



Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

February 2023

Volume 44

Issue 2

£1.00

(where sold)

The Glorious Sound Of Bells

On Saturday 14th January, around 30 bellringers from the North East Suffolk District of the Suffolk Guild of Bellringers met at Chediston for a two hour practice. Ringers came from our own Blyth Valley, Beccles and Aldeburgh. As with any musical group, bellringers need to practice together as the bells can only be rung as a team, with one person to one bell. Getting the rhythm and striking right can only come with practising together and taking the advice and teaching of more experienced ringers.

Chediston has a lovely ring of six bells restored and re-tuned in 2009. Bellringers from all over the county and country want to come and ring them – we are very fortunate to have such an asset in our village.

If anyone in the village or locally is interested in bellringing and wants to learn to ring, please contact Veronica Downing on 07799 484266.



Chediston's bell tower captain, Veronica Downing (pictured right) with fellow ringers.

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

To subscribe, with a copy delivered locally through your door - (minimum donation £12 a year); or to request a postal subscription (£30 a year), please telephone 01986 875941 or 07752 275328 or email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

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

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

FEBRUARY 2023 Lectionary

Sunday 5th – Green

Traditional Communion – Septuagesima
1 Corinthians 9: 24 – end (KJV)
Matthew 20: 1 – 16 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Third Before Lent
Isaiah 58:1 – 12 (NRSV)
Matthew 5: 13 – 20 (NRSV)

Sunday 12th – Green

Traditional Communion – Sexagesima
Genesis 3.9–19 (KJV)
Luke 8: 4 – 15 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Second Before Lent
Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 3 (NRSV)
Matthew 6: 25 – 34 (NRSV)

Sunday 19th – Green

Traditional Communion – Quinquagesima
1 Corinthians 13: 1 – end (KJV)
Luke 18: 31 – end (KJV)

Holy Communion – Next Before Lent
Exodus 24: 12 – 18 (NRSV)
Matthew 17: 1 – 9 (NRSV)

Sunday 26th – Purple

Traditional Communion – First in Lent
2 Corinthians 6: 1 – 10 (KJV)
Matthew 4: 1 – 11 (KJV)

Holy Communion – First Sunday of Lent
Genesis 2: 15 – 17; 3: 1 – 7 (NRSV)
Matthew 4: 1 – 11 (NRSV)

Please use other publications for lectionaries for other services, e.g. Morning Prayer.



**VISIT THE BLYTH VALLEY
TEAM MINISTRY WEBSITE:**

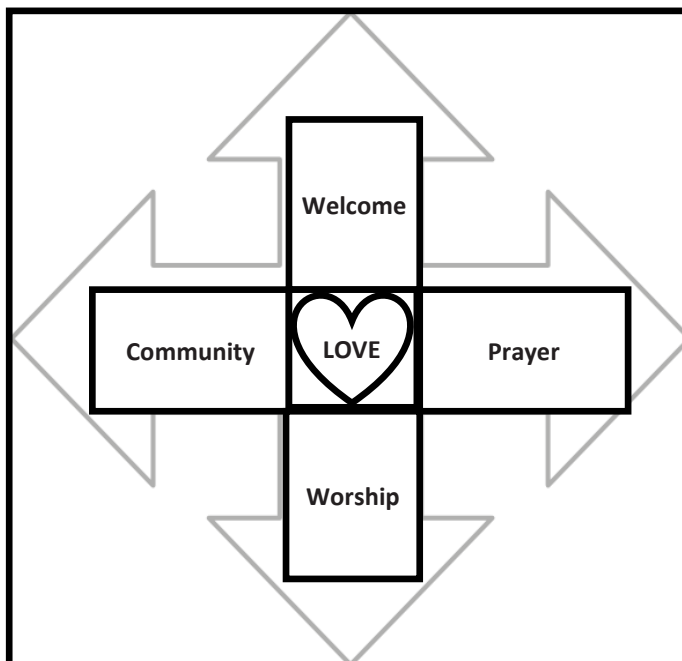
**www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk
for Service details and local events etc**



There are current news items and
photos on our Facebook page, too:
Find us at: [blythvalleychurchessuffolk](https://www.facebook.com/blythvalleychurchessuffolk)

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LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN JANUARY FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

Josephine Agius at Chediston
Peter Jenkins at Walpole
Iris Head at Heveningham
Jennifer Berry at Halesworth
John Cook at Halesworth
Alan Bish at Waveney Memorial Park & Crematorium
Beryl Chapman at Halesworth

Worship in the Blyth Valley in February 2023				
CW – Year A	5th Green BCP – Septuagesima CW – Third Before	12th Green BCP – Sexagesima CW – Second Before	19th Green BCP – Quinquagesima CW – Next Before	26th Purple BCP – First in Lent CW – First of Lent
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am TEAM Holy Communion Dominic 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Traditional Communion Linda 6pm Evensong Dominic	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		10am Morning Prayer Vic	10am Iona Worship Janet	10am Holy Communion Linda
Wenhaston St Peter			10am Holy Communion Gini	10am Pause for Thought Alison C
Bramfield St Andrew		10am Holy Communion Dominic		
Blyford All Saints			10am Morning Prayer Linda	
Thorington St Peter				10am Morning Prayer David
St Andrew Group				
Wissett St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer Diana	10am Holy Communion Dominic	10am Breakfast Church Geoffrey
Chediston St Mary		10am Holy Communion Gini		10am Morning Prayer Vic
Spexhall St Peter			10am Morning Prayer David	
Linstead St Margaret		10am Matins Malcolm		10am Holy Communion Gini
St Michael Group				
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Jonathan	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Holy Communion Alison		
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Morning Prayer Diana
Walpole St Mary				10am Morning Prayer Dominic

Additional Services: 9.30am Thursdays, Morning Worship, St Andrew's Bramfield
 7pm 21st Shrove Tuesday Clipping Service, St Andrew's Wissett, Gini
 6pm 22nd Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with Ashing, St Mary's Halesworth, Dominic

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am
(unless stated otherwise)

FEBRUARY 2023

5th Sue Groome
12th The Revd Martin Keenan (Cov)
19th The Revd Leslie Richards
26th The Revd Clive Sutcliffe

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

Gathered worship **Sundays 11am** – (10.30am for refreshments).

Sundays: Zoom Worship @11am (join from 10.30am)

Tuesday lunchtimes: 30
minute worship @ 12.30pm (at
Lowestoft and usually also on
Zoom)

**Tuesdays after school,
alternate weeks**

Every Friday: Prayer meeting
@ 9.45am

Note: Currently on Zoom

New Wednesday evening Home Group – alternate weeks



Specific include:

Sun 5 Feb Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**) includes Communion

Sun 12 Feb Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**)

Sun 19 Feb Gathered in the church building (**No Zoom**)

Sun 26 Feb Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**)

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

Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Jo Moreira (for families and children)

jomohurc@gmail.com

Zoom Meeting ID: 776 – 044 – 1926

Passcode: 811885



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

or

The Revd Linda Berry at:
revd.linda@huntingfield.uk

From the Rector...

February begins with Candlemas or the Festival of the Presentation of Christ at the Temple. It can be remembered on the nearest Sunday which is what has happened this year. We had a fifth Sunday joint service at St Mary's Halesworth, which I hope will be increasingly supported to become a resource church for the whole Blyth Valley in terms of worship, skills and fundraising.

