ringing Chamber

Last month I said, "It's been quite a quiet month thanks to the hot weather and people being away." This month ditto! Our weekly practices have been thinly attended, but this has meant we can concentrate on specific aspects to good advantage. We nearly always manage to get enough for some respectable Sunday ringing round the Team, this month at Wissett, Wenhaston and Huntingfield.

There have been a couple of real highlights though. We rang a very good quarter peal of a new (for us) method, St Simon's Bob Triples, for the first Sunday "evensong" at Halesworth, ("evensong" because there wasn't actually a service). St Simons is a commonly rung method on five bells, but it extends easily to seven and we had no difficulty with this at all, somewhat to my surprise!

Then, on a fortunately-not-too-hot Saturday, several of us went on the NE District outing to South Norfolk. About 20 people, mostly from the Halesworth/Beccles areas but including some friends from the NW District (Bury area) came along; just the right number really so everyone had a go without getting exhausted by the end.

Ringing at four towers had been arranged during the afternoon. First up was the pleasant six at Ditchingham, a lovely rural setting and easy-going bells, followed, contrastingly, by the out-of-tune, oddstruck eight at Alburgh. These were the least rewarding bells of the tour, but at least we had some decent ringing as everyone, aware of their reputation, was making a special effort. Dickleburgh were another nice six where it would have been good to stay longer, and we ended up at Redenhall, a magnificent church with majestic bells to match, the tenor being 5cwt (quarter of a ton) heavier than Halesworth's. The ringing wasn't quite so good here as people were beginning to tire and the heavier bells took their toll.

Ringing all afternoon requires beer, and the Old Kings Head at Brockdish proved to be an excellent venue for the apres-cloches, with a good range of beer (including my favourite Greenjack Orange Wheat) and some huge tasty pizzas. All-in-all a thoroughly good day.

PJG

Tribute for Alison Cackett



It was with great sadness that we learned of Alison Cackett's death. She was known to us as our Town and District Councillor. In that role she was able to represent us at council meetings and secure funding for aspects of our work.

As chair of Halesworth Event Management, she championed our inclusion in the annual switching on of the lights. Typically, she was also Churchwarden at All Saints, Blyford, for many years. There Alison did much of the hard work required to keep the church from closing. She'd have been the first to acknowledge the support of others, including her husband Geoffrey.

In her last couple of years she became one of our Elders, a lay role that authorised her to take services. She undertook this role with her customary dedication, humility and servant heart. Often times she took hours of study to find the reading she felt best captured what she felt she wanted to say.

In whatever role Alison undertook, as an Environmental Protection Officer, or those noted here, she was an obstinately, honest, campaigner for the good. Alison will be much missed. She and her husband and family remain in our prayers.

Dominic



**Coffee Morning
& Box Opening**
Saturday 19th September
10 am till 12 pm
in St Peter's Room, Holton Church
Bring and Buy ☆ Cakes ☆ Raffle
New boxes will be available for new box-holders.
"fighting for the hope and happiness of young people..."



Family Picnic
St Mary's Church Halesworth
29th October 2026 11:30 till 1 pm
free food, crafts and fun
♥ Everyone welcome ♥

Web Address Change

You can now find information about your local Church services, news and events online here
(the old website is not in use):

www.achurchnearyou.com



Join us for Swimming with Men

Wednesday 16th September, 2pm. A warm, funny film about a group of misfits who find friendship (and a swimming team) together. All welcome, come along for the afternoon and enjoy some company along with the film.

Ladies' Lunch

Our Ladies' Lunch continues on the 4th Tuesday of every month at The Angel. A lovely relaxed get-together over lunch, please email us for more details and to book your place.

Training for Organisations

Do you work for an organisation that would benefit from dementia awareness training for your staff? We're now offering bespoke training sessions, tailored to fit your team. If you'd like to arrange a session, please get in touch at training@halesworthdementia.co.uk and we'll work with you to find a time that suits. We're hoping to get a workshop or two up and running this autumn, so if this is of interest, do reach out and let us know what you need.

Pat's Story

Pat's life has taken in a wartime childhood in Coventry and Oxford, a career spent working with books in her local library, and over fifty happy years of marriage to Allan, filled with family and travel across Europe. More recently, Pat has faced some serious health challenges, including the loss of Allan in 2004 and a critical illness of her own, before eventually receiving a diagnosis of dementia. Through it all, Pat says it is the people around her who have made the difference and she describes the Day Centre at HDCF as somewhere that has given her back friendship, purpose and confidence, whether she's singing, doing yoga, or simply chatting with friends at the Memory Café. For her family too, the support has been life-changing, offering welcome respite and the reassurance that they're not facing this journey alone.

This month we want to say a huge thank you to Pat for so generously sharing her story with us. Pat's full story will be appearing on our website soon, keep an eye out for it.

Thank you all for your continued support of HDCF. Do contact us anytime for more information.

Nicky Kelly

Chair of Trustees

www.halesworthdementia.co.uk

info@halesworthdementia.co.uk

Halesworth Dementia Carers's Fund

Charity No. 1170477

Team Rector of Halesworth from 1979 to 1985
Archdeacon of Suffolk from 1994 to 2009

†
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
The Venerable Geoffrey Arrand
Former Archdeacon of Suffolk

†
1944 – 2026

"Well done, good and faithful servant."
MATTHEW 25:23

We give thanks to Almighty God for the life and ministry of Geoffrey Arrand, whose faithful service to the Church touched countless lives throughout Suffolk and beyond.

As Archdeacon of Suffolk and formerly Team Rector of Halesworth, he exercised his ministry with wisdom, humility and quiet compassion. His pastoral heart, steadfast faith and gentle encouragement enriched the life of the Diocese for many years.

We remember with gratitude his devoted service, his love for God's Church, and the example of faithful discipleship that he leaves behind.

*May he rest in peace
and rise in glory.*

Please remember Geoffrey and his family in your prayers.

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Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research

We would like to thank everyone who came into the I-Chameleon pop-up shop during our week there in July and braved the incredible hot weather.

We hope you all found some bargains. Our rails of “labelled” clothes proved very popular and is always a feature of our week in the shop.

We always have something extra each day outside the shop and, as reported in the last edition of the Church Magazine, our Friday plant day with Jane Bastow from The Laburnums was an opportunity to buy some of her fantastic plants. Whenever Jane has her “Open Garden”, please go along and support her.

Thank you Gill and Paula for organising the very successful cake day on Saturday which raised £343.85 towards our total. Thank you to everyone who baked for us.

We would like to thank Mr Allen and Mr & Mrs Prime whose generosity was greatly appreciated on the cake stall.

We are so very grateful that the Ukulele Band played for us again this year which is always on Tuesday morning. It was an heroic effort playing for about an hour on a very, very hot morning. They raised £142.42, collected in our donation bucket. It is always so lovely to see how many people stop to listen and it brings a real community spirit to the town.

We are pleased to tell you that our overall total for the week was a brilliant £2062.91, enabling Cancer Research UK to continue their pioneering work.

Thank you everyone.



Our next event will be The Maze by Torchlight on 21st August at The Old Hall Cafe and Maze. We hope that the weather stays fine for the evening and we will let you all know how we get on in the next edition of the Church Magazine.

I can't believe I am saying this but our last two events of the year in Holton Village Hall will be our ever popular Jumble Sale on Saturday 17th October and our Christmas Fair on Saturday 21st November. Please add the dates to your calendar and come along to support us—a warm welcome to friends old and new.

Dawn Davis 01986 873640

Vocations Series

In the previous article of this series, I wrote about the idea of God calling people to specific vocations within His Church. In this article I want to introduce the first of many vocations that God might be calling someone towards. This time we will look at being a Lay Elder.

There are all kinds of things that lay Christians can do on an occasional basis, if they are authorised to do so by their incumbent and work within the relevant guidelines. Lay people can bring communion to those who cannot get to Church for reasons of age or illness. Lay people may officiate at morning and evening prayer. They may read the Bible within services, lead intercessions, serve at the altar, and all manner of other things. Some of these roles need specific authorisations and are subject to particular guidance, and so the role of Lay Elder gathers up everything that an unlicensed layperson can possibly do and puts it into a single, fairly accessible package in which all the authorisations are dealt with as one.

