

Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

July 2020

Volume 41

Issue 7

£1.00

Minimum Donation

ST MARY'S IS OPEN FOR PRAYER



We are open for prayer. This the first step on the road to re-opening fully, which we will do when we are told that we can. St Mary's church Halesworth opened on Monday 22nd June, for two hours a day:

10am - 12pm Monday to Saturday, and 10.30am - 2.30pm on a Sunday

We expect several other churches to open gradually through July, for prayer and individual visits. It is wonderful to know that if someone needs time and quiet to be in church, they can now get it.

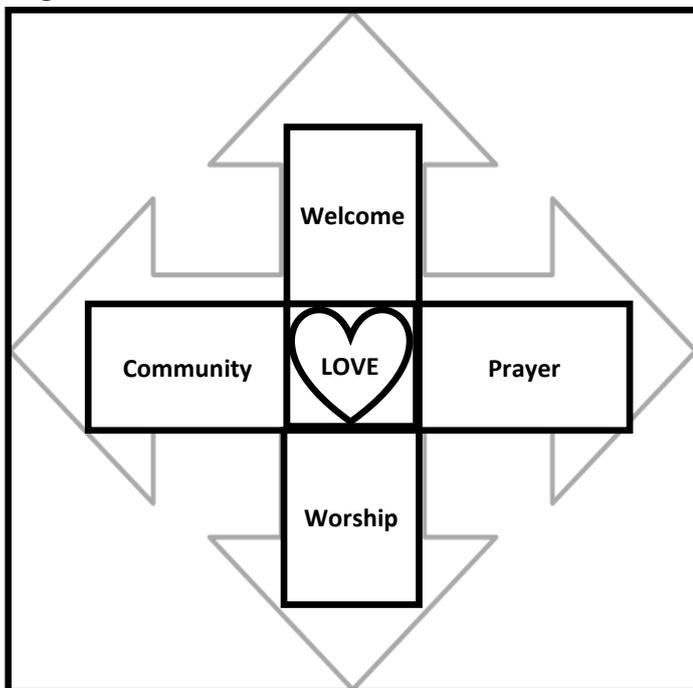
Blyth Valley Times is published monthly by the Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

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

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Weekday Services & Related Events

EVERY MONDAY & TUESDAY

09:00 Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel, St Mary's Halesworth. **CANCELLED**

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10:00 Midweek Eucharist at Halesworth. **CANCELLED**

10:30 Church Café in St Mary's Halesworth for all - including those just passing! **CANCELLED**

10:30 - 11:30 Foodbank, St Mary's Halesworth.

10:45 Church Mice for parents and pre-school children - all-age outside term-time. ALL WELCOME. **CANCELLED**

EVERY THURSDAY

09:00 Morning Prayer (BCP) at Bramfield. **CANCELLED**

EVERY FRIDAY

09:00 Morning Prayer at St Peter's Holton. **CANCELLED**

All our weekday services, team services, and everyone across the team and beyond is most welcome to attend. This goes for Sundays too.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 16 FOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Sunday Readings

28 June Third Sunday after Trinity Psalm 89.1-4,15-18 Jeremiah 28.5-9 Romans 6.12-end Matthew 10.40-end	19 July Sixth Sunday after Trinity Psalm 86.11-end Wisdom of Solomon 12.13,16-19 Romans 8.12-25 Matthew 13.24-30,36-43
5 July Fourth Sunday after Trinity Psalm 145.8-15 Zechariah 9.9-12 Romans 7.15-25a Matthew 11.16-19,25-end	26 July Seventh Sunday after Trinity Psalm 119.129-136 1 Kings 3.5-12 Romans 8.26-39 Matthew 13.31-33,44-52
12 July Fifth Sunday after Trinity Psalm 65 Isaiah 55.10-13 Romans 8.1-11 Matthew 13.1-9,18-23	

BVTM Team Office

As a result of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation, the Team office in St Mary's Church is closed until further notice.

The Team Administrator is working from home (Tuesday - Friday, 9am-1pm) Tel: 07752 275328. Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

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

If you have an urgent enquiry, please contact the Revd Jane Held on 0771 556391.

Email: jane@janeheld.co.uk



Worship and prayer

in the Blyth Valley Cluster of Churches



Worship: Missing church? So are we, but we still worship every day.

You can join us on Facebook at “Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk” for:

Daily morning prayer (currently not on Wednesdays): 9am (9.30am Sat); **Daily evening prayer:** 9.30pm;

Eucharist: at 9.30am every Sunday.

You can join in with us and talk to each other on ZOOM every week by emailing Revd Jane for an invitation for: **Wednesday Café Church** at 10am (Eucharist one week, morning worship the next).

See www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk for the Orders of Service,

or if you want printed copies, please contact Jane and she will post them to you.

OR you can tune into the Church of England Services on the radio or television – see your TV guide.

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

We also pray daily:

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



Where can we go to pray?

Not all our churches are able to be open yet. The need to provide sacred space to "be" with God in, has to be balanced with the need to make sure we do our best to protect people. We can offer somewhere every day, but not all the time and not every church. We will gradually be able to open more up but at the point we are going to press we can offer:

St Mary, Halesworth from 22nd June, Monday - Saturday 10am - 12pm and Sunday 10.30am - 12.30pm

St Mary, Chediston - from 1st July - Wednesday and Sunday 10am - 4pm

AND still to be confirmed:

St Edmund Halesworth - Friday mornings

Linstead by appointment from week beginning 29th June – slots available 72 hours apart

St Peter Wenhaston - from 7th July, Tuesdays and Fridays, time *tbc*

Social distancing rules and hygiene protocols will be in place in each Church, masks and gloves welcomed (and provided for use) and only part of the Church will be available. Guidance on what to do will be provided. Most churches will have a steward available to help and support people to keep safe and to be given privacy and quiet time alone. Only one person at a time, or a family group/bubble will be able to enter the prayer space. Prayer boards will not be available. If you want to ask for a prayer, please ask a steward who will pass it on, or telephone or text 07395914852, or email: prayerplease10@gmail.com (tell us if you want it to be private or public).

To keep up to date with changes please check the St Mary's Halesworth notice board, notices outside each church, or check on the Blyth Valley Team website: www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

It is not over until it is OVER — stay distant, clean hands, cover your face.



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Closed but still Open

For the last two Sundays (14th and 21st June), our Gospel readings were from Matthew 9 and Matthew 10, covering the period of Jesus' preparation of his 12 disciples for becoming missionaries. This preparation is full of some quite challenging messages about what the 12 and all those who chose to follow Christ may face as they are "sent out" to do God's work. While I am familiar with the challenging instructions, (and frequently quail at their implications) reading them in our current time of crisis raised questions for me. How, I wondered, could I best continue what Christ expects of me and indeed of us when we are not able to be "out" in God's world teaching, preaching, and serving others, when our churches are shut and we are isolated and held "in" our own little world.

But gradually I have come to realise that we can and should and are able to bring our prayers, our teaching, our message of love and hope and our care to bear – just differently. Jesus, in these sets of instructions, did not say – "go out and create buildings within which those who have accepted me into their hearts can gather to worship". He said "go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go proclaim the good news...take nothing with you". And more recently, I have realised that we have focussed on mourning the loss of something and not on shouting from the rooftops the fact that even though our doors are shut our task has continued and we are open in so many ways to people – still able to serve everyone, to bring them the message and offer them the opportunity to accept those promises and meet with God where they are.

Because we are very much open to everyone. St Mary's Church has been the centre from which a tiny group of folk have co-ordinated the work of the foodbank, collecting the tonnage of donations we have received so far, sorting, lugging and delivering the food boxes, listening and talking to the drop-ins and learning from each other as volunteers as we go along. Every churchwarden has worked tirelessly to make sure we know about folk who might need support and phone calls, or someone just to check in on them. Tons of you, parishioners and non-parishioners alike have been sent,

or downloaded and used a wide range of worship and prayer resources and we go on creating and distributing it weekly.

We have broadcast (livestreamed) the daily office twice a day, seven days a week, as well as a Sunday service and a midweek service on ZOOM – and have a congregation reaching far, far, beyond our small corner of Suffolk – in Canada, Africa, New Zealand and Chile to name but a few. Many parishioners have been volunteers at Halesworth Volunteer Centre, shopping, collecting prescriptions, or isolation busting on the phone. Many individuals are walking the Holton Labyrinth each week. Our Listening Ear Service has been well used and three of us have had the challenging privilege of walking with a significant number of families in grief as we planned and held strange but increasingly intimate and loving funerals. AND more recently we have opened up the Community Larder and started the Book Exchange. And throughout we have prayed, privately and collectively for everyone on our pastoral ministry prayer list and for each day's named prayers, for specific themes, days and concerns and for each other.