As a concept, the festival speaks of the circle of life – for you Lion King fans out there! As its name suggests, it remembers the occasion of the child Jesus being presented to God. He would have been redeemed at the cost of two doves for a normal hard-up household.

You can see this depicted on the bottom right of the stained glass window above the top table in St Mary's Halesworth. Recalling the Exodus, better-off families were supposed to give a lamb as God's people had to buy back their first born male from God. Jesus would have been bought back in this way. He would have also been circumcised. This marks him as a Jew in the Jewish religious culture. He is initiated into that ethnicity – one of God's chosen people. Mary, likely, would also have been restored to her place in society in the manner of the churching of women. Sadly, historically, in some faiths, sensitivities have excluded rather than recognised women's reproductive cycles and regenerative energy. Blood was held to be life and God's gift in its proper place. Kosher animal's life blood is drained in respect. The regular bleeding and loss of blood at childbirth meant women were deemed unclean. So, the festival of the presentation is a both a restoration and a committing at one end of life.

Suffolk Diocese has therefore dubbed the occasion 'Growing Younger Sunday'. Engaging with children and young families is messy. Demands from children and work are often chaotic. Responsibilities are spontaneous. Sitting quietly and still through an hour of worship may not be everyone's idea of a good use of a Sunday morning, even if there is no football happening then. Yet, Gini, *Open the Book* and others are engaging with youth and children's work across the town to promote opportunities outside school to chill, belong and contribute. I used to think younger people would inevitably be more aware, kind, generous as they learned more about

the mistakes and hang ups of the previous generations. However, it seems the church's contribution is still very much needed as faith gives the humility and self-confidence required to counter the isolating insecure hatred of people like Andrew Tate which is so influential for young men in our day.

The church's contribution is where the circle of life comes back around. The other main characters in the Luke 2: 22 – 40 Gospel reading for the festival communion service are Simeon and Anna. They meet and speak about the child with the family and those gathered to worship. All we know about Simeon is that he was a Gandalf character. He was righteous, devout and the Holy Spirit rested on him. Whether he actually said the words of the Nunc Dimittis or whether they were a liturgy already in use attributed to him, I don't know. He says I can now die well satisfied now that I have seen God's answer.

Anna was 84, and had been married once, but only for seven years. She is a faithful regular attender at the 8am Prayer Book Mass, if you will. Prophet Anna preaches to everyone present who were interested about 'the child'.

The wisdom and the life experience of older folk, especially when seasoned with faith, is invaluable. So are the ancient traditions of the church, such as Candlemas when candles are presented for blessing so that like Christ they may give light to our lives in worship throughout the year. Old or young please do come along to all or any of our illuminating events in church or outside; working parties or worship, concerts or committees, food or fundraising. You are welcome here!

Dominic

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SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

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

HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

Like you all, we have just engaged with Christians from various churches in the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. This year, it included gatherings at venues around the community. As we came together to pray, by doing so at key local places, we were symbolically, and spiritually 'acting out' the unity God calls us to. But also 'grounding' what we were doing in the community. If you want the technical (theological) term – we were being 'incarnational'.

This is important: Whatever church/denomination/background/tradition we are from, what we share is the key truths of Christianity and the key experience of a journey into personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

I was recently asked (by someone who genuinely wanted to know) what is the difference between us (the URC) and the Anglican church? There are, of course, differences that can be brought out, but the conversation flowed much more into what we hold in common: treasures indeed!


Our unity is important: Jesus prayed for his followers (John 17) and not only those at the time but those *who would come to believe through their testimony*. In other words: us! We are all included. And the theme Jesus prayed was that we should be one 'just as he and the Father are one'. Christian unity, therefore, is at the heart of this prayer, which Jesus was praying on the very night he was betrayed – knowing what he was to face, yet concerned for us.

And as we pray for Christian unity, we also pray for each other – both within local congregations and across different churches and denominations. And as we pray for each other we also learn to love one another, Remember that Jesus said this was how we would be known as his disciples, if we love one another (John 13:35).

Blessings


Jon






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HALESWORTH AND DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB



There was nearly a full house of members for our January meeting, and quite a buzz in the restaurant.

Chairman John Wood welcomed all and introduced Daniel Gooderham, Head Brewer at Adnams.

Following a very tasty meal Daniel told us of his university training in brewing and how he joined Adnams 12 years ago just as the business was investing in modern equipment.

In 2022 Adnams had its 150th Anniversary. He gave us some fascinating information about yeast and how "yeast must be happy" seems to be the motto. He briefly talked about the production of spirits and the wine-importing sides to the business.

His talk was very well received by the members and there were bottles of different beers to sample. Irene Thomas thanked the speaker.

Before closing the meeting Chairman John mentioned that the social committee are arranging a "Tapas and Continental Food" occasion to be held at The Ancient House Bistro in Halesworth on Monday 13th March.

David Prime

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Extracts from
Transformation Now!
Jan 2023
www.musuffolk.org.uk
Charity No. 249726

Prayers as we start a New Year. "At the beginning of this New Year, I offer you my life. Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness. Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving. Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within. Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading. Amen."

Re-Imagining Mothers' Union in your parish. One of the priorities for our Re-Imagining feedback, that members so generously shared last September, was **to raise the profile of Mothers' Union within the church as well as the community.** One way in which we aim to do this is through a series of regular Mothers' Union themed articles for the local parish or community magazine or newsletters. Highlighting the work of Mothers' Union and promoting membership of Mothers' Union.

Needham Market Mothers' Union. MU has been collecting good quality clean secondhand coats for adults and children. These have been available for anybody that attends the Food Pantry on a Thursday morning. St John's Pantry is open from 9.30am to 11am each week. It is held in the ARK on King William's Street. Choose your own food and supplies for £3 a bag – available to everyone who needs us. Val Jeffreys Branch Leader.

The Annual Gathering 2023 in York, is at the York Barbican on Friday 22nd September 2023. Tickets are now on sale. The programme is in development and will focus on member stories and how we are working together to sustain and grow Mothers' Union into the future. Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President will be at the gathering and the Archbishop of York will be leading the celebratory service at York Minster that evening. If you would like to go to this event in York, speak to Jeanette Appleton 01473 311487.

Metamorphosis bitesize. Six sessions for small groups This is a new MU Resource for small groups. It describes Mothers' Union's approach to change and transformation. One or more of these sessions would make an ideal focus for a Branch meeting. The Metamorphosis booklet gives starting points, Bible Study, Tools and Reflection for each session. For those wishing to go into this in more depth, there is an 8 session Metamorphosis Course which will start on 27th January. If you would like to do this course please speak to Linda Ginn.

News on the Christmas Appeal for South Sudan - This Appeal raised £69,500. This will allow financial and practical support for over 600 vulnerable women. They will go on to support many others - to challenge gender inequality, empower communities and build brighter futures.

Prayer Diary - We hope that every member has received a Prayer Diary. This should have arrived in time to start the New Year. If you have not received this publication, please contact Clare Thomas on 01473 832808, as soon as possible. Clare keeps our Membership Database up to date. Please let her know about any new members, any changes of address or the death of any member so that our records are kept up to date

Cards for Prisoners at Highpoint - Four branches have now booked workshops for making the cards that will be needed for Christmas 2023. If there are other branches who would like to make cards, please let me know and I will put you on the list for 2024. We would be happy to recycle any used Christmas cards you may have, for this project. We are also collecting new notelets/cards so that Highpoint has a stock of these items available at the prison for prisoners to keep in touch with their families. Sue Norrington 01728 660280.

