

Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

May 2021

Volume 42

Issue 5

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Minimum Donation

Remembering HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh



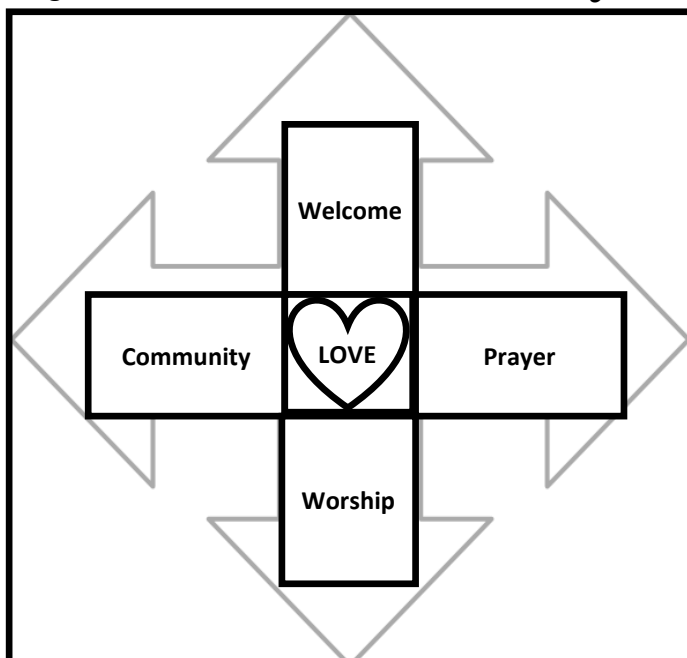
The Lady Chapel in St Mary's Church Halesworth was open from April 9th - 16th 2021 for anyone who wished to come and quietly pay their respects to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The Chapel had a large number of visitors during that week.

Blyth Valley Times is published monthly by the Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

To subscribe, with a copy delivered locally through your door - (minimum donation £12 a year); or to request a postal subscription (£27 a year), please telephone 01986 875941 or 07752 275328 or email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

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VISIT THE BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY WEBSITE:

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk
for the latest information on Services etc.

There are lots of news items on
our Facebook page too.



Find us at:
[blythvalleychurchessuffolk](https://www.facebook.com/blythvalleychurchessuffolk)

LOCAL NEWS

If you are a member of a group or organisation
and you would like to share your monthly news
or reports with the local community, please
email them to *Blyth Valley Times*
for publication in a future edition.

Email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com
www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

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Sunday Readings

25 April 4th Sunday of Easter Psalm 23 Acts 4,5-12 1 John 3,16-end John 10,11-18	16 May 7th Sunday of Easter Psalm 1 Acts 1,15-17,21-end 1 John 5,9-13 John 17,6-19
2 May 5th Sunday of Easter Psalm 22,25-end Acts 8,26-end 1 John 4,7-end John 15,1-8	23 May Day of Pentecost Psalm 104,26-36,37b Acts 2,1-21 Romans 8,22-27 John 15,26-27;16,4b-15
9 May 6th Sunday of Easter Psalm 98 Acts 10,44-end 1 John 5,1-6 John 15,9-17	30 May Trinity Sunday Psalm 29 Isaiah 6,1-8 Romans 8,12-17 John 3,1-17

BVTM Team Office

Due to the on-going Covid-19 situation, the Team Administrator is working from home,
(Tuesdays - Fridays, 9am-1pm).

The Team office in St Mary's Church is therefore currently closed.

To contact the Team Administrator, please telephone 07752 275328.

Or email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

(Please use the above BVTM office mobile number, rather than the Team office landline number during this period).

If you have an urgent enquiry, please contact the Revd Jane Held on 07771 556391.

Email: jane@janeheld.co.uk

Blyth Valley Team Ministry - May 2021 Rota

This rota may change – always check our website: www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk or phone Revd Jane or Revd Alison

Worship in the Blyth Valley in May 2021					
Year B – track 2	2nd May 5th in Easter White	9th May 6th of Easter/ Rogation White	16th May Sunday after Ascension Day White	23rd May Pentecost White	30th May Trinity Sunday White
Group 1					
Halesworth St Mary	10.00 TEAM Eucharist Alison	10.00 Eucharist Jane	10.00 BCP Holy Communion Jane	To CTBV Pentecost service	10.00 TEAM Service with Baptism Jane
Holton St Peter	To Team Service	10.00 Eucharist Malcolm W	10.00 Iona Service John H	10.30 CTBV PENTECOST SERVICE	To Team Service
Group 2					
Wenhaston St Peter	To Team Service	10.00 Eucharist Alison	10.00 Pause for Thought Alison	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Bramfield St Andrew	To Team Service	To Wenhaston or other service	10.00 Eucharist Margaret K	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Blyford All Saints	To Team Service	To other services	To other services	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Thorington St Peter	To Team Service	To other services	To other services	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Group 3					
Chediston St Mary	To Team Service	10.00 Eucharist Vic	10.00 Eucharist David	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Wissett St Andrew	To Team Service	14.30 Rogation walk from Spexhall Jane	To other services	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Spexhall St Peter	To Team Service	14.30 Rogation walk to Wissett Jane	To other services	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Linstead St Margaret	To Team Service	To other services	09.30 Mattins Malcolm H	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Group 4					
Cookley St Michael	To Team Service	To other services	09.30 Sunday Eucharist Fr Jonathan	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Heveningham St Margaret	To Team Service	10.00 Morning Worship David	To other services	To Pentecost service	To Team Service
Huntingfield St Mary	11.00 Service of Reflection and Music Jane	To other services	To other services	To CTBV Pentecost service	To Team Service
Online					
Facebook:	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 09.00		Saturday 09.30 Sunday 10.00		Monday-Sunday 21.30
ZOOM	Café Worship 10.00 Wednesdays			Sunday Eucharist St Mary's 10.00	

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Peter Rayson

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am

MAY 2021

- 2 Revd Robert Soanes HC
- 9 Julie Warren
- 16 Revd Pam Bayliss
- 23 Sue Groome
- 30 Julie Warren

All current restrictions to be observed
and face covering to be worn.

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church, Halesworth

Father Richard Ireson

E: richard1ireson@gmail.com

*Please enquire about
our Service times and details*

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

Gathered worship **is back!** (Sundays 11am)

But we are also continuing online: Services on Zoom remain available, including:

Every Sunday: Worship @11am (join from 10.30am) & 6.30pm (join from 6pm);

Tuesday lunchtimes: 30 minute worship @ 12.30pm (join from 12noon);

Every Friday: Prayer meeting @ 9.45am (join from 9.30am);

Messy Church and additional events as announced.

Sunday mornings @ **11am** specifically:

Sun 2nd May Gathered in the church building (and on Zoom);

Sun 9th May Gathered in the church building (and on Zoom);

Sun 16th May Gathered in the church building (and on Zoom);

Sun 23rd May PENTECOST: Joint Churches Together Worship **open air** at St Peter's Holton 10.30am – **no 11am service in the building** – see 'News from Churches Together' (on page 10);

Sun 30th May Gathered in the church building (and on Zoom).

All events accessed via Zoom or Youtube.

Jon Sermon: 01986 873761 jon@sermons.me.uk

Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Jo Moreira (for families and children)

jomohurc@gmail.com

Zoom Meeting ID: 776 – 044 – 1926, Passcode: 811885



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Happy Easter, Christ is Risen!

Eight of our churches rang to that great cry of acclamation on Easter Sunday, and rarely has it had so much meaning in everyday life as it has in our collective spiritual life and beliefs. Because of Covid-19, yet again all our churches had been closed until just before Easter and to re-open and welcome people into church on a lovely sunny, if perishingly cold, morning was wonderful. I felt my heart lift with joy that morning and by the end of the service I felt positively euphoric. We were back together again, worshipping God in person, collectively, albeit with the joy of Zoom and livestream to enhance it. We were celebrating together the resurrection of Jesus, he who through deep love, total selflessness and unquestioning obedience overcame the barrier of death and the loss and grief that goes with it. He died to bring us the hope, the promise of life in Christ, everlasting.

The hope of the resurrection was echoed for me in the whispers of hope that lockdown would ease safely, that we could start to live a more normal, if still restricted, life and could take time to be with those we treasure, admittedly outside. Whispers they were, rather than shouts or certainties, but the tentative evidence of change was enough. How much greater and stronger is the message of resurrection. This is what our Bishop, Bishop Martin said in his Easter message.

By Jesus' act of utter selfless love, Easter breaks down the barriers that prevent us being the people God made us to be – barriers like self-centredness, fear, hatred, mistrust, which flow from thinking we hold our destiny in our own hands – and therefore that death is the end.

We are not made to live divided and separated, each going our own way to our own fate. And we have seen during the pandemic, as people have been drawn together, a realisation, even if fleeting, that we are really all part of the same human family, and I would say, all God's children.

One of the most striking experiences throughout these times has been not just our sense of being together, but how people have reached out with selflessness and compassion for others. In our health workers and countless others we have seen selflessness and compassion rise above the anguish and suffering. Churches and community groups have organised meals and food banks, phone support networks, pastoral support and an array of other activities to care for those in need. And we have become determined to overcome other divisions exposed during this time, divisions especially about race and poverty.

Barriers between people are being broken down, and that is the vision and hope of Easter.

And not just barriers between people, but between us and God. We all carry on being human with all our limitations and shortcomings, our sinfulness, and for many of us it is only with God that we know that we are accepted, forgiven, and cherished in spite of ourselves.

A little while before he was killed, Jesus said his death was to draw all people into union with him, to restore and renew the unity and community for which God made human beings. Jesus' death and resurrection for me means the barriers that divide us from each other and from God are gone. That is the world we are called to live in, and God gives us all we need to do just that.