As we begin the, oh so important, step of gradually opening the doors of our churches to give people the opportunity to seek God's voice, to experience his peace, his love and his forgiveness, and to grieve and pray we need to hold on to the fact that we are still being sent out, and we must continue to go out to everyone, not always expect them to come in to us. Yes, we miss "our" church community and family and I for one cannot wait for us to be worshipping together again. BUT WE ARE OPEN and we are the bearers of the good news so let's go out and share it far and wide.

Jane



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News from our Sister Churches

HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Dear Friends,

The main emphasis has been online worship.

This included, of course, Pentecost a few weeks ago. Yes, it has been a huge disappointment not to be able to gather physically, in the open air as Churches Together. So the celebration was inevitably a bit muted.

But what a joy, nonetheless, to have some from the URC, Anglicans, Methodists and Roman Catholics, all joining on Zoom in a joint service! And a special treat, also to be joined by Pastor Simon Muwereza and his family from Masese, Uganda.

Simon, you may recall, leads a church meeting in a school classroom too small for the people to cram into. And last year's Pentecost offering went towards the purchase of land where they will eventually build a base for worship and ministry. Here you see me, with some of the church leaders, praying on that land.



The growth in that church (from five people in Simon's house 15 years ago) to over 300 every Sunday reflects the Pentecost reality: God is still wanting to equip believers in the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may be effective witnesses, bringing others to Jesus Christ. See Acts 1: 5-8.

Let's continue to pray for our ongoing Pentecost experience, as we are equipped with power from on high, to be Jesus' witness, in Halesworth, throughout the Blyth Valley area and to the ends of the earth!

Blessings

Jon



The
United
Reformed
Church



The
United
Reformed
Church

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister:

Revd Jon Sermon

Virtual Church Programme

until further notice:

Sundays: Worship service (Joint with North Lowestoft URC). 11am (join from 10.30am)

Tuesdays: Coffee morning 11.30am
Lunchtime worship 12.30pm (30 mins)

Messy Church YouTube version available @ "HURC Messy Church"

Fridays: Prayer Meeting 9.45am (join from 9.30am)

Coffee & chat 10.30am

Other events as announced. All events are open to visitors. For details contact:

Jon Sermon 01986 873761

jon@sermons.me.uk

Judy Morton 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Jo Moreira (for children and families)

jomohurc@gmail.com

or Jo Hurc on Facebook/Messenger

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church, Halesworth

SORRY NO SERVICES SCHEDULED DUE TO THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) SITUATION

Wenhaston

Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Louise Morrissey

At present we have no plans for future Church Services or meetings due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation.



HALESWORTH **COMMUNITY LARDER** PROJECT

At St Mary's Church, Halesworth

Saturdays & Wednesdays 10.30-11.30am

Thursdays 9.30-10.30am

Come along and you can:

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

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PLENTY OF FOOD TO SHARE

Covid-19 Local Information

INFORMATION FOR HALESWORTH AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

Proposed changes to the Town Centre

Halesworth Town Centre Group, the Town Council, County and District Councillors, Halesworth Volunteer Centre, Halesworth Tourism Group, residents and businesses have met to discuss actions that can be taken to increase confidence in the community about returning to a safe town centre. The focus has been on the public areas of the Thoroughfare to create a safe environment to enable shoppers to have the confidence to return to the town. Discussions with businesses in the Market Place have indicated that existing measures are sufficient at this time but this will be kept under review.

The Town Council has submitted an application for approval and funding to East Suffolk Council with a plan of the temporary changes.

This application may take one or two weeks to process but we will update you accordingly of progress.

Please read this document to see the proposed changes:

Proposed Town Centre Changes

HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL COVID-19 RELIEF SCHEME

Halesworth Town Council is concerned that the COVID-19 Virus emergency measures are causing serious financial hardship for some residents in Halesworth. Although the Waveney Foodbank continues to provide wonderful support for those in need, the majority of the provisions are in the form of dry goods and tins. The Town Council has decided to compliment by providing fresh fruit, meat and vegetables through a voucher scheme in Halesworth with the help and support of some of our local shops. This relief scheme is

aimed at those who find themselves on very low income due to the current crisis. If you are a Halesworth resident and you need help please apply to the Town clerk on 01986 874517 or email clerk@halesworthtowncouncil.org.uk The Office opening hours are Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 9am – 1pm. Vouchers will be issued dependent on the need and size of the family and only during the current lockdown measures. The vouchers must be provided to the retailer either in person if you visit the shop, or exchanged on delivery (if this option is available). There is a similar but separate scheme for the villages surrounding Halesworth supported by their own Parish Councils. This will be organised through the Blyth Valley Ministry (07771 556391). Local Response information: Halesworth Town Council in conjunction with the Volunteer Centre, the Blyth Valley Team Ministry, District and County Councillors and other community groups in the Town have organised a response team to help people through the current situation. The Volunteer Centre is co-ordinating the response for Halesworth and the surrounding villages. If you are struggling to go shopping, need prescriptions collecting or just want to hear a friendly voice – you can ring or email the Volunteer Centre.

Emma Healey – Centre Manager
Halesworth Volunteer Centre, 01986 875600
or covid@halesworthvc.co.uk

Love Halesworth

Stay Safe Maintain Social Distance

Keeping Halesworth Safe – Advanced Warning



New pedestrian safety zone will be in force shortly,

Thoroughfare will be **closed to all vehicles** between 9am – 3pm daily. The safety Zone will be from the Ipswich Building Society through to the Angel Hotel.

Delivery vehicles to use designated loading bays access, via the Thoroughfare Car Park only.

Two-way Resident access at the North end on Bridge Street and for designated businesses only.

Market Place will be closed on Wednesdays only

Please take extra care when driving into the Thoroughfare car park

Your patience and understanding will be appreciated.



Black Lives Matter – Why we need to confront evil



Two images dominate the news as I write this. The first is that of a white police officer kneeling on the neck of the unarmed George Floyd, ignoring Floyd’s cries that he couldn’t breathe. The second is that of Patrick Hutchinson carrying a white far-right protester to safety. During clashes between “Black Lives Matters” demonstrators and gangs of white far-right supporters, this one white man had become separated from his friends and was being attacked by an angry crowd. Patrick was part of a group of black men who surrounded the protester to protect him, raising him in a fireman’s lift and saving him from serious injury. When interviewed about his heroic act, Patrick replied by explaining, “I was just thinking of a human being on the floor.” The contrast between these two incidents is stark: one illustrates the horrific consequences of failing to value a human life, the other shows someone responding to shared humanity across a bitter racial divide.

Patrick Hutchinson and his friends’ actions were remarkable because of their defiance. They refused to be drawn into hatred and acted to stop further violence. As well as saving a man’s life, this group of men also prevented the people around them from committing a serious crime that would damage their own lives. I was deeply moved by these actions, partly because I’m not sure I would have had the strength and courage to do what they had done. When Jesus told us to love our enemies, he did so knowing how unnatural a response this is for us:

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your father in heaven. (Matt. 5v.44-45).

It is a lot easier to distance ourselves from people whose attitudes and behaviours we find challenging or shocking, to brand them as being somehow less important or less deserving than us. If you trawl through the coverage of George Floyd’s death you will see that areas of the media focused on his criminal activities, perhaps in an attempt to justify what happened. Yet on Radio 4’s “Sunday” programme following the tragedy ¹, Patrick Ngwolo, an elder at the Resurrection Church in Houston, described Floyd as “a person of peace”, helping pastors gain access to the local housing projects and protecting them as they carried out their work with the marginalised communities there.

Fundamental to our Christian faith is the belief that God made human beings in his own image. When we fail to see the humanity of another person, we are refusing to see God in that person, and therefore ultimately distancing ourselves from God. Moreover, it facilitates treating that person as inferior and expendable. As part of “Black Lives Matter”, we are being called to look again at the enduring legacy of the slave trade. The horrific conditions on slave ships, the appalling and degrading treatment of the slaves on plantations were enabled by the view that white Europeans were superior to the African communities they plundered. Yet if you visit

the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool you discover that before the slave trade, thriving and sophisticated societies flourished, with their own cultural, political, social and religious systems, as well as inventions in agriculture, ceramics and metalwork.² By forcing the fit and strong members of these societies into slavery, we decimated the societies themselves, they were simply unable to function.