Making a Lay Elder involves a process called a ‘commissioning’. Just as Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out two-by-two and to minister the Gospel, so too are Lay Elders commissioned by the archdeacon to serve their communities. They work with the Rector, who will agree with them what they will do and make sure that they have enough support to perform their role. Commissions last for three years, after which someone can either ask to be recommissioned, or step back after receiving thunderous applause from the community they have served.

Under the surface, being a Lay Elder means different things to different people. For some people it means quite a minimal time commitment and means serving at one specific Church on an occasional basis. For other people, it is something much larger and involves offering ministry across the entirety of our Team and Benefice. For me, and for many others, being a Lay Elder was my first experience of formal ministry. It ignited a fire in me that led to wonderful things. For others, being a Lay Elder is a quiet and unobtrusive way of serving one's own parish for a few hours every month, and sits alongside the calling to be a parent, godparent, teacher or nurse. If you are asking whether God might be inviting you to become a Lay Elder, speak to a priest for more information. If you then decide you would like to offer yourself for this ministry, then the first step is to talk to the Rector.

Edmund

NEWBY BOOKS ON SALE

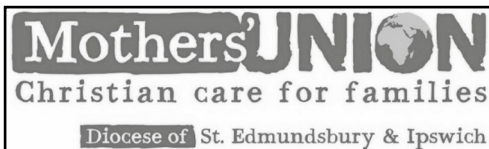
“THE CENTURY I SAW” by Donald Newby
£9.99 from Halesworth & District Museum, and
Halesworth Bookshop. *Proceeds to local charities.*

“HALESWORTH STREET and PLACE NAMES” by Derek Newby
£6.99 from Halesworth & District Museum,
Halesworth Bookshop and Heathside Stores Wenhamston.
Proceeds to Halesworth & District Museum.

“MEMORIES & STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH”
by James W Newby
£7.99 available from St Mary's Church.
Proceeds to St Mary's Halesworth Regeneration etc.

“The LIFE and TIMES of DEREK NEWBY”
£9.99, an autobiography.
Proceeds to local charities and EA Air Ambulance.

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



New members

Shotley Peninsula branch enrolled Rural Dean Rev'd Jenny Seggar during their Wave of Prayer service. Growing our Membership is an important part of sustaining the work of Mothers' Union. Tell your friends about what Mothers' Union, our project work and campaigns mean to you. Share your last copy of the Connected magazine so that they can see the depth and breadth of what Mothers' Union members are involved with.

A Cross in Your Pocket

When we had the last heatwave and it was too hot to do much, Fressingfield's branch leader Christine Chrisitan made 41 of these beautiful 'Cross in your Pocket'. The crosses have been sent to chaplaincy for HMP Warren Hill and Hollesley Bay to be given out to the prisoners.



Fressingfield branch set themselves a challenge to raise awareness of Mothers' Union by serving their community. They made 14 blankets, each made from 25 x 6-inch squares, knitted by some of their members, a few of them are in this photo. Last month they invited Angela Hodge, senior customer relations manager from Care UK, to speak to them about "Typical signs of aging, or Dementia?" She kindly agreed to distribute the blankets around our local Care Homes on her travels.



Time to reflect

From our prayer diary in August, we are encouraged this month to pause, to be still and reflect, rejoice and replenish ourselves. Let this pause be a gift before the busyness begins again.

Prayer points:

- Pray for all children attending the St Mary Stoke Church Holiday camp funded by our AFIA fund.
- Pray for the appointment of the new Mothers' Union Chief Executive Officer which is currently underway.
- Give thanks for Mary Sumner and her vision for Mothers' Union. Lord, awaken in us the same compassion and courage that Mary Sumner Showed. Help us to love as You loved us. Amen

Mary Sumner's personal prayer

All this day, O Lord let me touch as many lives as possible for Thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live. Amen

From your Diocesan Members Rep

How to stay cool in a heat wave, I'd love to offer you advice. I wish I could paddle my toes in the sea, a gentle breeze would be so nice.

A shady spot under the trees, perhaps a picnic by a stream. A refreshing drink of lemonade, time to sit and dream.

A drop of rain wouldn't spoil the day, in fact we would welcome it gladly.

Even better if it fell at night, the gardens do need water quite badly.

I've run out of rhyme but I do hope you are keeping cool and safe, especially those living near Dunwich. What a sorry sight to see on the news.

We pray for those affected and thank God for the fire fighters taking risks to keep us safe.

Local Mothers' Union Meetings

Wenhaston Mothers' Union

Wednesday, 9th September at 2.30pm. Discussion at the Methodist Chapel. Further details from Margaret Goldstone 01502 478378.

Yoxmere Benefice Mothers' Union

Thursday, 17th September 2.30pm. How does the Mothers' Union Work? Talk by Clare Thomas at Westleton Church. Further details from Sue Norrington 07913 488670.

Mothers Union Craft, Coffee and Chat Group

Tuesday, 15th September, 10am-12noon. Further details from Sue Norrington 07913 488670.

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

Church Mice Tots—Two Years of Gratitude

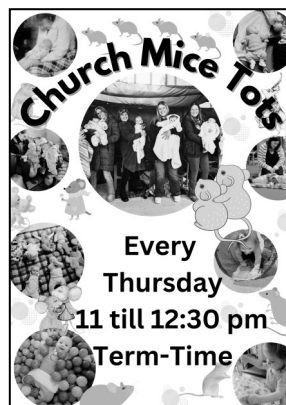
July brought a joyful milestone for our Church Mice Tots group as we celebrated both the end of term and two wonderful years together. Our beach party at Southwold was blessed with sunshine, laughter, and the kind of relaxed companionship that makes these gatherings so special. Families shared picnics, children explored the shoreline, and many enjoyed a paddle in the sea. The photos from the day say it all — a lovely time was truly had by everyone.



Reaching the two-year mark gives us a natural moment to pause and reflect, especially as we look ahead to our next round of funding. What began as a small idea has grown into something with real depth and meaning. Through

Tots, we've connected with over 50 families in our community — many of whom had no previous link with our church. Each week, between 4 and 12 families join us, bringing energy, curiosity, and the joyful bustle that only little ones can create.

The impact of Church Mice Tots is perhaps best expressed by the families themselves. One parent, Neri Harris, shared "Church Mice is one of the few places where my almost two-year old feels truly comfortable and supported. She's able to explore and engage in different activities she wouldn't experience otherwise and I've seen her confidence grow each week. As a parent, I always feel welcomed, and it gives me a much-needed moment to breathe and connect with others." Another parent, Dorothy Curry, reflected on what the group has meant to her family: "Church Mice Tots is a friendly and warm welcoming group for toddlers to come together and create new friendships. There's always lots of toys for them to play with and lots of fun to be had. Pauline is always full of great ideas — water play, painting, sensory activities and lots more, including planting different fruits and vegetables and teaching them how to take care of them. It's also a perfect opportunity for myself to interact with other parents and form new friendships." Comments like these remind us that what we offer is far more than a playgroup. It is a place of welcome, rest, and gentle encouragement — for children and parents alike. Alongside our weekly sessions, Tots has also inspired new opportunities. We've run Starting Rite, helping families explore faith through simple rituals and shared moments. We've offered Sensory Bible Story Time, opening Scripture in ways that engage even the youngest hearts. These groups have allowed us to build relationships with families who might never otherwise have stepped into church life. It's easy to underestimate the quiet significance of these connections. A warm welcome, a listening ear, a safe space to play—these small things weave together into something much larger. They help build trust, belonging, and a sense of home. As we look to the future, we do so with gratitude for what has grown so far and with hope for what may yet come. Church Mice Tots has become a gentle but meaningful bridge between our church and the wider community. Long may it continue to bless the families we meet—and long may we continue to be blessed by them in return.



Halesworth Community "Have Your Say" — A Lovely Day in the Town Park

At the end of July, Pauline headed down to Halesworth Town Park to take part in the Community Have Your Say event—and what a cheerful, relaxed day it turned out to be. Despite it being a quieter event than EdgarFest, there was still a good response and uptake to engaging with questions.

