



# Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

August 2023

Volume 44

Issue 8

£1.00

(where sold)

## LADY MAISERY ENTERTAIN



On Saturday 15th July, Lady Maisery entertained an audience of over 170 in St Mary's Church Halesworth with glorious music, uplifting harmonies and thought-provoking anecdotes about the source of their songs.

The acoustics of the church and the atmospheric lighting, made it a wonderful evening and one which we hope to repeat with other artists.

Lady Maisery themselves may be coming back with their winter show "Awake Arise" in December 2024.

Watch this space!



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

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**please telephone 01986 875941 or 07752 275328**

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**[www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk)**

## AUGUST 2023 LECTIONARY

These selections are for Holy Communion (Common Worship) continuous.

Epistle and Gospel for Traditional Communion (Book of Common Prayer) may be found in the book itself.

These and others may be found at:

<https://almanac.oremus.org/>

or in printed copies of the Revised Common Lectionary.

### Sunday 6th – Transfiguration (White)

Daniel 7: 9 – 10, 13 – 14 (NRSV)

Luke 9: 28 – 36 (NRSV)

### Sunday 13th – Tenth After (Green)

Genesis 37: 1 – 4, 12 – 28 (NRSV)

Matthew 14: 22 – 33 (NRSV)

### Sunday 20th – Eleventh After (Green)

Genesis 45: 1 – 15 (NRSV)

Matthew 15: 10 – 28 (NRSV)

### Sunday 27th – Twelfth After (Green)

Exodus 1: 8 – 2: 10 (NRSV)

Matthew 16: 13 – 20 (NRSV)

HALESWORTH

**COMMUNITY  
LARDER** PROJECT

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

**Mondays, Wednesdays and  
Saturdays 10.30-11.30am**

### BVTimes Renewals 2023-24

Could any BVTimes subscribers who have not yet paid their 2023-24 renewal fee, please do so as soon as possible.

Payment can be made to your delivery person or to the BVTM office in St Mary's Halesworth. (Office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am - 1pm)

Payments can also be made into the BVTimes Barclays Bank account.

A/c: Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

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## LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN JULY

### BAPTISMS

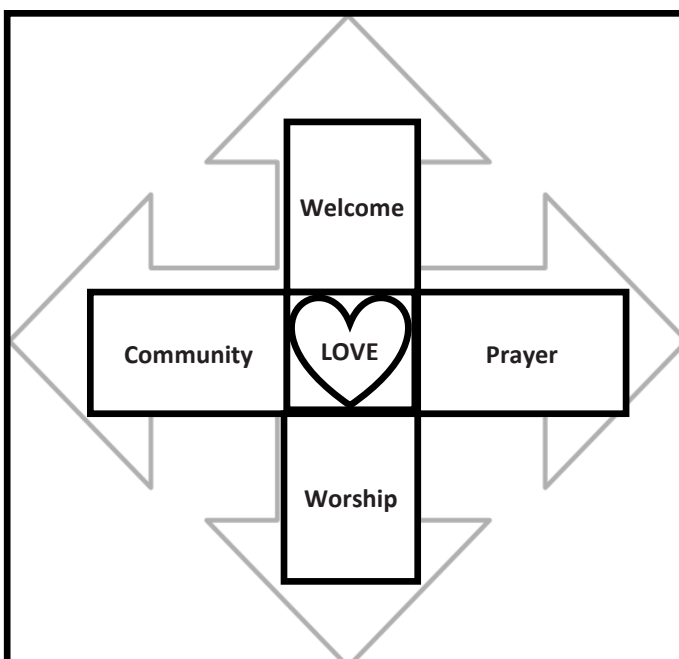
Dominic Staff. Lucas Marsh-Pettafor. Alfie Jackson

### WEDDINGS

Dean Sutcliffe and Carole Garner at Holton  
Alastair Spindler and Michelle Gianadda at Wenhaston

### FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

Daniel Clark at Bramfield  
John Ingate at Linstead  
Nicola Hamilton-McGinty at Halesworth  
Patricia Creek at Blyford  
John & Eileen Quinn at Wenhaston



Worship in the Blyth Valley in August 2023				
CW – Year A	6th <i>White</i> Transfiguration	13th <i>Green</i>	20th <i>Green</i>	27th <i>Green</i>
Halesworth St Mary*	8am Traditional Communion Dominic  10am TEAM Holy Communion  6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic  10am Traditional Communion Vic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic  10am Holy Communion Alison  6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic  10am Iona Worship Jason  6pm Evensong Dominic
St Peter Group				
Holton St Peter		6pm Choral Evensong Dominic	10am Iona Worship Linda	10am Holy Communion Alison
Wenhaston St Peter		10.30am Morning Prayer in the Methodist Chapel Alison A	10am Holy Communion Dominic	10am Pause for Thought Diana
Bramfield St Andrew*		10am Holy Communion Linda		
Blyford All Saints				
Thorington St Peter				
St Andrew Group				
Wissett St Andrew		10am Holy Communion Gini	10am Morning Prayer Diana	10am Breakfast Church Geoffrey
Chediston St Mary		10am Morning Prayer Alison C		10am Holy Communion Vic
Spexhall St Peter			10am Holy Communion David	
Linstead St Margaret		10am Matins Malcolm		10am Holy Communion Linda
St Michael Group				
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Jonathan	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Holy Communion Dominic		
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Holy Communion Dominic
Walpole St Mary				10am Morning Prayer David

**\*Additional Regular Services**

Daily 8am Morning Prayer and Daily 6pm Evening Prayer in St Mary's Church Halesworth and on Facebook.

Tuesday 10am Weekly Café Church on Zoom.

Wednesday 10am Weekly Holy Communion in St Mary's Church, Halesworth.

Thursday 9.30am Weekly Morning Prayer in St Andrew's Church, Bramfield.

Compline on Facebook: 9.30pm Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (search blythvalleychurchessuffolk).

**Community services:**

Beech House monthly. Highfield two per month.

**Home groups**

Mondays led by the Revd David Sochon. Wednesdays led by the Revd Linda Berry.

## Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

**AUGUST 2023**

6th Julie Warren

13th The Revd Leslie Richards  
United service at Wenhaston  
Methodist Church

20th The Revd Robert Soanes

27th The Revd Iain McKillop

**ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am**  
*(unless stated otherwise)*

**ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE**

## St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,  
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth

**Father Christopher Smith**

Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

*Please enquire about our Service times and details*



## Morning and Evening Prayer

with the Revd Dominic Doble,

from Tuesdays to Saturdays

(Live streamed and later audio on Dominic's  
YouTube channel).

On Mondays with the Revd Gini Williams  
From

**St Mary's Church, Halesworth**

In person, or join via:

8am Morning Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092

Passcode - 607673

6pm Evening Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304

Passcode - 825686

## Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

**SERVICES IN AUGUST**

1st to 4th	Children's Holiday Club
Sunday 6th	11am Gathered Worship "A Thanksgiving" (with children) (Jo Moreira)
Friday 11th	9.20am & 10am Prayer Meeting (in the church and Zoom) and Coffee Morning
Sunday 13th	11am Gathered Worship (Jo Moreira) 3pm Gathered Worship at Bramfield Chapel
Friday 18th	9.20am & 10am Prayer Meeting (in the church and Zoom) & Coffee Morning
Sunday 20th	11am Gathered Worship (TBA)
Friday 25th	9.20am & 10am Prayer Meeting (in the church and Zoom) and Coffee Morning
Sunday 27th	11am Gathered Worship (Michael Homfrey-Cooper)

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



**VISIT THE BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY**

**WEBSITE: [www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk)**

for Service details and local events etc

There are news items and photos on our Facebook  
page, too:



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

## Café Church Tuesdays!

Café Church is held on a TUESDAY morning  
at 10am, via Zoom.



*For login details of how to join,  
or to be added to the mailing list,  
please email:*

The Revd Alison Alder at:  
[alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk)  
or

The Revd Linda Berry at:  
[revd.linda@huntingfield.uk](mailto:revd.linda@huntingfield.uk)



## From the Rector...

Welcome to this edition of the Blyth Valley Churches magazine. I am glad you got as far as picking it up, opening it, and beginning to read this section.

Welcome if you are visiting for family research or on holiday, or both. Welcome if you are looking for space to process hurt, cancer treatment or a new business offer. Welcome if you are here for a wedding or just whilst a friend or relative does something else.

Welcome is one of those things that the Christian church, and the Jewish temple before it, were called to offer. The blessing Jews had, and have, through God's relationship with them was not just for them, but so that they could bless others. In like manner, the blessing the church has through God's relationship with us is not just for us, but so that we may bless others.

This is not easy though. I am sure we have all experienced being at a reception desk at an airport or hospital, where the clerk is so busy welcoming us by sorting our paperwork, that they forget to welcome us with a hearty hello or even eye contact!

Then there is the experience of realising we are not quite the right people for the event or occasion. I once turned up in my collar for a jar or two with some funeral directors with whom I worked. The bar staff were obviously nervous. They had Bishop's Finger and Rev James etc on the pumps. Somewhat sheepishly they welcomed me with the advice that I was late for the recently departed vicars and tarts stag party!

And, talking of weddings – if you're here for one, there is that mother-in-law thing where the welcome can be really tricky. Married, or not, both sides, to a greater or lesser degree, usually want the time spent together to go well. Yes, we want our child to be happy and succeed, but not too much without us. We may wish their parent shared our politics, or that they understood they way we discipline their grandchildren.

What is going wrong here? An answer may be that welcome needs love to make it work. Without love I'm a noisy gong or clanging cymbal (1 Corinthians 13). Complete love casts out all fear (1 John 4). If we feel in any way vulnerable it can be hard to accommodate the needs of others. If we know God has love enough for everyone, we will not lose out if we welcome the prodigal sibling, the refugee, the late co-worker, or the woman with endometriosis. If we know our employer is more concerned about overall patient experience than correct and timely data entry, we may offer a coffee and a biscuit before bringing up their file on screen. Once we

understand that our contribution to the visitor's memory of the event will be more appreciated if they find themselves in the right place at the right time, we can step out of our comfort zone and guide them appropriately.

Perhaps the most challenging, especially for church people is the in-law problem; the parent or coach paradox. We want the person in relationship, the child, the student to thrive, but can we cope with them doing things differently to us, being better than us, achieving that without us. As we welcome visitors or new worshippers, we needs must recognise that they may have happy children, leave the door open, sit in our pew, have odd accents, and the like. As we are welcoming, that is all right. They may be unhappy about the state of the church yard or the advertised service that didn't happen. As we are welcoming let us be affirming in our explanations and inviting in our encouraging them to help. They may have contacts and friends, they may have hymn preferences, they may have hopes for events, the like of which St Botolph's has never heard before. As we are welcoming may we have the confidence to step back and rejoice in their enthusiasm for our special place. Then may God bless it to be a blessing to our current and future village communities. Even if it is not how I would do it, I am content that I know I have played my part. You're welcome!