I decided to share that message with you all. It is in the hardest and darkest of times that we humans show the best of ourselves. We have, in so many ways, been Easter people over the long hard months since the pandemic began. Here in our beautiful Blyth Valley from Cookley to Thorington, Bramfield to Spexhall and all points in between we have shown love and compassion, generosity and care – we have laughed, as well as cried, together and across the many ways of communicating electronically. We have experienced deep sadness and pain, loneliness and anxiety and yet we have still managed to have hope for each other. Countless times in the last year when one person has been down, I have seen others “pick them up”. People have shown ingenuity and creativity in finding new ways to be kind and to solve problems, and we have prayed, daily, regularly alone and together for each other.

And so, as we face towards Pentecost – which God willing will be collective outdoor worship as Churches Together, may we reflect on the many ways in which God has been present to us in these times, the coming together we have experienced, the changes we have generated – and may even want to keep and the hope that we have demonstrated. Each of us will have our own way of dealing with the current times, wearying though it is but Christ is with us and at Pentecost we will renew our energies, recollect the way the Holy Spirit came to the people, and the Christian church began, commit ourselves afresh to our lives of care, love, service and obedience to God, and to all of humanity in all its many glorious kinds.

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BVTM ONLINE SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY at 10am

please join us for a Sunday Eucharist Service
ONLINE on either Zoom or on Facebook
Livestream on Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk

EVERY WEDNESDAY at 10am

please join us for Café Worship – a reflective
service of prayers and readings
followed by a sociable coffee chat – the Zoom
Code is advertised weekly

EVERY DAY

join us for a live streamed short morning and/or
night prayer on our Facebook page
(Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk) - Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday morning at 9am,
Saturday morning at 9.30am
and every evening at 9.30pm

Please check the website for updates:
www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

A second Easter in lockdown inevitably resulted in the celebrations being more muted than usual. Nevertheless, we have celebrated! While all the 'normal' certainties in life, that we as a culture and nation cling to have been so shaken, the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ seems even bigger!

So, it was good to take part, jointly with other churches, in a small outdoor Good Friday Witness (also streamed) and our own Easter celebrations on Zoom. The joy of the resurrection, and the resultant assurance of our place with Christ for ever is, of course, an all year round 'thing'. And we are still in the *season of Easter*. As Christians, we are 'Easter People' and our call to celebrate goes on. Our call to be witnesses to Jesus Christ and bearers of Good News to others also goes on...

In recent prayer meetings we have been increasingly aware that the 'shaking' of assumptions everyone thought were reliable (from the pandemic) must result in at least some folk who have largely ignored God, faith, spiritual as well as material life, think again. May the church (all of us) be there for such people, helping them into relationship with God!

Our cautious return to gathered worship in the building went ahead on 18th April, and will continue. That is Sunday mornings 11am – all are welcome. Sunday evenings, Tuesday lunchtimes, Friday prayer meetings and all other events continue on line only. Importantly, the Sunday morning worship also continue on Zoom.

Blessings

Jon

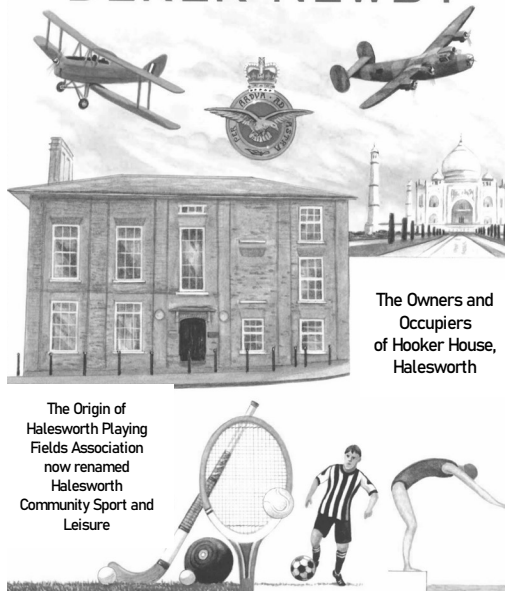


St Mary's, Halesworth Receipts Summary - March 2021

Planned Giving	£930.00
Gift Aid	£162.00
Fees	£810.00
Collections inc funerals	£930.00

Total £2832.00

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Community Award for Halesworth Volunteer Centre

Halesworth Town Council are pleased to announce that the winners of the 2020 Tamsyn Imison Community Award are Halesworth Volunteer Centre. Their nomination by Halesworth residents was for 'helping to support the frail, vulnerable, disabled and isolated residents of Halesworth and the surrounding areas.'

The detailed nomination helped the judges to decide that the Centre deserved the award in a year that saw a greater reliance on volunteer services. The calibre of nominees was so high that Chair of the Council wrote to each one to let them know they had been nominated and that their efforts had been greatly appreciated by the town. The Town Council also thanks the five judges, two Councillors and three members of the community for giving up their time to help

make this decision. There will be a small presentation of the glass trophy - Covid-19 restrictions permitting.

The nominations for this year's award will be open in the Autumn.

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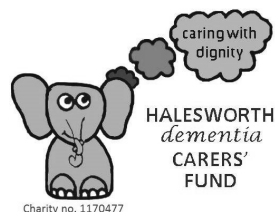


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Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund – Looking forward to our summer events

At HDCF we are planning a variety of activities that we hope can take place throughout the summer, and all activities will comply with Government regulations regarding Covid-19.

Firstly, we have arranged to have the i-Chameleon shop in the Thoroughfare 17th – 23rd June. Please come and visit us, pick up some bargains and show your support. All donations will be greatly appreciated so please phone us on 01986 875641 if you would like to donate. (Sorry, but we cannot take electrical items or clothing).

We are hoping to resume our Wednesday afternoon film shows in The Cut as soon as possible so please keep an eye on our posters for up-to-date information.

We are pleased to let you know that our singing group, hosted by Helen Hayes, is growing steadily and we hope to go live in the community some time in May (date and venue to be confirmed). This group is called Singing with Friends and has enabled people with dementia and their carers to join together on Zoom and have a lovely afternoon of singing and fun during this last lockdown. When we move the group into the community we are hoping to open this group to anybody to attend. This group will be inclusive as we believe

that, just because someone has dementia, they should not be alienated.

Finally, Danny Mitchell, a nephew of our Chair Teresa Fyfe, has offered to run a half-marathon for us in October. This will take place in Chelmsford, Essex. Anyone wishing to sponsor him, or collect sponsors, can obtain information from Jim or Teresa Fyfe on 01896 875641. All money raised will be used to benefit people with dementia and their carers in the Halesworth area.

All our future events will be advertised on our Facebook page, our website, and local publications.

Bill Ellis (Events)

And from Dave Rich –

Many thanks to the person who dropped off the Fill-a-Jar. Unfortunately we didn't the chance to thank this person or give a replacement. Every little counts and if anyone would like a jar to save their spare coins for the HDCF please let us know, or I can email a label to stick on a jar.

Contact Dave or Jackie on 01986 875444 or email us on information.hdcf@btinternet.com



The Pear Tree Centre re-opens

A vital resource centre which brings information and support closer to home for people with life-limiting illnesses and their families re-opened on Monday 12th April.

The Pear Tree Centre in Halesworth is now open on an appointment-only basis from 10am to 4pm, to anyone from north east Suffolk or south Norfolk after temporarily shutting its doors due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The support available will include advice on finance and benefits, as well as help understanding a diagnosis, coping with bereavement, family services and complementary therapies. Counselling can also be arranged for people who have lost close friends and family as a result of Covid-19.

To book an appointment or get advice over the phone, call 01986 899655 or email peartreefund@peartreecentre.co.uk. The charity is also continuing to work closely with Big C and would urge anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer and needs emotional or practical support to call 0800 0927640 or visit www.support.big-c.co.uk

Seva Newrick, Pear Tree Centre manager, said: "We are absolutely delighted that we are now in a position to safely reopen the centre and look forward to welcoming visitors again.

"We have continued to provide help and advice over the phone during the lockdown, but still feel that face-to-face contact is incredibly important. Re-opening the centre allows us to offer that personal touch once more, while

anyone who feels more comfortable accessing our support remotely will still be able to contact us by phone.

"Anyone who does come to the Centre will be asked to sanitise their hands and wear a face covering or mask. Our staff will be following all of the latest government guidance to keep everyone safe, including wearing PPE where necessary, maintaining social distancing and regularly washing their hands. We have also introduced enhanced cleaning at the centre so that anyone who needs our support can be reassured that it is safe to visit us.

"As a result of the Coronavirus outbreak, we unfortunately had to cancel all of our planned fundraising events during the last year, which means the charity has suffered a considerable loss of income. We are appealing for the public's support to help us through this difficult time by donating to us or supporting us in other ways so that we can continue to deliver vital services for the benefit of our community."

Dee's Den, the Pear Tree Fund's charity shop in Steeple End, Halesworth, also reopened on 12th April, and is open daily between 10am and 1pm.

Anyone who would like to make a donation is asked to only bring in items on Mondays and Thursdays.

To find out more about the Pear Tree Centre or to make a donation, visit www.peartreefund.org

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh

I am writing this immediately after the funeral of His Royal Highness, which, like much of the nation, I watched. A solemn but hugely personal service, designed over the years by the Duke, I was struck by how solitary and alone Her Majesty was – like so very, very many bereaved partners over this last year. Prince Philip was after all, first and foremost her deeply loved husband and companion over a lifetime (longer than mine!) and the only person who really truly knew her and could be himself with her. Deep grief and loss however, is common to all and, in a way, his funeral, like his life, was part of his loyal service to the nation. Unlike a huge and complex state funeral it was a simple family funeral, with 30 people and no communal singing. We could all empathise, relate to the family and share in the sense of loss.