Craft Items - MU members knit and sew many items like Seafarer's Hats, Twiddle Muffs, Stars, Baby items and Drain Bags. Some patterns are on the MU website. We are trying to attach labels which indicate that the item has been made with love by MU. We are trying to form a small group that would check craft items and attach the labels, meeting about twice a year. If you think you could help with this please contact Cathie McGregor - catherinemcgregor211@gmail.com

2022 saw the loss of Queen Elizabeth as our Queen and our MU Patron. We are grateful for her example and enduring faith. We pray for King Charles as he moves towards his Coronation.

Prayers - *We are aware that prisoners who maintain links with their families and leave prison to return to a stable family life are less likely to reoffend.*

We pray for prisoners and their families, that visits and communication can be maintained. Please bless the work of MU in sending Christmas cards and providing cards and notelets for prisoners to send to their families as MU seeks to show the Love of God for those whose family life has met with adversity. We pray for the staff at Highpoint and the Chaplaincy team. We also pray for the victims of crime as they try to move on with their lives. Lord in your mercy. Hear our Prayer.

Once the weather warms up it is hoped that Halesworth members will be able to get together. In the meantime if you are able, please join with our sister group in Wenhaston on the second Wednesday of the month.

Every blessing for the coming year.

Win Sutton Branch leader. E: win.sutton28@gmail.com



World Day of Prayer 2023

2pm

Friday 3rd March

Halesworth URC Church

"I have heard about your faith"



A service prepared by
Christian women in Taiwan
followed by refreshments.

For more information contact:

Rev. Alison Alder: alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk

Tel 01502 47885.

Or Judy Morton:

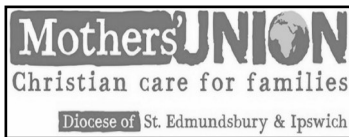
judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Christmas Present Appeal For Children Of Ukraine – Thank you!

A really big thank you to everyone who supported the appeal for Christmas presents for Ukrainian children in November and early December. I was able to take our fully packed Reability van down to the Ardent Hire depot in Ipswich on 8th December. The photograph is of me and Jeremy Fish, CEO for Ardent Plant Hire standing by the wrapped pallet of all the Halesworth presents and clothing. All unloaded and loaded onto the pallet in minutes! Five 40 tonne articulated lorries went out on December 12th with presents, clothing, medical and hospital supplies, beds and mattresses and catering sacks of dried food.

Our thoughts and prayers continue for the people of Ukraine.

Veronica Downing. Tel: 07799 484266



What are your plans for 2023?

Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change. Here in the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich we have a strong Mothers' Union membership, making a difference in the communities where we live and supporting members and their work across the world. Why not put your faith into action by joining us as we work together for a better world?

As a member you can:

- Strengthen communities all over the world
- Help the most disadvantaged at home
- Shape how we advocate for the rights of families
- Build supportive, loving relationships
- Develop your own relationship with God.

Janet Walkey

Waveney & Blyth Mothers' Union Deanery Leader
01986 872594

Stella @ KHG



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

- Support to understand a diagnosis or health condition
- Social welfare advice: benefits, blue badges and housing etc
- Learn digital skills and access support online

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.

Local support when you need it most

Friends of St Mary's - St Mary The Virgin Church, Halesworth - A little bit of history: Monuments of all shapes and sizes - Part 5

Ledger stones, monuments laid into the floor of churches, usually flat stone slabs marking the place of burial of deceased people of sufficient importance to warrant their resting place inside the church. That this perhaps does not matter is humorously hinted at by the epitaph on the ledger stone of one Thomas Docton (d. 1618), originally placed in the churchyard outside the chancel door of St Nectans' Church, Hartland, Devon, and which reads:

Here I lie outside the chancel door; Here I lie because I'm poor:

The further in, the more they pay; But here I lie as warm as they.

The term 'ledger' derives from the Middle English words *lygger*, *ligger* or *leger*, they from the root of the Old English verb *licgan*, meaning to lie down. An inscription on stones and recording the salient details of the deceased, not uncommonly a family group, may be accompanied by incised coats of arms or other decoration. Stones with inset brasses first appeared in the 13th century. Ledger stones were chosen by important but less well-off families, being cheaper than a tomb, and gradually gave way to the familiar upright inscribed gravestone.

It is not clear what criteria qualified a deceased person to be buried within a church (rather than in the churchyard), and/or to merit a ledger stone; examples range from the aristocracy to country gentry, from clergy and doctors to merchants and tradesmen.

Throughout the UK, over 250,000 survive mostly dating from the late 17th - late 18th centuries. Stones used are often from a local source, with the carving of the letters, largely in Latin up to about 1740, and any decoration of high quality, a demonstration of the letter cutter's art.

The Ledgerstone Survey of England and Wales aims to record all the ledger stones of England and Wales with partners in the scheme, *The Church Recording Society*, and *The Church Monuments Society*.

St Mary's has its share of ledger stones; in the sanctuary are three. For one Thomas Shortrudge, 'Clerk lately Rector of this Parish who Departed this life July ye 8th 1722'; Latin text for Anna Sparham (d.1682 aged 19), wife of John Sparham; and, poignantly, the sons of Thomas Anguish, Rector, and his wife, Mary, - William aged three (d. 1728), and his brother, Edmund aged seven (d. 1735).

On the floor of the Lady Chapel are the ledger stones of Sir William Argentein (d. 1418) and his wife, (moved here when the organ was installed). Their brasses perhaps removed by the iconoclast William Dowsing and his men when they visited St Mary's on 5 April 1643.

In front of the font are several ledger stones, not all legible. That of William Cary (d.1686) and of Thomas Carver (d.1708), a 'D^r. of Physick', which records the latter had 10 children, of whom two sons and three daughters survived him. His wife (d.1713), has a separate stone as 'Relict'; relict being an archaic word for someone surviving after the loss of another, often used on monuments about a widow, and, less often, a widower. Their son, Thomas (d.1719), is buried in the north porch.

Next are ledger stones for the Jermyn family; James Jermyn (d. 1778), a local attorney described as, '...an Ornament to his Profession, Stranger to Parsimony & Extravagance and a real Friend to Mankind. Truth & Justice require this Acknowledgement of his Merit.', and his wife Martha, (d. 1772) who died 42 years to the day after her marriage, each event on a Tuesday. She is described thus: 'Reader! Her Piety & Goodness of Heart were not unworthy of thy Imitation.' Also, interred here is their son, Peter Jermyn (d.1797 aged 31), also an attorney, who left wife Sarah, 3 sons and 3 daughters.

Lastly is the small ledger stone of Charles D'Urban born 17 March 1769 and dying less than 3 weeks later on 3 April. Charles was the infant brother of Lieutenant General Sir Benjamin D'Urban (1777-1849) whose name was given to Durban, formerly, Port Natal, chief seaport of South Africa, where he was governor of the Cape Colony 1834-37.

Near the north porch is the stone of Jacob Keble (d.1660), with a shield at the top and four indentations which presumably held brasses.