All are truly welcome to any event or service we offer as advertised in this magazine. Do let me know how the welcome went!

Dominic

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The Thoroughfare  
Halesworth  
Suffolk  
IP19 8AH  
Tel: 01986 874270.

**TOYMASTER**

Email: halesworthtoys@aol.com

**HALESWORTH AND DISTRICT  
CHRISTIAN AID GROUP**

**Christian Aid Week 14th – 21st May 2023**

The Chairman, Treasurer and Committee of the local Christian Aid Group, wish to sincerely thank all the willing volunteers who delivered envelopes around homes in Halesworth and the surrounding villages over the period of Christian Aid Week.

This year we requested that those donating dropped their envelopes back to a given address in their area. This system worked very well, and we offer our huge thanks to those who delivered envelopes and to those who returned envelopes and donated so generously.

The grand sum of £3975 was raised for Christian Aid.

Thank you to all those who gave to this very worthy cause.

*C A Group Halesworth & Wenhaston*

**SERVICES AT ST MARY'S,  
HALESWORTH**

**10am Holy Communion, every Wednesday.**  
**8am Traditional Communion, every Sunday.**  
**6pm Evensong, every Sunday**



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**The  
Rumburgh  
Buck**



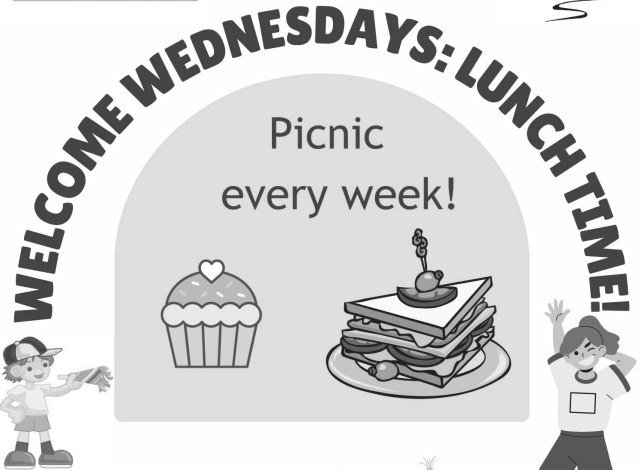
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Every Wednesday  
in the Summer  
holidays

12.30 - 2PM

St Mary's Church  
Halesworth

**Stay and play:  
2-3pm**



If possible, please call 01986 875541  
if you would like to come along



**Could you be the one  
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worship



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The post requires an Enhanced  
DBS check and it is an  
occupational requirement that  
the individual is a practicing  
Christian.

Contact Jean Wagg

01502 478353  
[peter@wagg353.plus.com](mailto:peter@wagg353.plus.com)





## What has your Team Vicar been up to?

Last month, among weddings, baptisms and the usual church services which are always a joy, I have been involved in toilet hire and attending General Synod in York. Out of the last two, I can honestly say I do not know which is more useful to the church!

We have a lot of events coming up over the summer,

mostly in our largest church in Halesworth but look out for events in all our churches – you will find them advertised throughout this magazine. We hired a toilet for St Mary's to ensure that events and services are open to as many people as possible. It is wheelchair accessible and has a baby-changing station. In future we are aiming to have permanent facilities inside the church, but this will have to do for the time being.

I have to say that the Lady Maisery gig in St Mary's Halesworth exceeded even my expectations and I was the one who was nagging everyone to come! It was a wonderful

evening and such a blessing to have so many people in the church being treated to beautiful music from gifted musicians.

Over the summer, in addition to our regular monthly Community lunch on the last Wednesday, we will be providing picnic lunches for families during the school holidays every Wednesday from 12.30pm - 2pm. These will blend into our Tots' group which will continue throughout the summer and older children will be welcome to stay and play if they want to from 2pm-3pm. There is plenty of room in the church. Booking is helpful, but not necessary - we won't be turning anyone away!

And what about General Synod? I am afraid to say it suffers from the same worldly troubles and conflicts as many other institutions and I was left wondering whether the concern was more for the institution itself than the world of people it serves. That said, there were positive debates and conversations which will benefit our local communities in particular with regard to 21st Century family life and new ways of working together for the benefit of everyone.

Always happy to have chat so do call. Until next month...

Gini

## [www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish](http://www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish)

### NEW LIVE STREAM SYSTEM AT ST MARY'S HALESWORTH

We all adapted to life 'online' during the Covid pandemic. Worshipping via Zoom and Facebook became the norm and worked well (*although the 'mute' button will forever haunt me*). Post Covid, we continued to use laptops and mobile phones which from a clergy stance was intrusive with all this equipment in their faces.

We approached a company called Audio Electric Design who had developed a very simple to operate permanent solution for churches, using off the shelf products and a custom built interface, to allow those with either very little technical knowledge or the need to operate without a trained operator, a solution with engaging live video stream. Following fundraising efforts, your generosity raised over £2300 towards the system and we used part of a legacy left to St Mary's to 'further ministry'. The system was installed in June and we went LIVE for the first time on Sunday 18th June.

The system uses two cameras located either side of the font, with eight pre-programmed fixed positions we use a little controller to change the camera position. We have also been uploading slides of hymn words and the words to the Creed for example and other sections of various services. The system is very impressive, from the picture quality to the sound. Oh and we even have a fixed camera in the organ loft! THANK YOU to everyone who gave a financial gift to the project. We have been promoting the LIVE stream service all over social media and will continue to do so. We can live stream ALL services, events, concerts. One advantage of using YouTube - videos will be available for ever! You can already revisit past services already streamed and even watch a Baptism. Don't forget to go to the address at the top and 'subscribe' to our YouTube page. Look out for the weekly links to services. Here are some photos of the various camera angles we can use.....







## The Secret Lives of Swifts

Over 100 people attended the first formal event put on by Halesworth Swifts on June 23rd in St Mary's church, Halesworth. They came to hear the illustrated talk by conservationist Simon Hooton, who has been involved with the Save Our Suffolk Swifts project for many years.



They were welcomed to the church with refreshments donated by the Co-op and cupcakes baked by Rhubarb and Rose, and were able to browse a table with nest boxes, decorative house tiles and books about swifts.

The talk was a resounding success, thanks to Simon Hooton's great knowledge and enthusiasm for swifts. He began by identifying swifts within the group of swallows, house martins and sand martins, just to be clear exactly which bird we were talking about. And then on he went, giving masses of fascinating information about swifts. Probably everyone learned something new about these "truly global" birds that never stop flying across continents except to nest and raise their young.

Things like how they sleep on the wing, shutting down one half of their brain at a time while the other side controls the flying, and then switching sides. How they make ethereal nests with feathers they catch floating in the skies. How they can leave their eggs and even their chicks untended and dormant for a week or so if the weather turns bad and they

have to fly far to find insect food. Far could mean to France from Suffolk.

And, sadly, but we need to know... how swifts are on the endangered red list due to loss of traditional nesting sites under roof tiles. The other main problem swifts face is the dramatically steep decline in insect numbers. The talk suggested key ways in which we can help, by providing nest boxes or nesting bricks in new builds, by cultivating more wild in our gardens to support insects. And, of course, by just loving swifts and talking to everyone about them so that more and more people will notice them, care about them and support them as best they can.

In a Q & A session at the end, people were reassured that there is no need to clean out swift nest boxes, the mess is so minimal and returning birds will do the housework. But it IS necessary to play swift calls to attract them to a new site, so a little sound system should be factored in with a new nest box. And nest boxes DO need a decent height for swifts to drop out of without being grounded, bungalows sadly don't make the altitude.

Donations, a raffle and some sales of swift items raised over £250 for the Halesworth Swifts group, which will enable them to subsidise the purchase and installation of more nest boxes.

Heartfelt thanks from the Halesworth Swifts group to everyone who came along and for their generous donations. Also massive thanks to the Blyth Valley Team Ministry for providing a perfect venue for this event. It is a very good thing to see the church offering its space and facilities to lay events such as this, and to feel the welcome and support from the clergy for a subject also close to their hearts, the intention to better steward and care for the precious natural world around us.

For more information or enquiries, go to Facebook "Halesworth Swifts"

or email: [halesworthswifts@gmail.com](mailto:halesworthswifts@gmail.com)

**Edith Summerhayes**



*Pictured above: Members of the Halesworth Swifts group. L to r: Edith Summerhayes, Brett and Monica Edmonds, Marie and Lyndsey Baynham-Davies.*

### Can I help you?

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## HALESWORTH DEMENTIA CARERS' FUND

### Annual General Meeting

On June 12th HDCF held its Annual General Meeting. At this meeting we bid farewell to our retiring Chair, Teresa Fyfe, and her husband Jim. Both have given such sterling work for the fund, and have worked tirelessly to improve the lot of families where a loved one had dementia. Jim has done superb work with fund-raising, and has raised many thousands of pounds through various grants and appeals. We are indebted to them both, and wish them well in their new home in Lowestoft.

At the AGM, Nikki Sawkins was elected Chair, Nicky Kelly became Vice-Chair, and Alison Cackett and Iris Smith were elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Other committee members elected were: Geoff Cackett, Pippa Evans, Anna Mickleburgh, Jackie Richardson and John Wood.

Over the last year so many people, businesses and organisations have given us wonderful support, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed in any way, and helped us continue our work.

### i-Chameleon Shop

Once again we shall be running our shop in The Thoroughfare. We will be there from August 31st to September 6th. This is such an important fund-raiser for us so we do hope you will be able to support us. We would be most grateful for donations of items to sell, including books, toys, puzzles, games and general bric-a-brac, but no clothes or shoes please.

We are happy to collect items if need be, so please contact our Secretary, Alison Cackett, on 01986 874442.

### Cycle Ride

July sees the epic cycle ride from St David's in Wales to Lowestoft Ness by Giles Scoble and Simon Taylor. Their aim is to raise money for HDCF and Pancreatic Cancer Action. What is even more remarkable is that they will be doing the ride totally unsupported, with no back-up vehicles to help.

If anyone would like to support these two great cyclists there is a Just Giving link on the HDCF Facebook page. All donations will be very gratefully received.

### 100+ Club

The winning numbers for June were: 31 (£100), 55 (£70), and 52 (£30).