We arrived with our four big questions for the community, plenty of ways for people to share their thoughts, and a whole gazebo full of activities to enjoy. From playdough creations to energetic badminton rallies, there was something for everyone. Families wandered over to stamp dots on our activity boards, chat about ideas, and join in with the fun. We loved hearing comments like "outdoor stuff" and "maybe have more clubs" — simple but wonderfully clear feedback about what people would enjoy.

Across the park, lots of local organisations had also come along, creating a friendly, buzzing atmosphere. It was great to spend time with them, share conversations, and feel part of a wider community effort to listen to local families and young people.

The insights gathered were really encouraging. People showed strong interest in nature activities, creative clubs, youth spaces, and fun physical activities — all things our churches are well placed to offer. As my report highlights, "the churches are seen as multifunctional community hubs with potential for expanded inclusive programming." That's a lovely affirmation of what we're already doing and what we hope to grow.

Overall, it was a joyful day of listening, playing, chatting, and connecting. We came away inspired, grateful, and excited for what comes next.

Into the Wild — Exploring God's Acre at St Peter's, Thorington

A gentle summer afternoon in St Peter's Churchyard at Thorington brought together a small but enthusiastic group of families and children for our Into the Wild event. What unfolded was a reminder of just how rich, alive and spiritually nourishing our churchyards can be. For many of us, especially those who



have watched these spaces change over decades, it was a joy to see younger generations discovering the beauty we sometimes take for granted.

More News from Pauline Milsted

A Living Landscape – and a Sacred One Churchyards have long been places of quiet reflection, but they are also extraordinary havens for wildlife. Organisations such as Caring for God's Acre champion this idea, encouraging churches to protect and celebrate the biodiversity within their boundaries. Their work highlights how churchyards can be managed in ways that honour heritage, support wildlife, and offer peaceful green spaces for the whole community. Our Into the Wild afternoon echoed this beautifully. As we explored the grasses and hedgerows, we were reminded that we are stewards of these precious patches of God's creation. Caring for the land is not simply a practical task—it is an act of faithfulness.

Creatures Great and Small Armed with magnifying glasses, bug pots and plenty of curiosity, we set off on our bug hunts. The children were thrilled to discover: Grasshoppers leaping through the long grass; a tiny two-toothed door snail, a real treasure for those with sharp eyes; meadow brown and cabbage white butterflies dancing between the wildflowers; a variety of bees, spiders, and other small but vital creatures.

We used bug identification books to name our finds, and added sightings to the iNaturalist app, contributing to national wildlife monitoring. It's a simple action, but one that helps scientists understand how species are thriving—or struggling—in churchyards like ours.

Wildflowers in God's Acre The churchyard offered its own quiet display of colour. We spotted dandelions, scabious and cat's-ear. These humble flowers are essential food sources for pollinators, and their presence shows that our churchyard is a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

Supporting Our Eco Church Commitment As a benefice, we are working toward the A Rocha Eco Church Awards, which encourage churches to care for creation through worship, buildings, land, community engagement and lifestyle. Our Into the Wild event supports this vision in several ways: 1) Land Management: By celebrating and recording wildlife, we learn how to care for our churchyard in ways that protect habitats; 2) Community Engagement: Families and children were invited to explore nature together, strengthening our shared commitment to environmental stewardship; 3) Education: Activities like bug hunts and wildflower identification help us understand the richness of God's creation right on our doorstep. These small steps contribute to a larger journey—one that aligns with both Eco Church and Caring for God's Acre, and reflects our calling to cherish the world God has entrusted to us.

A Day of Joy, Wonder and Stewardship For those who joined us, the afternoon was filled with laughter, learning and a renewed appreciation for the life teeming within St Peter's Churchyard. For those who couldn't make it, we hope this glimpse inspires you to take a quiet walk among the gravestones and grasses. You may be surprised by what you find. Our churchyards are not just resting places for the past—they are vibrant sanctuaries for the present, and gifts to be protected for the future. If you'd like to learn more, visit: Caring for God's Acre: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/> A Rocha Eco Church: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/>

Family Picnics by Helen O'Brien

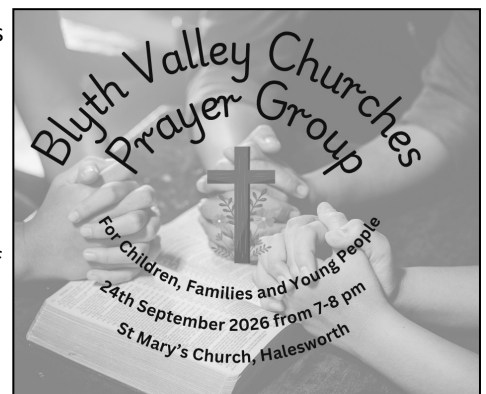
On Thursday, 6th August, I was a helper for the first time at a Family Picnic. Devised and organised by Pauline Milsted, our Youth Minister, and assisted by volunteers such as myself, these family picnics take place every Thursday during the summer break.

Although the doors of our church are always open, on these days families begin drifting in at about 11.30 am. However, the preparation begins much earlier....about 9.00 am. Tables, chairs and equipment are placed in position. Toys and crafts are laid out on tables. Play equipment placed around the church. Food is prepped. All is ready for our visitors by 11.00 am. Mums and dads come together, meeting for a chat with their friends in a safe place where their children can play and they can relax. A grateful break in the long weeks of the summer holidays! As they settled at craft tables with their children, I went round collecting orders for tea and coffee. Children were offered squash.

The theme for this week's picnic was Wild Flowers. Pauline offered a variety of crafts from painting and printing flowers, making flowers from paper cake cases to planting cress. Unfortunately the wild flower hunt in the churchyard was abandoned due to the fact the sun had scorched most of them. At about midday the queue for food began. Food and drinks are free, thanks to our many local sponsors, and it varies from sausages, burgers, cheese, vegetables, fruit, cake, bread and crisps, depending on what we are offered. Dan and I served bacon and cheese rolls...bacon cooked and rolls buttered by Eileen in advance. Numbers attending have been high. Today it reached 65.

Eventually everyone, both parents and children, were fed and watered...then began the washing up! Chris did an amazing job. As fast as I could dry, more appeared. Everything is washed and put away ready for next time. As we are an Eco church no disposable plates or cups are used. All waste and wrappers are put in the appropriate bins for recycling or rubbish. Today everyone was polite and friendly, thankful for a free meal and entertainment for their children for a few hours.

Pauline has thought of everything and every eventuality. There was a quiet hum of busyness in the church with the occasional plinking and plonking on the piano as little ones experienced sound and volume, some for the first time. Judging by the number of families coming through the doors, I realised that these picnics are a lifeline for exhausted parents. The time went quickly and smoothly and with the excellent teamwork of Pauline and her four volunteers, a lovely time was had by all!



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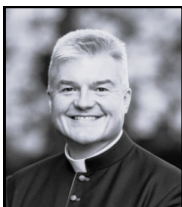
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Wenhas-ton	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855 j.m.alder59@gmail.com
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy	07881 501858 mail@wissettlodge.co.uk

Church Volunteer Vacancies! We have a range of volunteer vacancies. An interesting and fulfilling role awaits you! Training provided and you don't have to be a practising Christian. Contact Annie (above) for further information.

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent Martin Clarke
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Our Wild Church service was taken by Jim Green on Sunday 19th July.

We sat by the cedar tree on a breezy day and Jim read the parable of the seeds and weeds (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43), which we all discussed at length. We observed and sketched the lichen on grave stones. The inspirational words of the day were from Mary Oliver:

Pay Attention.

Be Astonished.

Tell about it.

Thank you Jim. Finally coffee and social at The Queen's Head.

Coming up in September Saturday 12th September— Stall on the Green with local musicians and recorder group playing in the church. Heritage Day with tours of the church, and Ride and Stride! Sunday 13th September is Wild Church.