We honoured the Duke with a short service of prayer on Friday 9th April on Zoom, and a solemn Service of Commemoration on Friday 16th April. We were honoured to have Councillor Alison Cackett on behalf of East Suffolk District Council and Councillor Dave Wollweber on behalf of Halesworth Town Council, as well as Councillors Annette Dunning, Anne Fleming and Rosemary Lewis. Representatives of the business and voluntary sector and local schools also attended and the Service was led by Father Ireson and the

Revd Jon Sermon as well as the Revd Jane Held. Jason Busby, on the organ, played *Crown Imperial* by William Walton; *And Did Those Feet (Jerusalem)*; *O God our Help in Ages Past*; and *Nimrod* from Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. Geoffrey Kiddy, Chair of the BVTM Team Council read Psalm 23; Alison Cackett read from Lamentations (3.22-26 31-33); Revd Jon Sermon read from Revelation 21 1-7; and Father Ireson led the prayers. The Revd Linda Berry read John Masefield's poem *Sea Fever*, in honour of the Duke's Naval Career.

Councillor Wollweber gave the address and shared his own recollection of the Duke's extraordinary commitment to the village of Aberfan and the disaster there, as well as recognising the Duke's life-long service to his Queen and country.

Whatever our own personal views (and as with any situation there will be a wide range), we can all agreed that the Duke gave above and beyond what would be expected of a husband in the service of his wife as the Head of State. A person of decided views, pithy remarks (sometimes ill-placed), many passions and interests, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he was also a committed Christian of deep faith and a deep theological understanding. May he now rest in peace.

Revd Jane Held

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VERONICA DOWNING
ASSOCIATES





News from Churches Together

It was good to do what was possible as a (more limited) Good Friday Witness. Also the shared Zoom service for Good Friday. Thanks to all who contributed.

Our big event coming up is Pentecost, falling on Sunday 23rd May this year.

Perhaps even more than usual, this year after all we've been through, celebrating together at Pentecost is extra important. The empowering work of the Holy Spirit for mission is needed all the more in a community that has been so shaken by the Covid pandemic. And perhaps more crucially, we are reminded that Jesus wants to empower His church!

So, (still subject to finalisation, Risk Assessment etc) we aim to have:

**Joint "Churches Together" open air worship
Gathered/'in person'**

(We hope to stream/Zoom as well)

@ St Peter's Holton

10.30am Sunday 23rd May

Let's celebrate Pentecost together!

Blessings

Jon



CHRISTIAN AID GROUP IN HALESWORTH & WENHASTON Christian Aid Week 10th to 16th May 2021

There will be a Christian Aid envelope house-to-house drop-off in Wenhaston this year. If you wish to donate, please would you kindly put your donation into the envelope and return it to the Post Office in Wenhaston.

As we are finding it difficult at this time to find helpers for a Christian Aid house-to-house envelope drop-off in Halesworth and surrounding villages, we ask you please to go to the Christian Aid website and give your donation online:

www.christianaid.org.uk

Thank you all very much.

C A Group Halesworth & Wenhaston



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The Community Larder

The Community Larder continues to grow. In March, 306 people used it and it is busy every time it opens. It is still opening in St Mary's Church Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays in the morning, from 10.30am - 11.30am. Our wonderful band of volunteers (we have 16 registered with us, both churchgoers and non-churchgoers) is led by an experienced team who have been with us since early days. The Larder provides a bag of fresh food and extras to go out with the Foodbank boxes on a Wednesday morning. The Hall is now alarmed (thank you to Waveney Security) and we have received drawings for a major refit of the kitchen (and already received a very generous donation and a grant towards the cost).

We will no longer receive a monthly Fare Share delivery as the free Covid Scheme has ended, but we continue to have very generous help from Morrisons, the Co-op, Laxfield Co-op, Peasenhall General Stores, Melons Fruit & Vegetables and Allen's butchers. Regular individual donors are also just stunningly generous and we have lots of one-off deliveries from various organisations locally including FreshPac and Herrco.

Drop off points at Chediston telephone box, Rosedale's and Woolnough's are also very well used and donors seem to be

equally generously supporting the Foodbank and the Larder. The shed is also alarmed and has been cleared out by Ron and Jean Goodson's daughter Sharon and family, so we have extra storage space – many thanks for their hard work.

Whilst they lasted, we issued vouchers for meat, fruit and vegetables to those in extreme need on behalf of the Town Council. We have just received a very substantial grant of vouchers to be used to shop at Morrisons or the Co-op, again for those in extreme need who meet certain criteria.

We have big plans. Once the kitchen is finished, we hope to run cookery classes and community lunches. We have just had a hen coop donated, so we hope soon to be keeping hens with some of the Larder's key users helping us. Now we are hoping for donations of fencing materials (any shed owners and farmers out there?) as well as help to put it all up.

Soon pots of potatoes and carrots will be planted up too, each pot being looked after by an individual Larder user.

If you are able to access videos online, why don't you take a look at a video recently released by the Diocese – entitled "Flourishing Congregations" and available on Youtube on the Diocesan channel and on: <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/news/diocesan-video-flourishing-congregations-launch-.php>

It covers the work of the Larder, as well as other schemes across the Diocese during lockdown.

Jane



Above: Community Larder volunteer Kingsley, with a delivery of Pampers nappies.

Below: Toby with a very generous gift of £200 of food for the Community Larder from Laxfield Co-op.





HALESWORTH COMMUNITY LARDER PROJECT

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

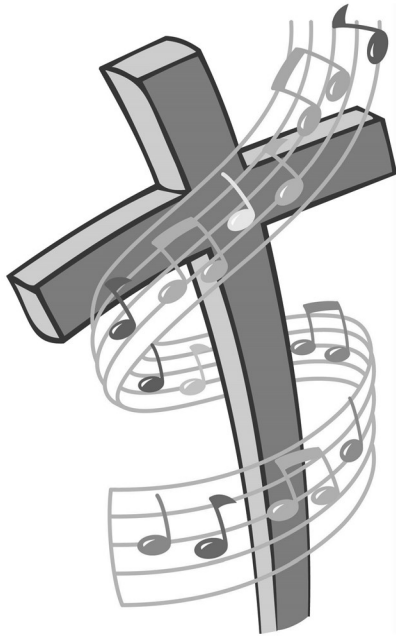
Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10.30-11.30am

Come along and you can:

1. **BRING** Food
2. **BRING & TAKE** Food
3. **TAKE** food and donate ££
4. Or just **TAKE** food if you are in need

Run by: HVC with
St Mary's Church &
BVTM supported
by donations

PLENTY OF FOOD TO SHARE



Hymn Sing

**Join with others to
sing hymns/worship
songs together by
Zoom**

Fridays 2:30 – 3:00pm

New theme each week

Hymns and songs chosen by participants

**Simply go to www.zoom.us to join the meeting using
these details:**

Meeting ID: 979 9398 9383

Passcode: 315656

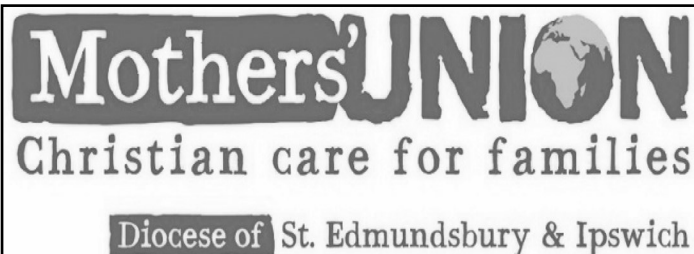
Landline dial by your location

**0203 901 7895 United Kingdom 0208 080 6591 United Kingdom
0208 080 6592 United Kingdom 0330 088 5830 United Kingdom**

**If you would like to choose a hymn, please
email: togetherwesing21@gmail.com by Thursday morning**

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich



This month we are featuring articles from
Peculiar Times! No 15.
 Please visit: www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk
 or: www.musuffolk.org.uk
 to read the full version of the
 newsletter

News from Mary Sumner House

'Connected'

This is the new Mothers' Union magazine which everyone should have received by post in early April. If you haven't received your copy please give Clare Thomas a ring on 01473 832808 (or email: clare.thomas@btinternet.com) and she will post you a copy. Enclosed with the magazine was a flyer which explains how you can opt out of other postal information from Mary Sumner House such as appeals, raffle tickets and other resources. If you do want to opt out of any of these communications please contact Clare who will update your records on the membership database. Some branches have found that selling Mothers' Union draw tickets to friends and neighbours has been a good way to raise funds for MU while it has been more difficult to hold the usual fundraising events.

Thy Kingdom Come

Mothers' Union will stream a live Thy Kingdom Come service on Friday 14th May at 2pm. You can watch it either on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion> or YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MothersUnion>

Daily Hope

The free Daily Hope phone line is still open – anyone can ring 0800 804 8044 and hear the MU midday prayers or other prayers, services and reflections.

News from our Diocese

Message from Linda

I really have appreciated all the time and effort that Branch Leaders, their committees and members have been making in supporting one another and holding our MU together, right across the diocese, in what have been amazingly difficult times. And I want to publicly thank our wonderful Trustee Board for all their guidance and support over these challenging times, and thank everyone for the contribution they have made as together we rebuild hope and confidence and re-energise the communities in which we live - to thank them for making it work and making a real difference in the lives of our communities. Zoom is here to stay!

I would be very happy to join your branch meeting on Zoom if you send me the zoom link.

Linda has moved to Westleton – she doesn't have a phone line there yet, so if you have an urgent enquiry please call Beryl Mee in the first instance.