It is convenient to disassociate ourselves from these events and to see ourselves as far more enlightened in the 21st century. However, the unrest, anger and at times violent protests we are witnessing show that racism and injustice remain everyday realities for many. The Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, spoke out about the importance of acknowledging when our own attitudes are potentially damaging: “I have never been able to eradicate entirely in my mind those thoughts and feelings of a gentle and quiet superiority...”³ If we are honest with ourselves, how many of us are guilty of experiencing that sense of “gentle and quiet superiority” at times?

My title for this article was “Why we need to confront evil”. Theologians have debated through the centuries about the nature of evil; it is often easier for us to see evil as an external force that we can do physical battle with, than a potential within each one of us. A definition of good and evil I read recently illustrates our individual capacity to be drawn into evil:

“In order to achieve the good, one needs to consciously strive towards it. To move towards evil requires no formal work, only inattention to the good. One stumbles into evil by being distracted and inattentive.”⁴

As Christians, we have to actively strive to constantly work for good, and to be attentive to the needs and experiences of every human being. This means being attentive to our own prejudices and defying behaviour and attitudes which deny or common humanity. prevent us from seeing each other as children of God.

Revd Alison Alder

¹ “Sunday” BBC Radio 4 31.5.20 ² Transatlantic Slavery – an introduction ³ Church Times 12.6.20 ⁴ “Raging with Compassion” John Swinton

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Tips to help stretch resources

Proverbs 15:17

Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it.

This month's helpful tips:-

Have a plan. Write a menu.

Never throw food away. Always use leftovers if you have any.

Make soup.

God will provide. In the bible we have lessons. Remember manna food of the day for hungry people. Food not to be hoarded but to be collected and shared as needed – or it would decay, rot and be useless. (Exodus 16) Remember Elijah and the widow (1 Kings 17) There was always a little oil and meal to be had.

God does provide. We have a wealth of food at our disposal but sometimes we forget our responsibilities - to our world, to the people in our world and the skills to nurture.

We have learned these skills over many generations but we have lost our way somewhat.

In Exodus 34:7 we are told that the sins of the fathers affect the children (by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation..)

We can see this – but we need to be able to open our eyes to do so.

Covid-19 has many terrible things about it but we have an opportunity to re-learn skills and ways of living that we were in danger of losing. We need to build up our mental and spiritual resilience – it will hold us in good stead when the

dark days come. We have not yet reached mid-summer but by the time you read this mid-summer will be past and people will start preparing for the change of season. The time of plenty – and the time when we store the produce that we will need during the less productive time of the year.

We have become so far removed from the turning of the seasons in our land of plenty it is a shame that we are out of practice. We have developed an unhealthy level of expectation that we will always be able to go to shops and find whatever we require for our meals. Much of the world does not have that luxury and we should remain mindful that shortages and privations are much worse in many other areas of the world.

This pandemic has given me time to think – it has given the world a space to review our way of living.

Soup is a four lettered word. I know two people who that have very fixed ideas about soup. The first is a friend who insists she doesn't like any kind of soup. I have known her nearly 20 years and I have never seen her eat soup yet. I wonder what she thinks soup is....

The second was someone who had diphtheria as a child and was given soup of various kinds for a very long while during his recovery. They both had the idea that soup was a meal only for the sick.

My husband and I have a meal of soup almost every day. It is a simple meal that we share. The soup is made from whatever we have, often "left-overs" from previous meals. We use any juices and gravies from the bottom of saucepans or cooking pots. As well as the coarser outside leaves of vegetables and if we peel vegetables then the peelings go in too. Basically we have a big stew. If we have a chicken the carcass is boiled and picked clean – and that highly nutritious liquor is the basis for a soup. Recipes are of the never to be repeated kind because I don't write them down but we learned from our parents that food was a gift never to be taken lightly or wasted. Sometimes I run out of ideas so it would be lovely if you feel so inclined to share favourite recipes. Please send them in and perhaps we can feel that we are sharing our meals with each other. It can feel lonely so easily at present but we are not alone for the fellowship is there in our hearts.

God bless us all.

Diana Gardiner

PS Save jam jars - suitable for potting up jams and jellies for the autumn hedgerow harvest collections. e.g. Blackberry and apple, rosehip syrup, elderberry syrup all of them old and tried recipes we will need jars for.

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Socially distanced from church?

During Lockdown it has been a real challenge to find ways to maintain the life and community of the church whilst congregations are isolated from each other. Through trial and error to begin with, we now have a regular online presence which is reaching some members of our congregations and other people who have not been directly involved in our churches before. Many are finding they are enjoying these opportunities to worship and pray online, not just in our benefice but in other parishes in Suffolk, across the UK and beyond. Different but creative ways of being church are emerging.

But what about those who haven't got access to the internet? This is an issue that continues to challenge our thinking. Jane and many willing helpers have been distributing paper copies of service sheets, sermons and weekly letters to a large mailing list. However, this doesn't get over the problem that these people can only pray and worship on their own.

Many communities have set up "Buddying" systems to ensure single people are in regular contact with others. Could we set up a "Worship Buddying" scheme where two people could meet in each other's gardens and share a short service, prayers or discuss a sermon together? To some people this is something they may feel very comfortable with, having belonged to prayer, bible study or house groups before. Other people might find the idea outside their comfort zone. However, there are people in all our congregations who might now welcome a bit more than just a friendly chat, who might want to have the opportunity to pray and worship with someone else, to feel part of a congregation again.



If anyone thinks this is a good idea and would like to be involved, please contact me to discuss it further:

Email: alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk
 Telephone: 01502 478855.

Rev'd Alison Alder

Mothers' UNION
 Christian care for families
 Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich

Due to the current COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation, all Mothers' Union meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

The Life and Times of **DEREK NEWBY**

Copies available from **Halesworth Bookshop**

The Origin of Halesworth Playing Fields Association now renamed Halesworth Community Sport and Leisure

The Owners and Occupiers of Hooker House, Halesworth

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

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

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

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

Update on The Children's Society

Towards the end of May, I received a mailing from The Children's Society. (The full title is The Church of England Children's Society). It contained a letter from Mark Russell, the Chief Executive and a new magazine called 'Society'. Perhaps some of the box holders will have received this mailing too. I will quote from Mark Russell:

"The challenges we're all facing due to the Coronavirus crisis have put the most vulnerable children in even more danger. Our frontline staff have been working tirelessly to be there for vulnerable children who, due to the lockdown, have been hidden from view as they face abuse, neglect and worsening mental health issues. They've been delivering vital care packages and providing urgent support and advice for children in imminent danger that could save their lives.

"However, the lockdown has meant that we've had to close our shops and cancel all our fund raising events, which has left a huge hole in our finances. Despite this we know we can't stop being there for the young people who need us. That's why we are so incredibly grateful to have your support at this time. I know people's situations have changed, but if you feel able to make an extra donation in support of our **Emergency Coronavirus Appeal** today I would really appreciate it. You can make a secure donation online at childrenssociety.org.uk/lifeline or if you'd prefer to send to **Freepost RTJH-LRSG-YGCC, The Children's Society, Bumpers Way, Bumpers Farm, CHIPPENHAM SN14 6NG.**

"I have been amazed and humbled by the response to our urgent appeal – and if you have already donated then please do accept my warmest thanks for thinking about vulnerable children at this time of national crisis. I received a letter from Her Majesty the Queen, enclosing a donation to The Children's Society and saying how much she values our role in looking after vulnerable children. She sent her best wishes to all our staff and supporters – so I wanted to let you know.

"What supporters like you are achieving for vulnerable children should be headline news, and now thanks to our updated newsletter *Society* – it is! *Society* is edited by Alicia – one of our young carer advocates – and it's packed full of inspiring stories from children, our staff and our fantastic supporters. Together we're doing such important things to help the children who need us. In just the last 10 years alone we have:

Worked face to face with over **200,000** of this country's most vulnerable children.

Successfully campaigned for over **130 councils** to improve the support they give to young care leavers.

Brought about the creation of a National Missing Persons Register that will help identify the **100,000 children** who go missing each year.

Ensured that migrant children receive the **free legal aid** they need to avoid destitution, social exclusion and exploitation.