The wooden flooring of the inner north aisle covers ledger stones for James Turner (d.1820 aged 34), his wife, Mary Ann (d. 1812 aged 24), and, 'Two of their Children are interred by her side.' - did she die in childbirth, one wonders.

And, lastly, the ledger stone where, 'Heere Under Lyeth Buried the Bodie of John Pricke Gentleman whoe was Some Time Practitioner of The ER^t of Physicke In This Towne of Halsworth'

Do pause awhile at these fascinating glimpses of inhabitants, once of Halesworth, buried under our feet in St Mary's.

Jenny Janes



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Susan Fitch, A.H.C.P.

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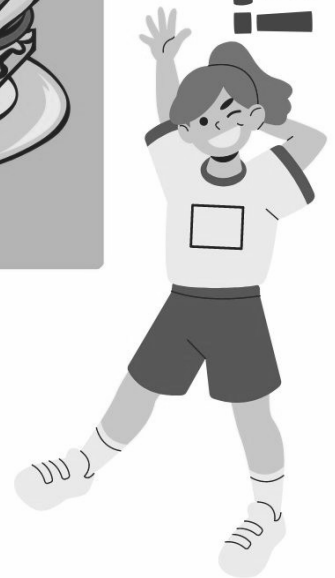
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St Peter's church Holton (an independent charity) has a **vacancy** for a **Treasurer**: someone to maintain financial records (income c.£30k p.a.) and report to the Church Council regularly (eight times a year).

Previous experience of simple accounts and some knowledge of church would be useful, but you do not have to be "religious"; believing in the worth of the building and in community would help. We offer local, Team and diocesan support and relevant training; there are WhatsApp groups and regular meetings for support

The Treasurer would manage day-to-day accounts, pay in monies and write cheques, as one of co-signatories; and prepare annual accounts for the church and diocese.

The current Treasurer may give help and advice as necessary. This post is a voluntary one, but appropriate expenses will be paid.

If you are would like to explore this interesting opportunity, please email the Churchwardens:

John Hewlett at jfhewlett@btinternet.com

or

Chris Knevett at cknevett@btinternet.com

FUNERAL NOTICE

CLARK Daniel Charles of Bramfield, Halesworth. Passed away peacefully on December 27th 2022, aged 85 years. Beloved husband of the late Trisha, now re-united. Much loved dad, brother, uncle and grandad. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. After moving to the village with his wife and family he lived there for nearly 50 years, many of them spent working at Bramfield House school.

The funeral service for Daniel will be held at St Andrew's Church, Bramfield on Friday, February 10th, 2023 at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired for Halesworth Volunteers or Halesworth *dementia* Carers' Fund may be sent c/o Rosedale Funeral Home, Arcadia House, 19 Market Place, Halesworth IP19 8BB.



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Anglican Church
of Tanzania
KAGERA



20^a SIGN OF THE FISH

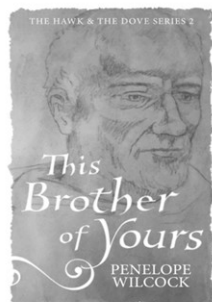
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The Sign of the Fish is open: Mon – Wed 9.30am – 1pm; (Thurs closed);
Fri 9.30am – 1pm; Sat closed

On revisiting old favourites

How happy I was shortly before Christmas to discover this book had recently been published, I had to treat myself in case none of my family and friends decided it was a suitable Christmas present!

I came to the original *The Hawk and the Dove* series quite late and enjoyed them immensely, feeling quite bereft when I'd finished the last one – it seems many others, including the author, felt the same.

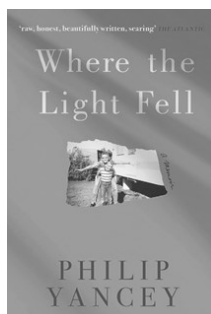


This Brother of Yours by Penelope Wilcock The series is set in a Benedictine monastery in Yorkshire at the beginning of the 14th century, a setting where striving to live a life closer to God and in harmony with one's fellows is entirely believable and not cringeworthy, but as challenging for these oh so human men as it is for us today. Picking up the narrative where

the previous series ended, with a slice of life that can be enjoyed without having read all the first series, the main protagonist returns to his former monastic life in very poor health after the death of his wife: contentious circumstances indeed. Can he be accepted? Will he be accepted? Will the bishop find out, with dire circumstances for the whole community? He is "hidden" in the infirmary to heal and later to serve (apparently the bishop has never been known to enter the infirmary on any of his visitations). So this novel is about the return of a prodigal, second chances and above all healing of mind, body and spirit. (I learnt some very surprising things about medieval medicine!).

The author herself writes "My aim in writing is to make goodness attractive. I love simple human kindness and gentleness, and I am moved by human vulnerability. I am fascinated by the power that is within our grasp to lift one another up, to heal and strengthen and encourage each

other - our power to bless." For me, she succeeds with all *The Hawk and the Dove* series.



Where the Light Fell by Philip Yancey.

The author is probably familiar to most of us for books such as *What's so amazing about Grace?*, *Soul Survivor*, and *What good is God?* Honest, empathetic and wise, and, as it turns out, grounded on his lived experience, they are an encouragement and inspiration to thousands. *Where the light fell* is Yancey's very readable early years autobiography,

coming-of-age story or, as the blurb tells us, a 'meditation on the bonds of family and the allure of extremist faith'.

His young parents had a dream they would become missionaries in Africa, instead his mother found herself scraping a living as a Bible class teacher after her husband's tragic death, bringing up her little sons in trailer-park poverty; perhaps unbalanced by grief (and guilt?) she dedicated her boys to God and brought her sons up (we would say harshly) in the 1950s US bible-belt to take their father's place in the mission field, a way of life which eventually led to rebellion and a family split the boys barely survived. Then, at College, despite his upbringing, Yancey says "I realise I don't know much about Jesus, apart from the stories I learned in Sunday School. Churches in my childhood focused mostly on the Epistles and the Old Testament". The light fell. Eager to learn more he studies the Gospels, drawn to a relationship with Jesus, the God of Love, not the crushing God of Wrath taught by his mother's fundamentalist church. He walks into the light. Great stuff. Pleasantly surprised to find this book in Halesworth library, I'm glad I borrowed and read it.

Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish

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Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	01986 873173 01986 872372

DIARY DATE:**ATTN PCC TEAM COUNCIL REPS**

The next Blyth Valley Team Ministry
TEAM COUNCIL meeting
will be held on
Wednesday 1st February, at 7.30pm
in St Peter's Room,
St Peter's Church, Holton.

Blyth Valley Team Ministry

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.
Details of how you can make a donation to BVTM are on our
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Blyth Valley Times

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**Deadline date for ALL copy for the
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WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

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

Tel 01986 875941.

On Wednesdays and Fridays,
from 9am - 1pm, the Team Administrator
can be contacted on:

07752 275328.

Or via email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

*If your enquiry is urgent, please contact
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News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442

acackett@me.com

Happy New Year from all at Blyford Church.

We had a very enjoyable Carol Service on December 18th with mince pies and mulled wine supplied by Blyford Queen's Head after the service. Thank you to the Revd Gini for taking and arranging the service, and Virginia Storey and John Handley for helping to clean and decorate the church.