Virginia Storey

Bramfield

Correspondent Alfred Mullett
snowmein@mac.com

Bramfield Village Fete We held the Bramfield Village Fete on 8th August. The beautiful weather brought out a good group of fete-goers, and a good day was had by all. The Black Deek Band, and, John, a local musician, brought us the entertainment. The haybale seating was back courtesy of Paul Potts, and The Pretty Grim Border Morris Dancers filled the arena space and had the children and adults out with them learning to dance. Teas, cakes, BBQ, hog roast (courtesy of Bramfield Meats), and games, with the reprise of the astronomers, classic vehicles, and a rousing tug-of-war, Tombola and a raffle, all made this a day to remember. The greatest compliment for the day, which I heard several times, was from the older generation stating it took them back to their childhood and fetes of old. We give sincere thanks to everyone on the long list of donors and volunteers who

made the day possible. We succeeded in what was the reason a village holds a fete, to bring everyone together to celebrate community. After expenses the village and church made £550 each.

Morning Prayer For those who can make it, the Thursday Morning Prayer services at 9:30am are both simple and reflective, and never fail to leave us with a place of peace to pin our lives to. Generally, it is presented by either Rev Linda or Edmund, both leaving us with historical insight and something to make our lives go forward with peace. We welcome anyone who has time at 9:30am on Thursday to join us at Bramfield, St Andrews.

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 Service at Bramfield St Andrew on Sunday 27th September at 10am. Presented by Pauline, this is a shorter, simpler service, with things for everyone from all ages, from the littles to the Elders. All are welcome. There will be tea and coffee following.

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust **RIDE and STRIDE** on 12th September. Bramfield will be on the Ride and Stride path for this year again. Please take the time to get sponsorships and participate, this benefits all the churches in the Blyth Valley.

Ecotherapy East Community Day Ecotherapy East's next Community Day on Foxtail Meadow, Bramfield, will be on Saturday 19th September. We will be celebrating the Autumn Equinox starting at 10am with a quiet period of reflection and celebration. The autumn equinox occurs when the sun crosses the celestial equator, creating nearly equal amounts of day and night worldwide. This event marks the astronomical start of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. Historically, the equinox signifies the completion of the agricultural harvest. It is an opportunity for anyone to join us and

step outside of the business of day-to-day events and contemplate something which happens without human intervention. Tea/coffee and cake is shared afterwards. After the quiet, contemplative time, we usually have land-tending tasks, and people can stay for as long or as short a time as they wish. Everyone, of any religion or none, is very welcome. Any questions please email: ecotherapyeast.info@gmail.com

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 and 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

HARVEST FESTIVAL DATE CONFIRMED FOR SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, 11.00am

The PCC has brought the date for the Village Harvest Festival forward to 13th September, as the second weekend in October seemed too remote from harvest, already gathered in. The service will be a happy gathering for the village community with celebration and reflection, for all who grow for food, farmers and gardeners, followed by our traditional ploughman's harvest lunch, in the School Room. Apple and blackberry pies will be welcomed for puddings.

If you would like to contribute to decorating the church with your own produce and flowers please get in touch with Jo (Churchwarden) or myself. We will be getting the church ready on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

That weekend will be quite busy with the Suffolk Historic Churches Stride and Ride taking place on 12th September. Our local contact is Sally Aldous – see last month's BVT. Cyclists, walkers, vintage and classic car owners and even horse-riders, can start to plan their route for Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride and Pedal and Drive day, which will be held on Saturday 12th September. Details of how to get involved are now in churches and on the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust website. If you aren't moving from church to church, then please support by sponsoring those on wheels and feet! Chediston Church will be open and dressed for harvest.

The eclipse was a special occasion on 12th August. The local bellringers had a shortened practice and took time off, going to Ed and Liv's at 4 Shop Row to look through pin hole cameras, colanders and old-fashioned photographic film – great fun and memorable. A photo (back page) was taken looking through the west window as the eclipse was at its fullest.

Cookley

Correspondent Kevin Cheshire
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PCC Membership I must start by introducing myself and the rest of the recently elected PCC for St Michael and All Angels. I'm the new treasurer for the parish, having been elected at the recent APCM in Spring. The new

secretary is Freddie Norton, the wardens are Juliet Penwarden and Diane Robinson, and John Penwarden completes our group as Fabric Officer. While we five comprise the new PCC, it simply wouldn't be possible to keep the church going as the beating heart of our community without the selfless involvement of so many others who clean, arrange fresh flowers, play the organ, provide refreshments, and so much else besides.

Along with the rest of the PCC, I have been busy getting up to speed with my role and familiarising myself with all of the good work that has gone on here before. We are incredibly fortunate to have inherited a church that is well run, well maintained and has a warm, friendly and committed congregation made up of people from across the benefice and beyond. We must give thanks to the long-standing PCC who have stepped away from their roles: Catriona Chase for her support during the ongoing transition, and for the many years of service she gave to the church - as both treasurer and secretary - and continues to give as our regular organist. To Jane Evers, who continues to sit at the very heart of church life, for her long stint as warden, and to Rob Chase and Mark Stephen for their commitment to ensuring that Cookley has a physical church to attend.

Evensong August's regular service was replaced with an evensong on Sunday 9th August led by the inimitable Roy Tricker. Roy captivated all who attended with his fantastic sermon praising the importance of holy places, shining a spotlight on our incredible church and its history at the centre of both the spiritual and civic life of those fortunate enough to call Cookley home for more than 900 years. He was supported by Edmund Smith who led our brilliant benefice choir and performed beautifully as Cantor and the evening ended in the sun-filled churchyard with wine, food and conversation. We were incredibly pleased to see forty-one in attendance, our highest congregation for some time, for this wonderful evening of worship and community. Many faces were new to our church and we hope to see many again at our regular services and soon-to-be-planned events as we begin this new

chapter in the life of our parish. Our doors are always open to friends and strangers alike. Do come visit!

Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby
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halesworthparish@gmail.com

A busy autumn ahead at St Mary's. There is plenty to look forward to at St Mary's as we head into autumn, with three very different events celebrating music, history and our wonderful church building. On Sunday 6th September at 3pm, we welcome **Chanter's Jigge** for A Tudor Portrait. Through music, stories and good humour, they bring to life the Tudors and Elizabethan England. Tickets are £10 on the door. Then on Saturday 12th September, St Mary's takes part in a **Heritage Open Day**. The church will be open throughout the day, with bell ringing from 10am–1pm, tower tours from 1–3pm, including the chance to see our remarkable 1826 Town Clock in its 200th anniversary year, and an organ demonstration from 3–3.30pm. Morning Prayer is at 8am and Evening Prayer at 6pm. Everything is free. Looking further ahead, on Saturday 3rd October at 7.15pm, the 1925 silent-film classic **The Phantom of the Opera**, starring Lon Chaney, comes to St Mary's, accompanied by a live improvised pipe-organ soundtrack by Tom Horton. Tickets are £10 on the door.

We are also delighted to welcome the news that **The Revd Alex Firman** has been appointed Team Vicar of the Blyth Valley Team Ministry. Alex moves to Suffolk in December and will be licensed at St Mary's in January. We pray that God will bless Alex as he prepares for his new ministry among us.

This month we also commend to God **Roger William Denny**, whose funeral is on 8th September, and **Robert Cecil Cross**, whose funeral is on 11th September. May they rest in peace and rise in glory, and may those who mourn know God's comfort and peace.

Halesworth WI Report David Naylor, a volunteer at the Minsmere RSPB reserve used slides to take us through the variety of birdlife that lives and visits during the year. Minsmere is a flagship reserve for the RSPB, having a staff of thirty and a volunteer force of three hundred to keep it running smoothly.

The mere was man made with the clay being dug out for bricks—the marshland being drained in the 1800s to become farmland then re-flooded at the beginning of the 1940s to attract back the birdlife. The avocet came back in 1947, the first time one had been seen here for one hundred years. The start of the RSPB was the movement to discourage the wanton destruction of birdlife to supply feathers to adorn ladies hats, although ostrich feathers were still allowed.

The volunteers repair fences, conduct bird surveys, lead walks and cover a wide variety of jobs. Minsmere has birds that remain all year round, spring migrations such as birds from Africa, winter migrations, from Iceland and Greenland, such as geese, swans, and ducks, then the birds that are just passing through from Africa, such as ospreys, and may only stay a few days before moving on to North Europe.