"I know this is a difficult time for us all. Everyone has been affected by this crisis in one way or another, and if you have lost loved ones in the last few weeks my heart goes out to you. Our front line staff are doing an incredible job as this crisis unfolds. They are responding to the adversity they face with calm determination and compassion. But of course, this is no surprise – it is what they do day in day out, year in year out. We just have to make sure they can keep on doing it.

"Thanks for standing with us – we really cannot do this without you. Best wishes, Mark Russell, Chief Executive."

**Janet Walkey (Local Box Co-ordinator for
The Children's Society
for St Peter's, Holton and St Mary's, Halesworth).
01986 872594
janetwalkey@hotmail.com**

Run out of books to read? BOOK EXCHANGE Halesworth Library with HVC and BVTM



- At Mary's Church; Halesworth
- Saturdays and Wednesdays 10.30-11.30
- Thursdays 9.30-10.30
- Come and collect up to 6 books
- all books quarantined on return for 72 hours (for safety)
- Social Distancing and hand hygiene apply
- All books from Halesworth Library from stock that was withdrawn before lockdown

Halesworth and the Villages

St Mary's Church

Halesworth remembers

Each yellow card heart hung on the church doors represents the people of Halesworth and the villages who, sadly, lost their lives to Coronavirus



May they always be remembered for who they were.

Share a thought for all families who are grieving their loved ones just now.

If you have lost someone you love and you would like to have a heart hung on the door with their name on it, please contact:

office.bvtm@gmail.com

Hearts will be hung from 1st July onwards

All hearts will be displayed for the whole of July

LIFE EVENTS
FROM THE REGISTERS
IN JUNE 2020
FUNERAL SERVICES:

John Russell Gibbons at Huntingfield
Dawn Smith at Heveningham
Bryan Frederick Merricks at Waveney Crematorium
Michael Edward Spall at Waveney Crematorium
Lawrence Alfred Harris Geen at Wenhaston
Karen Boocock at Huntingfield
Karen Louise Symonds at Waveney Crematorium


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BY APPOINTMENT



News from Churches Together

We still cannot physically meet, but that won't stop God's work among us!

Lord, build your Kingdom here!

The **Churches Together Joint Pentecost Celebration** took place on Sunday 31st May, via Zoom.

Now that it is possible to open church premises for private prayer, St Mary's is the main provision for us all, not just an Anglican initiative, but also on behalf of Churches Together.

I am regularly (almost daily at the moment) offering encouragement via short videos posted on YouTube. They are also going on the CTBV Facebook page: Please share them widely as part of our joint mission. You can access them all by going to YouTube and simply searching 'Jon Sermon'.

Blessings

Jon

(The Revd Jon Sermon,
Chair of Churches Together in the Blyth Valley)


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Halesworth and Bungay off the A144.*

HALESWORTH LIBRARY DUE TO RE-OPEN ON JULY 8TH

STATEMENT ISSUED BY HALESWORTH LIBRARY:

We are very pleased to announce that Halesworth Library will be re-opening on Wednesday 8th July.

Suffolk Libraries has been following Government advice and carefully planning the re-opening of library branches. As I'm sure everyone will understand, the well-being and safety of our customers and staff is our priority, so our services will look a little different initially:

- Our opening hours will be different until further notice. You can see full details on <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/libraries/halesworth-library/>
- The Government have advised against allowing browsing of books and other items. So we'll be implementing a new select and collect service. You can contact us in advance to request items which you can then pick up from the library. We'll have more details on this nearer the time.
- Access to computers, printing and photocopying will be unavailable during July.
- Reservations will also be unavailable during July.
- Customers can only borrow 10 items at a time but you keep them for an extended period of up to four weeks.
- Borrowing DVDs and CDS will be free until further notice!
- Overdue charges will remain suspended throughout July and August.

- Return dates for loans taken out prior to lockdown will be extended to 31st August.

- If you are just returning items you can use our book drop for this.

We will constantly review the situation over the coming months and re-introduce services and activities when it's safe to do so.

If you are being shielded or self-isolating we would naturally ask that you stay away from the library for now. We would also recommend that customers wear a face covering when visiting if possible and we will be asking our staff to do the same. As we need to stick to social distancing guidelines it would also help if you could come on your own, or just bring one child with you, if possible.

For up to date information visit www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/coronavirus/

St Mary's, Halesworth Receipts Summary - May 2020	
Planned Giving	£845.00
Gift Aid	£88.00
Fees	£235.00
TOTAL	£1168.00



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WORSHIP AND PRAYER IN THE BLYTH VALLEY

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

- AND/OR

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

- AND/OR

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

Blyth Valley Ministry Team



**The Revd
Jane Held**
Assistant Curate

Oak Cottage,
The Street, Rumburgh,
IP19 0JX
Tel: 01986 781760
Mob: 07771 556391
E: jane@janeheld.co.uk
(off duty Thursday
& Friday)



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Assistant Curate

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Tuesday & Friday)



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

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

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

The Revd Pam Bayliss *Honorary Associate Minister (Methodist)*
Tel: 01502 471763
Email: revbayliss@btinternet.com
(Foodbank)

Diana Gardiner *Reader, also Chaplain at HMP and YOI*
Tel: 01986 784174 *Warren Hill and Hollesley Bay.*
Email: osmg.diana@gmail.com

Win Sutton *Reader*
Tel: 01986 875225
Email: win.sutton28@gmail.com

*If telephoning, please always leave a message,
if there is no one available to take your call.*

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

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

Team Council Contacts

Geoffrey Kiddy: *Lay Chair of Team Council*
Email: mail@wissettldodge.co.uk
Pedro Cockerton: *Team Treasurer*
Tel: 01986 873431. Email: treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com
Carolyn Clarke: *Clerk to Team Council & Team Administrator.* Tel: 01986 875941 or 07752 275328.
Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS - FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR LIFTS

PARISH	CHURCHWARDENS	CONTACT
Blyford	Alison Cackett	01986 874442
Bramfield	Robert Gamble	01502 478682
Chediston	Graeme Williams	01986 875342
Cookley	Jane Evers	janeevers@btinternet.com
Halesworth	Jason Busby	01986 873336
Heveningham	Camilla Warrillow Janet Pleasance	01986 798408 01986 798533
Holton	John Hewlett	01986 875913
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	01986 785289
Spexhall	Fred Woods Janet Sochon	01986 781256 01986 781151
Thorington	Trish & Mike Gower	01502 478267
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	01986 873173 01986 872372

Evelyn Underhill (1875 – 1941)

I first became aware of Evelyn Underhill in Celtic Daily Prayer. June is the month of the anniversary of her death - I heard Bishop Martin mention her in Morning Prayer. She was a poet, novelist, spiritual director and theologian. She was one of the most important spiritual voices of the 20th century. She spent most of her day in prayer.

I find a fellow feeling with her: In her book on prayer, she talks about the world of prayer.

A world where we enter into a gate and put ourselves in the company of God, with him as a friend – where we can know God and where God comes close.

Evelyn, at one time, was a mystic. There is a strong idea of mystics being extreme hermits who live in caves, but they are people who chose to live in such a way as to powerfully encounter the living, true, reality of God. Evelyn Underhill's writing is scholarly, but also poignant and passionate.

Here are some of her most memorable quotes:

If God were small enough to be understood, he would not be big enough to be worshipped.

For lack of attention, a thousand forms of loveliness elude us every day.

There is no place in my soul, no corner of my character, where God is not.

Deliberately seek opportunities for kindness, sympathy and patience.

.....and my favourite:

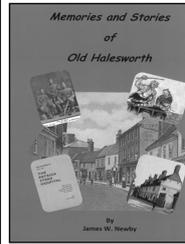
God is always coming to you in the sacrament of the present. Meet and receive Him there with gratitude in that sacrament.

Revd Linda Berry

MEMORIES AND STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH

By James W Newby. Compiled by Derek Newby

Covering over 130 years of one man's records of life in Halesworth.



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Louise Morrissey Methodist Minister in Covenant
Wenhashton Methodist Church,
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St Edmund King & Martyr Roman Catholic Church
Church Farm Lane
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IP19 8SY

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janetwalkey@hotmail.com

Halesworth & District Museum - From the Archives

Death of a Kennedy: Joseph Patrick Kennedy Junior: 1915-1944

As COVID-19 sent us all into lockdown the Museum had just curated a new display about the death of Joe Kennedy Jnr, 76 years ago in Suffolk skies. No remains were recovered, but Joe Kennedy Junior is remembered on the Wall of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial (UK), at Arlington National Cemetery (USA) and in the underground catacombs of Musée de la base de V3 de Mimoyecques in France.