We hold a service once a month in the church, if you are unsure of the dates contact me and I can advise, everyone welcome. We usually pop over to the Queen's Head for coffee after the service, which gives us all a chance to chat and put the world to rights.

There are various handmade cards available in the church, we have also arranged to hold a Plant Sale on May 6th/7th at the church.

We are also looking to hold a Jumble Sale in October to raise much needed funds for the upkeep of the church.

We will need some assistance for both events, so if you can help, either let me or Virginia Storey know please. The church is available for community events with a charge for heating etc. If you would like to make use of the church please let me know.

On a further note, currently I am holding the posts of churchwarden, Secretary and Treasurer. I am looking to give up all these posts at the next annual meeting.

If anyone is interested in supporting the church or assisting on the Parochial Church Council please let me know.

You do not need to be a church-goer, just be interested in supporting this beautiful building.

You can either contact myself or our Rector Dominic Doble to discuss further.

This will not commit you to anything, just to have a chat. Remember many hands make light work.

Blessings. Alison

Bramfield

Correspondent

Joanna Wilkinson 07986

217868

joanna.wilkinson6@gmail.com

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.



VILLAGE HALL MONTHLY DRAW

The monthly prize draw for the Village Hall raises money for the upkeep of the building. There is no limit to the number of people who can take part, and naturally the more participants there are, not only is more money raised, but of course the three monthly prizes get bigger and bigger! If you would like to take part, please send an email to:

Andrew.Niven1@btinternet.com or visit Bramfield Garage, and ask for an entry form.

Many thanks for your support. AN

Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

Writing these notes on a freezing January day, although the sun is shining, I am longing for spring.

It is heartening to see snowdrop shoots starting to appear in the garden but no aconites yet (I always thought these came first).

There are also primroses springing up along the roadside. Even the birds are not much in evidence at the bird table.



Primroses lining the roads of Chediston.
(Melanie Ibbott)

Christmas Eve Carol Service

Chediston church was full of happy people on Christmas Eve gathering together for our very traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service. The invitation had gone out to come and watch the bells being rung beforehand and to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies in readiness for singing favourite carols. About 84 villagers and their families with at least 12 children and babies filled the pews. David Bunkell played the organ and readers from the village read the lessons. The Carman family read the scripture story of the Three Kings, with Harriet, Arthur and Clementine standing together in the pulpit, their voices loud and clear. The service was led by Vic Hopkins, who sent us out with the message that Love is the best present we can all give each other. A big thank you to all who helped to decorate the church and contribute to the evening, which made such a perfect start to Christmas celebrations.

Chediston & Linstead WI

The meeting took place on Tuesday 10th January when our speaker was Anne Reeder, a milliner from Ipswich who makes hats to order plus headpieces, fascinators and fedoras. She started by showing us a series of slides on hats through the ages going back to the reign of Henry VIII right up to the present-day including men's headwear. She brought a wonderful array of hats, with mirrors to try them on – she sold at least two hats – and

should you wish to order anything, she can be seen by appointment at Ipswich. (Telephone 07790 542371).

She also gave an interesting and detailed demonstration of how to make a hat and showed us the various materials that she uses. We all much enjoyed this presentation plus a delicious tea. I didn't get home until 6.30pm!

Subscriptions are due for the Linstead & Chediston PCC 100 Club

Could all members of the above Club please send their annual subs of £12 to Cecilia Metherell at The Grange, Godfreys Hill, Linstead Parva, Halesworth IP19 0AD. (Tel 01986 785275). If preferred, you can pay online. Account: Linstead PCC, sort code 20-92-08, a/c no 60375497.

This is a great way to invest £12. Quarterly draws take place throughout the year when cheques are distributed. Speaking from experience, I have been lucky on several occasions.

It also helps the two churches funds. Anyone new is very welcome – please contact Cecilia.

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

2023 has begun with a number of funerals at St Mary's.

On Friday 13th January a service of thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Jennifer Mary Berry 'Jen' saw St Mary's filled with friends and family. The service was also live-streamed via Zoom and Facebook. Two hymns, *Morning*

Has Broken and *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. The bible reading was 1 Corinthians 13:4-13. We listened to favourite music of Jen's including *Imagine* by John Lennon, *Let It Be* by The Beatles and at the end of the service *Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life* by Monty Python. The entry music was (*I Can't Get No*) *Satisfaction* by the Rolling Stones, Jenny once went to the Glastonbury Festival when the Rolling Stones were headlining.

On Tuesday 17th January we remembered John Colin Cook. The congregation sang the hymns *Amazing Grace* and *The Lord's My Shepherd* with gusto, despite the cold day. The bible reading was 1 Samuel 17:45, 48-49.

The following poem was read:-

"I'd like my memory of me to be a
happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles
when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering
softly down the ways, of happy times,
laughing times and bright sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun of happy
memories that I leave, when life is
done".

The entrance and exit music was *Amazing Grace* played by bagpipes.

A story was told of how John once used a homemade catapult to eliminate a pigeon high up in the rafters at work. I think that's one I need to remember next time we have a pigeon in church!

On January 26th we celebrated the life of Beryl Chapman. Beryl was a stalwart of St Mary's for many years. Sarah, the girls and I live in Beryl's old house which she lived in from the day it was built until we moved in, back in 2009. We sang *The Lord's My Shepherd* and a belter of a hymn *O Lord My God When I In Awesome Wonder*.

The following poem was read:-

Feel no guilt in laughter, he'd know
how much you care.
Feel no sorrow in a smile that he's not
here to share.
You cannot grieve forever; he would
not want you to.
He'd hope that you could carry on the
way you always do.
So, talk about the good times and the
way you showed you cared,
The days you spent together, all the

happiness you shared.

Let memories surround you, a word
someone may say

Will suddenly recapture a time, an
hour, a day,

That brings him back as clearly as
though he were still here,

And fills you with the feeling that he is
always near.

For if you keep those moments, you will
never be apart

And he will live forever, locked safely
within your heart.

Finally and very sadly we held a funeral service for a three month old baby at the end of January.

Father, you know our hearts and share our sorrows. We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved: when we are angry at the loss we have sustained, when we long for words of comfort, yet find them hard to hear, turn our grief to truer living, our affliction to firmer hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May Jenny, John, Beryl and the three month old baby, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

On Sunday 15th January we held a service of reflection focused on refugees and asylum seekers. World Refugee Day is marked on June 20th each year. It enables us to reflect on the issue of migration and to pray for refugees and asylum seekers. However, our reflection and our prayer need to be year-round. With readings from Matthew 25. 31-40 and Ruth 2.1-13, prayers with the response 'The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you. We prayed for those living in places of conflict in fear of violence, facing starvation, suffering the effects of climate change, those who have been oppressed and discriminated against, those who have lost their lives in the quest for sanctuary, drowned in small boats, died in lorries, killed at border crossings. Copies of the full order of service are on the back table of St Mary's entitled *When You Dwell In The Exile Of The Stranger*.



Once again we approach Lent. The Archbishop of Canterbury writes "It's important to remember that the word 'Lent' itself comes from the old English word for 'spring'. It's not about feeling gloomy for 40 days; it's not about making yourself miserable for 40 days; it's not even about giving things up for 40 days. Lent is springtime. It's preparing for that great climax of springtime which is Easter – new life bursting through death. And as we prepare ourselves for Easter during these days, by prayer and by self-denial, what motivates us and what fills the horizon is not self-denial as an end in itself but trying to sweep and clean the room of our own minds and hearts so that the new life really may have room to come in and take over and transform us at Easter".