The July numbers were 27 (£100), 45 (£70) and 46 (£30).

As you can see, the prizes are very generous, and anyone wishing to join should phone Anna on 07721842802.

### Contact Us

If you would like any information about the work of the HDCF please contact Alison at:

secretary@halesworthdementia.co.uk

John Wood

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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE

Is there anyone who can spare one or two Wednesday mornings each month to come and help us at Waveney Foodbank in St Mary's church Halesworth, between 10am - 11.30am?

If you are able to volunteer, please contact Gill on 07940 221054 or Pauline on 07758 489102



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# HERITAGE OPEN DAY

## 16th September 2023



This year's theme for the Heritage Open Days is "Creativity Unwrapped" and the Friends of St Mary's Church (FOSM) will be putting on a wide-ranging display of creative talents together with several live performances and demonstrations. Please come along to the church to sample these between 10am and 5pm on Saturday 16th September.

**Please note there is only this one Heritage Open Day this year.** Tea and coffee will be available.

Static displays will show photography and art from Bungay High School; art from members of Artbox at Chediston and Mencap; linocuts and handmade books inspired by nature from Lark Images (Chris and Valerie Wheeler); photos from Halesworth and Beccles Camera Clubs, with some prints made into cards to buy; colourful royal heraldry from 1066 to 2023, to celebrate the recent Coronation; and a rolling slide show of local artist, writer and eminent philatelist Gerald King's "Alice Through the Pillarbox" stamp designs.

The tower bell ringers will be demonstrating and teaching throughout the day.

There will be church tours at 10.30am (the church in the 15th century) and 11.30am (the stained glass); the Repair Café will be doing (domestic) electrical and sewing machine repairs and sharpening scissors and knives between 10am and noon, so please bring along whatever you have that needs attention.

The St Mary's handbell ringers will be giving a performance and workshop from 1pm to 2pm; at 2pm Gerald King will talk and answer questions about his Alice book (see above); and at 3pm Alan Greening, an architect who recently made an inspection of the church, will give a brief talk on the effect of rainwater on the walls which has to be dealt with before regeneration can be taken further.

Do come along on September 16th and admire and/or try the varied creative talents of so many local people.

### MU at i-Chameleon October 12th – 18th

The three Mothers' Union Branches in Waveney & Blyth Deanery, Halesworth, Wenhaston and Southwold & Reydon, will be joining with other Branches in the North Suffolk Area and will again be running i-Chameleon, the Pop-Up Shop in Halesworth from **Thursday 12th – Wednesday 18th October**, selling donated items to raise money for MU Projects in the Diocese and overseas. If you are turning out and have any contributions of china, glass, household items, fabric, wool, pictures, books, jewellery, bric-à-brac, toys, etc., please contact Janet Walkey, Win Sutton or Margaret Goldstone, but perhaps nearer the time. Do remember us.

**Janet Walkey, MU Deanery Leader Waveney & Blyth**  
01986 872594

[janetwalkey@hotmail.com](mailto:janetwalkey@hotmail.com)



Are you living with a life-changing illness or long-term condition, or are caring for someone who does?

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- Carers' support, including young carers

**Information and advice to help you live well in the community:**

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**Support groups and talks from local services**



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We also offer telephone, online and home visiting support for those unable to visit the Pear Tree Centre.

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**super September!!**

**Saturday 2nd.** Halesworth 800 Celebrations! Medieval re-enactment, parade through the Thoroughfare, stalls, music, street theatre, fun for the kids!

**Saturday 9th.** Open Gardens Day.

**Wednesday 13th. St Mary's Church.** Picnic in the pews followed by lunchtime recital.

**Saturday 10th.** Narrow Gauge Railway open day at Blythburgh Station.

**Saturday 16th.** Heritage Open Day! Guided walks, bell ringing, fun for the kids, community choir, film & photo archive of Halesworth, museum displays and more!

**Thursday 21st. Halesworth & District Museum.** Talk on 800th anniversary of the Granting of Town Charter.

**Saturday 30th.** Halesworth Climate change action conference. Joint venture between Halesworth Town Council & Blyth Valley Churches.

For more details click the QR code, or go to [Halesworthtown.co.uk/news-events](http://Halesworthtown.co.uk/news-events)



**Regeneration of St Mary's Church, Halesworth**

**Exhibition of Proposals**

**Saturday 9th Sept – Sunday 1st Oct 2023**

The PCC, Friends and Steering Group are working to re-establish the interior of St Mary's as a regionally significant, awe-inspiring, community hub of heritage. The building will be expected to express spirituality, sanctuary and creativity generally. It will reference the towns brewing history and Blyth Valley location specifically, incorporating the Hookers with their Kew connection, Lansbury's efforts for social justice and the Buxton anti-slavery campaigns.

Five major projects will be incorporated:

- 1) Heating, lighting and insulation.
- 2) Kitchen, toilets and storage
- 3) Flooring
- 4) A suitable organ that is sustainable.
- 5) Heritage care and conservation, including the bells, the ringing chamber and tower repair and maintenance.

On completion the aim will be a regionally significant, low maintenance and environmentally aware, accessible and provisioned, central exhibition space and performance venue, not too far from car parking, and public transport, part of the thriving market town of Halesworth.

Please visit St Mary's to give your views, opinions and suggestions during the exhibition of the vision, challenges and proposals.



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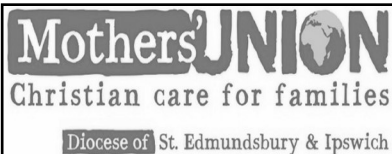
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**Transformation Now!** -  
July 2023 No 42.  
www.musuffolk.org.uk  
Charity No 249726

## Thoughts from Diocesan President Linda on Mothers' Union in St Eds and Ips

Across the whole of Suffolk there are small groups of women meeting together to grow deeper in their Christian faith, to pray and support local clergy and team ministries, to engage in practical help in the local community and to fund-raise. They organise local events and at the same time engage with and embrace national and world-wide projects and campaigns. Where else would you find across the diocese a group of like-minded people coming together for a Quiet Day to grow deeper in their faith, unite in fellowship, and strengthen friendships? Where else would you find a small group of Christian women coming together to talk about relevant, current issues and support one another?

**North Suffolk Area Morning** - This will be held at St Peter and St. Paul Church Hoxne on Tuesday 19th September from 10am to 1.30pm. Revd Enid Pow will speak about her ministry to the Inuit. Branches in the North Suffolk Area will be running several stalls for cakes, produce and gifts. There will be a Raffle and MUE cards will be available. Further details from Cathie McGregor 01379 668434.

**Prayers** We pray for all those who are in prison and their families. Strengthen and support all prison staff and chaplaincy teams. We pray for your guidance for all Mothers' Union work in Prisons. There are many areas where racial tension surfaces in our world. We pray for all those who seek harmony and justice in situations which can be unfair and dangerous. Amen.



*The Lord almighty grant us a  
quiet night and a perfect end*

Join us for Compline live on Facebook  
@ 9.30pm.

Search:- blythvalleychurchsuffolk  
Mondays - Alison

Wednesday and Fridays - Linda

Saturdays and Sundays - Jason

[www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer)

## Mothers' Union North Suffolk Area Quiet Day 26.6.23

### Doors into Heaven: the role of icons in worship

Around 25 MU members and a number of friends met in St Peter's Church, Holton to experience a Quiet Day led by Revd Margaret King all about icons. In her first session, Margaret gave us the background to icons in worship in the Russian Orthodox Church. Margaret had displayed a number of icons which she had painted or 'written' herself in recent years, along with photos, pictures and postcards of icons.

In session two Margaret talked about the materials used for painting or writing icons; the egg-tempera, made from egg yolks; the different colours of paint which are earth colours; and the special wooden panels which her tutor gets from Serbia. You have to work from dark to light, expressing God bringing light into the world. Several layers of gold are used to allow the divinity of God to shine out. Blue is used to express Divinity and green for humanity and earthly things. Much in an icon is symbolic.

After lunch Margaret gave everyone a copy of the 15th century icon - Rublev's 'The Hospitality of Abraham' from Genesis 18, an early Old Testament Trinity. She talked about the various symbols and their significance.

After the third time for reflection, the culmination of the day the celebration of a shortened Eucharist, which included elements of the Orthodox liturgy alongside Common Worship.

It was indeed an awe-inspiring and informative day with time to be still and quiet, as well as time for learning and reflection. Margaret did indeed reveal '**Doors into Heaven: the Role of Icons in Worship**'. Thank you so much Margaret for a wonderful Quiet Day.

Janet Walkey

Member of MU NSA Committee  
& MU Deanery Leader of Waveney & Blyth.



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# Bramfield, Brampton and Ringsfield Primary Schools recognised for excellence in science

Bramfield, Brampton and Ringsfield primary schools have been awarded the prestigious Primary Science Quality Mark Gilt accreditation by the University of Hertfordshire in collaboration with the Primary Science Teaching Trust.

Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) is the only national award scheme to develop and celebrate the quality of science teaching and learning in primary schools. Schools achieve a PSQM through a year-long process of initial audit, followed by action and evidenced-based reflection.

Vicky Allen, Executive headteacher of Bramfield, Brampton and Ringsfield Primary Schools, said "We are delighted to have been awarded the PSQM GILT accreditation, the highest award each school could have achieved. As three small schools, this is a fantastic achievement and has only been possible as a result of cooperation and collaboration with the whole school community. It reflects the time and effort given by our staff engaging with our children, not only making science a really strong subject but, most importantly, making science an enjoyable and fun learning experience."

Samuel Batey, pupil at Bramfield primary school says "The STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths] after school club is my favourite. This term we are learning about light. Today we used special photo paper with leaves and flowers to create sun prints and next week we are making a pin-hole camera that will show us how our eyes see things, which will be amazing!"

Associate Professor Jane Turner, PSQM National Director said: "There was never a more important time for primary children to have a high-quality science education. The coronavirus pandemic and climate change crisis have made

everyone aware of the importance of science in our world. Primary schools have an important role to ensure that children understand how science works and keeps us and our planet healthy and safe. Schools that have achieved a Primary Science Quality Mark have demonstrated a significant commitment to science teaching and learning. The profile and quality of science in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as secure scientific understanding and skills. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, head teachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud."



Mrs Crawley and some of the children at the STEM after school club in Bramfield, working on their sun paper photography and showing the results of their work.

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## DIRECT BUS SERVICE FROM HALESWORTH TO NORWICH

Halesworth now has a direct bus service to Norwich again, plus an enhanced service to Southwold. First Bus service X41 between Norwich and Bungay has been extended to Halesworth. It now runs every hour from 06.23 till 18.38, six days a week and take just over an hour for the journey. On Saturdays the first bus from Halesworth is at 07.23. Departures from Norwich (St Stephens Street) start at 0815 till 1825.