MUe

There are some exciting new products in the MUe online shop including a lovely range of mugs, fridge magnets and notebooks with Christian messages or verses on them. We also have handmade fabric face coverings in MU fabric – only £4! If you order online please remember to include the name of our Diocese so we get 10% back. Alternatively send your orders to Clare Thomas who will post or deliver items to you. Contact Clare on 01473 832808 or clare.thomas@btinternet.com

Safeguarding

Remember that many of us will become vulnerable at times in our lives – whether through bereavement, illness or the onset of dementia. This makes people more vulnerable to abuse from carers, neighbours and family members, and that abuse can take many forms including bullying, controlling behaviour and physical abuse. Be observant, and listen well and if you are concerned about someone then talk to the Parish Safeguarding Officer in your church.

Hymn singing on Zoom!

We have a new activity for anyone who enjoys singing hymns and worship songs. See poster on page 12 for more details.

New Trustees and diocesan officers needed!

We are looking for some new faces to help run Mothers' Union in Suffolk – we really do need more people to share the work, but it is great fun and very rewarding to see new ideas coming to fruition, and you will have the opportunity to help shape what we do in Suffolk. Maybe you can use your existing talents or experience to help MU - are you the safeguarding officer for your parish, could you share that knowledge with MU? Or maybe you would like to get involved with projects in the community and build links with the refuges or prisons? Whatever your skills, experience or interests we will find you a niche! There is more information on our website (www.musuffolk.org.uk) or talk to Linda Ginn or Beryl Mee.

World Day of Prayer 2021

A final word regarding the service and collection this year. Judy Morton from the URC, who is the local Secretary and Treasurer, has sent off the money which was in the brown envelopes passed on to her from members of the local churches after the day of the Service on Friday 5th March. The final grand sum was **£378.62**, a good deal of which was Gift Aided. We think that some people will have sent their donations direct online as well. This has gone to help the work of the World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and to projects run by Christian Charities around the world. 70 orders of service were given to people, mostly women but some men, in Halesworth and surrounding villages. If we had had more copies available I'm sure we could have distributed them.

All being well, we hope to see as many women and men too as possible on **Friday 4th March 2022**. The Service will be prepared by a group from England, Wales & Northern Ireland next time and the theme will be **'I know the plans I have for you'**. Please put the date in your forward planner!

Janet Walkey

(One of the Anglican members of Halesworth World Day of Prayer Committee).

01986 872594. Email: janetwalkey@hotmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

St Andrew's Church Wissett



Book Sale

Sunday 23rd May 2021

Starting at 11am

At Corner House, Wissett

With Morning Coffee from 11am

And:

Grand Plant Sale



At Rydal Mount, Wissett

With Afternoon Tea from 1.30pm

What's On?

*St Peter's Church,
Wenhaston*

Plant Sale

Saturday 22nd May
10:30 to 12:30

In the Church Yard

Plants, Cake Stall, Raffle

Proceeds To The Church

What's On?



CAFÉ WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS – 10.00AM

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US ON ZOOM

**CONTACT Revd Jane FOR THE CODE
TO USE TO JOIN IN**

BVTimes Subscription Renewals

Our superb team of *BVTimes* distributors are currently collecting subscription money from those of you who have *BVTimes* delivered through your letterbox each month.

2021-2022 annual subscriptions (costing £12) will be valid from the May'21 issue and will expire with the April'22 issue. Those who wish to enrol in a subscription within this period, will be charged a pro-rata cost.

Since many of us now have access to online banking, subscriptions can be paid directly into the *BVTimes* bank account. If you wish to use this facility, please could you let your local distributor know and ensure you add the reference *BVTimes sub* with your payment. Many thanks to those of you who have already paid and renewed your subscription, your continued support is very much appreciated.

BVTimes bank account details:

Barclays Bank A/c: Blyth Valley Team Ministry
Account no. 13647579. Sort code: 20:53:06

Annual door-to-door delivery subscription £12.



Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group

Monday, 17th May 2021 at 7.30pm on Zoom
'Parish Registers – A Walk Through History' –
Les Mitchinson

Les Mitchinson is a professional genealogist and the Director of Education at the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Canterbury.

Before establishing a successful Family History research and education business from his home in Petersfield, Hampshire, Les spent a full career in the Royal Navy.

Now living within easy reach of the Portsmouth History Centre, Hampshire Archives and The National Archives, Kew, he finds all aspects of Family History engaging, but singles out military records as his favourite area of research.

A knowledgeable and highly entertaining speaker, who has appeared on the US version of *Who Do You Think You Are?* Les will deliver a talk titled 'Parish Registers – A Walk Through History' to the group's meeting on Monday, 17th, starting at 7.30pm.

As experienced family historians will know, parish registers have the potential to take your research back to Tudor England. This fascinating talk walks the audience through the plague, the English Civil War and much, much more. This is definitely one to get in your diary!



Stella's Hair Salon

EST 1999



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Willow @ Church House
Halesworth

The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



**The Revd
Jane Held**
Assistant Curate

Oak Cottage,
The Street, Rumburgh,
IP19 0JX
Tel: 01986 781318
Mob: 07771 556391
E: jane@janeheld.co.uk
(Off duty: Thursday
& Friday)



**The Revd
Alison Alder**
Assistant Curate

Oakhurst,
Blackheath Road
Wenhaston, IP19 9HD
Tel: 01502 478855
Mob: 07584 416277
E: alisonalder@
hotmail.co.uk
(On duty: Wednesday,
Thursday & Friday)



**The Revd
Linda Berry**
Assistant Curate

Old Post Office,
The Street
Huntingfield, IP19 0PU
Tel: 01986 798165
E: revd.linda@huntingfield.uk
(Off duty:
Thursday & Friday)

The Revd Vic Hopkins *Honorary Associate Priest*
Tel: 01986 875934
Email: csninefour@btinternet.com

The Revd David Sochon *Honorary Associate Priest*
Tel: 01986 781151
Email: davidsochon@googlemail.com

The Revd Malcolm Walkey *Honorary Associate Priest*
Tel: 01986 872594
Email: malcolmwalkey@hotmail.co.uk

The Revd Anna Wright *Honorary Associate Priest*
Tel: 01502 478411
Email: wrightsphere@gmail.com

Diana Gardiner *Reader*
Tel: 01986 784174
Email: osmg.diana@gmail.com

Team Council Contacts

Geoffrey Kiddy: *Lay Chair of Team Council*
Tel: 01986 873173. Email: mail@wissettlodge.co.uk

Pedro Cockerton: *Team Treasurer*
Tel: 01986 873431. Email: treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com

Carolyn Clarke: *Clerk to Team Council &
Team Administrator.*

Tel: 01986 875941 or 07752 275328.
Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS - FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR LIFTS

PARISH	CHURCHWARDENS	CONTACT
Blyford	Alison Cackett	01986 874442
Bramfield	Robert Gamble	01502 478682
Chediston	Graeme Williams Veronica Downing	01986 875342 01986 873184
Cookley	Jane Evers	01986 785209
Halesworth	Jason Busby John Ball	01986 873336 01986 874962
Hevening- ham	Camilla Warrillow Janet Pleasance	01986 798408 01986 798533
Holton	John Hewlett Chris Knevet	01986 875913 01986 872467
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	01986 785289
Spexhall	Fred Woods	01986 781256
Thornington	Trish & Mike Gower	01502 478267
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	01986 873173 01986 872372

Karen Wynne Evans - *Team Choir Director*
Tel: 01986 873431
Email: karen.wynne.evans@virgin.net

Jason Busby - *Organist - Halesworth, Holton and Team*
Tel: 01986 873336 Mobile: 07817 863533
Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

Blyth Valley Times

is published monthly by the **Blyth Valley Team Ministry**.

Editor: The Revd Jane Held. Tel: 01986 781318. Mob: 07771 556391. E: jane@janeheld.co.uk

Please ensure all copy is emailed to blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

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BVTimes and Team Office

St Mary's Church, Steeple End, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8LL. Tel: **07752 275328**.

BVTM: office.bvtm@gmail.com

BVTimes: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU? NEED A LISTENING EAR???

*If you or someone you know needs a prayer or
you have something on your mind or heart
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU*

If you live in Halesworth, Wissett, Spexhall, Chediston, Linstead, Walpole, Heveningham, Ubbeston, Huntingfield or Cookley: **Rev'd Jane is at the end of her phone (07771 556391) call, text or email jane@janeheld.co.uk**

If you live in Wenhamston, Thorington, Bramfield, Blyford, Holton: **Rev'd Alison is at the end of her phone (01502 478855) call, text or email alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk**

WORSHIP AND PRAYER IN THE BLYTH VALLEY

You can join in a daily service (on Facebook - Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk page) - 9am Monday - Friday (currently not on Wednesdays); 9.30am Sat/Sun; 9.30pm all week, 10am Zoom café worship

• AND/OR

You can use a service we have prepared for use at home at the same time as we are worshipping – available on www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk or by post

• AND/OR

And you can contact Jane (07771 556391) or Alison (07584416277) for a private prayer and worship service on the phone

ECUMENICAL CLERGY

The Revd Peter Rayson,
*Wenhamston Methodist
Church Minister*

38 Ashburnham Way,
Carlton Colville NR33 8SJ

Tel: 01502 560178

Email: revpeterrayson@gmail.com

Jon Sermon, URC Minister
Halesworth & Bramfield URC,
Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP

Tel: 01986 873761

Email: jon@sermons.me.uk

Father Richard Ireson
Roman Catholic Priest
St Edmund King & Martyr Roman
Catholic Church, Church Farm Lane
Halesworth IP19 8SY
Email: richard1ireson@gmail.com

TEAM LAY ELDERS

Margaret Bloomfield	01502 478502	margaret@wrush.plus.com
Jason Busby	01986 873336	jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk
Alison Cackett	01986 874442	acackett@me.com
Robert Gamble	01502 478682	rwagamble@gmail.com
Malcolm Heath	01986 785289	mlheath@aol.com
John Hewlett	01986 875913	johnfhewlett@btinternet.com
Eileen Salmon	07938 199067	
Janet Walkey	01986 872594	janetwalkey@hotmail.com

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442
acackett@me.com

Bramfield

Temporary Correspondent:

Jane Held

07771 556391

www.bramfieldandthorington.suffolk.cloud

As life very slowly creeps towards something 'more normal', this last month has been more active for St Andrew's, and the school, the pub and village life. It is, as I write this, a joy to know that we can once more enjoy good beer, good food and lovely hospitality at the Queen's Head. The village is bright with spring flowers despite the freezing cold winds and hard frosts (in April?!)