We are grateful to Halesworth (Holton) Airfield Museum and Rachel Welsh for the loan of pieces of wreckage found after the crash. This display will be in place when the Museum re-opens to the public. Pauline Wilcock writes:

The Lost Prince

Much has been written about the assassination of President John F (Jack) Kennedy, but the death of his older brother, Joseph Kennedy Junior, has a direct connection with East Anglia. Joseph (Joe) Junior was born in 1915 in Massachusetts USA and met his death 29 years later in the skies over Suffolk. As the oldest son of Joseph Kennedy, an American businessman and politician who served as US Ambassador to the UK from 1938 until late 1940, great things were expected from Joe Junior. At his birth his grandfather, then Mayor of Boston, told the news, "This child is the future president of the nation."

The War Hero

War interrupted any immediate political ambitions when, in 1941, Kennedy enlisted in the US Navy and began his training as a pilot. In 1943, he was sent to Britain and became a member of Bomber Squadron 110, Special Air Unit ONE, in 1944. He piloted bombers on two tours of duty in the winter of 1943–1944, flying from bases in East Anglia. Having completed 25 combat missions Kennedy was eligible to return home, but instead he volunteered for the Operation Aphrodite Mission.

The Fatal Mission

The Aphrodite and Anvil operations were intended to use aircraft that would be packed with explosives and, using a remote control system, crash into their targets. The only problem was that these were modified aircraft, not rockets, and could only get into the air safely if piloted. It needed a crew of two to take off and fly to 2,000 feet before activating the remote control system, arming the detonators, and parachuting from the aircraft.

On August 12th 1944 Kennedy and his co-pilot John Willy took off from RAF Fersfield-Winfarthing near Diss in Norfolk in a BQ-8 "robot" aircraft (drone; a converted B-24 Liberator) for the Aphrodite mission, aimed at a target across the channel. However, before they reached the point at which they were intending to bail out, something went badly wrong.

As Kennedy removed the safety pin, arming the explosive package, and radioed the agreed code-word, he spoke his last known words. Two minutes later the explosives detonated prematurely and destroyed the Liberator, killing Kennedy and Willy instantly. Wreckage was scattered across a wide area near the village of Blythburgh in Suffolk, a few miles from Halesworth, causing widespread damage and small fires, although no civilian casualties.

According to USAAF records, a Mosquito plane which was flying about 300 yards to the rear of the robot to monitor the mission made an immediate emergency landing at RAF Halesworth (Holton) Airfield.

The Boys who saw it

On the warm summer early evening of 12th August, 9-year old Mick Muttitt and his brother Peter were playing in their home near Blythburgh when they spotted an overhead aircraft formation. What they saw and heard next was an enormous explosion, a black pall of smoke and burning fragments falling from the sky. Mick later returned to the site and retrieved several fragments of the wreckage. There are pieces from the wreckage which can be seen at several local airfield museums, including Halesworth (Holton) Airfield Museum and the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum at Flixton.

The Aftermath

Investigations into the crash discounted the possibility of the crew making a mistake. It has been reported that an electronics officer who believed the wiring harness had a design defect had warned Kennedy the day before the mission, but his warning was ignored. The exact cause of the explosion has not been confirmed. The Aphrodite Missions were eventually abandoned. Kennedy and Willy were both posthumously awarded the Navy Cross and the Air Medal. 16 years later Joe's younger brother, Jack Kennedy, became the first Catholic President of the United States of America.

It has been said there is a curse on the Kennedy family as successive generations have suffered terrible loss. A lobotomy in 1941 incapacitated Rosemary for the rest of her life, Katherine died in a plane crash in 1948 and John and Robert were assassinated in 1963 and 1968 respectively. David died of a drug overdose in 1984, Michael in a skiing accident in 1997 and John Jnr in a plane crash in 1999. Then Saoirse died of an accidental drug overdose in 2019 and, most recently in April this year, Maeve and her eight-year-old son, Gideon went missing while paddling in a canoe in Maryland.

Jenny Janes

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

Just call one of our partner agencies:

Citizens Advice National Helpline 0808 208 2138
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Halesworth Volunteer Centre 01986 875600

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

If anyone who is willing to host a box outside their home, please could you let the Revd Jane Held know: (07771 556391).

A prayer during C-19

O Lord, open thou our lips,
 And our eyes
 And our ears.

That we may sing your praises,
 See your wonderful world in all its glory,
 Hear the cries of the wounded and oppressed.

That we may speak of hard and difficult truths,
 That we may see the hard and difficult truths,
 That we may hear your voice through the cacophony that surrounds us.

Open our minds to the possibilities before us.
 Help us to stand for your truth.
 Help us to know what we should do.

Help us to act on this knowledge
 as we are guided by your Spirit
 in our walk through your world.
 AMEN.

Diana Gardiner 19.06.2020



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- Opportunity to try out major pieces of equipment such as lifts and bath with powered seat



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- Advice on wheelchairs, powerchairs and scooters

Independent Living Centre & Show Home at
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You now need to **Self-refer at all our centres**

Visiting the Foodbank is classed as an essential journey

We operate strict cleaning and social distancing measures

Diss: Hope Church Mon –Thurs 10-12pm Fri 11-12pm

Beccles: St Luke's Church Mon and Fri 2-3pm

Beccles Baptist Church Wed 10:30-12:30

Halesworth: St Marys Church Wed 10:30 –11:30

Harleston: St Johns Church Tues 2-2:45pm Fri 3-3:45pm

Bungay: Community Centre Tues 10-11am Fri 2-3pm

Long Stratton: St Marys Church Fri 12:30—2:30pm

Loddon Area call 01508 521179 leave a message for

Poringland Area call 07707 790680 leave a message

Framlingham Area call 07388 791126 leave a message

Stradbroke Area call 01379 388493 leave a message

If you are struggling to afford food

please go to your nearest centre

If you are struggling to afford food

and self isolating call 07484 394749

Visiting the Foodbank is classed as an essential journey

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442

acackett@me.com

Bramfield

Temporary Correspondent:

Jane Held

www.bramfieldandthorington.suffolk.cloud

Over the last three months, the village has pulled together remarkably, with lots of people looking out for each other, helping out with shopping and generally showing great community spirit.

With the Church closed there have sadly been none of the traditional church events and fundraising, which is a worry we are praying hard about. We were already financially hard up and our valiant PCC members were banking on some good events to fill the coffers a tiny bit! However, there has been a lot going on in other ways.

It also means that Suzy Porter and Dave Nunn's wedding had to be postponed until next year.

The new walks on the farmland and woods belonging to Bramfield Hall have been very well walked and much appreciated, and Andrew Niven's email group well used to swap nature news, bird sightings and general pleasure about our beautiful countryside.

The school is now back open, with a reduced number of students and only years Reception, One and Six, but overall, the students have been incredibly well supported throughout the crisis by the most amazing team of staff, and lots of hard work home schooling by parents and carers.

The village has donated to the foodbank and supported the fresh fruit, vegetables and meat voucher scheme, too.

Sadly, the PCC members are all in the vulnerable category bar 2 (who both work) so are unable to muster the capacity to open the church for private prayer as they cannot meet the requirements for cleaning and safe practice which is a real regret. We hope

and pray things will continue to improve so that we can open up for prayer in the near future. In the meantime stay safe everybody and see you all soon.

Chediston

Temporary correspondent:

Graeme Williams

www.chediston.suffolk.gov.uk

Church Re-opening

After more than three months when the church has been closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are finally moving in the right direction as lockdown eases.

Having been given approval to start opening up churches again by the Government, albeit under strict rules and conditions, in the Blyth Valley we have been considering how best to commence the opening up process in Chediston. It has been agreed that the church will open again, for private prayer only, for two days per week, Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am - 4pm. The starting date for these arrangements is Wednesday 1st July. There are fairly strict guidelines which we will need to adhere to, but at least it is a start.

As a result, the church won't look much like it's normal self! Large swathes of the church will not be accessible, to make the cleaning necessary after opening reasonably manageable. Instead there will be a 'prayer station' located at the back of the church, opposite the main door. Numbers at any one time will be limited to a maximum of two, so just a couple of chairs to sit on rather than your favourite pew, I'm afraid.