First Bus service 99A now operates from Durban Close Halesworth eight times a day starting at 08.06 for the 39-minute journey to Southwold with the last return bus departing from Southwold at 17.05. During school term times there are six buses a day, Monday - Friday with eight on Saturdays.

There are, at present, no plans by First Bus for paper timetables, but there are local discussions about the production of a simple timetable leaflet. Halesworth Library can provide copies of the X41/99A timetable. Both the Library and the Angel Hotel Visitor information Points can

provide copies of the 522 Border services.

Meanwhile Border Bus has enhanced its service 522 (current timetable dated 5th June 2023) from Aldeburgh to Halesworth from Monday to Friday by extending it to Beccles (connecting, if needed, with service 580 from Beccles to the James Paget Hospital). Additionally service 521 offers some Saturday services between Halesworth and Aldeburgh.

### **DELIGHT & DESPAIR**

## **A Recital of Opera and Musical Theatre**

**Saturday 5th August, 3pm, St Andrew's Church, Trowse, NR14 8SX. Tickets £12.50 on the door or via: [tinyurl.com/delightdespair](https://tinyurl.com/delightdespair).**

This is the second concert held by Alice Howell and Alexander White in St Andrew's Church in Trowse, with pianist, Peter Hayward. The first was last year's 'An Afternoon at the Opera'. This year, Alex and Alice have founded their own opera company, Maritime Opera, who held their debut gala in London on June 30th.

This recital in Trowse will be fundraising for the company and their future operas. This year's recital brings us the theme of despair and delight, with many favourites from opera and musical theatre. Opera composers include Verdi, Puccini, Donizetti and Massenet and musicals include Les Misérables, West Side Story, Carousel and The Music Man. There will be refreshments available during the interval.

Please see advertisement on page 28 for further details.



**Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
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Saturday 10am until noon**

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*For anyone interested in working and socialising around a bench for themselves, others or the community*

## **Children's and Youth Activities at Halesworth Library**

### **The Summer Reading Challenge**

This year's theme is 'READY, SET, READ', encouraging children to keep their minds and bodies healthy over the summer holidays. All children aged 4-11 years old are encouraged to take part in the challenge – to read six books over the school summer holidays. The challenge runs through to September 10th this year.

We are planning a celebration event at the end of the challenge, where the children who complete the challenge will receive their medals and certificates and get the opportunity to attend the Twisty Twister's Magic Show. Further details will be sent towards the end of the summer.

### **Summer Holiday activities for children aged 3 – 11 years**

We have an exciting range of activities on Wednesday afternoons throughout **August** at the library from **2pm – 4pm**:

**2nd:** An afternoon of colour – face painting, glitter tattoos and craft.

**9th:** Wild libraries – quizzes and activities with Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

**16th:** An afternoon with James Mayhew, author and illustrator.

**23rd: 2pm-3pm or 3pm-4pm:** The Tricky Twister Magic Show and Balloon Twisting Workshop.

**30th:** Horsey Antics with Redwings Horse Sanctuary.

All events are £1 per child and booking is essential – more details available from the library.

### **Blank pages project for year 6 students**

We also have an exciting, free opportunity for young people aged 10 -16 years. We have over 70 FREE creative workshops happening in nine of Suffolk's libraries.

The Blank Page Project offers free creative workshops for 10-16 year olds, giving them the chance to express their creativity through a range of mediums at high-quality workshops run by local artists including comic book creation, storytelling, performance, poetry, bookbinding, art, music, photography and lots more.

This also presents a fantastic transition opportunity year 6 students to socialise with older students from high school in advance of the September term.

The days run from **10am-3pm**, include lunch and snacks and are open and free to all students. The full programme of events and booking link can be found on the Suffolk Libraries website: [www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/blank-page](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/blank-page)



Listening  
**Evangelism**

Monday 9th  
- Friday 13th  
October  
Local to  
East Anglia  
at Lowestoft

The Dunamis Project is a six-part equipping programme in the power of the Holy Spirit. Exactly what the church needs in an era when we are receiving so many prophetic indications that God may be preparing us for the next 'Great Awakening' Here in East Anglia, the Revd Jon Sermon leads the team delivering this. And it comes to fruition in October with the final session 'Listening Evangelism'.

#### Why **Listening**...?

Unlike most evangelism courses, this is more about prayerfully listening - together in small groups - to the guidance of the Holy Spirit than any technique. We learn to engage with people as God leads. It takes away the pressure that the word 'evangelism' sometimes conjures up.

We need to be equipped, not reliant solely on our human strengths and abilities, if we are to fulfil the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations (Matt 28).

***This really is for all Christians – whether or not you came to any of our five previous sessions. And it is conveniently local: the Pakefield (South Lowestoft) Pontin's Holiday Camp.*** And the cost is less than half what the conference centre was (including breakfast and dinner, but not lunch).

Booking is via the Dunamis website [www.dunamis.org.uk](http://www.dunamis.org.uk)  
More info from Jon and Ruth Sermon, 01986 873761 [jon@sermons.me](mailto:jon@sermons.me) .uk

Or Ada Fidler-Bourtkan 07940 823135 [ada@dunamis.org.uk](mailto:ada@dunamis.org.uk)  
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## CHURCHWARDENS

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Walpole	Ken Allen Lee Hill	01986 784240 07713 450078
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy	01986 873173





## Friends of St Mary's Halesworth

On Wednesday 14th June we welcomed back The Rococos, Patrick Crooke (viola/violoncello da spalla) Jackie Cuninghame (keyboard/recorder) Alastair Cuninghame (flute/tenor/recorder/keyboard). With music by Antonio Lotti (1667-1740), Georg Philipp Telemann, Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) and Michel Blavet (1700-1768), we were treated to a very well received, varied repertoire. We thank The Rococos for their ongoing support of our lunchtime recital series and we hope that they return (possibly in 2024 as the Friend's of St Mary's celebrate 10 years of recitals?)

On Wednesday 12th July we welcomed composer and teacher Alexander Campkin and six of his singing students - one of whom hadn't performed publically before.

Alex accompanied his students on the piano with a repertoire of well-known pieces with music by Handel, Delius, Faure, Britten, Bizet, Paisiello, Anna Vriend. Alex is well known for composing. A wedding anniversary piece for student Jane Linden called *Retrospect* was sung with passion with contrasting piano riffs set to a poem which Jane read before singing the piece. The recital was the first time we live-streamed the recital, which you can catch-up with by visiting [www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish](http://www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish)

(There you will find all past services, concerts and now some recitals, although in future they are likely to be posted after the event.)

We thank Alex and his students for performing to us.

The recital finished with an audience participation piece by Bette Midler, called *The Rose*. By request, here are the words to the song:-

Some say love, it is a river That drowns the tender reed.  
Some say love, it is a razor That leaves your soul to bleed.  
Some say love, it is a hunger An endless aching need. I say  
love, it is a flower And you, its only seed. It's the heart, afraid  
of breaking That never learns to dance. It's the dream, afraid  
of waking That never takes the chance. It's the one who  
won't be taken Who cannot seem to give; And the soul,  
afraid of dying That never learns to live. When the night has  
been too lonely And the road has been too long, And you  
think that love is only For the lucky and the strong; Just  
remember in the winter Far beneath the bitter snows, Lies  
the seed that with the sun's love In the spring becomes the  
rose.

On Wednesday 9th August we welcome back two of Alex's singers Jane Linden and Pat Woods, who will perform more pieces from their repertoire, accompanied by Tanya Kirk. We look forward to welcoming you all then.

Looking ahead to September our very own Jason Busby will be giving an organ recital on Wednesday 13th September in St Mary's Halesworth.

SB

**The Team office in St Mary's Church is OPEN on  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am - 1pm.**

**Tel 01986 875941.**

**On Wednesdays and Fridays, the Team  
Administrator can be contacted between**

**9am - 1pm on 07752 275328.**

**Email: [office.bvtm@gmail.com](mailto:office.bvtm@gmail.com)**

## Blyth Valley Times

published monthly by the

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**Jason Busby: Organist - Halesworth and to Team Choir**

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# News from Town & Villages

## Blyford

Correspondent

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## Bramfield

Correspondent

Joanna Wilkinson 07986 217868  
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### St Andrew's Church, Bramfield

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-andrews-church-bramfield> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



From Dawn Munnings:

### 'Bramfield Open Gardens'

**Saturday 2nd September 2pm-5pm**  
by kind permission of Sir Simon Robey  
at Bramfield Hall

Tea and cakes, tombola, plants  
and books for sale;

with special local musicians.

£5 entry on the door.

Parking on site.

*In aid of St Andrews Church, Bramfield*

From The Village Green Steering Group: 'An Evening with Charlie Mackesy' took place on Saturday 24th June in the idyllic woodland setting of the Thorington Theatre in Suffolk, with all proceeds going to Bramfield Village Green. It was a magical evening and Charlie enchanted the capacity audience with music, live drawing, anecdotes and stories about the book and film's geneses and even taught the audience how to draw his beautiful characters.

Thorington Theatre generously provided the theatre and staff free of charge for the event, and Husk and Grey's Wood-Fired Pizzas kindly donated all their profits from cake and pizza sales to the village green fund. A massive thank you to all involved and especially to Charlie for giving up his time and lending us his creativity to support the village green project.

Now that all receipts are in, we are delighted to advise that the evening generated over £11000 in revenue, contributing just over £9000 to the village green fund after screen hire costs.

As a result we now have sufficient funds in the bank to start the transfer process of Bridge Meadow to the Village Hall and the village. There are still several legal processes to complete before the land can be formally transferred, but we hope the process won't take longer than three months. Fundraising will continue to provide enough money for landscaping and wooden play equipment, but the principal funds are in place for us to proceed to the next stage.

May we take this opportunity to thank all those people who have donated money, time, and expertise so generously to get us to this position. It has been the most amazing community effort. Everyone who has helped should be justifiably proud.

We will be in touch with further news soon.

## Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

It was a real pleasure to catch up with the Revd Jane Held at the petrol station the other day. She was on a short visit and is very happy in her new "living".

### St Swithin's Day – 15th July

I think we have now had enough rain. There is an old saying that if rain falls on St Swithin's Day (we did have a short shower that day) it will rain for another 40 days and 40 nights. I do remember this nearly happening many years ago!

### Annual Bike Ride

A reminder that this is due to take place on Saturday 9th September. This is the 50th Anniversary of the bike ride and to mark this, one generous donor has pledged to give £25000 to the scheme providing the general total exceeds £250000.