I was able to take assembly on the last day of term – again under strict Covid-secure rules – and I cannot tell you how wonderful it was to see everyone there, especially the children.

The Church, too, is opening up. A great Easter Sunday Service saw a reasonably large congregation celebrate the joy of Easter – both the resurrection and chocolate! Morning Worship on a Thursday is happening. The porch was opened daily for prayer and reflection following the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, and, if the R-Rate stays low enough locally, we hope the church can re-open daily for visits, under strict Covid-secure rules (of course).

We also have a wedding booked in later in the year. By the summer we should be back to fundraising events!

We have also had sad events - Joan Crane's funeral took place in March, led by the Revd Alison. This is part of what was said at her funeral: "To have lived all her life in one village means Joan was part of the fabric of Bramfield. Generations of children and families will have known her through her work at the school. Joan was active in many areas of village life, supporting the community, the church and of course the life of the school. She helped out at

village fetes and enjoyed going to clubs in the village hall. She also supported the fundraising for the new (and wonderful) Pear Tree Centre in Halesworth. Joan was a member of St Andrew's Church and helped out with cleaning and doing the flowers to decorate the beautiful building".

I hope by the June edition of *BVTimes* this column will be full of news. In the meantime stay safe and take care.

Eric Chenery

Eric Chenery came to Bramfield from Laxfield in 1948 with his parents and six other siblings. The family moved into Castle Farm, Eric went to Bramfield school for a few months and then on to Halesworth. He left school at 15 and worked with his father for Clydie Johnson, helping with milking cows in the morning and on the land in the afternoons with the Suffolk Punch horses.

Food was short after the war, Mr Johnson allowed the family a small field to grow potatoes, and the boys caught rabbits for the stewpot, Eric remembered the bread delivery – 40 loaves a week – 20 on Saturday and 20 on Tuesday!

When Eric married, he and his wife Shirley stayed in Bramfield for a while and then moved to Frostenden where Eric was head cowman for John Holmes, working there for almost 40 years until the herd was sold. From there he went to Sotherton, working for the Walker brothers with their milking herd.

In the 1980s, Eric had a bungalow built back in Bramfield, which he rented out for a while, before he and Shirley moved back to the village. Several years later, Shirley did not enjoy good health and Eric eventually finished work to care for her. He was well-known for helping people with their shopping. Gardening etc, any odd jobs that needed doing – call on Eric.

He passed away very suddenly from an aneurism and is sadly missed by family and friends.

Donations were received for the East Anglian Air Ambulance £140, and Suffolk Horse Society £225.

Ann Smith

Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363
www.chediston.suffolk.gov.uk

Good Friday Service

This was taken by Veronica the theme being "nails of the cross" - on arrival we were given a "nail" with the service sheet. Several of the congregation gave readings in this solemn service of reflection.

Easter Sunday

Vic took this service which was well attended. The church had been beautifully decorated, many thanks to all those who helped. The Easter Garden provided by Veronica was much admired at the rear of the church. Will played for us during the service, the highlight for me being afterwards when we congregated in the churchyard (socially distanced of course!) & were able to sing the final hymn with sounds of the organ drifting out from the church.

John Quine

It was with much sadness that we heard of the death of John Quine. He had been suffering for some time with Parkinson's Disease.

Latterly, he had resided in Beech House, which had been tough for Rosie who, for most of the time, could only see him from outside. Our thoughts and condolences go to her and his family. For many years he had been our regular and faithful organist, sometimes he would come at the weekend to practice for Sunday Worship. This for some of us was wonderful as if any of us happened to be in church at the time, either cleaning or decorating, our tasks were instantly made easier by his music. He played at the Christening of two of my grandchildren among others and also at many funerals.

Foodbank Collection Box

Waveney Foodbank and Halesworth Community Larder are still in need of supplies at this difficult time. Last Autumn we introduced a collecting box

in Chediston to try and help. The box is kept in the telephone box close to the Wissett Road junction in Chediston, so it could be part of your daily exercise regime to drop off donated goods! Or if you give us a call on 01986 875342, we could arrange collection.

The box is taken to Waveney Foodbank on a Wednesday morning and Halesworth Community Larder on a Saturday. You can specify which organisation you would prefer your donations to go to if desired. Hopefully, we will continue to make a useful contribution to this charitable and worthwhile cause and help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Best wishes. **Graeme and Ann Williams**

Children's Easter Trail – Easter Sunday, 4 April 2021

A beautifully sunny Spring morning and once again our streets and fields were filled with laughter and fun as Chediston's children enjoyed the Easter Sunday trail and games created by Wendy Burroughes.

'New Dawn' provided some delicious cakes and snacks for those who needed more than chocolate and showcased a range of plants and homegrown vegetables for sale, and Danny (New Dawn Gardening) was on hand to answer any gardening-related queries.

Thank you so much to Wendy and family (including Peter who was running back and forth directing families to the starting point) and to the Chediston Charity for providing chocolate eggs to reward our exhausted but happy children at the end!



Chediston Community Vegetable Garden

I am thrilled to be able to tell you all about the new Chediston community garden! Jo Wareham is converting some of Herne Hill's land, on the edge of the

village into a community vegetable garden. Herne Hill is farmed entirely organically and the community vegetable garden will also be an organic garden.

The aim of the garden is to provide somewhere villagers can share in the development of the garden and growing and care of the fruit and vegetables and will then be able to benefit from harvesting and eating the food they have helped to grow.

Everyone can join in, have fun and benefit from our garden – from toddlers to our eldest community members.

Huge thanks to Jo for coming up with this fantastic idea, allowing the use of her land, and managing what we hope will be a great project for our community!

How can you help?

Jo has purchased plenty of seeds (organic of course) following input from some of the villagers.

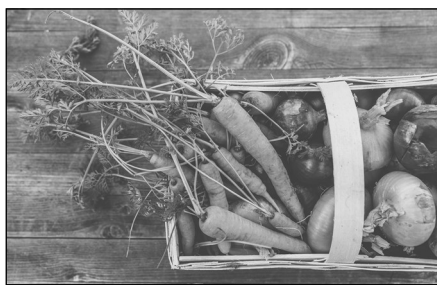
Perhaps you, your children or grandchildren would like to start off some seeds on your windowsill ready for planting once they are sufficiently grown (organic compost and pots will be provided).

Call Jo for some seeds and pots.

To contact Jo - Email:

joanna@hernehillfarm.co.uk

Phone: 07711 066727



The Chediston Community Garden will be on the field next to the recreation ground, on the village side of the river, sometimes referred to as Bishop's field.

Please note that the 'Chediston Community Garden' is on privately owned land.

All gardeners are welcome, but no dogs are allowed and there is no access for dog walking. Please help us to keep this project running by leaving your dogs at home.

Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen".



Thank you to everyone who was involved with worship/flowers/cleaning /music / drama/and joining us to celebrate the risen saviour. For the second year, Holy Week was interrupted by Covid restrictions but that didn't stop us live streaming on Facebook and Zoom. For me, Good Friday's Tenebrae Service was beautiful, peaceful, reflective (cold in St Mary's) and although only four of us in Church, the service came together wonderfully. We send blessings and hold in our prayers Anne-Marie Marsh, an ordinand from Ridley Hall College Cambridge, who joined us on placement with us both virtually and in person during Holy Week. Anne-Marie finished her week with us by reading night prayer live on Facebook on Eatser Sunday. ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED ALLELUIA!

"God of our lives, we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip, for his love of our country, and for his devotion to duty. We entrust him now to your mercy, through our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen." The Lady Chapel in St. Mary's was beautifully presented as a memorial, quiet area for prayer and to light a candle in memory of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The flag has been flying at half mast and on Friday 16th April at 6pm the Town came to remember and say prayers for HRH at a special service which the Revd Jane Held organised.



"We are here today in St George's Chapel to commit into the hands of God the soul of his servant Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. With grateful hearts, we remember the many ways in which his long life has been a blessing to us. We have been inspired by his unwavering loyalty to our Queen, by his service to the Nation and the Commonwealth, by his courage, fortitude and faith. Our lives have been enriched through the challenges that he has set us, the encouragement that he has given us, his kindness, humour and humanity. We therefore pray that God will give us grace to follow his example, and that, with our brother Philip, at the last, we shall know the joys of life eternal." The funeral service from St. George's Chapel I am sure will be full of music, prayer and praise. I have just seen the Order of Service and taken from the end, Luke Bond, Assistant Director of Music, St George's Chapel, will play Prelude and Fugue in C minor BWV 546 Johann Sebastian Bach. If anyone would like a printed copy of the Order of Service, do let me know and I will drop one off to you. May Prince Philip rest in peace and rise in glory.

