



WISSEY VALLEY
& GRIMSHOE
BENEFICES

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

August 2026

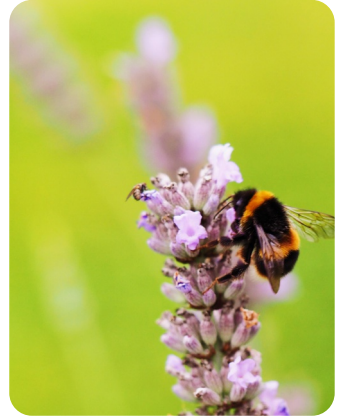


WELCOME TO THE AUGUST EDITION OF 'NEWS FROM THE PEWS'

August breathes through amber fields,
and sunlit rivers cradle whispering reeds.

Whilst swallows stitch blue skies, hedgerows grow
heavy with blackberries and orchards offer honeyed
fruit to wandering souls.

As evenings shorten, beneath tranquil evening stars,
it is a gentle reminder to pause and savour this
beautiful season before it fades; but for now,
let us savour August.



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We try to be open and transparent for the whole community and we would welcome your feedback about this magazine
beneficenewsuk@gmail.com



If you'd like to receive the next issue of your magazine digitally instead of in print
 Scan the QR code on the left or click here
<https://news-from-the-pews.kit.com/82de9e2841>

News from the Parishes

St. George's, Methwold waves 'Goodbye' to their adopted American family Liane and Sergeant Ryan Falk and their son Kady, who have, in the four and a half years of Ryan's posting become an integral part of the family of St. George's.



In all the duties that a working church requires, the Falk family would be there, helping where needed. Following Kady's graduation ceremony at Ely Cathedral, he will be moving to Brussels, Madrid and Nairobi to read international studies. Liane and Ryan will be returning to Ryan's next posting in Idaho, USA.



Everyone at St. George's will miss the close bonds of friendship made and wish the family, "All the best guys – keep in touch and safe travels."

Alan Burbridge/Paul Smith
Churchwardens of Methwold Parish

St Andrew's Church Northwold was the beautiful setting for the wedding of Angelica Bobbin and Alec Rowell.

After the service, officiated by the Reverend Ray Burman, the congregation and people of Northwold greeted the happy couple under the jubilant sound of the Northwold bells.



A New Organ for St Andrew's, West Dereham

Over twenty years ago St Andrew's Church PCC voted to take advantage of the offer by Warminster School, Wiltshire, to receive the pipe organ which they no longer wanted.



This was the spur to plan to build a toilet and enlarged entrance porch, on which the pipework and mechanism could eventually be installed. Community funds paid for the dismantling and transport to Norfolk.

More recent organ expenses have been met from the sale of the “Peter Starling Memories”. Individuals have also made private donations.

Through volunteer commitment we constructed the toilet and drainage system. Today, our organ-club meets every Friday, bringing experience, enthusiasm, tools and professional expertise to the project.

There is not space here to describe the musical details of the new organ but these can be supplied on request.

120 years old, this “new” organ was built in Leicester with pneumatic action by the firm of Taylor. First installed in a large house, it served two Methodist chapels before its last home in Warminster.

When completed the floor-level console and the pipework will be connected by 18-volt electronic data-transmission.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the years the components have been carefully stored, as well as to those who have generously supported the financing of crucial items throughout the restoration process.

Any practical or financial help, you can provide to help us complete this project would be greatly appreciated.

Chris Young



Wretton with Stoke Ferry Strawberry Afternoon Tea 4th July 2026

We welcomed around 40 people, friends from church and from the local community, for a delightful afternoon of deliciousness!



Anthony & Anita in the kitchen

There was a wonderful, convivial atmosphere in All Saints Church, Wretton with Stoke Ferry, as we ate all the wonderful treats that had been made for the occasion.

Helaine & Kathleen, set up and ready to go



Look at all the goodies!

Lots of thanks to all our talented bakers and volunteers who worked so hard and to Tesco for the generous donations of strawberries, cream and some raffle prizes. The Community Champion even came along on the day! We are very grateful for the support.

Hockwold Team Saves the Day!

For many months, Florina and Jack had planned to celebrate their Wedding Blessing at St James Church, following their wedding at Hockwold Hall.

We were at the Church early just setting up when the wedding planner rushed in because the Registrar had not turned up!