Bird numbers have steadily increased over the years. Great crested grebe numbers have grown from three to four thousand pairs. Avocets can be seen all year round, both here and at Iken and Snape estuaries. Marsh Harriers, Bitterns, Bearded Tits, Nightjars, Stone Curlews can be seen. Nightingales have also been heard on the reserve. Red Kite numbers have increased and are now in the Suffolk skies, recognisable by the forked tail.

The mere is also home to wildlife such as Otters, Red Deer, Muntjacs, Badgers, Foxes, Voles and Stoats. An interesting talk that left us with plans to call in to look at the reserve.

Barbara Prime

(written before the wildfires)

Community Energy Webinar East Suffolk are running an introduction to Community Energy webinar on 16th September at 1pm on Zoom. It is an introductory webinar for community organisations in East Suffolk interested in warmer buildings, lower bills, and local renewables. To register to attend please sign up: <https://EastSuffolkCEintro.eventbrite.co.uk> See page 26 for HASH updates.

Heveningham

Correspondent

Jeanette Griffin

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Our Pet Service Today we held our third Pet Service at St Margaret's, led by Jim Green, who was delighted to be invited back to take part. We were once again blessed with a wonderful assortment of animals, including some familiar faces from previous years and a couple of newbies. This year we welcomed a pony, a goat, two sheep, one chicken, six dogs and, of course, Teddy the Tortoise, who appears to have had a bit of a growth spurt and is now rather large! Jim blessed all our animal friends, as well as a few cuddly toy companions who had also been brought along. The service is always lovely, informal and good fun, and everyone is welcome to attend. We were particularly delighted to see so many children joining us this year. Alongside giving thanks for our wonderful animals, we also held in our thoughts and prayers those people and wildlife affected by the recent wildfires, and prayed that much-needed rain will come soon.

Today we also paid tribute to Jansch, a beautiful Bearded Collie who sadly passed away recently. If you have attended any of our services or events in Heveningham, you will almost certainly have met Jansch. He was such a beautiful boy and absolutely loved meeting people. Jansch was just as happy wandering around the church as he was sitting quietly in a pew, and he was also known to nick the odd sausage roll when he thought no one was looking! We all loved him, and he truly was our church dog and the Lord of the Village. It was our pleasure to remember Jansch today and to send our thoughts and love to Will and Karen. He will be greatly missed by us all. Photos on the back page.

Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett

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If you look on the back page of this magazine you will see pictures of some of the delightful flower arrangements which were part of **our Flower Festival** in July at which we remembered and celebrated the games that we like to play. Some of these games were concerned with memories of childhood while others were current pastimes; all were part of the pleasure found in

communal activities. The younger members of our family are still eager to play Mah Jongg when we are together, which is so much more satisfying than all sitting staring at screens! We were very lucky with the weather over the Flower Festival weekend, it wasn't too hot! The temperature was just right so that people felt comfortable coming and the flowers didn't wilt before the weekend got going. There was a steady stream of people over the two days who appreciated the ingenuity of the flower arrangers, the variety of games represented, the deliciousness of the cakes etc. on offer, the randomness of the tombola and the hopeful expectation of the raffle. All this effort helped to raise over £1,000 for church expenses, so a big thank you to all who contributed in any way, especially the flower arrangers and the providers of delicious cakes. The weekend was rounded off with a joyful Songs of Praise service ably led by the Revd Edmund Smith. The hymns sung were a selection chosen as we went along from those favourites of the congregation. Thanks must go to Jason Busby who coped brilliantly with the task of playing the organ for us, mostly with the right tunes!

You may be wondering whether there is going to be a **Children's Society Box** Opening this year. Yes, there is. It will be on Saturday 19th September in St Peter's from 10am until 12 noon. Please bring your boxes to church early so that the contents can be counted. If you are unable to be there on the day can you make sure that you pass your box on to Chris or Gary Atkins or some one who will be there. There will, of course, be refreshments, a raffle and a bring-and-buy. Donations for any of these activities will be gratefully received, also help on the day. If you can help with the money counting and haven't already told Chris or Gary, please do so asap, thank you.

I am writing this column on 10th August and on the 12th August the UK will experience a partial eclipse of the sun by the moon. On the 3rd August the theme for the Walking the Labyrinth afternoon was "The luminous sun". One of the things we learnt was that the sun isn't yellow, it is white – it is luminous, it produces its own light through energy release. It generates light and energy

through nuclear fusion in its core. It does not "burn" ... there is no flame, smoke, ash. I hope everyone looked at it safely. Our next **Walking the Labyrinth** is on Monday 7th September 2 – 4pm. The theme "Moth and rust" when we can reflect on the beauty and destruction of the moth and rust. This afternoon is open to all, there will be tea and cake, time to just be, to walk the labyrinth, to pray, to do something creative.

Ride and Stride on Saturday, 12th September Jackie Watts will be cycling again for Holton Church and would appreciate sponsors. Don't forget it is now Ride AND Stride, so you can also pick a few churches to walk to if you prefer. Or be a welcomer at St Peter's for part of the day.

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
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Linstead

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

NOW I WOULD BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT that the Linstead Letter is an unlikely source of investment advice but, as I have said before, there must be a fortune to be made out of the manufacture of road signs. Gone are the days when a diversion sign was a simple arrow, slightly rusty, pivoted in the middle and, thanks to the local

pranksters, probably pointing in the wrong direction. Diversion signs are smart, customised to the locality and must be costing someone (us?) a small fortune. Still, following diversion signs is a game we all have to play. The first question is: 'Do I call their bluff? - Shall I ignore the sign and see what happens?' The diggers of holes in the road must be quite familiar with the driver that is forced to a stop, mutters something under the breath and executes an ungainly 3 (or more) point turn. Then there is the 'Pop-Up' diversion. The one that wasn't there when you went, but was when you came back. Or there is the 'Spectral' diversion, you went the long way round to avoid it on the way out but, on your return, it had vanished without trace. So, if you are finding getting from A to B seems to be less than straightforward, look on the bright side, you might have been driving a combine harvester. Oh dear, sorry, you WERE driving a combine harvester!

THIS EXTRAORDINARY SUMMER continues, at least at the time of writing, but it gave us peerless weather for our Summer fête. We guessed the weight of a cake, we wanged a welly, browsed the books and bric-a-brac and enjoyed ourselves in exactly the way that one is supposed to at a truly traditional fête, which is precisely what Linstead offers. This event is the main fundraiser for the Village Hall, which is the other half of Linstead's existence. Not least because of the weather, it was very well supported and our thanks to all who came and enjoyed themselves. The bottom line? We raised just over £2000, which is a record. A brilliant result and a super day.

CHEDISTON & Linstead W.I. MET IN August to hear David Naylor, of the RSPB Minsmere, tell them about 'Garden Birds'. He gave a superb audio/visual presentation which included a guide to their birdsong. He also told them how garden birds should be supported during a prolonged period of drought, such as we are 'enjoying' at the time of writing. The talk was then followed by a scrumptious tea. They meet next at 2.30 p.m. on September 8th, at

Linstead Village Hall, to hear a presentation by Kevin Parson on the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

NOW WE ALL LOVE A GOOD FILM, whether it is a Comedy, a Romance or a Thriller. The next film that is being shown at the Village Hall is 'The Devil Wears Prada 2'. This will be shown on Saturday, 5th September at 7.00 for 7.15 p.m. The cost is £5 per person, to include (of course) an ice-cream. Please bring your own liquid refreshment. The film has the same cast as the original, Emily Blunt, Anne Hathaway, Meryl Streep and Stanley Tucci, with the addition of Kenneth Branagh, Lucy Liu and Justin Theroux. It follows the fortunes of the 'Runway' fashion magazine, some 20 years later. Do join us for an enjoyable evening. Incidentally, I have suspected for a long time that Hollywood is in a parallel universe, where time, as we understand it, doesn't count. Perhaps this film will prove my theory! Whilst on the topic of the Silver Screen, we have just watched 'Odyssey', a good film, but pick a cinema with comfortable seats.

SO, THINGS TO COME: WELL IN SPITE of an agriculturally challenging year we should celebrate. NOW PLEASE DON'T PANIC, but it will be on us before we know, so put this date into your diaries and be prepared.