This is an ambitious target, as last year raised just £181000 - but as you can see, we do need lots of support this year so please encourage as many riders as possible to join the event.

I have all the necessary information here plus sponsorship forms. Please sponsor a cyclist if you are able to. I shall also be leaving forms in the church nearer the time. As usual I shall be wanting persons to sit in the church to sign forms and offer refreshments. Please phone me (01986 873363) if you are able to help – thank you. SA

### Chediston & Linstead WI

After the minutes were read from the last meeting, we welcomed our guest speaker Helen Reeve together with her mother. Helen's subject was "Ladies in Beef".

She spoke for nearly an hour without notes on "Waveney Dexter Beef" – traditionally reared quality beef from the heart of the Waveney Valley. Helen illustrated her talk with wonderful slides, she virtually grew up with the family herd of pedigree Dexter cattle (they come in three colours although Waveney Dexters are predominantly black or red).

An adult cow only measures between 92cm and 107cm at the shoulder (rather similar to measuring a horse). These small cattle have their own personalities and can be quite high spirited but what they are brilliant at doing is producing excellent beef. Helen's progress with her career began at Easton, then as a long term member and past Chair of Norfolk Young Farmers. In 2018 she won a scholarship to visit the USA, one of only five such awards in the country. She also received an award when she visited Buckingham Palace.

Helen brought some cuts of beef which quickly sold out. *I have details for purchasing her beef at Alburgh, Harleston if anyone is interested.* SA

Malcolm and Janet held a Garden Party on Wednesday 5th July in aid of the Halesworth *dementia* Carers' Fund. This was well attended, sadly not in their lovely garden due to rain but in Linstead Village Hall instead.

Ann Greenhough is expected to welcome her third great-grandchild soon. We wish everyone well.

### Chediston Art Group

The group meets every Wednesday from 9.30am – 12noon at Holton & Blyford Village Hall. Please telephone John Dawkins on 01986 785133 if you are interested.

## Cookley

### St Michael & All Angels Church, Cookley

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-michael-and-all-angels-cookley> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



## Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby

01986 873336

[halesworthparish@gmail.com](mailto:halesworthparish@gmail.com)

### St Mary's Church, Halesworth

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-marys-church-halesworth> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



Another academic year completed, school is out for the summer. I see some harvests have already begun with winter barley harvested and rape sprayed off ready for the combine. Time is certainly ticking by, before we know it, we will be approaching Advent!

The highlight this past month in the life of St Mary's was most definitely the Lady Maisery Concert on Saturday 15th July. With over 150 people in church and over £1000 raised for church funds we had a great night. The music was exquisite. Simply beautiful folk singing in the heart of Halesworth. If you missed it, you missed out big time on this occasion! We can't thank enough the now closed Halesworth Arts Festival for funding the concert and the Revd Gini with her husband Felix, for making all the arrangements, promoting and hosting the group. To all the team on the day who helped run the bar, ticket sales and putting St Mary's back together again after the concert, a big thank you!

We have been truly blessed this past year to have had some fantastic concerts in St Mary's. LONG MAY THIS CONTINUE.

Have you heard of 'Eco Church'? A UK award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. I recently completed the online survey on behalf of St Mary's PCC and the supporting resources are designed to equip us to express our care for God's world in worship and teaching; in how we look after our buildings and land; in how we engage with the local community and in global campaigns. The vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully. I am pleased to say we have been awarded the bronze certificate. To gain the silver award we will need to install bird boxes in the churchyard and to ensure we use fair-trade and organic produce in any catering we offer etc.

Dominic, our Team Rector, is currently encouraging all PCCs to sign up to EcoChurch. I am sure we will hear more about it over the coming months. Certainly the initiative ties in well with the forthcoming CLIMATE CONFERENCE in September being hosted by Gini and Alison.

For more information and a wealth of info available visit: <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>

Now some sad news to share, Di Thomas, a stalwart of St Mary's Halesworth for many decades died peacefully on June 28th. Di will be very much missed - my church 'mother'.

From celebrating Burns Night, to fish and chips lunch at Christmas after decorating the tree (picture below from 2018) to being 'Auntie Di' to my girls.

Di had a deep faith and we can all be comforted knowing Di is at peace.



Di's favourite hymn was *O Jesus I have promised* - the first verse reads... "O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou for ever near me, my master and my friend: I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide."

May Di rest in peace and rise in glory reunited with her husband Taff.

August is a quiet month with the exception of the first ever BREAD & WINE FESTIVAL in St Mary's on Saturday 5th August from 2pm onwards. Come down and see what's going on. Stay for worship at 6pm followed by a reception. We thank Dominic who has been putting this Festival together and we look forward to welcoming you. See back cover for more details.

September looks busy - keep up to date with events in St Mary's on the back page of *BVTimes*.

Happy Summer!

### FoSM 50/50 CLUB

Results of July 50/50 Club draw were as follows: 1st prize - Joshua O'Leary; 2nd prize - Doreen Hale; 3rd prize - John Ball.



**HALESWORTH WI**

Members enjoyed the outing to Taverham nursery and shopping centre. Travelling in two Hoppa buses, we arrived in time for coffee. Everyone was then free to chat, relax, eat lunch or indulge in a little retail therapy in the well-stocked craft centre, the smaller shops and the large garden nursery. The buses returned to Halesworth with heavier bags than first set out with and a big thank you to our excellent drivers - John and Phil.

We are looking forward to our July meeting, Kurling afternoon and our Indoor Garden Party in August in the Rifle Hall. **BP**

**Heveningham**

Correspondent Christine Baker  
c\_bakerx@yahoo.co.uk

**St Margaret's Church,  
Heveningham**

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-margaret-heveningham-with-ubboston>

or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



It's the middle of the summer already and in the heat, St Margaret's is a wonderful place to sit and just cool down and gather your thoughts.

We have been working hard getting some work done in the church. The porch has been decorated and looks very pretty. Our effigy of Sir John Heveningham has been covered to protect and preserve him from bats. He looks very happy and we welcome anyone who wants to come along and see him. (Please remember to sign our visitors' book if you do, it's important to us to get your comments).

Jeanette our churchwarden has been working really hard arranging some summer fun for children and adults. Please see our advertisement on page 29 of this issue and put the dates in your diary.

Finally, our next service is on Sunday the 13th August at 10am for a traditional Holy Communion. All are very welcome.

**Holton**

Correspondent Jill Hewlett  
01986 875913

jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com

**St Peter's Church,  
Holton**

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website:

[https://](https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-peters-church-holton)

[www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-peters-church-holton](https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-peters-church-holton)

or you can scan the QR code



What strange weather we are having! But aren't we glad that the temperatures are not in the thirties or even the low forties!

We may yet experience those kinds of temperatures and will need to adapt our lifestyle accordingly; it is all rather alarming and has ramifications that we can't begin to take in. Politicians around the world need to work on international strategies to benefit us all, but will they? It is something that we can pray about, prayer is a very powerful tool available to us all.

August is a strange month in the church; generally speaking nothing much happens. We will have had our Flower Festival by the time you receive this magazine, but it is after I am writing this column, so a report in September! The theme for this year was "Our Village – Past and Present" and Dot Booley has written this poem:

**Dot's Holton Memories**

I've lived in Holton village now for 50 years and more

With memories so varied they flood back by the score.

Most of them are happy, though some are very bad

But I've friends and family around to help me when I'm sad.

The Playgroup that we started in March of 73

Brought joy to many mums and kids and of course to me.

The village school where my children went was also a happy place, Especially at the sports day when I won the Mothers' Race.

I also remember the blacksmith with Mr Hammond saying "Good Day".

The sawmill and the village shop for family allowance that went a long way; The Church and the Paddock where we held village fetes and the children all wore fancy dress,

The Bonfires too with fireworks shared! Happy times and maybe less stress.

We started the Guides in 77 which was held at the school in their hall;

Many girls came along and in patrols marched into horseshoe each week for Roll call.

In the old Village Hall we held Beetle Drives, and Nap and Whist were played there each week,

But when the Hall burnt down they all had to stop and we all thought the future was bleak.

The new Village Hall opened in 85 after the funds had all been raised;

My Playgroup and many organizations moved in, we loved it and all were amazed;

Then a stage was built to add to the hall and the Kitchen was quite up to date, Sales and bazaars were held there a lot, and some parties that went on too late.

We started to put on a Panto each year and Stagestruck Productions arrived;

It was a lot of hard work to put on our shows, but we managed each year and survived;

Our productions raised money for charities, though a laughing audience is was what we liked best,

With Widow Twankey, Puss in Boots, Cinderella, Snow White and the Evil Baron who was always a pest.

The Church and the Choir was part of my life as I've always enjoyed a good sing.

Young Wives, and Keep Fit where we skipped to a tune, and did it in London one Spring.

There's been lot of Jumble Sales and fetes through the years, Flower Festivals and Race Nights to run;

I think I'm lucky that there's always a team ready to help and just make it all fun.

So I'm still here some 50 years on and the friendships I've made still abound, My life in this Village has been quite superb with countryside walks all around;

As I sit in my garden I really feel blessed for the birds sing their songs on and on.



I don't think I'll move from this friendly old place. Do you think I'll be missed when I'm gone?

Dottie Booley

Thanks Dot!

We have something to look forward to - on August 13th, there will be **Choral Evensong at 6pm at St Peter's**. We do not have a morning service that day, so do come along, as I know that there are quite a few Holtonites that like Evensong. Also, the Team Choir would appreciate your support as this service is not always very well attended.

And, while I am writing about a Team service, may I encourage you to come to some of the Team services that we have month by month. Whether the service is in St Mary's, Halesworth or one of the village churches it gives a boost to the congregation to have a fuller church occasionally.

**2023 Children's Society**

The Annual Box-opening for the Children's Society was held on July 1st, and a total of £643.66 was raised to further their work; £513.66 was from the boxes, and £130 from the refreshments, the raffle and the bring-and-buy stall together. Thanks are due to Dave and Diane Foster, Pat Rennie, Jim Watts and Chris Knevett (in charge of the Magic Money Counter); to Dave and Diane who banked the cash in Beccles; to Bill Mahood for the refreshments; and to Janet Walkey, the Children's Society local organiser for Halesworth and Holton.

The Magic Money Counter, a new acquisition for St Peter's, can count mixed coins as a total, or count single denominations into specified amounts; and has saved significant time for the whole process.

If other churches wish to find out more or to use it, please contact Chris Knevett, churchwarden, on cknevett@btinternet.com or 01986 872467.