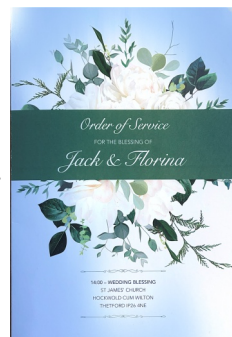
Happily we were able to get the bellringers and organist rushed in and with a couple of small adjustments, we then moved all the guests in, and conducted the Wedding Blessing as their main event of the day.

We believe the couple did fulfil their wedding ceremony with a registrar later but we were pleased to be able to step in and save their day.

It was suggested we turn the blessing into a wedding but of course that would have been illegal without the banns.

*We wish
Florina and Jack
every happiness in
their future together.*

Nigel Ransom PTO



Being a Treasurer

Paul Smith, Benefice treasurer and treasurer for the PCCs of Methwold and Hockwold



I have just read a story in the newspaper about a disused church where a stash of gold, worth £30,000 has been found hidden under the altar with a note that said “Hi there, I’d like to donate these nine gold Britannias to Melling church”^[1].

My first tip then, to all PCC treasurers, is to have a hunt around down the back of the altar! As soon as I read the article, I diligently dashed to Saint George's Methwold, hunted round the altar and found dust, bat and mouse droppings! Sadly, the magical donation hadn't yet been placed and I'll keep checking. In reality, I suspect that the life of a PCC treasurer is somewhat more prosaic than magical!

Fiona: What got you into the Treasurer role?

My whole working life was in banking and finance, both in the UK and overseas and subsequently as a financial regulator. Before I stopped working, I focused more on financial exclusion and hardship. I know that managing other people's money is something that many volunteers prefer to avoid so I have been happy to take on that role.

Fiona: What do you like most about being a Treasurer?

I am not sure that “like” is quite the right word but, I suppose that, what I find most satisfying, is making order out of muddle and supporting the work and life of the Church in the background. I see the role as an enabler to allow the good and kind people who do so much to make our parishes welcoming and sustainable.

Fiona: What do you think makes a good Treasurer?

I can certainly not claim to be a good treasurer but I do find that having a structured and simple approach to managing finances is essential. Keeping a regular eye on what needs doing rather than putting off tasks until they become overwhelming is key.

Fiona: What do you think are the biggest challenges of managing Church finances?

Lack of challenge. I really hate it when I spend time producing information for meetings and then not being challenged on the content. As a treasurer, I only feel able to do my job, if I am sure that there is appropriate scrutiny and interest from the PCC. I know that finance can be a bit dry but, if it goes wrong, it can be calamitous so the more questions that I get asked, the better.

^[1] <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/religion/article/mystery-donor-gold-coins-30000-church-kg7sb5gv7>

Fiona: If someone was thinking about becoming Treasurer what advice would you give?

Always be ready to ask for help. There is stacks of knowledge and support from the diocese, PCCs and other treasurers. To an extent, most of us muddle through and there is no sense in continually re-inventing processes that other people will be happy to share for free.

Fiona: What's your view on electronic cashless donations in Church?

I am supportive of any methods that allow us to receive support from all who use and visit our churches. Of course, regular donations that can be gift aided (such as standing orders) are very convenient as they are predictable, easy to manage and tend to be sustained. Where connectivity allows, terminals can be used or QR codes where this is not possible. Hidden gold coins are also acceptable.

Fiona: What's the most exciting thing you have done in a finance-related job?

I dealt with a lot of fraud cases while I was banking, including being part of a major gun-running investigation with the Bank of England, and also the leak of the identity of the first National Lottery Jackpot winner – in that case, the actual cheque ended up being rubbed on someone's backside! The most satisfying work I did was to lead the work on the

introduction of the Basic Bank Account, enabling some of the most financially disadvantaged to get access to banking services without getting into debt.

Fiona: Actually we would really all love to know – How do you manage your '6-month Surfer-Lifestyle' in Australia?

With good quality Internet access (and aircon) I am as happy to be doing my accounts overlooking lovely beaches as I am sitting at my desk at home with a view of St George's Church in Methwold. [Actually I am sitting looking across the hills near Settle, North Yorkshire as I write this!]

Fiona: Do you have an alias 'down under'? Like Dave the Dude or Jane's Husband the 'shorts guy'?

Most of the aliases of pommies down under really are not printable!



Paul Smith hard at work

Barton Bendish 16th Annual Art, Photography and Craft Exhibition 2026

Saturday 19th September 10am - 4pm

Sunday 20th September 11am - 4pm

There will be a range of Crafts to buy in the church including woodcraft, pottery, jewellery, needlecraft, ornaments and books. In the Village Hall will be a display of Art and Photography.