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday 27th May at 7pm. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, the meeting will be via Zoom only. If you wish to attend please let me (Jason Busby 873336) know and I will ensure you receive the log in codes/link. If you have anything for the agenda or wish to say also please let me know. Full minutes will be available as soon as possible after the meeting.

Church of England
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Waveney & Blyth Deanery

The Blyth Valley Team Ministry
• All Saints, Blyford • St. Andrew, Bramfield • St. Mary, Chediston • St. Mary, Halesworth
• St. Peter, Holton • St. Margaret of Antioch, Linstead • St. Peter, Sparsholt
• St. Peter, Thorington • St. Mary, Walpole • St. Peter, Wenhaston • St. Andrew, Wissett
and in alliance with Huntingfield, Hevingingham with Ubbeston and Cockley

Parish of
St. Mary's Halesworth (insert Parish name)

NOTICE OF
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of parishioners to be held
at **Via ZOOM**
on **Thursday 27th May 2021** at **7pm**
for the election of persons to serve on the Parochial Church Council and for the election of Sidespersons.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, a full report will be given on the life of the parish including its financial affairs in accordance with the Synodical Government Measure, 1969. The Church Electoral Roll will also be presented.

Signed
Rev Jane Held
Rev Jane Held, Assistant Curate Date.....
Qualification to vote is by membership of the Church Electoral Roll.

Form C Blyth March 2021 (2/15/21)

Gwen will not thank me for this, however. Life at St Mary's hasn't been the same without this pair keeping us in order.



Gwen has broken her arm after a fall, as my *Church Mum*, Gwen, we pray for a speedy recovery; too many of us depend on you and need you fighting fit.

Jesus says, 'Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened' Jesus says, 'Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden. I will give you rest' Jesus says, 'Heal the sick, feed the hungry, free the oppressed, watch and pray'. xx

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 50/50 CLUB

50/50 prizewinners for April 2021 were as follows: 1st prize - Sarah Busby; 2nd prize - M Morton; 3rd prize - Jason Busby.

HALESWORTH WI

Halesworth WI is looking forward to meetings resuming mid-summer when restrictions allow, in the meantime members are keeping in touch in numerous ways, such as telephone calls, socially-distanced walks with take-away hot drinks and Pat Miller's popular book exchange.

Our WI comes under the Suffolk East Federation whose centenary was in 2019, in celebration the Federation donated a tree to each of its WIs to be planted in their own locality, so on our behalf, President Mrs Molly Page presented a silver birch tree to the Pear Tree Centre in Halesworth, we look forward to seeing it becoming established and growing strong in their gardens. **BP**

Holton

Temporary Correspondent

John Hewlett 01986 875913

johnfhewlett@btinternet.com



Worship

At last we are back worshipping together! A big thank you to all our clergy and others who helped to make Easter Day such a joyful occasion in church. At the time of writing we have had two Eucharist services in St Peter's, and expect an Iona service on Sunday. And in May we expect to continue with two services in church, and one joint Team service on the paddock – see pages 3 & 10 for details.

Regrettably we still can't sing, so no Easter rejoicing in music; but when we are allowed to sing in church together, please make sure the worship leaders know what you want to sing, and we can together make the best joyful noise ever!

(I hear on the grapevine that some members of the Team Choir are practising for St Mary's on 2nd May, so come and listen then.)



Homemade Marmalade

I have once again made plenty of Seville Orange Marmalade, far more than we, plus our son Simon and his wife Jo can possibly consume! Our daughters and grandchildren have not acquired the taste for it thus far!

I have had a few requests so far this year. I have filled more 1lb jars as they were the most popular last year, though I do have some 12oz and a few 8oz. If anyone in Holton or around the Team would like to buy some – 1lb @ £2, 12oz @ £1.50, 8oz @ £1. You can of course donate more if you would like to. The marmalade does have lemons in as well as Seville oranges and does keep well.

All the money raised will go to the Treasurer to help with St Peter's accounts in these difficult times. We are still not sure when we will be able to hold any fund-raising events when such items as preserves can be sold.

If you are not able to collect your marmalade I can deliver. Orders to Janet Walkey, 01986 872594, email: janetwalkey@hotmail.com

Pop Up Garden Sale

John and Jill Hewlett plan to hold a Pop Up Garden Sale at West Lodge after 17th May, on a dry day at short notice, with coffee and cake optional, Covid rules (and weather) permitting. Please watch your email for a notice; all monies will go into St Peter's funds to help replace other fund-raising.

The Weather Forecast

We were taught at school "April brings the sweet spring showers", and by Michael Flanders and Donald Swann that these go "On and on for hours and hours". But not this year so far. We have already watered pots outside, and my sister in Yorkshire is already topping up six water butts with tap water. So some rain would help gardeners and gardens which need it. Please.

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
sally.clarke@live.com

St Mary the Virgin Huntingfield

As we slowly emerge from lockdown it is with a big smile on my face that I can bring you a number of dates for your calendar!

The first weekend in May we are planning our official 'Re-opening' of the church starting with a 'Clear-up the Churchyard day' on Saturday 1st May, commencing at 10am. Please come and join us and help make a difference. An hour or more of your time will go a long way, we look forward to seeing old and new faces. Don't forget your gardening gloves, trowels, shears etc! Light refreshments will be provided.

Sunday 2nd May

A service @ 11am in the church of 'Quiet reflection and music' All welcome. (Please adhere to social distancing rules, face masks and sit in family bubbles.)

The church will then hold their regular monthly services, dates to be published. The APCM will take place on Thurs May 20th @ 6.30pm in the church.

Sunday 27th June A service of Thanksgiving with HYMNS! (time to be advised).

Saturday 10th July: The PCC will be hosting an afternoon of 'Tea and Cake' in the churchyard (inside if weather is bad) with a tabletop sale. If anyone is interested in reserving a table, please email: sally.clarke@live.com

More details to follow.

Saturday 11th September: Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle ride. Once again, we will be part of this great fund-raising activity for our beautiful churches and finally...

Saturday 18th September we will be hosting 'A Harvest Supper' in The Hub, Huntingfield and welcoming our new Team Rector, Dominic Doble. More details to follow.

So, dust off your calendars and start entering the dates, we really can't wait to see you all!

Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

THIS WAS AN EASTER UNLIKE ANY other. We gave Thanks that we have survived. We give thanks that we are returning to normal; but that begs the question what is normal? I wonder for instance if those ubiquitous little glass sentry boxes will ever disappear from shops. Will we ever feel comfortable without masks, or will we feel just a little bit naked, underdressed? No, I don't think things will ever be quite the same again.

Christmas celebrates birth. Easter celebrates rebirth. A new start. Not a Brave New World, but a chastened, more sober, more serious old one.

We can no longer take for granted the company of family and friends; but we



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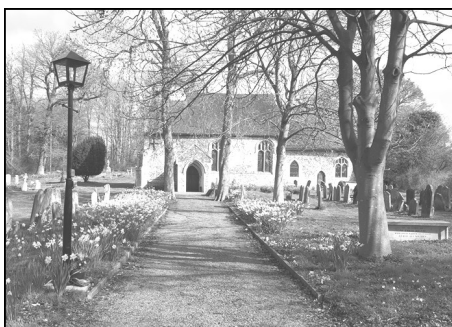
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realise how precious they are to us as never before. We can no longer take for granted our communities; but we realise how important our neighbours are for our mutual survival. We now realise with a singular clarity of vision, that these are gifts, gifts to be cherished. We have all lost people we knew and loved but by God's grace we have survived and as at the first Easter, Mankind was given a fresh start, so have we been given a fresh start. Let us be thankful for that and be grateful.

ALTHOUGH THE CHURCH BUILDING has not had much in the way of the warmth of human company, the same cannot be said for the churchyard. Thanks to Benny Fenton and his team, it looks magnificent.



IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT WE report the death of Roger Wilkinson. Since their arrival in Linstead both Roger and Vicky have been heavily involved in the life of the village. Roger served as Churchwarden for 10 years, only standing down last year. We send our deepest sympathy to Vicky and their family. He will be deeply missed by all of us.

GETTING BACK TO NORMAL HAS TO be our priority. The first thing is to hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. We need (desperately) more people to assist on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) which sounds terribly grand and time consuming, but really isn't. We meet around four times a year to organise the running of the church. Currently, I am the only churchwarden

(we need two), but I am also the PCC Treasurer, PCC Secretary, Team Council Representative, oh, and also the Lay Elder. The situation is at best ludicrous, at worst, downright unhealthy. On its own, each job is modest in terms of time commitment. Put altogether, well, I am rather keen to get my life back! All of which means I need help.

So please, please, come to the APCM and support the church, the community (and me).

SERVICES IN MAY COMPRISE Matins on Sunday 16th May at 9.30am.

ROTAS FOR MAY

DATE: FLOWERS & CLEANING

2nd	No Service
9th	No Service
16th	Mrs P Keable & Mr D Keable
23rd	No Service
30th	No Service

Spexhall

Correspondent Janet Sochon

<http://spexhall.onesuffolk.net/Home/>

After a couple of months forced silence (there has been nothing about which to report) it is a pleasure to be able to burst back into print with news of a forthcoming event. On Rogation Sunday 9th May, the traditional Rogation walk over the fields and far away (well, not too far!) will take place – this year from Spexhall to Wissett. Everybody is welcome to join in the walk and the usual warm welcome at journey's end. A reminder of the departure time (2.30pm) will be detailed on the church noticeboard.

After looking at the notice it will be more than rewarding to walk round the churchyard which is a joy to the eye with its magnificent display of celandines, violets, daffodils and primroses. The primroses, in particular, are in profusion around the newly refurbished war memorial. After the cold and wet of the earlier part of the year, and the misery and isolation during the lockdown it is almost as if we are being reminded of the beauty and majesty of the natural world and the hope given by Christ at Easter.