John Hewlett

**Dates for Your Diary**

**August 13th:** Choral Evensong, 6pm at St Peter's Church, Holton with the Team Choir.

**September 9th:** The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride – riders and striders plus church welcomers will be needed for this event.

If you can help in any way Jackie Watts will be pleased to hear from you.

**Huntingfield**

Correspondent Sally Clarke  
sally.clarke@live.com

**St Mary's Church, Huntingfield**

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-marys-church-huntingfield> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



**Linstead**

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289  
[www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk)

IT IS ONE OF THE VAGARIES OF history that Linstead church is only in the parish of Linstead as a result of a bit of medieval gerrymandering. It is on an parochial peninsula, more or less surrounded by Chediston. Since our other church, St Peter's Linstead Magna (which was in the geographical centre of the two Linsteads, fell down about 100 years ago) we have learned to be philosophical about this slight anomaly.

DUNCAN METHERELL'S CAREER IN the Merchant Navy is a continuing source of interest. His mother, Cecilia, reports as follows:

One of our younger residents, Duncan Metherell, recently attended the London headquarters of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners (HCMM), where he was accepted into the Company as an Apprentice Member.

The ceremony involved Duncan making a traditional declaration in the presence of the Worshipful Master of the Company, Capt English, and his Court. Duncan is training to be an officer in the Merchant Navy and has been accepted on to the mentoring scheme through the HCMM. The Company was formed in 1926 and is one of the City Livery Companies.



Photo (l to r): The Worshipful Master, Capt English, Duncan's mentor, Capt Bland and Duncan.

IT IS WITH SADNESS THAT I REPORT the death of John Ingate who lived and farmed at Chapel Farm, Chediston. Because of the anomaly mentioned in paragraph one, his family are interred in Linstead and thus it was that John was buried there as well. It is one of the ironies of life that you never really know someone until you have attended their funeral service and heard the story of their life from their friends and relatives. John was our next-door neighbour of 45 years. He was an interesting person; he had visited farms abroad; he had an encyclopædic knowledge of local wartime airfields and local history generally; but most of all, he was a conservationist *par excellence*. It is not surprising that there was standing-room only in the church at John's funeral because he was very well liked and respected by the farming community. His sister summed it up beautifully when she said: "You may think that John was not married, but he was. He was married to his farm and to the land". He will be missed.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **THE Linstead SUMMER FÊTE** \*  
\* WHICH WILL BE HELD AT \*  
\* Linstead VILLAGE HALL \*  
\* ON SATURDAY 5th AUGUST \*  
\* FROM 2pm. \*  
\* 'A truly traditional village fête' \*  
\* Stalls, refreshments and more! \*  
\* THE SUMMER EVENT \*  
\* FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

I FIND IT VERY REASSURING THAT WE maintain tradition whenever possible. Relatively few villages, and certainly not one as small as ours, maintains the custom of holding a very straight-

forward village fête. It gives us a chance to get together again and celebrate our good fortune in living in this village. So please do come and join us.

LINSTEAD'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL WAS very well attended, in spite of being held in the hall instead of outdoors, as is traditional. The reason? No, not rain but wind, lots and lots of wind. The barbecue itself stayed outside, for once there was no problem working out the wind direction! We are very grateful to our barbecuists and cooks. Linstead's catering prowess is achieving renown and was well up to standard.



Dominic took the service and paid particular attention to St Margaret of Antioch's dragon-slaying abilities, of which we are rather proud.

Just to prove that in this age of equality, St George didn't have it all his own way.

THE SUMMER SEASON IN LINSTEAD is still going strong so please put this date into your diaries.

By popular request

### THE BACKWOODS BAND

are back playing at

### LINSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

on **SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER**

From 7pm.

With **BARBECUE & DESSERTS**

£15 PER PERSON

in aid of church funds.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LIQUID REFRESHMENT

*To help us with numbers for catering, please contact either the Heaths: 01986 785289 or The Keables: 01986 785347*

SERVICES IN AUGUST COMPRISE:

Matins on the 13th and Holy Communion on the 27th. Both are at 10am.

## Spexhall

Correspondent Keith Noakes

spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com

Facebook: St Peter's Spexhall and Spexhall Village Hall

June flourishing, and July begins the fade... although not too soon!

It seems so long since our joyful Village Party at the beginning of July, but all in

the village are always so grateful for the warm hospitality we find at the Old Rectory. Thanks especially to Elizabeth and Francis, to those who helped prepare, those who baked, and to our musicians who gave the party a proper summer 'vibe'. The Pimms flowed, as did the conversation as time progressed. Thanks to all who gave to the church fabric fund. We raised £170, and we are always thankful!

Haven't the roses been fantastic this year? The Rambling Rector bloomed for Bryony and Fred's wedding in June, and then, as Isaiah says, 'The grass withereth, the flower fadeth'. Just after it bloomed Fred Woods and his team tackled the graveyard with strimmers over a number of evenings. Showers prevented a quick strim of the churchyard, so apologies to those who thought the paths and graves looked untidy. It wasn't through lack of effort! I am sure that during August the churchyard will be back to looking tidy and well managed. Woodpecker pleads the indulgence of those who prefer nature permanently tidy. The churchyard is managed as a wildlife sanctuary, so things are allowed to grow before being cut back. Please do let the churchwarden know if you want a grave better attended. They try their best, but from my perch I notice that the elements are sometimes against them, even though they try their best. Our thanks to all those who helped in managing the space.

### The Midsummer (ish) Wedding

Bryony walked down the aisle with her father as the music hit precisely 1 minute 25 seconds, with a suitable pace for all to see. Amazing that the

bride wore the same dress her mum had worn. Susie would have been so proud and happy, as was JB - a timeless dress, and the exchange of vows a wonderful moment. Wishing Fred and Bryony every blessing in their married life together. Woodpecker even forgives the master of downloads who forgot to cue the recessional music. Not that they needed it. The applause and love of the congregation brought a tear to this old Woodpecker's eye, and they definitely broke all records in the number of friends and family that could be packed into a country church. It must be the first wedding in which the Caister Lifeboat Song accompanied the signing of the registers! "Roll away, roll away, you stormy waves, so black". All lives have stormy seas, but our hope is that their love will see them safely to shore!

### August Lammas

There is a Team Eucharist at Lammas this year, and all are invited on August 6th at St Mary's Halesworth at 10am. Look out for the Bread and Wine festival notices too. We are a TEAM after all! After that please come to the St Peter's Lammas service on the 13th at 10am. Consider it not so much as an 'after party' as a continuation of Lammas.

We give thanks for the first fruits of the harvest. Looks like a bumper barley crop this year. I wonder how much will go for malting. Have a look at the farmer's face, although he is known for his 'poker face'. Look for the glint. If it's gone for malting, it will shine brightly! No Suffolk farmer ever says the word 'excellent' or 'fantastic'. At least, not before a drink!





**August Table Top Sale**

The Spexhall Table Top Sale is on Saturday August 12th between 10am and 3pm. Want to rent a table or car boot space?

Email: spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com or text 07939527340 and speak to Artificial Intelligence. Otherwise come and buy, and enjoy coffee and cake. You will be amazed at some of the stuff some villagers in Spexhall have on offer... Dr Freud would have had a few notes to make about certain personalities from objects for sale.

**Board Already**

Fred and crew will be taking the Commandment/Credal Boards down at the end of July and will transport them for cleaning and restoration in Cambridge. Our grateful thanks to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust for enabling this as part of the commemoration of our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Don't forget to Sponsor anyone on a bike or 'stride' in September for the SHCT as they help out so many churches to keep the fabric in good order!

**September Date!**

Woodpecker is proud to announce that the 'Blo-Ins', Bridget and Phil, are returning for a harvest folk song festival night on Saturday 23rd September. Time about 7pm, but at the time of writing, not finalised. The Off-Cut choir will join with them for a couple of numbers. This precedes our Harvest Festival on September 24th. Come and listen and join in the harvest celebrations! Yes, it's a fundraiser, but more importantly it's a chance for us all to meet and mingle at the beginning of autumn. Let's raise the roof, and raise a glass! All will be safely gathered in!

**St Peter's Church,  
Spexhall**

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-peters-church-spexhall> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.

**Thorington****Correspondent**

**Trish Gower 01502 478078**

**trish@coastal1.plus.com**

Please do come and join us for this event in the Barn at Laundry Farm Thorington IP19 9JF.

We are fortunate to be showing the two and three dimensional work from many very talented local artists. In the barn we will have oil and acrylic paintings as well as images made by a variety of printing techniques all showing a unique interpretation of the theme Artistree.

Outside among the trees unusual ceramics will be displayed, as well as many more sculptural pieces in metal and wood. All of these pieces reflect an artist's take on trees, nature and the environment. It will be a feast for the visual senses. There is lots of space for car parking and all are welcome, admission free. Wine by the glass and homemade refreshments, craft stalls and a Grand Silent Auction of Promises.

All proceeds to St Peter's Church Thorington. Any enquiries please contact Trish on 07776077860 or email: trish@coastal1.plus.com

**Walpole****Correspondents**

**Lee & Anita Hill 07713 450078**

**anita.hill2006@gmail.com**

**St Mary's Church,  
Walpole**

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-marys-church-walpole> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



Since our last correspondence we have enjoyed two Services: one from Revd Linda and one from Revd David. Our thanks to them both for supporting our Church and congregation.

St Mary's has also hosted two fundraising events, the first was a lecture from Dr Jessica Frazier - Professor of Theology at Trinity College, Oxford on

Sunday 21st May. The title of the talk was 'Alternative Realities - How Philosophies Differ Around The World'. Jessica took us on a tour of the world of philosophy from the Americas through Europe & the Middle East to Asia. Jessica was a highly engaging speaker who was responsive to her audience's questions and led an interesting and stimulating discussion.

The second of the events was an evening of live music from the Dave Keech Jazz Quartet on Sunday 9th July. The Quartet for this event featured three up and coming young musicians who are studying Jazz at the Leeds Conservatoire - Isaac Keech on piano, Sean Blake on Double Bass and Adam Scott on drums. Dave led the quartet with his phenomenal trombone playing. Throughout the performance Dave engaged the audience with a narrative of different influences from the 1950's onwards. It's worth mentioning that in 2014, Dave founded JazzUp, a thriving club night and organisation in North London aimed at showcasing the rich diversity and talent of the UK jazz scene while providing a platform for the leading exponents of contemporary jazz.



Prior to the event Dave was keen to learn from us the history of the Church and our plans for the refurbishments and even made reference to it during the performance. All four musicians commented that they had enjoyed the ambience of the Church and would be keen to return at some point in the future.