There is always a huge range of paintings and photographs to see and to buy.

If you like beautiful things or looking for unusual and personal presents, this event is ideal. As always in Barton, light Refreshments will be available on both days.

Exhibitor places for this event are always very popular but there is still space available.

Applications must be received by September 1st.

For further information contact bartonbendishevents@gmail.com

Wisbech & West Norfolk Churches Festival Fortnight

*A celebration of our wonderful churches,
bringing communities together through
shared events, and open doors.*

27 July to 9 August

Feltwell, St. Mary's

Art exhibition of pictures by our local school children that were entered into the Norfolk Churches Trust Schools Art Competition. The pictures will be on display for the whole fortnight. Our coffee morning will be on Wednesday 5th August.

Northwold, St Andrew's

Church history display and close-up photos of the angel roof in St Andrew's. From 4th August each afternoon, there will be extra displays and someone to show visitors round and offer tea and cakes.

Boughton, All Saints - Saturday 8th August 10am-2pm

Church history display, short nature walk, feed our ducks and moorhens on the village pond, books, DVD's and flower and vegetable seeds for sale, complementary cold drinks and homemade biscuits, dog friendly space. Please note that this is a cash only donations event.

Poetry Corner

I am a Reader, licensed, trained,
Not clergy, though my brain is strained
By essays, modules, Greek verbs too,
All done to prove what I don't quite do.
I preach, I teach, I lead the prayers,
And pray for Margaret, in bed, upstairs.

I'm lay, you see, but also not,
A minister, except I'm not.
I don't wear collars, don't bless rings,
Yet people ask me clerical things.
At funerals they ask quite clear,
"So... how long till you're a vicar, dear?"

I've trained for years to stay just here,
Neither priest nor everyday volunteer.
No vicarage, no stipend, still
Calm is expected, and pastoral skill.
All the theology, half the status,
But you just try to flippin' replace us!

And then there's "Reader" — such a name,
It sounds like something small and tame.
"Do you just read?" they kindly ask,
As if that's the whole required task.
No I READ the room, the church, the mood,
And tut at the Vicar if ever he's rude.

Yet still — I love this calling true,
This in-between, this sideways view.
To serve the Word, but not the role,
To hold the church, yet keep my soul.
To stand and speak, collarless, free —
Called by God, to simply BE.

Mary Adebayo
Reader/Licensed Lay Minister



QUIZ NIGHT



Saturday
1st August
7.30 pm



St. Mary's Church, Feltwell

£8 to Include Supper

Please bring your own plates, cutlery, glasses, drinks
and nibbles.

All proceeds to Church Clock Fund

FMI Contact Chris Parker

cmparker@talktalk.net

07910 195360



*Songs
of
Praise*



By the Riverside

With refreshments & tombola

Sunday 2nd

August 2026

**4pm, Grange Farm,
Whittington PE33 9TF**

///delight.quality.elevates

Everyone is welcome.

Please bring a chair if you are able



**St Andrew's Church
West Dereham**

Crafts **Songs** **Story** **Coffee**

**Family
Breakfast
Church**

**Sunday
23rd August
@
9.30am**

**Everyone Welcome
FREE BREAKFAST
Just come along
It's church... but not as you
know it!**



Pop-Up Café

**Barton Bendish Village Hall
(PE33 9GF)**



**Wednesday
2nd September
12 pm – 2.30 pm**

Drop by for lunch or afternoon tea and
have a chat with friends.

Everyone welcome. No need to book.



The profits from the September
Pop-up Café will be given to the
Alzheimer's Society



**Alzheimer's
Society**

bartonbendishevents@gmail.com



**St George's
Church
Methwold**

**COFFEE
MORNING**

*Every 2nd and 4th
Tuesday of the Month
from 10 till 12 noon at the
Church*



**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
NORTHWOLD**



COFFEE MORNING

JOIN US IN THE CHURCH

ON THURSDAY 13th AUGUST

AT 10.30am



TEA & COFFEE

HOMEMADE CAKES

RAFFLE

BOOKS & JIGSAWS





COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

BARTON BENDISH VILLAGE HALL

12th September
Saturday 9.30am

Menu:



Coffee/Tea, Yogurt, Fruit, Muesli, Bacon Rolls,
Pastries

Everyone welcome!