THE Linstead HARVEST FESTIVAL

To be held on
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th
At 6.30 p.m.

Contributions are invited of non-perishable foods to go to the food bank.

ALL THIS NEEDS TO BE ORGANISED SO the PCC meets next at 7.30 p.m. on September 30th at Dormy House.

NOW THESE FORTHCOMING EVENTS underline our slide into autumn and (quelle horreur) winter. We look forward to the redecoration of the church interior in October but we already have our new wall heaters installed. Ironically this was done in the midst of the heatwave but they work well and should make a considerable difference to our winter comfort. Our

thanks to Pearce & Kemp for fitting the heaters.

**LINSTEAD COMES TO
HALESWORTH**

**THE LINSTEAD
MARKET**

Will be held at:

**St. MARY'S
CHURCH**

**ON SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 28th**

10.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M.

**Christmas Gifts,
Food, Cakes and
Decorations
Raffle
Seasonal Refreshments**

THE SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES sponsored cycle ride will be on September 12th. The Trust is supporting our redecoration. Let us support them by walking, riding or driving. We also need church-sitters. If you can help in any way, please contact Cecilia Metherell 01986 785275

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER COMPRISE Matins on the 20th at 10.00 a.m. Our Harvest Festival is on October 4th (see box).

Spexhall

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

**Facebook: St Peter's Spexhall and
Spexhall Village Hall**

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

Thorington

Correspondent
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A Summer Afternoon at St Peter's

What a wonderful afternoon we had at St Peter's Church, Thorington. Our Summer Open Afternoon brought together a lovely crowd from the village and surrounding area, filling the church and garden with conversation, laughter, music and a wonderfully warm atmosphere. We began with a reading by Suffolk-based poet Steph Ellen Feeney from her debut collection *Small Change*, exploring the intimate, often challenging and joyful experience of new motherhood. Then came the Suffolk Phoenix Brass Band, who filled the church with music and quickly got everyone into the spirit of the afternoon. Their lively selection of Big Band favourites, familiar classical pieces was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There was homemade food, wine, local crafts and plenty of time to chat and enjoy being together. Perhaps one of the loveliest things to notice was the number of children – and several babies – among the visitors. In previous years this has been less usual, so it was particularly heartening to see so many young families enjoying the afternoon at St Peter's.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we are delighted to share that the afternoon raised a wonderful £1,600 for St Peter's, Thorington. It was a beautiful reminder that an old village church can be much more than a place of worship. It can also be a place where people meet, share something special, make memories and simply enjoy being together. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came, to our performers, and to all the volunteers and helpers who made the day so special. Most of all, our heartfelt gratitude goes to Trish and Mike Gower for their tireless dedication, warmth, and relentless hard work in organizing this event. We were delighted to see so many of you – and hope to welcome you back again next year!

Aniko

Walpole

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

Wenhaston

Correspondent

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The hot dry weather continues! It is lovely for the schoolchildren who often have a rainy Summer holiday. I think we are all praying for rain now, though, as our poor gardens are suffering. Having said that, I have a good crop of tomatoes, runner beans, figs and sweet corn so the hot weather has suited some things.

Our Big Quiz will have taken place when you get your September edition. We are very grateful to the Village Hall Committee for including us in the planning and running of the quiz. We are hoping for a good number of contestants and a fun-filled evening.

On 27th September we will have our Harvest Festival in St Peter's at 4pm, followed by a Harvest Tea. This will be a joint service with our Methodist friends and we invite everyone to come to give thanks for the harvest and enjoy fellowship with us all over tea. Rev. Canon Alison will take the service.

Don't forget the SHCT Ride and Stride on September 12th. We are looking for participants to take part on behalf of St Peter's and also stewards to welcome those who visit our lovely church. We receive half of the sponsorship money and the other half is used by the trust to maintain Suffolk churches. St Peter's has benefitted from this recently, receiving funding towards the cost of preserving the Doom Painting.

Wenhaston Walkers Our first walk in September will be on Tuesday 1st setting off at 10am from Wenhaston Village Hall. On Tuesday 15th September, Ali and David will lead the walk from the Sir Alfred Munnings, The Street, Mendham IP20 0NH, starting out at 10am; lunch details will be notified in advance. If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester
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I have been thinking about harvests in times past in Wissett and came across a song from dear old anon, *The Ripe and Bearded Barley*.

"All among the barley,
Who would not be blithe,
While the ripe and bearded barley
Is smiling on the scythe!"

Different times and a different harvest this year maybe... I expect I am not alone in finding it hard to be smiling and blithe after this summer of relentless heat and drought. So, trying to be positive, in the words of the late, lamented Ian Dury, there are..

"Reasons to be cheerful, one, two, three!"

Firstly, I know there is much kindness and support in the community of Wissett. We still have the indoor Bowls Club in the Village Hall on a Wednesday evening and members ensure that those who are frailer than they were can still attend and get home safely. Secondly, we have had a few new faces in our church congregations lately and hopefully they have felt welcomed and included. We have refreshments after each service.

Our visitors book shows that many came recently and have commented on the tranquillity and beauty of our church with it's zig-zag decorated Norman door. The church is open each day and there are refreshments available for people and a dog's bowl of water outside. Thirdly, we have reached September and hopefully after the breezes and the sunshine we will at last have the soft, refreshing rain.

Come rain or shine, Friday the 11th of September is going to be a very busy day here in Wissett!

In the Village Hall from 10 to 12 noon there is a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. There will be cakes, coffee and a raffle with one big prize of a hamper full of good things and I would not be at all surprised if I find myself having a book stall practically giving books away! Do come and support this excellent charity who provide help in so many ways. Then everything must be ready for Harvest Festival!

Friday 11th of September in the church at 7pm for the service in church and then afterwards we have our Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. This is a good supper with a glorious ham, salads, baked potatoes, and a variety of

delicious puddings made from seasonal fruit by the good people of Wissett. Bring your own drinks. Tickets for the supper are £12.50 and available from Geoffrey Kiddy 07881 501858. The Harvest Festival in church is of course free for everyone to come and we hope you will.

Do look out for news of other happenings in Wissett in September. I hope that the Wissett Road will be open again and that the school bus can come through. Best wishes to all those going back, or starting school! Shoes all polished and bags packed. "BTS" it used to be marked on my calendar, back to school.

The Ripe and Bearded Barley poem ends...

"The autumn is an old friend
That pleases all he can,
And brings the bearded barley
To glad the heart of man."

And the women as well!

So, in September may we meet with old friends, make new ones and continue to love, help and support each other.

Heroes & Heroines Recital – Wednesday 12 August 2026

I can't think of a better way of spending a lunch hour on a hot Wednesday than keeping cool in St Mary's Church while listening to some wonderful music! We were certainly in for a treat when we welcomed Veronica Downing, soprano, and Wendy Slaney, mezzo-soprano, accompanied by Jonathan Rutherford at the piano, for their programme Heroes & Heroines.

A carefully chosen selection of songs, arias and duets featuring some of opera and musical theatre's greatest characters was enjoyed by an appreciative audience of over 40 people. Veronica and Wendy's voices blended beautifully, creating some lovely harmonies, while Jonathan's sensitive accompaniment brought the whole programme together.

The recital opened with Veronica and Wendy singing Purcell's Let Us Wander. Wendy delighted us with Rossini's Una voce poco fa from The Barber of Seville, On My Own from Les

Misérables, Britten's arrangement of Sweet Polly Oliver and Show Me from My Fair Lady. Veronica's programme included Lehár's beautiful Vilja and Love is a Plaintive Song from Gilbert and Sullivan's Patience. The recital concluded with Veronica and Wendy together performing the much-loved I Could Have Danced All Night from My Fair Lady.

Our sincere thanks go to Veronica, Wendy and Jonathan for a thoroughly enjoyable lunchtime recital. Special thanks must also go to Veronica, who has organised and performed in a recital almost every year since our series began, either as a soloist or alongside a fellow singer. As a local performer and familiar face, it is always a pleasure to welcome her back to St Mary's.