We look forward to our next event on Sunday 6th August with a performance from Soprano Katherine MacRae, accompanied by pianist Jodie Schloss. The performance is entitled 'The Water



is Wide' and will include settings of British and European Folk Songs by Benjamin Britten, Manuel de Falla, Gustav Mahler and others.

## Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

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July seems to have been a month of mixed weather, lovely sunny days and some wet and windy. The gardens do not seem to mind as the vegetables, fruit and flowers are all flourishing. We were reminded of this by the good display of produce at the Village Show on Sunday 16th. The church served the refreshments and did a roaring trade, raising £210 for church funds. Many thanks to all who served the food, made the tea and washed up, as well as those who provided the refreshments, especially the ladies of the Show committee who helped us out with cakes.

Two reminders for your diaries:-

The Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride takes place on Saturday 9th September raising funds for local churches and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants to churches for repairs etc. Wenhaston has benefitted from the trust this year in the form of a grant towards the re-roofing of the chancel. There will be sponsor forms in the church nearer the time, and if anyone feels they are able to walk or cycle to visit a few churches and ask for sponsorship, we in Wenhaston church would be very grateful. I shall also be looking for stewards to staff the church nearer the time.

We have arranged a quiz to take place on Friday 20th October at which Phil will be questionmaster and Denise will look after the bar. We are so grateful to them and hope that lots of you will come along and take part. The proceeds will be split between St Peter's Wenhaston and St Peter's Thorington.

### August Services

- 6th: 10am Team Holy Communion, St Mary's, Halesworth  
 13th: 10.30am Morning Prayer in the Methodist Chapel, Wenhaston.  
 20th: 10am Holy Communion, St Peter's Wenhaston  
 27th: 10am Pause for Thought, St Peter's Wenhaston.

### WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

Our July meeting should have been our garden party in one of our member's beautiful garden, but the weather typically had other ideas, so we had to adjourn to the village hall. Nevertheless we had a splendid time with lots of delicious food with everyone bringing a sharing plate and the Club provided all the beverages. We all had a chance to catch up and have a good old chat.

All the members thanked Jackie for continuing to run the Club and for all her hard work organising our monthly meetings.

We resume again in September in our usual venue, Wenhaston Village Hall and time of 7.30pm. We still do not have an annual membership fee, it is just pay on the night (tea/coffee and biscuits included).

So, on Tuesday 5th September at 7.30pm we will be holding a workshop and we are so excited to welcome back Lizzy from Bloomcore of Southwold.

Details of requirements for the workshop will be sent out in the monthly email, or contact Jackie.

Please come along to the meeting even if you don't want to take part in the workshop, as our meetings are always good fun and we are a very friendly group. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

Forward notice:- our meeting on Tuesday 3rd October is our Charity Night for the Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research. Raffle and tombola prizes would be very gratefully received, thank you.

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery on 01502 478401.

### WENHASTON M U

The weather was kind to us for our garden meeting at Spindleberry in July and we were able to have our Wave of Prayer Service followed by tea with strawberries and cream in the garden before the rain came! It was good to see everyone and especially to have Dominic with us to enjoy the Wave of Prayer Service together.

All the many Branches of the MU around the world are asked to take part in this simple but meaningful service every year and this makes it very special to all the members.

In August, some of us are going to join Yoxmere branch at their Summer Party at Farthings in Peasenhall and it

will be good to meet with members from other branches. There will not be a meeting of the branch in August, but the Revd Bill Mahood will be joining us in September and telling us his life story, and we are always pleased to have Bill with us.

**Margaret Goldstone (01502 478378)**

### Wenhaston Walkers

On Tuesday 1st August a walk will start from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. The second walk in the month will take place on Tuesday 15th August leaving at 10am from the Black Swan, Homersfield IP20 0ET. The pub lunch details will be circulated beforehand.

If you wish to have your name added to the walkers' circulation list, please email: [ipbigwood@btinternet.com](mailto:ipbigwood@btinternet.com)

**Heather Phillips (01502 478545)**

### St Peter's Church, Wenhaston

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-peters-church-wenhaston> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



## Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester

01986 835869

[marypester@rocketmail.com](mailto:marypester@rocketmail.com)

Lots of lovely things happening across the team in August but what of wonderful Wissett?

Services in August: 13th - 10am, Holy Communion; 20th - 10am, Morning Prayer; 27th - 10am, Breakfast Church.

By the time this magazine is printed we hope to be welcoming new people to the village and if you are reading this you are very welcome to Wissett.

Looking ahead to September we have Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Supper in The Village Hall on September 8th. On Saturday 9th September we have Gift Day and Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride. To the amusement of my friends who know me well, I am the organiser of the Bike Ride for Wissett. Amusing, as being able to ride a bike is one of the many

things I cannot do! The Trust raises money for the preservation of the churches and chapels in Suffolk. Wissett church is so full of history with the Norman door, the 12th century doorway with the amazing carved heads around, fragments of mediaeval stained glass, the woodwooses on the font... I promised to try to keep the church going when I moved here almost 30 years ago now so it is good that I will be organising the bike ride for Wissett, despite not riding a bike. I often think of all the people of Wissett in ages past who have walked through the church in times of terrible troubles, wars, celebrations, good and bad times and as a Wissett friend often says we owe it to them to keep the church going. Sponsor forms for the Ride and Stride are available from me. Nick Evans has asked me to warmly thank all who have contributed to Parkinson's UK in memory of Maggie. I have also been asked to include the cleaning rota for August. 6th: Veronica Catchpole and Kathleen Witherby; 13th: Tanya Baker and Anne Withers; 20th: Janice Bathgate and Cara Wetmore; 27th: Lynn Elliott and Kathleen Witherby. So dusters to the fore! I have just

thought some people may not like having their names mentioned in this column, so please let me know if that is the case. Visitors often comment in the book on how well kept the church is, so well done everyone! I hope that August is not , as Edna O'Brien titled it, "A Wicked Month" but a happy, fruitful, peaceful time for us all. We thought readers may like to see a photograph taken at the wedding of Eve Harrison and Edward Kiddy on 26th June 2023 at St Andrew's Wissett.



Photo: Megan Duffield Photography

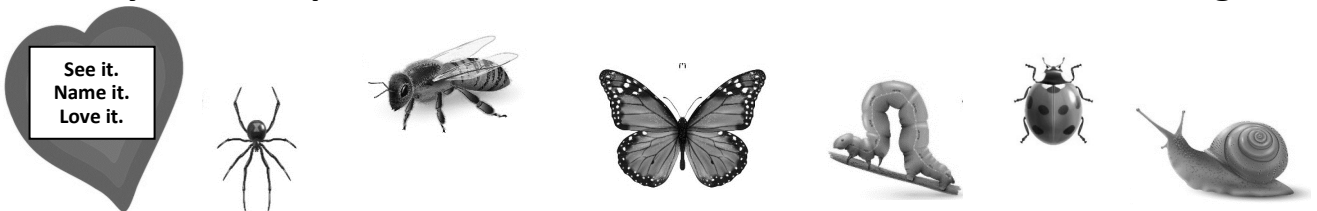
**St Andrew's Church,  
Wissett**

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-andrews-church-wissett> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.




**Are you looking after children or grandchildren during the school holidays?  
Why not take part in the "See it, Name it, Love it" nature challenge?**



**"See it. Name it. Love it."** - A way to care about our natural world.

**How does it work?**



**See it.....** Sit down in your garden, in a wood, in the park or anywhere where you might see birds, butterflies and other insects. You might try and take a picture of it.



**Name it.....** Look up what you have seen. You can look in books or on the internet. What is it called? What does it eat? Find out information about it.



**Love it.....** Just enjoy watching it. You might want to draw it or share what you've seen with friends and family. Can you see how a bee drinks nectar from a flower? Which flower does the butterfly like? How many swifts can you count?



# SIGN OF THE FISH

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Summer holiday reading: I used to fantasise about lounging on a (fairly secluded) beach or under a shady tree, with a small pile of favourite books, although the reality was more often sitting in the window seat at my grandparents on a rainy August day, or later in life, like many folk, killing time at the airport, and in between these seasons of life the demands of family holidays meant there was barely time to open a book. But now I am retired I can indulge in "holiday reading" any time of year and one of my favourite genres is the clerical "who (or why) dunnit" happily combined with a historical setting for preference, Brother Cadfael for example.

According to Philip Grosset, who's created an invaluable compendium on clerical detectives on the website [detecs.org](http://detecs.org), (**not** a literary site but a resource for private detectives and lawyers in the USA!) there are nearly four hundred clergy-detectives in English literature, and several of these have made it as TV series too.

Another interesting website is <https://www.mysteryandsuspense.com/amateur-detectives-in-the-clergy/> where can be found a brief analysis of the enduring appeal of the cleric as amateur sleuth, largely of the more florid American variety, it does cite G K Chesterton's Father Brown stories and James Runcie's Grantchester series. The author, R T Lund, points out "most of them (fictional detectives) operate under a strict moral code of right versus wrong and good versus evil when it comes to dealing with crime and criminals, a moral code that most clerics would appreciate...The best clerical detectives have varying body types, religious affiliations, and temperaments, but most have this in common: unlike classical detectives like Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot, who pride themselves on the use of deductive reasoning, the clerics solve crimes using intuition and their understanding of the evil side of human nature." Perhaps the *religieux* as amateur detective is more like ourselves and we become more invested in the narrative.

I have recently discovered a new series by V M Knox, where the clergyman is enlisted as a wartime spy, and therefore a type of saviour of his nation, chosen probably because of his strong moral compass: is the clue in the name the author chose for him – Revd Clement Wisdom.

**In September 1940 Britain stood alone facing an imminent Nazi invasion.** Clement Wisdom, a country vicar, has been co-opted as leader of the East Sussex Auxiliaries, one of the covert Auxiliary Units set up by the government to resist the expected invasion. Burdened with the tension between his faith and his patriotic duty, he sets out to eliminate the Police Inspector, in theory the only other person who knows of the unit's existence, only to find him dead already. While assisting Lewes Police to find the Inspector's killer, events take an ominous turn as one by one, members of Clement's team are found callously murdered. Priorities shift and every aspect of life is called into question when Clement becomes embroiled in the murky world of espionage, where nothing is what it seems.