Book your reservation today:

LINDA (01366 347563) or LIZ (01366 347549)

No charge – donations to the benefit of St Andrew's Church welcome



THE COMMUNITY SPACE
IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
FELTWELL

THE FOOD PANTRY

open to all villages in the Benefice.

Tuesdays 9 – 10am,

Wednesdays 9 – 11.30 am,

Saturdays 10 – 11 am

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

Wednesdays 9 – 11.30am

TECH SKILLS

coaches from Norfolk County Council

offering advice about technology

Thursday 2nd July 10am – 12pm



BEACHAMWELL VILLAGE FETE
A Traditional Norfolk Village Fete
SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2026
12PM TO 5PM

FUN DOG SHOW **VINTAGE TRACTORS** **STALLS** **TOMBOLA**

BBQ **TEA & CAKES** **LICENSED BAR** **MOLLY DANCERS**

TRADITIONAL VILLAGE GAMES **BRIC A BRAC** **DOG SCURRY** **VILLAGE SHEEP**

WITH THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Aviform **Swifttham Veterinary Centre** **Flonoxen Pets** **SCURRY DOG**

THE VILLAGE GREEN, BEACHAMWELL, PE37 8BB



All Saints Church

Wretton with Stoke Ferry

Harvest festival

on Sunday 6th September

Service at 11am and

Community BBQ

12 – 2pm



Everyone Welcome

Bring your family & friends!

Call Elaine on 07770 896607 with queries

All profits to Church funds



Sunday 2nd August Trinity 9

Feltwell	St Mary's	9:15am	Service of the Word	JT
Methwold	St George's	9:30am	Holy Communion	Rev RB
Weeting	St Mary's	11am	Service of the Word	JT
Whittington	Riverside	4pm	Songs of Praise	
Wereham	St Margaret's	6pm	Evensong	CM

Sunday 9th August Trinity 10

Hockwold	St James'	9.15am	Service of the Word	MP
Methwold	St George's	9:30am	Service of the Word	DM
Wretton	All Saints	9:30am	Service of the Word	TM
West Dereham	St Andrew's	9:30am	Holy Communion	Rev PB
Boughton	All Saints	11am	Holy Communion	Rev PB
Northwold	St Andrew's	11am	Service of the Word	MP

Sunday 16th August Trinity 11

Feltwell	St Mary's	9:15am	Holy Communion	Rev KW
Methwold	St George's	9:30am	Holy Communion	Rev RB
Whittington	Christ-Church	9:30am	Breakfast Church	TM
Weeting	St Mary's	11am	Holy Communion	Rev KW
Wereham	St Margaret's	11am	Holy Communion	Rev PB
Barton Bendish	St Andrew's	5pm	Evensong	Rev RB

Sunday 23rd August Trinity 12

Hockwold	St James'	9:15am	Holy Communion	Rev NR
West Dereham	St Andrew's	9:30am	Breakfast Church	JT/MP
Boughton	All Saints	11am	Brunch Church	Rev PB
Northwold	St Andrew's	11am	Holy Communion	Rev NR

Benefice Service - Holy Communion

Sunday 30th August - Trinity 13

Whittington Christ-Church 10am The Ven Richard Harlow

For the latest Service list please click [here](#)