Doreen Hale

VILLAGE HARVEST FESTIVAL

WHEN
13th September
11.00am Service
12.00pm Harvest Lunch

WHERE
St Mary's Church
Chediston

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jo Wareham
07711 066727 Text or Call

ALL WELCOME TO THE SERVICE
LED BY
Veronica Downing
Lay Elder

COME TO LUNCH
On the house, but donations to the farming charity YANA welcome

BENEFITING
The Community Larder
In Halesworth

Donations can be brought to Church or School Room

- Carton Fruit Juice
- Long life milk
- Jars, Tins, Toiletries
- Household goods
- Fruit & Veg



The Spexhall Summer Party

Monday 31st August
3-7pm
The Pightle
at Spexhall House Old Rectory
(Behind Spexhall church)

Summer Drinks
Strawberries
Savoury snacks and cakes
Local honey for sale

In aid of
the Spexhall Church Restoration Fund

If it rains, we'll be in the village hall



INSPIRED BY *Creation*

Art, Photography & Craft Competition

Celebrating Creativity Across Our 14 Churches

Have you been inspired by the beauty of creation,
the changing seasons, village life, faith, nature,
or the countryside around us?

..... »♡«

We invite artists, photographers and crafters
of all abilities to enter our *Inspired by Creation*
competition.

*Everyone is welcome to take part -
beginners and experienced
creators alike!*

... CATEGORIES ...



PHOTOGRAPHY

- Under 12s
- 12-18 Years
- Adults



ART

- Under 12s
- 12-18 Years
- Adults

... IMPORTANT DATES ...



LAUNCH DATE

1st August 2026



CLOSING DATE
FOR ENTRIES

31st May 2027



JUDGING

Date to be
confirmed

*For entry details & further information
please email:*



stmargarechurch11@gmail.com

Creativity ♥ Community ♥ Inspiration



HALESWORTH SCARECROW FESTIVAL

SPACE

Join us for an out of this world time.

17th October until 31st October 2026

Scarecrow Crafts
at St Mary's Church,
28th October, 1:30 till 3:30 pm

Light Party
at St Mary's Church,
31st October, 4-6 pm

Family Picnic
at St Mary's Church in Halesworth,
29th October 2026, 11:30 till 1 pm

To find out more details pop into **Hetty's Little Copy Shop** or email pauline@growingtogetherearlyyears.co.uk



Kinda Education celebrates entering its 9th year of Growing Together in Kaliwoods. Powered by 40 dedicated facilitators, Kinda Education is preparing to enter its 9th year of growing together in Kaliwoods, Holton, Halesworth, this September. Kinda fosters deep nature connection through a wide range of multigenerational community programs which include:

Home Education and flexi-school sessions for all ages, for children between the ages of 7 to 14, every Wednesday.

Alternative Provision for children needing time away from mainstream school, who need one to one support. We work with both Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council and have had success with many children who have come through us, and are now attending main stream or alternative schools.

Elder Wellbeing in the Woods meets every Thursday, to explore different themes, such as indigo dyeing, seeds and propagating them, with stories to tell. We work closely with the Pear Tree who are funded by various organisation so can offer this free of charge.

Families and individuals of all ages can gather for monthly Forest Family School Saturdays. This is a very creative day

with Kally Davidson, exploring natural dyes, weaving and playing. Multi generations come for the day.

Women's WoodSisters offers a dedicated weekend space for women to connect with nature, each other and themselves.

In addition, seasonal community gatherings throughout the year also bring local people together to celebrate the changing landscape. We have an annual community gathering at the spring Equinox to celebrate the planting of 6,000 trees on the land. We have witnessed their growth and struggle in this challenging climate. We have unique events such as Wellbeing weekends and Socratic Dialogue (philosophy) in the woods. Beyond regular and ad hoc groups, Kinda Education is a hub for learning, offering nationally endorsed Level 2 and Level 3 Forest School Leader qualifications, Outdoor First Aid. All our Kinda 'tribes' are supporting Rachel Kellett to replant and develop a 17 acre field that wraps around Kali woods. We aim to grow our food, which we cook on the fire. We've just been granted some funding from Greenprint Forum which has helped build a shed, which, in truth, is a roof to catch rain, that is channelled into our IBCs for much needed water storage to water the garden. We hope next year to be a fully fledged community garden, for Holton community as well as Kinda community. You are welcome to join us.

To learn more about upcoming events, when our groups are or training opportunities, visit kindaeducation.org.uk or follow the Kinda Education Facebook page.

Rachel Kellett



Halesworth ASH Update

Save the date! Friday, 25th and Saturday, 26th September for the Community Energy Workshops. Our regular Halesworth ASH Autumn weekend will concentrate on Community Energy this year, and will take the form of workshops. Some will be in St Mary's Church and some will be at another location. More information to come, but save the date: halesworthash.com/ **Halesworth ASH CIC** We are delighted to tell you that Halesworth ASH, partnering with Blyth Valley Churches and Halesworth Town Council, have finally been incorporated and are officially a CIC. Our aims are, working with our energy Champion, William, to help the residents and businesses of Halesworth to migrate to non-carbon based energy systems: to connect people, ideas and projects to inspire a thriving, nature-friendly and climate-resilient community. **Community Energy support for Halesworth ASH** Halesworth ASH has been chosen for support by the new Community Energy initiative. The two types of project are called Community Energy GO and FEL. CE-GO is for Community Energy projects that are ready to GO; a project that offers a national support service that connects local groups with free expert advice, tools and hands-on guidance to help establish local renewable energy initiatives. FEL is a Future Energy Landscapes project which offers support to communities to help identify geographical areas that could best support community-owned renewable energy projects and to ensure the community itself can decide what, where and how such a scheme would work best for it. It also explores the financial models, benefits and likely returns on investment for the community. Halesworth, along with a handful of other community organisations, has been chosen for both.

Rachel Kellett



NO BAD FEET Susan Fitch, A.H.C.P.

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BY APPOINTMENT

Some Future Church Event Dates for the Diary...

Blyford

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

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

17th - 18th October. Water of life all day. Bulb planting (17th October only).

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

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

Halesworth

3rd October: Phantom of the Opera silent film with organ music (Tom Horton) 7:15pm

Heveningham

9th October: Quiz Night.

11th October: Harvest Festival.

Linstead

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

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

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

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Ready for a trip with a little bit of everything? Nashville is the perfect blend of Southern charm, live music and unforgettable experiences.

There's adventure beyond the city too. Our Branch Manager, Jess, recently experienced the thrill of horse riding and got up close to the natural beauty of Cummins Falls State Park – a spectacular escape for anyone who loves the great outdoors.

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Spring (Apr- June) & Fall (Sept-Nov)
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WHAT'S ON

Concerts at Cratfield 2026

Chamber Music in East Suffolk

www.concertsatcratfield.org



Sunday 5 July 3pm

THE DIONYSUS ENSEMBLE

Sunday 19 July 3pm

DANNY DRIVER piano

Sunday 2 August 3pm

CATHERINA LEE violin

JONATHAN FERRUCCI piano

Sunday 16 August 3pm

ENGEGÅRD QUARTET

Sunday 30 August 3pm

NICHOLAS DANIEL oboe

HUW WATKINS piano

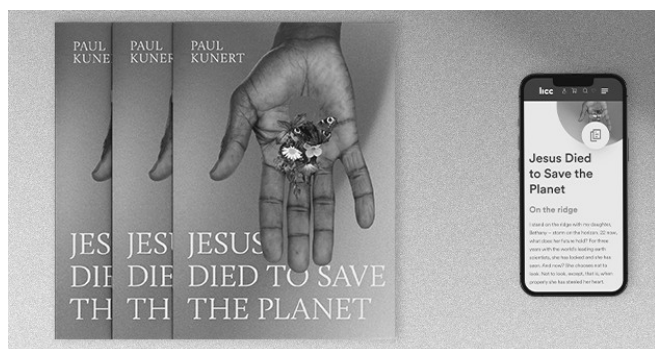
Sunday 13 September 3pm

BUSCH TRIO

Season of Creation Life Group

Jim and Sue Green are offering a new group in Halesworth, going through 'Jesus Died to Save the Planet', a booklet by Paul Kunert. It will run on Tuesdays fortnightly for six weeks, 7-9pm, starting on 8th September.