Discussions about the re-opening of St Peter's Spexhall are ongoing and announcements will be forthcoming as soon as decisions are made.

Thorington

Correspondent Trish Gower
01502 478267

Wenhaston

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

We, at Wenhaston, join with the whole country and Commonwealth in mourning HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and send our deepest sympathy and condolences to HM The Queen. He will be sorely missed and may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

It was so lovely to be in church for our Easter Sunday Service after so long away. We had a goodly number attending and Alison presided. Each member of the congregation received an Easter Egg and the porch was beautifully decorated. Sadly no singing but an uplifting service none-the-less.

The main news is that we hope to have a Plant Sale in the Church Yard on Saturday 22nd May from 10.30am to 12.30pm. We have been unable to do any fundraising since the lockdown so hope to make a decent amount for church funds. We should be most grateful for any plants, cakes for the stall or raffle prizes. See the advertisement on page 14 of this issue for the Plant Sale.

In May we join St Mary's on 2nd, have a Eucharist on 9th and Pause for Thought on 16th, both in Wenhaston, a joint Pentecost service on 23rd and a further Team Service at Halesworth on 30th, all at 10am. For more details, please see the rota on page 3.

We hope that all will be well and that we can resume many of our activities over the Summer, and pray that there is not a resurgence of the virus. I hope that you enjoy the merry month of May.

WENHASTON WALKS

On Tuesday 4th May a walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. It is hoped that a walk will be arranged for Tuesday 18th May. Details will be conveyed by email once known.

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will be held at
Linstead Village Hall
on
TUESDAY 25th MAY 2021
at
7.30pm

Wissett

Correspondent Nick Evans

01986 872372

nickandmaggie@btinternet.com

We have so far enjoyed three very different services in April, but it is still hard to grow accustomed to wearing masks and not singing, and we miss chatting and catching up before and after.

The Revd Anna Wright was welcomed back to Wissett, after several years, to lead the Stations of the Cross. The service was wide-ranging, with recordings of several numbers from The Messiah, but everyone's concentration was held to the end by Anna's thoughtful planning. The Revd David Sochon now regularly comes down to us from the uplands of Spexhall, and has adapted to the congestion in our tiny vestry, which temporarily houses lots of the loose stuff from around the church that people must not touch. His Easter celebration amongst masses of flowers was inspiring. Then the Sunday after Easter was not at all 'Low' because the Revd Vic Hopkins happily returned, also after a long interval, for a rare reading of 1662 Mattins. The BCP is not uncontroversial in Wissett, but its sonorous language seemed especially

memorable in the coincidental commemoration of the life of the Duke of Edinburgh. After the service, but legally, we said a slightly formal farewell, with gifts, to the Long family, who are moving to Norfolk; their various contributions to church life over many years will be missed. We hope that in time we will hear what it is really like beyond the Waveney.

Five Sundays in May, three Team Services, and just one liturgical event for us: the traditional **Rogation Walk through the crops, this year at 2.30pm on 9th May, from Spexhall Church to Wissett.** We cannot have the normal huge tea in the village hall, but hope to arrange something like a safe picnic in the churchyard.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is at 7pm on 12th May. It must be conducted on Zoom, to which the PCC is becoming almost adept; Geoffrey and I will be happy to forward the links to everyone who would like to 'attend'.

Our first big fund-raising event for a long time is on **Whitsunday 23rd May** – the resumption of the **Plant Sale**, this time at **Rydal Mount**, combined with a **Book Sale at Corner House.** All in all, with The Plough open again.

A GREAT DAY OUT IN WISSETT.

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A little bit of history

"Music is the only language in which you cannot say a mean or sarcastic thing." So said John Erskine (1879-1951), an American educator and author, pianist and composer. What a thought-provoking statement – and, is it true? Either way, the church organ, ideally suited to accompany human voices, is backdrop to and encompasses services of worship in many churches, not least St Mary's.

The organ is an old instrument dating from the time of Ctesibius (285-222 BC), a Greek inventor and mathematician, who invented the water organ played during races and games throughout the ancient Greek and Roman world. Traditionally attributed to Pope Vitalian (657-672), the first introduction of organ music into the mass occurred in the C7, although it was the early mediaeval period before it spread from the Byzantine Empire to Western Europe where it gradually assumed a place in the liturgy of the Catholic Church. In music, the organ is a keyboard instrument of one or more pipe divisions or other means for producing tones, each played with its own keyboard, played either with the hands on a keyboard or with the feet using pedals. The pipes made from wood or metal, produce sound when air under pressure is directed through them; as one pipe produces a single pitch, multiple pipes are necessary to accommodate the musical scale.

Roy Tricker in his booklet, *A Century of Change in a Suffolk Church: Re-Ordering at St Mary's Church, Halesworth, in the 19th Century**, draws from notes made by David Elisha Davy (1769-1851), a Suffolk antiquary and collector, who first visited St Mary's on 15 May 1806 and again in 1830 making careful notes about what he saw. Davy described the "handsome organ" in the gallery at the west end of the nave and Tricker writes:

"... a rarity and a luxury in a parish church – in fact at that time it was probably one of less than 20 in our Suffolk churches. *The Norwich Mercury* had announced that on 17th June 1785, the organ "lately erected" in the church would be opened with a concert consisting of an organ concerto and one on the Hautbois, under the direction of a Mr Beckwith. It

seems that this instrument must have had a short life because the *Norfolk Chronicle* reported that on 30th June 1803, the organ at Halesworth was again "opened" by Master John Parnell, organist of St George Colegate, Norwich. *The Ipswich Journal* for 6th June 1803 contained an advertisement for this function, the programme for which was to include items from *Messiah* and *Samson*. It is thought that the 1803 instrument was built by William Gray of London."

In July 1889, following a resolution by a Church Council, a rarity in those days and appointed by the new Rector, Reverend Abbot Roland Upcher, the church was closed again for further restoration at a total cost (including a new organ) of some £1900.

Again Tricker writes:

"The old organ was dismantled and the western gallery was taken down ... A new organ, by Hill, Norman & Beard, was placed (at a cost of £500) in the north chapel and the area behind it made into a choir vestry, separated from the north aisle by a carved wooden screen. The instrument then comprised eight speaking stops on the Great Organ, nine on the Swell and two on the Pedal Organ. Provision was made for the addition of a Choir Organ, when funds allowed. The grand Re-Opening took place on 16th January 1890, at 3pm, in the presence of the Bishop of Norwich. Professor H. R. Rose of the Royal Academy of Music presided at the new organ and demonstrated its versatility at the end of the service with J. S. Bach's *Toccata in F major*. A further service took place in the evening, at which Archdeacon Woolley preached and the congregation were treated to an organ recital at its conclusion.

In 1983/4 the instrument received its choir organ, adding a third manual, six more speaking stops and increasing its versatility, through the generosity of Mrs Helen Warwick and dedicated to her parents Robert and Hannah Burleigh. The Burleighs had taken over the brewing and malting business of Patrick Stead in the mid-C19. In 1986 a renovation of the organ was carried out by W & A Boggis of Diss, a firm of organ builders and restorers still in business since 1932.

Whilst Johann Sebastian Bach said:

"There is nothing to playing the organ. You only have to hit the right notes at the right time and the instrument plays itself."

and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart said:

"To my eyes and ears the organ will ever be the King of Instruments."

George W St evens starts his poem, *The Organist*:

"I wonder how the organist, Can do so many things;
He's getting ready long before The choir stands up and sings;
He's pressing buttons, pushing stops, He's pulling here and there,
And testing all the working parts While listening to the prayer."

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Jenny Janes

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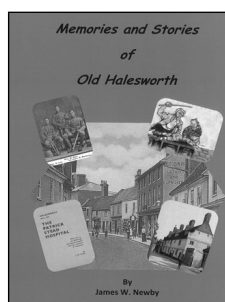
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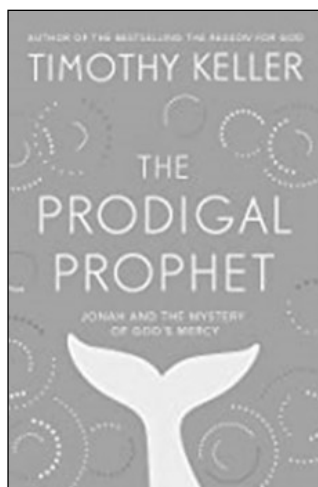
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“You had just one job...”



If you spend any time on social media you've probably been amused at one time or another by posts headed "People who had just one job..." which picture spectacular "fails" such as the road sign painter who painted SOTP at the junction.

Jonah had just one job: to go to Nineveh and proclaim its destruction in 40 days, so he did exactly the opposite, and we all know what happened next! Or do we? Have we missed the point too?

Timothy Keller has preached a series of sermons through the whole book of Jonah three times over a period of 20 years, in different locations, under different circumstances, to very different audiences, yet, he says, the text of Jonah was more than up to the task of powerfully addressing them all, and for some of them in a life changing way. More recently he has combined the insights from all three series into this book: *The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the mystery of God's Mercy*



The Assyrians are not the only sinners in this story, Jonah is a Pharisaical believer, keener on his own nation's specialness than on the God who made it so, sure that his mission was pointless and that he knew better, a way we often lead our lives too.

The book of Jonah is short but packed full of incident and powerful lessons, many of which I had never noticed until I read this very interesting, and, yes, enjoyable book.

Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish

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in May**



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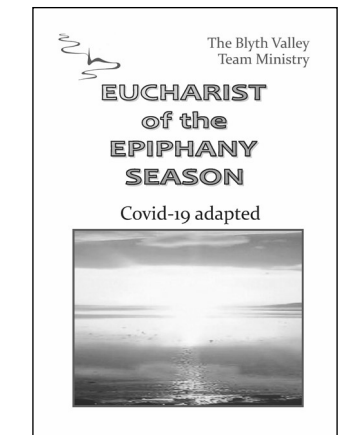
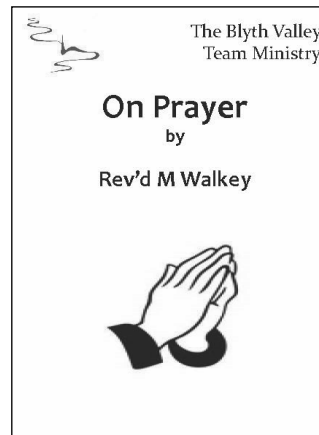
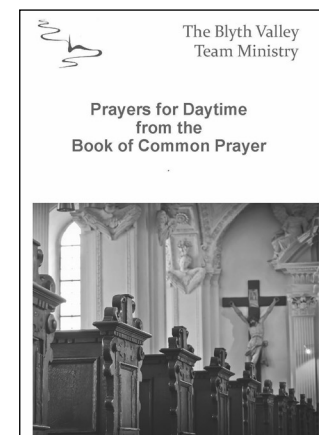
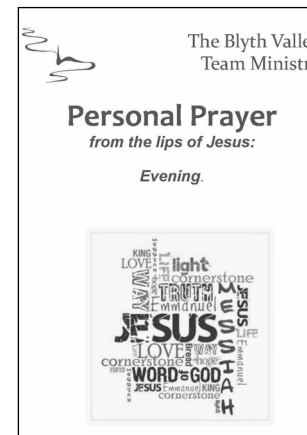
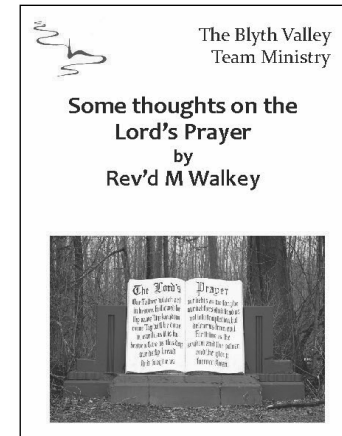
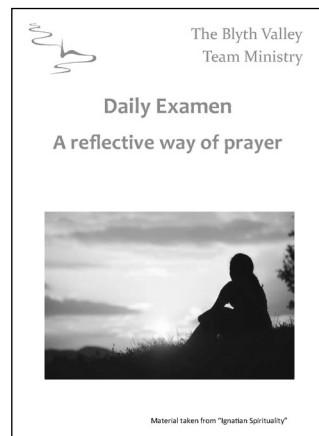
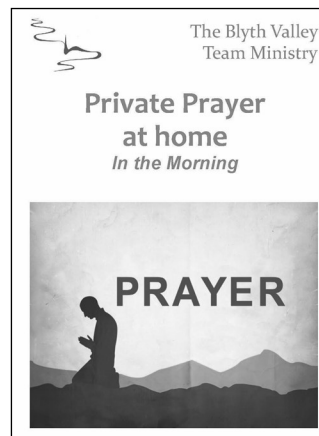
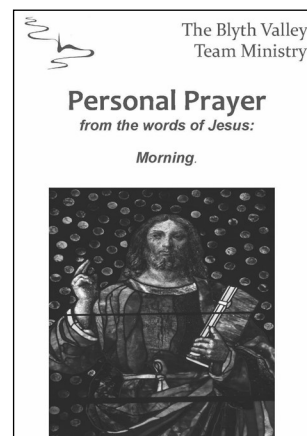
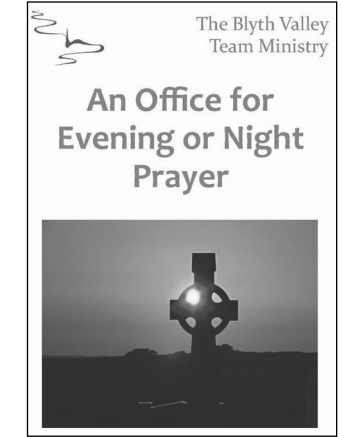
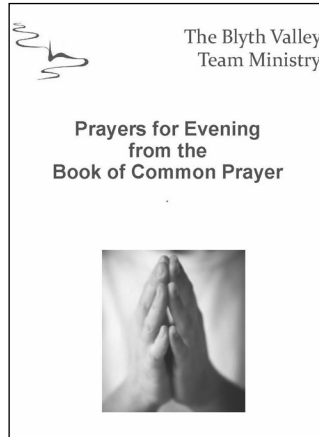
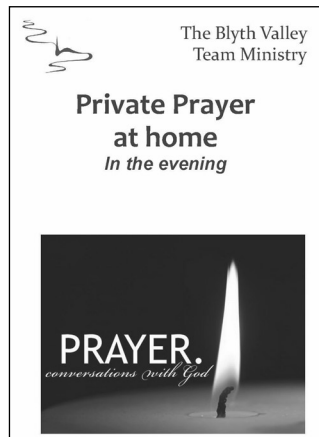
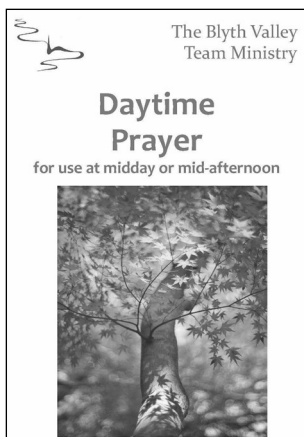
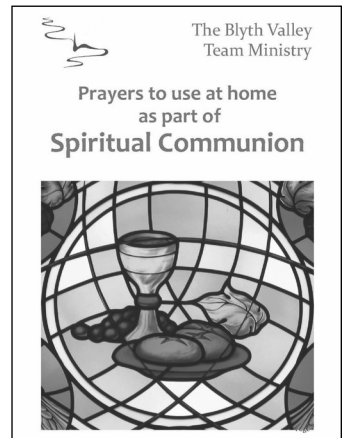
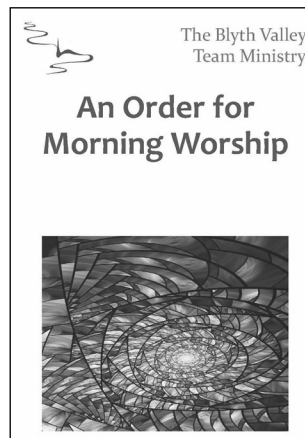
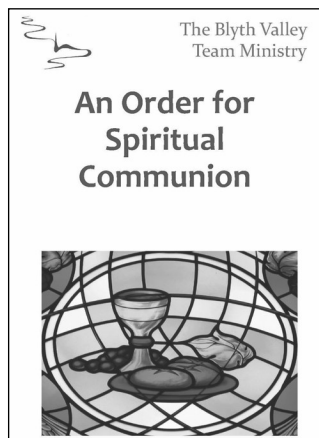
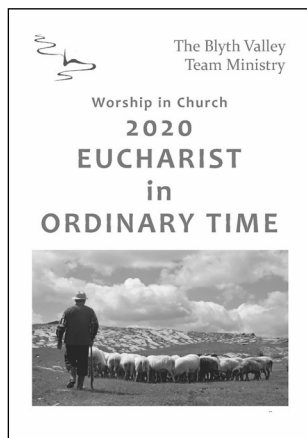


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Prayer

in the Blyth Valley Cluster of Churches

Every day we pray for: All those on our Team prayer list, the world, the church, and those who are in distress, trouble, sickness, or who have died.

We also pray daily:

Monday	The NHS, associated professionals, and all the staff involved	Social Care, residential and home care, carers	All those involved in funeral services
Tuesday	Local businesses, our shops, supermarkets, pharmacies and for our economy	People working in utilities, connectivity services and bin collection, road maintenance etc	Armed forces, police, fire service and first responders, prison services and social workers
Wednesday	Our teachers, in schools, universities, and for those in research and for those providing ways to educate, engage and entertain children	Our children and young people whose lives have changed and whose futures look different	All families, apart or together, for all those laid off, made redundant, furloughed or otherwise not able to work
Thursday	Food producers, farmers, food chain workers, delivery drivers,	Staff in supermarkets, shops and those who in creative ways keep us fed, including pubs and restaurants	The foodbank, and the fresh food voucher scheme
Friday	Volunteer organisations and community groups	Our local groups, and organisations managing our responses to caring for and supporting our communities to keep us safe	Our neighbours and friends
Saturday	County, District, Town and Parish Councils, and the County Resilience Group	All local government and public sector staff	Our Town and our villages
Sunday	Ourselves and our families	Our Ministry Team, Elders, Churchwardens and parishes	Our Diocese, our Bishops, Archdeacons and Rural Dean

LIFE EVENTS

**FROM THE
REGISTERS
FUNERALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES/
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APRIL 2021

Sheila Jeanette Gawthrop at Seven Hills Crematorium
Peter Geoffrey Larner at Blyford
John Webster Quine at Halesworth
Jacqueline Moulton at Huntingfield

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FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

During Lockdown, please do not make unnecessary journeys, stay at home and stay safe, but for future reference, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm, donations for the Foodbank can be left at Woolnough's Funeral Service's 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.



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 Volunteer Centre

01986 875600

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

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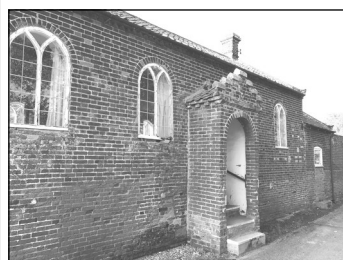
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