**1941.** Clement's wife has been killed in an air raid, so under the cover of taking up a new parish in far northern Scotland, Clement is sent to the remote village of Huna, in Caithness, to locate a possible enemy agent who is sending out encrypted radio messages. Perched on the edge of Great Britain, the isolated community is wary of strangers. Struggling to gain trust from the locals and where even his assigned Government contact, the local Postmistress, is antagonistic, he becomes entangled in a web of silence. When the husband of his contact is found dead, the body horrifically impaled on a shard of window glass, Clement is at first unsure if it is an unfortunate accident, or a gruesome warning. As more deaths are uncovered, Clement realises he is facing not only an enemy spy but a ruthless killer. With limited time, Clement must act quickly, and, **if necessary, alone.**

**In the dark days of 1941, Britain fights on.** Invasion threatens and fear hangs in the air. Some yearn for peace and an end to the relentless Nazi bombing. Others are spurred on to fight for victory, no matter the cost. And some will manipulate a divided country for their own ends. On a winter's night, a German spy parachutes into the Cambridgeshire fenland while another man is secretly murdered in the same field. Is he another enemy spy or has he been sent to his death? Either way, a killer lurks. Major Revd Clement Wisdom, now a member of the SIS, is sent to discover the dead man's identity and almost immediately uncovers a sinister network of conspiracy where kidnap, murder and revenge threaten not only the safety of the country but Clement's life.

**In late 1941,** Japan threatens and vast numbers of Imperial Army spies have infiltrated throughout the Pacific Islands in readiness for conflict.

His previous assignment having finished in Australia Major Clement Wisdom is seconded to lead a small guerrilla force. Their mission: to secure a vitally important person in Singapore and take him, and the secret he carries, back to Australia, but while enroute, Clement learns that Malaya, Singapore, and Pearl Harbour have all been bombed and war with Japan declared.

With no up-to-date intelligence, and leading a group of men he barely knows, much less trusts, Clement's orders leave him with no option but to proceed.

His fears are compounded when one of his men dies in an apparent suicide and it seems likely that there is an enemy spy on board; one who will kill to evade discovery and who is motivated by the oldest of reasons: revenge.

These books are available from the library, and also available as e-books.

*Val Jennings*

For Sign of the Fish



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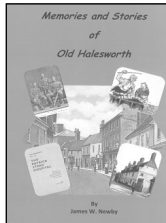
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Donations of food for the Foodbank can also be left at  
Woolnough's Funeral Services office at the entrance to  
Halesworth Cemetery on Holton Road and also at  
Rosedale Funeral Services in the Market Place,  
Halesworth.

There are collection boxes outside the offices, where  
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## Summer Events

**St Margarets Church**  
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**2nd August**  
**11.00 - 12.30**

### Teddy Bears Picnic

Bring your teddys and a picnic for a fun play session and rhyme time.  
For ages 0 - 3 years



**10th August**  
**12.30 - 13.30**

### HANDBELL WORKSHOP

A fun interactive workshop for all ages. Come along to enjoy the music or have a go. Refreshments provided. Parking available.

**15th August**  
**10.30 - 12.00**

### Dotty the Pony

Come and meet Dotty the Pony. Learn about pony care and have a pony ride, subject to age and weight due to H&S guidelines.



Pony rides are available at an extra cost

**21st August**  
**13.00 - 15.00**

### FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON

Games

Circus Skills

Face Painting

available at extra cost

PARKING IS LIMITED DURING EVENTS WITH EXCEPTION OF THE HANDBELL WORKSHOP.  
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## ST MARY'S WALPOLE EVENTS

### THE WATER IS WIDE

We are delighted to welcome Soprano Katherine MacRae, accompanied by pianist Jodie Schloss, for an evening of classical music.

Settings of British and European Folk Songs by Benjamin Britten, Manuel de Falla, Gustav Mahler and others.

**Sunday 6th August 2023: 5:00pm**

**St Mary's Church, Walpole IP19 9AU**

Tickets: £10 in advance <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-water-is-wide-tickets-678068760917?aff=oddttdtcreator>  
Please contact Anita Hill 07717 503511  
[anita.hill2006@gmail.com](mailto:anita.hill2006@gmail.com)

All proceeds in aid of the St Mary's Restoration Fund.

Refreshments

Parking in field opposite the Church



Katie began her musical training in America before coming to London to study at the Royal Academy of Music. She has performed with many opera companies including; Grange Park Opera, Raymond Gubbay productions (at the O2), and Opera East. Katie has also given concerts at venues including St James' Piccadilly, St Martin in the Fields, La Salle de la Cité des Arts (Paris), and Steinway Hall (New York). Recent work includes the 'Trousers Role,' Arthur in Gothic Opera's award winning UK premiere of Gounod's La Nonne Sanglante at Hoxton Hall, as well as roles in two operas by Rameau - Hippolyte et Aricie and Les Indes Galantes.



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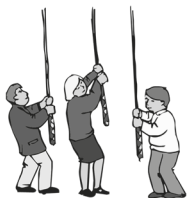


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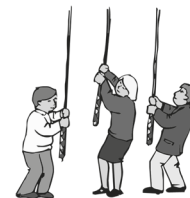
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## From the Ringing Chamber



I'm pleased to report that, in the last few weeks, we successfully completed two quarter peals of Single Oxford Bob Minor, both at Wissett, as the culmination of our project to ring a new (to us, including me!) method from scratch. We're now moving on to another method called Single Court, which has a lot of similarities to Single Oxford, so hopefully we can knock this off in a few weeks.

Incidentally, the names Single Court Bob and Single Oxford Bob were originally just Court Bob and Oxford Bob (Bob means that there is some energetic dodging involved; Minor means on six bells). Then someone realised that you could make things more "interesting" by duplicating what was going on at the back (second half) of the row in mirror image on the front. Thus were born Double Court and Double Oxford (they are next on our list!), and "Single" was added to the original method names for clarity.

We've also rung a couple of quarter peals for Sunday evening services, at Halesworth and Heveningham. To ring a quarter for a 10am service means an early start – not good for me and not good for local residents, but evenings are more doable and, as explained previously, this enables me to spread the net wider than just the Blyth Valley, to such an extent that I was the only resident out of eight ringers in the quarter at Halesworth!

Our weekly practices, usually at Blythburgh, continue to be progressive, not just for us but for the regular visitors from

other towers in the District. Our newer ringers are making steady progress: Kari rang for her first services this month while Joanna is now ringing rounds, helped by a number of visits to the enterprising Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre in Norwich.

We can be seen in action soon at our annual open day on September 16th for the Heritage Open Weekend, and I hope that one or two more may be inspired to begin the long and slow but thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding journey to become a ringer!

PJG



*Friends of St Mary's Halesworth*

### Lunchtime Recital St Mary's Church, Halesworth Wednesday 9th August, 12.30pm

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## FASCINATING FACTS AND UNTOLD STORIES



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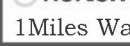
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◆ SUFFOLK ◆

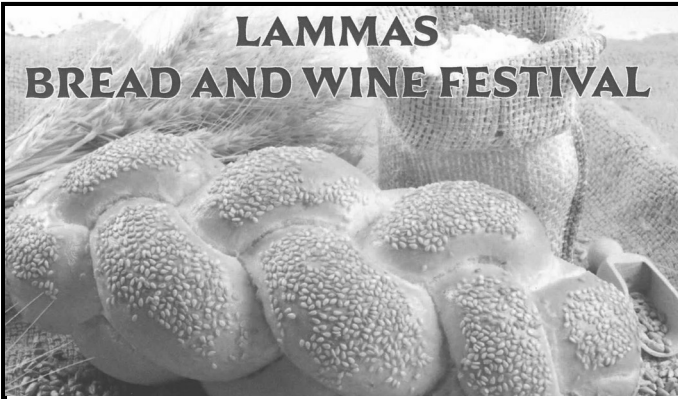
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# LAMMAS BREAD AND WINE FESTIVAL

**St Mary's Church, Halesworth  
Saturday 5th August 2023**

**2pm: Tasting and talks - Bread and Wine**

**2-4pm: Stalls featuring bread and wine producers and tasting tables:**

E5 Bakehouse, Hackney Valley Wines, Wissett  
Johnny, Penny Bun Bakehouse Josiah Hodmedod's bakery  
Fete style tombola, splat the rat, tables

**4pm: Judging - Prizes awarded for:**

Best amateur red wine Best amateur white wine  
Best lammas loaf made by an adult Best lammas loaf made by a child

**6pm: Lammas service and reception**

**Raffle - lots of fantastic prizes to be won!** A tasting tour of Valley Wines and a case of delicious English Sparkling Wines

**FREE ENTRY - donations to church funds appreciated**



Celebrating 800 years 'Halesworth Market Town'

# SAVE THE DATE CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE



**29TH SEPT TO 1ST OCT 2023**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, HALESWORTH**

**Another step on our journey to Net Zero!**

**FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER**

**6.30-9.30PM**

**EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION**

followed by fantastic local cheese and wine

**SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER**

**Workshopping info and ideas:**

- Regional policies and plans: Church, State and Trusts
- Active community projects
- Practical changes in the home: real-life examples

**SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER**

- Celebration of Creation - church service at St Mary's
- Wild picnics!
- Closing entertainment

**Exhibition showcasing local projects, large and small**

For more information please visit:  
[www.halesworthash.com](http://www.halesworthash.com)



Blyth Valley Churches



# The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Halesworth 2023 concert / events highlights

**Saturday 5 August**  
From 2pm onwards

**LAMMAS BREAD & WINE FESTIVAL**  
From tasting & talks to a Lammas Service and reception  
Come down and see what is on offer



**Wednesday 9 August**  
12noon for 12.30pm

**RECITAL BY ALEXANDER CAMPKIN & STUDENTS**  
A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's  
FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch



**POSTPONED**

**BOHEMIAN CHOIR**  
RETURN TO ST MARY'S IN 2024



**Wednesday 13 September**  
12noon for 12.30pm

**ORGAN RECITAL BY JASON BUSBY - WATCH ON THE BIG SCREEN**  
A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's  
FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch



**Sat 16 & Sun 17 September**  
ALL DAY

**HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND - From tower & Church tours, music, flowers & more. Come and explore St. Mary's (please note we have a wedding Sunday 17th @ 3pm)**



**Friday 29 September**  
6.30-9.30pm

**CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE**  
Another step on our journey to Net Zero!  
Expert panel discussion / Exhibition showcasing local projects



**NEW LIVE STREAM SERVICE FROM ST. MARY'S NOW AVAILABLE**

Worship with us from anywhere in the world - Visit our YouTube channel

**YouTube** [www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish](http://www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish) **YouTube**

For more details about any of our concerts or events,  
or if you wish to hire St. Mary's for your concert, meeting, event get in touch via...

[www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk) ☎ 01986 875941 📞 07817 863533