Finally from me, a date for your diaries in March. We will once again be hosting a Mothering Sunday lunch following our service on March 19th.

And a reminder that on Facebook - please search:

blythvalleychurchessuffolk

Alison, Linda and I share Compline (Night Prayer) at 9.30pm on Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat and Sun, do join us live.

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.




HALESWORTH WI

We held our December Christmas meeting at the Angel Hotel where it gave our members an opportunity to chat and enjoy a festive lunch together. We were reminded of forthcoming 2023 events, our Suffolk East WI Federation AGM is to be held on March 7th at Trinity Park, Ipswich and a Kurling, coffee and cake day on February 9th at Wrentham Village Hall. Our first January meeting took place on

Blyth Valley Times

the 19th, when we had a talk by an important organisation the "Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service". We sang *Happy Birthday* to two members and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2023 before wending our way home.

In February Wayne Burns will be telling us all about the Leiston Cinema. **BP**

Heveningham

Correspondent Christine Baker

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.

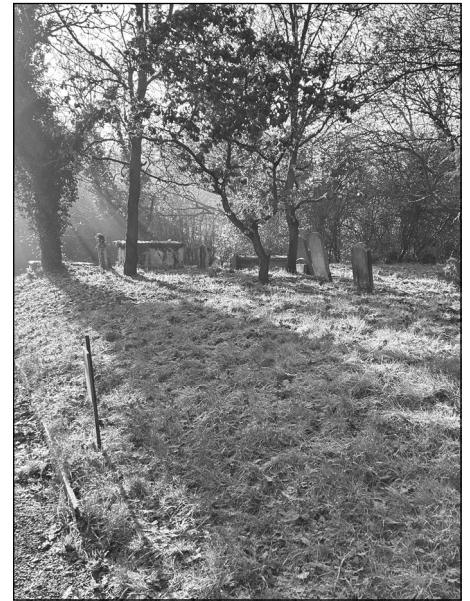




Christmas was a magical time in St Margaret's Church, Heveningham with the twinkling tree and the candlelit Carol Service, which was very well supported by local people. Afterwards we shared a glass of mulled wine, kindly donated by Heveningham Hall, and mince pies which lots of locals made. The Christmas flowers and wreath were beautiful and made by Julie, a neighbour in The Street.

We are now busy preparing for the spring in the churchyard, tidying up and waiting patiently for the bulbs, snowdrops and primroses to come into bloom. It's well worth a visit when

they come out, which hopefully won't be too long.



We had to sadly say goodbye to a resident of the village who died on December 16th. Iris Head was a regular parishioner for many years and had lived here since her retirement with her husband. Her brother Father Ken Reeve took the service and the church was full with her family and friends who came to say goodbye to this very popular lady.

Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett

01986 875913

jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com

It seems like only yesterday that I was gathering material for the January issue of the *BVTimes*, but here we are half-way through the month and looking forward to February! Copy for this issue had to be in the Team office by January 18th, so too early to report on the Burn's Night Supper on the 21st which, I am reliably informed, is fully booked! If it is anything like the evening John and I attended a few years ago it will be good. The Village Hall committee pull out all the stops and make sure that the supper has all the ingredients to delight the Scots among us.

Looking forward to the beginning of February, Dot Booley's Race Night in aid of the Pear Tree Centre is on Saturday 4th February at the Village Hall, races start at 7.30pm, tickets are £5pp from Dot, the Halesworth Bookshop and the Pear Tree Centre. If you haven't purchased a ticket by now, please do so! The Race Night is great fun and raises a great deal of money, so get on the phone.

Walking the Labyrinth: On Monday 6th February there will be an opportunity to walk the Labyrinth (which is mown into the grass on the paddock at St Peter's Church) to have a quiet time, a peaceful walk, think through any issue in your life, pray or just be. There will be other reflective activities in the church.

Refreshments will be provided and someone available to talk to if you wish. For more information contact Revd Alison Alder at: alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01502 478855.

Looking back to Christmas, the two services for children from Holton St Peter School were very enjoyable. Revd Gini gave interesting talks about the Nativity, the children sang well and answered, and we all enjoyed the music. One small boy was still happily singing "Glo-o-o-o-ria, Hosanna in excelsis" as he went out. **John Hewlett**

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://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-peters-church-holton> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL

We are becoming really excited at the Hall at the prospect of the work starting on our sewage system renewal! We know we should get out more! Work is due to start during February.

Thanks go to so many wonderful people and organisations who have made it possible:

The National Lottery – Awards for All granted us nearly £7000. Holton Parish Council have let us have, via East Suffolk District Council, a Community Infrastructure Levy of £5000. Cllr Anette Dunning – Locality Budget has granted us £3000 from Suffolk County Council. The Adnams Foundation have dipped in with £1500 funds Spectra Packaging and Broadway Colours have given £1000 each.

So many lovely people from Holton have given us over £1100 between them following our appeal, and the rest we have raised via The Flushing Dance, and monies which we had from Covid Grants. Just a little to go!

It's been a wonderful example of working together to achieve what was seen as a mountain to climb, but has become an easier path due to kindness.

Events will go on to add the final amount.

Supper with Charlie Haylock on Saturday 1st April being the next one. Charlie helped with the film *The Dig*, about Sutton Hoo's wonderful Viking longboat and treasure, and he made sure all Suffolk accents were correct. He will talk about the filming and Ralf Fiennes and other stars of the hit film.

We will be serving a tasty supper of Bangers and Mash, the bar will be open, and will welcome all comers. £15 per person for a very funny night as Charlie is very much the comedian! Tickets available via Wendy on 01986 872590, paid in advance please.

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.



As the temperatures start to fall I am happy to report that Huntingfield Hub is now available as a 'warm space' It is free and open to everyone 7 days a week from 8.30am to 8.30pm.

So why not pop along keep warm, read a book, complete your knitting or just have a chat. A warm welcome really does await you.

On Saturday 11th March come along to 'Souper Saturday' at the Hub from 12pm - 2pm. Try one of our homemade soups and freshly baked bread for FREE. If you would like to make a donation (but not obligatory) then you can in two ways; either donate cash, or bring a food or toiletry to place in the box for the Halesworth Community Larder. We look forward to seeing you and dishing up a bowl of loveliness.

Linstead

Correspondent

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

CHRISTMAS SEEMS SUCH A LONG time ago but as ever, it is the first opportunity to say 'thank you' to all involved in making the annual service of Carols by Candlelight another memorable occasion. We reported on the floodlighting in the last Linstead Letter. The church looked magical, appearing to float in the churchyard, like a ship. Our thanks go to all involved with the decorating, the mincing of pies, the mulling of wine and of course the reading of lessons. Our readers this year were: Irene Thomas, Tracey Abell, Julia Gilbey, Robin Ward, Janet Heath and the Revd. Vic Hopkins, who took the service. A special note (joke) of thanks to Jason Busby who played the organ for us.

HAVING ARRIVED IN THE NEW YEAR A degree of forward planning is incumbent upon us. Your PCC duly met and the outline programme for 2023 looks like this:

These dates are of course subject to confirmation.