We also aim to share life together and pray. The booklet is available to download or get a paper copy from licc.org.uk/planet. Contact Sue (07873 818631) or Jim (07742 032536)



Wissett Village Hall

Fitted kitchen, crockery/cutlery and chairs/tables for 50 people, fully licensed, soft lighting option, excellent heating, free WiFi, projector and screen.

For more information and to book go to:

www.wissettvilleagehall.org.uk



People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Halesworth

Film screening and discussion

St Mary's Church, Steeple End, Halesworth, IP19 8LL



Thursday 10 September 7:30-9:30pm

(door opens 7:10pm)

Suitable for age 16+

Book online or for enquiries call:

01986 875941

Hosted by St Mary's Eco Church group

www.nebriefing.org

Everyone Should See This Film! On 8th July, one of the hottest evenings this summer, some friends and I attended a showing of the film *The People's Emergency Briefing* at Westhall Village Hall. Introduced and narrated by Chris Packham, the film informed us of the current state of the climate crisis and the breakdown of nature. Scientists presented the evidence and Chris interviewed a variety of people, including some celebrities, such as Jennifer Saunders and Deborah Meaden. Their reactions to the evidence and the blunt honest delivery of the hard facts was similar to my own. I was shocked, surprised at my lack of knowledge and desperate for more to be done! To think that in fifty years time there will be few crops and people will die of heart attacks and strokes in our country, is not just worrying but requires emergency action. After the showing there was an interesting discussion in groups and several questions about the film and the impact on everyone present, including local councillors. It was a packed hall and very warm. After the question time several drifted next door to the community pub The Racehorse, presumably to discuss their ideas and thoughts for the future over a cooling pint. We drove home, each of us reeling from what we had heard and digested. Although the facts are shocking it ends with the hope that if it is shown across the nation in community groups and Government uses it as the basis for a televised Briefing (rather like the Covid-19 TV briefings), eventually everyone in our country at least, will realise the urgent need for more action to save our beautiful planet and God's creation.

Helen O'Brien, St Mary's Eco Church group

WHAT'S ON

Local produce
and crafts



From local
growers and
makers

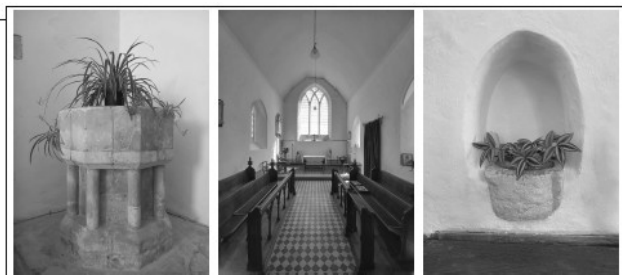
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EST. 2003

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HALESWORTH**
9am - 1pm

**FEB 14th
MAR 14th
APR 11th
MAY 9th
JUN 13th**

**JUL 11th
AUG 8th
SEP 12th
OCT 10th
NOV 14th
DEC 12th**

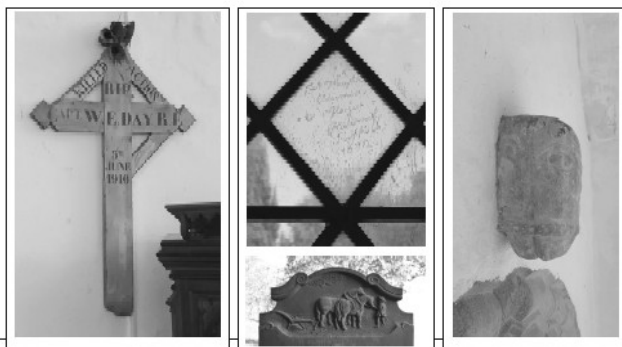


All Saints Church, Blyford

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Saturday 12 September 2026

11AM~4PM TOURS FREE ENTRY



Samuel Croft Gravestone © Simon Knott <http://www.suffolchurches.co.uk/blyford.html>

Youth Space
6-7:30 pm
MONDAYS WEEKLY
Your Space

PHONE CHURCH
A relaxed evening of worship and sharing together

Together we worship
Together we pray
Together we share

St Mary's Church, Halesworth
20th September
6:00 pm

Bring your phone.
Let's connect with God
and with each other.

ALL WELCOME • ALL AGES • ALL TOGETHER

FREE

Draw the Verse

10th September
6-7 pm
St Mary's Church, Halesworth

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

Snack Time

11-16 years old

WHAT'S ON

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, HALESWORTH

Heritage, history and music in the heart of Halesworth

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, HALESWORTH
presents

A Tudor Portrait with CHANTER'S JIGGE



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A lively telling of that most famous Elizabethan age,
set forth with tunes, tales and good humour

SUNDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER
3.00 p.m.

TICKETS £10 on the door
(cash or card)

First-hand accounts of intrigue, chivalry, and mischief.
Learn what befell the high and the low, the noble and the notorious,
in a performance both entertaining and enlightening.

Halesworth
DISCOVER IT. LIVE IT. LOVE IT

heritage open days



HERITAGE OPEN DAY ST MARY'S CHURCH, HALESWORTH

Explore the history. Experience the heritage.
Celebrate 200 years of the Town Clock.

ALL FREE!



8am
MORNING PRAYER
In the Lady Chapel



10am - 1pm
HAVE AGO AT BELL RINGING
The Halesworth Bell Ringers invite you
to try this ancient art.



1pm - 3pm
TOWER TOURS
Celebrating 200 years of the Town Clock.
Climb the church tower and see the
remarkable 1826 clock mechanism up close.



3pm - 3.30pm
ORGAN DEMONSTRATION
Music is at the heart of our worship.
Hear our magnificent Hill, Norman & Beard
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6pm
EVENING PRAYER
In the Lady Chapel



ACCESS: Suitable for
wheelchair users
(ground floor only)



CONTACT:
halesworthparish@gmail.com

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026



SILENT FILM SHOW

The PHANTOM OPERA

1925 SILENT FILM
STARRING
LON CHANEY

LIVE PIPE ORGAN SOUNDTRACK
BY
TOM HORTON

PG

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD, 2026
AT 7:15PM
ST MARY'S CHURCH
HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK, IP19 8LL

TICKETS £10 ON THE DOOR

Walking the Labyrinth A Time for Reflection



Monday 7th September 2026 2 - 4pm
St Peter's Church, Holton



"Moth & Rust"

Everyone welcome

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

Future meetings:
Monday 5th October, 2nd November.

HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL

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SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

★ 10.00AM - 2.00PM ★

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Online bookings welcome



More Photos from Town & Villages



Holton Flower Festival



Family Picnic



Family Picnic



Family Picnic



Holton Flower Festival



Labyrinth crafting at Holton



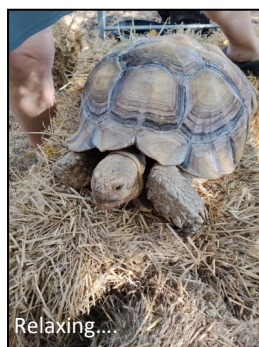
Holton Flower Festival

Please support **Ride and Stride** if you can this year, through participating, sponsoring or volunteering! Further information in the News from Town and Villages sections. Half the money raised goes towards your local church, and the other half to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. It all really helps! shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

Very calm chicken
at the Pet Service!

Jansch p.20



Relaxing....



The blessing



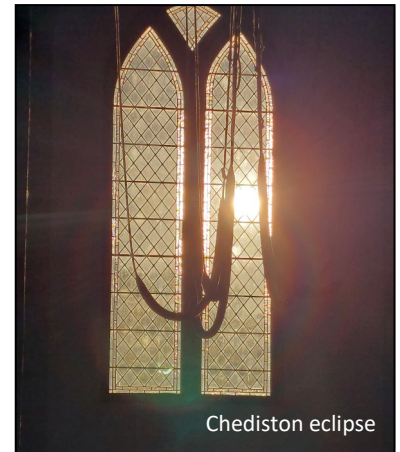
Having a billy good time!



Bramfield eclipse



Thorington Open Afternoon



Chediston eclipse