There will be a hygiene station in the porch so visitors can sanitise on entry and departure. As you can imagine, with C-19 still around good cleanliness and hygiene practices remain crucial. Indeed, this is the main reason for having a minimum 72 hour gap between opening sessions, as that is the recommended time allowed to ensure infections (if there are any), can't survive.

I'm sure that parishioners will appreciate the opportunity to go into church again, even under these

rigorous constraints. Full services are a little way away for the time being, but we will get there as soon as it is possible and safe to do so.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me on 01986 875342.

Foodbank

A goodly number of villagers have been contributing enthusiastically to the recently set up Waveney Foodbank collection point in the telephone box (or should it be Defibrillator Box?!).

The organisers of the Foodbank have asked that a heartfelt thanks is passed to all those who have contributed - the efforts of the village are truly, much appreciated.

Throughout the lockdown period, the Foodbank has never been busier, and an early reduction in demand is not expected. So I guess the message is 'please keep donating'.

Open Gardens

Throughout the Spring and early Summer, numerous villagers worked really hard to make sure their gardens could look their best for the Chediston Open Gardens event, which was due to take place on the first weekend in June. Along with a huge range of other events, Open Gardens suffered the fate of cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic. Initially it seemed the extra time which could be spent in the garden would be beneficial, as many gardens have never looked better, but sadly it was not to be.

The best we can manage is to direct you to the village website, where an album of photographs is located, so you can get a flavour of what you missed.

Perhaps the work this year will stand us in good stead for 2021 - which most who intended to show this year, plan to make the best ever!

(Anyway, the weather on the day was rubbish!).

Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby

01986 873336

It takes me 20 minutes to drive to work, in that time my mind wanders all over the place and back again and I

have found during the lockdown my mind hasn't had time to think or contemplate God! I have been back into St Mary's for three Sundays now, providing music for the online Eucharist Jane and Alison lead via Zoom and Facebook. Although I'm told the quality of the sound coming from the organ over the internet sounds like running water!

Life has been a daily rotation of work and homeschooling, repeated for nearly four months now. Like you, I'm sure routine has played a valuable part, the glorious weather we have enjoyed, our lovely gardens and the internet. Lockdown hasn't been all bad, worship in the physical sense hasn't happened with our churches locked, but with a plethora of resources from tv/radio/paper/magazine and the internet, worship has evolved.

Personally I have enjoyed the daily hymn from St Edmundsbury Cathedral and the many organ voluntaries which have been recorded and shared.

Jane has provided daily worship on Facebook (although I've missed 98% of them) and all over the country and the world Cathedrals, the Archbishops and Bishops have provided worship/daily prayer.

I have found Jon Sermon (URC) daily *youtube* videos of encouragement very moving and these have given me something to mull over in the car and even in the shower, with some of the music videos posted.

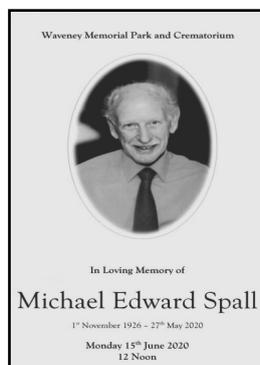
My Great Aunt died last month and I was able to watch the service from the Crematorium in Kent, in my living room on my laptop.

So for the most part our spiritual life has evolved and adapted. But where does this leave us? St Mary's is now open between 10am-12noon, Mon-Sat and 10.30am-12.30pm on Sundays for private prayer in the Lady Chapel. The bulk of the Church has been roped-off and strict guidelines are in place for cleaning hands. Stewards are in place to keep the church clean, following any visitors. With very many thanks to Jane Held and John Ball and an army of helpers for giving up their time to make the unlocking possible.

On Sunday 14th June, we celebrated Music Sunday. Music is such an important part of worship in church. Who, if any of us, could possibly have imagined that a complete 'general pause' in liturgical music would be a

possibility, never mind the reality we are currently living through? To celebrate Music Sunday is not an anomaly this year. It is an opportunity to shine a spotlight upon the faithful musicians of countless church communities, giving thanks to God for all they have done to this point, are still doing as best they can, and will do again when we eventually emerge into the radiant light from this darkness. Music can unite us, even across cyberspace. It's important to rehearse and learn, so that you can join in with confidence and with full voice. As it says in the hymn *The Day Thou Gavest*: 'The voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away'. We sang the beautiful hymn *How shall we sing that majesty* at the beginning of the service, I remember having a beaming smile as I played the glorious tune.

So going back to the beginning of my article, I may have strayed away from God, thought less about my spiritual wellbeing, but these past three weeks being back in church has made me realise what I have missed, needed. The relief is... I can't think of how to express my feelings... for our one true living Father through the music I so love and cherish.



It was with much sadness to hear of Mike Spall's passing on 27th May. On 15th June at Waveney Memorial Park, Jane led a service of celebration.

Gwen read from Thessalonians 4.13-14 and John Frost read a poem called *I'll be there*.

The last time the girls and I went to see Mike, we walked into his room at Beech House and he gave us his beaming smile. I will hold that smile in my prayers for years to come. Rest in peace Mike and rise in glory.

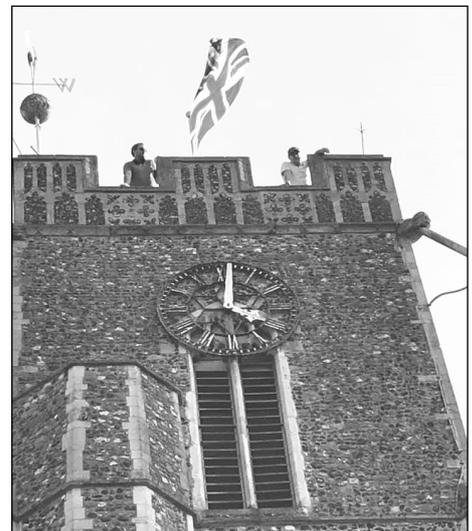
Lockdown hasn't been easy for many, my thoughts and prayers have been with those in our community struggling and from what Jane has shared with me, you will be shocked at the high volume of people in much need of our prayer and kindness. Now that St Mary's is open for a couple of

hours, please come and find healing and prayer, or just to sit in the quiet of the Lady Chapel.

Lastly, I have a digital *Hymn Meditation for you*, if you would like a copy I can email it to you, just get in touch. The meditation is on the hymn *The head that once was crowned with thorns*. "The emotional upheaval to which the hymn alludes can be seen in the lives of both composer and the author of the words: Jeremiah Clarke committed suicide; Thomas Kelly was banned from preaching".

My final thought from me, being able to give my mum the biggest hug, is what I want to do, once allowed. Sending love and blessings to you all. We will meet again.

The photograph below is from V E Day when we had music from the top of the tower at St Mary's.



Holton

Temporary Correspondent
John Hewlett

Opening St Peter's

You will read elsewhere about the future for opening churches in the Team. St Peter's is only "open" for checking that the building is still OK. Every Friday I ring the bell at 9am and say Morning Prayers, as part of the Blyth Valley Team regular cycle of prayer. We (Jill and I) give thanks every week for God's goodness, and pray for the government of this and other countries, for the church here, for the people of Holton, and for people in need of any kind.

We regret that, to avoid the possibility of cross-infection, these prayers cannot be open to the public at all, even to

regular church worshippers. We do not know when we will be allowed to open for public worship; but we will inform church members as soon as we have a date.

Other church activities are all on hold until the future is clearer.

Plant Sale

I'm very pleased to let you know that selling plants at the gate of West Lodge has raised a total of more than £150 for church funds. Thank you to all those who gave plants & produce to sell on 7th & 13th June, and who turned up and talked to us and to each other – so many people are (or feel) isolated that it was an opportunity to meet (at a safe distance, of course).

St Peter's Buddy Scheme

As most of you will know Janet Walkey and Jill Hewlett have been sounding out members of the congregation as to whether anyone would like to have a contact, a "Buddy", who would phone on a regular basis, and who could be phoned if needed. They do realize that this is rather late in the day as far as the pandemic and lockdown is concerned, but it is something that can be ongoing in these uncertain times.

If you haven't been contacted and would like to have a "Buddy", or be a "Buddy", please contact Janet (01986 872594) or Jill (01986 875913).

Postponement of Children's Society Box Opening & Coffee Morning

The present Coronavirus Pandemic which has meant the closure of churches, and social distancing etc., means that The Children's Society Annual Box Opening and Coffee Morning for Holton and Halesworth has had to be postponed. This was planned

to be held in St Peter's Church Holton on Saturday 4th July. I do hope that we may be able to hold this for box holders, friends and supporters from Holton and Halesworth later this year. Please watch this space.