Tuesday 18th April: Annual Parochial Church Meeting (our AGM). 7.30pm. Village Hall.

Sunday 16th July: Patronal Festival & barbecue. 12.30 Village Hall.

Saturday 9th September: Historic Churches Bike Ride.

Saturday 16th September. Barbecue and Backwoods Band.

Saturday 21st October: Church Gift Day.

Saturday 25th November: Linstead Market, St Mary's Halesworth.

Sunday 17th December: Carols by Candlelight. 3pm.

AT LONG LAST, WE HAVE HAD THE results of the Quinquennial inspection of St Margaret's.

Bearing mind that she is nearly 1000 years old, things were no too bad. Thanks to Derek Keable, the vestry has already been re-roofed. The remaining items, such as moss on the roof, we will address in due course. St Margaret of Antioch lives to fight again!

WE WERE DEVESTATED WHEN WE heard of the death of David Metherell. David has been such a vibrant part of the life of our village for the last two decades. I particularly remember when he ran his saleroom in Halesworth and a substantial proportion of the village participated as honorary porters and general invigilators. He always participated in our village events, lending his strong arm to the putting up of marquees, helping with barbecues. Most recently, with his wonderfully theatrical voice, he became our Village Crier, when we lit our beacon at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Our photograph below was taken at the Platinum celebrations.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Cecilia and Duncan and to all their family.

CHEDISTON & LINSTAD WI MET IN January and heard Anne Reeder take a light-hearted look at the history of hats and headwear. She brought along a number of examples of her own work and from her own collection.

They meet next at 2.30pm on Tuesday 14th February at Linstead Village Hall. The speaker will be Clive Mackrow and his topic: The Village Policeman. I'm sure his lot will be a happy one.

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY WILL comprise Matins on the 12th and Holy Communion on the 26th. Both of these

will be at 10am. I am pleased to report that at the recent PCC meeting, it was decided, for a trial period, to reverting to two services a month. As you will see above, these will be at 10am. (as opposed to the previous service time of 9.30am) in order to synchronise with the rest of the Team.

DATE: FLOWERS & CLEANING

5th No Service
12th Mrs P Keable & Mr D Keable
19th No Service
26th Help required

Spexhall

Correspondent Keith Noakes
spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com
Facebook: St Peter's Spexhall and Spexhall Village Hall

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.



Folk Concert

Owing to the copy deadline for the February edition of the *BVTimes*, Woodpecker is unable to give a review of the folk concert given by the 'Blo-ins'. Given the incredible interest in

the application for tickets, I am sure that it will be a splendid evening, and all at St Peter's are so grateful to Bridget and Phil for giving of their time and talents so generously for much needed church funds. As everyone in the Team knows, every single parish needs funding both to keep our buildings standing, and even more importantly, to help the pastoral ministry of the Church in its work with people of all backgrounds in our rural area.

Epiphany and the Plough

Many will know that we at St Peter's are the proud keepers of an old plough in the church (look in the chancel area, you can't miss it!). Although Wissett had Plough Sunday on the 8th, St Peter's managed to combine (no pun intended) both the Epiphany and thanks to God for all the seed and soil in our Holy Communion, beautifully led by Linda, and with baskets of soil and seed so kindly prepared by Fred. The old prayer beginning, 'Blessed are you Lord God of all creation....' used at the Offertory reminds us that all we have in life is a blessing. Its roots lie in the ancient prayers said over the bread and wine at every sabbath in a Jewish household, and in every Jewish blessing.

Lent is coming

How we long to see the snowdrops in February, and those little teases of Spring we sometimes get in February sunshine and a little warmth. Let's hope it is one of those Spring-like mornings on Sunday the 19th when we will have Morning Service just on the cusp of Ash Wednesday. That's when it all gets pretty serious as we 'grow' towards Easter.

Village Hall

The Village People are always grateful for those who help to trim our bushes in the winter. Peter Norman did a lovely job not so long ago, and John Maynard's team help with the interior hedges when needed.

Heartfelt thanks for those who give their time and effort for village events, and if there is anyone who you think needs a special mention don't hesitate to email the Spexhall Woodpecker. Emails can be full of surprises, that's for sure!

Watch out next month for a review of



the Blo-ins, hopefully with pictures. Meanwhile, may your nests keep warm if we have a cold month!

Thorington

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

Walpole

Correspondents Lee & Anita Hill
07713 450078

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.



Wenhaston

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

January has been a wet month so far and not much has happened as is usual for this time of year, but we have plans afoot for the rest of the year.

The first event will be a Soup and Pancake Lunch on Shrove Tuesday 21st February, in the Village Hall from 12noon to 1.30pm. There will be a raffle and bring and buy stall as well as the delicious food. Please see the advertisement on page 29 of this issue.

We send our love to Margaret Goldstone who is having a tough time at present. Our prayers are with you Margaret. The memorial service for Heather Hammond will take place on Monday 6th February at 11am at St Peter's Church.

We are hoping we don't get any snow in the coming weeks, but if we do, please take care and keep an eye on your neighbours.

February services:

5th Team Service, Halesworth 10am
 12th Holy Communion 10am Bramfield
 19th Holy Communion 10am
 26th Pause for Thought 10am

Wenhaston Walking Group

Just the one walk for February on Tuesday 7th leaving Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

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 Nick Evans
01986 872372

nickandmaggie@btinternet.com

The New Year started with a small bang in Wissett, and some saw a flash too, as a tree fell over towards The Beck, bringing down high voltage wires. The job assessor arrived pretty soon, and summoned a large team with impressive vehicles, who also turned up quickly and were able to restore power by dusk. Fortunately this mishap occurred on a day of light winds rather than during a gale with a queue of requests for help. The Beck meanwhile is trying to change its course down by the church, but at present no one is keen to take on the repair of the bank which constrains it.

We were so pleased to see about 40

people at the Epiphany service, and most stayed to chat and enjoy our latest essay at Eastern Mediterranean royal travellers' refreshments, such as sweet Greek wines, dates and almonds. The next day, down came the Christmas decorations and all their candles – no bush fires in the holly this year; the crib remains until Candlemas. Fewer came to Plough Sunday, which we borrowed from Spexhall this time.

After this long period of thinking about the mystery of the incarnation and its reception, we swiftly veer towards Lent, by way of our next big event: the Clipping on Shrove Tuesday. There certainly will be soup and pancakes in the village hall afterwards, but we are considering a slightly different form of clasp the church, if following the trend of recent years there are frankly not enough clippers to get round the whole building.

The PCC met later on the same day as the very jolly team churchwardens' meeting at lunchtime in the Wenhaston Star. We are all trying to arrange ways of maintaining our part in the life of each village; in Wissett we are a bit like plants looking quiet in winter, but preparing.

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.



Blyth Valley Team Ministry 2023 Lent Course



This year's Lent course will explore our own personal discipleship, reflect on how we travel together in our faith journey with God and look at how we extend Jesus's call to new disciples.

The course will run in two, possibly more groups, depending on interest. One will be at online at 10am on Tuesday mornings at Café Church.