Midweek Services

Morning Prayer

Tuesday
Hockwold St James' 9:30am

Wednesday
Wretton/SF All Saint's 9:00am

Evening Prayer

Tuesday
Methwold St George's 5pm

Wednesday
online Compline 5:30pm
<https://bit.ly/WisseyValleyCompline>

Holy Communion

1st and 3rd Thursdays
(6th August, 13th August)
Boughton All Saint's 10am

Tuesday Prayer Group 5pm

<https://bit.ly/WVBTuesdayPrayer>

Online Church

Every Sunday at 6:30pm
<https://bit.ly/OneinChristJesus>

Saturday Services

Service of the Word

Beachamwell, St Mary's
Saturday 8th
11am
Rev PB

Breakfast Service

Barton Bendish, St Andrew's
Saturday 24th
9:30am
Rev RB

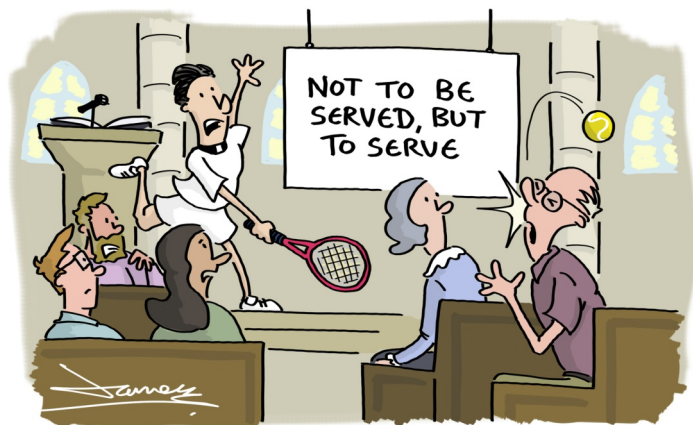
Rev PB	Rev Pippa Blackall
Rev RB	Rev Ray Burman
Rev KW	Rev Ken Waters
Rev NR	Rev Nigel Ransom

MP	Michael Poole	ALM
CM	Chris Murray	ALM

JT	Janet Tanton	LLM
DM	Diane Mantle	LLM
TM	Tony Mills	LLM

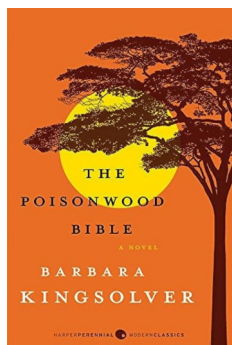
Bible Readings - August

Day	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
2nd	Genesis 32:22-31	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
9th	Genesis 37:1-4,12-28	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
16th	Genesis 45:1-15	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:21-28
23rd	Exodus 1:8 - 2:10	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20



"Sorry, Trevor - I was trying to enhance my sermon with a topical visual metaphor."

Book Suggestions for August



The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Recommended by Chris Parker

This story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959.

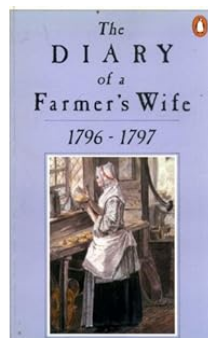
They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it - from garden seeds to Scripture - is calamitously transformed on African soil.

"The Diary of a Farmer's Wife, 1796-1797" by a lady called Anne Hughes.

Recommended by Bridget Slade

This book is about a farmer's wife in a remote farmhouse in Monmouthshire in the late eighteenth century. She notes down what happens day to day which is anything from farm work and jam making to thieves in the night and a romance between her lady's maid and the new curate.

The book really drew us in; we sat there in the semi darkness by the fire reading this insight into a life which although entirely different from ours was also so similar. Anne is very much a part of her community, she enjoys church, helping others and sharing her luck whether that's at harvest or simply passing on an old dress. Life is lived according to the seasons.





1 Barton Bendish, St Andrew's,

Linda Webster linntim@btinternet.com

2 Beachamwell, St Mary the Virgin

Peter Berendt petesout@hotmail.com

3 West Dereham, St Andrew's,

Open daily 10am - 4pm

Graeme Pressley graemepressley@live.co.uk

4 Boughton, All Saints.

churchwardenboughton@gmail.com

5 Wretham, St Margaret of Antioch

Open daily 10am - 3pm

Karen Rodgers karen_rodgers@live.co.uk

6 Wretton, All Saints with Stoke Ferry

open daily

Anita Horgan

Elaine Taylor

anita.tyler@hotmail.co.uk

etelainetaylor1@gmail.com

7 Whittington, Christ-Church

Elaine Taylor etelainetaylor1@gmail.com

8 Methwold, St George

Open every weekend

Alan Burbridge alanburbridge@btinternet.com

Paul Smith paulsmith50@msn.com

9 Northwold, St Andrew's

Open daily 9am - Dusk

Ann Howarth ann15howarth@gmail.com

10 Feltwell, St Mary the Virgin

Open daily 9am - 4pm

Christine Parker

grimshoebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

11 Hockwold cum Wilton, St James'

Sue Annear

sue.annear@gmail.com

12 Weeting, St Mary the Virgin

Tommy Seward weetingpcc@gmail.com

YOUR CHURCH CONTACTS

Weddings, Funerals, Interments
and Memorials

Benefice Administrator:

Fiona Hearn

wisseygrimshoebenefice@gmail.com

07817 821316

Baptisms/Christenings

Baptism Co-ordinators:

Tammy Wright

grimshoebaptism@gmail.com

or

Susan Parker-Smith

wvbsusan@gmail.com

for specific church contacts
please see page 15 or [click here](#)