If your box is full to overflowing, please use an empty jam jar, money bag or other suitable container. I wonder how much spare cash/coins people will actually have since the lockdown. Lots of transactions are now paid with cards and some box holders have been self-isolating and not going out, so not shopping in the usual way. Not to worry, we do what we can to help the Children's Society in their essential work with vulnerable children and young people. The Society is always very appreciative of any money we raise.

If you are able and have not already done so, do consider donating to **The Children's Society Emergency Coronavirus Appeal: childrenssociety.org.uk/lifeline** or the **Supporter Care Team 0300 303 7000 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm), E: supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk** If you prefer to send a cheque through the post the address at present is **Freepost RTJH-LRSG-YGCC, The Children's Society, Bumpers Way, Bumpers Farm, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6NG** If you are able do Gift Aid your donation so the Society benefits from 25% extra at no additional cost to you. I do realise not everyone is able to do this.

Janet Walkey
(Local Box Co-ordinator for The Children's Society for St Peter's, Holton and St Mary's, Halesworth).
01986 872594
janetwalkey@hotmail.com

MARMALADE

Due to there being no fundraising events this year (except John and Jill's plant sale), Janet Walkey has masses of jars of Seville orange and lemon marmalade made in the first months of the year: 1lb jars @ £2; 12oz jars @ £1.50; 8oz jars @ £1.

The money raised will be for St Peter's Holton. Janet is willing to deliver jars if required: Tel 01986 872594. Email janetwalkey@hotmail.com

Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

THERE IS AN INSIDIOUS LASSITUDE brought on by the Lockdown, I shall call it 'Lockdown Inertia Syndrome' or LIS for short. We have now been in a state of suspended animation for over 80 days and our forays into the great big world outside have been virtually non-existent. No Dominic Cummings-ing for us. Anyway, that is my convoluted way of apologising for not having penned a Linstead Letter last month, the time just seemed to melt away. I can understand a little better now how monks and nuns could join a closed order and stay relatively sane. If truth be told, I had nothing to report anyway.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT I STILL HAVE next to nothing to report. We had to cancel the Summer Party and barbecue, scheduled for early June. Similarly, the Patronal Festival, arranged for July 26th has been cancelled.

NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE OVER the Linstead Fête, which is scheduled for Saturday 1st August. We await the advice which may, or may not come

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from the Government. All we can say is "Watch this space". If by any miracle it can go ahead, rest assured that the bush telegraph will be cranked up and the jungle drums will sound.

AS A VILLAGE AND AS A COMMUNITY we have been coping with the situation very well. Our neighbours have been superb and the local businesses have risen to the challenge in fine style. We have deliveries of all the staples and, indeed, some of the luxuries of life (yoghurt & honey!). A personal 'Thank You' is owed to all involved.

IT IS WITH SADNESS THAT I REPORT the death of Mabel Abell of Lower Hall Farm, Linstead Magna. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family at this sad time.

THE CHURCH CAN NOW BE OPENED for private prayer. We will be operating an appointment system and will be imposing strict social distancing rules. Should you wish to have the church opened for your private prayers, please contact me (01986 785289) and I will explain the system to you.

THE FACT THAT THE CHURCH HAS not been available has struck me as one of the less logical aspects of Lockdown, at least in the context of a small country parish. I was in the habit of going over to check if all was well and putting in a prayer or two (strictly against the rules) whilst there. It reminds me of an old Jewish joke. Traditionally, the caretaker of a synagogue would be a gentile, because he could work on the Sabbath, whereas an orthodox Jew could not. So it was Passover and the synagogue was full to capacity when a little old man asked if he could go in. "No, not without a reservation", he was told. "But I have an urgent message for someone - a matter of life and death!". The caretaker considered the matter; "OK, you can go in and deliver your message, but don't let me catch you praying!".

WELL, IF YOU SO ARE MINDED, YOU are now able to do your own praying!

Spexhall

Correspondent
Janet Sochon

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

Thorington

Correspondent Trish Gower
01502 478267

Just a short note of thanks to our wonderful staff in the Blyth Valley Team for all their hard work and prayers over this strange and difficult period, and Thorington PCC sends warm wishes to everyone to keep well and safe. Do visit the church and churchyard and we will update you on services when they are permitted.

Wenhaston

Correspondent
Margaret Bloomfield
01502 478502

margaret@wrush.plus.com

Wenhaston sends greetings to you all with the hope that you are well and coping in these very strange days. We look forward to the day when we can all be together in church but in the meantime, we have been looked after very well by our hardworking clergy, and we send them our grateful thanks.

Jane or Alison stream Morning Prayer daily on Facebook, and there is Café Church on Zoom on Wednesdays, and the Sunday service on both Zoom and Facebook. Also Alison sends a lovely prayer each evening. I know that this is all very well for those of us on line, but sadly many people are missing out and we try to include them with paper copies, phone calls and social distancing visits. If anyone feels excluded, do let us know and we will try to put it right.

One thing I have found very helpful is the service that the Bishop and his wife stream at 8.30am each day. It is a peaceful start to the day and I find it very moving.

We hope to have the church open for a few hours a week for private prayer shortly, when all risk assessments, cleaning and preparations have been completed.

We pray for our people who are ill at present, at home or in hospital, and send our heartfelt sympathy to the relatives of those who have died. We pray that this pandemic will soon pass and we can all join together in fellowship.

Wissett

Correspondent

Nick Evans 01986 872372

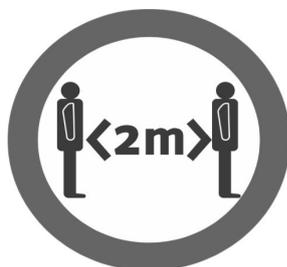
nickandmaggie@btinternet.com

I last wrote three months ago, roughly at the end of the very rainy season, and in the fast changing scene of Covid lockdown. No sooner had we put all the diocesan advice in the church than we had to lock it, and that was that. I think it is fair to say that the decision to close small rural churches was nationally controversial; the loss of the quiet refuge in the midst of everyday life has been strongly felt in Wissett. The stringent conditions for re-opening may not promote what is missing. We hope that eventually the atmosphere will be restored and all will come back. Meanwhile there is much gratitude for the energy and organisation that keeps worship and church life going in a new way, and continues to develop. Happily the churchyard is open to be enjoyed, and the team from Waveney Norse has taken over the tradition of excellent maintenance.

We all feel very fortunate to be living here, and cannot forget how hard it is for so many people in other places. Innumerable acts of neighbourly help and kindness go on all the time, and the extra resources of the Halesworth Volunteer Centre count for a great deal.

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On Prayer by Rev'd M Walkey

The Blyth Valley Team Ministry

Some thoughts on the Lord's Prayer by Rev'd M Walkey

Michael Edward Spall

1st November 1926 - 27th May 2020

Mike Spall, who has died aged 93 years at Ipswich Hospital, was born and bred in Suffolk and lived most of his life in Halesworth. He started life in Westleton, the youngest of nine children and went to the school there, leaving at 14 to work on his father's farm. Uncles and cousins were amongst the village population. Of that generation, Winnie, his youngest sister, survives.

Call up came a few years later when he joined the Suffolk Regiment to serve in the latter years of the Second World War. This included a posting to Gibraltar as part of the guard for the Head of State. His battalion was then detailed to Japan and was sailing Eastward, when the dropping of the atom bomb, caused the ship to turn about, brought the war to an end and Mike back to Civvy Street.

Mike worked on building sites before moving on to work for 21 years at Sizewell. During this time a new life in business began, with Sue, his wife, first running the restaurant at Edward's and then opening *Camelot* shoe shop in The Thoroughfare, Halesworth.

He had met Sue at a village 'social' at Chediston. They married in 1948, living most of their married life in Halesworth and celebrated a platinum anniversary in 2018.

They enjoyed travelling near or far - be it to New Zealand or Norfolk. A highlight was a visit to the Boeing factory in Seattle; Mike loved all things technical. Travel also included two pilgrimages to the Holy Land led by the Revd Doolan, one time Rector of St Mary's. Other interests included DIY, gardening, dancing and driving.

Mike loved being with people. He was a long standing member of the Halesworth and District Probus Group and a loyal supporter of church and charity events in the local area. When these were staged at St Mary's, Halesworth he would cheerfully turn his hand to whatever task was required for their smooth running.