**For further details, please contact
Revd Linda Berry or Revd Alison Alder**

ROUGH Cast

**RoughCast Tour of
Lovesong
by Abi Morgan
March 16th - 25th**

'That is the story of our beginning. And this is the story of... the end'

Lovesong is the story of one couple, told from two different points in their lives – as young lovers in their 20s and as worldly companions looking back on their relationship. Their past and present selves collide in this haunting and beautiful tale of togetherness. All relationships have their ups and downs; the optimism of youth becomes the wisdom of experience.

Written by critically acclaimed contemporary playwright Abi Morgan (*The Iron Lady*, *Suffragette*, *The Split*), this sometimes dreamlike, sometimes funny, sometimes heart-breaking one act tale of a lifetime lived together, does not shy away from some emotional topics.

16th/17th: Fisher Theatre, Bungay

18th: Laxfield Village Hall

23rd: Diss Corn Hall

24th: The Cut, Halesworth

25th: Wingfield Barns

Tickets £12/£6 (students). All performances start at 7.30pm.

**For further details visit: www.roughcast.co.uk
or telephone 01379 586745.**



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Halesworth Repair Café – relocating in 2023 to the Cut Arts Centre, Halesworth

In 2022, 122 successful repairs were made, all by volunteer repairers, on a donation-basis only.



In 2023 we hope to increase repairs to cover mobile phones, bicycle punctures (not necessarily every time), and small items of furniture.

We also plan to launch a few repair workshops in 2023, as well as some ‘Cracked World’ conversations – not to bemoan our current state but more about the positive side of

what we can do locally and in community about issues from refuse and recycling to ecological shopping choices to car sharing.

Basically, if you have something you want to discuss, come and find us and bring it up!

Listed here are the dates for 2023: covering both weekdays and weekends.

**ALL THESE WILL NOW BE AT THE CUT ARTS CENTRE,
HALESWORTH**

February 18th, Saturday 10am - 12noon;

March 28th, Tuesday 2pm - 4pm;

April 25th, Tuesday 2pm - 4pm;

May 20th, Saturday 10am - 12pm;

June 27th, Tuesday 2pm - 4pm;

July 25th, Tuesday 2pm - 4pm - if we have one!;

AUGUST nothing;

September 26th, Tuesday 2pm - 4pm;

October 21st, Saturday 10am - 12pm;

November 28th, Tuesday 2pm - 4pm.

We look forward to seeing you at the Cut on one of these dates, bringing a favourite article for mending, a pair of willing hands, or ideas for a greener future, or all three!

For more information contact:
marion.gaze@btinternet.com



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Caring for God's Creation – Becoming an Eco-Church

Tuesday 21st February 2023

7.30pm

St Luke's Church, Beccles NR34 9JQ

Speaker: Revd Richard Stainer



Whether your church is already an Eco-church or you are just starting out, you are welcome to attend this talk and discussion.

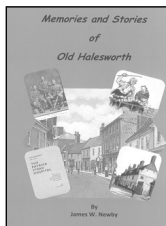
All welcome to attend. Booking not required.

For further information contact Revd. Alison Alder

alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk / 01502 478855/ 07584 416277

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0808 208 2138

South Norfolk Early Help Hub

01508 533933

Halesworth Volunteers

01986 875600

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

**ADDITIONAL FOODBANK
DONATION POINTS**

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

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

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WHAT'S ON

Time for reflection - Walking the Labyrinth



**First Monday
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2pm - 4pm
St Peter's Church, Holton
Everyone welcome**

The labyrinth on the paddock at St Peter's Church, Holton, is a quiet space where people can have a peaceful walk, think through an issue in their lives, grieve for a loved one, or simply enjoy the beauty around them.

Some find it a place to pray.

There will be other reflective activities in the church.

Refreshments provided. People will be available if you want someone to talk to after your walk.

**For more information contact Revd Alison Alder at:
alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk or 01502 478855**

HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH UK

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 18th FEBRUARY, 10am - 12pm
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GOOD AS NEW CLOTHES, BRIC-A-BRAC, BOOKS etc
TEA/COFFEE and CAKES

THE ARTS SOCIETY, SOUTHWOLD

Tuesday 14th February:

What Is An Original Print?

Lecturer: Susan Owens

Lecture commences at 2pm in Southwold Arts Centre
(St Edmund's Hall), Cumberland Road, Southwold.

Visitors and Members' guests welcome, at an entrance fee of £8



BANGERS & MASH SUPPER

with CHARLIE HAYLOCK

SATURDAY 1ST APRIL

Holton & Blyford Village Hall

Charlie helped with the film *The Dig*, about Sutton Hoo's wonderful Viking longboat and treasure, and he made sure all Suffolk accents were correct.

He will talk about the filming and Ralf Fiennes and other stars of the hit film. Charlie is one of Suffolk's leading entertainers.

Bar

All welcome

**Tickets £15 per person, available from Wendy on
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CURIOUS ABOUT LENT?

..... and other questions

Love my neighbour? But they are an a!***!!

If God is so good why is life so hard?

Are you at all curious about Lent? Would you like to find out more in a relaxed atmosphere where all questions are good questions?

If so, come along to **Queen's Head Pub, Bramfield**, on any or every Tuesday during Lent from 6.30pm-8pm.
*28th February, 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March, 4th April


Rev'd Gini Williams, Team Vicar, Blyth Valley Churches 07572 872512

For details of how to advertise your forthcoming events in *Blyth Valley Times*, please email:
blyth.valley.times@gmail.com
or telephone 01986 875941

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St Peter's Church, Wenhaston

Shrove Tuesday

21st February

Wenhaston Village Hall
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Soup & Pancakes



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The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Halesworth

2023 confirmed dates, more to follow.....

Saturday 4 March 2pm-4.30pm	EAST SUFFOLK TRAVEL ASSOCIATION A meeting for members and non-members of the ESTA	
Wednesday 8 March 12noon for 12.30pm	LAXFIELD ALL SAINTS SINGERS A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch	
Sunday 19 March 10am	MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE & LUNCH Join us for worship on Mothering Sunday followed by lunch in Church (if you can't make the service do join us for lunch)	
Wednesday 29 March Time TBC	DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE VISIT TO ST MARY'S Planning for the future continues!	
Wednesday 12 April 12noon for 12.30pm	RECITAL BY SHIRLEY SMITH & JUSTINE ASHFORD - Music & Poetry A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch	
Saturday 15 April 7pm	THE PAKEFIELD SINGERS RETURN TO ST MARY'S We welcome The Pakefield Singers and director Vetta Wise with Tim Patient on the organ for another glorious concert	
Wednesday 3 May 7.30pm	ANNUAL TEAM MEETING The Blyth Valley Team Ministry comes together for the Annual Team Meeting	
Wednesday 10 May 12noon for 12.30pm	RECITAL BY VERONICA DOWNING & WENDY SLANEY A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch	
Thursday 11 May 2.30pm	ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING Everyone is welcome to join us in Church for the annual meeting of PCC. Come hear what the next year will bring and be part of future plans	
Sunday 14 May 3pm-4pm	NOTA BENE - A cappella chamber choir We welcome Shirley Smith & the singers of NOTA BENE to St. Mary's for a concert.	
Wednesday 14 June 12noon-12.30pm	HOFFMEISTER ENSEMBLE A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch	
Sat & Sun 16 / 17 September OPEN ALL WEEKEND	HALESWORTH HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND Watch this space for more details www.heritageopendays.org.uk	

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...

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