In a recently expressed philosophical view on life, Mike offered: "Life is kind, if you make it so."

His funeral was held at Waveney Memorial Park and Crematorium on June 15th, attended by a restricted group of 19 relatives and close friends.

Those who were unable to attend might like to make a donation in his memory to the Children's Cancer and Leukemia Group. Donations can be gifted by cheque and sent c/o Rosedale Funeral Home, Arcadia House, 19 Market Place, Halesworth IP19 8BB.

Sue would like to thank all who have sent and given their kind condolences and support.

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Intimations of Mortality

Humorous reflections on putting one's house in order.

With apologies to all sorts of writers and poets.

Covid-19 has focussed the mind exceedingly.

To LPA or not, that is the question! I urge anyone who has not set up a lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) to do so. It is a way of giving someone you trust, your attorney, the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf if you lose the mental capacity to do so in the future, or if you no longer want to make decisions for yourself. Three or four years ago a relative asked me and another family member to support them in setting up an LPA and how glad I am that they did. The all-too-familiar dementia set in and we had to step in and organise all matters and, latterly, home care. The way was not difficult, if laborious, and smooth when the time came for residential care. Years before with my parents, the two parts of LPA responsibilities divided naturally between my bank manager brother covering *Finance*, and me covering *Health & Care*. Now my son (in IT) gets all the finance queries, and my daughter (a nurse) gets the health & care + Henry (who he? – the cat!)

To die will be an awfully big adventure. said Peter Pan. I know that many people take huge comfort from arranging and attending a funeral. But, when my husband died I honoured his wish for a direct cremation. This meant his body went straight from the hospital to the crematorium, after which the ashes were returned to me. Two years on I am grateful to him for his decision. I was spared all the trips to earnest and sober-sided undertakers, making decisions about any ceremony and a family gathering half-way between a wake and a party. *No man is an island* and so I make a conscious effort now to keep in touch with family and friends, meeting up as often as possible (before lock-down, of course) and by 'phone, email and Skype.

And, now, I have bought a plot in the local cemetery to ease my path when the time comes. In the churchyard of a village nearby, I cannot resist quoting the epitaph carved into the ledger-stone of Elizabeth Davy, who died on 26th March 1781, aged 21 years:

She once the fairest flower in May,

Now turn'd to Lifeless Clay;

Good GOD what can we Say. He calls, we must Obey.

And, lastly, have you made a will? Where there's a will, there's a smoother way through sorting out your estate, however small or large, and you can be sure that all that you possess will be dispersed as you would wish. No will and it is a tortuous maze through which to find your way. Worse, your money might go to the state!

Jenny Janes

Blyth Valley Times

is published monthly by the
Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

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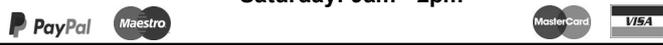
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1. Send a letter to all congregation members who normally put money in the plate to ask if they can save it up til they return or if they'd be interested in setting up a standing order.



2. When the Vicar, Wardens or Treasurer are emailing the congregation or sending out a pew sheet/weekly news sheet make it explicit how church members can give financially (and in other ways).



3. Make sure there's a Gift Aid form on your church website.



6. Use social media to let people know all the good things that are going on in your church. People want to give when they can see their money is being used well.

Ten Ways to Improve your Church Finances during 2020



4. Don't be shy, ask those producing your church videos or zoom meetings to encourage people to give as part of the service and say an offertory prayer as usual.



5. Add a donate button to your website even if it just sends you to the treasurer's email.



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

9. Use this time to help move congregation members onto the Parish Giving Scheme.



7. Consider using giving apps that enable church members to give via their smart phone such as Givt.



8. Get a fundraising team to think of fun sponsored events for the church right now and for the future. Don't wait!



10. Get people to pray!

20^a SIGN OF THE FISH

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What I've been reading during Lockdown: the benefits of fiction

According to my youngest niece, my youngest sister is finally Kon-Marie-ing her life*, having given up on being the coolest Nanny ever with vintage games, toys and books to delight and enrich the lives of possible future grandchildren: the great-nephews and -nieces have benefited instead. Among them my Lego-obsessed grandsons now have a vintage Lego shark, which for the time being is giving them more pleasure than their modern superheroes Lego, the eldest great-nephew has a set of card tricks, the youngest great-niece has a magnetic fishing game which she loves, and so on. And then, in my WhatsApp feed, this arrived: with the message: "Do you want any of your books back?"

I haven't seen these for over 50 years, but what is more weird (or maybe not) I was already thinking about *Heidi* as I mulled over my theme for this month's article: the benefits or influence of fiction in our lives. Published in the 1880s, the author subtitled it "A book for children and those who love children" and was thought remarkable for its ability to show and sympathise with the child's point of view. It is also a strongly Christian book, criticised by some even when it was first published, nevertheless it has remained a popular and influential book for over 100 years and I can't wait to read it again.



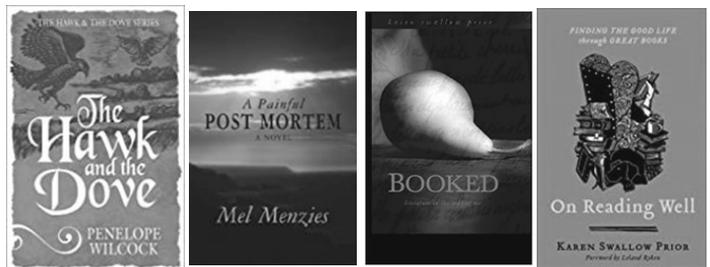
Not in this picture, but eventually found by my sister and posted to me, is R L Stevenson's *The Black Arrow*, fairly obscure when compared to *Treasure Island* or *Kidnapped*. Set during the War of the Roses I remember little of this book (so am looking forward to re-reading) except for one thing: how well the author conveyed the feeling of danger and insecurity in the life of the young protagonist caught willy-nilly between two factions in what is also known as the Cousins' War.

Christian writers through the ages have sought to write stories exemplifying the Christian life and faith to the comfort of fellow Christians and edification of the non-believer: *The Pilgrim's Progress* springs to mind. Nowadays such books are often frankly cringe worthy and incomprehensible to the modern secular mind, but set the story in a time and place where searching the scriptures, praying regularly, working to the glory of God and seeking to be more Christ-like, while

remaining engagingly and diversely oh, so very human like us, somewhere such as a 14th century Benedictine monastery in Yorkshire, and all become interesting and believable, and a jolly good read. Such are *The Hawk and the Dove* series by Penelope Wilcock.

This month I have also enjoyed and been moved by Mel Menzies *A Painful Post Mortem*. The narrator's daughter is found dead in suspicious circumstances, the post-mortem report insultingly dismissive, two witnesses advised to remain silent. The grieving mother embarks on her own investigation to find the truth and on the way learns more about herself, her marriage, perhaps her own part in her daughter's alienation. I found this a real "page turner". It is also such a good portrayal of the outworking of grief that the book has now been used by grief counsellors.

It has been said before and elsewhere (not just by me!) that fiction readers are known to be more empathetic, so I'll leave the last word to Professor Karen Swallow Prior in her 2018 book *On reading well: finding the good life through great books*, dealing with the subject of virtue in classic literature. She begins this book by commenting on her first book, *Booked: Literature in the soul of me* (2012), where she wrote "Reading... voraciously... I learned spiritual lessons I never learned in church or Sunday school, as well as emotional and intellectual lessons that I would never have encountered within the realm of my lived experience.. Most importantly, by reading about all kinds of characters created by all kinds of authors, I learned how to be the person God created me to be." (Her chapter on *Jane Eyre* is not to be missed.) I hope this is true of you and me.



Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish

*As in Marie Kondo, the Japanese tidy-up guru. An article about her appeared in "Premier Christianity" magazine a few months ago. What she says about getting rid of sentimental items is very helpful.

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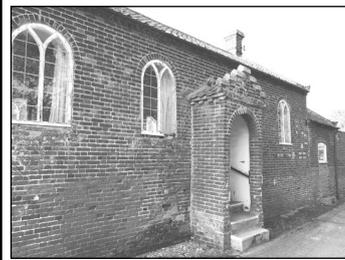
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You've made sure that your nearest and dearest are safe and your immediate circle of neighbours is sorted.

Please let us know if there's anyone else that you think might need us.

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- Prescriptions
- A phone chat
- Advice
- Foodbank/vouchers



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